

URBAN GAMES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES NEW AGENDA

„FROM A MONOFUNCTIONAL RESIDENTIAL AREA WITH FRAGMENTED PUBLIC SPACE TOWARDS A LIVELY NEIGHBORHOOD“

COMPONENTS 4

- > CITY LIFE AROUND THE CLOCK
- > BALANCE QUIETNESS - ACTIVITY
- > BALANCE TEMPORARY - PERMANENT
- > FROM ONE BIG CENTER - MULTICENTERS

PROBLEM

1 LACK OF SENSE OF IDENTITY & BALANCED LIFESTYLE

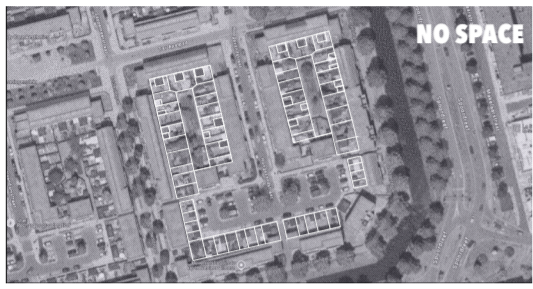
3 LAYERS

- > IDENTITY: CANAL'S (GREEN)
- > COMMUNITY: SQUARES (ZONATION)
- > HOUSING: DENSIFICATION

The primary challenges of large-scale, rapidly constructed urban developments, as opposed to the organic growth of historical cities, are the lack of a distinct sense of identity and the difficulty in fostering a balanced urban life.

Almere is designed according to a master plan that deliberately avoids imitating the outcomes of naturally grown historical cities. Instead, it embraces its artificial origins, employing a language that combines diverse elements of contemporary architecture to create a unique, purposefully crafted identity.

This proposal reflects on the potential of artificial design to establish identity in the modern city.

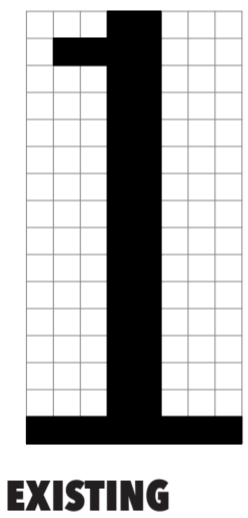
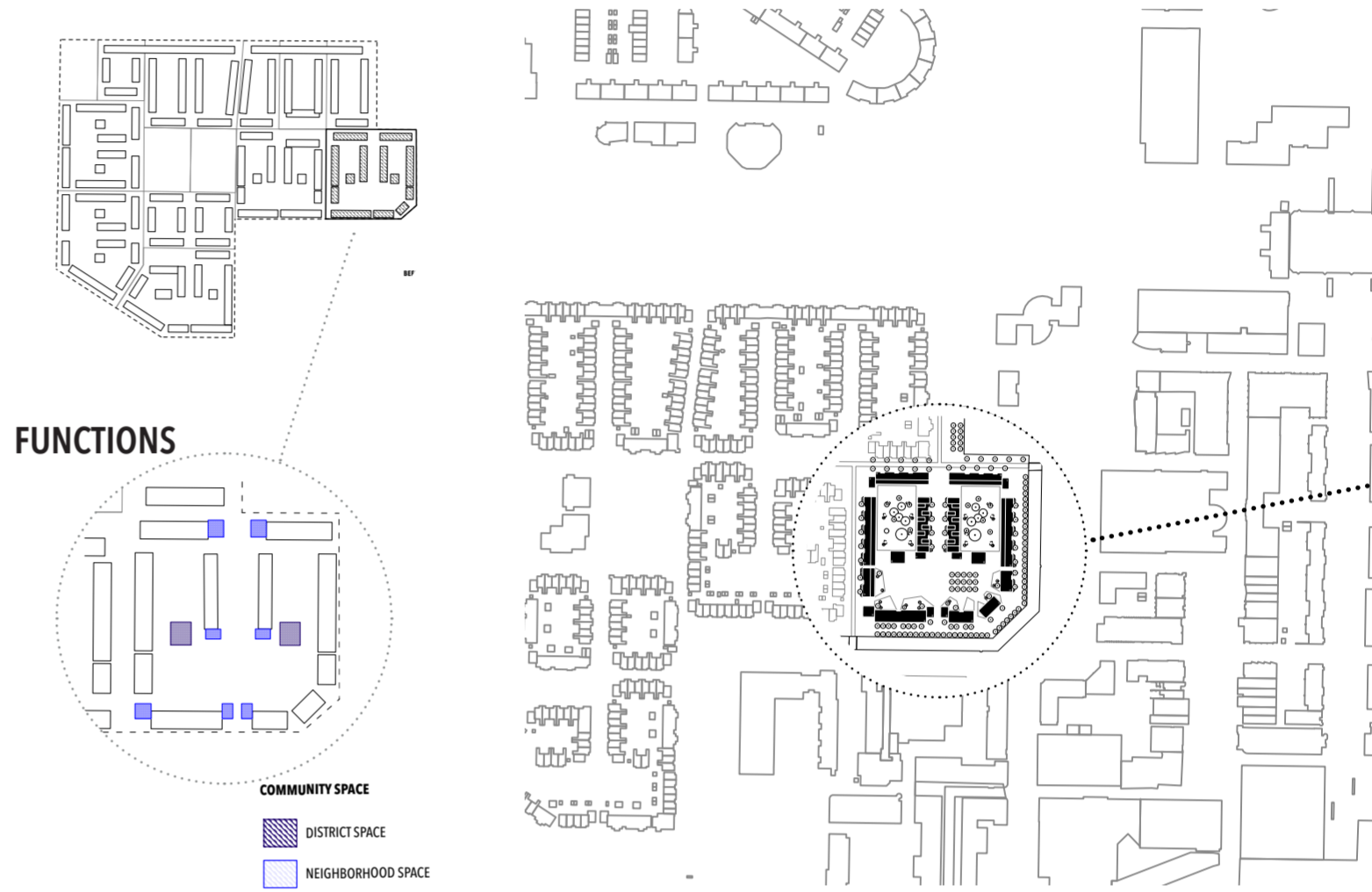


The selected site is located in the „Almere Stad“ district, in the western part of the previously defined area. It is a monofunctional neighborhood composed of single-family houses. A notable feature is the repetitive layout of identical building plots along the canal.

The structure is organized around a main traffic axis, with the building plots arranged along it. A school is located at the center of this layout. Parking for the neighborhood is situated along the main access road, and there is a large paved area in the middle of the building blocks that serves as additional parking. The buildings are accessed from the outside, and the entrances lack differentiation or defined „forecourt“ zones.

Private gardens face inward toward courtyards, creating an enclosed and fragmented environment that lacks visibility and openness. As a result, the area lacks both identity and communal spaces.

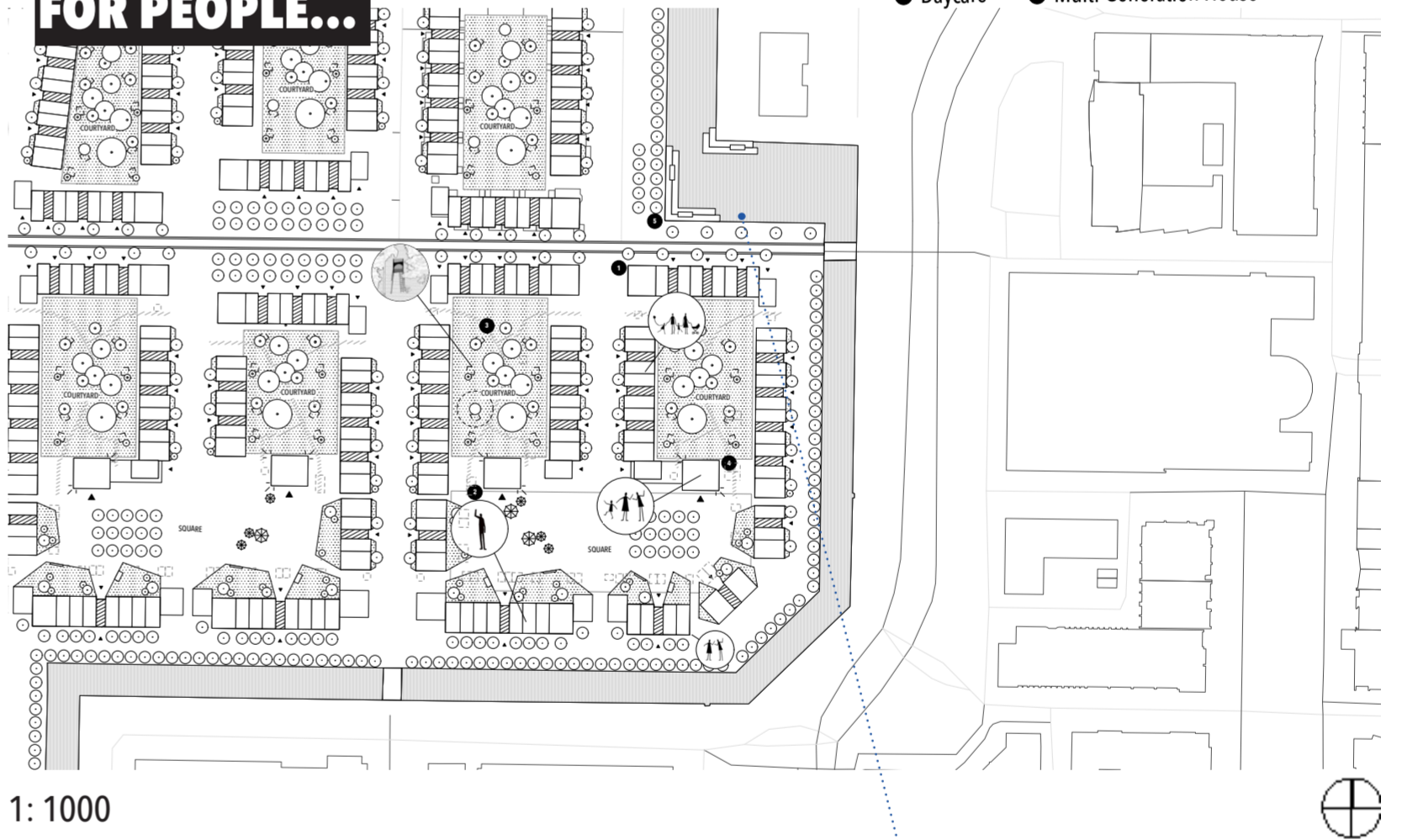
To address these issues and create a stronger sense of identity, plans are being developed to accommodate population growth by doubling the density. The canal is to be revitalized as a defining element of the area's identity and made accessible to the public.



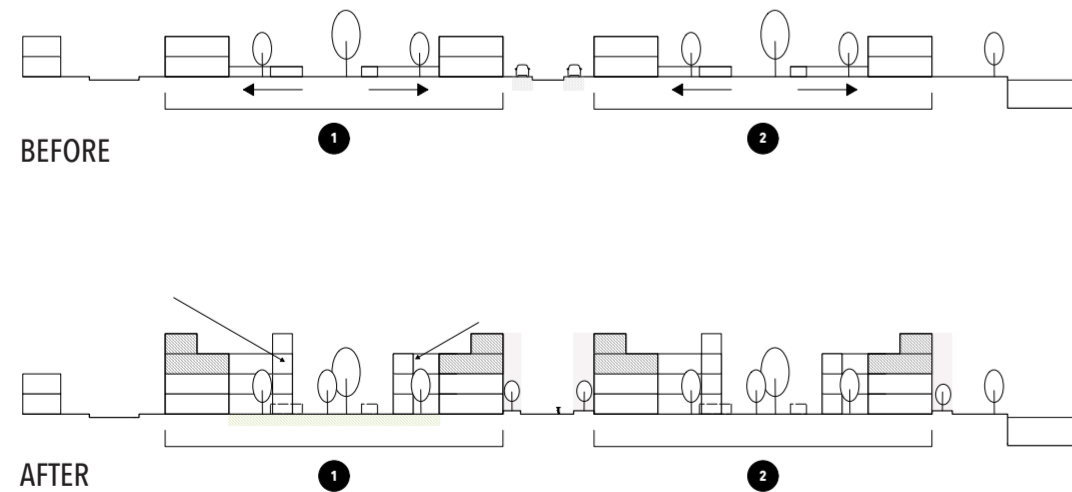
CONCEPT



A CITY FOR PEOPLE...



SECTION



The existing center in Almere Stad is lifeless; therefore, it will be redistributed into smaller centers within the neighborhoods to foster a stronger sense of community.

THE URBAN: DEZENTRALISE THE CENTER



THE BLUE: REUNITING THE CITY

The existing channels define the character of the master plan. These blue features will be revitalized to allow for public use, offering each neighborhood a distinctive water-centric experience.

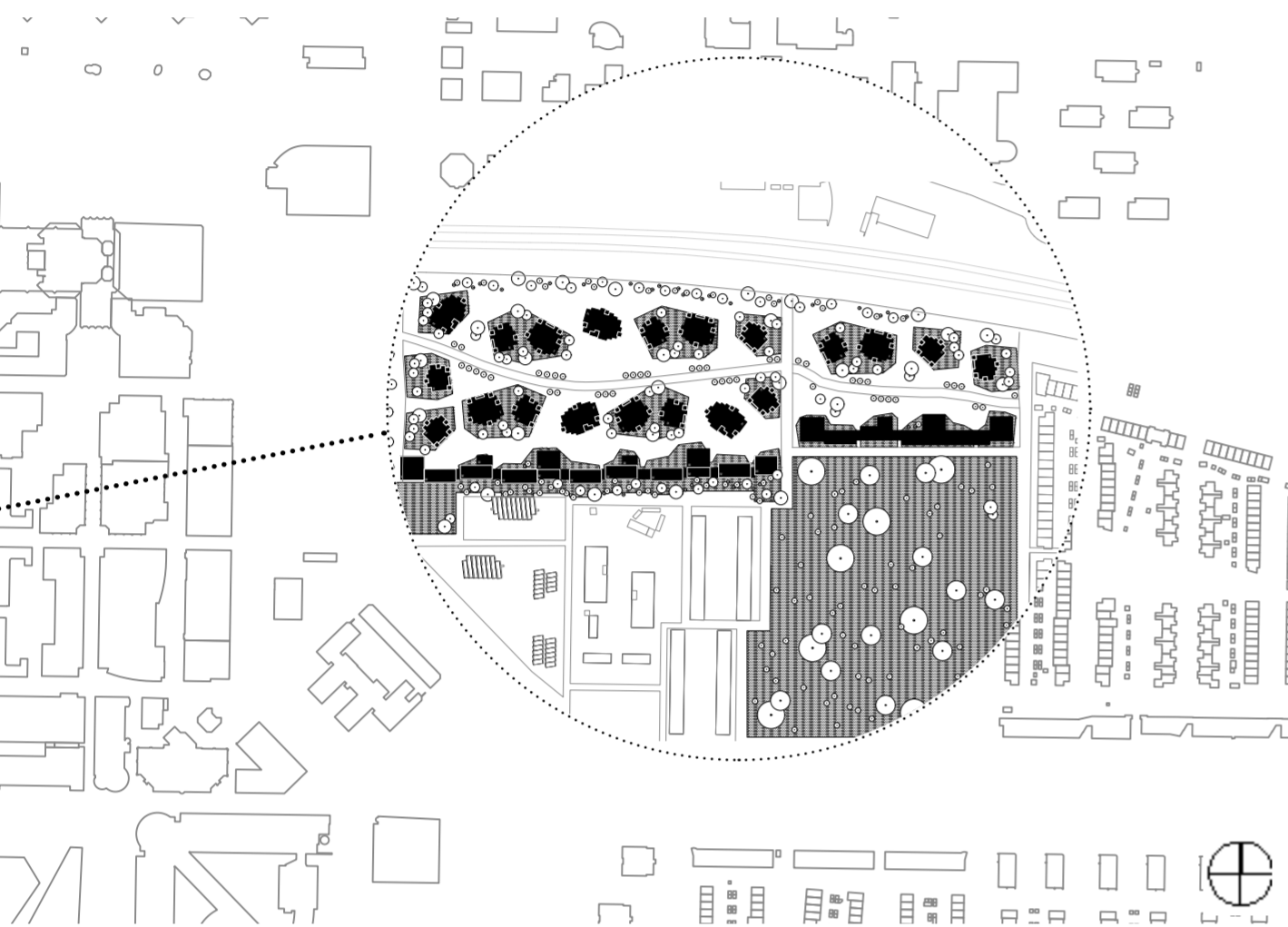
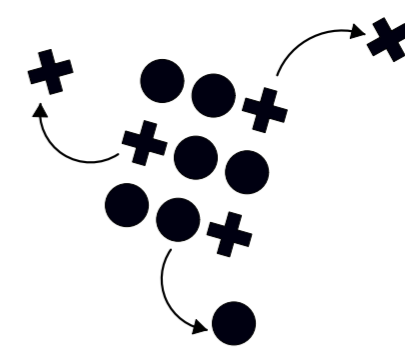


Since Almere is suffering from the lack of city life the public spaces are designed for maximum flexibility, accommodating various activities throughout the day, across different days of the week, and in all seasons. These spaces cater to a wide range of user groups.

The most dynamic areas are concentrated at the waterfront of the Chanel system, hosting shops, cafés, bike spots and other active uses. Other squares are dedicated to more tranquil activities. Medium-scale zones feature quieter uses, such as areas for table games, "silent" sports fields, or outdoor libraries, are dedicated to neighborhood squares inside the district.

Spaces designated for future residents are designed with minimal basic layouts based on a modular system, allowing them to be adapted or completed over time based on emerging needs. This approach provides "empty rooms" to be personalized and filled later.

From one center to multiple hubs The traditional concept of a centralized urban district, where all functions are concentrated on one central street, is reimagined. Instead, each area offers centers that are designed to create a balanced relationship with recreational hubs. This multi-center approach shifts the focal point of the entire area toward the neighborhood, to create a stronger identity.



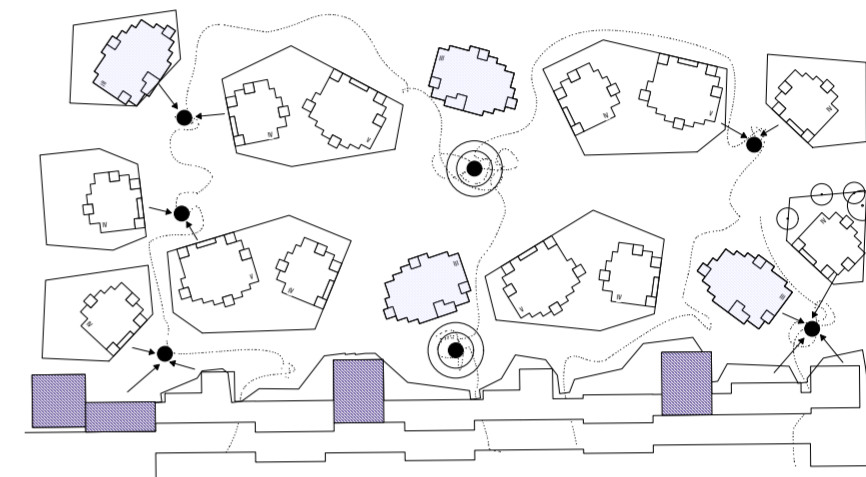
The chosen site is located in the "Almere Stad" district, in the eastern part of the previously selected area. It is bordered to the north by the railway tracks, to the south by "Cinemadreef" street, and to the west by an existing canal. The site currently features sporadic development with container structures.

The goal was to utilize the canal as an identity-defining element. Along an axis, a green space is created that connects the canal with Odeonspark. This green space forms a focal point at the canal, where public uses are integrated to activate the emerging plaza. Toward the park, the green space offers a diverse range of functions designed to cater to all city visitors.

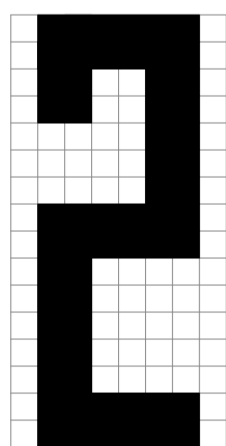
The linear building structures feature community-oriented uses on the ground floor, allowing the greenery to flow into the area. Behind these, point buildings provide residential spaces; their form creates various plaza-like areas. These buildings are also interspersed with communal uses to strengthen the neighborhood's sense of community.

To ensure privacy, the private green spaces will be elevated and include features like benches and waste facilities to furnish the public areas appropriately.

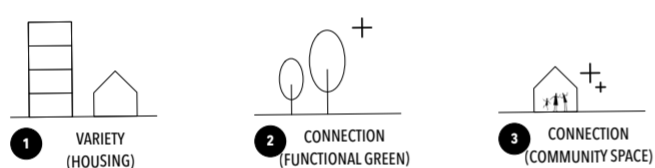
FUNCTIONS



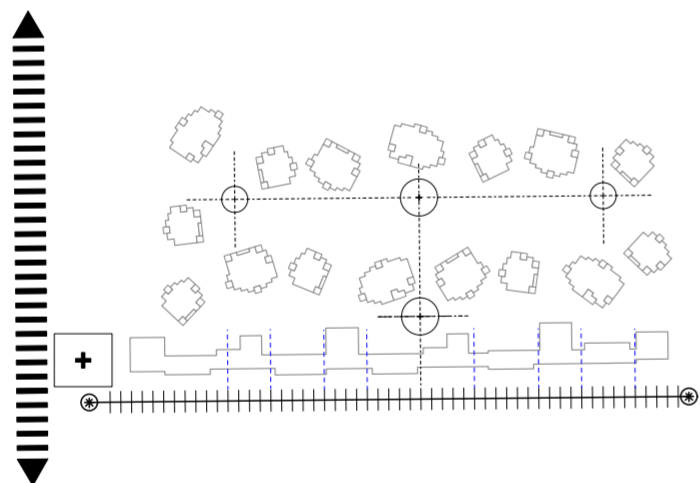
COMMUNITY SPACE
DISTRICT SPACE
NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE



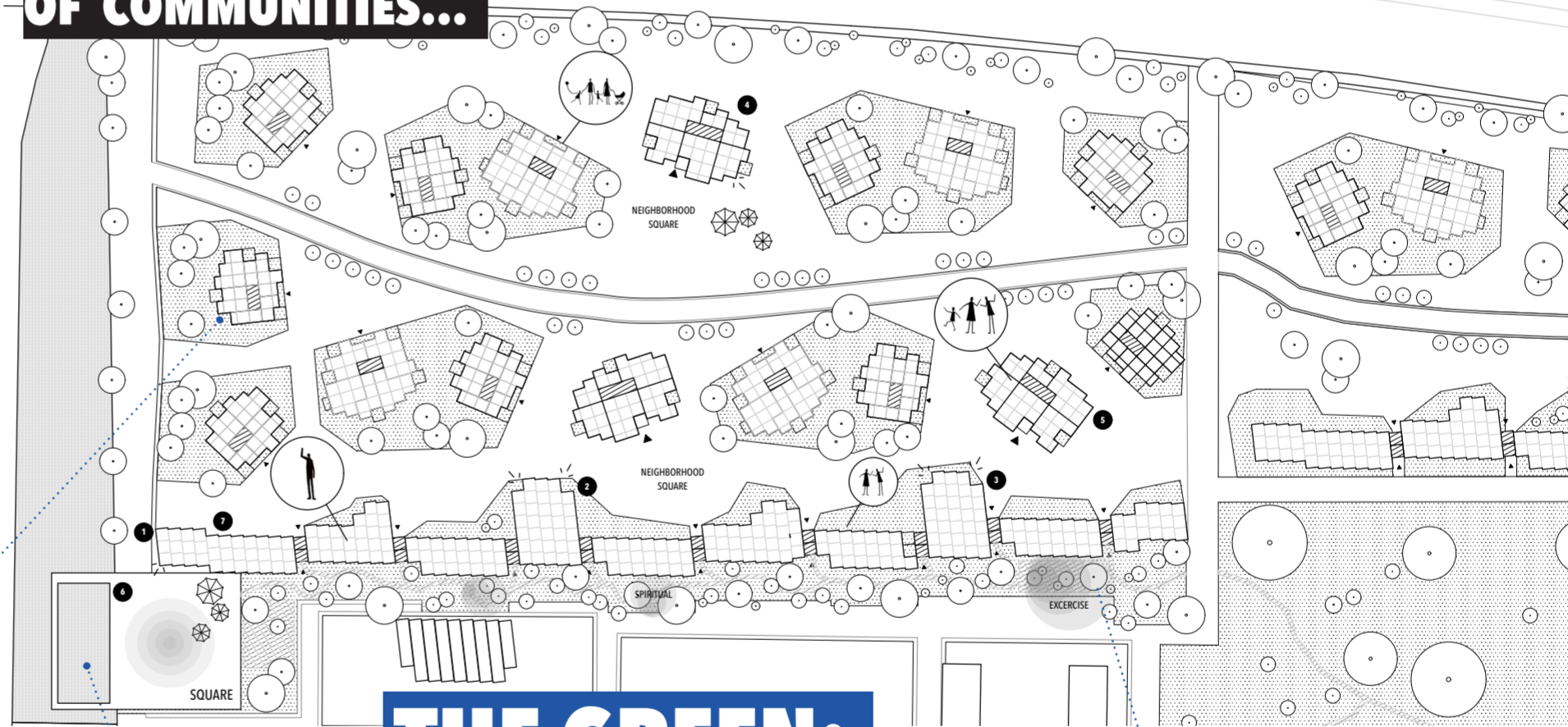
NEW



CONCEPT



A CITY OF COMMUNITIES...

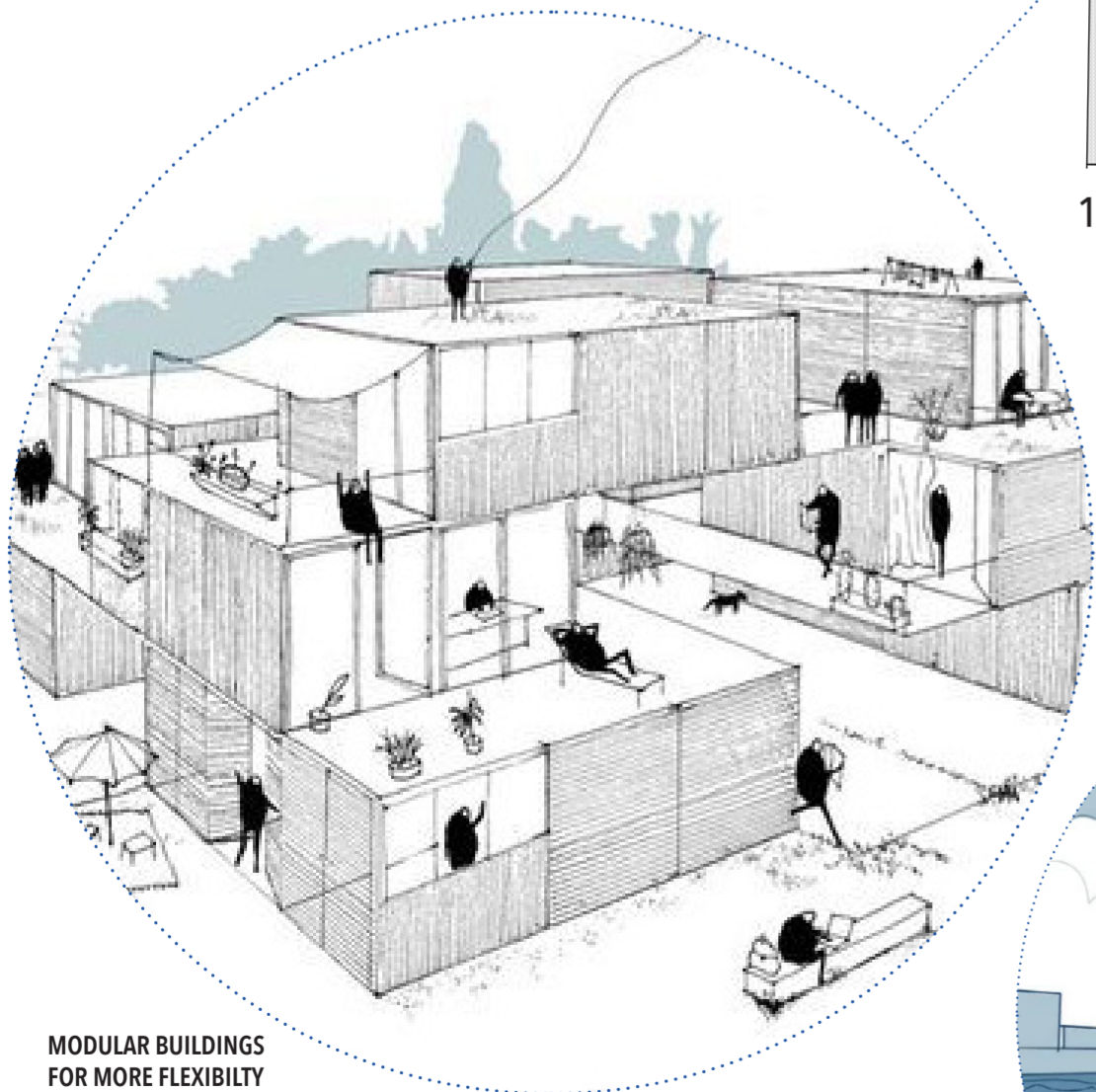


- Café
- Daycare
- Canal-Bath
- District Center
- Multi-Generation House
- Shopping

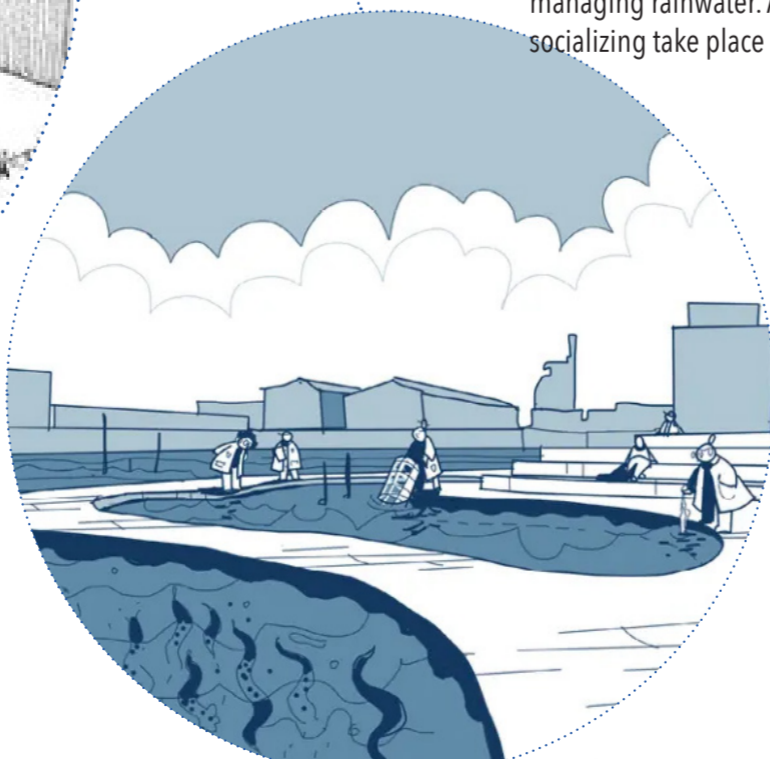
1: 1000

THE GREEN: SOCIALSPACE ALONG THE SPINE

Engaging in play and relaxation amidst the natural features of the parks, which also aid in managing rainwater. Activities like climbing and socializing take place high among the treetops.



MODULAR BUILDINGS FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY



CHANAL BATH

