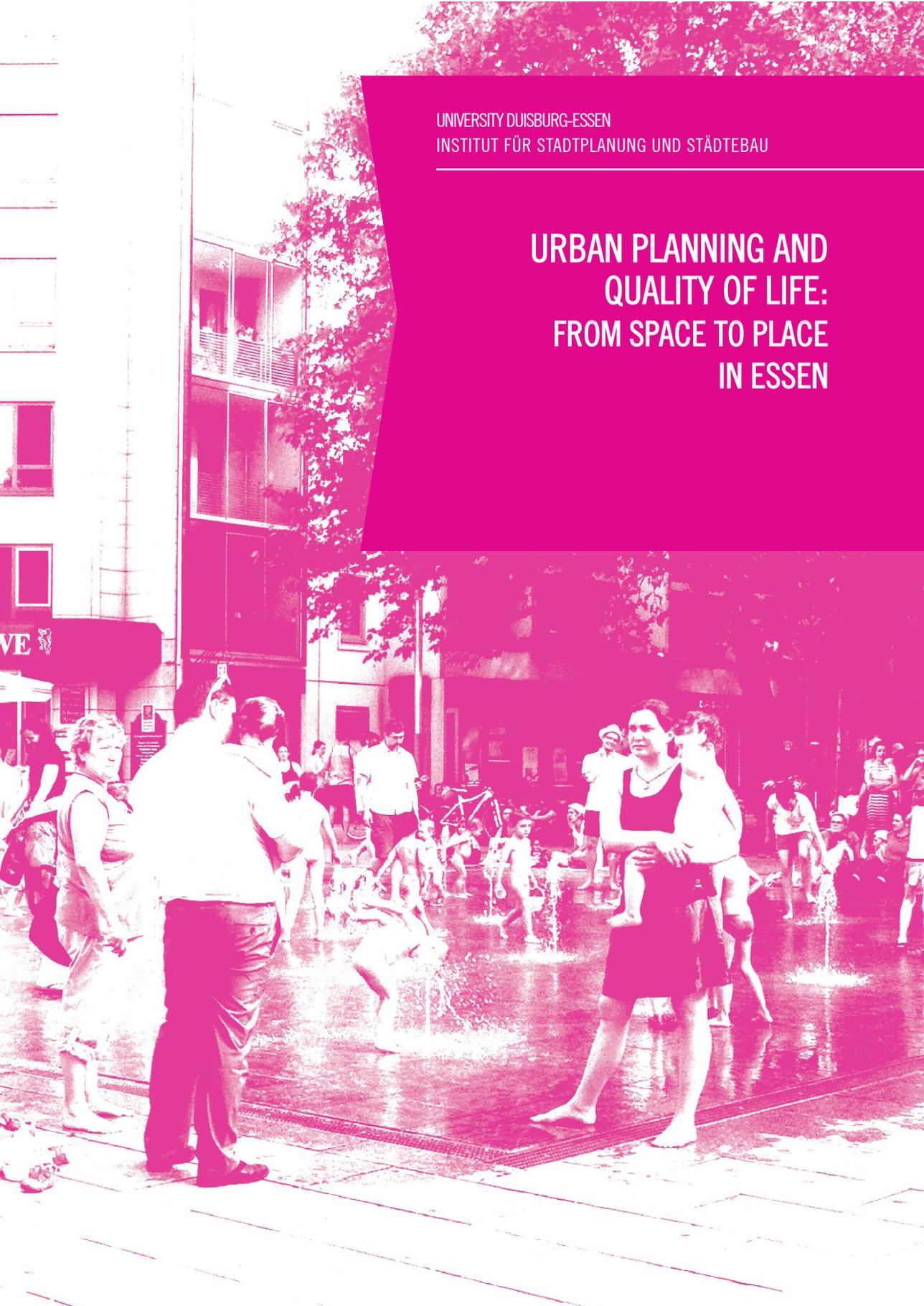


UNIVERSITY DUISBURG-ESSEN
INSTITUT FÜR STADTPLANUNG UND STÄDTEBAU

URBAN PLANNING AND QUALITY OF LIFE: FROM SPACE TO PLACE IN ESSEN



> CONTENT

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. PREFACE | > 4 |
| 1.1 Quality of life and public spaces | > 4 |
| 1.2 Methodology | > 7 |
| 2. THE WORKING METHODOLOGY | > 8 |
| 3. THE CITY OF ESSEN | >10 |
| 3.1 Essen - General socio-demographic data | > 10 |
| 4. THE PUBLIC SPACES | > 11 |
| 4.1 General problems in Essen | > 11 |
| 5. TRANSFORMING PROBLEMS TO POTENTIALS | > 12 |
| 6. THE SQUARES | > 14 |
| 7. PHYSICAL STRATEGIES | > 16 |
| 7.1 Dreiringplatz | > 18 |
| 7.2 Alsenplatz | > 22 |
| 7.3 Frohnhauser Platz | > 26 |
| 7.4 Kupfdreher Markt | > 30 |
| 7.5 Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz | > 34 |
| 8. SOCIO - ECONOMIC STRATEGIES | > 38 |
| 8.1 Kirmesplatz | > 40 |
| 8.2 Kleine Stoppenberger Straße | > 44 |
| 9. CULTURAL STRATEGIES | > 48 |
| 9.1 Weberplatz | > 50 |
| 9.2 Kopstadtplatz | > 54 |
| 9.3 Rüttenscheider Platz | > 58 |
| 9.4 Ardeyplatz | > 58 |
| 10. DISCUSSION | > 66 |
| 11. REFERENCES | >72 |
| 12. IMPRESSUM | >77 |



1.PREFACE

1.1 QUALITY OF LIFE AND PUBLIC SPACES

Today, we better understand the complexity of the issues at play, when designing and planning for buildings, neighborhoods and even entire cities and their significant role in developing the quality of life. In the traditional planning way there has been a limit reached in dealing with these complexities. The issues that present the city today, which can be regarded as mistakes from the past, are now demanding new, more open and flexible approaches. These characteristics of the built environment directly relate to social dynamics and human relations. The understanding of how urban neighborhoods influence the development and consolidation of healthy communities is essential and strongly connected to how we are developing and using public spaces in these neighborhoods. Public spaces are vital for the preservation and continuous development of the quality of life.

The discussion about the importance of public space in an urban environment is not new. The issue of how car-oriented development has negatively impacted the quality of life in cities is a story being told many times. The distances and character of neighborhoods have been distorted adapting to this trends of modern development. Forces are joined with a further urban specialization through commercialization and commodification, turning public spaces into non-places. The result can be seen in narrower sidewalks, blind facades, big box commercial areas or extensions of vital public spaces occupied by cars. All these developments degenerate into neighborhoods without character or identity, create social fragmentation, and lead to a lack of security due to a decrease of social control, in sum, affecting profoundly the residents' quality of life. The most critical issue is that these characteristics are more acute in low-income neighborhoods, where migrant and other potentially precarious communities experience segregation and alienation with regard to the rest of the city.

There is an increasing awareness for the importance of some factors in urban neighborhoods that are decisive for selecting a place to live. In addition to quan-

titative factors such as the provision of public transit or schools in a neighborhood, qualitative factors are just as much important for / critical to the quality of life. They comprise e.g. the quality of housing, public space, public green areas, subjective safety or noise pollution. Locally lived culture and recreation play an important role here, as well as the convenience of daily life facilities located within walking distances, the condition of the sidewalks to reach those places, the livability of the streets that leaves them not only safer but also more comfortable to use, the accessibility of public transportation, cleanliness, etc.

According to Jane Jacobs in her featured "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" (1969), the sidewalk width is the first thing that is sacrificed for the sake of space for the car. She argues that sidewalks are considered only as space for pedestrian travel and access to buildings, and their real meaning as vital organs to stage public life and child rearing is often unrecognized and unrespected.

Quality of life and diversity

Another important aspect for a lively and desirable neighborhood is the healthy balance of and respect for diversity. Throughout history diverse cultures have been assets that not only enrich, but also are the very base for an evolving city life. London, New York, Paris, Amsterdam and Berlin are well known for the fusion of different cultures, the results of which manifest in the variety of food, music, clothes and mentality, the



Photo 1: People using a public park .

1.PREFACE

1.1 QUALITY OF LIFE AND PUBLIC SPACES

possibilities of doing business, overall knowledge development and human progress. All this has to be seen in direct relation to the use and appropriation of streets, parks and squares. On a Sunday afternoon in the Joyce Kilmer Park in the Bronx you might see groups of African American families having a barbecue on the sidewalk, while a group of Puerto Ricans are playing domino on the other side of the street, at the same time children are playing, and Yankee fans walking to the stadium. Even though the South Bronx is still one of the most neglected borough of the City of New York, the Grand Concourse area is maintained, the parks look beautiful and clean, the modern building of the Bronx Museum of the Arts attracts visitors, the Courthouse inspires security, and the Yankee Stadium offers a door to people from different places. Hence, it provides a safe and attractive area for the diversity of residents to enjoy and share public space.

Quality of life and gathering places/ Quality of life and diversity

"What defines a character of a city is its public space, not its private space. What defines the value of the private assets of the space are not the assets by themselves but the common assets. The value of the public good affects the value of the private good. We need to show every day that public spaces are an asset to a city." Joan Clos i Matheu, UN-HABITAT Executive Director

An attractive, active and well-functioning public space can boost livability while encouraging social, cultural, ecological and economic development in a community. On the other hand, deprived public spaces take away the value of property, encourage improper behavior and turn its surroundings in what Jacobs calls inspired neighborhoods.

Gathering places are important components of cities, no matter if they are in streets, alleys, boulevards, plazas, parks, etc, but in their essence they must be part of the public realm. Public meeting places encourage communal cohesion because they are open for a range of different kinds of social groups and relations, and provide a natural environment for the blending / mixture of people and activities. The relations and exchange in public spaces are associated with the development or strengthening of a deep sense of place or identity. Places are, in a sense, an embodiment of "social capital" thanks to their sociability and communication potentials.



Photo 2: Water features in a public square.

1. PREFACE

1.1 QUALITY OF LIFE AND PUBLIC SPACES

Quality of life and community participation

The limitations of established planning tools are emphasized more and more. On the side of politics / the authorities and administration, attention on civic engagement has grown - not least because of the complexity of the tasks and decreasing scope for action, especially in times when financial resources are tight. Today citizens are no longer waiting for participation but engage themselves in the development of their neighborhoods.

In order to achieve a long-term sustainable and especially inclusive transformation of neighborhoods, cooperation and participation of every actor and stakeholder are absolutely necessary. This cooperation does not only mean to engage the usual stakeholders, the city administration and related organizations, but also other public actors, like the university, public initiatives and NGO's, all the way down to private actors, meaning not only local companies, but also and especially the local residents themselves. Moving on from the conventional path of top-down city planning of the past, there has to be a shift towards an already ongoing bottom-up development, by bringing together top-down and bottom-up stakeholders for the conception, design, construction and maintenance of neighborhoods and their public spaces.

Christopher Alexander in "The Nature of Order" asks two very important questions regarding how to create a shared vision for a neighborhood. One is what happens when a new community has to be created from a diversity of people, and the second, how to create community when there is a composition of fractured structures. Both questions imply that there are and could be positive outcomes from enabling heterogeneous community building. But there are also questionable consequences when people from different backgrounds have no means for inclusion; they either do not have the same opportunities for education, recreation and employment or their rights for participation have simply been withdrawn.

Public space, the lost part of these fractured structures, plays an important role in the definition of identities and the alignment of collective goals pursuing a shared vision. Alexander affirms that modern society has affected the sense of true connection to a place. The sense of belonging, which was common in traditional towns, and a character of cohesive neighborhoods, are missing. Now one of the issues is the question of what has happened to public spaces in the cities today. In his words public spaces "legally and metaphorically, no longer belong to us to any deep extent". Nevertheless, to recover or construct the true belonging to a place, the residents must share a vision of that place to which they belong and the environment they want to create collectively.

Planning, design and construction of public spaces are no longer the sole responsibilities of the professionals, they are shared democratic and collaborative processes in which the professional is the mediator, communicating and translating ideas, but the real expert is the community. Traditional participation is no longer relevant in this kind of community and neighborhood building. Instead, assisted and supported empowerment and self-management are.

1. PREFACE

1.2 OBJECTIVES

Cutting edge education is not spending time at length talking to students about problems in theory, but teaching them how to deal with them in a real life setting of a city neighborhood. Hands on work means to understand the dependencies between social, economic and physical problems and their solutions, by observing, talking to people and collecting relevant data on site and comparing them with the already existing data and relevant theory.

- The students become part of the observation process; this method of observation is related to empirical research.

- Urban analysis tools get implemented to identify resources. Then the potentials can define a base for a possible strategy. This also means to learn and understand how problems can become potentials.

- The strategic approach is based on unfolding a productive complex urban system working in the favor of the quality of life. The implication is a non-linear and iterative approach. To deal with challenges and have the ability to make thorough urban proposals, it is necessary to go through a continuous iterative process. Solutions can't be found by just going from point A to B, but by navigating through a series of dimensions. To fulfill the objectives sometimes it is essential to go back to the initial point and look at certain elements from a different perspective.

- A wholesome complex urban system approach also implies that architects, urban planners, urban design-

ners or any profession linked to the responsibility to shape the urban environment must learn how to involve on the one hand professional fields, like economic, sociology, culture, environment, etc. and on the other hand non-professionals, the community. The challenge posed to the students is to develop process-triggered urban design solutions, by integrating the languages of the different disciplines that collaborate in the process by making them communicable, meaning to translate them into common language, for the community. Over and above that they should learn to speak a language that communicates and involves communities and several actors in the process of analysis and design, before translating it into a definite proposal.

Urban planning and design tools

Urban design tools are specific techniques that can be applied at appropriate stages in the design or project planning process to facilitate quality outcomes. These tools can help to understand the urban context, encourage community involvement, increase the understanding of urban design issues, describe the intended design, establish design processes, and organize people and resources. They can be used either individually or collectively in achieving quality urban design.

1. The urban context: Location map and description of the context of the district and square

2. The status quo: A summary of the current situation regarding transport, connectivity and usages in the square and surroundings

3. Problems and potentials: A description of the main problems and how they are turned into potentials

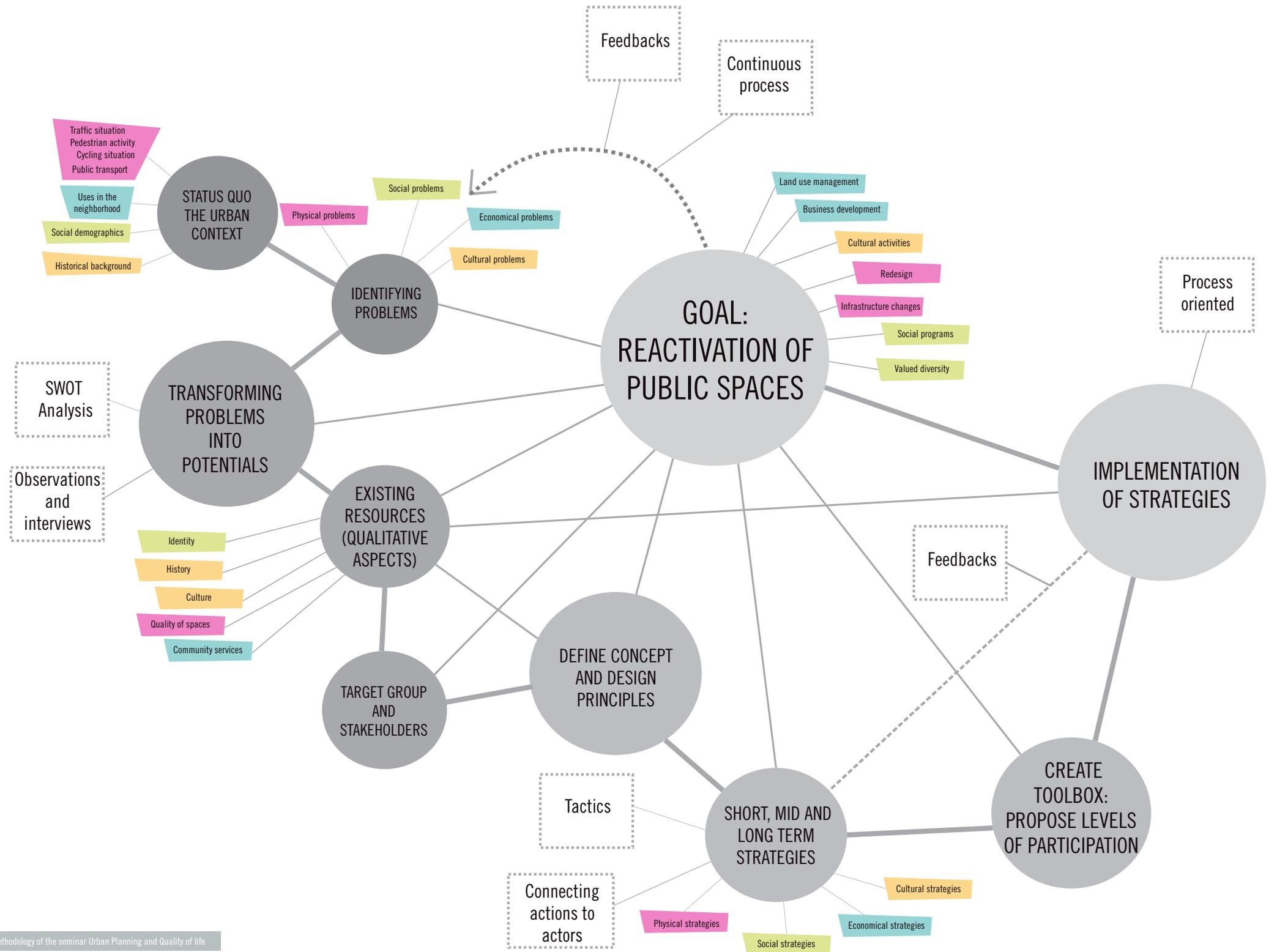
7. Final outcomes: The expected results, final design and goals to be achieved with the reactivation of the public and open spaces

4. Concept and design principles: A description of the research group's concepts, goals, aims and principles for intervention and design

5. Toolbox: A description of the main actions, actors and how they participate in the process

6. Strategies: A description of actions in short and long term correlated with target groups and stakeholders. How they participate and how they are influenced by the final outcomes

2. THE WORKING METHODOLOGY



3. THE CITY OF ESSEN

3.1 ESSEN - GENERAL SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Essen is located centrally in the Ruhr area of Germany and a conglomerate of districts that consisted of villages and largely aims to retain its individual identity. From the late 1800s on, coal and steel industries migrated from the Ruhr following the coal northwards before stagnating in the 1970s at the advent of structural change towards education, high-tech and creative cultural industries. Characteristics of the Ruhr

region are living areas with multiple social and environmental problems generally north of the A40, the arterial highway of the Ruhr area, while the older, more prosperous living areas lie south of it. After WWII, Essen underwent a heavily car-oriented re-development, complemented by public transport and a growing network of green spaces and cycling infrastructure.

583,267 Essen population
16.71% Of social welfare
6.01% Unemployment rate

8,094 Population of Nordviertel
34% Social welfare
11.6% Unemployment rate.

3,615 population of Stadtkern
32% Social welfare
11% Unemployment rate

14,986 Population of Huttrop.
18.47% Social welfare
6.21% Unemployment rate

16,621 Population of Steele.
16.61% Social welfare
5.81% Unemployment rate

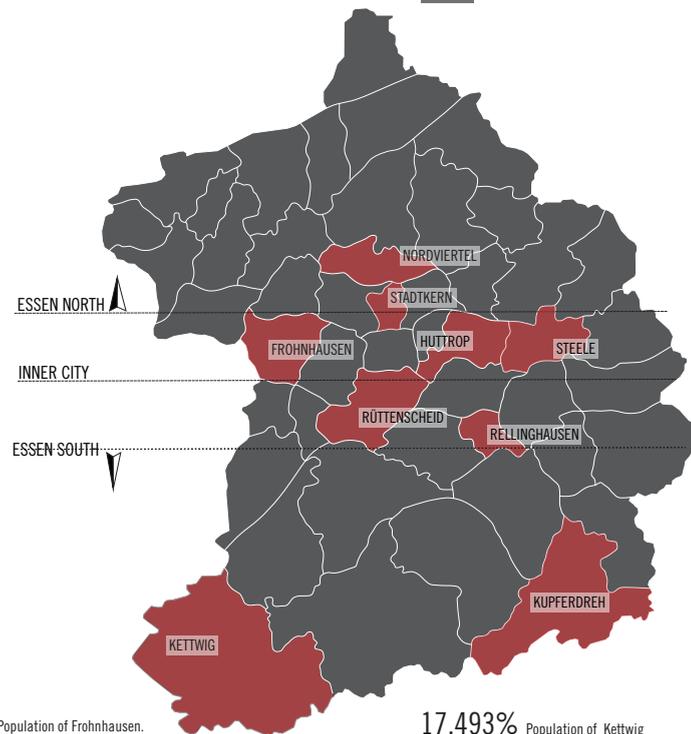
3,706 Population of Rellinghausen.
5.28% Social welfare
2.26% Unemployment rate

11,542 Population of Kupferdreh.
23.92% Social welfare
7.11% Unemployment rate

28,536 Population of Rüttenscheid.
6.63% Social welfare
3.07% Unemployment rate

17,658 Population of Frohnhausen.
4.43% Social welfare
2.34% Unemployment rate

17,493% Population of Kettwig
4.45% Social welfare
2.43% Unemployment rate



Essen
 Districts
 Data year 2015

4. THE PUBLIC SPACES

4.1 GENERAL PROBLEMS OF ESSEN

Essen is geographically located at the heart of the Ruhr area and home to three major hospitals and the university of Duisburg-Essen. Essen is a car-oriented city. Extensive bombing of the coal mining and steel industry during WWII gave urban planners the opportunity to redesign vast areas of the city and its medieval core. Intending to give the city's a modern identity, urban planners followed principles of Le Corbusier and developed Essen into a car-oriented city. The human scale was lost amid monumental symbols of progress that continue to dominate the urban skyline, most notably the headquarters of RWE and Evonic Industries on the A40, as well as Essen's city hall.

Essen's hilly topography places special demands on its design in terms of visual and physical accessibility by foot and bicycle and is dealt with in the cases of Dreiring-, Weber- and Alsenplatz. The biggest land-use problem is the predominant use of public places and surrounding streets as parking space, as in the case of Dreiringplatz, Kupferdreher Markt, Alsenplatz, Rütten-scheider Markt and Kleine Stoppenbergerplatz. Economically, Essen is dominated by internationally operating companies, although the creative and educational branch of the economy is gaining momentum.

There is good connectivity between the cities of the Ruhr area by car and public transport. A high traffic volume due to commercial logistics and daily commuters places high strain on public spaces in terms of parking space, air, light and acoustic pollution, especially, since the arterial highway of the Ruhr Area, the A40, cuts through the city in an east-west direction. The A40 marks the border between the generally better situated residential south and the socio-economically more problematic industrial north of the city. Post-war four story family flats, built during the 1950s to 1970s, when high numbers of refugees arrived from eastern Germany and Europe, are characteristic of Essen's neighborhoods surrounding public spaces. Due to the strained economic situation of the city, the maintenance of urban public spaces is an issue of almost all cases examined.

Tentative signs of a start-up culture particular to the Ruhr area are appearing, branding themselves as more down to earth than elsewhere. Cultural activities, such as arts and crafts, music and theater can be found mainly in the city center, with sports facilities in all neighborhoods of the city. Urban sports are slowly gaining ground. Recreational opportunities, such as bars, clubs and restaurants are concentrated in the city center and Rüttenscheid. Parks are found throughout the city, but especially in the south of Essen, which is characterized by extensive vegetation, as opposed to the industrial brownfields of the north.

Social aspects considered are the levels of unemployment and access to the German job market, especially in terms of the integration of accepted refugees and people without clarified countries of origin into the job market and schooling system. These are steps that will support measures trying to prevent neighborhoods from becoming hubs of organized crime (car re-appropriation, drug trade, robbery, illegal prostitution, human trafficking) and developing parallel societies subject to prejudice and hatred. An example of measures dealing with prostitution in Essen can be found in the case study of the Kirmesplatz.

In general, the aim of the projects presented is to achieve a more human scale in the design of the squares, to make public spaces more livable and accommodating, environmentally friendly and to support the structural change of the Ruhr area from mining and steel to intellectual, creative and high-tech industries. To achieve this change, social strategies supporting the cohesion of socially and physically fragmented neighborhoods is prioritized in the proposals.

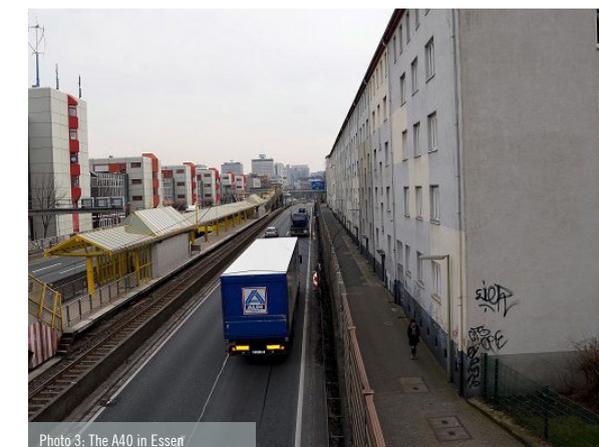
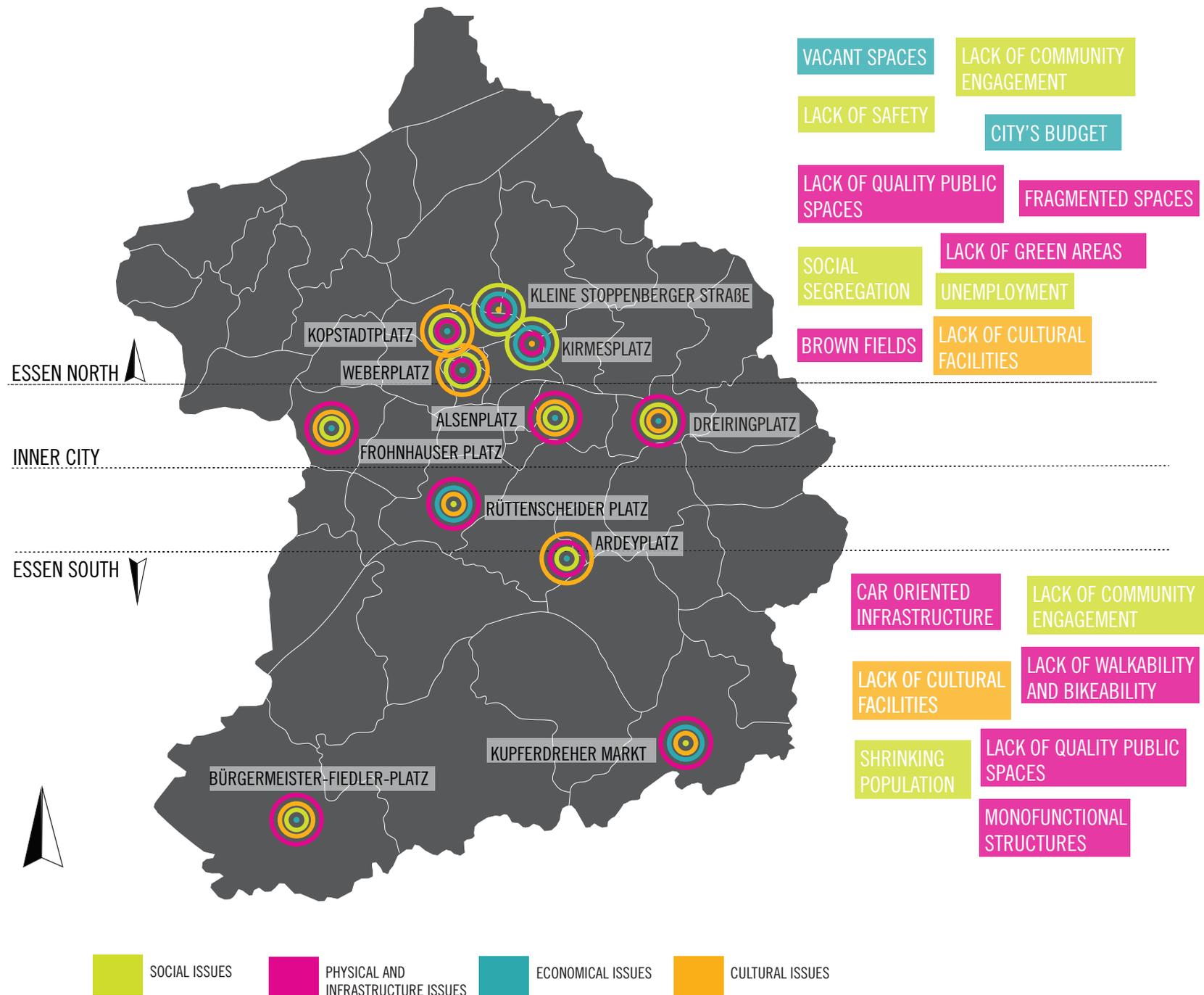


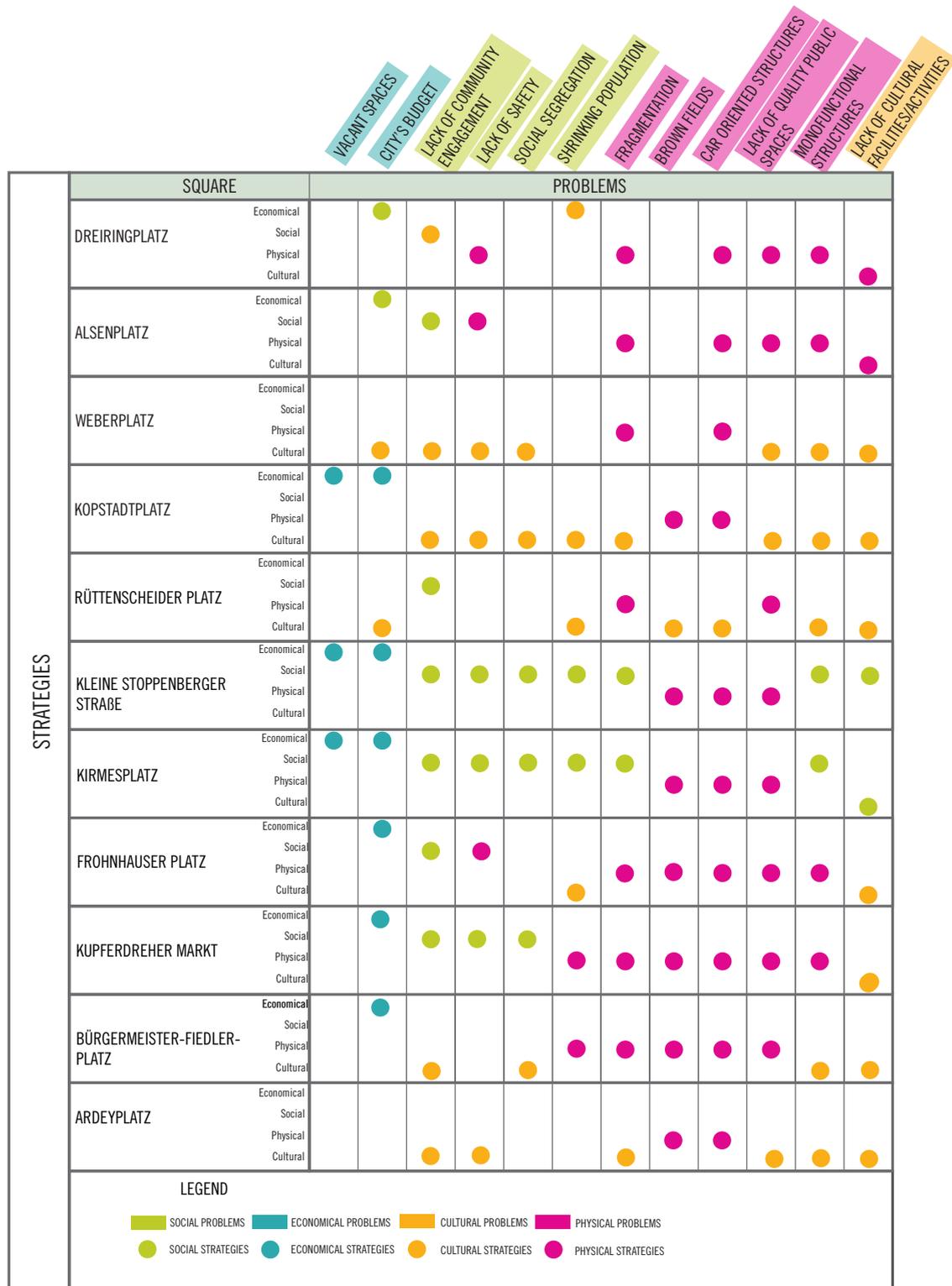
Image 2: Socio-demographic data of districts of Essen

Photo 3: The A40 in Essen

5. TRANSFORMING PROBLEMS TO POTENTIALS



6. THE SQUARES



ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

Case studies suggest business development strategies including training, financing, marketing location and strategic networking solutions in order to strengthen existing businesses, to attract new businesses to the location, or to enable people in the initial “start-up” phase of their businesses. These strategies often draw on social as well as physical and structural strategies and can be used to address issues from these fields, besides the economic ones.

SOCIAL STRATEGIES

Case studies employ social programs to address multi-layered problem scenarios that are mainly based on intensive social work (individual support, organization of interest groups around accommodation, health care, childcare, cultural youth programs, old-age, ethnic self-help groups, women’s self-help groups, training, career development), in addition to physical and economic land-use management, urban infrastructure regeneration measures and business development. The aim is to promote social inclusion in highly diverse neighborhoods.

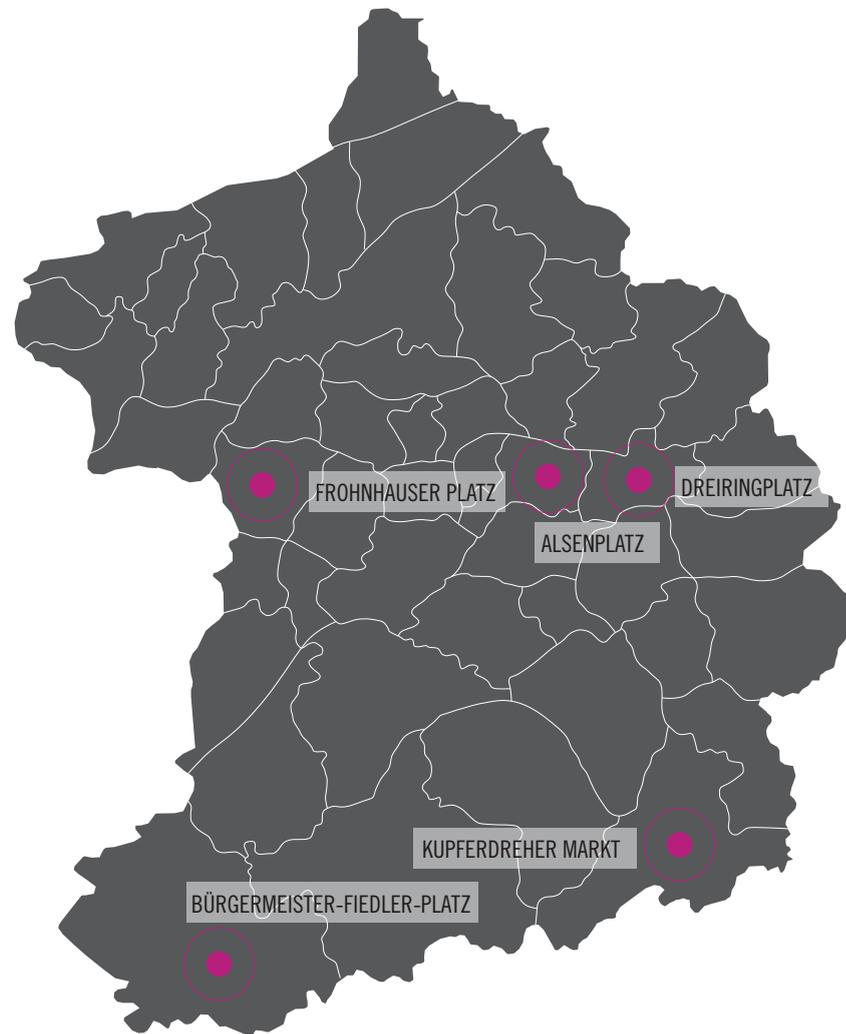
PHYSICAL STRATEGIES

Case studies make use of pedestrianization (!), redesign of squares through the implementation of greenery (shrubs, bushes, trees) and urban furniture (benches, movable seats, multi-use walls (low-level seats that can be skateboarded, walls of storage areas that can be used for bouldering). Spaces can be redesigned with temporary physical interventions as case studies (!), before implementing final infrastructure changes. Often these architectural and civil engineering strategies are accompanied by an array of new cultural uses (skate parks, urban beaches, parking day, headphone party, public cinema). They may also be followed by socio-economic strategies to promote new meeting-points, training centers and businesses in the redesigned area.

CULTURAL STRATEGIES

Case studies may identify a merely one-sided use of a public space and thus suggest an array of activities from the field of arts, crafts, sports and education to attract people to it, to activate the space. This may include more economically oriented measures (weekday markets), more physically oriented measures (parking day, where parking space is transformed into an urban living room) or more socially oriented measures (neighborhood workshops, for example urban furniture, gardening, bicycle repair workshop, training and social activism for a better cycling infrastructure).

7. PHYSICAL STRATEGIES



DREIRINGPLATZ

Group members: Dennis Arnold, Julia Vorsatz, Mariana da Cunha and Victoria Munteanu
August, 2015

THE URBAN CONTEXT

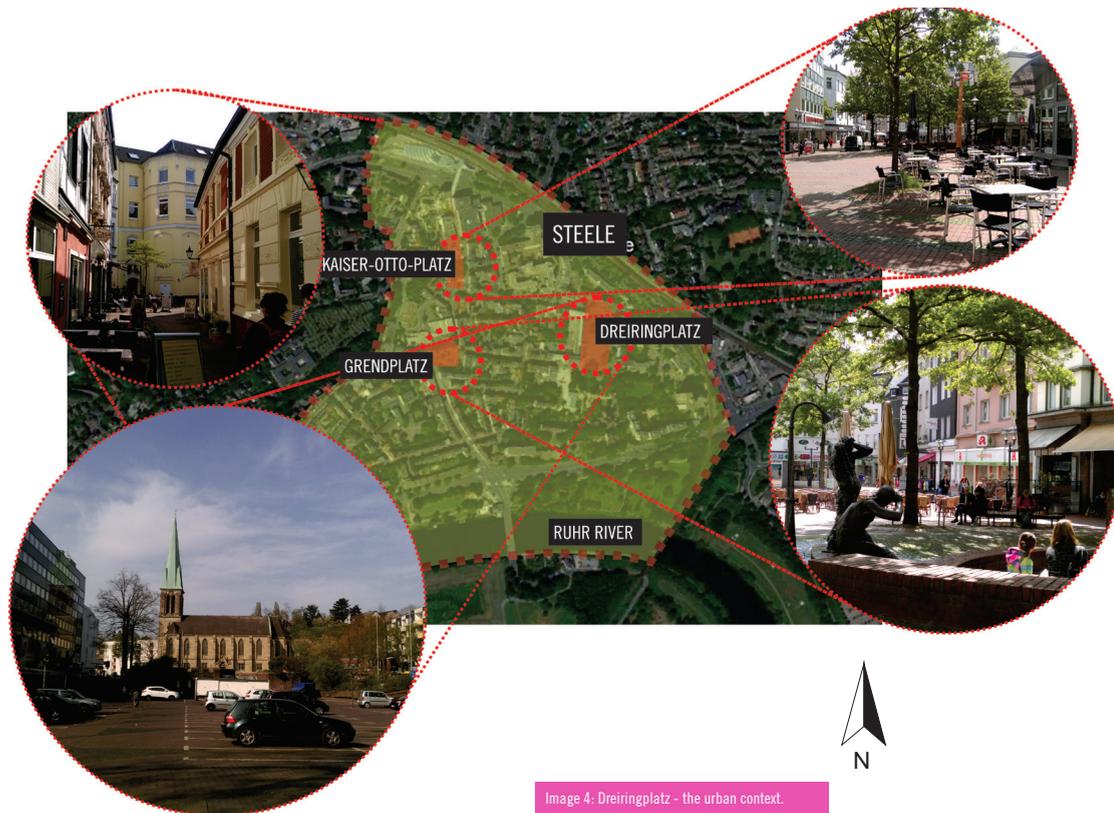


Image 4: Dreiringplatz - the urban context.

Steele borders on the River Ruhr and is characterized by mixed-use residential areas meeting the daily needs of the inhabitants. Dreiringplatz is 20 minutes from the city center of Essen by public transport. The surrounding area, including two nearby squares, is well-frequented given the pedestrian street leading to the area of intervention. Nowadays, Dreiringplatz is used as a parking space, and one of the main problems is the conflict between pedestrians and cars on the square. Three times per week, the scenario changes, when the square gives space for the market, signifying that there is potential in activating the urban public space.



Dreiringplatz on market days. Source: Research group, 2015.

STATUS QUO

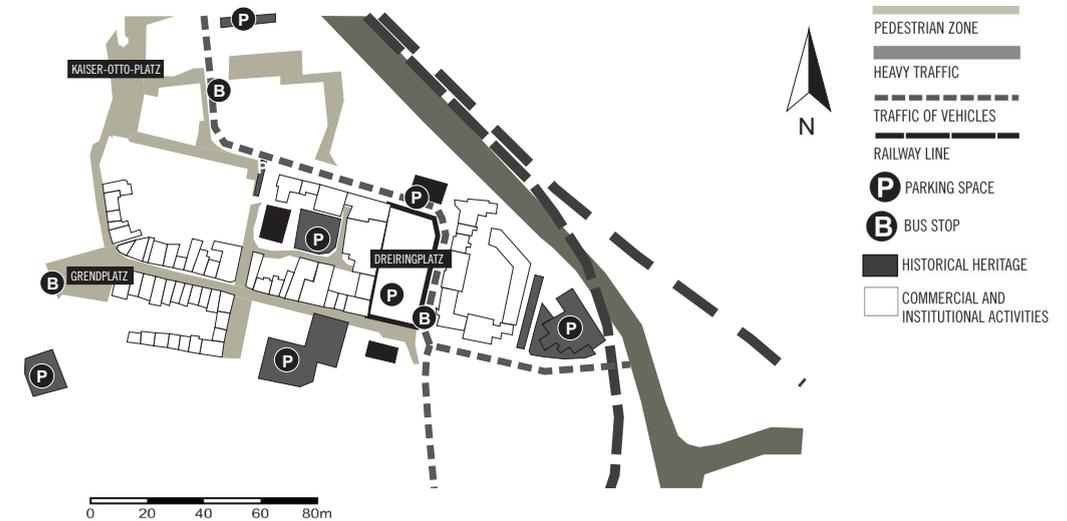


Image 5: Status Quo map.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Low flux of people ❑ Square used as parking space ❑ Dead façade of furniture shop ❑ Poor accessibility ❑ Badly maintained urban furniture and vegetation ❑ Dark corners and paths ❑ Fountain (Monumental, blocks visual axis) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✅ Open morphology ✅ Dynamic neighborhood ✅ Proximity and connection to Kaiser-Otto-Platz ✅ Proximity and connection to Ruhr river ✅ Historical heritages ✅ Well accepted market |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES



Image 6: The Steele triangle concept.

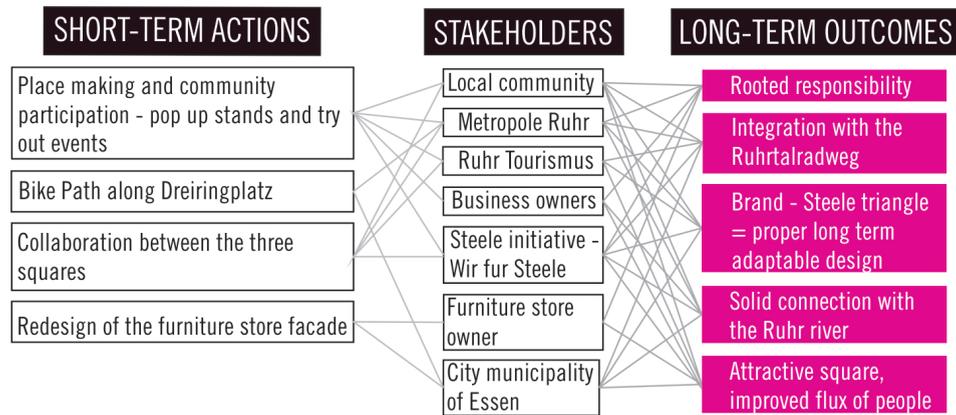
THE STEELE TRIANGLE - CONNECTION BETWEEN THE THREE SQUARES

The Steele Triangle concept focuses on reintegrating the citizens into their city through economic, social and physical connectivity – made possible by extending the pedestrian zone and integrating the Dreiringplatz into the center of Steele, and the regional bike route. Connecting green spaces, using the morphology of the square while redesigning urban furniture and creating more opportunities for the community of different age groups and interests to interact within and with the city.

TOOLBOX

| TOOL | LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | COMMUNITY | LOCAL INITIATIVES | PLANNING AND REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION | CITY MUNICIPALITY | PRIVATE INITIATIVE |
| LIGHT, QUICK AND CHEAP | ● | ● | | | |
| MARKETING AWARENESS | ● | ● | ● | | |
| BRANDING/MARKETING/EVENTS PROMOTION | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| APPROPRIATE DESIGN (FURNITURE STORE) | | | ● | ● | ● |
| GREEN AND RIVER CONNECTION | | | ● | ● | ● |

STRATEGIES



Further interventions need to be made in order to promote a proper design and enhance the reactivation of the square. The fountain and the parking space will be removed to create the desired visual axis and encourage the flux of people in the square. Some elements, such as the existing vegetation and furniture, need to be removed or renewed to create safer and comfortable spaces. A youth café is also proposed for the currently vacant building.

Stairs integrated with ramps create accessibility, connection to the next level and enhance the visual axis to the stage to be created on the highest level.

Taking advantage of the existing leveling, a recreation area with seating and vegetation will be created at the edges of the square. Besides that, low level vegetation and light will also be placed to enhance the human scale. Water and floor lighting features leading to the stage also give relevance to the stage. The colorful pavement, respecting the existing color standards of the surroundings adds visual value to the Dreiringplatz.

FINAL OUTCOMES

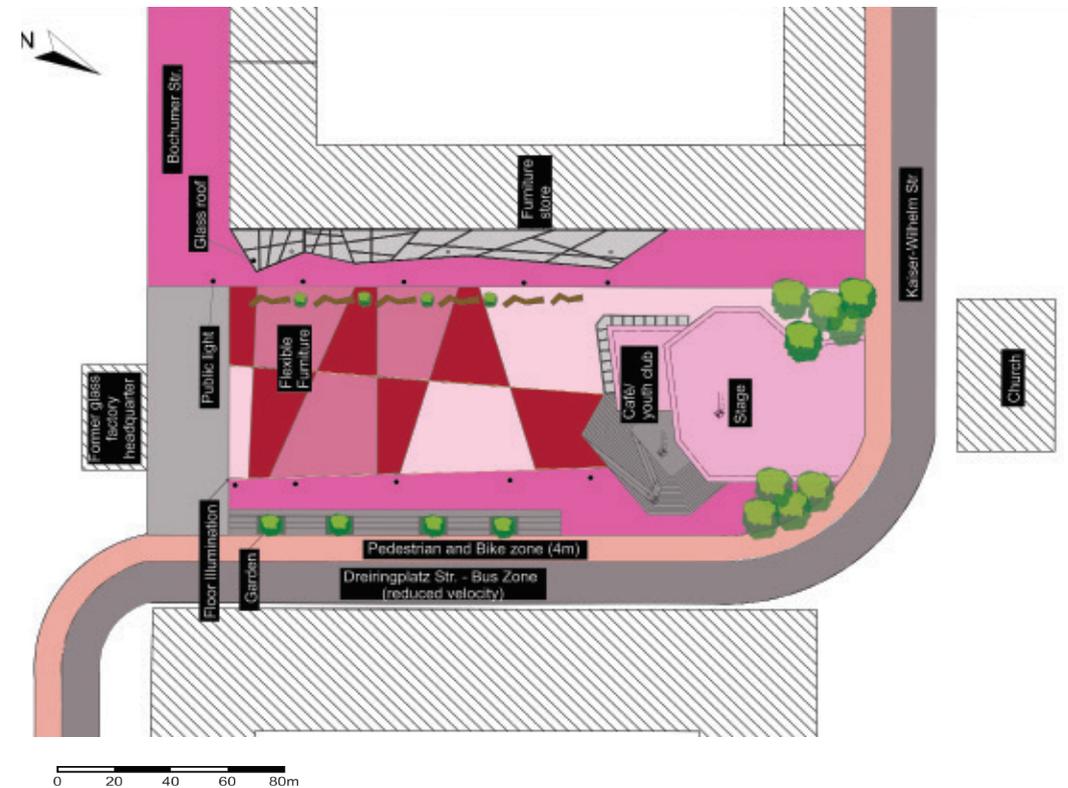


Image 7: Floor plan of the proposal for Dreiringplatz.



Image 8: Dreiringplatz on a concert day.



Image 9: Dreiringplatz on a skate competition.

ALSENPLATZ

Group members: Ezgi Basar, Janka Lengyel, Bettina Pahlen, Julia Wellmann
February, 2014

THE URBAN CONTEXT

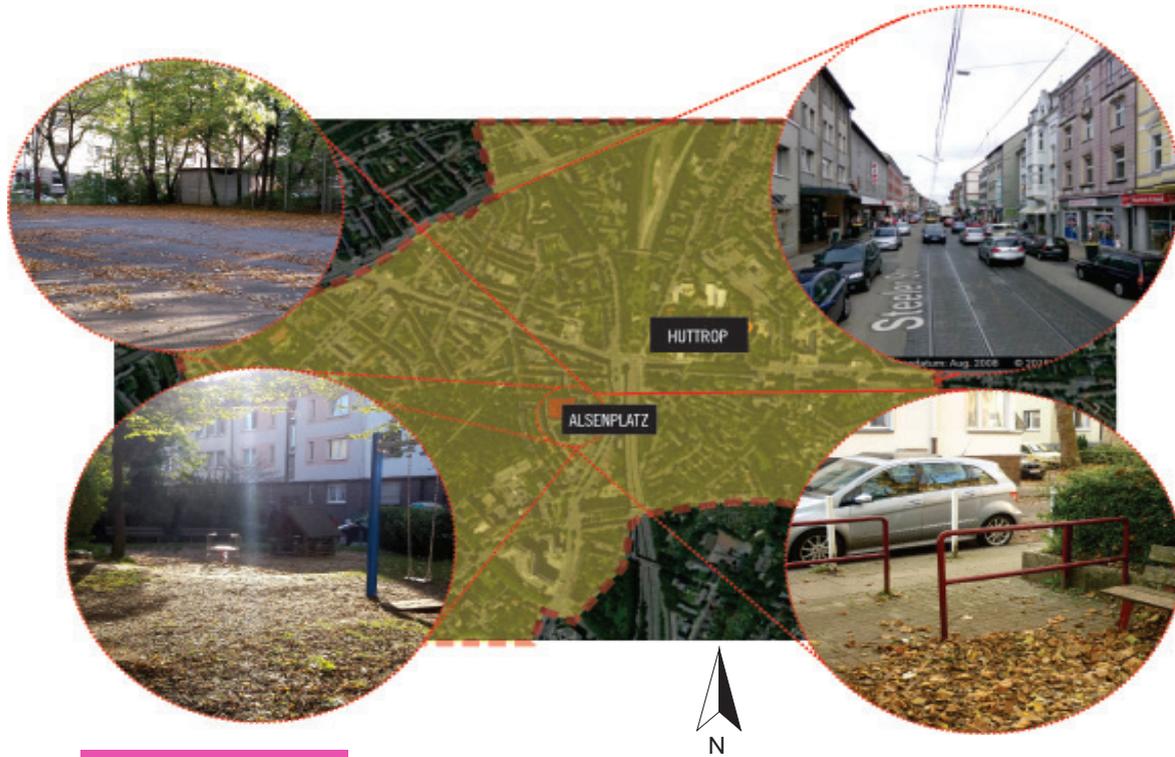


Image 10: Alsenplatz - the urban context

Considering the highly frequented mixed-use shopping street (Steeler Str.) and the fact that the Autobahn is close by, the Alsenplatz is very quiet. Major factors considered in the design are the kiosk, the high density of parking cars and simultaneously high pedestrian flux due to the mainly residential character of Alsenplatz. Additionally, the Alsenplatz lies in short walking distances

to transport nodes (Bus and Tram), Caritas Neue Arbeit, the Elizabeth Hospital and the Ostfriedhof. The aim is to create a space that provides equitable access of public space to the balanced demographic spread of children, youth, working and retired adults that all equally like the Alsenplatz.

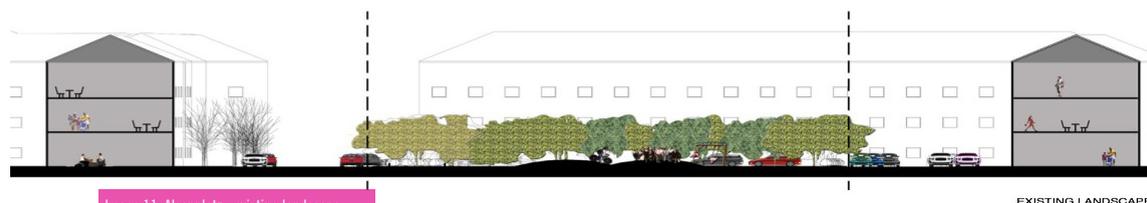


Image 11: Alsenplatz - existing landscape.

EXISTING LANDSCAPE

STATUS QUO

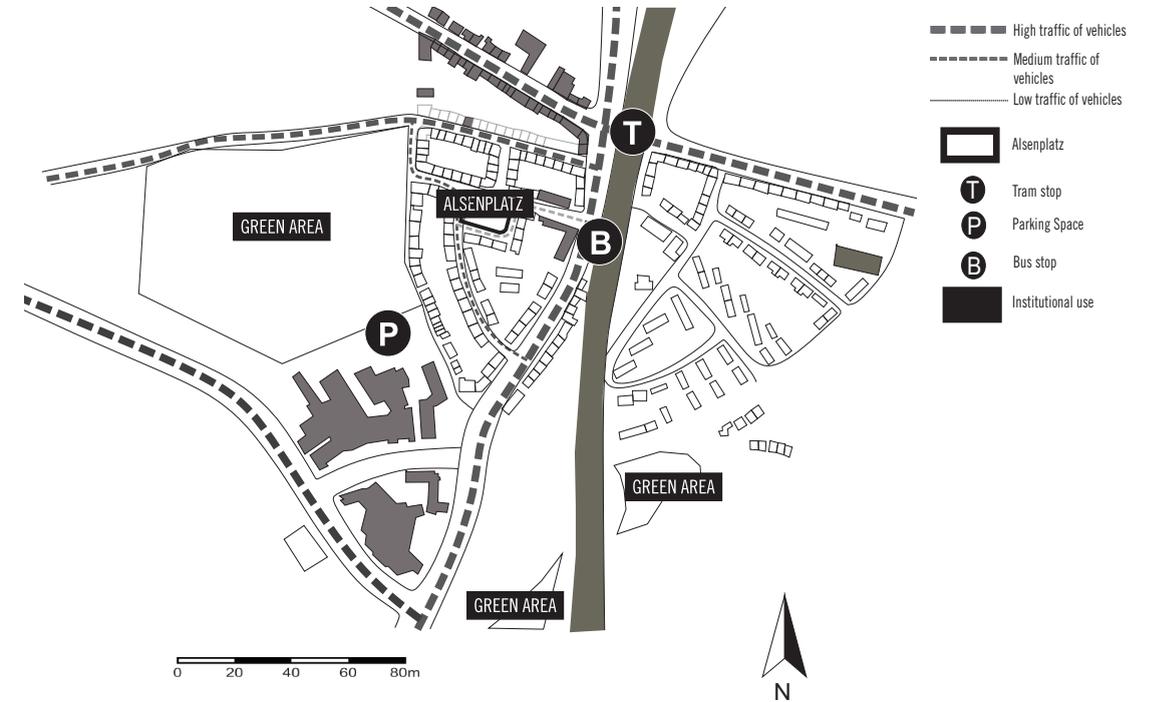


Image 12: Status Quo of Alsenplatz.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ Parking space | ■ Monofunctional | ■ Landscape | ■ Public transport |
| ■ Fragmented and Isolated space | ■ Hidden Kiosk | ■ Unsealed surfaces | ■ Mixed social groups |
| ■ Trees (Shade) | ■ No meeting point for communities | ■ Playground | ■ Historical background |
| ■ Monotonous neighborhood | | ■ High pedestrian frequency | ■ Existing vegetation |

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

ALSENPLATZ - A DESIGN FOR A NEW IDENTITY COMMUNITY

The shape of the proposed design is based on actual pedestrian footpaths crossing the playground. To increase available space and connect the main pedestrian crossing between Kiosk and playground, pavement and road are leveled with the playground and declared a play street, facilitating accessibility and safety for its main users: pedestrians, young children and elderly people. Together with the functional dune shape, it serves the exploration of and identification with the square.

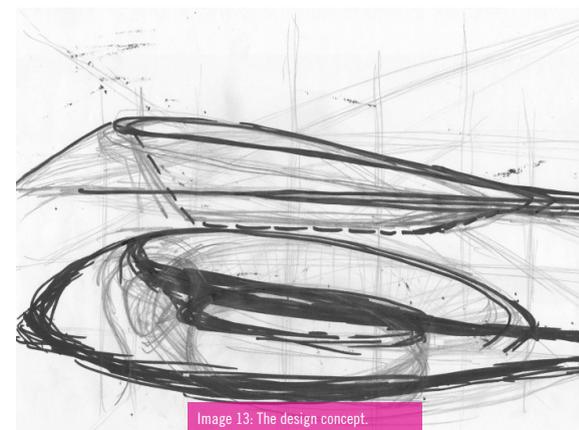


Image 13: The design concept.

TOOLBOX

| TOOL | LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | LOCAL COMMUNITY | CITY OF ESSEN | TRANSITION TOWN INITIATIVE e.V | ELIZABETH HOSPITAL | EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS | WEBERS HOTEL | LOCAL POLITICIANS | KIOSK OWNERS |
| SURVEYS OF THE STATUS QUO | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| PLACEMAKING EVENTS | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● |
| COMMUNITY BUILDING | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● |
| TESTING - TEMPORARY CHANGES | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● |
| MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPING | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| PLAYGROUND EXPANSION | | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| KIOSK CONVERSION - MEETING POINT | ● | | ● | | ● | | | ● |
| LONG TERM DEVELOPMENTS | | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

FINAL OUTCOMES



Image 14: Floor plan of Alsenplatz proposal.

STRATEGIES

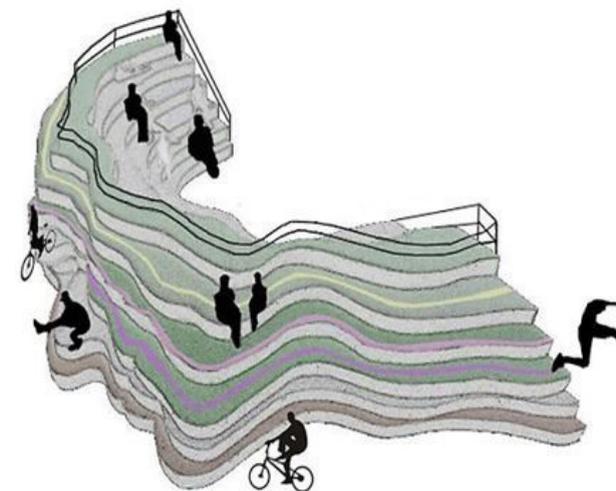
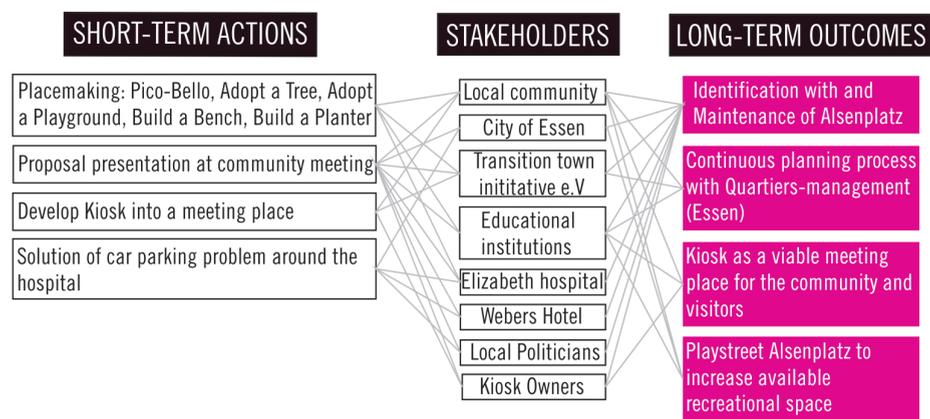


Image 15: Design proposal of Alsenplatz.

By the end of the generative project with the stakeholders of the Alsenplatz, the playground will be expanded and landscaped to create an accessible meeting point connected to a multifunctional recreation space with a unique identity.

Landscaping the heart of the community:

Removal:

- some trees;
- metal fence;
- asphalt playing field;

Transplantation:

- shrubs;
- table tennis fixture;
- parking space;

Renewal:

- kiosk;
- playground;
- vegetation;
- customized urban furniture;
- identity;

New:

- barrier-free playstreets;
- landscaped multifunctional sports field;
- district management.

FROHNHAUSER PLATZ

Group members: Timo Elliot, Lydia Steinhauer and Markus Wahrheit
February, 2013

THE URBAN CONTEXT



Image 16: Frohnhauser platz - The urban context.

The district of Frohnhausen is one of the oldest urban districts of Essen, first mentioned in 966 A.D. Frohnhauser Platz has been the location of a market for the past century, is regionally well-known and is busy on market days, functioning as a social gathering place. It is well connected via public transport (train, bus and subway) and motorized vehicles and close to a variety of social institutions, restaurants and shops. It borders on the Westpark, one of several green areas in Frohnhausen and extensive residential areas with a heterogeneous population.



Photo 5: Market place at Frohnhauser platz

STATUS QUO

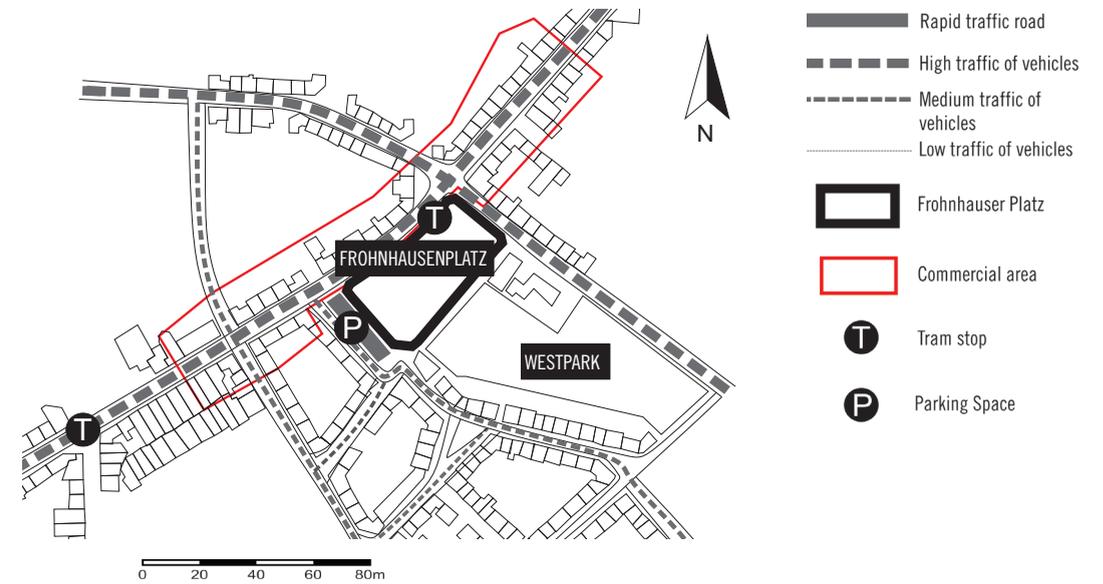


Image 17: Status Quo of Frohnhausenplatz.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [-] Broad and unused square [-] Unattractive urban furniture [-] Precarious connection between square and the westpark [-] Conflicting spaces: Parking space x square [-] Poor accessibility [-] Lack of social meeting point in Frohnhausen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> [+] Good accessibility by public transport and walking [+] Engaged citizens [+] Good physical infrastructure and services in Frohnhausen [+] Well accepted market [+] Square as a potential meeting point |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES



Image 18: Concept of Frohnhauser platz.

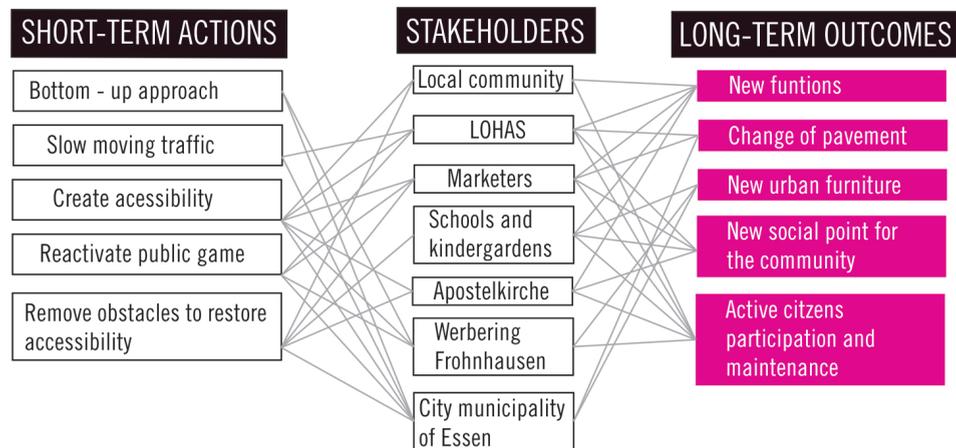
The aim is to re-establish the square as a social focal point for the district of Frohnhausen by reconnecting the Westpark to the Frohnhauser Platz, reactivating the use of the square as a market, attracting new marketers and raising the integration of surrounding shops into market activities.

- Zoning: Activity & Social Interaction, Connecting Element, Frohnhauser Market, Café, Market/Parking space.
- Accessibility: secure access to local supply of goods with pedestrian-oriented streets, an improved parking situation and structural improvements to ensure walkability.
- Market as social focal point with spillover effects into neighborhood retail shops and restaurants.

TOOLBOX

| TOOL | LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | COMMUNITY | SHOP OWNERS | MARKETERS | SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARDENS AND CHURCH | WERBERING-FROHNHAUSEN | CITY MUNICIPALITY |
| PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| CREATING CONNECTION WITH WESTPARK | | | | | ● | ● |
| CREATING IDENTITY | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| CHANGE LAYOUT OF THE STREET | ● | ● | | | ● | ● |
| VALUE RETAIL SHOPS | ● | ● | | | ● | ● |
| HYBRID FUNCTION - MARKET AND PARKING | ● | | ● | | ● | ● |
| INSTALL CAFÉ AND STREET FURNITURE | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

STRATEGIES



* LOHA: Lifestyles of health and sustainability

FINAL OUTCOMES

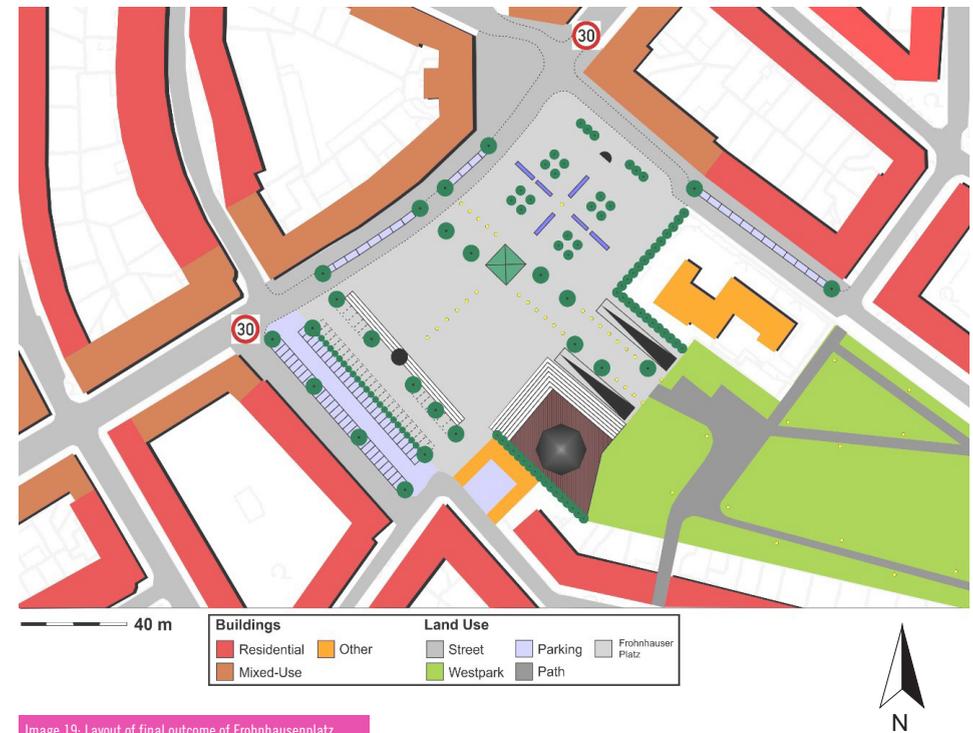


Image 19: Layout of final outcome of Frohnhausenplatz.

1) Mülheimer Straße:

- Level, redesigned pavement between street and square, limited speed to 30 km/h, later to 7 km/h, integration of a bicycle lane on the street and adding of a grocery store and bakery on the corner Mülheimer/ Hildesheimer Straße;

2) Square Design:

- Replace bushes on the shop-side of the square by trees, remove the artificial ramp and one kiosk, move both bus stops closer to the parking lot, the kiosk located closer to the parking lot takes over the sale of bus tickets;

3) Parking:

- Divide parking space along an axis along the edge of the square. The market side becomes shared space, while the street side remains parking space, multiple ramps improve accessibility of parking/market area;

4) Connection between Square and Westpark:

- Install LED-Lighting, renovate the Art Nouveau fountain sculptures, replace stairs at entrance to Westpark with a wide ramp, create two visual axes and place a pavilion at its intersection;

5) Functional Concept

- Install an activity and interaction zone with numerous seating possibilities, low-level vegetation and play-fountains, create a carport and storage room for the waste container, as installed at Ehrenzeller Platz, with direct access to Clausthaler Straße, redevelop the space currently occupied by a parking lot and a building for dancing lessons:

- raise the level of the pavement to match the Westpark;
- Stairs connect the new square with the market area and the street;
- Install a pavilion with a café and a kiosk.

KUPFERDREHER MARKT

Group members: Andrej Barinka, Ivona Kolesávorá and Lukas Hartwig
February, 2014

THE URBAN CONTEXT



Image 20: Kupferdreher Markt - The Urban context.

Kupferdreh shares a border with the river Ruhr that forms the Baldeneysee and is a green, village-like district of high recreational value in the hilly south-east of Essen, possessing older mixed use buildings and a popular market accessible via public transport (train, bus), bicycle via cycle ways and car via an elevated highway (A52), Kupferdreher Straße.



Photo 6: Kupferdreher Markt.

STATUS QUO

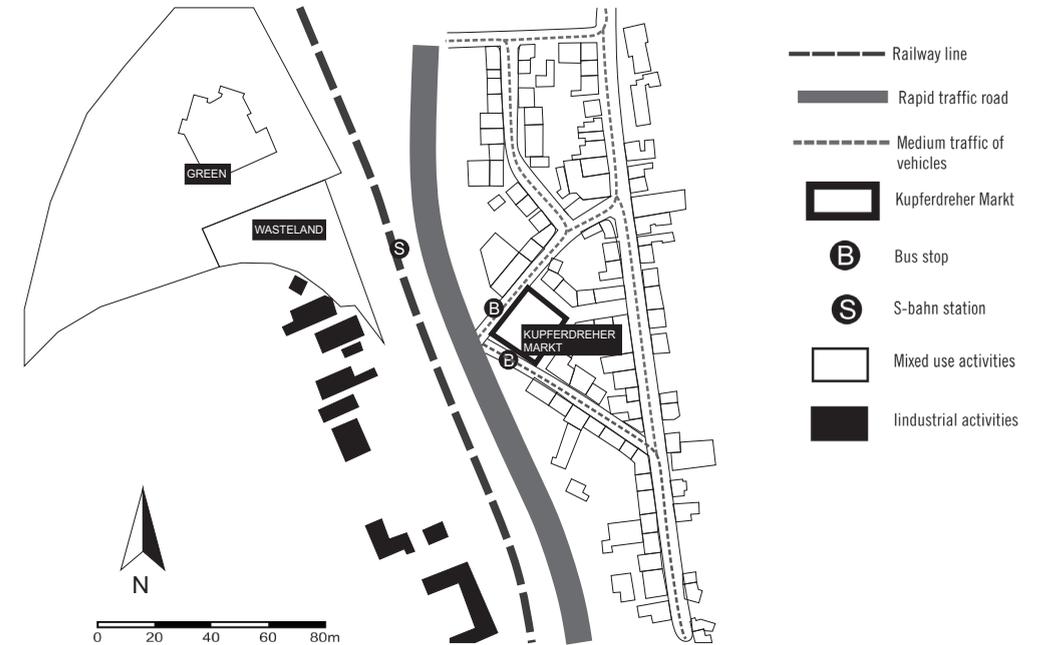
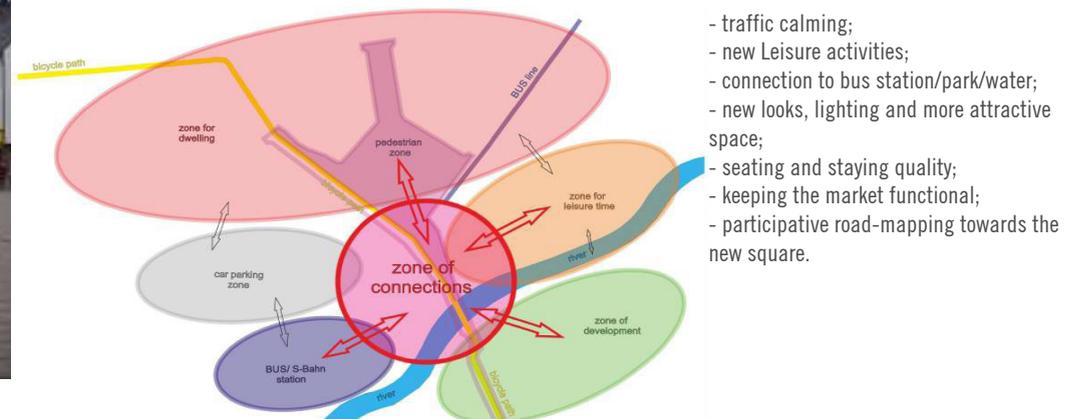


Image 21: Status Quo of Kupferdreher Markt.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Unused square on regular days ■ Monofunctional ■ Poor Urban Furniture ■ Poor accessibility ■ Conflicting access with parking space ■ Conflicts developments ■ Proximity to high traffic road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Availability of space to new uses + Easy access by public transport + Variety of uses on the surroundings + Well accepted market + Good movement of people + Proximity to a waterfront (Deilbach river) + Square as a potential support for local shops |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES



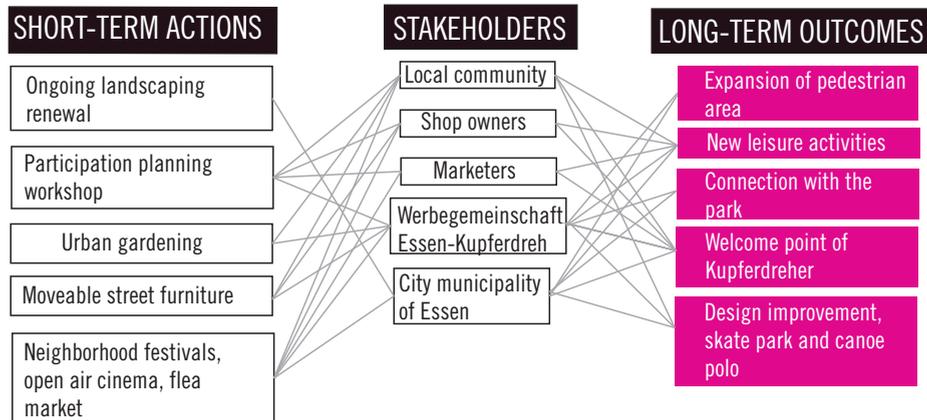
- traffic calming;
- new Leisure activities;
- connection to bus station/park/water;
- new looks, lighting and more attractive space;
- seating and staying quality;
- keeping the market functional;
- participative road-mapping towards the new square.

Image 22: The concept of Kupferdreher Markt.

TOOLBOX

| TOOL | LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | COMMUNITY | SHOP OWNERS | MARKETERS | SCHOOLS-CHURCH | WERBEGEMEINSCHAFT KUPFERDREH | CITY MUNICIPALITY |
| LANDSCAPING RENEWAL | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| PARTICIPATION PLANNING WORKSHOP | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| URBAN GARDENING | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVALS | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

STRATEGIES



FINAL OUTCOMES



Image 23: Layout of final outcome of Kupferdreher Markt.

Large Scale:

- A new entrance to the district welcomes people arriving by train, bicycle and on foot;
- Wave-shaped paving from the square to the stream Deilbach emphasizes the connection to the river Ruhr;
- A new café and a bicycle station next to the Deilbach stream attract people to the waterfront;
- The organic design of the café and the bicycle station is derived from the new bus station, which features a small kiosk/info-center and public toilets;

- The parking area under the highway bridge is replaced by a leisure area for skating, water sports (canoe polo) to enjoy leisure time;
- Hofstraße will be closed to motorized traffic, enlarging the square. A cycle lane connects Kupferdreher Straße with the new park;

Small Scale:

- Remove the fountain to build a ramp and facilitate pedestrian movement over the square (1);
- Install touch-sensitive floor panels that change color when stepped on to address playful nature of pedestrians. This can be deactivated on market days (1);
- Lighting under the motorway bridge above the leisure area makes it safe and usable after dark. Motion sensors dim the lights when no one is using the space. Low-rise lanterns around the kiosk create a pleasant atmosphere and highlight the pedestrian use of the waterfront (2);
- A new line of trees visually closes the square and provides shade without creating an impermeable barrier (2).



Image 24: Concept.

BÜRGERMEISTER-FIEDLER-PLATZ

Group members: Dennis Langer, Raphael Reimann and Pia Rilana Klein
February, 2014

THE URBAN CONTEXT

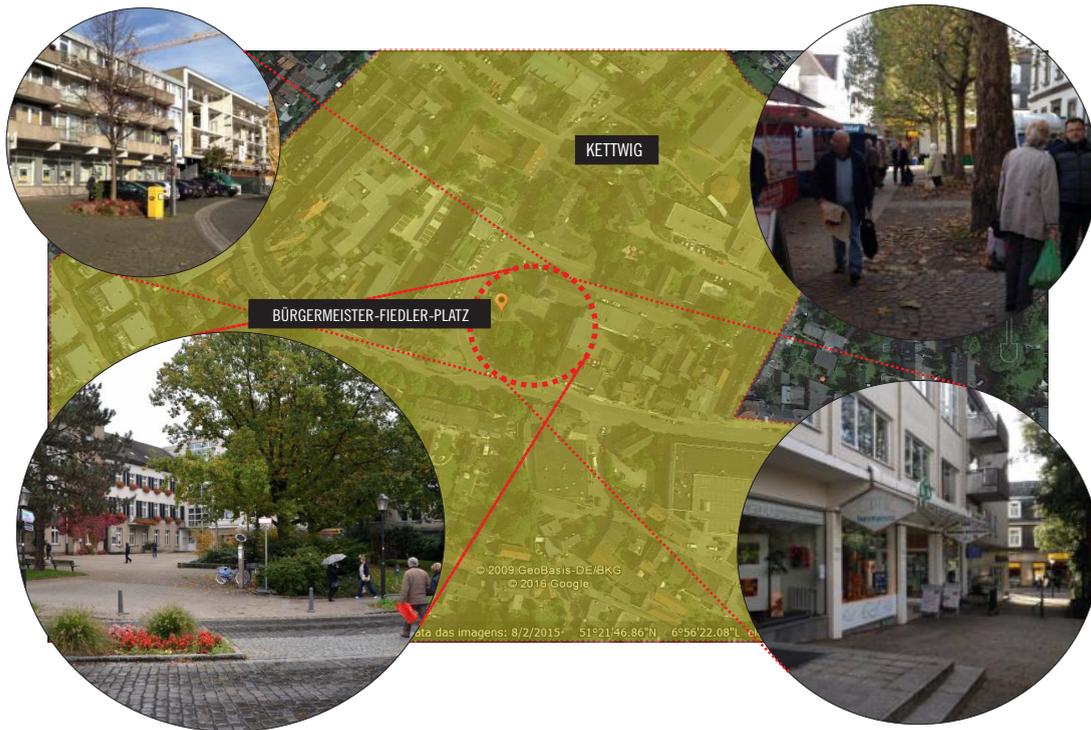


Image 25: The urban context of Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz.

Kettwig is located in the very south of Essen on the banks of the river Ruhr. The district is mainly surrounded by rural area and densely wooded landscape. The north and east of Kettwig make space for residential areas, while the center is characterized by mixed-use activities. The socio-demographics show that the district presents a high proportion of older

people and few families with children. The square in this case, Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz, is located in an intact historic town center and occasionally provides space for a farmers market and weddings.

STATUS QUO

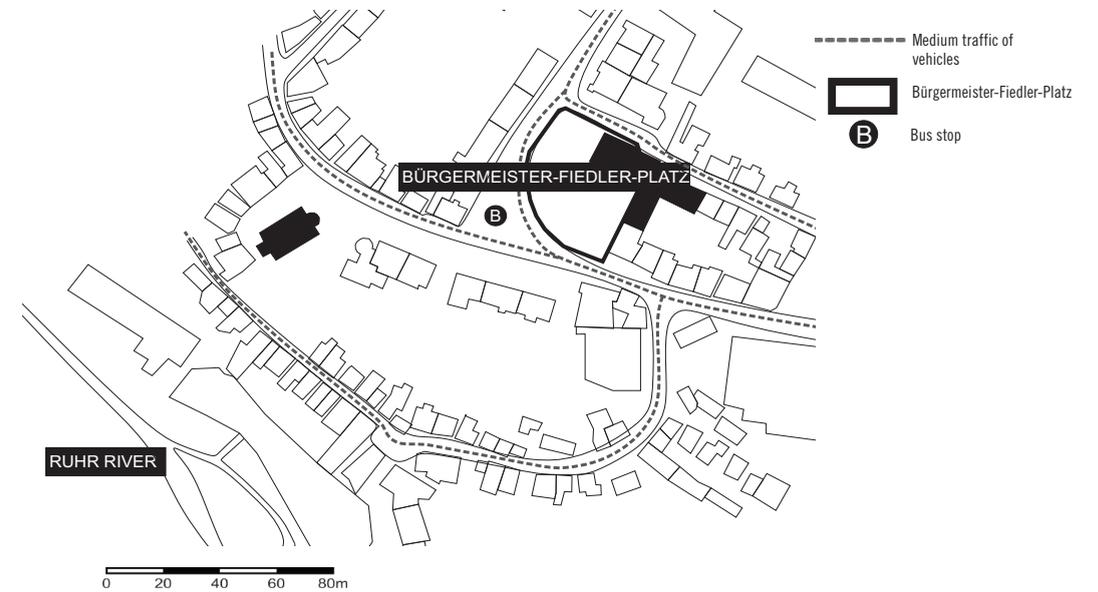


Image 26: Status quo of Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Homogeneous socio-demographic structure | + Proximity to nature |
| - Improper design for local residents | + Proximity to the Ruhr river |
| - Fragmentation | + Connectivity and diverse uses |
| - Lack of common gathering place. | + Demographic change |
| | + Proximity to Düsseldorf |

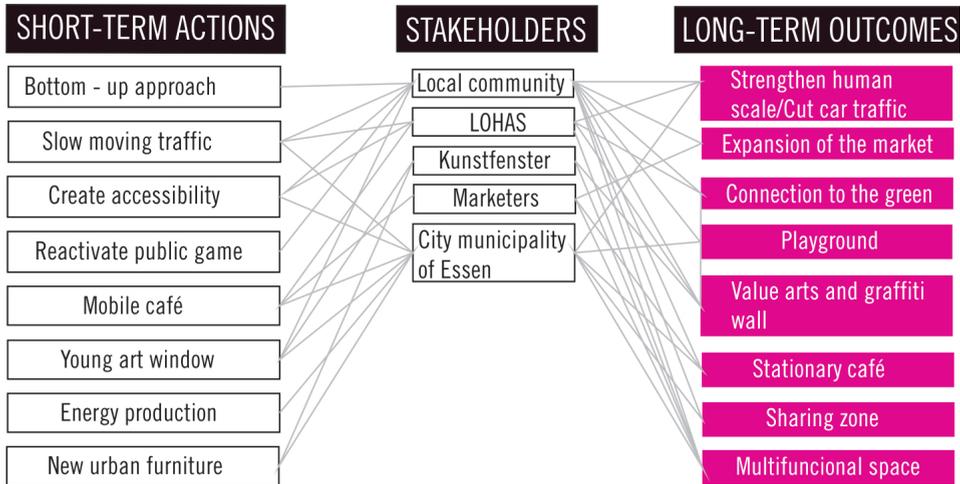
CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES



Photo 7: Bottom-up approach.

Promote a lifestyle of health and sustainability (LOHAS) for re-urbanisation and diversification of Kettwig as a 'city in the countryside' with Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz as a 'common living room' and local supply center, where a dialogue between old and new takes place in a sociable space. The target group of LOHAS are primarily young, middle- to upper-class families, but also older generations that appreciate nature outdoor activities and can afford to consume healthy and sustainable products.

STRATEGIES



PHASE 1: Bottom-up approach



Image 27: Phase 1 - the bottom-up approach.

- 1) slow-moving traffic (max. 10 Km/h) on Schulstraße.
- 2) rollator racetrack (smooth surface for small-wheeled walking aids).
- 3) public chessboard (reactivation).
- 4) mobile café (Piaggio Ape) on Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz. JuKu Fenster (Young Art Window) for cross-generational art projects. [Kettwiger Kunstfenster]
- 5) decentralized energy production (solar, wind) by weekly market. [Market, City]
- 6) add back rests to benches in the "watching area". [HVV]

FINAL OUTCOMES

PHASE 2: Settling down the human scale



Image 28: Phase 2 - Settling down the human scale.

PHASE 3: New visions for public space

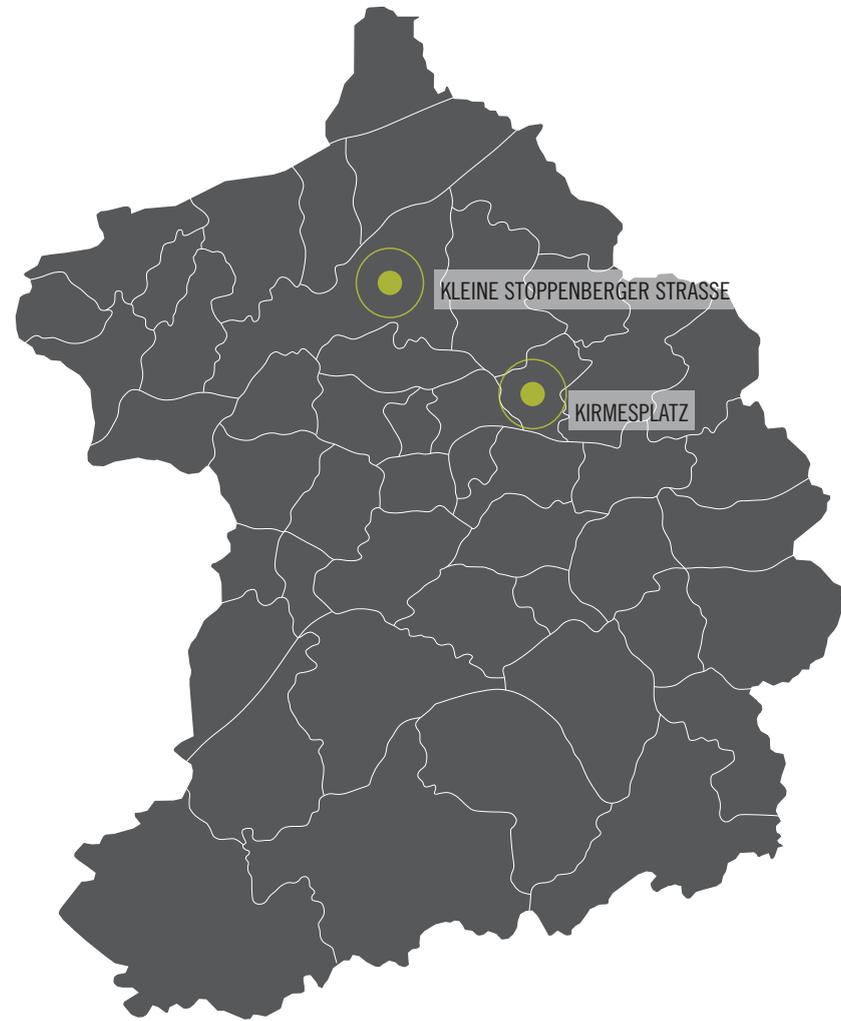


Image 29: Phase 3 - New visions for public spaces.

- 1) stationary café at town hall
- 2) traffic exclusion
- 3) multifunctional space
- 4) transport sharing zone at Hauptstraße (taxis, bike-sharing and car-sharing)

Final Outcome:

"Creating a common living room on the Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz therefore crystalized to be a goal for the strategic and tactical development. Keeping in mind that changes should start slowly in a traditional environment, the focus was to create three development phases, that are supposed to enlarge their influence over time. The different changes made to the physical and social environment finally are supposed to create a unified town square in the midst of the historical town center of Kettwig."



8. SOCIO- ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

KIRMESPLATZ

Group members: Anna Bruhl, Adrián Huerta, Sherif Lashin and Bernadino Sainz
August, 2015

THE URBAN CONTEXT



Image 30: The Urban context of Kirmesplatz.

Kirmesplatz is specially designed as a legal site for street prostitution. Located in the Nordviertel of Essen, close to the busy Gladbecker Straße/Grillostraße intersection it is separated from residential areas. Green spaces, private gardens, the Berne canal, Nordpark, a gas station, sports facilities, industrial sites, good public transport, a cycling school and an animal shelter characterize the surroundings.



Photo 8: The urban context of Kirmesplatz.

STATUS QUO

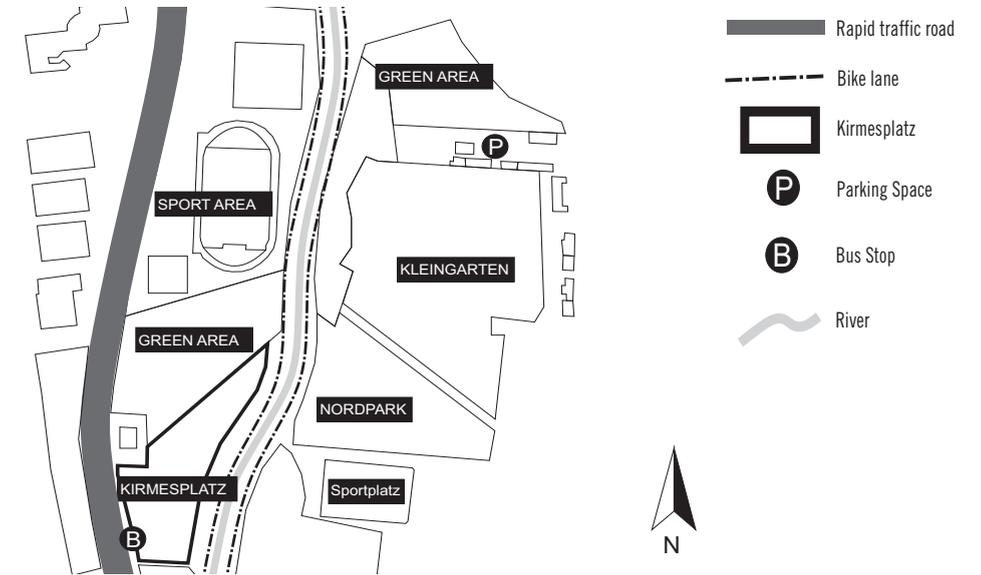


Image 31: Status Quo of Kirmesplatz.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| - Host of sex scene in Essen | + Social work organizations dealing with prostitution in the area |
| - Drug addiction and further social problems for sex workers | + Regular police patrol |
| - Social segregation on the neighborhood | + Good cycling paths |
| - Poor maintenance on the square | + Proximity to green areas |
| - Poor infrastructure to attend sex workers's needs | + Proximity to sport infrastructure |
| - Abandoned areas | |

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Integrated Society

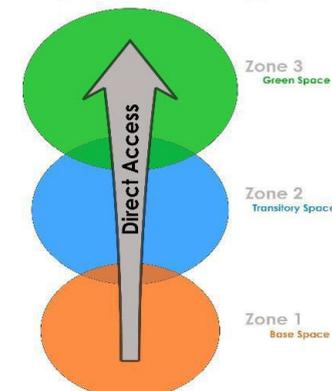
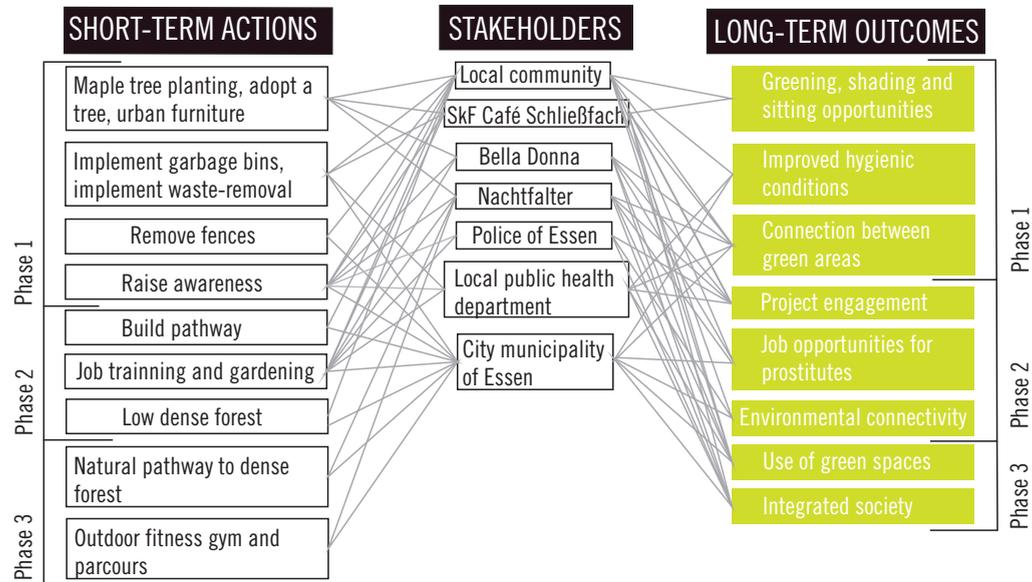


Image 32: The concept of Kirmesplatz.

Concept: A transition zone to improve connectivity between the prostitution area, green recreational space and the community for an integrated society. The design principles approach environmental design and connection to nature, social programs to improve the quality of life and conditions of sex workers and workshops and educational services. Through those principles, the aim is to achieve the concept of an integrated society, proposing transitioning zones.

STRATEGIES



*Skf: Sozialdienst katholische Frauen



Image 33: Zoning concept division.

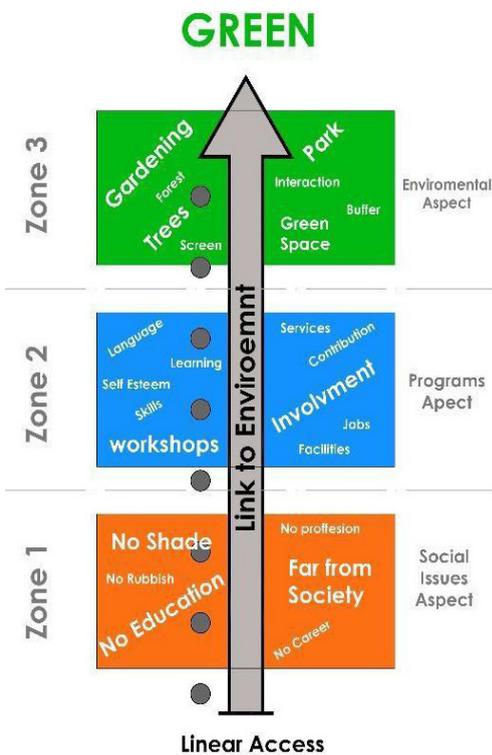


Image 34: Zoning structure proposal.

FINAL OUTCOMES



Due to differentiated social issues at Kirmesplatz, the design of the work, living and recreation space of prostitutes can only be one of many measures to ensure quality of life for people providing their services. The design should serve to improve the socio-economic status of prostitutes working there and builds on existing measures taken. On the basis of already existing social work, safety and health provisions as well as improved logistics, the proposed design will have more shady trees, urban furniture, educational opportunity at a multi-functional center and sanitary facilities that are better maintained. This should result in decent working conditions, provide a chance to interact with people on a non-sexual level and improve job perspectives. It is hoped that the proposal will also result in an increased use of green public space by neighborhood residents due to improved connectivity and a functionally improved transition zone between the workplace of prostitutes and the green zone. It is planned that prostitutes with social workers should be able to have a say in the future design of Kirmesplatz.



Phase 3



KLEINE STOPPENBERGER STRASSE

Group members: Alireza Sohofi, Yaganeh Soudi, Helle Habenicht, and Nicole de Vries
August, 2015

THE URBAN CONTEXT



Image 36: The urban context of Kleine Stoppenberger Str.

The square at the Kleine Stoppenberger Straße is a free parking space at the entrance to the northern residential areas of Essen's Nordviertel, yet close to the city center. The area's community is characterized by groups of diverse ethnic backgrounds, languages and habits gathering at different spots, signaling a lack of social cohesion between the mostly male groups. A large elevated railway track separates the square from the inner city. Vandalism, trashing and its reputation as a drug-dealing hotspot result in a very negative image. However, a social center, diverse shops, a mosque, residential buildings and a playground are positive aspects.



Photo 9: Historic buildings in Nordviertel

STATUS QUO



Image 37: The status quo of Kleine Stoppenberger Str.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ No connection with public open spaces ❑ Car oriented ❑ Neglected paths under the railway ❑ Segregated spaces due to railway ❑ Social segregation ❑ Lack of identity ❑ High unemployment rate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✅ Proximity to bike network ✅ Proper morphology for green and open space ✅ Potential connections to the city center ✅ Vacant spaces - new uses ✅ Historical buildings ✅ Young population |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

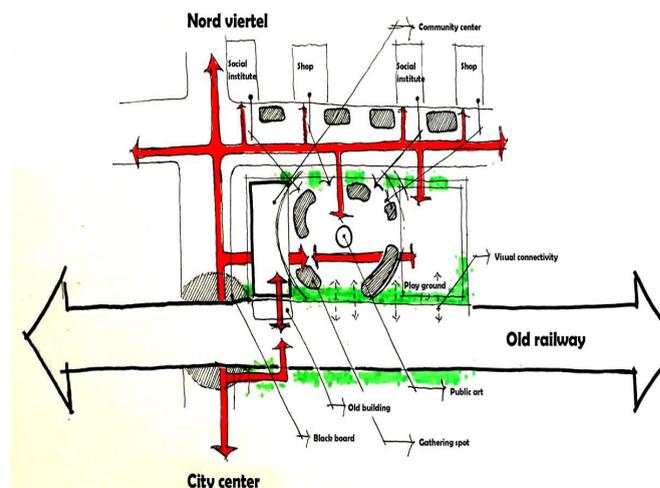


Image 38: Design conception.

A new, central public open space where different social groups come together and interact to build social cohesion and business opportunity. This public open space consists of several gathering spots that create a coherent space. Red arrows are new or improved connections, for example to the new community center connected to the old railway building. The underpass, as the entrance to the district, is redesigned.

TOOLBOX

| TOOL | LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| | ISSAB UNIVERSITY | UNIVERSITY STUDENTS | SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS | DEUTSCHE ANNINGTON CITY | CITY MUNICIPALITY | INTEGRATIONSRAT | DIE VERFASSUNGSSCHÜLER | OWNERS OF VACANT SHOPS | LOCAL RESIDENTS | RWE |
| RENOVATION OF VACANCIES | | ● | | | ● | | | ● | | |
| TEMPORARY USE OF VACANCIES | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| AWARENESS CAMPAIGN | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | | |
| REDESIGN | ● | ● | | ● | ● | | ● | | ● | ● |
| CULTURAL EVENTS | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | |
| NEW COMMUNITY CENTER | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| TRAINING FOR LOCAL BUSINESS | ● | | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● |

STRATEGIES

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Renovation of vacancies
- Temporary use for vacancies
- Raising awareness - Planting trees and collecting garbage
- Redesign underpath of the entrance of Nordviertel
- Cultural events

STAKEHOLDERS

- ISSAB/University
- University students
- Social institutions
- Innovation city project/Deutsche Annington
- City municipality of Essen
- Integrationsrat
- Die Verfassungschüler
- Owners of vacant shops
- Local residents
- RWE

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

- Skill training and setup of local business
- New community center
- Redesign of the parking space
- Final design based on residents wishes and ideas
- Construction of restaurant, vertical garden and playground
- Improved connections for pedestrians and bicycles

FINAL OUTCOMES

- Set up a network of different stakeholders
- temporary use of vacancies
- physical interventions to enhance quality of space
- staging of events and creative interventions on parking lot/ transformer station
- language and job skills training, media and communication training, craft workshops, sports activities, health and nutrition events, food markets, collaborative restaurant, urban gardening.
- start-up of local businesses
- build a new community center/redesign parking space and connect to cycle track

- skills training center, craft workshop, collaborative restaurant and sports facilities
- community cohesion and vibrant public space

- Outcomes:
- community center
 - redesigned parking space and underpass
 - connection to cycle track via a ramp
 - improved green space and maintenance
 - renovated railway building, shops and new business

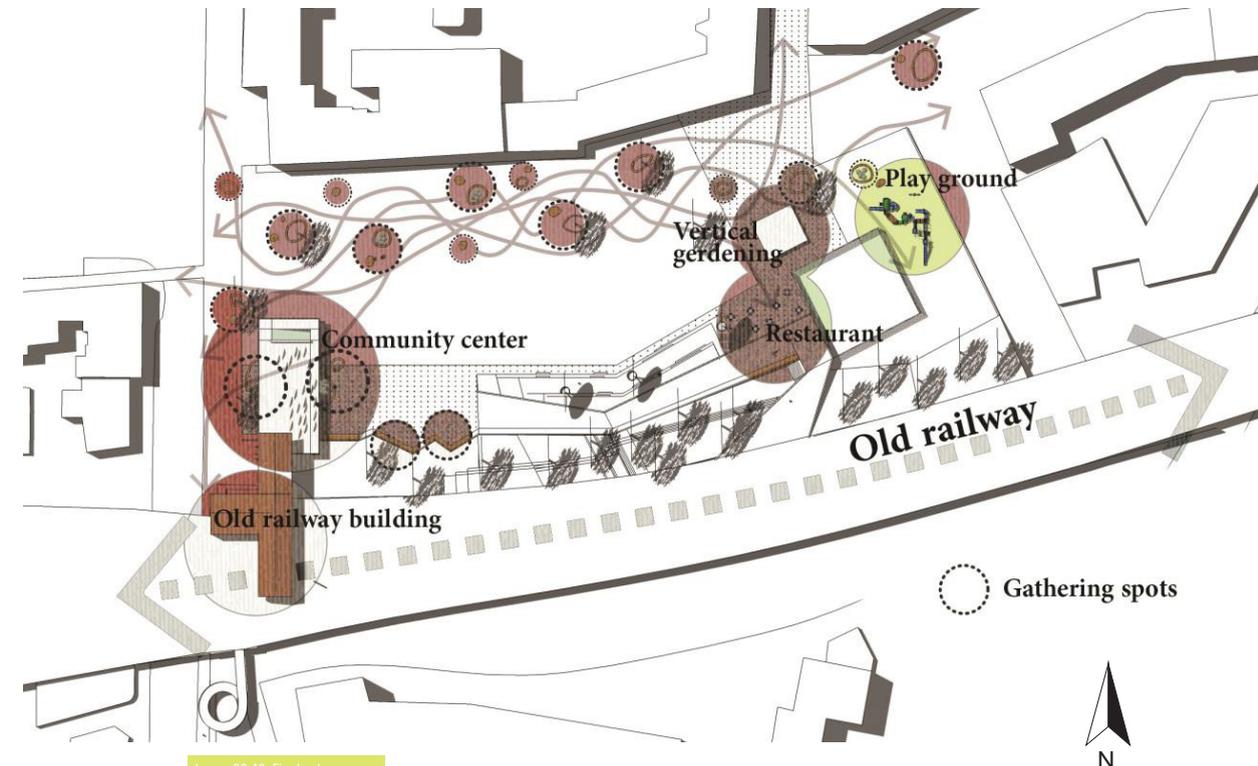
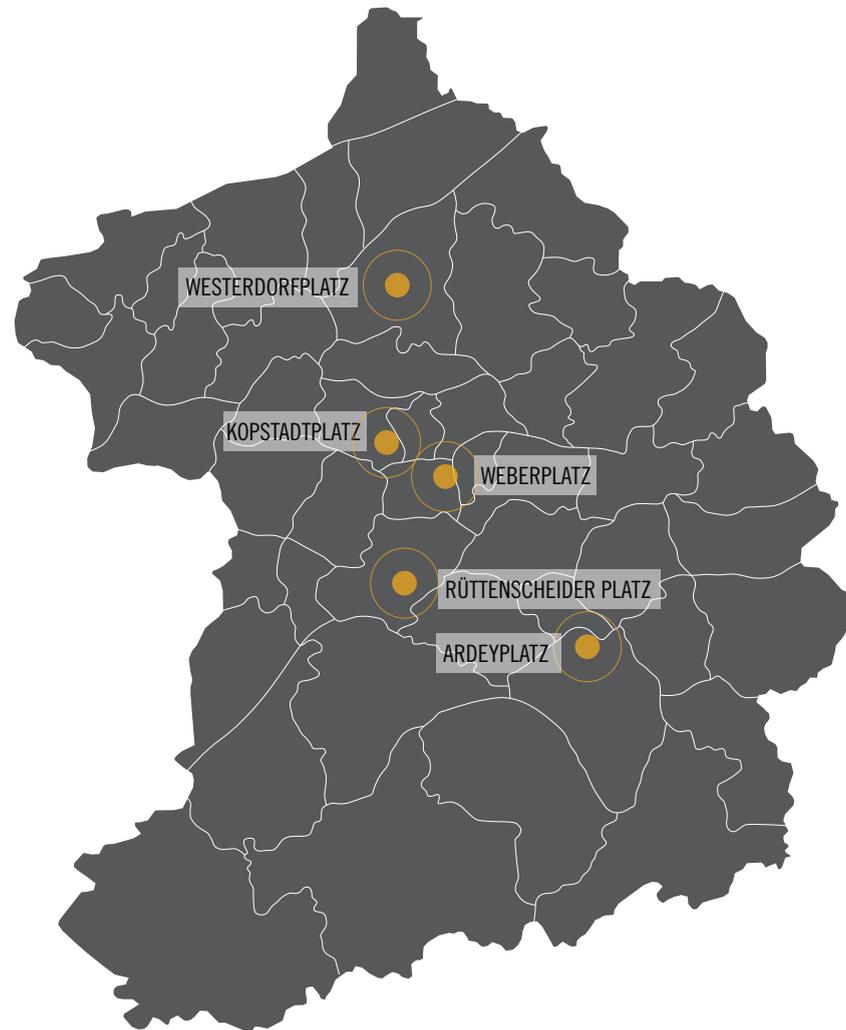


Image 39,40: Final outcome.



9. CULTURAL STRATEGIES

WEBERPLATZ

Group members: Sabrina Brauckmann, Guangji Ding, Franziska Kalkbrenner and Lisa Marie Wagner. August, 2015

THE URBAN CONTEXT

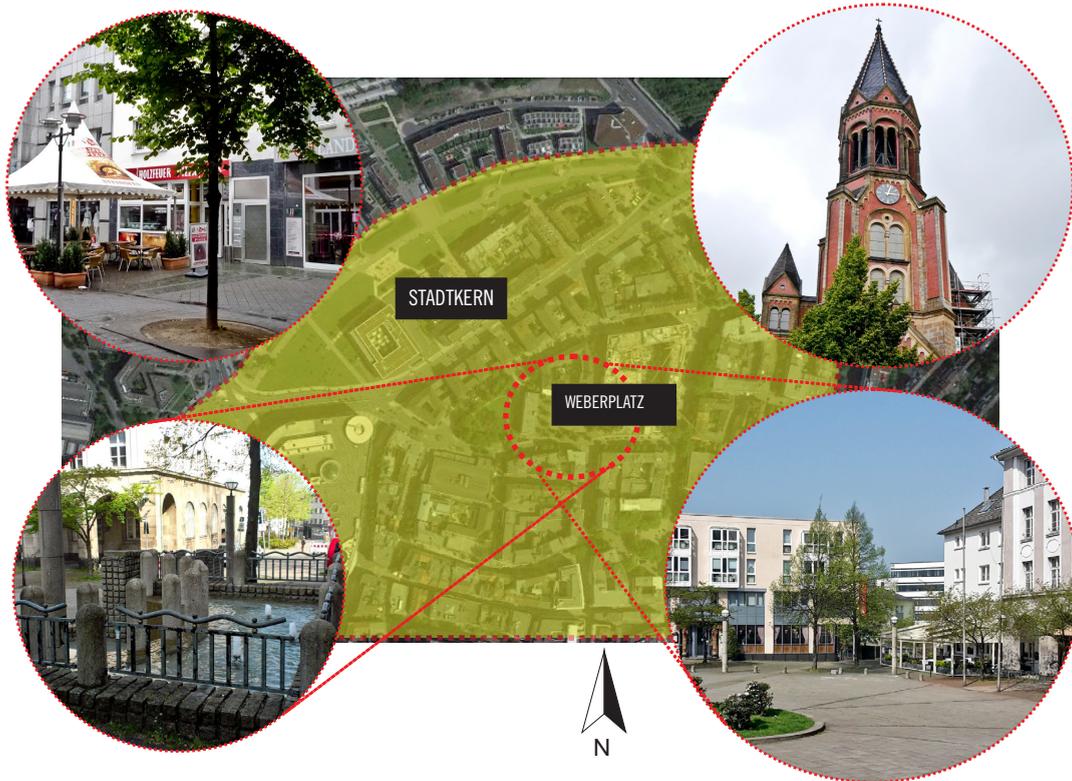


Image 41: The urban context of Weberplatz.

- Average ground values
- Situated between two high-profile areas
- Lacks own identity, not a point of interest
- Flux of crossing ew stays
- Non-inviting
- Neglected and badly maintained
- Perceived as insecure



Photo 10: Weberplatz – current status.

STATUS QUO

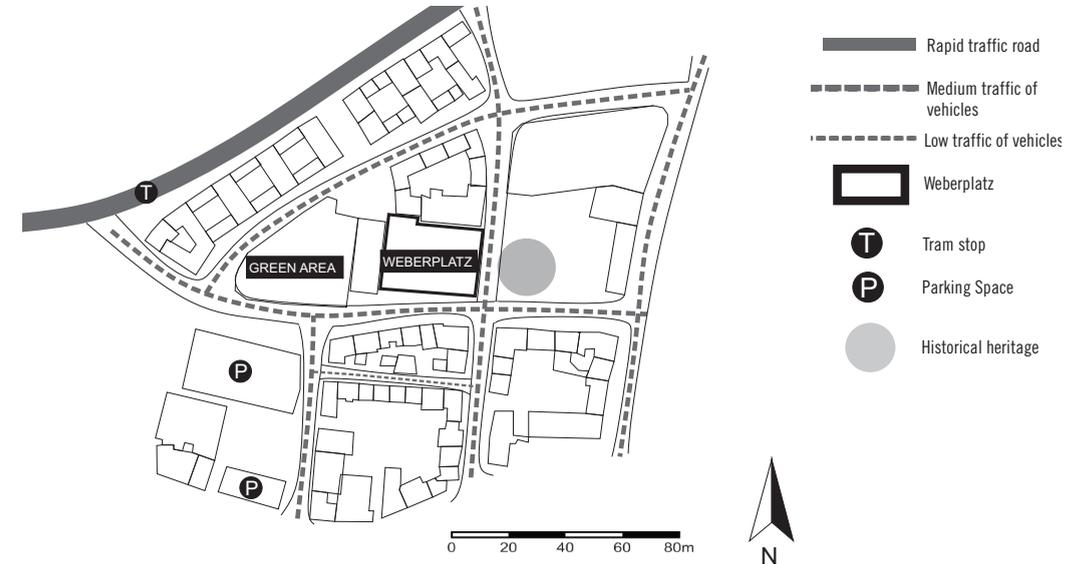


Image 42: The status quo of Weberplatz.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ Empty and unused square | + Pedestrian zone |
| ■ Few movement of people | + Landmark buildings |
| ■ Feeling of insecurity | + Existing playgrounds |
| ■ Neglected space | + Proximity to points of interest |
| ■ Parking space | + KreativQuartier City Nord |
| ■ Barriers and lack of accessibility | + Vacant buildings |
| ■ Poor street furniture | + Diverse population |

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

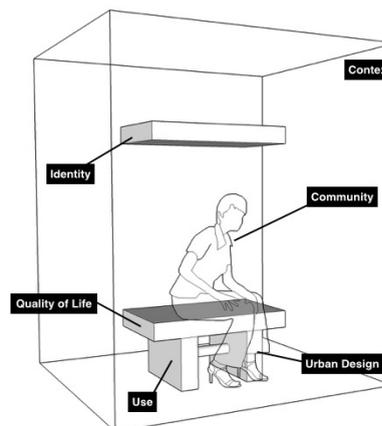


Image 43: The concept for Weberplatz.

Bench concept of Human-Place interaction process: make people perceive and meet one another, interact and engage in conversation, take over responsibility under supervision by third party.

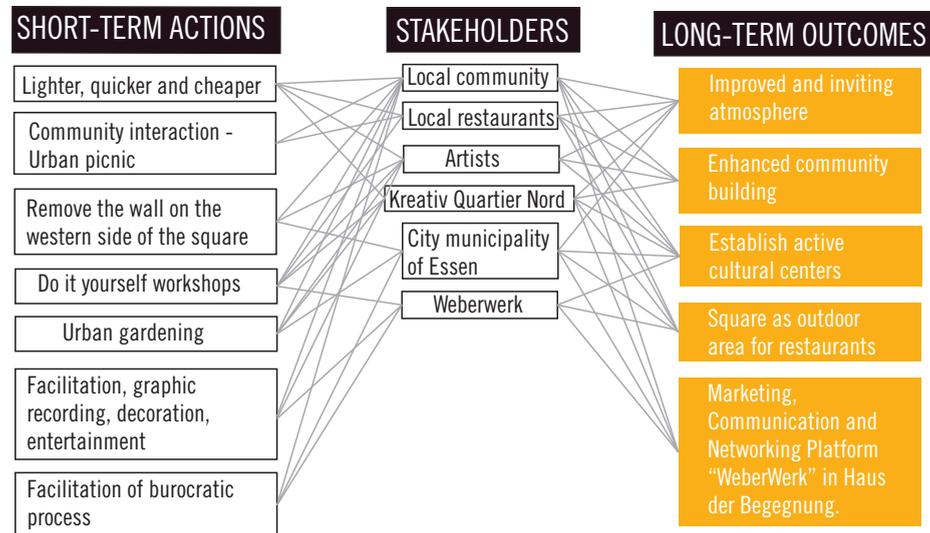
Multicultural places: differing degree of access to and use of public spaces due to differing resources and values attached to place and activities in it influence usage patterns (Project for Public Spaces)

Lighter, quicker, cheaper: Project design proposal follows community vision, cost-effectiveness, collaboration and citizen-led change. It invents and applies activities with low thresholds for involvement. Involves all stakeholders, from citizens, activists to city officials.

TOOLBOX

| TOOL | LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| | COMMUNITY | LOCAL RESTAURANTS | ARTISTS | KREATIV QUARTIER | CITY MUNICIPALITY | WEBERWERK |
| LIGHTER, QUICKER AND CHEAPER | ● | ● | ● | ● | | |
| URBAN PICNIC | ● | ● | | | ● | ● |
| REMOVAL OF BARRIERS | ● | | ● | | ● | |
| DIY WORKSHOPS | ● | ● | ● | ● | | ● |
| URBAN GARDENING | ● | ● | ● | | ● | |
| DECORATION AND ENTERTAINMENT | ● | | ● | | | ● |
| FACILITATION IN COMMUNICATION | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |

STRATEGIES



FINAL OUTCOMES



Image 44: First phase: Actors.

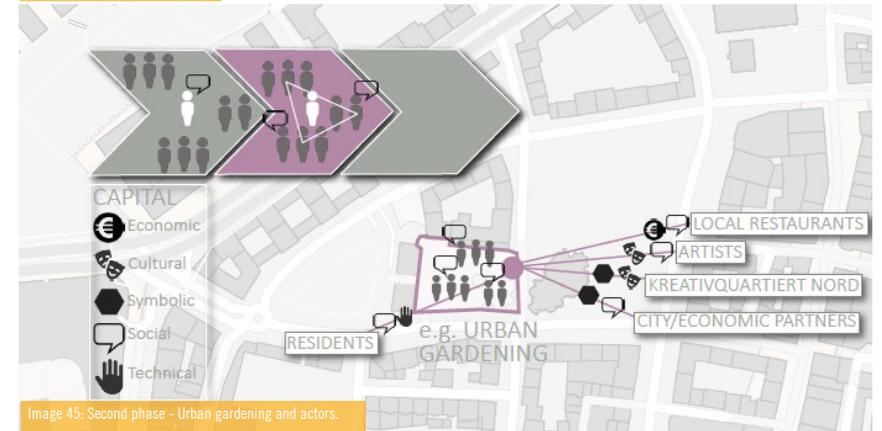


Image 45: Second phase - Urban gardening and actors.



Image 46: Weberplatz - Final outcome - Vivid Weberplatz.

First Phase: The Urban Picnic - allow neighborhood residents to get acquainted by testing ways in which good quality time can be experienced and an interest developed for each other. Community members bring their own food to share.

Second Phase: Do-It-Yourself Workshops – members of the community build urban furniture for the Weberplatz together with tutors and craftsmen, which stimulates an attachment to the place, a feeling of belonging and responsibility. The furniture should be movable so that it can be regrouped as needed.

Third Phase: Based on the knowledge of each other, the willingness to initiate and implement activities cooperatively, the external organization arises from the community. A community center serves as an official, well-managed meeting and information point. The Weberplatz gains its own identity only if the community organizes the square, its activities and small-scale design redevelopments.

KOPSTADTPLATZ

Group members: Chris Atkins, Wiebke Schaper, Hannah M. Seichter
August, 2015

THE URBAN CONTEXT



Image 47: Urban context of Kopstadtplatz.

- sites of the Kreativquartier are in close walking distance;
- lack of regular events or activities on Kopstadtplatz;
- diversity is the identity of the quarter;
- variety of non-governmental organizations, scene-specific shops and ethnic restaurants, bars, cafés;
- has an image problem;
- meeting point for homeless and other socially marginalized scenes;
- located between medium to high-value commercial property;

- calm, clean and with urban vegetation;
- car-oriented urban design;
- easily accessible;
- low pedestrian frequency;
- lack of urban furniture;
- numerous vacant shops;
- currently lacks a specific identity.

STATUS QUO

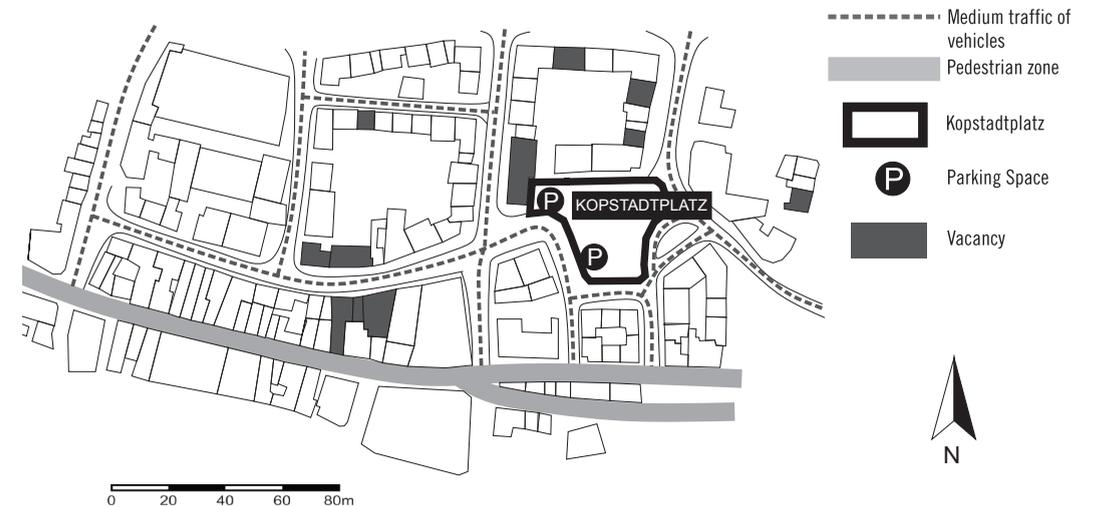
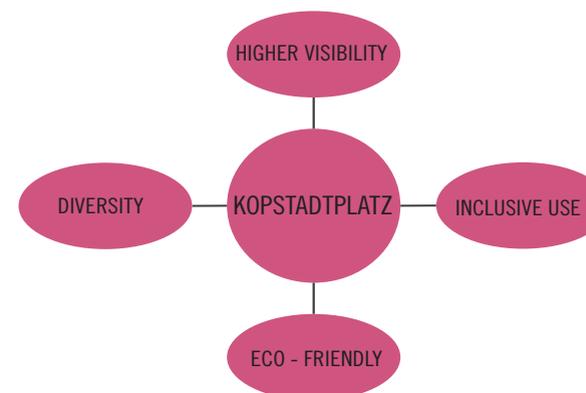


Image 48: Status Quo of Kopstadtplatz.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negative image - Vicinity to car traffic - Parking space - Poor urban furniture - Empty space - Competition with neighboring squares - Lack of identity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Potential for variety of uses + Entrance for the Kreativquartier + Shopping zone + Multi-cultural and artistic scene + Easily accessible - well located in the inner city |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES



- Reconnect to Kopstadtplatz's historical role as business and creative quarter.
- Link Kopstadtplatz closer with the Kreativquartier City Nord
- Expand pedestrian zone to the north.
- Make Kopstadtplatz a hub for sharing economy
- Inclusive gastronomy
- Urban Furniture

Image 49: The guidelines for Kopstadtplatz.

STRATEGIES

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

- Flea and second hand market
- Installation of bouquinist boxes for do-it-yourself / upcycling traders
- Place design shops in vacant spaces
- Food-sharing, cooking events
- Reduce parking space
- Provide more urban furniture

STAKEHOLDERS

- Local community
- Local business
- KreativeQuartier Nord
- City municipality of Essen
- daWanda.com
- Konsumreform Café
- Unperfekthaus
- Grüne mitte und Gruga

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

- Close ties with the Kreativ.Quartier City Nord.Essen
- Hub for sharing economy
- Inclusive gastronomy and café culture
- Inviting physical urban design
- Northward expansion of pedestrian zone
- Unique identity as "Gateway" to Kreativ.Quartier City Nord.Essen

FINAL OUTCOMES

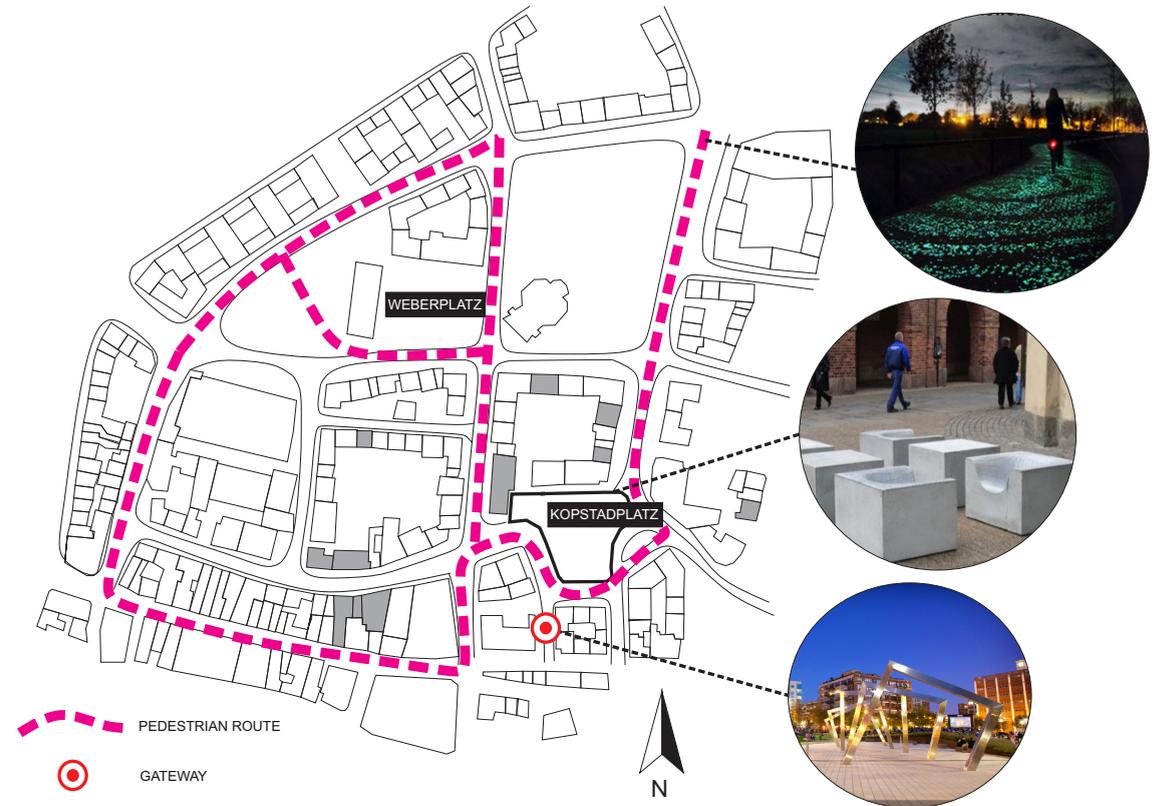
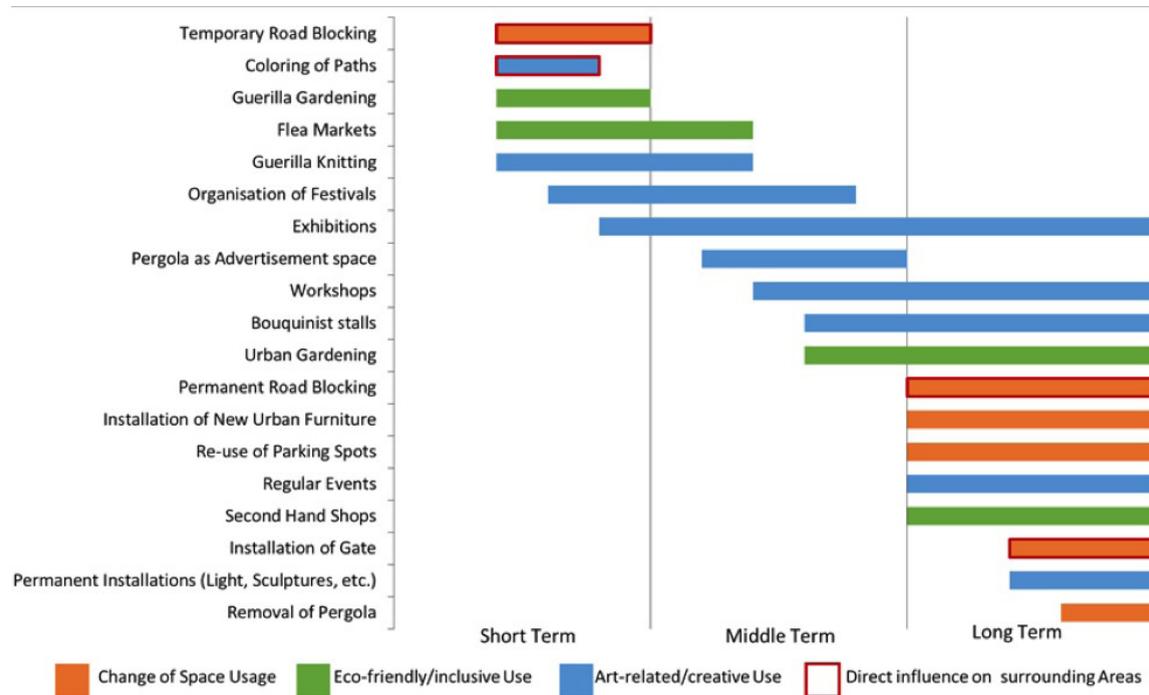


Image 50: Final outcome.

- higher visibility of Kopstadtplatz
- inclusive use of shops and public space
- diversity of neighbourhood stakeholders and events
- eco-friendly commercial and recreational environment



RÜTTENSCHIEDER PLATZ

Group members: Anne Burzlaff, Jana Wegener, Lissa Peters and Ute Menrath
February, 2014

THE URBAN CONTEXT

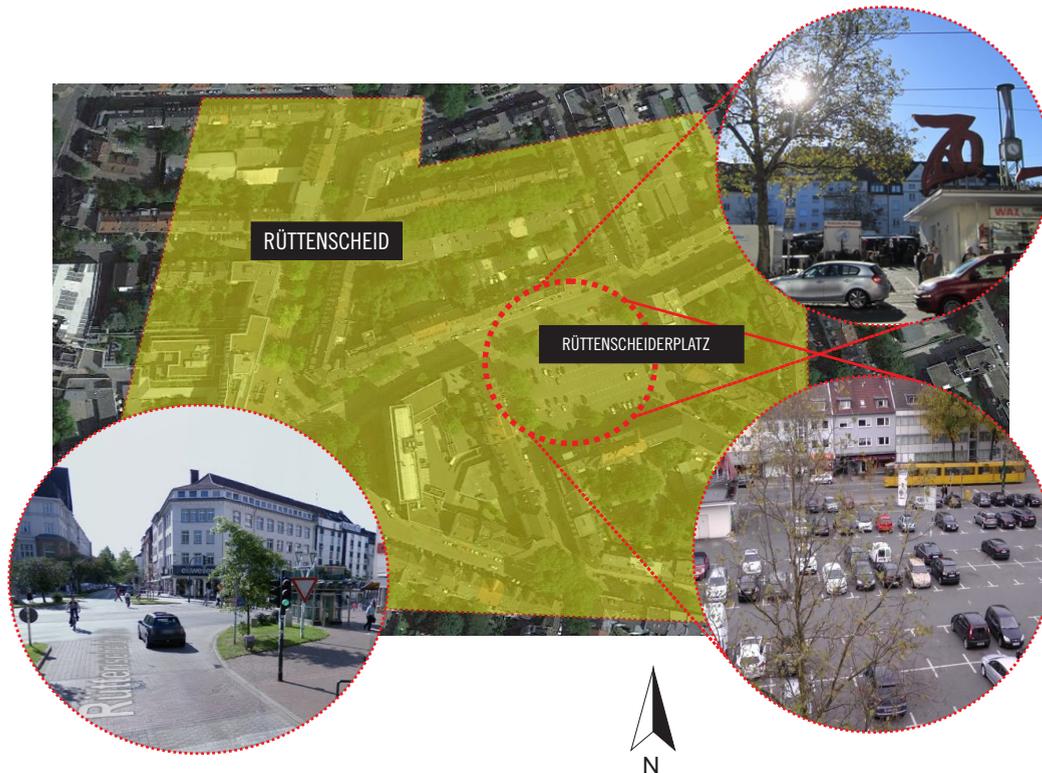


Image 51: Image 51. The urban context of Rüttenscheider Platz.

Rüttenscheider Platz is located at the center of the district of Rüttenscheid, south of the city center. As the second largest district of Essen, it is one of the better situated districts, highly attractive among the younger working age-group and offers above average living standards in terms of accommodation, services, amenities, leisure and connectivity with public and private transport.



Photo 11: Rüttenscheider Platz on market day.

STATUS QUO

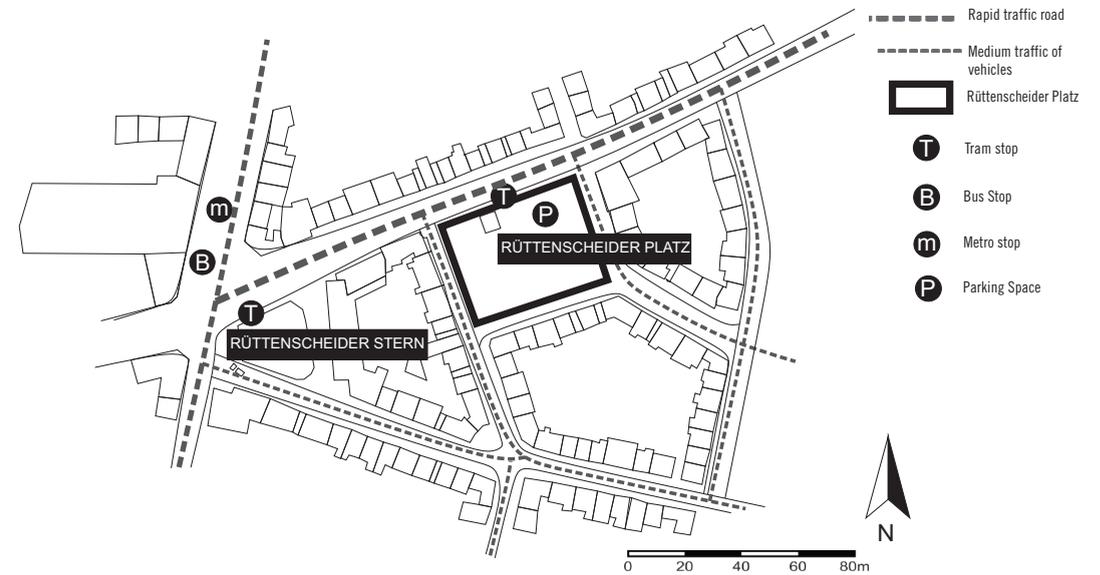


Image 52: The status quo of Rüttenscheider Platz.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| - Parking space | + Central location in Essen |
| - Lack of sitting possibilities | + Well accepted market |
| - Missing connection with the surroundings | + Well movemented commercial area |
| | + Good transport connection |

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

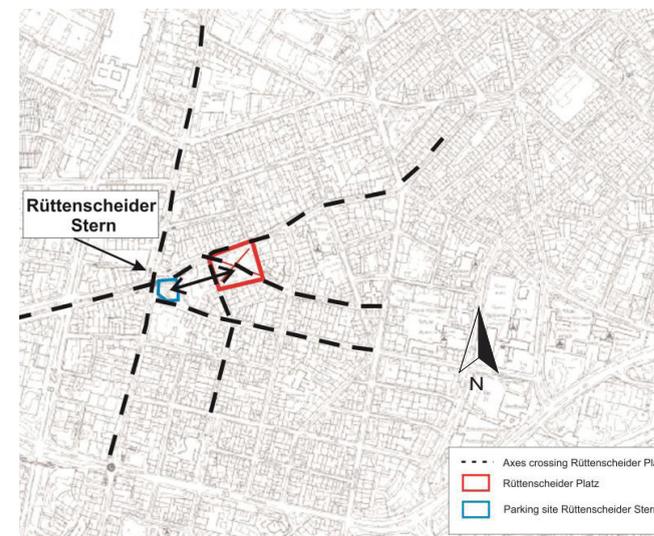


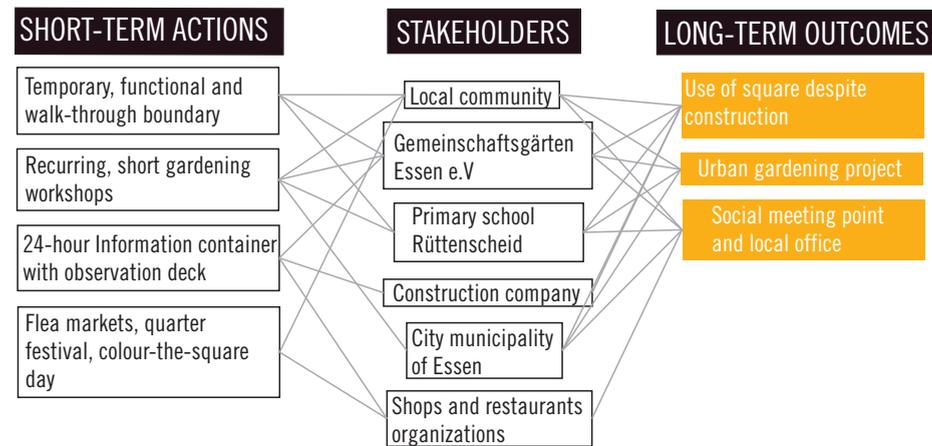
Image 53: The concept for Rüttenscheider Platz.

Concept: urban, cross-generational meeting-point, keep weekly market and generate space of interest on non-market days, gradually removing parking space. A cross generational meeting point with urban gardening, events and weekly markets that is surrounded by shared space. Design principles: urban, ecologically friendly design, multi-functionality of space and buildings, connectivity urban gardening, urban furniture, storage space, light and water features

STRATEGIES

A FOUR-PHASE CONVERSION OF THE SQUARE:

PHASE 1: Social Activation Phase: Creative Use of Free Space



PHASE 2: First Construction Phase: Beach Transition



PHASE 3: Second Construction Phase: Main Transformation

- Division into three areas: socializing area, multifunctional area (urban gardening, market, events), metered parking area.
- Elevate ground to compensate slope and complete new quarzitic sandstone pavement.
- Introduce water and light features, urban furniture and bicycle racks.
- Introduce shared space (quarzitic sandstone, stairs)
- on street between square and shops with pedestrian crossing.
- Extend Kiosk with a café, sitting area and a multifunctional building with an integrated climbing wall.
- Diagonal path with urban greenery.
- Opening ceremony

FINAL OUTCOMES

PHASE 4: New Rüttenscheider Platz

- Replace remaining parking space with more urban furniture and event space.
 - Extended seating and event space.
 - Protection from heavy traffic, heightened curiosity of passers-by.
- The square's function as a parking lot has been erased while the accommodations and reasons for people to use it as a meeting point have been created. Simultaneously, enough space has been left for the market to take place without reducing its size.



Image 54: The final outcome for Rüttenscheider Platz.

ARDEYPLATZ

Group members: Amir Ashkan Baghdoust, Ladislav Michalka, Martina Ulrichova, Shahram Sadeghiaboksari. February, 2014

THE URBAN CONTEXT



Image 55: The urban context of Ardeyplatz

- Rellinghausen (2012) had up to 8000 inhabitants, mainly German, two-person households, few children, low population density.
- 2.1-2.9 acres of green and recreational space per 1000 people (average result)
- Good transport connectivity, no/limited visual axis to transport nodes.
- Car-oriented street layout, on calm side-streets, few amenities in walkable distance, mainly high-class clothes and accessory stores in mixed-use buildings along Frankenstraße.
- 1-2 story mixed-use and residential buildings, mostly

- detached in a landscaped setting with generous setbacks, curvilinear and rectangular street pattern.
- Lack of functioning green spaces, urban gardening in allotment plots nearby.
- Next to residential areas and local school. Mainly used for parking and as a waiting area during the day. Little use of space at night.

STATUS QUO

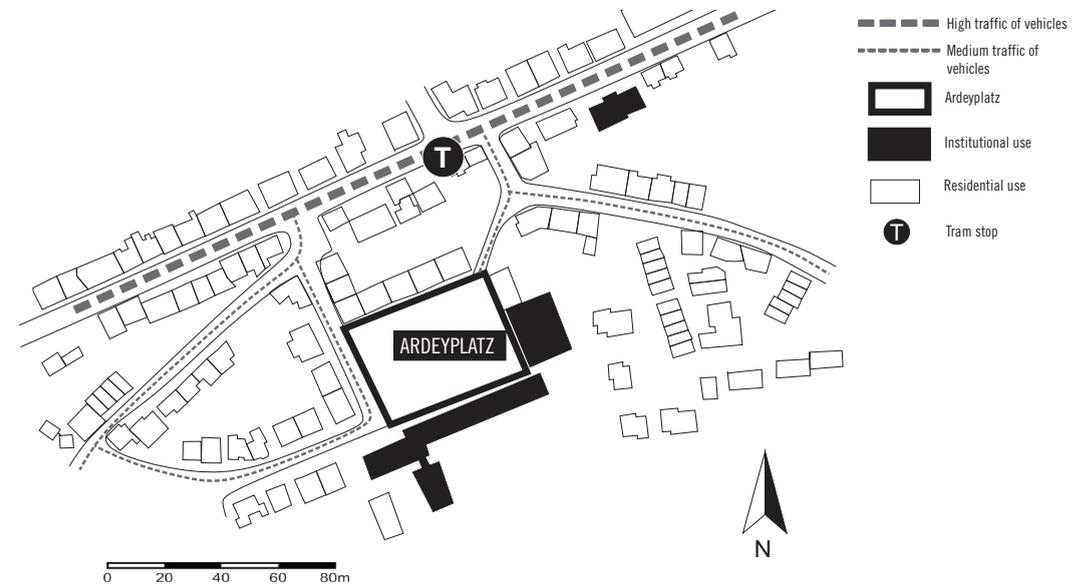


Image 56: Status quo of Ardeyplatz.

PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School's noise pollution - Lack of shelter for visitors - Unorganized parking - Inappropriate paving material - Non-functioning greenery and furniture - Lack of activities in square - Lack of visibility from the main road | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Known as a functioning green space + Variety of land uses in surrounding buildings + Good access to public transport + Economic competence of residents + Community willingness to participate in development activities + Relevance of local urban farming as a hobby |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CONCEPT AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

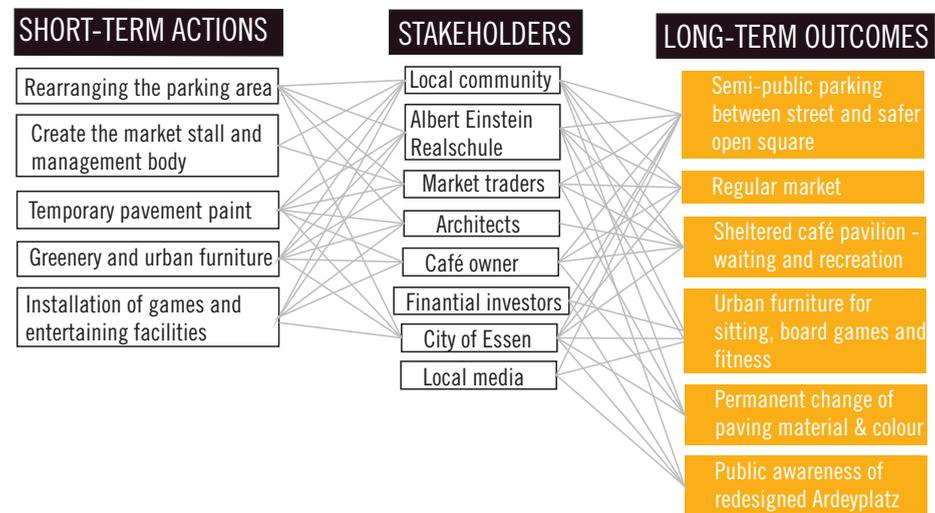
Vision based on interviews: "Ardeyplatz will best realize its potential and will become a functional, vibrant and beautiful destination for both the residents and the visitors all around the day. Moreover, Ardeyplatz with the help of the local society and all stakeholders will act as a platform to create the community and promote the healthy lifestyle."

- Create diverse space for multiple activities;
- Create pedestrian-friendly space for communal activities;
- Create a space with a sense of complexity to spark curiosity of visitors;
- Propose initiatives that generate economic value and future success of square.

TOOLBOX

| TOOL | LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | COMMUNITY | SCHOOL | MARKETERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS | ARCHITECTS | CITY OF ESSEN AND INVESTORS | LOCAL MEDIA |
| CHANGING PARKING SPACE | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| ENHANCING MARKET ACTIVITIES | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● |
| CHANGING THE DESIGN FOR WALKABILITY | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| REARRANGING THE LAYOUT | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | |
| GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT | ● | ● | ● | | | |
| PUBLIC AWARENESS | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ● |

STRATEGIES



FINAL OUTCOMES

First Phase: Rearranging the parking area by restricting access to cars, providing semi-public parking space towards the road to create safe public space.

Second Phase: Landscaping and human scale greenery with partially movable seating furniture will provide seasonal gardens and space for temporary art exhibits. Installing games and entertaining facilities

on the one hand and a sheltered café pavilion with a glass wall on the other will create both active urban space with a pleasant meeting and waiting area.

Third Phase: The urban furniture and pavilion will be augmented in the long-run with a barrier-free amphitheatre to invite cultural activities onto the square. To attract attention to the square, the pavement leading to the square entrances will change permanently with colored concrete tiles/cobblestones as a final step.



Image 57: Final outcome of Ardeyplatz.



Image 58: Final outcome of Ardeyplatz.

10. DISCUSSION

Quality of life and community participation

'A CONCEPT OF FREEDOM'

Interview with Jürgen Wiesemann

Participants:

Rainhard Wiesemann (RW)

Marielly Casanova (MC)

Minh-Chau Tran (MCT)

Conrad Kurzdörfer (CK)

Topics are seen in the context of public space and life in relation to Mr. Wiesemann's recent developments in the city district Nordstadt of Essen. See: www.un-perfekthaus.de

MC: During the semesters that we studied public spaces in Essen, there were two phenomena. First, there is no culture of public spaces, of using public squares. Also, there is generally, in other countries, especially in developing countries, a phenomenon that the poorer population is the one who enjoys and appropriates the public space more. Here, it's not happening. The low-income neighborhoods are the ones that have the most neglected public spaces. They are neglected by the city administration on the one hand, but there is also a lacking of engagement with the space itself by the general population which is necessary for creating a sense of belonging. I remember you had some thoughts about that for the final review (of the QoL seminar), raising the issue of class in the German society.

RW: Just having public spaces is not enough. People must accept them, and feel a certain freedom to use them. I think that may be one point. Another point is, from my own experience that public spaces are used, but they are mainly used by lower income people. And I think that can create a problem because the middle-class might have a problem of using a space that is already in use by people that they know that belong to other classes or so. I think it is a problem of mixture, mixing the different parts of society. Another problem I think is that public spaces are not regarded as open spaces. People are reluctant to use them, especially Germans. Germans need permission. They would never

start a birthday party in public spaces, because they don't know whether that is allowed. And, that is why I like signs that you find on the river Ruhr for example, on the lawns there along the river in Steele. They have signs saying "This lawn can be used by everybody. You don't have to ask. You can even let your dog run around freely, and you can even do a barbeque here". They are permissive signs. Usually, you have signs that forbid something. I don't see that anywhere else. In Steele you have signs that allow the use of public space. I think we need these signs at other public spaces, you know, at Weberplatz and at Kopstadtplatz. We need signs "You can do this here: ..." and then a list of things you can do here without asking. I think that would increase usage of public space enormously.

ATTITUDES TOWARDS USE OF PUBLIC SPACE

MC: Is there a culture of public space, or is there no culture of public space?

RW: I think there is a culture of using public space, but in Germany it has a lot to do with permission. If you want to do something, you first think about whom you have to ask for permission. You don't just start doing it. It's the same with the pedestrian areas of the city. If you want to do something, you always have to ask someone. For example, I hired some people from the Unperfekthaus, who run the children's workshop upstairs. We also have a lot of children here in Nordviertel, from other countries mainly, who live in Viehofer Straße and who have nothing to do, who run around and so on during the day. I hired the children from the children's workshop to play with the children every Friday after three o'clock or so. They have been doing this for two years now in the summer. They organize all kinds of games for the children and the children love this. I needed permission to do this. I even had to pay something to the city to allow me to do this outside, on the Viehoferstraße, on the pedestrian area. I think the law governing this, I don't even know if it's the law or just the way that the administration works. It has

to be changed. I think it would be much easier if they would be more permissive, would allow things, but nevertheless tell everybody that if you do anything that is disturbing, we will intervene and not allow you to do this. So, the basis should be permissive(ness) and if something bad happens, it has to stop.

CK: The idea is to first change the attitude in the administration? Change the focus from what is forbidden to what is allowed?

RW: Change the attitude. Maybe the attitude is already better than we think, but it is not published. That is why we need permissive signs. There may be another problem. I think the administration has an easier job if everybody were afraid of doing anything. No one would do anything. As a result, they might not be interested in publishing what is allowed, because it would mean more work for them. I think public spaces should be more inviting. It's not enough just to create public space and make sure that it's clean or something, that's not enough.

QUALITY OF LIFE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY

MC: Do you think that this would be a new important strategy, for example, to get neighbors next to a public space take advantage of and appropriate it?

RW: The second and main problem is that it can be a problem for the neighbors. For example, if you look at Weberplatz, there are a lot of apartments, people are living there and sleeping there, and they want it to be quiet. If you encourage people to use Weberplatz more intensely, those people will complain. ... I think people know what it looks like if Weberplatz is used intensely. They know that children will be running around playing with soccer balls. There will be shouting there will be laughing, there will be barbeques, there will be smells. It's not angst. It's the concrete knowledge of what will happen. They know it... it is a certain culture of being quiet and reserved in a dense residential neighborhood.

CK: So you're actually talking about harmless activities that are kind of chaotic? You're not talking about junkies?

RW: I'm talking about positive activities. I think that

the junkies might be less bothersome than a birthday party. The junkies are quiet. The drunks are basically not very problematic in their use of public space. They're quiet and they want to be amongst themselves; mostly they are not creating problems. But children who are playing are more difficult than drunk people. If you compare people who are sitting there, drinking, talking to each other, with children playing soccer. Who is disturbing the neighborhood more? I think it's very complicated and it needs a different culture for this to become desirable. I think people in Italy have a different thinking. If they hear children playing they think that's wonderful, that's life. Here, I think there have been law suits because children have been playing football on the court and neighbors were suing.

MC: But still, in other cities, including other cities in Germany, the city centre is by nature a place that is lively, that is not quiet, where people go to shop, to have a coffee or meet with people. The public spaces themselves are a destination. You go there, it is summer and you sit somewhere.

RW: Maybe we can create signs saying "You can have a birthday party here until 10 p.m. in the evening". Permission and acceptance have to be considered. I think that is something why everyone is so reluctant about improving the use of public space, because everything you do creates opposition and creates people who feel disturbed, or will have more work to do, more garbage, conflicts and police. Everybody has more work to do if more happens in public spaces.

CK: Would you, this seems like an overall opinion, say that no matter where, you would see changes between different neighborhoods regarding the attitude towards prevention? I could imagine up here, in the northern part of the inner city could be easier than in the south, also, because of different cultural backgrounds, where people might be more used to different uses of public space.

RW: I think so. I think people that live in the northern part of the city are used to some level of noise and activities and they would be more permissive than people in Bredene. But, that brings me to another idea, I think we should characterize areas of the city and define them a little bit. For example, tell people if you

live in the northern part of the city, it is a very multicultural part of the area, it's very lively and there's a lot going on and not so quiet. Tell people this, not complaining, but as a matter of fact they need to be aware of. Tell everybody – if you move here, it is like this. If you move to Bredeney, expect a very quiet, sophisticated neighborhood with high-income people and nothing happening there. We always complain about the characteristics of these areas, we do not accept them. I think we should promote the individual characteristics of different areas as a brand.

MCT: So, from your point of view we still have space between the buildings, so we also have outside space for loud people and outside space for quiet people?

RW: It is the same for parts of the city and their public spaces. I think we should define clearly, this is the part of the city that's a little bit louder and then stop complaining about the volume there. That simply is the part that is loud. That is what it is designed for. I think you would start designating a place as a loud place because there are many loud people living there already. Then similar people will move in... I think it's the same with public spaces. People who live near public spaces have to know that there is something going on there. That's the designation of the place, its reason for being, that there are things going on there.

MC: For me it is against nature that kids are not allowed to play in public space. You could have some neighborhood public spaces where people are sitting there and being quiet. But then you have spaces like Weberplatz and Kopstadtplatz, they are centralities. People must be aware that they are in the city centre and these centralities are there to be used also by children. It's just a matter of communicating this.

RW: What should be dealt with first, when you talk about increasing the use of public spaces, is the acceptance that something is going on there. Before trying to make people use a public space more intensely, there has to be the acceptance of this usage, by the police, neighbors, and the city government. They have to be aware that this is a public space with an intended use, and that the intended usage of this particular place is to have children playing there. If everyone has agreed that this is the intended use, then there is no room for

people to complain.

SOCIAL SYNERGY IN PUBLIC SPACE

CK: You mentioned before that it would be really good if the productive aspect of public spaces were emphasized. It would be more like some sort of space of production?

MC: Less consumption, less events, more production.

RW: Right, but it will not integrate all of the neighbors. It will only be a subset. Only certain groups of neighbors would be integrated, because not everybody is interested in projects... You could make markets, neighborhood markets in which people offer to do something for the neighbors and others present requests, for example, if there would be a market four times a year, every three months in a public space in which all neighbors are invited to present what they can do for others, or present their needs. For example, I found out that there is a person living very close to me, who is willing to go shopping for me. Or, somebody who is willing to clean my apartment, and I could offer to help them with their smartphones.

MCT: This is called social capital, that's the word.

RW: That would be a great use of a public space!

RW: It also does not create problems with taxes as long as no money is involved. But the other point is always the weather.

INTERESTBASED ACTIVITY & PUBLIC SPACE

CK: The way people today organize themselves, they seem to be particularly interested in organizing themselves through a particular interest. Not so much community-driven, actually, and therefore not so much neighborhood-driven, but more like, I have one particular focus, and then I do that with let's say a meet-up group. It does not seem to be important where it's going to happen? I'm raising this question, because I believe these very people concentrate in the Unperfekthaus. They find a hotspot here because they can meet up with their particular interests and they find ...

RW: Fun.

RW: I think the purpose of the Unperfekthaus has not much to do with the neighborhood. It could be anywhere. It has, the people who come here, come from fifty miles away. So, this is not a neighborhood project, this is a regional project. It's for a certain kind of people who like to do something, who would like to be active and who have their projects, who have the intrinsic motivation and they gather here from everywhere. But, one of the results, one of the side-effects is that people like to live close to the Unperfekthaus. There are several people who have moved here because they don't want to drive here every day. They want to live close. That has a certain effect on the neighborhood. People don't want to live too far away from the Unperfekthaus, because it's a big part of their life.

CK: We as planners wonder how to capitalize on that for the sake of a given public site, for a neighborhood. What does that mean for the neighborhood?

RW: I think, when you think about developing a city, and developing public spaces, your target group is the people who do something public. Who perform, who make events, who are outgoing, who want to include others. That's a certain group of the population. And then there is the part of the population who likes to read books and who likes to watch TV and who likes to do computer programming, and there may be guests to this event. When you think of your target group, I think there are two approaches... One is you try to motivate people, you offer something, you try to convince people to do something there. I think that needs a lot of energy and is not very successful and is very likely to become artificial. Then there is this other approach. Find out, what kind of people are there? What are their needs? It could be an interesting approach for Weberplatz – find out which people are there, and if somebody has an idea, what he would definitely do there, not about what he thinks would be nice if somebody does it, but, what would you do there? That could help with finding uses of places, public spaces... Finding the energies that are there. Not trying to create an energy that is not there. And I still think that it should start with agreeing on certain uses. For example, let's stay with Weberplatz. To find a usage there one should start with talking to the neighbors and finding out if they would agree on a beer

garden there, although they would not. Doesn't work.

MC: For example, if you ask the neighbors, okay, during the summer, if it's okay if you bring your chair and sit and read a book...

RW: Yes, quiet things will be easy.

MC: and playing chess...

RW: I think they would love that.

MC: So, it's just, how do you start, with small things just to occupy the space. Like okay, you don't make a noise, you just bring your chair. You're sitting there with your book with your water or your soda. And then the other one comes with a table and playing chess, and starts – oh my neighbors are using this space. That's nice. Let's go. But then someone comes with the kids and the kids start playing and all of a sudden it's not, actually, nobody's getting bothered with that and then it is something that becomes natural.

COMMUNITY NETWORK & PUBLIC SPACE

CK: So, you have other initiatives here in the neighborhood? You have one café, that's the only one I am aware of. Do you have more places?

RW: I expand. We expand. For example, I am doing this hotel. We opened a hotel one and a half years ago and that is very successful and is an expansion of the Unperfekthaus idea.

CK: Like Casino hotels, they're functional hotels that are set up so you don't have very far to your accommodation?

RW: Right. It's a little bit like that. That works. We have a lot of companies, corporations here who use the Unperfekthaus for their closed seminars. They rent a room, pay a rent to be among their own group, without visitors. Once they are here, everybody walks around. Everybody discovers all the projects.

CK: Like on the street. Just like layered, concentrated. The blessings of indoor public space events. Do you have a new project, which is actually going on in the neighborhood? Would you like to say, what the connection is between the businesses and the public open space in the neighborhood? Is everything connected with each other?

RW: Yes, everything is connected. All the different

REFERENCES

things that I do here in the city of Essen are helping each other. Nothing is done twice and they are all different components that are helping each other.

MCT: It's like a network.

RW: Like a network. The Unperfekthaus is for people who want to do something and who want to present it and who want to become known and successful with what they are doing. It's to show off what you are doing. That's the Unperfekthaus. The Unperfekthotel is to get customers, to get people who are able to buy something and business people. The GeKuHaus is the multi-generation house. It is for living. We have several people who work here ... who are living there. You cannot live at the Unperfekthaus, so the GeKuHaus is for living. Then, the church is the only space that I have here that has an outside space for gardening and where you can use the outside. We have a rooftop terrace, but it's a rooftop terrace, it's not a garden. It's not the same. The church is for this inter-religious topic.

MC: But there are movie screenings and concerts.

RW: There are concerts, but the most important thing with the church is that it's the only church which is still a church, but at the same time is open to other beliefs. You can make a Muslim event here, you can have a Buddhist talk. We have lots of inter-religious events there and we have commercial things.

CK: Do you have any further projects in the neighborhood in the development?

RW: I'm starting a neighborhood help system.

CK: Is that something virtual?

RW: Yeah. It's an app.

MC-T: In all the projects that you have talked to us about now, except maybe for the app, the common element is the space, right? Inner space, outer space.

RW: Yes, it is space. This is an app, where, when you live in a neighborhood and there is somebody who needs help, then those neighbors who are willing to help can install this app. It's a little bit like What'sApp. It is difficult to ask for help and this new app makes this easy while minimizing communication. All the other things we are surrounded by are creating more and more communication. We have too much communication already.

RW: The next project that I have just started is like a little university. ... It's part of the Unperfekthaus. It's called the Unperfekt Akademie.

FREEDOM & PUBLIC SPACE

CK: If you would have an urban development concept, would it be singular developments that you would just let grow, and see how the city evolves around them, with no deliberate spatial connections in between, at least not consciously? Is that your kind of spatial approach, if you would have one? I mean, since you seem to be all over this neighborhood with your developments?

RW: I think if you want to have other people doing something, the most important thing that you have to provide is freedom to do something. The best people, the really intelligent people, they are allergic against anybody telling them anything. This thing you have to communicate with freedom. You have to communicate freedom and possibility intensely. Communicate what you can do on a public space.

CK: Fascinating, because you've got to be aware that having so many different projects in this kind of really dense area, that something's going to grow together, right? You're basically, in the best interest of the city, not being interested in the city?

RW: I don't believe in planning. That's the whole concept of this Unperfekthaus and all of my other projects: provide opportunities, provide possibilities and let people do what they want and then watch what comes out of it. And that is why I think the best thing city development can do is provide possibilities and publish what is possible. Tell people you can do this, you can do that, don't convince them to do it. Just tell them, if you like, you can do this. But I don't know the idea you have; you have to decide what you want to do. We just provide the opportunities and you can use it. And that is something that is important in public spaces, I think. Give opportunities and make them known.

List of images

Image 1: The working methodology of the seminar Urban Planning and Quality of life. Source: Mariana da Cunha, Bettina Pahlen, Marielly Casanova, Mihn-Chau Tran and Conrad Kürzdörfer. 2015

Image 2: Socio-demographic data of districts of Essen-. Source: Essen Bevölkerungsatlas. Map by Mariana da Cunha and Bettina Pahlen

Image 3: Location of the squares, dimension of problems and general problems of Essen. Source: Mariana da Cunha, Bettina Pahlen, Marielly Casanova, Mihn-Chau Tran and Conrad Kürzdörfer. 2015

Image 4: Dreiringplatz - the urban context. Source: Map extracted from Google earth, 2015. Images by Research group, 2015. Graph elaborated by Mariana da Cunha, 2015.

Image 5: Status Quo map. Source: Base map from TIM-ONLINE NRW, data from research group and graphic design by Mariana da Cunha

Image 6: The Steele triangle concept. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 7: Floor plan of the proposal for Dreiringplatz. Source: Research group, 2015

Image 8: Dreiringplatz on a concert day. Source: Research Group, 2015

Image 9: Dreiringplatz on a skate competition. Source: Research group, 2015

Image 10: Alsenplatz - the urban context. Source: Map extracted from Google earth, images by research group, graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2015

Image 11: Alsenplatz - existing landscape. Source: Research group, 2015

Image 12: Status Quo of Alsenplatz. Source: Base map from TIM-ONLINE NRW. Data from research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2015.

Image 13: The design concept. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 14: Floor plan of Alsenplatz proposal. Source: Research group. Images from Klanten, Ehmann, Borges, Hübner, Feireiss. Ed. Going Public: Public Architecture, Urbanism and Interventions. Berlin: Gestalten, 2012.

Image 15: Design proposal of Alsenplatz. Source:

Research group, 2015

Image 16: Frohnhauser platz - The urban context. Source: Map extracted by Google earth, 2015. Images from research group a. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2015.

Image 17: Status Quo of Frohnhausenplatz. Source: Base map from TIM-ONLINE NRW, data from research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2015.

Image 18: Concept of Frohnhauser platz. Source: Research group, 2013

Image 19: Layout of final outcome of Frohnhausenplatz. Source: Research group, 2013.

Image 20: Kupferdreher Markt - The Urban context. Source: Map extracted from Google earth. Photos from research group . Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2015.

Image 21: Status Quo of Kupferdreher Markt. Source: Map from TIM-ONLINE NRW, data from reserach group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2015.

Image 22: The concept of Kupferdreher Markt. Source: Research group, 2014.

Image 23: Layout of final outcome of Kupferdreher Markt. Source: Research group, 2014.

Image 24: Concept. Source: Research group, 2014

Image 25: The urban context of Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz. Mao extracted from Google earth, images from research group. Graph by Mariana da Cunha, 2016.

Image 26: Status quo of Bürgermeister-Fiedler-Platz. Source: Base map from TIM-ONLINE NRW, data from research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha

Image 27: Phase 1 - the bottom-up approach. Source: Research group. 2014

Image 28: Phase 2 - Settling down the human scale. Source: Research group. 2014

Image 29: Phase 3 - New visions for public spaces. Source: Research group. 2014

Image 30: The Urban context of Kirmesplatz. Source: Map extracted from Google earth. Images from research group. Graph by Mariana da Cunha, 2015.

Image 31: Status Quo of Kirmesplatz. Source: Mariana da Cunha. Base map by TIM-ONLINE NRW, data from

research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2015

Image 32: The concept of Kirmesplatz. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 33: Zoning concept division. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 34: Zoning structure proposal. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 35: Phasing process of Kirmesplatz. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 36: The urban context of Kleine Stoppemberger Str. Source: Map extracted from Google earth. Photos from research group. Graph by Mariana da Cunha, 2015

Image 37: The status quo of Kleine Stoppenberger Str. Source: Base map by TIM-ONLINE NRW, data from research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2015

Image 38: Design conception. Source: Research group, 2015

Image 39,40: Final outcome. Source: Research group, 2015

Image 41: The urban context of Weberplatz. Source: Map extracted from Google earth. Images from research group. Graph by Mariana da Cunha, 2015.

Image 42: The status quo of Weberplatz. Source: Base map by TIM-ONLINE NRW, data from research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha

Image 43: The concept for Weberplatz. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 44: First phase: Actors. Source: Research group, 2015

Image 45: Second phase - Urban gardening and actors. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 46: Weberplatz - Final outcome - Vivid Weberplatz. Source: Research group, 2015.

Image 47: Urban context of Kopstadtplatz. Source: Map extracted from Google earth, 2015. Photos by research group. Graph by Mariana da Cunha, 2016

Image 48: Status Quo of Kopstadtplatz. Source: Base map by TIM-Online NRW, data from research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2016

Image 49: The guidelines for Kopstadtplatz. Source: Research group, 2015

Image 50: Final outcome. Source: Base map by TIM-Online NRW, data from research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha

Image 51: The urban context of Rüttenscheider Platz. Source: Map extracted from Google Earth, photos from reserach group and google street view. Graph by Mariana da Cunha

Image 52: The status quo of Rüttenscheider Platz. Source: Base map by TIM-Online NRW, data from research group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha, 2016

Image 53: The concept for Rüttenscheider Platz. Source: Research group, 2014.

Image 54: The final outcome for Rüttenscheider Platz. Source: Research group, 2014. Pictures: <http://blog-licht.de/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/emsdetten-1.jpg>¹, <http://www.gruenanteil.net/tag/urbanes-gartnern/>², http://dtp-essen.de/index.php?article_id=224³

Image 55: The urban context of Ardeyplatz. Source: Map extracted from Google Earth, photos from reserach group and google street view. Graph by Mariana da Cunha.

Image 56: Status quo of Ardeyplatz. Source: Base map by TIM-Online NRW, data from reserach group. Graphic design by Mariana da Cunha

Image 57: Final outcome of Ardeyplatz. Source: Research group, 2014

Image 58: Final outcome of Ardeyplatz. Source: Research group, 2014

List of photos

Photo 1: People using a public park . Source: Source: Marielly Casanova

Photo 2: Water features in a public square. Source: Marielly Casanova

Photo 3: The A40 in Essen. Source: Minh-Chau Tran

Photo 4: Dreiringplatz on market days. Source: Research group, 2015.

Photo 5: Market place at Frohnhauser platz. Source: Research group, 2013.

Photo 6: Kupferdreher Markt . Source: Research group, 2014.

IMPRESSUM

Authors

Marielly Casanova, Minh Chau-Tran, Conrad Kürzdörfer

Edition

Bettina Pahlen, Mariana da Cunha Oliveira Santos

Layout and graphic design

Marielly Casanova, Mariana da Cunha Oliveira Santos

Proofreading English

J Alexander Schmidt, Elizabeth Hagopian

Publisher

Universität Duisburg-Essen, Institut für Stadtplanung & Städtebau, Urbane Systeme

QUALITY OF LIFE SEMINAR

Lecturers

J Alexander Schmidt, Marielly Casanova, Minh Chau-Tran, Hendrik Jansen, Conrad Kürzdörfer, Janka Lengyel, Himanshu Shekar

Assistant Lecturers

Mariana da Cunha Oliveira Santos, Aurelio David, Janka Lengyel

Participating Stakeholders & Actors

Reinhard Wiesemann, Lokal Fieber, SPD Frohnhausen, ISSAB (Gabi Wittekopf),

Guest Critics

Tim Riennits

Thanks to

City of Essen

Marielly Casanova: Photo 1 and 2

Minh Chau Tram: Photo 3

Dennis Arnold, Julia Vorsatz, Mariana da Cunha and Victoria Munteanu: Photo 4

Timo Elliot, Lydia Steinhauer and Markus Wahrheit: Photo 5

Andrej Barinka, Ivona Kolesávorá and Lukas Hartwig: Photo 6

Dennis Langer, Raphael Reimann and Pia Rilana Klein: Photo 7

Anna Bruhl, Adrián Huerta, Sherif Lashin and Bernadino Sainz: Photo 8

Alireza Sohofi, Yaganeh Soudi, Helle Habenicht, and Nicole de Vries: Photo 9

Sabrina Brauckmann, Guangji Ding, Franziska Kalkbrenner and Lisa Marie Wagner: Photo 10

Anne Burzlaff, Jana Wegener, Lissa Peters and Ute Menrath: Photo 11

Essen, June, 2016

Photo 7: Bottom-up approach. Source: Research group, 2014

Photo 8: The urban context of Kirmesplatz. Source: Research group, 2015

Photo 9: Historic buildings in Nordviertel. Source: Research group, 2015

Photo 10: Weberplatz – current status. Source: Research group, 2015.

Photo 11: Rüttenscheider Platz on market day. Source: Research group, 2014.

IT TAKES A PLACE TO CREATE
COMMUNITY,
A COMMUNITY TO CREATE A
PLACE
- FRED KENT.