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(re)CYCLE LIMBURG

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(re)CYCLE LIMBURG 1



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FOREWORD

The work in this document collects the preliminary reflections of an intense design moment "(re)CYCLE LIMBURG 1" which took place in December 2016. These reflections follow some of the assumptions and principles stressed during the workshop on Kerkrade West held in September 2016. (re)CYCLE LIMBURG was integrated in an interfaculty project of Zuyd University of Applied Sciences (Zuyd UAS) (September 2016 - February 2017), in which students of Built Environment, Facility Management, Social Work and Health & Care cooperated in making designs and developing strategies for urban renewal in Kerkrade West. In this project the local community of Kerkrade West (inhabitants, shopkeepers, entrepreneurs, municipality, housing corporation) was actively engaged by sharing knowledge/information, ideas and opinions with the students and each other.

In order to extrapolate some of the initial findings and ideas, the study focused on the importance of qualitative and shared public spaces. Therefore, we have chosen to concentrate on three distinctive locations in Kerkrade West, moreover to have deeper analysis and to test design strategies.

The workshop reflections are part of the Limburg Action Lab¹. It engages in research by design on (strategies for) innovative and tactical interventions in public space that might enhance/improve the identity, sustainability and socio-spatial structure of neighbourhoods. Part of this approach is a strong focus on multidisciplinarity and community involvement.

Analyses and designs produced in this workshop were mainly presented in drawings, maps, schemes, collages, artistic impressions etc. The ambition of the Limburg Action Lab is to further develop and actually built/make (a selection of) the designs produced in this workshop; making Kerkrade West a Living Lab for tactical urbanism. The local community of Kerkrade West was actively involved during the process.



(RE)CYCLE

"We recycle things that are subject to a life cycle. Parts of cities, objects, materials: talking about the city as something that can be recycled makes us think about its rhythms, life cycles, metamorphoses." (Viganò P., 2012 in Fabian, L., Giannotti, E., & Viganò, P. (2012). Recycling City. Lifecycles, Embodied Energy, Inclusion. Pordenone.)

Nowadays cities and territories as renewable

resources are quite a shared concept among architects and urbanists; however each territory is unique, hence needs specific approaches to be "re-cycled". This implies to closely observe territory and read the traces left from the continues process of transition, cancellation and rewriting (Corboz 1983).

Located in the South of Netherlands, Limburg appears to be a territory in transition and is certainly going through deep-set changes that are at the conclusion of one or more life cycles. Speaking of life cycle for cities and territories entails to understand dynamics of transformations, which occur slowly or after radical shocks. Each of them implies losses and costs, but offers potentiality of under-performing sites. Starting from the evaluation of what already exists the concept of recycle aims to work with former architectural elements. infrastructures, public spaces and vacant sites. This workshop focused on the public space of Kerkrade West. The municipality of Kerkrade is part of Parkstad Limburg. Parkstad Limburg is an alliance of eight municipalities in the south-east of Limburg with a shared history on the coal mining

industry.

Kerkrade West is one of the districts within Parkstad Limburg with complex and multiple problems: population decline, ageing population, unemployment, out-dated housing, vacancy of houses and shops, etc. On the other hand there is a clear change readiness by the municipality and part of the inhabitants, shopkeepers and entrepreneurs. Socio-spatio-economic policy of the municipality is focussed on countering these issues with selective restructuring/redevelopment and by trying to develop a new identity for Kerkrade West. The approach here however is rather traditional (top down, bureaucratic) and faces difficulty in stimulating/supporting initiatives from the local community.

PUBLIC SPACE

Working on collective, shared spaces implies the engagement of local people and the necessity to understand the meaning of this concept in their everyday context. The meaning of so called "public space" is not only a question for designers and administrators but is a challenge for everybody. All actors will play an active role in the development of a new direction, as space cannot only be considered from a 'technical perspective or expertise' (Certeau, 1984)

An attractive and shared public space is fundamental for the social and cultural functioning of a neighbourhood and the wellbeing of the inhabitants. Public space contributes to the identity, sustainability and liveability of neighbourhoods.

Many of the 20th century neighbourhoods/districts of Parkstad-Limburg suffer of a lack of qualitative public space; a public space that is socially and culturally meaningful and attractive for a diversity of users. In Parkstad public space is well maintained but generally a very mono-functional place, often designed with a narrow focus on mobility and/or social safety. This results in a space mainly used as traffic space, parking spot or 'visual greenery'. Therefore the social and cultural potential of public space often remains unused, and is often perceived as nuisance.

A stimulating and shared public space on the other hand can contribute to social interaction, the potential and wellbeing of local communities. This workshop focuses on the re-invention of public space. It aims to strengthen a new neighbourhoods' identity, the vitality and resiliency of local communities by designing (strategies for) sustainability and a temporary and innovative intervention in public space.





WORKSHOP GOALS

With this workshop the Limburg Action Lab aims to develop and test new design strategies to improve the Kerkrade West's socio-cultural role and use of public space. This is instigated by the analysis, design, and realisation of small scale/temporary urban interventions. Thereby Kerkrade West is becoming a 'living lab' for spatial experiments as well for citizen participation in public space. Both aspects contribute to the re-creation of Kerkrade West and generate knowledge and experience for the development of inclusive design strategies for public spaces.

Therefore the workshop tried to answer the following research questions:

• What is the inhabitants interpretation of "public space"?

· Which kind of forms do they have?

• How can they be transformed? What new spatial identity can be developed ?

• What functions may these areas acquire in the future?

•What obstacles and barriers (social and spatial) keep these spaces from being transformed?

 \cdot Who is best qualified to do so?

Practically the workshop was articulated through the following activities:

•Mapping, analysing and understanding of urban issues/problems emerging in urban context on different scales

•Developing alternative and creative social and pragmatic urban design

•Envisioning lightweight, low-cost, yet strong and long-term impact interventions of tactical urban-

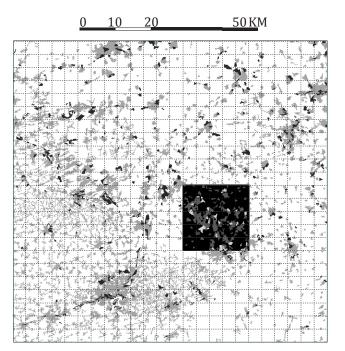
ism

•Activate the engagement of the local community •Promote projects that facilitate economic, cultural revival and a local sense of community.

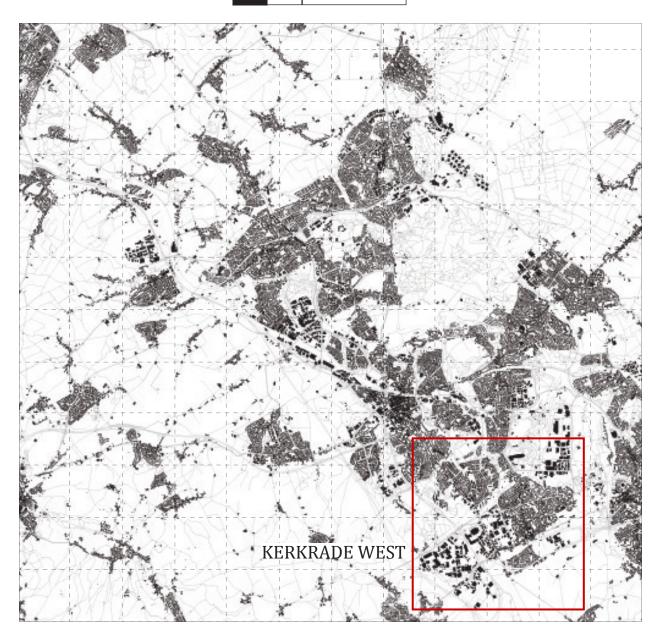


"Once a flourishing mining area, Parkstad region, located in the south of the Netherlands, is now facing limited economic vitality and structural changes in its demographic composition. In a process of selective migration, young and highly educated people tend to move out of the region, while elderly and less- educated people stay. Shrinkage in Parkstad Limburg has resulted in a declining basis for economic activity, an unbalanced housing market, and policy responses in order to deal with these phenomena. Unfortunately acceptance of the phenomenon is a difficult step and a time-consuming process. While after years of denial most politicians and policy- makers in Parkstad Limburg have finally accepted the decline, the inhabitants of the region have to be confronted with inconvenient decisions like demolishing houses and the closure of public facilities" (Elzerman and Bontje 2015).

Elzerman, Koen, and Marco Bontje. "Urban shrinkage in Parkstad Limburg." European Planning Studies 23.1 (2015): 87-103.







POST INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

A century ago the region of (Parkstad-)Limburg experienced a large economic transition from a solely agricultural based economic region towards industrial economic developments. The mining industry rapidly became the main economic pillar of the region, influencing, between 1900 and 1974 many aspects of the (Parkstad-)Limburg and Kerkrade: society, economy and urban development. The new landscape was characterized by fast urbanization, large industrial complexes, new infrastructures and a loss of green space in the region. Moreover, due to a necessity of labour forces, the region was characterized by several waves of immigration, creating a working class mixed society.

When, at the end of the 1960's and beginning of the 1970's, the mining industry collapsed in Western Europe, Parkstad region entered a new phase.

With this closure, approximately 70.000 jobs were lost. The replacement jobs in Parkstad consisted mainly of office work (Central Bureau of Statistics, Pension Funds, Head office of DSM (Chemical industry). These replacement jobs were suitable for many of the administrative personnel of the previous mining industry. Many of the actual miners however couldn't find new jobs and were compensated otherwise. As a result Kerkrade for example still has one of the highest unemployment rates of the Netherlands².

In comparison to other mining communities in Germany and Belgium, most of the architectural artifacts from the mining period in Parkstad Limburg have been demolished. This has surely contributed to the historical past.

However, the mining urban structure developed for the industry and communities is still dominant. Moreover the mining history has still a strong influence on the spatial experience/orientation of the inhabitants, that are still identifying themselves with mining locations and parishboundaries.

In parts of Parkstad (mainly Heerlen) the old mining shafts and galleries are used: as geothermal heat for houses and other buildings (Mijnwater) and as a source for district heating.

It is important to know that during the mining period, mining companies and parishes organized the majority of social-cultural life in Kerkrade, as well as in other Limburg municipalities. However, after the closure of the mines and the decline of church attendances, many of the organized social, cultural initiatives and activities also disappeared.

Moreover, simultaneously local government faced declining funds and was not able to fill the gap. The inhabitants of former mining communities -such as Kerkrade West- developed a passive attitude towards authorities and today they are facing difficulties to develop their own initiatives. However, at the same time few forms of former mining cultural organization flourish once again. Exemplary is the brass bands and 'Schutterij' (folklore organizations that originate from citizen's militias).

²⁾ Regionale verschillen in arbeidsparticipatie, werkloosheid en vacatures. CBS, Sociaaleconomische Trends. 2015









Upper picture, Kerkrade street view 1956 Lower picture, Kerkrade street view of Today

THE RECREATIONAL SYSTEM

Parkstad Limburg is one of the regions in The Netherlands with a bigger demographic unbalance, declining and aging population and low representation of youth. Moreover, overall in Parkstad the population is declining; 271.000 inhabitants in 1997 --> 235.000 inhabitants in 2020 --> 220.00 in 2040. In Kerkrade this problem of population decline and ageing is even more prominent. A lot of (social) housing already has been demolished to challenge these demographic issues. However, local anomalies occur; the neighborhood Gracht in Kerkrade seems to attract young families with children. The new elementary school building already is to small; 2 new classroom units have been placed.

Parkstad Limburg (and Kerkrade) is not only known as post- industrial territory, but also as center for leisure and social activities. The region developed a leisure economy focused on: shopping, culture, events, recreation etc. Parkstad recently has, won the prestigious price "Tourism for Tomorrow" Award 2016 from the World Travel &

3)http://www.wttc.org/tourism-for-tomorrowawards/winners-and-finalists-2016/

Scheme of Existing and forthcoming recreational system: green park structure, public transport, commercial area and urban tissue

On the right Kerkrade West recrational structures. Source: http://www.heemwonen.nl/templates/projecten_nieuwbouw_detail.aspx?ProjectID=92&PageID =212&PListPageID=149 Tourism Council. This award celebrates the transformation from 'black to green' and the quality and diversity of the touristic attractions in Parkstad (many of them surrounding Kerkrade-West).

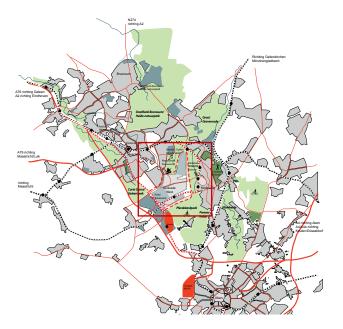
Parkstad Visitors Day trip

- visitors: >2.500.000 per year
- turnover: +/- € 200 mln. per year **Shopping**
- visitors: >5.500.000 per year
- turnover: +/- € 200 mln. per year

Culture and events

- •visitors: >1.500.000 per year
- •turnover: +/- € 100 mln. per year

Visitors of 'Leisure City Parkstad' in 2009: > 9.500.000























KERKRADE WEST THREE CASE STUDIES

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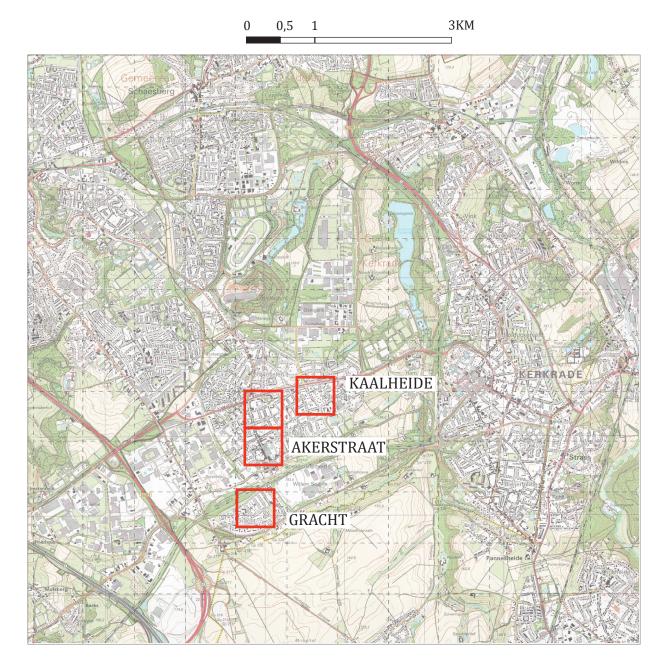
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Contraction of

The municipality of Kerkrade is located in the southeast part of Limburg province on the border with Aachen city (Germany) and has about 47,303 inhabitants (2011). As the entire region, Kerkrade is formerly known as the Eastern Mining region. After the closure of mines, Kerkrade underwent a complete metamorphosis in which the black landscape gave way to green (urban) parks that penetrate far into the urban cores. The green areas and reliefs, due to the original stream valley structure and the mining past, divide the city into three districts: Kerkrade north, Kerkrade east and west. The focus of the workshop was on the district Kerkrade west as site characterized by small singular family-houses and row-houses, by large industrial estates and large infrastructural developments. Kerkrade west includes the neighborhoods Kaalheide, Heilust, Spekholzerheide, Gracht and Beitel.





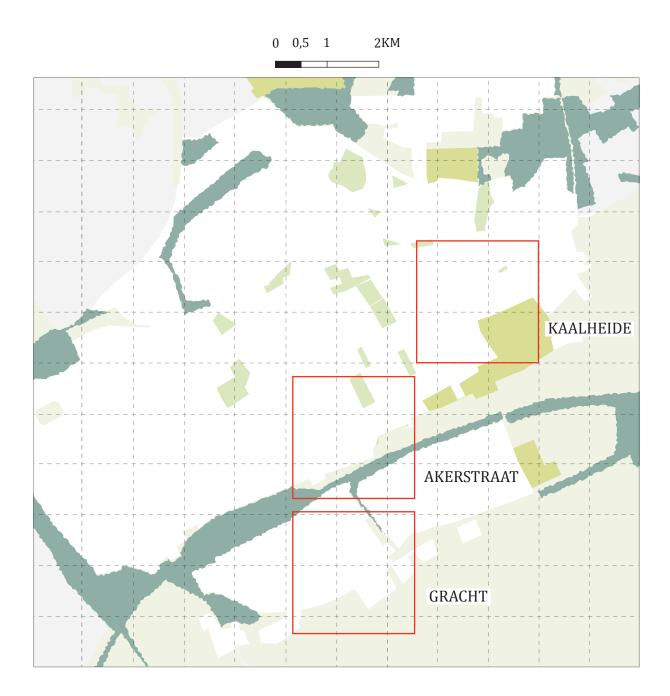
http://www.topotijdreis.nl/

The extraction of coal left behind a black landscape. But decline and the disappearance of the mining industry seem to have become the drive for an ecological regeneration, a catalytic infrastructure where landscape was rendered visible at the precise moment at which the industrialisation failed (Belanger 2009). The exiting green structure has been formed around streams valley of Anselderbeek and Wurm River in the west and the Geul River on the east.

Due to a fertile geological condition Kerkrade's landscape is characterized by Main Ecological Network (MEN). MEN is strengthened by the ambition of the national and provincial government to preserve and facilitate diversity of species and ecosystems. An important point is the ecological North- South corridor composed by the Anselderbeek and Wurm valleys.

For their high ecological and landscape value the Anselderbeek river of the Gravenrode Park has been developed into one of the major international tourism and leisure attractions, and a similar development characterises also Crombacherbeek valley with Pferdelander river.





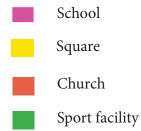
ECONOMY AND SERVICES

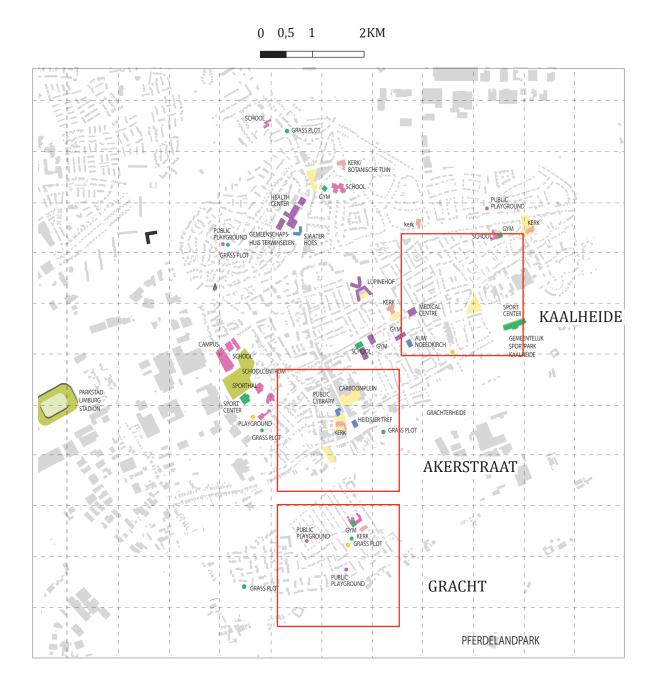
Today, Kerkrade West is characterized by a high variety of functions in a very small footprint with high urban fragmentation: heavy industries - paper, plastic factories and a brickyard, different shops mainly located along the main spine, large retail area with offices, a striking stadium, a newly refurbished city center, a didactic center and large recreational area surround the residential fabric. The landscape results in a puzzle of detached spaces, infra-bodies, hidden and forgotten sites (vacuums) located in close proximity around intense infra bundles - (Monolab, 2013) that need to be rearranged through new roles and functions in order to revitalize and redesign a whole coherent functional system.

Besides spatial fragmentation, Kerkrade West faces social and economic problems, after the closure of mines: due to the lack of alternative employment solutions the population lead to shrinkage (12%- by 2040 PPL) and high unemployment rate occurred (11.4% in 2009 - Municipality of Kerkrade 2011). In the urban fabric these phenomena left vacant plots due to demolition and old housing stock in poor conditions. The streets are often empty with few people to animate them.

Reporters Hillebrand and Beije are regularly holding a radio post about shrinkage in Kerkrade West. They state that in order to 'experience what shrinkage does to people, you have to hit the streets' (2011).

As an attempt to re-boost the economy after the closure of mines, modern industrial estates have been relocated but an overall economic crisis seems to have frozen the area.





THREE CASE STUDIES:

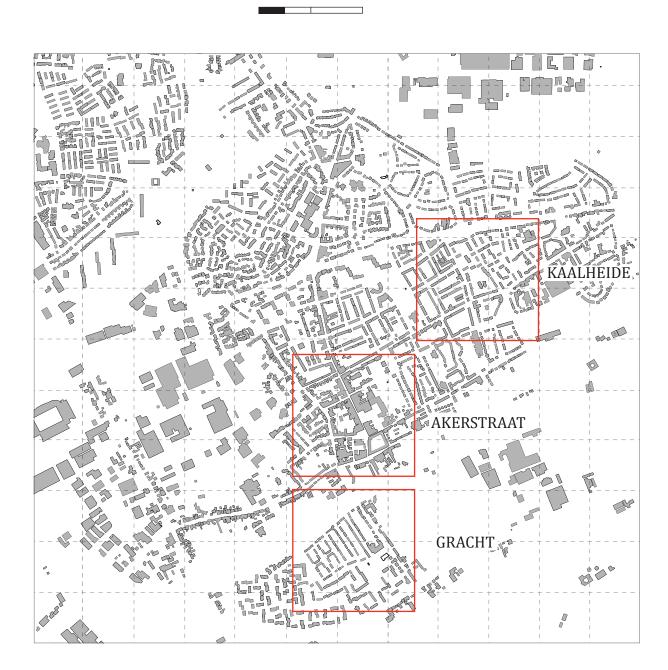
The workshop focused on three different locations in Kerkrade West

• Akerstraat: a central, urban public space surrounded by shops with apartments above. Akerstraat together with the Carboonplein is the main shopping area in Kerkrade West, but suffers from vacancy due to economic and demographic decline. Akerstraat came to development from the 1920's onwards. Developed in 2007-2010, Carboonplein is supposed to be a square but is mainly arranged and used for parking.

• Gracht: a neighborhood with mainly low-rise housing from the 1960's-1980's (some rather experimental) and two dominant blocks of high-rise apartments from the 1970's. Some of the housing typologies and parcelling is typical for the late 1970's experiments in Dutch urban design and architecture for social housing. Most of the public space in Gracht however is not consciously designed but rather the result of 'left over' space between housing (blocks) and after demolition.

• Kaalheide 'existing district for tomorrow'; a neighborhood with low rise houses from the 1970's that have recently been renovated to nearly energy zero houses (passive house standard). This neighborhood is typical for the early 1970's mass housing in the Netherlands both in urban design as in (the original) architecture. Between the houses there is a network of small-scale public spaces used for parking or visual greenery.

These three locations have in common that on the one side they're well maintained and safe (often recently (re) designed) but rather mono-functional in design and use; traffic/parking or visual greenery. The full potential of these spaces is not used; these spaces lack socio-cultural function and meaning. The three types of public spaces also can be found elsewhere in Parkstad region and beyond, often with similar problems. This makes the generated knowledge and experiences in the Kerkrade 'living lab', to which this workshop contributes, also valuable for other locations.



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CASE STUDY 1

GRACHT



The infrastructures had a major role in the urbanization pattern of Kerkrade, producing a fragmented urbanization and conurbation (Municipality of Kerkrade, 2011). While new infrastructures were constructed, the size of the built-up area proportionally increased, together with the size of mining communities.

In the specific case of Gracht, this neighborhood has been built alongside the railways, in relation to the activity of the Willem Sophia mine activity. Soon after the closure of Willem Sophia mine (1970) the railway line stopped its duty of coal transportation. Furthermore, the section Schaesberg - Simpelveld between Kerkrade-West and Schin op Geul closed for public in 1988 and since 1992 the section Kerkrade centrum-Valkenburg (Vetschau in German) is in use by the ZLSM, a touristic-railway-company. Consequences were the loss of importance of the railway line and its conversion into an unplanned recreational function. Furthermore, the railway today is a disjunction of the city from the open landscape across borders, situating the Gracht as a neighborhood to be redesigned and cleared.







WOW BUS

The WOW BUS team projects two initiatives to increase neighborhood economic vitality in Gracht: a pop-up retail project to temporarily activate the small squares, parking and grey-fields and to gather the community together.

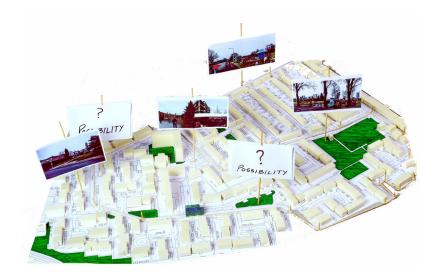
The projects consist of two activities: a food track, called WOW BUS, and an interactive on line map.

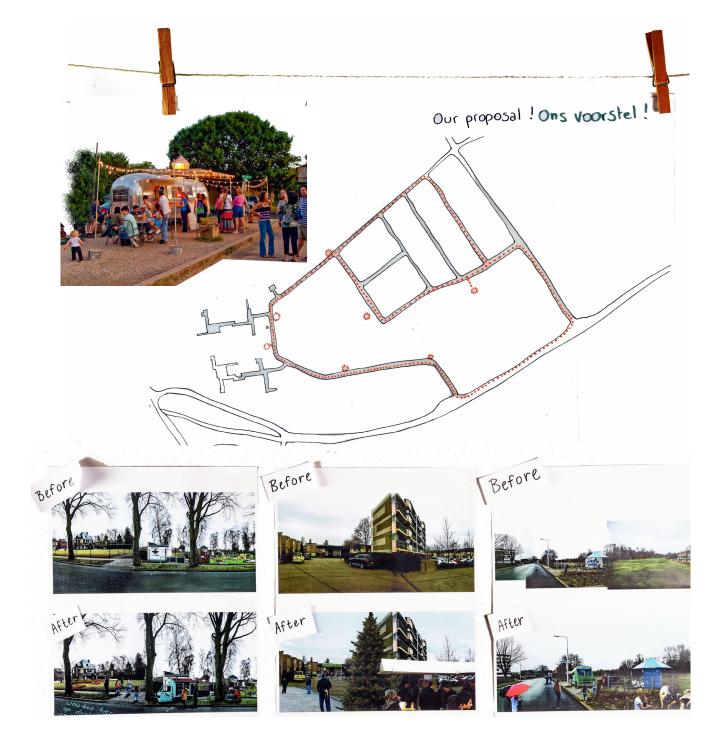
The WOW Bus aims to promote mobile retail including food carts, warm wine and dry goods and the WOW bus map. The online map shows programs and events in Gracht which allow temporary street events that help revitalize blocks with temporary uses and low-cost materials.

Initially the WOW Bus project identified first bot-

tlenecks, challenges for the communities as well as potential spaces for the temporary events related to the food track. By talking with the inhabitants the team identified potential activities and came up with possible solutions to activate marginal public spaces (see the picture).

The Team together with the Kerkrade West city departments look into which resources can be made available, while also working to streamline the permitting process, reduce the costs and facilitate the development of a full program of activities. The WOW BUS events are transitioning to leadership and organization by community members, with the Team shifting to a role of facilitation. From a spatial perspective the WOW BUS transforms parking lots and green fields, it can activate harsh street edges and unused public space in between housing blocks. As the collages show porches, bar stools and garden seating are added resulting in inviting public spaces. The WOW bus acts as a magnet for people.





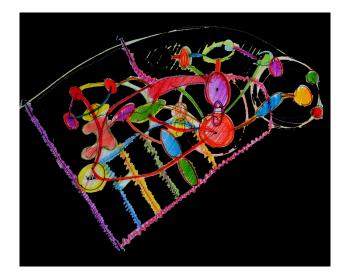
CONNECTING PEOPLE

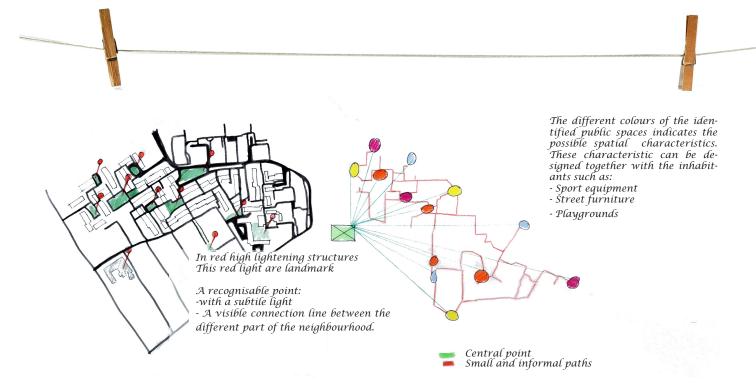
The project connecting people aims to unify and mix the inhabitants living in the neighborhood Gracht.

Through the analysis of the site the project identifies a series of under-used public spaces hidden in between the building blocks. These under-used public spaces have generally small dimensions, and they are characterized by different materials: asphalt, grass, gravel pavement. Although their undefined character these spaces embody a great potential and they can host several activities and programs.

Connecting people aims to highlight the presence of these hidden and under-used spaces by inserting light high landmarks. The proposed landmarks can occasionally illuminate the neighborhood according with the presence of specific activities in the corresponding public spaces. The public spaces can be designed and programmed together with the inhabitants and the municipalities, stressing the distinctive spatial characters and the needs of the surrounding inhabitants. These spaces can host temporary playgrounds, temporary sport fields or light street furniture.

Moreover the project aims to physically connect each distinctive public space by colouring the existing small paths that are informally used by the inhabitants to safely walk around in the neighbourhood. The process of painting and highlighting the path is imagined as an inclusive activity done with the inhabitants, local artist and municipalities. This activity can be a first step of a longer inclusive process to integrate the new young population that is moving into Gracht with the former inhabitants; the older part of the population with the younger ones, the Dutch with the foreigners. Therefore, through small light interventions the ultimate goal of the project is to create an inclusive neighbourhood.









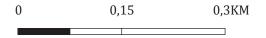
CASE STUDY 2 AKERSTRAAT



Akestraat is the main commercial spine of Kerkrade West. Crossing from north to south it attracts many services like the library, commercial activities, apartments and also two squares: Carboonplein and Patronaatplein.

Although its central position, Akerstraat is a symbol of decay in Kerkrade West. This decay was dramatically ignored from the car traffic passing the centre. Its progressive marginal role made several shops close, enforcing the image of quite a sad and unsafe street. These elements actually excluded Kerkrade West from the events planned during the year in Kerkrade, except from the weekly markets occurring on Carboonplein.







COUPE

The project Coupe wants to link the former identity of the place, that is its mining past, to an identity to which new generations can relate (e.g. performances etc.).

The aim is to convey the traffic normally passing aside Kerkrade West to pass through the city center, changing the grey empty car street into a lively pedestrian road. The main idea is to work on the abandoned shops dotting all along the street, enhancing a deep restyling starting from the soil and façade design. The starting point has to be at the crossing between the highway and Akerstraat, dealing with the high-speed circulation, progressively slowing down and hopefully culminating into a pedestrian speed.

The operation consists in writing on pavement surface big scale lettering text, that at the first time can relate to the mines and replicates the "zwarte goud", black gold, that is the coal, former source of richness of the town and strongly recalling Kerkrade Wests' identity, translated into the native languages of the foreign communities who worked in the mines. This writing, like a golden ribbon, leads to the center, and from the soil it runs upon the empty shop facades. Notably the space between the facades and the car street is the central point of the projects, a public space which is inviting to people and wants them to stay together, show their own interests and memories. The link with the events schedule allows to firstly connect the project to 2017 Music World Context, concretively involving inhabitants to the huge painting on the soil, and preparing the space in front of the empty shops in order to change them into little open air rooms where local music performances can be shown. Hopefully, the first and very cheap painting operation can be improved, adding furniture and lights popping out from the shops and completing all the street and, as suggested by the name of the project, trigger off a real bottom-up revolution.





The Spotlight project focuses on the presence of many vacant shops and buildings along Akerstraat.

Generally emptiness and vacancy are the embarrassing parts of the streetscape. Instead of deny these issues the project Spotlight aims to attract the attention on the empty shops and its related challenges.

The Spotlight project proposes a series of lighting structures that illuminate the empty shops with different colors.

The different lighting structures, in combination with the paint street path, create a sequence that can give new attention to Akerstraat, catalyzing several lighting events. Moreover each illuminated shop can host temporary activities, exhibitions and events according to the different times of the year and events in the Kerkrade West.





Phases of the transformations



<u>Night</u>



<u>Day</u>



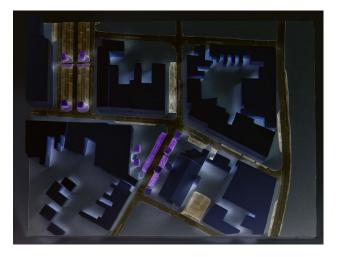
Several spaces are affected from similar issues like Akerstraat, for example Patronaatplein: situated in between the Patronaat church and a small commercial and residential building block, Patronaatplein is often considered not as a square but as a parking plot, divided by a street (Patronaatstraat). Although with some architectural qualities Patronaatplein is a neglected space, only used once a week for the local market.

The project addresses the occasion of using temporary intervention as urban generator in a two stage intervention:

1) A first stage aims to temporary close Patronaatstraat with some wood light street furniture, and to redirect the traffic. Moreover in this phase parking lots could host temporary vegetable gardens and other wooden street furniture. On specific occasions, these interventions can temporarily transform Patronaatplein into a pedestrian area, that could be used by the inhabitants, by the surrounding shops and bars or for activities of the nearby parish.

2) A second stage addresses the hypothetical shift of Patronaatstraat in a complete pedestrian area in which the parking plots can be designed as new green areas that can host city gardens or urban agriculture.

These interventions, developed in phases, can stimulate the community to participate in the design process, in the management and in the development of a new sensibility towards pedestrian





CASE STUDY 3 HEILUST-KAALHEIDE

Heilust-Kaalheide is a neighborhood area developed during the mining period. Since 2009 as part of the Limburg District Approach, the neighborhood and the row houses were renovated according to the more modern concept. The municipality and the Land van Rode housing corporation were in charge of the area-specific development of Vroenhof-Bleijerheide. As part of the Limburg District Approach, an initiative of the Province of Limburg, the whole of Kaalheide has been included as one of the five pilot districts in Parkstad.

The aim of the Limburg District Approach is to speed up the restructuring process and at the same time improve the quality of life in the area. Kerkrade is giving this process a very high priority and has developed this pilot scheme into a District Agenda with its own implementation program. The municipality of Kerkrade, the City Region of Parkstad Limburg and the Province of Limburg, residents and businesses activities were closely involved in preparing the agenda, which also consisted of an implementation programme, a communication plan and a management plan for the area to be restructured(Gemeente of Kerkrade 2011).

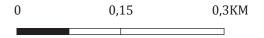
The way in which Kaalheide has been addressed as a pilot scheme, is considered an example of how to renovate housing stock and on how to deal with the consequences of population shrinkage.

Although the neighborhood was renovated the public spaces are not properly used. They are often empty green pockets which are not properly designed, without a distinctive character. They are often relegated as backyard elements in between houses, not properly illuminated and therefore sometimes used for illegal activities. These undefined and neglected public spaces are the focus of the following design experiments.









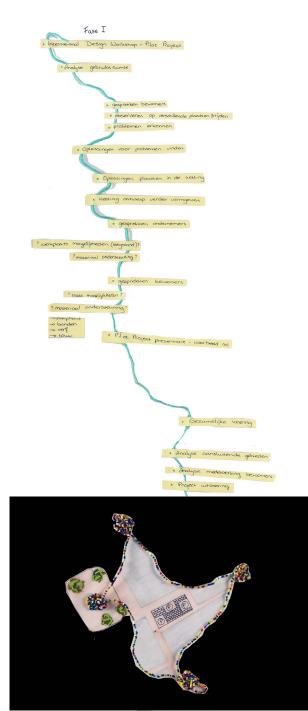


KRALENSNOER KAALHEIDE

Kaalheide neighbourhood is characterized by four residential blocks, each of the with an individual park. The parks differentiate from each other on topographical features and integration with the surrounding environment. Therefor the project is based on the idea of linking the four parks together to generate a sense of coherence between the inhabitants of the neighborhood.

Based on the principles of dots- landmarks and lines- pathway, the project become similar to a necklace of parks with the parks as the beads and the paths as the chain in order to punctuate the importance of each park as well as creating easier and more pleasurable access from one park to another.

The whole design is based on simple materials, but with the intention to emphasize and invite, the main color scheme being vibrant and multicolored. The core materials are paints, threads and other materials that are colorful and easy to find. During the design phase people were involved in choosing possible recycled materials for the future implementation of this project.







HEIVELDPLEIN

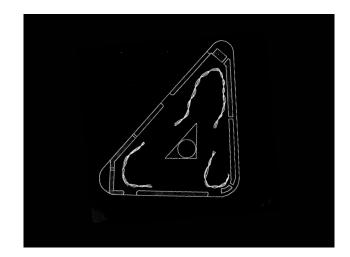
The selected site is a public parking lot located in between a residential area, which connects with a lot of public open space and an old stadium. The sequence from the residential building, the parking lot and the stadium creates a continuous slope with a spectacular view deep down to the giant green space around the stadium. Furthermore, the site is surrounded by residential buildings, which have their own garages, which means that the public parking space is not intensely used. Therefor the project decided to use temporary installations which enable to turn the site into a public park to be used by the community and people of all ages.

The idea is to create a sharing playground for common use, but which has individual places specifically designed for different uses.

The different uses are specifically studied considering the different population living in the neighbourhood.

The shape of the design results in a ribbon that goes around the site and creates different environments.

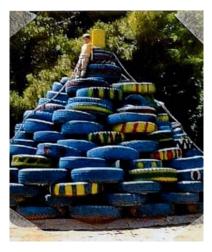
The ribbon will be made from tree branches, which can be easily found in the green space around the stadium, so as to reduce the costs of the installation. The local residents can participate in making the ribbon and can express their own tastes. In the centre, a pyramid of tyres will be painted by the locals and appears as the central stage providing a view to the surrounding playground.











VAN DIVERSITEIT NAAR EENHEID

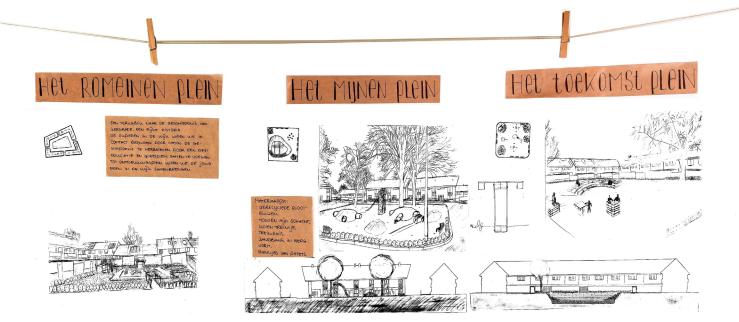
Kerkrade is one of Europe's oldest coal-mining towns, it served as an important coal-mining centre from 1113 until the early 1970s, when the mines were closed and destroyed, it released a sense of lost identity in the community . However the history of Kerkrade is much longer than the modern mining period and it has Roman roots. In fact housing excavations in Kerkrade undertaken in 2001 and 2002, revealed a typical Roman villa Rustica. The archaeological traces of the villa were discovered on the slope of a small hill, just outside the centre of the present town, at the site of the Holzkuil (Van Dijk Tichelman 2005). This discovery urged to inform the inhabitants about the ancient history of their territory.

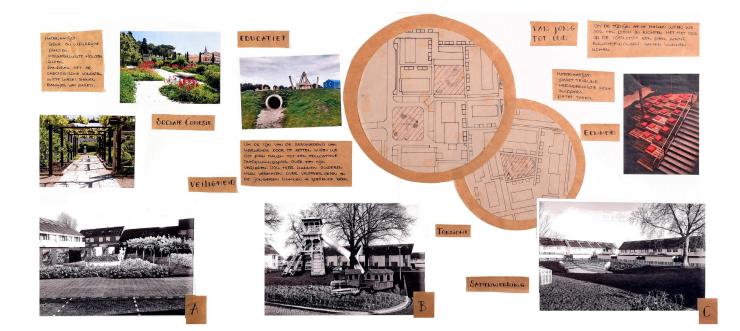
Therefore the project aims to use and reconvert the archipelago of green public spaces in a sort of open air historical centre. Each of the green pockets will host some light structure that can inform and reproduce historical environments such as a roman garden, or a mining shaft in the medieval era.

The project propose for each environment public and interactive facilities that allows children and inhabitants to simultaneously learn about their culture, to play and to manage their surrounding public spaces.

Fig on the right roman glasses found in Kerkrade Van Dijk, A., & Tichelman, G. 2005. Glass from a Roman villa rustica in Kerkrade (Dutch Limburg). CONTENT, 100.







OVERGANG PRIVÉ-OPENBAAR

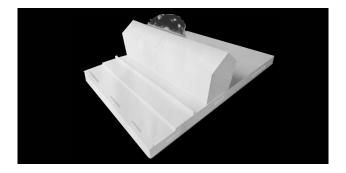
By walking through Kaalheide neighbourhood it is possible to notice a variety of semi-public spaces along the street. These semi-public spaces are often spaces in between private properties, like housing blocks or gardens/backyards and public properties like streets or squares.

The project focuses on these in between spaces.

The project aims to redefine these spaces by using lighting smart devices on the street pavement.

These devices are LED light elements of different colours embedded in the street. The solar-powered lights have sensors that illuminate the LEDs from dusk to dawn. The lights are also triggered by interaction with people and objects. The goal is a visual connection with these semi-public elements.









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