06 CHAPTER

CONCEPTUAL APPROACH

INTRODUCTION

In Chapter 6 the design informants that lead to the concept for the design approach is discussed. Thereafter the concept for the design approach is discussed. The design informants and concept are what forms the conceptual approach to the design. This chapter aims to create an understanding as to what influenced the design decisions.

DESIGN INFORMANTS

The design informants are based on informa-
tion gathered and discussed in previous chap-
ters. These design informants helped establish
a design concept.

The first design informant derived from the
theoretical investigations done in chapter 2.
The theoretical investigation assisted in de-
veloping a good understanding of what role
design can play within the urban investigation
and how design can affect the well-being of
people.

The second design informant is based on
information gathered from the user study and
programmatic investigation done in chapter 4.
Understanding the user helped identify what
design and programs would be appropriate to
develop.

The third design informant came from archi-
tectural precedence studies done in chapter 5.
The precedents were investigated and critically
analyzed which lead to establishing guidelines
to be used in this dissertations design ap-
proach.

#1 .... Theoretical premise

#2 .... User & Programmatic analysis
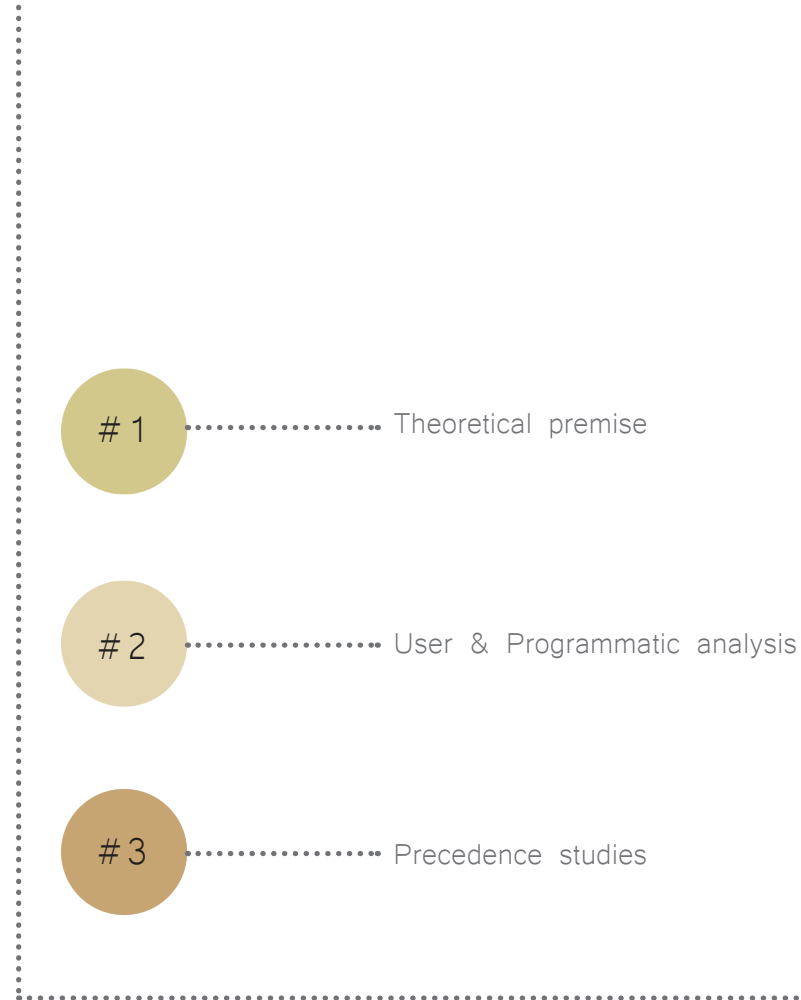
#3 .... Precedence studies

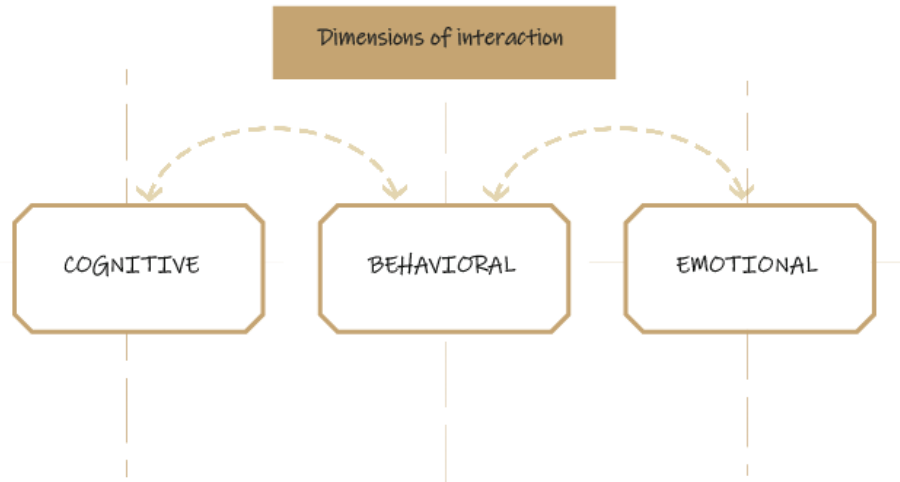Figure 6.1: Design informants diagram (Author 2020)

Figure 6.2: Altman and Low (1992) dimensions of interaction between people and place (Author 2020)
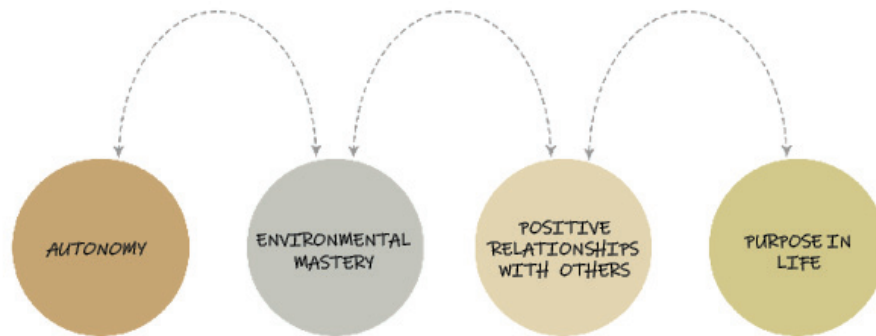

Figure 6.3: Constituting elements of well-being (Author 2020)

Design informant A :
Theory_(chapter 2)

Investigating the concepts of places of meaning, well-being and holistic approaches in chapter 2 concluded that in order to design a space for people a multi-faceted approach is needed. The theoretical premise indicated that relationships between people and the built environment needs to be established in order to create a more resilient urban environment. This conclusion is strengthened by Altman and Low's (1992) theory that three dimensions of interaction exists between people and place. Furthermore, the theory of well-being was established to correlate with the life activities that people engage in within a specific place, which was supported by Carol D. Ryff's (1989) earlier work identifying autonomy, environmental mastery, positive relationships with others, and to have a purpose in life (fig. 6.4), all notions that can contribute to designing a successful place for people.

Design informant B :
Users & Program_(chapter 4)

Chapter 4's investigation illuminated the fact that one user group is being neglected in this particular area, referring to the elderly user group. This is then where I chose to put my focus on in order to create a more holistic urban environment. In this chapter it was mentioned that previous design models for elderly lead to the separation between older people and the community. This lead to the decision for a design that creates programs that focuses on the elderly user group, and to integrate spaces and programs that would also allow for public integration. Focusing on a specific user group allowed me to investigate what programs are needed and what spaces are needed for this particular user group and programs. After understanding what programs is needed, it contributed to identifying what each space would require, this will in turn enable me to make informed design decisions regarding, movement, layout, materials, and function.
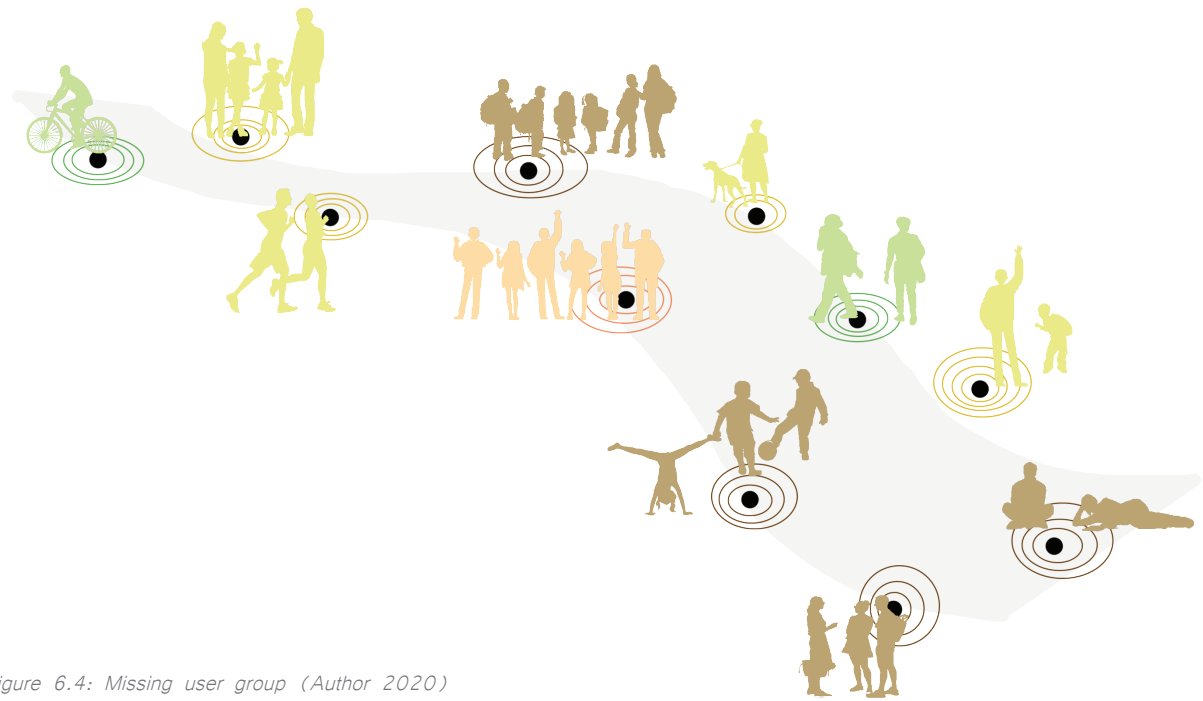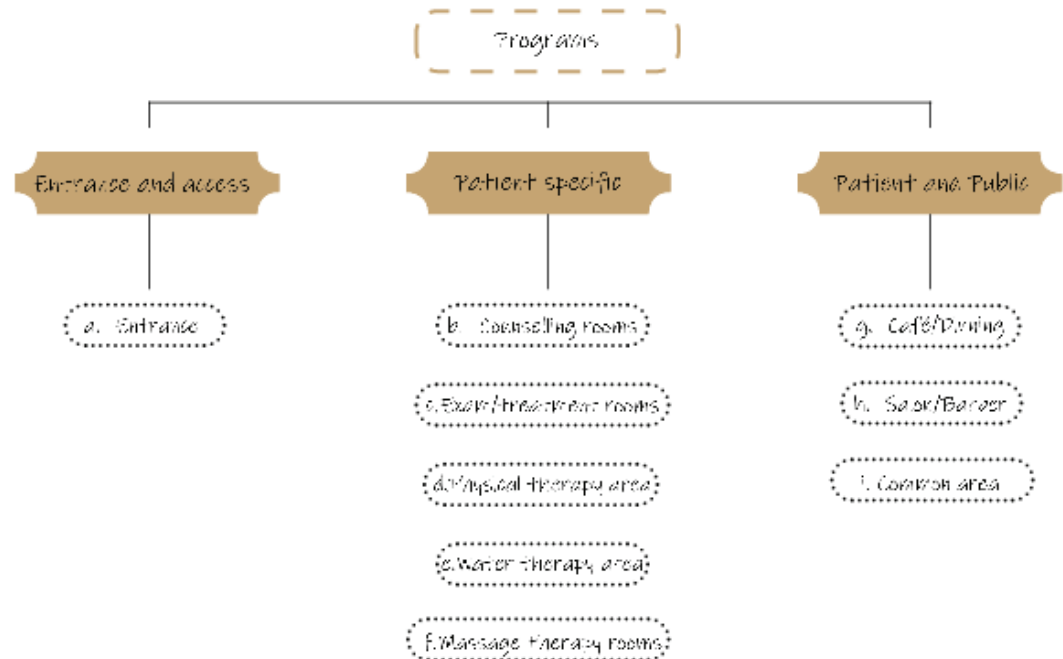
Figure 6.4: Missing user group (Author 2020)

Figure 6.5: Proposed programs (Author 2020)

Figure 6.6: Precedent categories (Author 2020)

INTEGRATION OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE

FORM & LAYOUT

INCLUSIVITY & MATERIALITY

Design informant C :
precedence studies_(chapter 5)

The architectural precedents investigated three categories that helped shape and inform design intentions. Investigating how to create more harmonious spaces between people and nature, understanding appropriate layout and spatial conditions that is needed when dealing with well—being and health related spaces, along with understanding the contribution of appropriate material choices and inclusive design. The precedent studies explored different spaces relating to nature, health, well-being, and emotional connections, and revealed how design decisions can impact and shape these notions. From the precedent studies a series of guidelines was established to be used when it comes to the design decision making.

Shared spaces
attached to a building

Programmatic motive

Shared spaces sitting
between buildings

Interaction motive

Shared spaces
sitting independently
from buildings

Physical motive

CONCEPT OF SHARED SPACES

Reflecting on the design informants it was clear that not one single space can address all the issues, theories, needs, and functions mentioned throughout the dissertations thus far. Thus, the only way to try and address all of the aspects previously discussed is by introducing a variety of shared spaces. As previously mentioned, the way in which people age fluctuate from person to person, resulting that not one space can be sufficient for everyone, hence the intention of creating a variety of shared spaces.

The concept of shared spaces is divided into three types of shared spaces.

a. Shared spaces attached to a building, referring to programmatic aspects.

b. Shared spaces that sits between buildings, focusing on establishing combined and integrated space.

c. Shared spaces sitting independently from buildings, emphasizing the relationship between the built environment and the natural environment.

These different shared spaces can be conceptually translated into the first design development phase

First shared space: *attached to a building*

The first shared space refers to spaces that are attached and devoted to a space inside the building. Having shared spaces in a building means to design for a range and a diversity in programs that will be incorporated into the building. It also refers to focusing on introducing inclusive spaces and designs, that has the flexibility to be experienced by a range of people. According to Farage et al. (2012) the application of using universal design principles can result in a more inclusive and transgenerational design that can accommodate a variety of older people with a range of abilities. This conceptual approach can be seen as a human-centered approach, where the persons and their needs are placed at the very center (Pericu, 2017). The concept of shared and inclusive design promotes health and well-being, by exposing people to a selection of sensory, physical and cognitive functions and programs (Farage, et al., 2012).

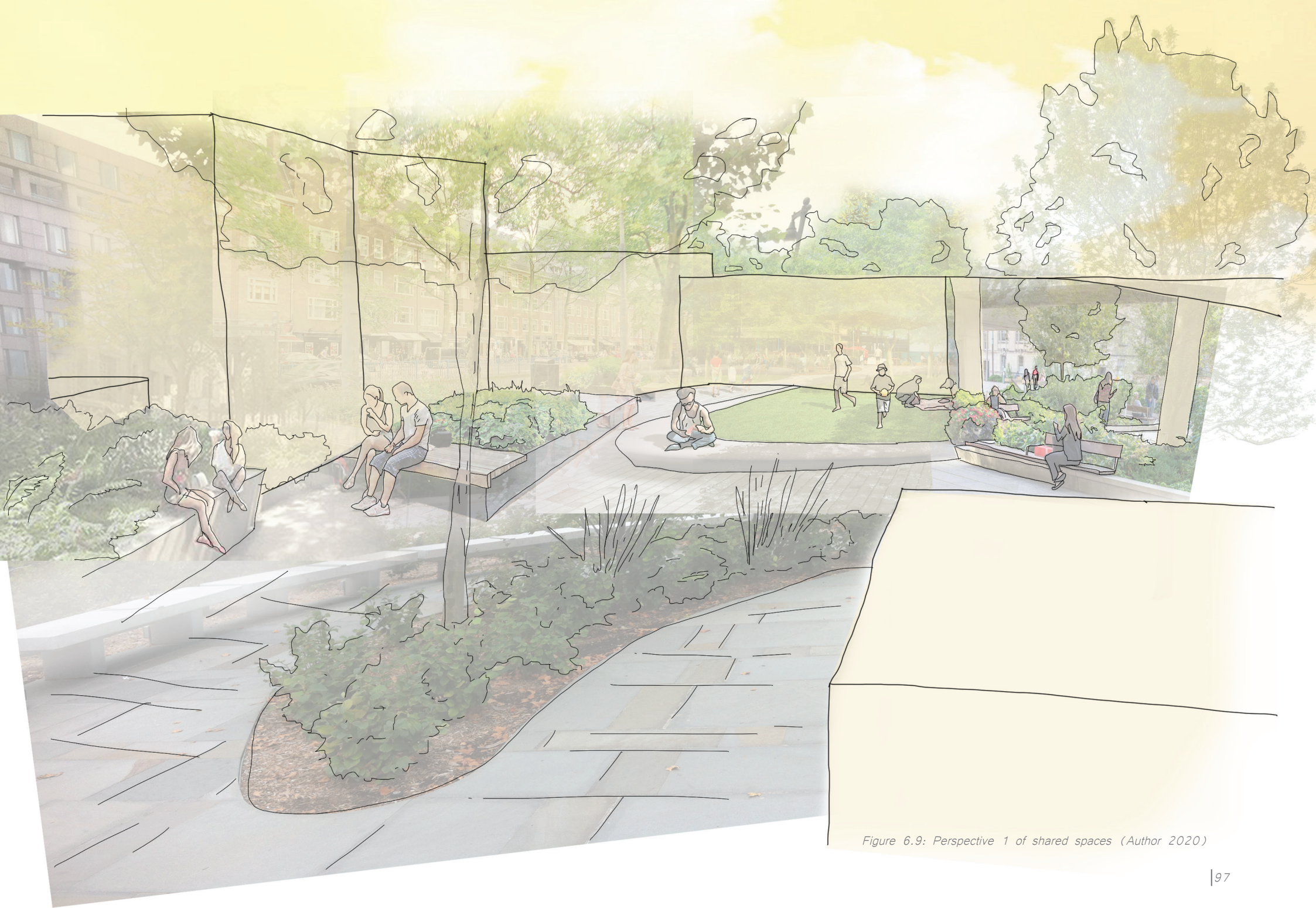*Figure 6.8: Shared spaces attached to a building (Author 2020)*

Shared spaces attached to a building

Figure 6.9: Perspective 1 of shared spaces (Author 2020)

Second shared space: *between buildings*

The second shared space refers to spaces that are positioned and linked between buildings. Having an outside space that is enclosed or shaped by buildings incorporates feelings of a protected and sheltered environment. It can create a sense of safety that can allow a person to comfortably explore and live within that space. According to Mather & Scommegna (2017) a sense of safety plays an important role in older people's physical and interactive abilities. Implementing shared spaces that sits between buildings ultimately creates a social 'courtyard' allowing people to move between different spaces that can generate an area for social interaction. Allowing for social innovations, that encourage people to engage with other people and establish a social relationship (Pericu, 2017). This can encourage a healthy physical and mental lifestyle.

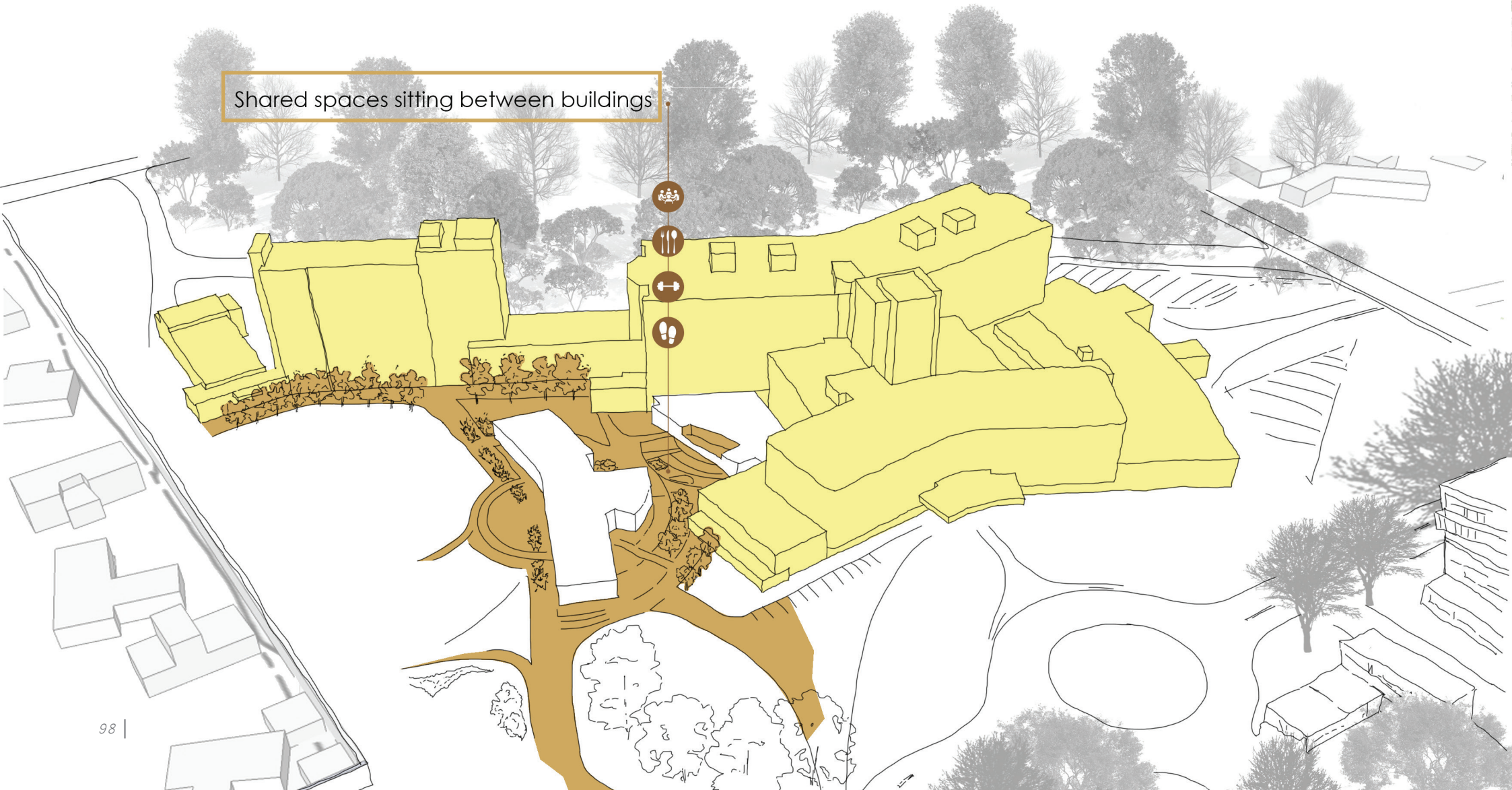*Figure 6.10: Shared spaces sitting between buildings (Author 2020)*

Shared spaces sitting between buildings

Figure 6.11: Perspective 2 of shared spaces (Author 2020)

Third shared space: *sits independently*

The third shared space refers to spaces that sits independently from the building. Creating accessible outdoor space and designing for interactive outdoor experiences can often encourage older people to engage with these spaces, and in return experience physical activities like walking routes, gardening, or outdoor recreational spaces.

This concept of this third shared spaces examines the relationship between the build environment and the natural environment, emphasizing that the natural environment can also contribute to creating a place of meaning, positively reacting to a person's well-being and incorporating a more holistic design by including the natural landscape into the design. These spaces can occupy multiple levels of interactions, experiences and programs that can accommodate a range of people and allow this space to be used and shared based on an individual's capabilities.

Figure 6.12: Shared spaces independently from buildings (Author 2020)

Shared spaces sitting independently from buildings

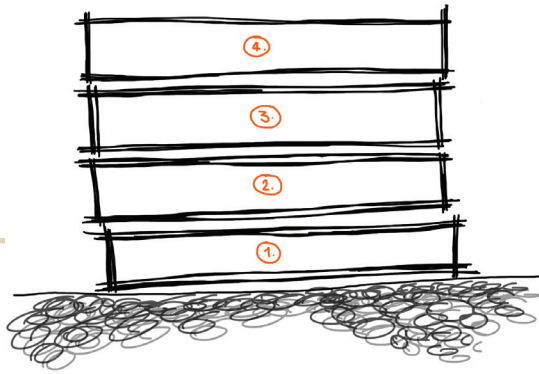Figure 6.13: Perspective 3 of shared spaces (Author 2020)

Figure 6.14: Chapter 6 diagram (Author 2020)

CONCLUSION

Establishing the conceptual approach helped to generate the fundamental building blocks for the design. The conceptual approach illustrates the design intention and provided direction for any design decisions. This chapter, from the design informants to the concept for the design, shows the underlying thinking and logic that will be used for solving any design problems.