

fem*MAP BERLIN. FEMINIST SPATIAL SYSTEMS FOR A NON-SEXIST CITY.

Introduction

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fem*MAP BERLIN

Research- and Mapping Seminar / Mapping-Camp

“Social gender relations are inscribed in spatial structures.”

from: Ruth Becker, Raum: Feministische Kritik an Stadt und Raum, in: Handbuch Frauen und Geschlechterforschung, 2008.

WHY IS FEMINISM A SPATIAL ISSUE? Architecture, Planning and Urban Design as well as research on these topics are and have always have been dominated by men. Our cities and our entire environment is influenced by this inequality. How can we uncover and understand this? What influence does this have on us and the design of our cities? How can we use spatial phenomena to reveal and perhaps even combat power relations? What do feminist spaces look like? How do appropriation strategies work?

In preparation for the exhibition “A feminist perspective for Berlin today! What could a non-sexist city look like?” at alpha nova & galerie futura in Berlin we addressed, together with 31 students, the following questions during the fem*MAP Berlin seminar in summer 2020: What does the feminist appropriation of (urban) space mean for a critical planning practice? What role do women* play in architecture, planning and urban policy, as users, practitioners, decision-makers, campaigners? Which feminist spatial productions can be found in Berlin?

Based on six artistic positions to be shown in the exhibition, exploring topics such as feminist spaces, practices and visions in architecture and urban planning, each student mapped one of the selected topics in their personal context. These personal mappings were clustered according to overlapping locations and themes, resulting in 8 thematic fields, each of which was further explored by one group.

The topic- and site-specific personal mappings were first superimposed according to various criteria in order to work out hypotheses/assumptions; specific spatial characteristics or qualities, typologies, characteristics of (specific) spatial production, practices, modes of operation and sets of rules. These assumptions were further examined using different methods such as spatial analysis, ar-tistic and ethnographic research and condensed into 8 thematic atlases.

The atlases each contain a thematic map, showing the topic within the urban context of Berlin, topic-specific diagrams, detailed maps or spatial representations and a legend explaining the various illustrations. The topics examined in the 8 Atlases are REMEMBRANCE, REPRESENTATION & POLITICS, SPACES OF EMPOWERMENT, NEIGHBOURHOOD OF CARE (WORK), NIGHTSCAPES, HOUSING, MOBILITIES, SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION and PERSONAL SAFETY. Together, these 8 atlases can be read as a Berlin map showing gender-critical space production as well as the possibilities of feminist space production.

During a 1-week mapping camp in August 2020, the research and the mappings produced in the fem*MAP BERLIN seminar were brought together into a common vision for the future of Berlin, the fem*MAP 2049. The collectively drawn and conceptualized map shows the transformative potential of the 8 different assumptions/hypothesis formulated in the seminar: feminist urban structures of political representations, institutions of empowerment, neighbourhoods of care, diverse modes of mobility, illuminated nightscapes and accessible and adequate housing provision. The main elements of fem*MAP 2049 were translated into a cartographic spatial installation on the floor of the gallery space of alpha nova & galerie futura. Together with the fem*MAP 2049 at 1:10.000, the floor mapping integrates the six artistic positions into a “feminist perspective for Berlin today” – in preparation for a non-sexist city in the near future.

The seminar is a cooperation of the CUD with alpha nova & galerie futura as part of the event series “Feminist Living History(s) for the Future. BERLIN, BAUHAUS und DARÜBER HINAUS”. Inspired by Felicita Reuschling’s text “A feminist perspective for Berlin today! What could a non-sexist city look like?” the idea for the seminar was developed by Dagmar Pelger and Anna Heilgemeir with Katharina Koch and Sylvia Sadzinski from alpha nova & galerie futura and realised together with Martha Wegewitz and Julia Köpper.

Students* Seminar:

Natasha Nurul Annisa, Edyta Baran, Paul Bostanjoglo, Elif Civici, Yu-Pin Chiu, Hsiao-Lan Chuang, Donka Dimitrova, André Sacharow, Juliana García-Léon, Sebastian Georgescu, Julia Gersten, Jörn Gertenbach, Sena Gür, Tamar Gürciyan, Julius Hempen, Viktoria Hevesi, Maximilian Hinz, Rowaa Ibrahim, Tildem Kirtak, Ekaterina Kropacheva, Kamal Mahajaran, Katrina Neelands Malinski, Elizaveta Mozalevskaya, Roberta Palma, Solveigh Paulus, Amir Hossein Rezaii, Santiago Sanchez, Feyza Sayman, Nikita Schweizer, Jessica Voth, Jelena Vukovic.

Students* Mapping-Camp:

Natasha Nurul Annisa, Laura Juliana García-Léon, Jörn Gertenbach, Maximilian Hinz, Tildem Kirtak, Katrina Malinski, and Jessica Voth from TU Berlin with Péter Máthé, Ana Maria Rodriguez Bisbicus and Lara Stöhlmacher from UDK Berlin.

In cooperation with Katharina Koch and Sylvia Sadzinski, alpha nova & galerie futura
<https://www.galeriefutura.de/>

Many thanks to the artists*

(fem_arc, Sarah Held, Elke Krasny & Sophie Lingg & Claudia Lomoschitz, Dorothea Nold, Banu Çiçek Tülü, Lena Wegmann & Tabea Latocha und Ina Wudtke)

fem*REMEMBRANCE, REPRESENTATION & POLITICS

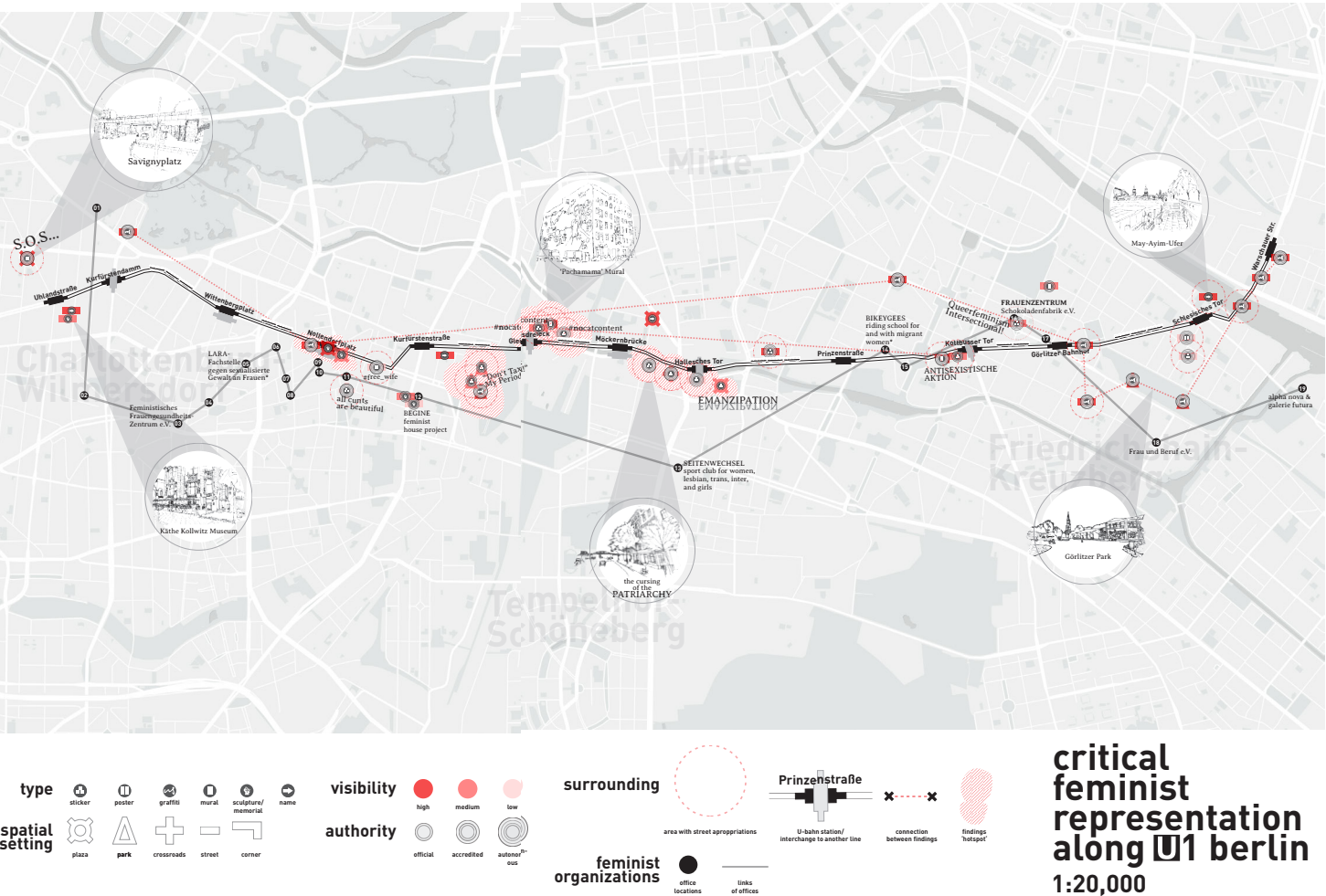
A speculative view into a future feminist cityscape along Berlin’s U1 subway line. We enter the U1 at Warschauer Straße, heading to an Exhibition at Käthe Kollwitz Museum in Charlottenburg. Passing by Skalitzer Straße, large murals show the faces of Berlin’s female mayors and we note that throughout the past ten years the office was continuously held by women*.

At Kottbusser Tor, the loud speaker reminds us of the nearby ‘Museum of Intersectional Feminism’. Departing Gleisdreieck, we spot the Pachamama Sculptures that have been erected during the protests to prevent international investors from constructing a high rise complex next to Gleisdreieck-Park. At Kurfürstenstraße, the train descends underground and activists enter the train, asking us to sign a petition to support of local sex workers.

Nollendorfplatz has not changed at all in the last years, however at Wittenbergplatz we are happy to see beautiful commercials from international fair trade fashion brands - free from sexism - in the train station. Soon it is time to get off. The loud speaker calls the name of the recently renamed ‘Uhlandstraße’ now referring to one of the most influential feminist artist of the 20th. Century: ‘Valie-Export-Straße! Last stop of the line! Please leave the train here!’ Up in the daylight, we cross the bike lane and are not afraid to get run over by a car since Kurfürstendamm was turned into a 30 km/h zone. I stop in front of an old street lamp because one of the many stickers catches my eye that says ‘Boys welcome’. It is an announcement from a female student group who offer free mathematics coaching in the rooftop restaurant of KaDeWe on Sundays.

Although the discrimination of non-male people cannot be overcome by stickers and street names, the spatial representation of women* contributes to the process of accomplishing gender equality because it configures the environment where our thoughts and beliefs are shaped.

Hsiao-Lan Chuang, Natasha Nurul Annisa, Paul Bostanjoglo



Representing Berlin: The U1 Line

U1 is the oldest U-bahn line in Berlin. Spanning 9 km, it connects the east to the west part of the city center, from Friedrichshagen-Kreuzberg to Tempelhof-Schöneberg and Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf. Mapping the neighborhoods along this line makes it possible to see the link between and beyond neighborhoods, and help define shared spaces. Unlike the S-bahn, the U-bahn is more deeply woven into local neighborhoods, enabling closer observation into the urban fabric.

fem*SPACES OF EMPOWERMENT

In order to approach a non-sexist city, it is important to understand its structural conditions in all their subtleties and dimensions. Cities can be seen as conglomerates, composed of both material and non-material factors, such as the built environment and the social sphere¹.

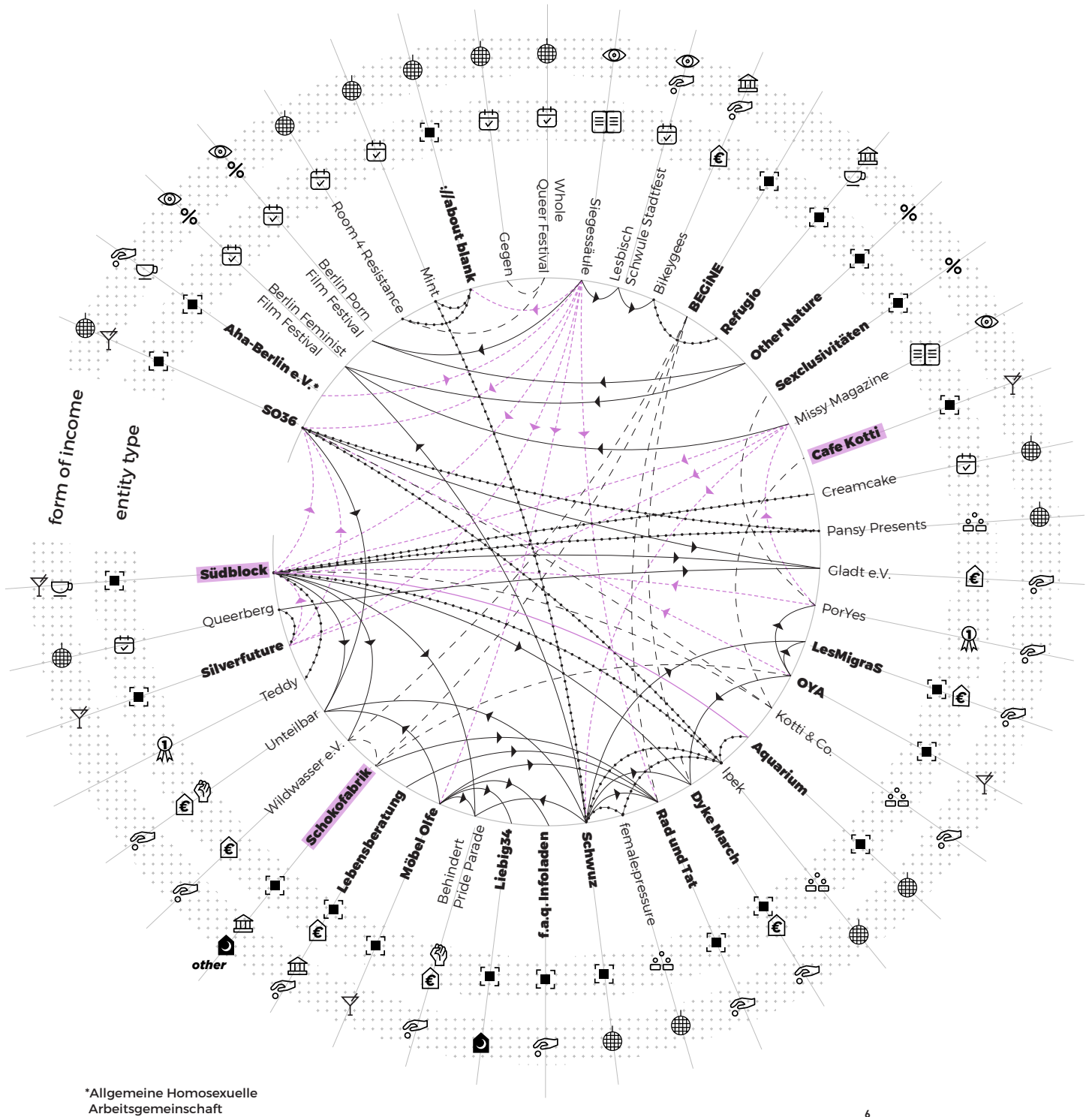
Queer² feminist spaces rely largely on the behaviour of their users to provide a space of empowerment. In order to enable this, a code of behaviour has developed across a geographically disparate but socially networked series of spaces throughout Berlin³. By mapping the network of spaces where this code of conduct is present, we seek to understand the variety of ways in which they are linked socially and financially, while exploring how this code of conduct manifests spatially in individual members of the network.

The research zooms into three queer spaces located at Kottbusser Tor, each selected from a list of suggestions provided during our initial survey. Using three different spaces - Südblock, Schokofabrik and Café Kotti - the different layers are analysed to understand how social and physical factors come together to create a space of empowerment. Although these places are spatially fragmented, they are part of a very close and diverse network. External circumstances or threats can through these means be responded to as a community. This includes actors from different fields: political groups, festivals, magazines, performers and many other feminist actors. The network addresses not only feminist issues, but also intersectional topics such as racism and classism. The connection between the spaces is often evident in the code of conduct users of the spaces adhere to - sometimes this is spatially manifested in form of a poster, sometimes there are social agreements that are reflected in the behaviour of the visitors. This above all demands openness and tolerance and often explicitly forbids anti-discriminatory behaviour of various kinds. An interesting example of how these social agreements can be expressed spatially are gender-neutral toilets. On the social level, heteronormative gender roles are deconstructed, the gender binary dissolved and space for different genders is created⁴. In the physical space, this means a departure from the traditional division of toilets into women and men and making a single gender-neutral toilet available in the space. Gender-neutral toilets, which are also visible in some of our case studies, are an interesting example of the interaction between the social and the physical aspects of creating an empowering space.

The network as well as the code of conduct are subject to constant negotiation processes and are continuously being expanded. Both are not tied to any specific place, which means that they can be expanded or transferred to any place at any time.

Rowaa Ibrahim, Sebastian Georgescu, Katrina Neelands Malinski, Solveigh Paulus

1 Martina Löw, Raumsoziologie, 1. Aufl, Suhrkamp Taschenbuch Wissenschaft 1506 (Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 2001).
2 The term queer is used because it unifies many complex identities, no particular roles are set up in advance
3 Alice Dundon, “Exploring Berlin’s Underground Female & Queer Party Scene,” Culture Trip, March 19, 2018, <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/germany/articles/exploring-berlins-underground-female-queer-party-scene/>.
4 Simona Castricum, “Public Bathrooms Are Gender Identity Battlefields. What If We Just Do It Right? | Simona Castricum,” The Guardian, October 3, 2018, sec. Opinion, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/03/public-bathrooms-are-gender-identity-battlefields-what-if-we-just-do-it-right>.



*Allgemeine Homosexuelle Arbeitsgemeinschaft

Description of the mapping: mapping of Relationships between queer feminist spaces, events and institutions within Berlin. Data gathered from literature research as well as field observations of the spaces.

Relationships are sorted by nature (financial support, advertising, etc.) and direction. Sources of income and the type of each entity is also noted.

fem*NEIGHBOURHOODS OF CARE(WORK)

Community-based care relies on infrastructures and resources from the other sectors. It often is sustained through commoning - concerted actions of members of individual households. At the same time it often depends on infrastructure sustained by the public and private sector, like public playgrounds or small shops allowing for encounters.

However, community-based care is essential in filling the abundant gaps in between the other sectors. It can relieve the burden on individuals, mostly women, which can always only partly rely on the state to provide child care. Since schools close in the afternoon, someone has to accompany the child from home to a care institution if the parents are working. Help from neighbours allows elderly people to live at home longer. Collective organizing has the potential of communalizing care work. In our society care work in the household is unpaid and in the public and private sector usually paid - Community-based care work is in between. Sometimes it is done next to paid work, sometimes it is unpaid. In all cases it will require societal reorganization for unpaid care work in the household to become remunerated.

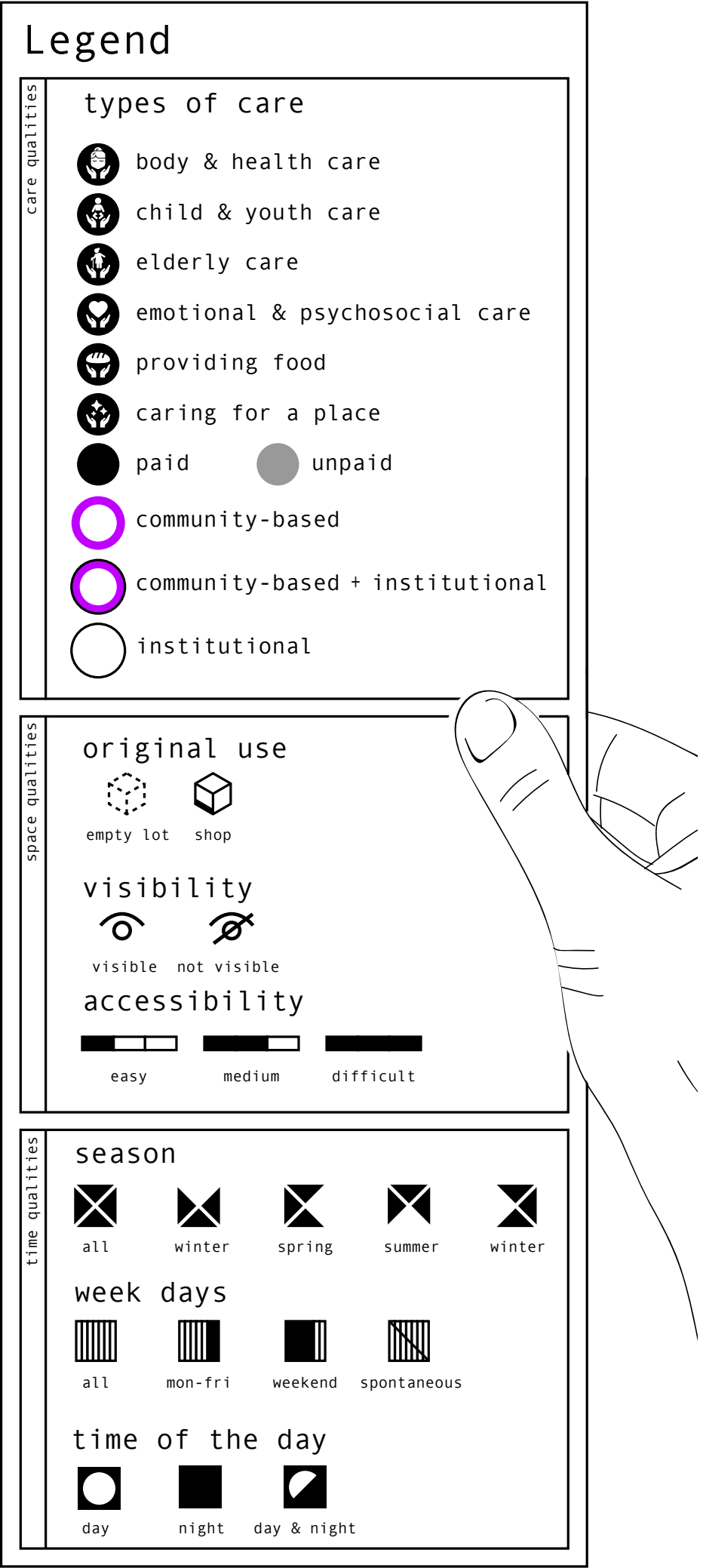
Community-based care...

...is not visible in the discourse on care work

...is part of a future, non-sexist empowering system of care work

...needs space and suitable infrastructure.

André Sacharow, Juliana Garcia Leon, Julia Gersten



fem*NIGHTSCAPES

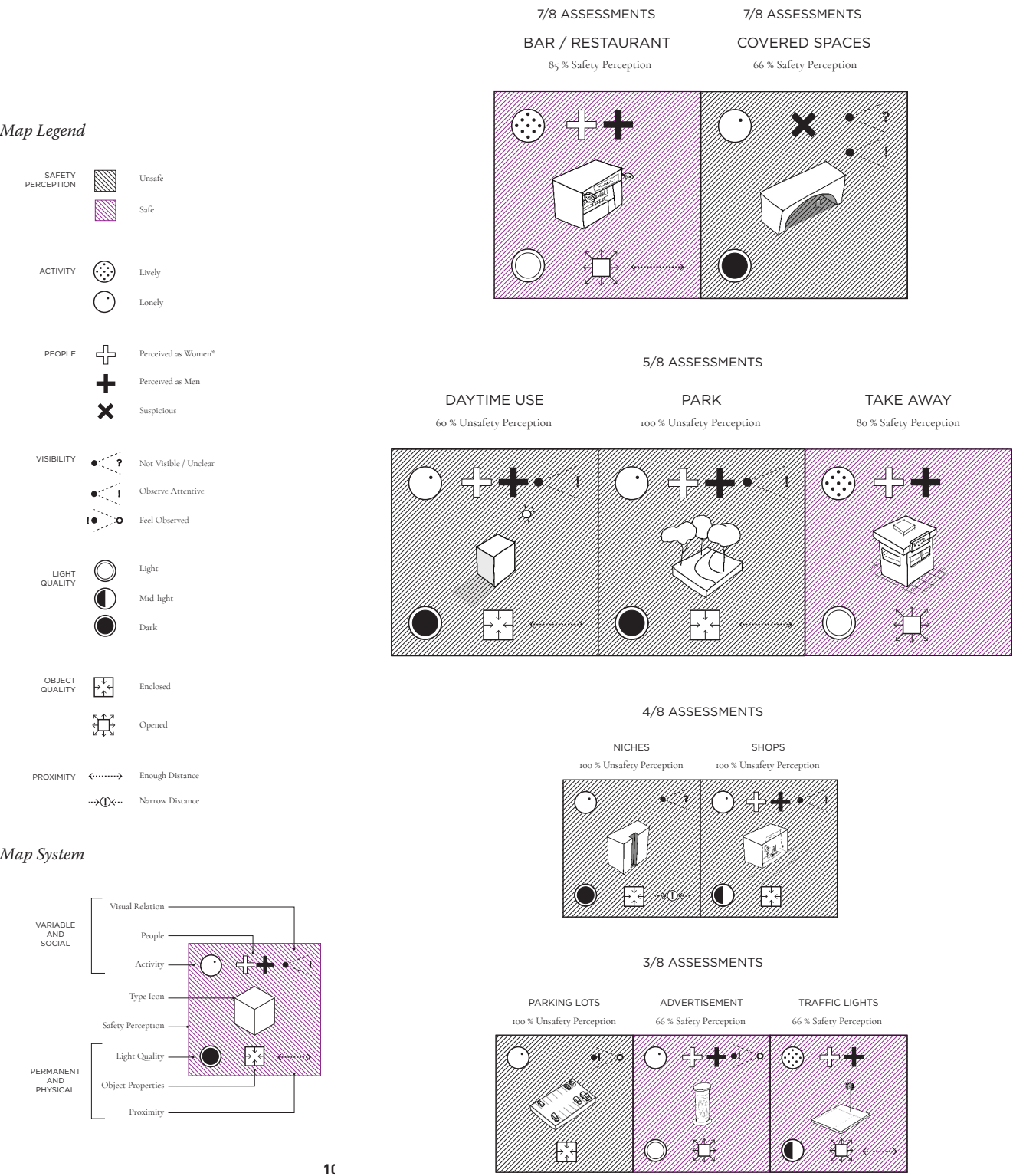
We wonder how walkable Berlin is at night from a feminist perspective.

By scanning the local news and social media it is possible to see representations of places identified as unsafe. Topics like gender-oriented crime, sexual harassment and violent assaults are evident. This makes clear that feeling unsafe is actually caused by other people. But obviously space and built surroundings is are to reproduce these feelings or even to create the conditions in which such crimes are possible.

Urban planning already has concepts for developing a safe urban environment for all genders, but locations can completely change their qualities during night or day. By talking to women living in Berlin, we want to consider if the criteria developed by urban planners creates a feeling of safety, especially during the night.

We are going to retrace the daily night routes of women to compare their subjective experiences with the design rules of the planners, which are intended to be objective. Thereby we want to create a subjective safety catalogue of individual perceived objects and spatial conditions in Berlin, which could be called described as a set of Night Typologies.

Yu-Pin Chiu, Tamar Gürciyan, Maximilian Hinz, Tildem Kirtak, Kamal Maharjan, Santiago Sánchez



Most common types according the number of assesments

fem*HOUSING / HÄUSERKAMPF

IST FRAUEN*KAMPF

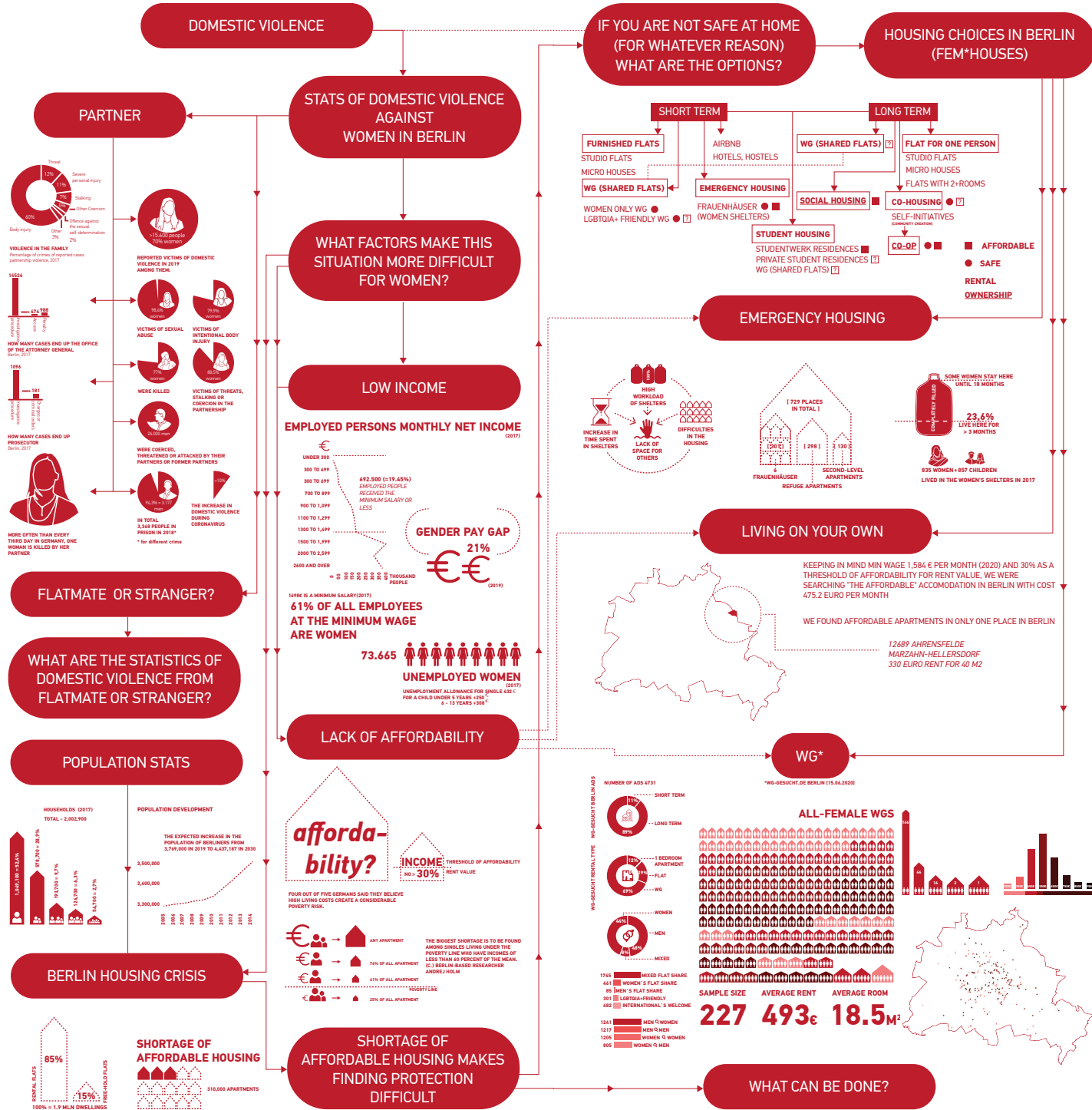
Gender-based violence is a global pandemic. It has infiltrated every possible place; in every possible form. It exists in both the public and the private realms. It cat-calls women as they walk in the street, it gropes and grabs where it shouldn't, and it makes the home a dangerous place. There is a spectrum of violence against women, and it spans different degrees of severity, locations, and people. Though every situation is different, all incidents are harmful. Gender-based violence is most visible in the public realm, but this investigation seeks to uncover the affects of violence against women in the home: domestic violence. In Germany, more than 80% of victims of domestic violence are women*.¹ A woman* could be assaulted in her home by a partner, roommate, or even a visitor. The incidents include assaults, harassment, intimidation, and many other forms of physical and emotional violence.

Meanwhile, Berlin is currently in a housing crisis. In the past ten years, rents have more than doubled.² The population is growing exponentially, estimated to pass the 4-million-mark by 2025.³ The local government has taken steps to counter the skyrocketing rental prices, including banning mega-landlords and the recently introduced 5-year rental freeze. However, finding a home in Berlin is still extremely difficult. And it seems to be even harder for women*. In renting, one should consider the price, location, size, etc. As a woman* an added factor to consider is that of safety. The majority of 'short-term' rentals in Berlin consist of flat-shares of 'WGs'. These are apartments that are usually let by one main tenant, who then rents out the various bedrooms to other sub-tenants. Financially, women* are still earning much less than men, meaning that they may have to compromise on aspects of the apartment when renting. The gender pay gap in Germany currently sits at a difference of 21%. The rental crisis is pushing women to live in places that they feel unsafe, too worried to leave because of how hard it is to find accommodation in the first place.

What are the housing options for women* in Berlin? And if you are unsafe at home, what can you do? Frauenhäuser are women's* shelters that offer protection for those needing it. In 2019 a total of 729 places were available in six women's refuges, as well as refuge apartments and second-level apartments. They are now working intensively on "emergency accommodation for women* affected by violence in the event that the needs cannot be met by the women's shelters," writes press spokesman Moritz Quiske. But these cannot meet the demand. There seem to be an increasing number of self-made all-female* WGs.

Ekaterina Kropacheva, Feyza Sayman, Nikita Schweizer

1 Yan, 2018. Women Disproportionately Affected By Domestic Violence In Germany: Official Figures [online] Xinhuanet. Available at: <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-11/21/c_137620352.htm> [Accessed 11 July 2020].
2 Ratgeber.immowelt.de. 2020. Immobilien-Ratgeber - Nützliche Infos & Tipps Zu Immobilien. [online] Available at: <<https://ratgeber.immowelt.de/>> [Accessed 11 July 2020].
3 DW. 2017. Berlin 24/7: Germany's Capital Is Growing At An Alarming Speed | DW | 15.01.2017. [online] Available at: <<https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-24-7-germanys-capital-is-growing-at-an-alarming-speed/a-37105320>> [Accessed 11 July 2020].



This information graphics show the process of the research as overall narrative. Taking domestic violence as a starting point, statistics of domestic violence are presented. Rather than concentrating on the reasons and outcomes of domestic violence from family/partner; the research takes a position to bring the inexplicit situations of domestic violence into light. It takes Berlin's current housing crisis in center and evaluates this in a feminist perspective. How safe and affordable is renting in Berlin as a single/young women?

fem*MOBILITIES

A great amount of literature is provided on mobility and gender, drawing out two disparate trends of thinking. While one focuses on how mobility shapes gender, the other examines how gender shapes mobility.

The mobility research studies that focus on the differences between genders show the simplified conclusion that women have a more vivid movement pattern with many steps, while men mostly commute, moving from home to work and back again. This pattern can certainly not unconditionally be applied to all women in every society. We believe that mobility patterns are strongly connected to personal circumstances. The unbalanced distribution of care work and therefore the social roles imposed by most societies is what defines mobility behaviour, not biological gender.

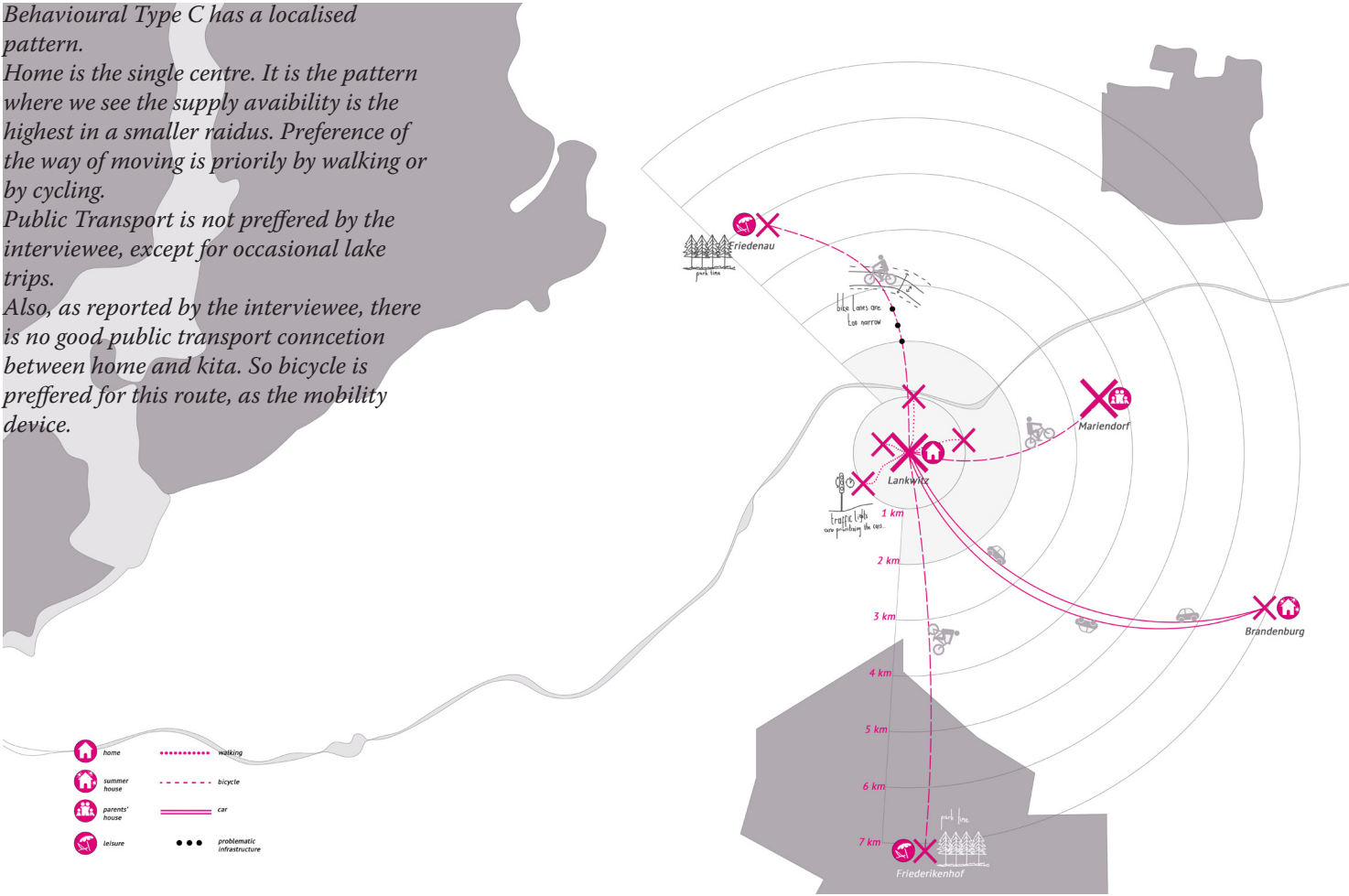
Most studies on mobility (and gender) are also not dealing with the spatial transfer of the findings. We believe that there needs to be a shift to research agendas that also take geographic, social and cultural but especially spatial contexts into account. Simply put, how do women shape mobility spaces in Berlin and how do mobility spaces in Berlin shape women’s mobility behaviour?

In our Berlin-specific research we found a set of parameters that are we felt were worth looking at in greater depth. First, how does the distribution of productive and reproductive work does play a role in mobility? The connection of this topic with the configuration of the direct living environment is very important. Second, multimodality and shared mobility are important trends that influence the mobility choices of women. Third the safety of all kinds of mobility infrastructure from bike lanes to streetlights or public transport spaces seems to have an enormous effect on how women move through Berlin.

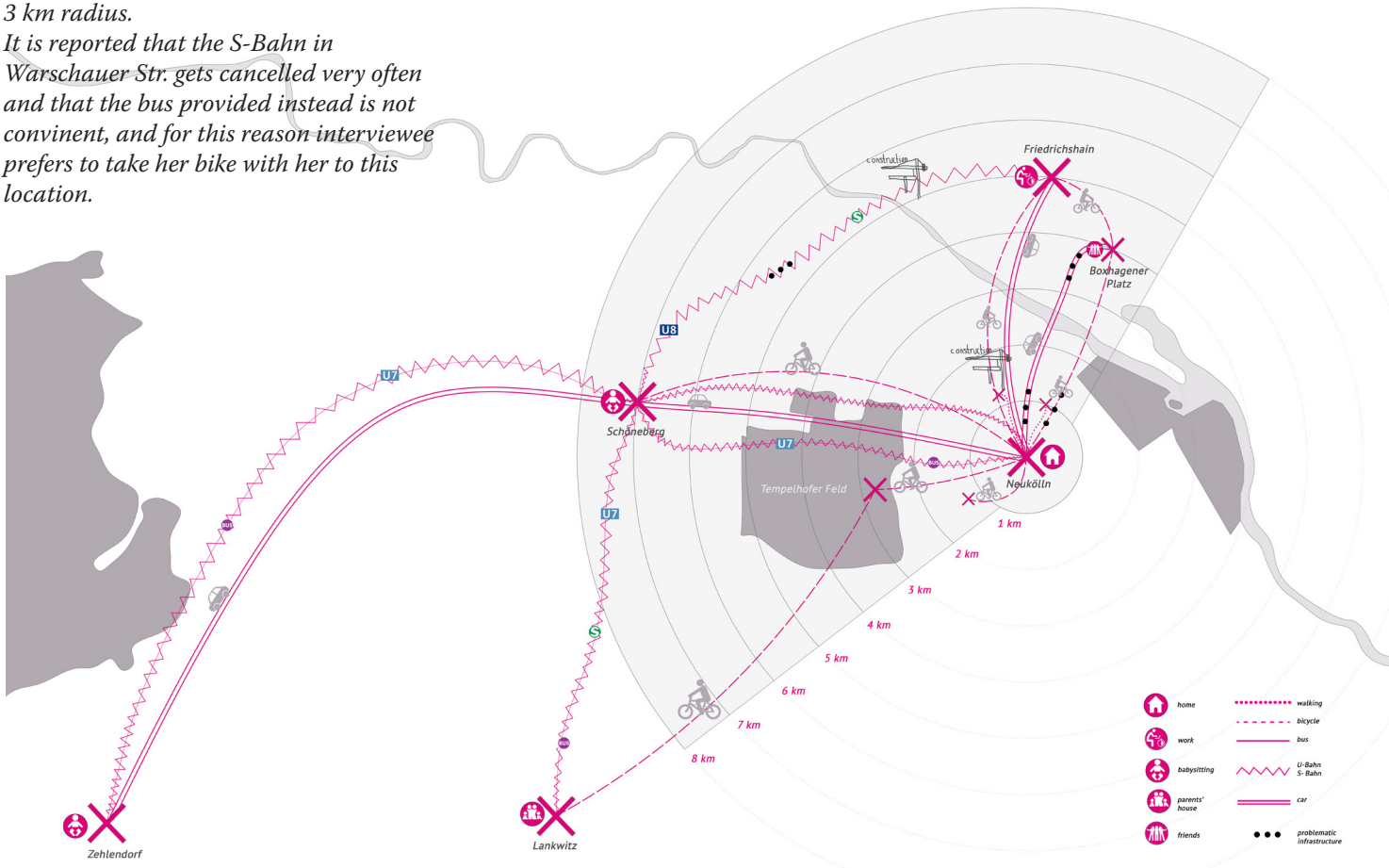
The fem*MAP Mobility is the result of the attempt to spatialize the topics we found in various interviews on the Berlin cityscape. In addition to that, we used other ways of mapping and visualising the complex relationship of gender, space and mobility in Berlin.

Reaching a more gender-sensitive perspective on space and mobility will help to improve existing infrastructure and help offer more equal accessibility to transport for all different groups.

Elif Civici, Jörn Gertenbach, Sena Gür, Jessica Voth



The behaviour is mostly run between home and the university. Other than that, more localised behaviour is present, mostly in a 3 km radius. It is reported that the S-Bahn in Warschauer Str. gets cancelled very often and that the bus provided instead is not convinient, and for this reason interviewee prefers to take her bike with her to this location.



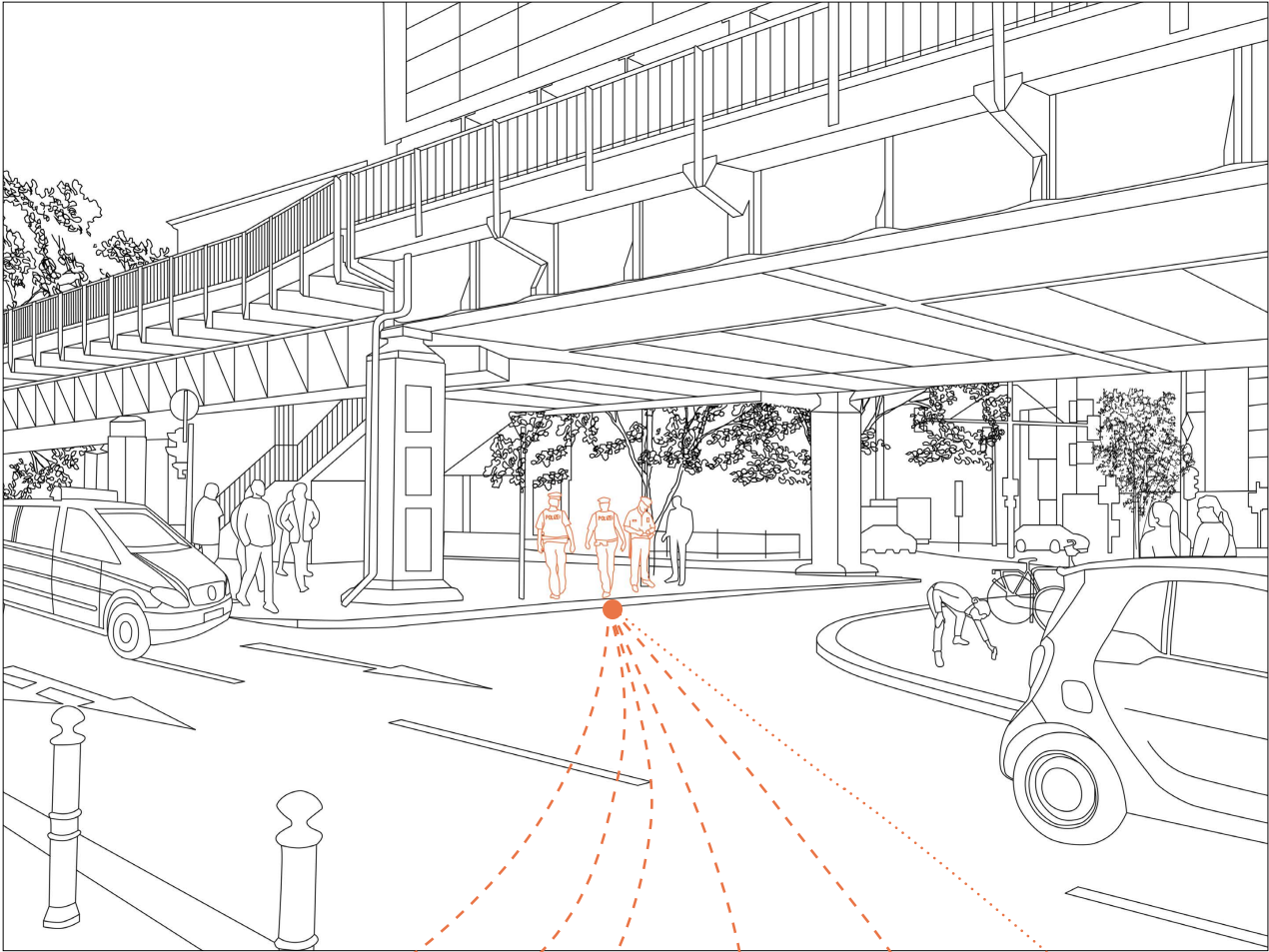
fem*PERSONAL SAFETY / KOTTBUSSE TOR

In recent years, Kottbusser Tor has been deemed by the Police as one of the “kriminalitätsbelastete Orte”, whilst U-Bahn stations Schönleinstrasse, and Görlitzer Bahnhof have become notorious as hotspots of drug abuse.

At the same time, this area of Kreuzberg is one of the most densely populated, popular, and lively areas in the district. Tourists, as well as residents, occupy the streets; whilst restaurants and bar seating spill out into the pavement.

In this atlas, we wanted to pose the questions:
Is Kottbusser Tor really an unsafe space?
What leads to a space being considered unsafe?
Is the *feeling* of danger a valid indicator of the true nature of the place or does it give us a biased view?

Donka Dimitrova, Elizaveta Mozalevskaya, Jelena Vukovic, Julius Hempen



Police Presence



Young woman



Middle aged woman



Senior woman



Women with child



Female Police Officer



Woman of colour

SAFE ——— VARIED ——— UNSAFE

fem*SPACES OF EXCLUSION

When we think about spaces of exclusion for women, we struggle for a moment. In Berlin, there are definitely spaces that are explicitly male-exclusive. However, the aim of our research is to highlight those that are more subtle than obvious. Those that are not explicit are the most common ones, contributing to the feeling of women’s social exclusion from regular daily activities. In order to achieve a wider understanding of these mechanisms, we began mapping spatial, social and behavioural patterns.

We conducted interviews, as well as reflecting on personal experiences that we came across in different contexts, locations and times of the day.

Our research questions on exclusive spatial theory approach are as follows:

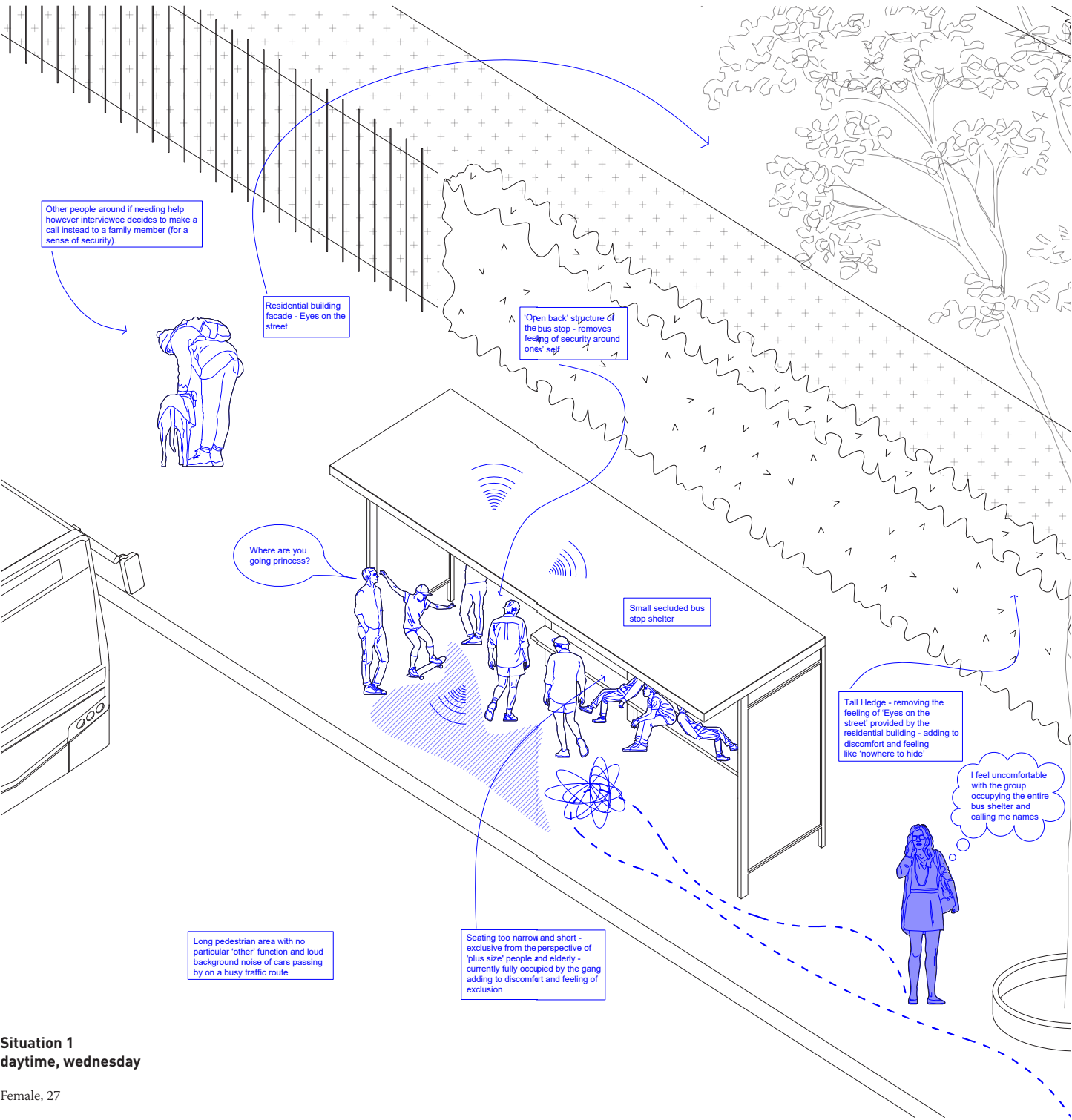
1. What spaces make you feel excluded?
2. What spaces make you feel implicitly and explicitly excluded*? Can you name an example for an outdoor and an indoor space?
3. Why do you feel excluded from those spaces? atmosphere/attitude/ furniture etc.
4. Do you think there are specific physical elements that make you feel this way? What are these?
5. How does this affect your perception of the surrounding area? How far does this perception reach (district, street etc)?
6. Describe the experience/space in detail.

From these interviews, we recognised two layers contributing to the feeling of exclusion: a spatial and a social layer. While analysing the collected data on a spatial level, besides some clear, solid examples, there were few physical elements that could be connected to most of the gender-specific situations. The objects, furniture or spatial layouts that were described as “excluding” from wom*n interviewees generated the same feelings in male and non-binary interviewees. Humans, initially seen as spatial elements, couldn’t be any longer considered only in their physical entity. The social agents and their actions resulted as having a much more direct effect on the space than initially thought.

On the social layer, the patterns that became clear highlighted a wider range of feelings that trigger the idea of exclusion, rather than the feeling of exclusion itself. Most of them resulted to be generated from the users and the use of the space involved in the situation. Therefore, it was relevant for the research purpose to show in detail not only the spatial configuration but to describe graphically the effects of the social layer on space and their users in a specific frame.

In conclusion, the aim of the research is to show that the consequences of spatial configurations alone on society are limited, and they can’t be disconnected from the social environment nor specifically grounded to a point on a map.

Edyta Baran, Viktoria Hevesi, Roberta Palma, Amir Hossein RezaeiCherati



Situation 1
daytime, wednesday

Female, 27

The interviewee is from Spain and has been residing in Berlin for 8 years. On a Wednesday afternoon, she leaves her part time job at an architectural office and heads to a nearby bus stop on foot in the neighborhood. She’s planning to go to the friend’s flat for a birthday party but has never been to this bus stop before.

Upon arriving to the bus stop, she begins to encounter feelings of exclusion. A group of youth occupies the relatively small bus shelter – placing feet on seating, expressing loud anti-social behavior, overtaking the space and making uncomfortable comments to the interviewee.

On frustration, the interviewee decides to leave the bus shelter after a couple of minutes and stands nearby while waiting for the bus. The reach of exclusional feelings reaches ‘street’ level at maximum and is concentrated at the bus stop and its immediate context. The feelings are removed with the arrival of the bus and upon embarking.

	ON	OFF
fear	●	○
isolation	○	●
anxiety	○	●
anger	○	●
stress	○	●
frustration	●	○
hesitation	●	○
discomfort	●	○
insecurity	●	○
embarrassment	○	●
being watched	○	●
being judged	○	●

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Chair for Urban Design and Urbanisation

TU Berlin 2021

www.cud.tu-berlin.de

Concept and Studio Organization

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