



My home is wider than my walls: mapping the decisions made
in the mixed-use housing cooperative Spreefeld to find how
the public realm outcomes are achieved

Australian-German Association and Goethe Institut Fellowship Report 2018

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July, 2019



Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Australian-German Association and the Goethe Institut Australien for providing me with this exciting opportunity. I feel incredibly grateful and proud to be awarded the Australian-German Association and Goethe Institut Fellowship in 2018. Thank you to the Fellowship committee for supporting my final research project in 2018 and for the opportunity to present my first attempt in 2017. I am delighted to share my experience and findings with the Australian community.

This project would not have been possible without the Spreefeld community and architects who were remarkably generous with their time sharing their expertise and opening up their world to me. My special thanks are extended to the staff of the Goethe Institut Berlin and in particular Jutta Schulze for her fantastic teaching methods that made learning the grammatically complex German language thoroughly enjoyable and for preparing me to conduct interviews in German.

I wish to acknowledge the help provided by Dr Anthony Duckworth for his guidance and useful critiques in interpreting the research data and structuring of this report. I would also like to thank Professor Geoffrey London, Ellen Ashenden and Professor Dr Joerg Baumeister for their suggestions during the planning of this project (during both of my 2017 and 2018 AGA-Goethe Fellowship applications) and for sharing valuable contacts with me that formed an integral part of this research. The advice given by the staff and thesis students at the Australian Urban Design Research Centre has also been a great help in providing research advice and data interpretation techniques.

A huge thank you Anna Chauvel and Shlomit Strum, the directors of PLACE Laboratory for affording me three and a half months away from work and for ongoing support in pursuing this project. I return to the studio in 2019 with a new wave of energy and enthusiasm!

Finally, I would like to thank my wonderfully supportive family and friends for their continuous advice and encouragement.

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Definition of terms

AGA: Australian German Association

Collaborative design: multiple parties actively engaged in a design process to realise an outcome together

Local neighbourhood scale: the area that is of walkable distance surrounding Spreefeld in the Mitte district

Participatory design: multiple parties passively involved in a design process

Precinct scale: the area inside Spreefeld's boundaries and some of the surroundings

Sense of community: the experience of community such as the feeling of belonging to a group, that people care for one another and witnessing positive social interactions

Study site: Spreefeld

Shared outdoor spaces: publicly accessible outdoor areas on the ground floor

German words

Baugruppe - build or building group

People pooling private funds together to realise a residential property, after which each party owns their share of the property, and the group terminates

Genossenschaft - (housing) cooperative

A legal term whereby its members run the cooperative jointly to share the benefits

About the author

One of my first experiences being exposed to German language and culture was through a German film, *Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei*, I was watching late one summer's night in 2013. Having grown up in a multicultural environment with many family members speaking a variety of Asian languages, I have always been fascinated with how foreign languages and cultures add richness and diversity in our ways of living, thinking and understanding. After watching *Die fetten Jahre sind vorbei*, I started teaching myself German with audiobooks, researching the grammar online and began an online language exchange with a high school student from Munich. Throughout my university years, I had been an enthusiastic traveller and visited Germany during my gap year before commencing my master's degree in architecture. I have experience working as a research assistant at the Australian Urban Design Research Centre, various casual teaching and mentoring roles for undergraduate and postgraduate students in architecture and urban design. Currently, I am employed at a landscape architecture firm, PLACE Laboratory, since 2017.

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Two social media accounts were created to document my journey in Berlin and the opportunities the fellowship experience brings back to home soil in Australia. It also acts as a platform that bridges both cultures together and promotes cultural discourse on topics related to cities, housing and public space. You can follow my journey here:

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Reflections on the exploration into the research topic and German endeavours

Returning home after 3 months in Berlin, I felt it was important to write a reflective piece on how my values have been shaped by the Australian and German rural and urban landscapes, which ultimately influenced me to form this research topic. It is of my belief that the places we live and connect with have a profound impact on how we view the world. My interest in this research lies in people directing their futures through deliberate decision-making towards what they believe to be for the common good. I look forward to reading about future fellowship winners and their contexts.

The Pilbara's influence

My enthusiasm towards the different ways people live in big cities stems from my curious nature as a person, which the rural and vast landscapes of Australia's Northwest (Pilbara) I experienced during my childhood probably had much influence. When my family and I moved to Perth in late 2008, I attended a public high school specialising in the arts and language. In 2010 I enrolled in a bridging course which admitted me into a bachelor of architecture in 2011. Motivated by enthusiasm and curiosity, I planned a three month independent trip to Germany to discover what it means to live in denser living environments before commencing my master's degree.

My first steps into Germany

During my gap year, I was selected along with sixty other international students to participate in the Osthang Project - International Summer School and Festival for Future Modes of Living Together led by Berlin-based architects, Raumlabor, which took place at the Mathildenhöhe in Darmstadt in 2014. During the three weeks, I participated alongside other students, architects, artists, activists and social and political scientists from Germany, Europe and different continents. Together, we took part in constructing temporary wooden structures that we used as platforms to hold public events and discuss experimental building and forms of living. The different ways in which people participated in the 'making' of the architectural and public spaces during the Osthang Project seemed to foster inclusive attitudes and new design innovations.

After the summer school, I enrolled in a six-week intensive German language course in Munich which enabled me to settle in one city for a reasonable period.

My desire to do so was to experience the daily and seemingly ordinary routines one would have in the Bavarian capital; taking the U-Bahn (train) to and from a set location every day, buying groceries from the small but numerous grocery stores, and walking through the streets lined with six-storey buildings. Having basic German skills allowed me to a certain degree live like a local and integrate into the new city. Through this experience, I developed an understanding of living in a city with a greater population density than Perth. More importantly, the ways how the buildings and built form interact with the public realm and how this influences one's experience in daily life.

Paths to the AGA-Goethe Fellowship

There is a strong sense of optimism particularly amongst many students in the architecture community that they can change something. Throughout my six years at architecture school, I explored different avenues in how I could apply my architectural knowledge, and I would eventually apply for the AGA-Goethe Fellowship twice. The Fellowship gave me the freedom to explore the possible meanings, values and impact working at the intersection between architecture, landscape architecture and research can offer people, places and society. Being in a creative profession, I found this sabbatical to be incredibly enriching, as it allowed me to discover new kinds of innovations and imagine new possibilities. Although applying for the AGA-Goethe Fellowship the second time was somewhat daunting, I wholeheartedly encourage anyone who would like to pursue a project in what they find important to apply.

Listening to people express their deepest vulnerabilities, moments of joy, feelings of safety and comfort from making and using the shared spaces in Spreefeld showed me that design is inherently a human act that extends beyond ourselves and that this research project was a worthwhile experience. Having the opportunity to directly learn from my role models in the intimate setting of the place they live and work to learn how Spreefeld came to fruition and function in a day to day setting formed a significant moment in my continuing education in the landscape architecture profession.

Introduction

The idea of this research topic formed while visiting Kristien Ring's Self-made City exhibition at the University of Western Australia in August 2016. The exhibition displayed self-initiated architectural projects in Berlin that employed collaborative design strategies, which allowed people to create architectural solutions that respond to the needs and lifestyles of the future users. Instead of designing architectural spaces, the idea of designing the process of how spaces are made came into the foreground, a strategy that makes design accessible and beneficial to diverse groups of people.

The co-housing project Spreefeld was chosen as it is acclaimed for its strong focus on shared spaces, fostering of social relationships and inclusive attitudes (Ring 2013). Spreefeld's collaborative design process and shared spaces offer many degrees of social interaction and fosters a sense of community and safety amongst residents and visitors from the wider neighbourhood. The design process allows spaces to be adapted to suit changing needs over time and providing spaces for people with different needs a place in the city. For example, spaces designed for children, multi-generational friendly spaces, or spaces that support environmentally conscious living. Users of the public realm spaces have reported significant financial, spatial and social benefits such as feeling welcome, safe and a sense of belonging while occupying those areas, for both residents and non-residents alike. The use of the shared spaces extends to the wider neighbourhood and promotes the development of creative ideas, non-profit organisations and positions public space as a fundamental component for cities to function as healthy and sustainable urban ecosystems. Participants of the collaborative design process have expressed increased feelings of compassion, empathy and tolerance towards other participants and users of the space by engaging in the co-creation of the shared outdoor spaces.

The research question for this report is, '**how are the public realm outcomes achieved through the collaborative design process of the self-initiated Spreefeld housing cooperative in Berlin?**' and was rethought upon my arrival in Germany as I had mistaken Spreefeld as a Baugruppe (building group) project that harnessed primarily participatory design methods. Although the Baugruppe model and Genossenschaft (housing cooperative) both employ participatory design methods, one significant difference between the two is that the foundation of the Baugruppe model is based on private ownership and the Genossenschaft is a model of ownership whereby the members of the cooperative own the project as a group. It was discovered that participatory design denotes

passive engagement by users in the design process and collaborative design characterises active engagement where players explore significant questions and attempt to find new solutions together.

This report narrates the AGA-Goethe travel fellowship experience that took place in Berlin between October 2018 and January 2019.

Goethe Institut Berlin

During my first four weeks in Berlin, I attended an intensive German language course every day at the Goethe Institut Berlin, where I studied alongside 12 international students in the B2.1 class from Europe, North America and Asia. The school was located in a charming old building in the city centre with students and teachers speaking German throughout the corridors and courtyards. Little English was spoken although the staff were happy to speak English if needed. It quickly became clear that the Goethe-Institut held a high standard and the school attracted many students serious in learning German.

The school had a range of support services, learning facilities and cultural events that contributed to making my time at the Goethe-Institut both an enjoyable and enriching experience. A wide range of books including German history, cookbooks from the GDR, art and architecture in Berlin, newspapers and a collection of language textbooks from a long list of publishers could be found in the self-learning centre. A typical day in the class would involve both cooperative and individual exercises. Cooperative exercises were interactive and engaging such as group games and role-playing in pairs, which promoted social interaction between students and group problem-solving. Each student presented a small presentation on their chosen topic, which gave the opportunity for students to research and discuss their individual interest and needs in-depth in German. Our teacher, Jutta Schulze, was incredibly supportive and extended her helpfulness by sharing YouTube video interviews and articles about Spreefeld to me and explained Genossenschaft specific concepts and architecture related vocabulary. In the four weeks of classes, I learnt how to talk about my research project and was particularly useful in recruiting and building a rapport with interview participants. With my advanced language skills, I could form relationships with people speaking German. There is something wonderful about sharing a part of yourself with another person in a foreign language and I am sure many of these friendships will be lifelong.

My now six-year journey learning German has shaped the way I think and respond to events in my native language. The B2.1 language course at the Goethe Institut changed the way I could experience Berlin by providing an excellent foundation for my three-month stay. It allowed me to have experiences and have access to a wealth of information that would not have been possible in my mother tongue. My experience at the Goethe Institut was multi-faceted in cultural and language education, and I look forward to continuing learning German.



Figure 1: Our B2.1 class enjoying Korean food after our last German class together



Figure 2: The self-learning centre offered a wealth of resources for German language, culture and history

Methodology

Research procedure

This research employed mixed methods to investigate the spatial dimension and the design process by combining an architectural exercise that mapped spatial usage patterns with a phenomenological approach that inquired the meanings of lived experiences during the collaborative design processes and using the public realm spaces. The mapping exercise visualised the observed and planned spatial and temporal use of the public realm spaces on ground level into two-dimensional maps and was conducted at the precinct scale. Historical and current maps at the local neighbourhood scale were collected to gain an understanding of the context of the study site. The investigation into the collaborative design process aimed to understand the nature, conditions and outputs. The benefit of drawing from these two approaches is that a spatial and social understanding could be understood that underpin the development and production of the public realm spaces within the society that these people inhabit.

Data collection process

Spatial data

A total of 7 spatial usage maps were drawn; 2 in the morning, 3 at midday and 2 in the afternoon. These times were chosen based on typical office hours and available daylight, which was approximately between 8:00am and 4:00pm. The mapping exercise took place at least once on a different weekday. This method had the advantage of observing the change of activity the private, commercial and communal areas of the buildings brought to the shared outdoor spaces.

The researcher assumed the role of a detached on-looker and carried out detailed analysis in the outdoor shared spaces focusing on observing patterns of social activity, user groups, movements of people and observed how the built form and open spaces promoted a sense of community. The mapping exercise began with the researcher walking around the entire site to gain an impression of the different outdoor areas. Following this initial impression, the researcher mapped human activity in the central courtyard for 30 minutes. This location presented good opportunities to observe and record activity as all three buildings could be seen including many openings to the private residences, commercial and community spaces. Written observations were recorded during and immediately after the 30 minute mapping exercise.

Process data

Semi-structured interviews

A total of 10 semi-structured interviews were conducted with 12 participants. This included 2 group interviews and 2 separate interviews with the same participant. All semi-structured interviews were audio-recorded with a mobile phone with notes of the time, place and emotional climates. It should be noted that only 5 people interviewed played a role in the decision-making process and only 3 of these people were members of the 82 person cooperative. The data collected was therefore not representative of the whole cooperative but rather capture the people who are active in the decision-making process.

The participants selected to take part in this research project were invited if they were involved in the design of the study project, the ongoing decision-making processes or were users of the shared open spaces. These criteria were chosen to gain an understanding of how the different types of decisions made from the beginning of the project with various groups of people influenced the design and ways people used the shared open spaces. The interviews were conducted primarily in English and occasionally had punctuations of German. Written consent was collected from all interviewees and their identities are concealed for ethical reasons.

The participants in this study were recruited from professional contacts in Australia and from snowballing techniques in Berlin, emailing potential participants directly and approaching people in the outdoor spaces of the study site. Unsuccessful methods of recruiting participants included door knocking and emailing all the members of the cooperative in a group email to which no one responded. Some people expressed they were too busy to be interviewed as it was close to the holiday season and because they are frequently asked by many people from Germany and other countries who wish to study the project.

Case Study

This research takes a self-initiated housing cooperative, Spreefeld, as a case study. Originally organised as a Baugruppe, the members of the core group decided to form a Genossenschaft instead to create a socially focussed project. Genossenschaften typically denotes good quality, affordable, long-term housing and became popular during the Industrial Revolution for its social and economic benefits. Spreefeld sets itself apart from typical Genossenschaften as one of their key principles is to maximise the opportunity for participation in the decision-making process with designers and other future users.

Created as a pioneer project, the Spreefeld cooperative is a response to the ongoing debate around the development of the Spree riverbank. Located in Berlin's central district, Mitte, and next to the major river that flows through the city, Spreefeld can be translated to the 'field by the (river) Spree'. Historically, the site experienced changes in its identity from being farmland, an industrial area and was a part of no man's land in former East Berlin after the war. The vacant land attracted investors who started to build exclusive developments on the Spree. Local urban activists campaigned in the 'Media-Spree Versenken' (Stop the Media City Complex) initiative against the privatisation of the riverbank to ensure public access to the river Spree. According to LaFond and Tsvetkova (2017, 65) Spreefeld aims to provide an alternative to typical housing developments by offering diverse ways to live, work, garden and improve access to the river.

Completed in 2014, Spreefeld has a site area of about 7000m² (Cohousing Berlin 2010) and consists of three apartment buildings with the ground floor and the areas surrounding the buildings accessible to the public with spaces such as a river beach promenade, a carpentry workshop, a kindergarten, multi-purpose community rooms, co-working spaces and community gardens. Currently, there are about 150 residents with 82 members in the cooperative. The remaining residents include about 35 children or teenagers, approximately 10 renters and other adult residents such as spouses or friends of the members. The residents are diverse in terms of the ages, lifestyles, needs, family structure and levels of income.

The project was initiated by local architect Christian Schöningh and in June 2007 the core group was established consisting of 14 members. The group expanded and in 2011 found about 30 more members, and by 2014 the cooperative of 82 members was established. Figure 3 illustrates the development of the cooperative and the significant milestones throughout the project.

SPREEFELD COOPERATIVE

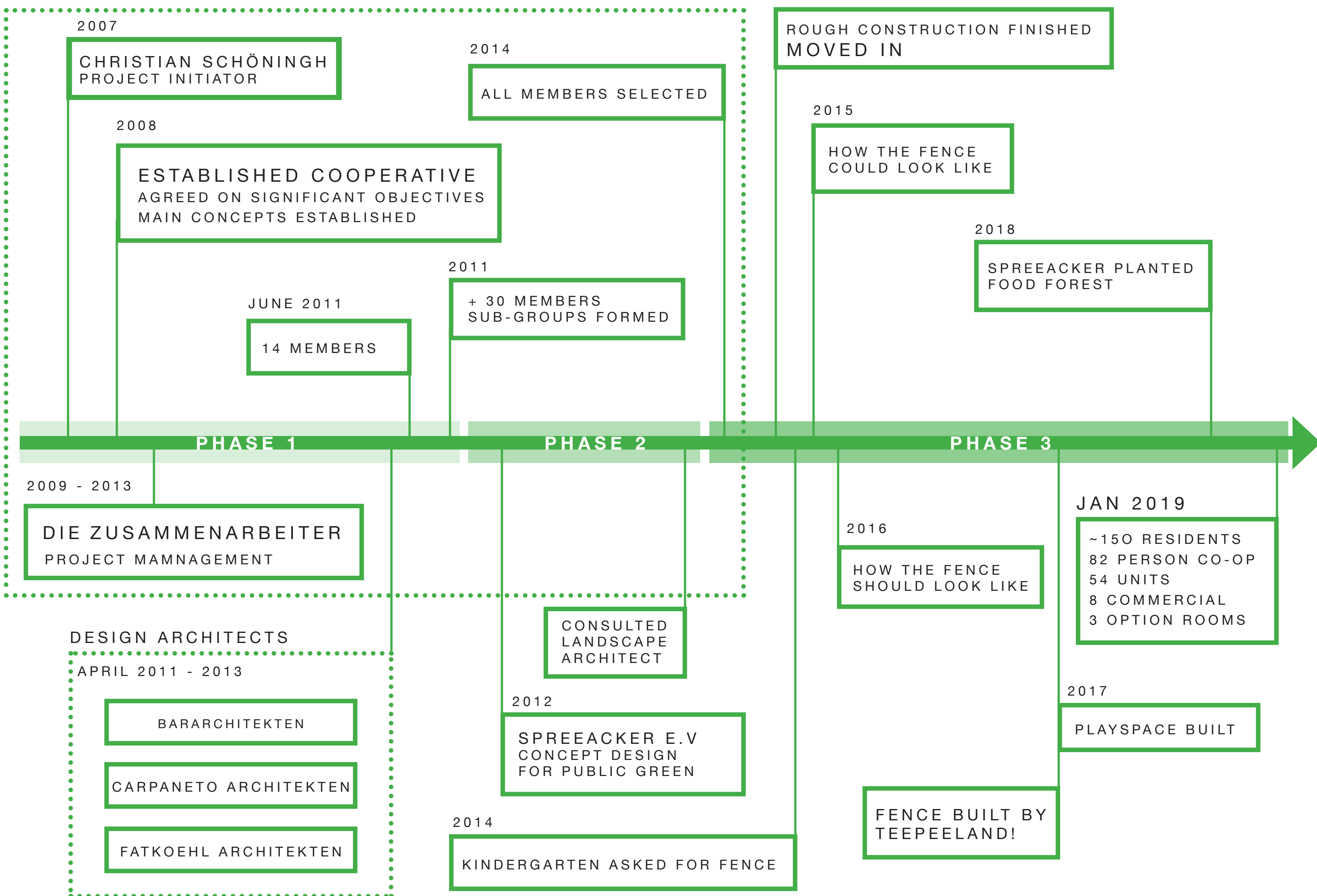


Figure 3: timeline of significant milestones in Spreefeld's development



Spatial analysis

Activity mappings

The data from each mapping session was quantified into individual tables and grouped into the times each mapping session was conducted; 8:30am, 12:30pm and 3:30pm. The data in the tables recorded each group’s approximate age and gender, the destinations recorded of where they were going to and from, the activities they carried out with supporting notes. The tables are helpful in understanding how the publicly accessible areas in Spreefeld functions and has the purpose of identifying patterns of pedestrian movement and activity in relation to the different areas in Spreefeld. An overlay of 2 main colours, pink and blue, were applied on the tables that indicated ‘wider neighbourhood connections’ and ‘internal neighbourhood connections’ for each group of people respectively. Variants of shades were applied that indicated communal outdoor, communal indoor, co-working and private residential destinations. As there was a small sample (7) of consistent mapping sessions, the results were understood as general indication of how the different spaces function and the social interaction possibilities they offer. The coloured categories were quantified for each table to identify any variation for each time period and then summarised to find the average for each time period to determine general trends. This was to find out the frequency each group was going to the communal outdoor, communal indoor, co-working and private residential areas and to differentiate distinctive activities for each session and the mean data.

Morning

Internal neighbourhood connections means people going from an area within the Spreefeld precinct and going to another destination within Spreefeld. Wider neighbourhood connections means people coming from outside Spreefeld and going to a destination within Spreefeld. 2 mapping sessions were conducted during 8:30am to 9:00am shown in table 1 and table 2. What stands out in table 1 and table 2 is that quite a high percentage of visitors from the wider neighbourhood visited the communal indoor areas and co-working areas. Table 1 illustrates that 27% of people from the wider neighbourhood visited the kindergarten and the co-working spaces at 8:30am on Tuesday. In table 2, almost half (44%) of the destinations were of people coming from outside Spreefeld to visit the kindergarten. The researcher’s written observations from the site visits records the kindergarten as a place that promotes a sense of community amongst families as it is a regular meeting place for parents to socialise with other parents. Many of the children who attend the kindergarten live within walking distance to Spreefeld, enabling those families to have a local amenity

where they can form relationships with people in their local community.

Noon

Table 3, table 4 and table 5 records the destinations and activities of people between 12:30pm and 1:00pm on 3 separate weekdays. In all three tables the most frequently visited destination was the communal outdoor areas with 15%, 31% and 26% of people from the internal neighbourhood visiting those destinations. Many of these people were coming from the co-working spaces and multi-purpose rooms. The internal courtyard and the river beach were the two destinations visited and were used mostly to eat lunch, socialise or to look out to the water. It was observed that most people gravitated towards the river beach and there was a mixture of people gathering in groups and enjoying the space by themselves.

Afternoon

What stands out in table 6 is that all of the recorded activities, besides leaving Spreefeld, were by people visiting from outside of Spreefeld, indicated by the pink overlay. In contrast to this, all of the activities recorded in table 7 are made by people within Spreefeld, indicated by the blue overlay. Interestingly, the correlation between both tables is the kindergarten. Where table 6 captures parents picking up their children from the kindergarten and table 7 shows the children playing in the courtyard with the teachers and some parents.

Morning

04.12.18 Tuesday 8:30AM

GROUP NO.	NO. OF PEOPLE	GENDER		AGE						FROM																	TO																	ACTIVITY									
		F	M	0-11	12-19	20-35	36-45	46-65	66+	A	B	C	10	12	14	OR1	K	OR2	12 O	OR3	14 O	Bins	BH	BE	PS	CY	A	B	C	10	12	14	OR1	K	OR2	12 O	OR3	14 O	Bins	BH	BE	PS	CY	Walk / Run	Cycling	Smoking	Talking	Playing	Eating				
1	3	2	1	1				2	3																									3										3									
2	1	1					1											1										1																									
4	1		1				1											1										1																									
5	1	1					1							1														1																									
7	2	2					2		2																											2										2							
8	1	1				1																												1																			
9	1		1					1	1																											1																	
10	1		1			1			1																											1																	
11	1	1				1			1																																												
12	1	1						1						1														1																									
13	1	1					1																																														
14	3	2	1		1		2							3														3																									
15	1	1		1			1		1																																												
16	1	1						1																																													
17	1	1				1								1														1																									
18	3	1	2		2		1		3																										3																		
19	2	1	1	1			1		2																										2																		
20	1		1				1										1											1																									
21	1		1				1										1											1																									
22	1 + dog	1					1		1																																												
23	1		1			1								1														1																									
24	1		1			1			1																																												
25	1		1				1							1														1																									
26	1 + dog	1				1																						1																									
27	3	2	1	2			1		3																																												
28	1	1					1										1											1																									
29	2	2		1			1		2																																												
30	1	1				1								1														1																									
31	7	5	2			7			7																																												
32	1	1	1				1							1														1																									
33	1		1				1																																														
TOTAL	48 + 2 dogs	30	18	7	1	16	19	1	4	28			11		3		3										16			3	1		14		4		9		1														
		63%	38%	15%	2%	33%	40%	2%	8%	58%			2%	23%		6%		6%									33%			6%	2%		29%		8%		19%		2%														

Table 1: summary of activity recorded between 8:30am to 9:00am on Tuesday

Legend:

A: entrance A

B: entrance B

C: entrance C

10: private residence 'house 10'

12: private residence 'house 12'

14: private residence 'house 14'

OR1: option room 1 (workshop)

OR2: option room 2 (movement room)

OR3: option room 3 (meet and eat)

BE: beach

BH: boathouse roof deck

CY: courtyard

K: kindergarten

PS: play space

	wider neighbourhood connections			
Entry / exit*	Communal (outdoor)	Communal (indoor)	Co-working	Residence
16/48	1/48	13/48	13/48	1/48
33%	2%	27%	27%	2%

	internal neighbourhood connections			
-	Communal (outdoor)	Communal (indoor)	Co-working	Residence
		1/48		3/48
		2%		6%

*total number of people exiting Springfield, regardless if they are residents or visitors

21.01.19 Monday 8:30AM

[illegible]

Table 2: summary of activity recorded between 8:30am to 9:00am on Monday

wider neighbourhood connections				
Entry / exit*	Communal (outdoor)	Communal (indoor)	Co-working	Residence
11/27	0/27	12/27	1/27	0/27
41%	0%	44%	4%	0%

	internal neighbourhood connections			
-	Communal (outdoor)	Communal (indoor)	Co-working	Residence
			1/27	1/27
			4%	4%

*total number of people exiting Spreefeld, regardless if they are residents or visitors

Noon

28.11.18 Wednesday 12:30PM

[illegible]

Table 3: summary of activity recorded between 12:30am to 1:00pm on Wednesday

07.12.18 Friday 12:30PM

[illegible]

Table 4: summary of activity recorded between 12:30am to 1:00pm on Friday

10.01.19 Thursday 12:30PM

[illegible]

Table 5: summary of activity recorded between 12:30am to 1:00pm on Thursday

wider neighbourhood connections

Entry / exit*	Communal (outdoor)	Communal (indoor)	Co-working	Residence
16/27	1/27	0/27	3/27	0/27
59%	4%	0%	11%	0%

internal neighbourhood connections

-	Communal (outdoor)	Communal (indoor)	Co-working	Residence
	4/27	1/27	0/27	1/27
	15%	4%	0%	4%

Afternoon

17.01.19 Thursday 3:30PM

GROUP NO.	NO. OF PEOPLE	GENDER		AGE						FROM														TO														ACTIVITY													
		F	M	0-11	12-19	20-35	36-45	46-65	66+	A	B	C	10	12	14	OR1	K	OR2	12 O	OR3	14 O	Bins	BH	BE	PS	CY	A	B	C	10	12	14	OR1	K	OR2	12 O	OR3	14 O	Bins	BH	BE	PS	CY	Walk / Run	Cycling	Smoking	Talking	Playing	Eating		
1	6	2	4	3		1	2										6										6																6								
2	2	2		1			1					2															2																2								
3	2	1	1				2				2																2																	2							
4	1		1			1				1																										1															
5	1	1					1					1															1																		1						
6	1	1					1			1																								1											1						
7	1		1					1		1																			1																		1				
8	1	1				1						1															1																		1						
9	1		1					1				1															1																		1						
10	2	2		1			1			2																																			2						
11	1	1				1				1																									1										1						
12	1		1			1				1																									1										1						
13	1		1			1						1																																1							
14	2	1	1				2			2																											2										2				
15	1	1					1			1																									1										1						
16	1	1					1			1																									1										1						
17	12	7	5	9		3						12																								12										12					
TOTAL	37	21	16	14	9	12	2			11	2	13	5				6										13			1				19	3			1					31	4		23					
				57%	43%	38%				30%	5%	35%	14%				16%										35%			3%				51%	8%			3%				84%	11%		62%						

Table 6: summary of activity recorded between 3:30am to 4:00pm on Thursday

14.01.19 Monday 3:30PM

GROUP NO.	NO. OF PEOPLE	GENDER		AGE						FROM														TO														ACTIVITY																			
		F	M	0-11	12-19	20-35	36-45	46-65	66+	A	B	C	10	12	14	OR1	K	OR2	12 O	OR3	14 O	Bins	BH	BE	PS	CY	A	B	C	10	12	14	OR1	K	OR2	12 O	OR3	14 O	Bins	BH	BE	PS	CY	Walk / Run	Cycling	Smoking	Talking	Playing	Eating								
1	4	2	2	4												4																													4					4							
2	3	2	1	2			1											3																										3					3								
3	1		1	1															1																								1					1									
4	1		1	1																					1																		1				1										
5	2		2	2												2																											2					2									
6	6		6				6									6																																									
7	1	1		1												1																											1				1										
8	1		1	1												1																											1				1										
9	3	1	2	2		1																			3																				3				3								
10	3	2	1	3																					3																				3				3								
11	1	1		1																					1																					1				1							
12	1	1		1												1																												1				1									
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19	2	1	1	1		1																																							2												
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27	1	1		1												1											1																							1							
28	2	1	1	2																																														2				2			
29	1		1	1																																														1					1		
TOTAL	59	29	30	41	1	4	12	1					1			22		4		6				5	21	12			1		1		6							9	30	32	5		4		29										
		49%	51%	69%	2%	7%	20%	2%					2%			37%		7%		10%				6%	36%	20%			2%		2%		10%						15%	51%	54%	8%		7%		49%											

Site mapping totals

TIME OF DAY	NO. OF PEOPLE	GENDER		AGE						FROM															TO															ACTIVITY									
		F	M	0-11	12-19	20-35	36-45	46-65	66+	A	B	C	10	12	14	OR1	K	OR2	12 O	OR3	14 O	Bins	BH	BE	PS	CY	A	B	C	10	12	14	OR1	K	OR2	12 O	OR3	14 O	Bins	BH	BE	PS	CY	Walk / Run	Cycling	Smoking	Talking	Playing	Eating
8:30 - 9:00 AM	75	59%	41%	19%	1%	27%	46%	3%	4%	55%			1%	2%	19%		18%		3%					2%			41%			1%	2%	1%		35%		4%		15%		1%				47%	54%		34%		
12:30 - 01:00 PM	88	38%	62%	1%		71%	24%	3%	1%	16%	7%	4%	8%	1%	14%	2%	2%	9%	8%	9%	14%			13%		32%	7%	4%	2%		9%		1%		9%	13%	2%		1%	20%		1%		84%	3%	11%	30%		1%
3:30 - 4:00 PM	96	53%	47%	53%	1%	17%	26%	4%		15%	3%	18%	7%		1%		27%		4%		5%			4%	18%	28%			3%		1%		19%		4%			2%			8%	26%		64%	10%		30%	25%	
TOTAL	259	50%	50%	24%	1%	38%	32%	3%	2%	29%	3%	7%	5%	1%	11%	1%	16%	3%	5%	3%	6%			5%	1%	6%	34%	2%	1%	2%	1%	4%		18%		6%	4%	6%	1%	1%	7%	3%	9%	65%	22%	4%	31%	8%	0%

Building neighbourhood connections

Time of day	internal neighbourhood connections				Entry / exit*	wider neighbourhood connections			
	Communal (outdoor)	Communal (indoor)	Co-working	Residence		Communal (outdoor)	Communal (indoor)	Co-working	Residence
8:30 - 9:00 AM	0%	0%	4%	2%	37%	1%	36%	15%	2%
12:30 - 01:00 PM	24%	20%	2%	0%	36%	4%	21%	4%	3%
3:30 - 4:00 PM	33%	5%	0%	2%	28%	2%	26%	4%	2%
Daily average	19%	8%	2%	1%	34%	2%	28%	8%	2%

Table 8: summary of all activity recorded at Spreefeld

Spatial results



Figure 4: key of areas in Spreefeld for activity mapping tables



Process analysis

This section questions what kind of decisions produce what kind of outcome and investigates the way of decision-making for the public realm areas in Spreefeld.

Mapping the key decisions with charts

Primary data in this section derived from the interviews with participants who were involved in the decision-making process and aimed to unpack how the public realm outcomes were achieved through the decision-making process. The data was first organised into tables that catalogue each key project decision. A series of charts were then created by plotting selected variables from the tables to find patterns that emerged. Participants involved in the decision-making process means participants may not have had decision-making power but took part or had influence in the decision-making process. The participants included were 1 design architect, 1 project leader architect, 3 residents, 1 kindergarten worker and 1 coordinator for the cooperative.

The interview to decision catalogue process

The interviews were transcribed by the researcher word for word to study the data in detail and to make it easier to recall non-verbal and verbal expressions during the interview. This helped to provide quantitative and qualitative analysis. The data was treated as a collection of documents that recorded a series of actions, the nature, conditions and outputs of the design process, and were unpacked to understand how the public realm outcomes were achieved and shaped. Key contextual factors were identified to be the main phases of the project, which was the conceptual and planning phase, construction phase and the post-move in (ongoing) phase. The conceptual and planning phase includes the period between 2008 and 2011 where the core cooperative group discussed and made a series of decisions that would eventually form the foundation and fundamental framework of the entire project. The construction phase denotes the period where the fundamental structures were being built from 2012 to 2013. The final phase starts from when the residents could move in at the beginning of 2014, at that point all members of the cooperative had joined, and is until the date when the interviews were conducted in late 2018. As the number of members in the cooperative increased over time, the phases also indicates milestones of when different kinds of people and the number of people joined. To understand how the process unravelled it should be looked at concurrently with the timeline of how the cooperative evolved shown in figure 3 on page 20.

Explaining the decision catalogue

Key decisions were identified and organised into the phase the decision was made. Possible quantifiable categorical results were searched for such as who made the decision, how collaborative the process was, motivation for the decision, type of decision, the public realm outcome it impacted, how much power the people had on the decision and the form of contract to realise the decision. Cataloguing the data was an iterative process and is beneficial in that it maps the direct influence the decisions and its contextual factors had in shaping the outcomes and orders the decisions in a chronological manner that allows the conditions, nature and outputs to be traced. The catalogue of decisions can be found in the appendix on page 88.

Who was involved in decision-making and how to read the charts

The people involved in the decision-making process were mapped against each project decision in the three phases of the project. Working group 1, working group 2 and working group 3 are small groups of cooperative members who design and build the interior of the 3 Option Rooms every year. Working group 4 is the garden group consisting of 5 active members who are involved in the planning and coordination of the communal open green spaces and two or three times a year approximately an additional 25 people participate in the maintenance of the garden and planting new plants. Working group 5 was a working group involved in the design of the kindergarten fence and working group 6 is one person who manages the events that take place in the Option Rooms. Several groups external to the cooperative took part in the decision-making process. Spreeacker is a non-profit community gardening association formed by the Spreefeld cooperative and includes about 20 people who are Spreefeld residents and people from the surrounding neighbourhood. External group 1 are people from Teepeeland, an informal settlement of squatters who live in teepees next to Spreefeld. External group 2 are staff members from the kindergarten who rent a space on the ground floor in Spreefeld. The commissioned architects are 3 architecture companies who designed one building each. The three phases were determined by grouping similar project milestones together. Phase 1 includes the concept design and planning phase where the fundamental project objectives were established. Phase 2 is the construction phase when the buildings and landscape were constructed to practical completion. Lastly, Phase 3 begins in 2014 when the residents moved in and includes the ongoing decisions made until December 2018 when the final interview was conducted for this research.

Charts

Chart 1: Who was involved in what decision?

Each key project decision was plotted against who was involved in the decision-making process, when it was made and whether it was a collaborative, participatory or individual decision and a design principle. During phase 1 and phase 2, only the cooperative and the commissioned architects were involved in the decision-making process. A fragmentation of decision-making can be observed in figure 5 during phase 3 with the introduction of active working groups both internal and external to the cooperative creates avenues for people with particular interests and needs to be able to explore and realise their ideas with a group of people. These different ways of making decisions and allowing multiple groups of people both internal and external to the cooperative to be part of the decision-making process, gives more people opportunities to influence the spatial outcomes that responds to the users' needs, wants and financial resources. This process promotes inclusive spaces and attitudes, resulting in spaces that are more likely to be used, respected and valuable to the user.

The nature of collaborative decision-making involves people working together actively to create something meaningful and the majority of the decisions made throughout all the phases were made in a cooperative manner. This includes both big and small decisions. The place principles were determined collaboratively at the beginning of the project involving the members of the cooperative. This means that the cooperative ultimately drives the project according to what they find important and all other decisions should adhere to these principles. Smaller decisions such as choosing what trees to plant were also conducted collaboratively, making the garden spaces more meaningful to the users of those spaces.

It can be understood, particularly in the first phase, that a series of decisions were made to create a foundation that permits the creative process to occur formally and informally beyond the 'completion' of the project. The nature of collaborative decisions demands a clearly defined realm for people to make decisions and for players to have a clear role in the decision-making process. This is likely to imply a strong connection between the collaborative decisions in the first phase with the importance of those decisions, as the nature of participatory decisions do not require active contribution and therefore runs the risk of increasing the costs of the project due to those decisions not being relevant or taking too long. On the opposite end of the spectrum, phase three offers the possibility for experimentation and different modes of decision-making. As the people who made decisions collaboratively had an immediate and direct influence in shaping the spatial outcomes, those spaces considered the needs

and wants of the users, promoting the usability of those spaces and therefore the likelihood they will get used. By making big and small decisions collaboratively, the project is planned for long-term use instead of short-term planning. The nature of working in groups of people requires people to be open to listen and consider other's peoples' opinion, fostering empathy and tolerance amongst participants.

Chart 2: What motivation for each project decision impacted each outcome?

Figure 6 shows the total number of project decisions and their corresponding motivations for the relative spatial outcomes. The motivations of the decisions were grouped according to who they benefited; the individual, the cooperative or the wider community. The spatial outcomes were grouped by typology; building, productive green, play spaces, social spaces and open outdoor spaces.

It can be seen that most of the project decisions were driven by motivations that benefited the wider community and only 3 decisions were driven by individual demands. It is clear that many of the decisions for the public realm are geared towards contributing to something positive to the city at large. It should be noted that the roses and apple garden shares the same space with the kindergarten play space and therefore some decisions intended for the kindergarten play space impacted the roses and apple garden involuntarily.

The most striking result to emerge from the data is that 36% of the total number of decisions for the productive green spaces were motivated to contribute to something positive for the wider community. This shows that productive gardens can be of great benefit to neighbourhoods. As the productive green spaces were decided by the users, they have a greater chance to be used and valued by that community. An interview participant mentioned the beauty of the green spaces throughout the seasons, "I really like this (nature)...it changes a lot to really show time. Just because there are 25 kids outside everything. And the underground and the earth changing a lot and it already changed and flowers are moving. It's super interesting! It's so beautiful in summer it's so, so beautiful!". The variety of plants promotes a sense of wonder and allows adults and children to be in touch with nature and directly witness the change of seasons.

The two most frequent motivations were social engagement and social inclusivity. Users of the public realm spaces have reported feeling safe, comfortable, welcoming and perceived diversity amongst residents and visitors at Spreefeld. The kindergarten play space, butterfly garden and option rooms were all mentioned to be spaces that regularly brought diverse people to Spreefeld and promoted a sense of belonging.

Chart 3: Total number of project decisions counting how each outcome was sourced

Figure 7 shows who sourced the spatial outcomes, which means who realised those spaces, and the total number of project decisions those groups of people realised for each spatial outcome. The variables in Figure 7 were organised by grouping the different people from the most individual to the most cooperative form on the y-axis. The x-axis organises the spatial outcomes by typology and are arranged by spaces with the most defined uses to the left and the most open spaces to the right. The groups of people included 'internal community resource' defined as Spreefeld residents (cooperative members and non-members), 'local community resource' which are people living in the local vicinity such as workers occupying the ground floor spaces and neighbours, 'external contracted' who are people that generally have no immediate relationship with Spreefeld and are contracted to do a job, and individuals who may belong to any of the above categories but operated separately to the group.

A clear trend can be observed in Figure 7 where the more cooperative forms of sourcing represent the majority of decisions for the public realm spaces. 74% of project decisions were realised by the internal community resource, 21% of project decisions were accomplished by the local community resource, and only 4% and 1% of project decisions were accomplished by external contractors and individuals respectively.

From this chart, it can be seen that the internal community resource is quite 'hands on' in realising the public realm spaces and is clearly driving the project outcomes. These results suggest that the residents were quite active in the practical making of the spaces and can be seen as a form of individual and group expression in the practical output of those spaces. This could translate to the needs, wants and financial resources of the group and has benefit in that it serves a common purpose that the group has decided on. 9 out of 13 spatial outcomes included the local community and internal community to realise those outdoor spaces, providing an opportunity for the residents to interact with their neighbours and to allow the wider community to find their own place in Spreefeld.

Chart 4: What decision impacts what outcome and when?

Figure 8 compares the spatial outcomes and the project decisions according to the phase those decisions took place. What is interesting about the data in this chart is the number of decisions made to realise each outcome can be traced. The more decisions an outcome has attached to it, particularly in phase 3, shows the ongoing development of a spatial outcome. For instance, the roses and apple garden, which shares the same space as the kindergarten play space, has 7 decisions combined in phase 3. The decisions made in phase 1 largely reflect place objectives, which describes project aims. In 2014, at the beginning of phase 3, the kindergarten did not have a dedicated play space and only had a single sandpit for the children. This space was essentially the roses and apple garden, which included the sandpit. The case with the kindergarten play space and roses and apple garden illustrates the ongoing decisions made to make those spaces more usable. Prior to the dedicated play space enclosed by a fence, the children would often not play outside due to the safety risk the river posed to the young children. Interestingly, the decisions made third phase seems to be a significant aspect to the usability of the spaces. It gives the opportunity to 'test out' how those spaces are used in real life and allows the objectives established in phase 1 to be shaped and improved upon according to immediate needs and wants.

The chart also illustrates the fundamental decisions made that were required to achieve the social outcomes of the project. 5 decisions had been selected by the researcher in the first phase based on if those decisions enabled other important decisions. 4 out of 5 were place principles, which by nature of the decision provides a framework for other decisions to meet. The decision to become a Genossenschaft from a Baugruppe was fundamental for the entire organisation of the people, spaces and way of living and decision-making. Baugruppe is a model of individual ownership and Genossenschaft is a model of common ownership. Having a focus on common goods is key to the democratic practices of creating communal spaces. Without this focus, the security of creating communal spaces together lies only with the individual.

Chart 5: Where does the power lie?

Figure 9 presents how much decision-making power each decision-making group had. Different levels of decision-making power was identified to be suggesting, informing and determining. ‘Suggesting’ means people’s decision-making power is limited to put forwarding an idea for consideration. ‘Informing’ is defined when people give essential information such as facts or specialised knowledge and ‘determining’ means people have a direct and immediate influence in the outcome of the decision. It is apparent in this chart that although there are many groups that are involved in the decision-making process, the cooperative has the most power and is driving their own project. The ‘cooperative’ consists of 82 members and only people who attend the voluntary events to make decisions, such as workshops and meetings, can practice decision-making. Therefore the people who attend the most workshops and meetings and are active in those events have the most power. Some other conditions to decision-making power lies in the individuals’ own ability to present their ideas well and their relationships with the other decision makers. The importance of a decision is also a factor in how a consensus can be achieved. For instance, working group 4 has been granted decision-making power for choosing what trees to plant without the cooperative’s approval because another decision had been made in phase 2 that the types of plants should reflect those in a productive garden. Other decisions require a simple majority vote amongst the cooperative and some decisions require a minimum number of people to attend the meetings and a minimum percentage of ‘yes’ votes. Decision-making power is also given to certain people by way of a democratic vote. A board and advisory board has also been established where a few members of the cooperative take on those roles. The roles of those people are defined by the cooperative and they have significant decision-making power and responsibilities.

Different levels of decision-making power gives opportunities for more people to be a part of the decision-making process based on their ambition and interest level. It allows people who have a strong interest in creating communal spaces together and people who prefer to be a part of the phenomenon but not deeply involved to be included. This makes the decision-making process more inclusive and inviting.

Process results

Definitions of collaborative and participatory design

It became clear that the manner in which people involved themselves in the decision-making process defined the decision as a collaborative or participatory act. Participatory design can be defined as the action of taking part in the decision-making process and choosing to experience the phenomenon in one’s own way, “Participation would change something but...it’s just one phenomenon, but it’s not really the reason why things change.” This means that participation can be a passive activity such as listening and is therefore typically not an active contributor to change something or to innovate. Collaborative design can be defined as working jointly together in a design project. The nature of collaborative design, in contrast to participatory design, is that it involves active engagement amongst the collaborators who are exploring a problem and creating solutions together. Figure 10 on page 58 illustrates the attributes involved in participatory design and collaborative design.

Decision-making power and influencing factors

Being involved in the decision-making process has been defined as people taking part or influencing the decision-making process and do not necessarily have power to make decisions. Only members of the cooperative can make decisions but decision-making power is extended to nominated and local groups of people such as people from the wider neighbourhood, the Spreeacker community gardening group, the commissioned architects and workers who share the ground floor spaces such as the kindergarten. In the third phase, cooperative members can make decisions at monthly meetings where people attend on their own free will. There is quite a large interest in taking part in decision-making where about 30 to 40 people out of the 82 person cooperative attend every month.

Who was involved in what decision?

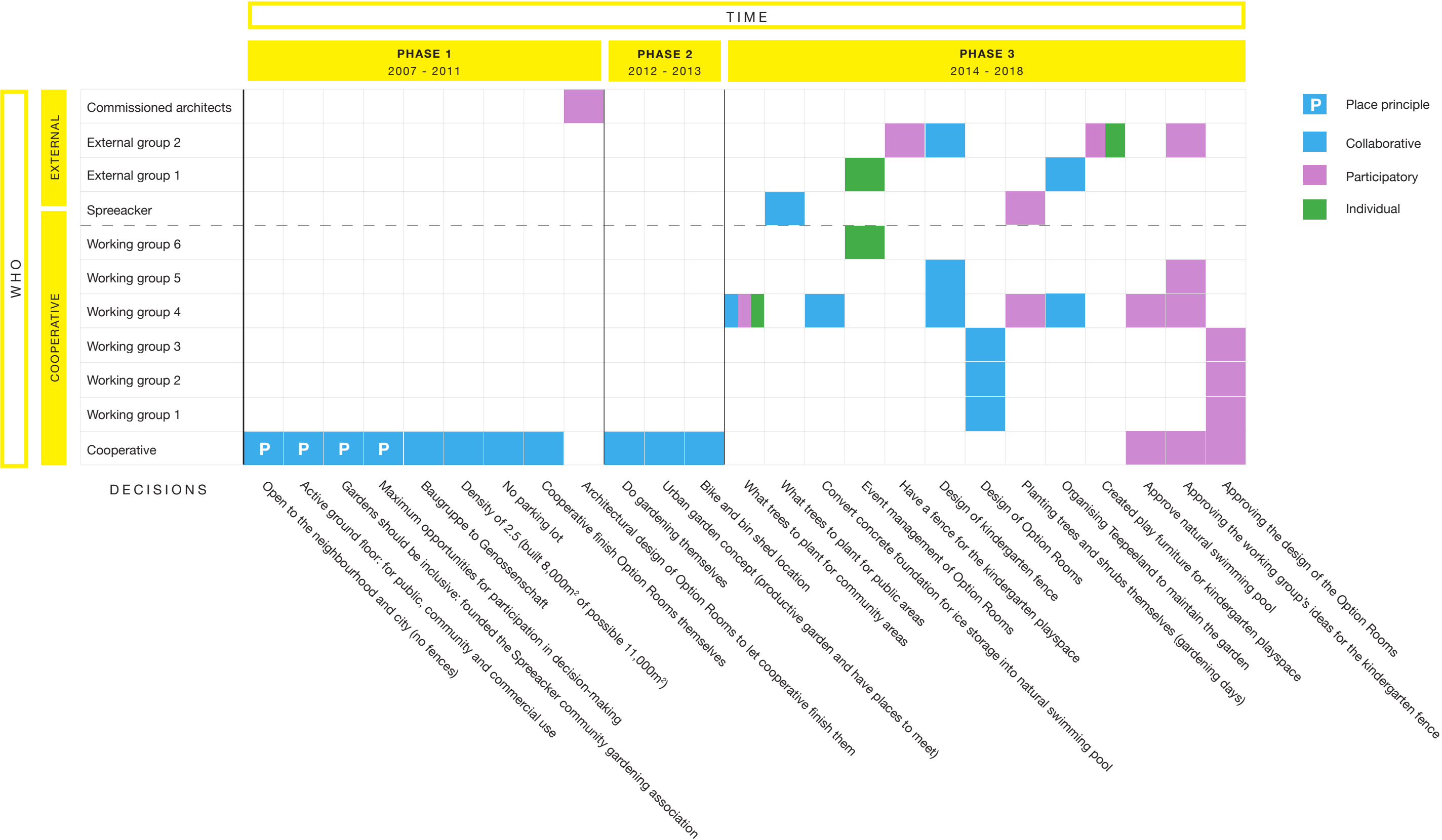


Figure 5: Chart 1 shows the who was involved in the key project decisions, when they occurred, and how they were made



Number of project decisions for each motivation per public realm space

Figure 6: Chart 2 counts the total number of project decisions and what motivations on the y-axis impacted each outcome on the x-axis

Total number of project decisions counting how each outcome was sourced

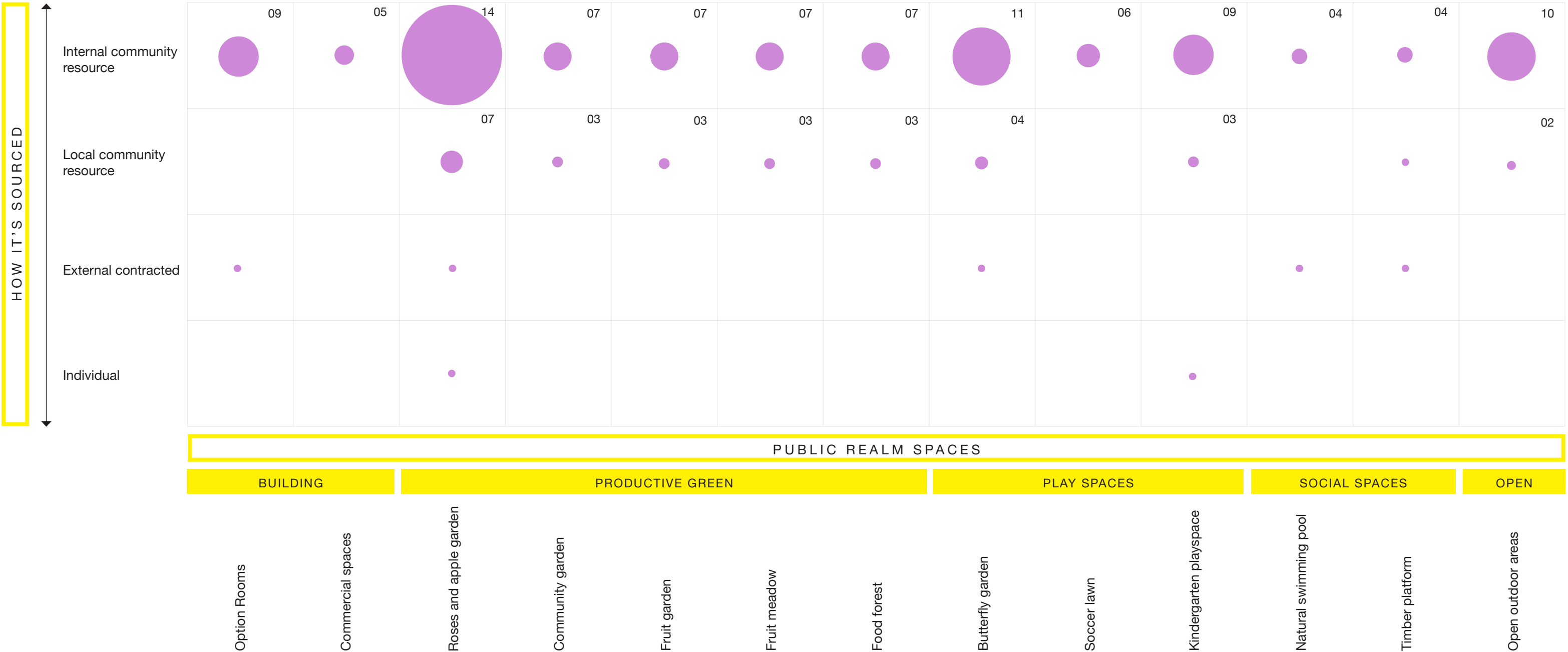


Figure 7: Chart 3 counts how each spatial outcome was sourced (made) by each decision

What decision impacted what outcome and when?

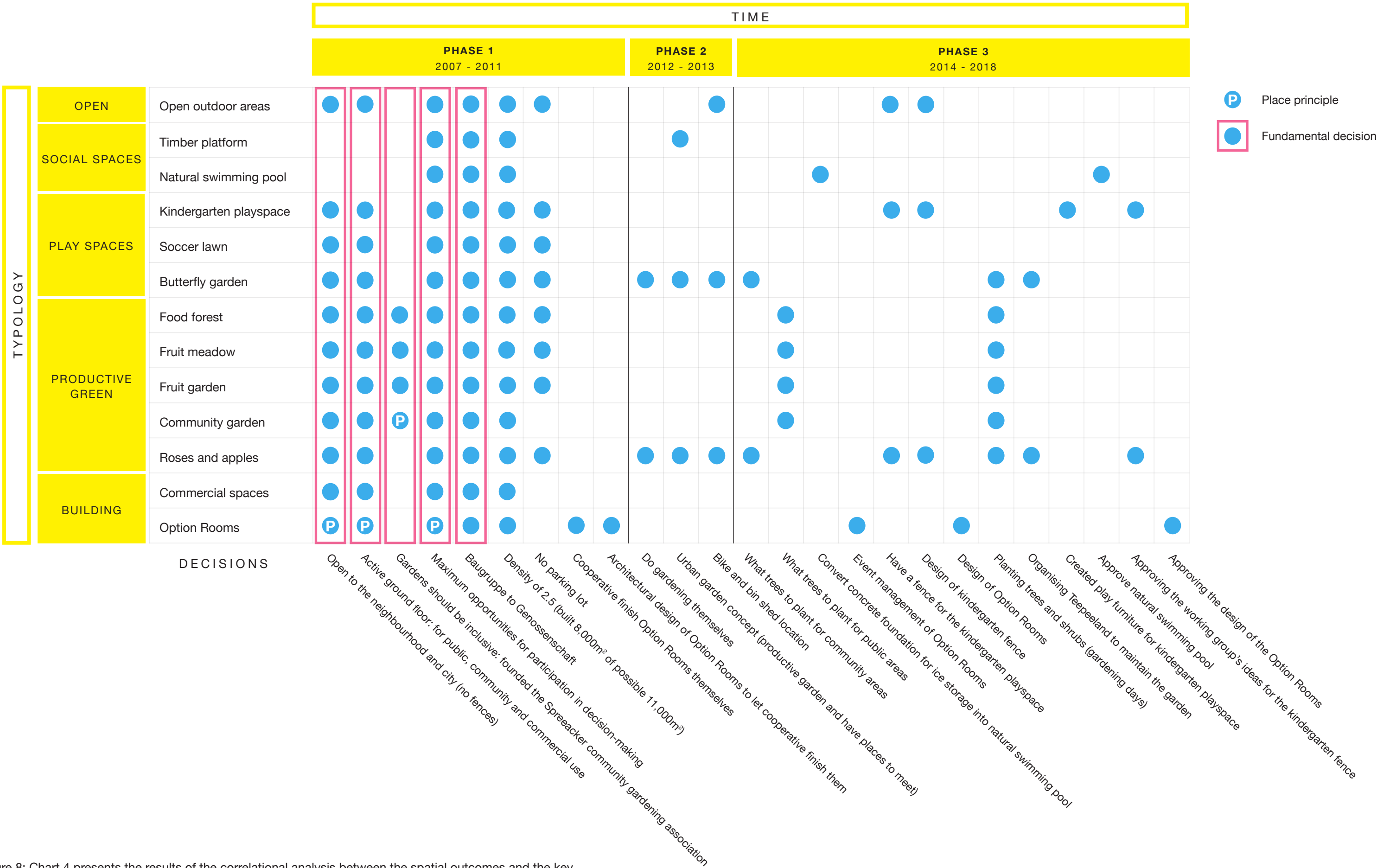


Figure 8: Chart 4 presents the results of the correlational analysis between the spatial outcomes and the key project decisions organised by the project phase the decisions took place

Where does the power lie?

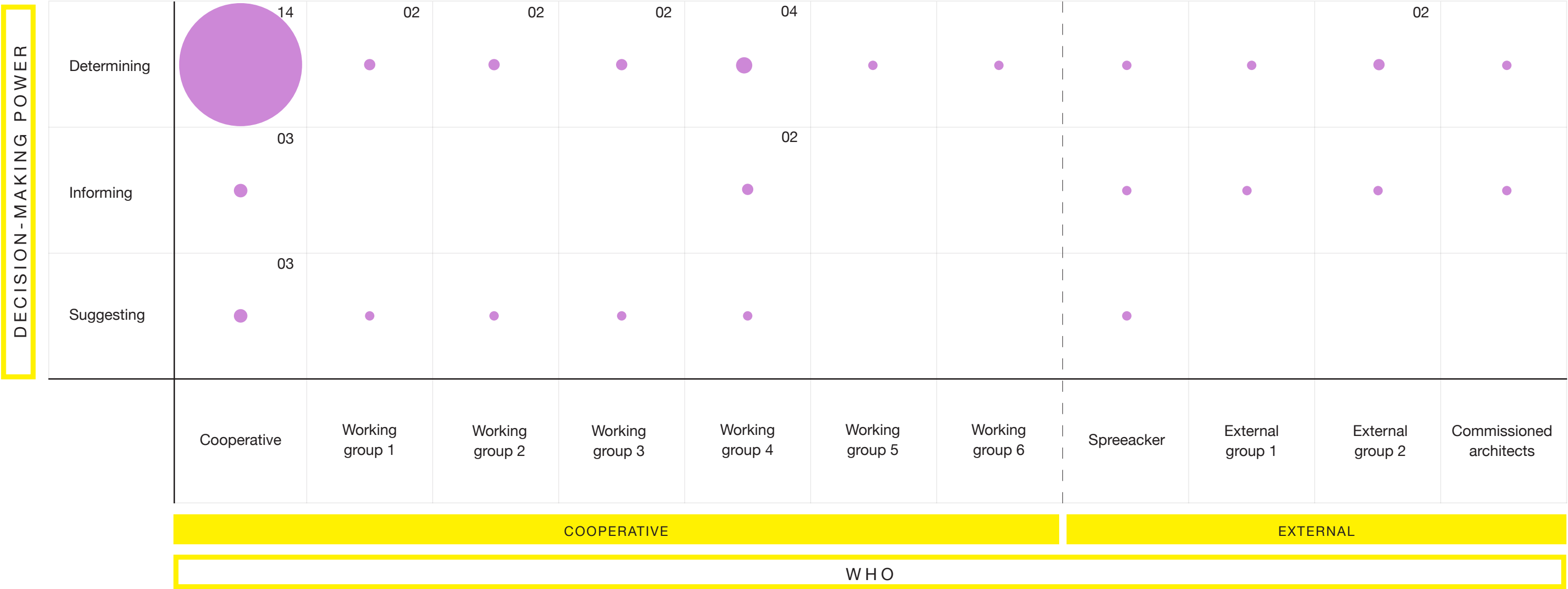


Figure 9: Chart 5 illustrates who has the most power in terms of decision-making and influencing outcomes

WAYS TO MAKE DECISIONS

CRITERIA OF PARTICIPATORY DESIGN:

1. THE PARTICIPATOR BEARS NO OR MINIMAL RISK FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE DECISION
2. THE ROLE IS ALREADY ASSUMED BY ANOTHER
3. THE PARTICIPATOR WORKS WITHIN THE REALM ALREADY DEFINED
4. THE PARTICIPATOR HAS THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE HOW MUCH THEY PARTICIPATE
5. THE PARTICIPATOR HAS A LIMITED INFLUENCE ON THE OUTCOME OF THE DECISION

CRITERIA OF COLLABORATIVE DESIGN:

1. THE CONTRIBUTOR BEARS A RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OUTCOMES OF THE DECISIONS
2. THE ROLE OF EACH MEMBER IS DEFINED BY THE WORKING GROUP
3. THE ROLE OF THE WORKING GROUP IS DEFINED BY THE COOPERATIVE
4. PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TO SEARCH FOR AN UNDERSTANDING, MEANING, SOLUTION OR TO CREATE SOMETHING
5. PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TO EXPLORE SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS OR CREATE MEANINGFUL PROJECTS
6. NEW KNOWLEDGE IS LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS AND THE OUTCOME IS AN EXPRESSION OF THOSE WHO WERE PART OF THE PROCESS
7. RE-DEFINES TRADITIONAL WAY OF ARCHITECT-USER RELATIONSHIP

Figure 10: this poster explains the difference between participatory design and collaborative design

Conclusions

In summarising the lessons learnt from speaking with the creators and users of the Spreefeld Genossenschaft, their personal experiences were distilled into cataloguing how the collaborative design decisions were made and the resulting spatial, social and financial outcomes. Above all, the decisions reflected acts of working together for a common purpose and benefit to the members of the housing cooperative and the wider neighbourhood. A multitude of lessons was learnt from the AGA-Goethe Fellowship experience; beyond the academic component of the fellowship, I have found enormous value in taking this sabbatical. From living in Berlin for three months, my definition of creativity has expanded to appreciate other forms of art (for example, language, dance, street music, theatre, light, protesting) that challenged my concept of what is possible and the effect from human self-expression. The significance of this in relation to creating urban spaces is that having the ability to share and understand the feelings of another vital to produce spaces that more people can relate to.

This study has identified that the form of ownership, in this case, shared ownership, has many benefits for the design process and outcomes. The findings suggest that shared ownership creates a place for a society, rather than the individual, as it must respond to the complex interrelationships within a group of people. Exercises in collaboration design and decision-making require empathy and tolerance in order to progress and create something of value from the opinions of the participators. Making decisions collaboratively on all scales contribute to the usability of the spaces those decisions affect and allow self-expression in urban places, helping to create local identity. Group decision-making can also be a form of protection from fast, impulsive and one-dimensional reactions. Early decisions are a kind of security that help form the overarching principles and direction for the project, which means possible future influences make it difficult to change these principles as any changes must have the approval of all members.

The findings of this study suggest that participatory and collaborative design processes must be designed to be effective. Embracing process-oriented development has shown to have the benefit of flexibility and diversity in the spatial outcomes, which enables people and places to respond to future situations. In Spreefeld, architects designed the realm of decision-making in which residents could contribute for the purpose of making the most of peoples' skills and time. Members of the cooperative should be encouraged to form their own groups and take ownership of spaces. Further research in this field of study could be useful in exploring effective ways to make decisions in groups and

comparing Spreefeld with a typical neighbourhood development. In collaborative design discourse, using the correct terminology is important in understanding the possibilities and limitations of design processes and realistic outcomes, specifically 'participatory' and 'collaborative' design. Indeed the process of discussion to realise ideas within a group is by nature, emotional and slow. Nonetheless, the beauty of collaborative design comes down to some of life's simplest pleasures and fundamental needs; sharing. Human beings depend on contact with others and share in many forms. The collaborative design gives opportunities for people to share parts of their lives, resources, spaces and an understanding of one another, promoting a sustainable way of living and more tolerant society.

Melissa Soh
01.07.19

Resources for further research

Berlin Online Mapping Resource

FIS Broker (*in German*)

<https://fbinter.stadt-berlin.de/fb/index.jsp>

List of Architects

BARarchitekten (*in German*)

<http://bararchitekten.de/projects/sfb.html>

Carpaneto Architekten (*in German*)

http://www.carpanetoschoeningh.de/carpaneto_schoeningh_architekten/neubau___spreefeld.html

Die Zusammenarbeiter (*in German*)

<http://www.zusammenarbeiter.de/projekte.php?ID=49>

Fatkoehl Architekten (*in German*)

<https://fatkoehl.com/housing/spreefeld-berlin/>

Cohousing

Cohousing Inclusive

<https://cohousing-inclusive.net/the-book/>

Cohousing Online Platform

<http://www.cohousing-berlin.de/en/node/1037>

EXPERIMENTDAYS

<https://experimentdays.de/2018/about/>

Spreefeld Tours

<https://id22.net/en/projekte/>

Spreefeld

Architects collective draws affordable housing plan for Berlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWw6l3sCCgl>

Berlin: Spreefeld

<http://bennieontheloose.com/berlin-spreefeld>

Building Portrait: Spreefeld, Carpaneto Schöningh Architekten

<https://vimeo.com/187312063/0364a39fcd>

Coop Housing Project at the River

<https://www.archdaily.com/587590/coop-housing-project-at-the-river-spreefeld-carpaneto-architekten-fatkoehl-architekten-bararchitekten/>

China Teatime [007] Architektur Trends in China und Deutschland (*in German*)

<https://vimeo.com/242210899?ref=fb-share&1>

Das Projekt Spreefeld - Wohnen in Clustern (*in German*)

<https://www.ardmediathek.de/ard/player/>

Ein Haus für alle Lebenslagen (*in German*)

<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/architekturpreis-2016-berlins-beste-bauten-ein-haus-fuer-alle-lebenslagen/13503998.html>

Gemeinschaft oder Ghetto (*in German*)

<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/kultur/architektur-gemeinschaft-oder-ghetto-1.2701850>

Gemeinschaftlich Wohnen: Cluster-Wohnung Spreefeld

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Asuwvi0t0>

Genossenschaft Spreefeld in Berlin (*in German*)

<https://www.bauwelt.de/themen/bauten/Deutsche-Architekturzentrum-DAZ-Spreefeld-Berlin-2172539.html>

Reinventing density: how baugruppen are pioneering the self-made city

<http://theconversation.com/reinventing-density-how-baugruppen-are-pioneering-the-self-made-city-66488>

SELF-PLANNED, SELF-MANAGED: A model for affordable, quality housing in Berlin

<http://www.uncubemagazine.com/sixcms/detail.php?id=14819803&articleid=art-1416311762005-c3521afb-0372-4ff8-80a1-403449dc3af7#!/page40>

Spreefeld Bau- und Wohngenossenschaf

<https://psh.urbamonde.org/#/en/community/23>

SPREEFELD Berlin MATERIALSAMMLUNG 2012 - 2014 (*in German*)

<http://cosmosfilm.de/index.php/?/project/spreefeld/>

Spreefeld - Cooperative Housing with Public Access
<https://cooperativecity.org/2017/08/02/spreefeld/>

Spreefeld Genossenschaft
<http://spreefeld-berlin.de>

Spreefeld Genossenschaft, Berlin
<https://righttobuildtoolkit.org.uk/case-studies/spreefeld-genossenschaft-berlin/#>

Spreefeld housing cooperative: Berlin, Germany
<https://clubblog.wordpress.com/2017/06/17/spreefeld-housing-cooperative-berlin/>

Spreefeld: Third Way on the Spree?
<http://www.exberliner.com/features/people/third-way-on-the-spree%3F/>

Wie die Baugruppe Spreefeld lebt (*in German*)
<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/experimentelle-wohnformen-in-berlin-wie-die-baugruppe-spreefeld-lebt/12339808.html>

References

All data used for this report was collected by the researcher unless stated.
For a copy of the interview transcripts please contact the researcher on
melissasoh@icloud.com.

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Figure 11: 04.12.18 Tuesday 8:30AM





Figure 12: 21.01.19 Monday 8:30AM





Figure 13: 28.11.18 Wednesday 12:30PM





Figure 14: 07.12.18 Friday 12:30PM





Figure 15: 10.01.19 Thursday 12:30PM



Figure 16: 14.01.19 Monday 3:30PM

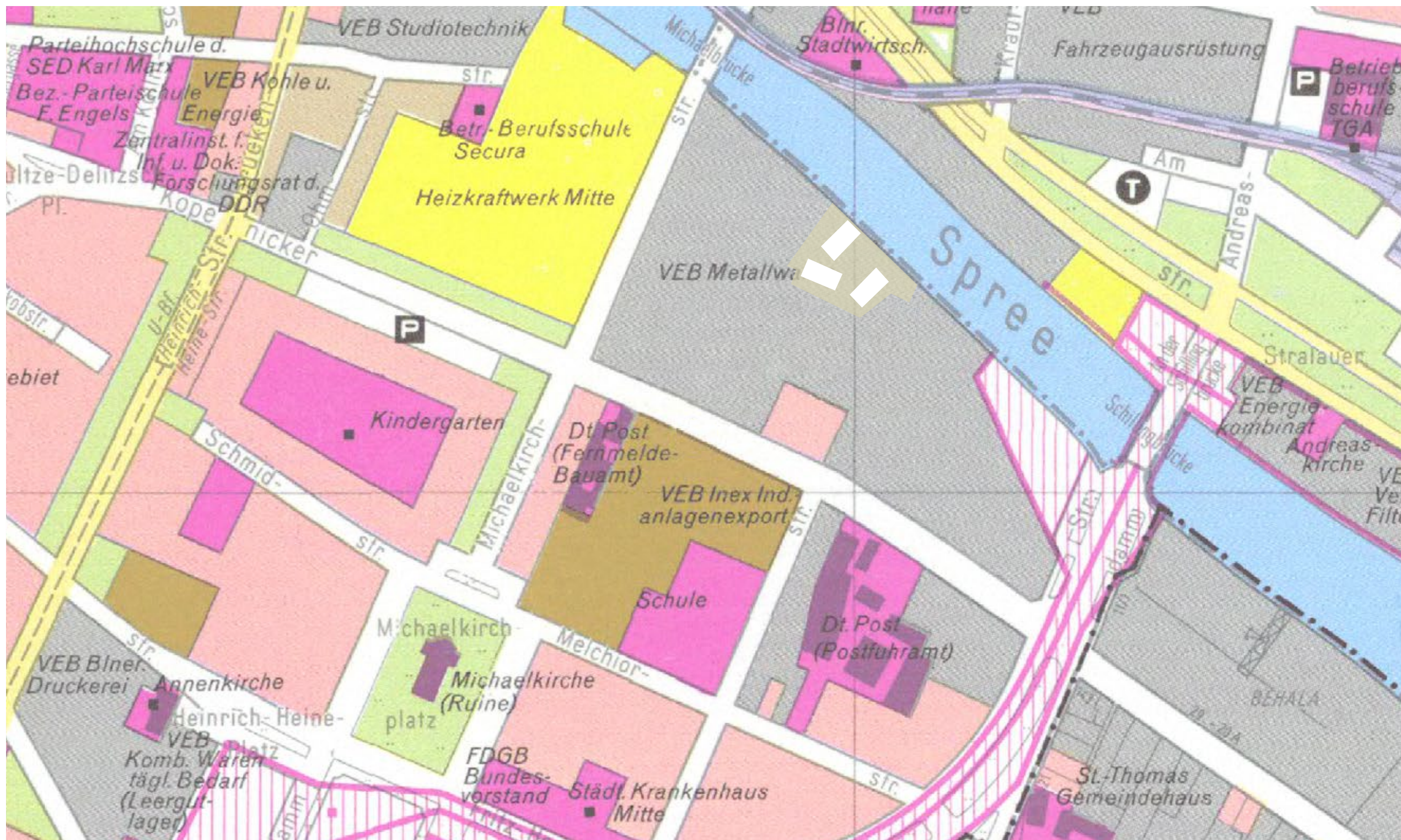




Figure 18: 15.12.18 Saturday 3:30PM







Land use plan_Berlin um 1986

User perceptions: mapping how the public realm spaces influence spatial, financial, and social outcomes

Mapping the type of influence (spatial)

	A	B	C	D
What	Open built form structure creates an open, comfortable environment	Calm, peaceful atmosphere	Feels welcoming and perceived as a place for the public	Grading of publicness through intuitive way-finding
Who	Worker	Worker	Worker	Worker
Extract from interview	<p><u>INTERVIEW 2</u></p> <p>Page 9 MS</p> <p>Do you feel a little bit intimidated that, I dunno, maybe someone from the apartment is watching you?</p> <p>Participant 2</p> <p>No. I think the best part about this, is that it's such an open structure, and one could easily look back. So it is on both sides this break of intimacy</p> <p>Yes, nobody has to hide anything from each other. You have the impression people are friendly here. Having all their balconies and green...not today anymore right now (refers to winter) "laughs" but they like flowers, so I like the people.</p>	<p><u>INTERVIEW 2</u></p> <p>Page 2 Participant 2</p> <p>I really liked like this place in general, like I still have no idea what's the difference to the rest of Berlin, when I came here. So it was like, wow, everything is so peaceful in here in this city. And um, but yeah, no, I see that especially this place has, has this, comfort aura. And I really liked this place because it's like you are just entering and it's calm. It's a lot of light and you see and I'm feel the water, the waterside and ya. Like in general you, there is not a lot of traffic here. You see a lot of children coming by because of the Kindergarten, here it is.</p>	<p><u>INTERVIEW 2</u></p> <p>Page 9 Participant 2</p> <p>Hmm no. No I wouldn't say so. Maybe because the paths are pretty wide. They look quite public. And the riverside anyway, I think it is not even possible to privatise this! "laughs"</p>	<p><u>INTERVIEW 2</u></p> <p>Page 8 Participant 2</p> <p>]Yeah I was just walking through it but I kind of feel like I don't belonging here yet. "laughs" I didn't wanted to involve there but I like this path anyway (refers to path leading from the entrance, behind #10 to #14) it's more convenient and I am riding mostly by bike so yeah.</p> <p>mmm umm I dunno, how I said, I am mostly by bike here so it's maybe not so easy way to, because you have to kind of jump, the surface is a different one, it might be like vibrating "laughs"</p>

Mapping the type of influence (financial)

	E	F	G
What	Employment opportunities for Teepeeland	Teepeeland supports Spreefeld with management of spaces	Employment opportunity and to represent a community
Who	Teepeeland	Resident	Teepeeland
Extract from interview	<p><u>INTERVIEW 7</u></p> <p>Page 10 Participant 8</p> <p>Yes yes. Many Teepee Landers. Not one guy but many. They had in the past, not here, last year.</p> <p>Yes, for them, they got money.</p> <p>Yes. Umm next to the Spree there was a way (path), Teepeelanders made the way (path) new.</p> <p>The public way yes. It's not very professional but it's.. erm... improvisation</p> <p>I wasn't there. I have no time. But they did it</p>	<p><u>INTERVIEW 5</u></p> <p>Page 13 Participant 5</p> <p>Yes and we also work together with the people from Teepee Land, for example the whole summer, <i>ah wie heit es? Gartengiesen?</i></p> <p>They had the job to water the flowers. Or how is it called?</p> <p>Without the Teepeeland people we wouldn't manage that.</p>	<p><u>INTERVIEW 7</u></p> <p>Page 6 Participant 8</p> <p>My friend Oliver, you saw him, from London, he manages the boathouse.</p> <p>yes, he has a small bar inside</p> <p>He manages just for show, for ... is there a party? he manages for comedy shows and everything. In name of Teepeeland for everyone.</p>

Mapping the type of influence (social)

	H	I	J	K
What	Sense of community at Spreefeld	Boathouse is a flexible place for celebrations, community, creative use	Public spaces in cities allows society to develop	Strong community, friendly, small urban neighbourhood
Who	Worker	Residents	resident	Teepeeland
Extract from interview	<p>INTERVIEW 2</p> <p>Page 7 Participant 2 And they want one of the offices to make this project</p> <p>yeah but it's not like, I think on the professional level, they are more like doing this out of own motivations. They were talking about the cinema here. So you saw the Boathouse yesterday. Ah they are making some cinema nights there, for example. They are organising this together and yeah</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 5</p> <p>Page 18 Participant 6 But we can still use it even if it's a monument, we can still use it, erm to rent. To rent it for events like readings or...</p> <p>Participant 5 Arts!</p> <p>Participant 6 Arts exhibitions or...</p> <p>Participant 5 Concerts!</p> <p>Participant 6 Just discussions about...</p> <p>Participant 5 Dinners!</p> <p>Participant 5 Exactly! And parties also. So that's a nice place for parties! The main usage "laughs" of me...</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 5</p> <p>Page 28 Participant 6 And there's not much, many properties right beside the river which are open like this. Where people can go and in the summer it's very nice. And it's as you told already I think, the private spaces and the open space, you know, that people in the cities are always their private spaces and go out only to their work, to somewhere closes (?) or so, that's, at least I think, I don't know "laughs" the decision made, but in my opinion, it's the open spaces that makes the city the space it should be, about the meeting of the people, about the interfering, the developing for example in the boathouse, there were discussions, creative...how did they call it? creating...</p> <p>uhh they were just, they came people who had some crazy ideas about developing something which could make, you know, water you can drink or something out of bad water themselves or something like this, and they just tried out things like that. It's people coming together being creative and yeah.</p> <p>Page 12 Participant 5 And would it be better for you if there would be a private ground and a fence here and nobody else came in?</p> <p>Participant 6 No no no no no no no</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 6</p> <p>Page 2 Participant 7 Of course! We good here, we good here. They invite us for party. We have parties sometime. Okay, the time is coming, and this Christmas we gonna go there. Ya we gonna go there for Xmas evening. So it's really cool.</p>

continue

	L	M	N	O
	Feels safe and comfortable from being amongst diverse people	Strong sense of community between Spreefeld and Teepeeland	Being open to working with others can build compassion, empathy and respect	Seeing children play improves atmosphere
		Teepeeland	Teepeeland	Worker
	<p>INTERVIEW 2</p> <p>Page 1 Participant 2 But yeah I definitely adore the boathouse. Umm the ceiling (rooftop), how do you say?</p> <p>Yeah it's obviously some place of meeting. Like they all surrounded by benches, right? And everybody is like sitting in a circle, or technically in a square. And yeah this is what I like. Like I rarely talk to people there, but I admire to somehow be anonymously in this group "laughs"</p> <p>Page 2 Exactly. Like there are even hobos coming, there are people from the kindergarten coming and yeah it's kind of a safe place for everyone, it's seen by everyone, and everybody is seeing everyone there so I think there is no reason to feel threatened if like hobos are coming by for example.</p> <p>INTERVIEW 6</p> <p>Page 6 Participant 7 No, I don't feel embarrassed. I feel we all the same. They take also the same. I think it's a community which really like "laughs" there's no racism and there is no...because they live with <u>different</u> nationalities. It's really different, different. And it's the same at Teepeeland. We don't have, no discrimination, there are different different nationality here in Teepee Land. The same community. Ya. You know, different nationalities. Africa, China, German, Australian, American, we all living in this community. You can even see! When you are there you can see. Even the children. The kindergarten. Different nationality.</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 7</p> <p>Page 3 Participant 8 We have contact with them. We are friends, ne? They love us, they like us, the most, ne? Not everybody I think, I don't know. They most like us and respected us. And we too. We help us (each other) together. At the boathouse, this evening there is a umm <i>Veranstaltung</i> (event)</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 6</p> <p>Page 3 Participant 7 We get water from there, we get electricity from there, it's like we there 24 hours because we neighbours.</p> <p><u>Nooo</u>. Not...everything is free. It's like, just little bit money for the electricity. Because we don't use much electricity here. It's only to charge our phones, that's all. Yeah WIFI.</p> <p>Yeah! They give us food and they respect us. And you know, really, because, you know, they are really good people. They really good people, you know like, they don't care about you, how (?) they respectful us. Because we living here and they know it's really hard for us, and, so they are really good people.</p> <p>they always give us the rest food. It cool, it's really nice.</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 2</p> <p>Page 8 Participant 7 Yeah it's definitely nicer, everything is.. it's sweet to see them running around and I, dunno playing "laughs" they're quite active and this is something I like. They are definitely not loud. I never felt disturbed by them.</p>

continue

Decision number	1	2	3
What	Baugruppe to Genossenschaft	Ground floor for public, community and commercial use	Open to the neighbourhood and city (no fences)
Who	Cooperative	Cooperative	Cooperative
How	Collaborative	Collaborative	Collaborative
Why	Self-governing, long-term affordability, social engagement	Social engagement, social inclusivity, accessible	Social engagement, social inclusivity, accessible
Type	Legal	Planning (spatial programming)	Planning
Outcome impacted	All	Commercial spaces, Option Rooms, food forest, fruit meadow, fruit garden, community garden, rose and apple garden, butterfly garden, soccer lawn, open outdoor areas, kindergarten playspace	Commercial spaces, Option Rooms, food forest, fruit meadow, fruit garden, community garden, rose and apple garden, butterfly garden, soccer lawn, open outdoor areas, kindergarten playspace
Agency	Determining	Determining	Determining
Formality	Formal	Formal	Formal
Form of contract	Internal community resource	Internal community resource	Internal community resource
Extract from interview	<p>INTERVIEW.1</p> <p>Page 22 <i>Participant 1</i> because we had some people who tried to think very social and when they moved in, it was 2010 when they started planning and all this stuff and bought the ground, and from 2010 on prices for the ground and Berlin has risen have risen and they decided to do something against...money making, how do you call that?</p> <p><i>Participant 1</i> yes, against capitalism, and speculation, and this is why they decided to become a cooperative</p> <p><i>Participant 1</i> but also they didn't know if it would work out with a cooperative so they also put something into the law of the cooperative that said, okay after five years after three years the cooperative has to offer to their members to buy the flat.</p> <p><i>Participant 1</i> to really own it and that will change, basically everything (laughs) and prices have risen like this (holds arm 45 degrees) so a project like this would not be possible now anymore because the price for the ground has risen so much. And this is why many people I told you that they are freelancers and they're thinking about buying the flat just to have a security for their for their old age. So this brings problems which are also talked about in the monthly meeting (laughs)</p> <p>MS okay so soon...did you say three years?</p> <p><i>Participant 1</i> no they prolongeded it, and I don't know it's in two years or something, but they're working on it, for several years.</p> <p><i>Participant 1</i> yep, yep, but you can always live here when you stay a member of the cooperative, you just stay there, you pay rent, it's a bit difficult</p> <p>MS what is difficult about it?</p> <p><i>Participant 1</i> if we have people who own their flat, it changes the law, and it changes the democratic processes because then the lowest different, I can't explain it in detail but it changes.</p> <p>Page 24 <i>Participant 1</i> now it's a cooperative who decides everything but then it will be single people who have to make a decision</p> <p>Page 25 <i>Participant 1</i> No, No. Baugruppe just means you put...people put together private money to rise building, to raise the building and then after that, you flat belongs to you, you, you have to pay also for the common owned things like the staircase, or the garage, or whatever but you can sell it, you can do what you want, and here you can't do what you want. Because if you move out the cooperative decides who moves in after you. Yes. And that's a decision process.</p> <p>INTERVIEW.3</p> <p>Page 5 <i>Participant 3</i> And the Genossenschaft is a very different model, it's like a model where there's only one owner and that's the cooperation, and you just sharing the ownership. You have the right to live in the building, but you don't own anything. And that's why it's called Genossenschaft. But the process of building was a Baugemeinschaft</p> <p>INTERVIEW.5</p> <p>Page 6 <i>Participant 5</i> We were a mixture in the heads (minds) of all people from beginning. We first started with the cooperative. To build the project together, as a cooperative. Then we said okay afterwards when we finish, someone can decide if he wants to buy his flat or her flat.</p> <p>Page 8 <i>Participant 5</i> So for us it's a question about, does it make sense anymore to have this idea, this cooperative, but we hold onto this idea, cause it's not only how we want to organise this project, this is a bigger idea of living, at all, it is behind, this idea is that the ground and living shouldn't be something you can make money with. So, not for speculation and this idea is, you can't bring together with the other idea of this private ownership, you can have a private flat and not make money with that, but it depends only of the decision of this individual person. So that's now not a structure for the society or a group of people, it's more a structure for individual citizens. And we have more the idea organise living at all in the city as a thing and structure for groups for society for the people</p>	<p>INTERVIEW.3</p> <p>Page 11 <i>Participant 3</i> In this case, for them it was important. Because they knew that they wanted to give back something to the city, by offering things. Not only to themselves, but also to the city. So, that's why the whole ground floor is public.</p> <p>Page 12 <i>Participant 3</i> Well the first thing is that they build the space and bought some old machines and make a workshop because they needed to build a lot of stuff, very clever. So they build the furniture, they build the facade, they build... and they still build things. So what they then do...because this is not really a catering, it is...they, they say okay, who takes of the workshop? we need someone to take care of the machines, so they find this artist, who used to be a workshop guy and they say, okay, we give you a part of this space as your studio. And therefore, as a return, you take care of the workshop. In this case there, okay, we make a space for food, so you can eat here. There's a small kitchen that everyone can use. But behind it, it has a professional kitchen that is run by the woman who lives here, so she can, if you want her, she can offer you a menu, she can use that space to make her own events, and she can also use the kitchen either for this space or for herself. So everything in the building has more than one role. So it's not dependant on one model, an economical model, it can be many economical models, that make you survive, or make you be active. That's the point.</p> <p>Page 25 <i>Participant 3</i> If you look at the ground floor, we thought very, we thought a long time about the ground floor, how we make sure, that the public space doesn't... that we have to make a fence within a week so there's the option space, and there's the blue space, but for instance if the kindergarten closes at 4 or 5, the office's still run until 7. And then afterwards these Option spaces start to happen, spatial programming > active</p> <p>INTERVIEW.4</p> <p>Page 12 <i>Participant 4</i> 'laughs' I mean the word 'mixed-use' is really important because it's not something that a lot of the people who live here don't really appreciate. But a lot, most housing cooperatives are just housing cooperatives. Meaning they have affordable apartments but this one is special because it has apartments but it also has a lot of community spaces, still a lot of commercial spaces, spaces for workshops, for the public, so, it's really mixed-use, a lot of different things are happening here. More complex than just a housing cooperative. But also the garden that's a part of it. The outdoor spaces are really important here, it's really more than a housing cooperative.</p> <p><i>Participant 4</i> (against privatisation of space) Yeah how do I explain that? Well one of the explanations you will hear is that in the years before this project meaning around 2010, or even before that, there was a big fight in this area called Media Spree</p> <p><i>Participant 4</i> It's the ah, its coming from the government and big property owners, there was this big campaign called Media Spree, so that meant this kind of combination of large owners, investors, developers and local government started to market a lot of the land on the river. Which was vacant because of the war and because of the Wall, right? For many decades nothing happened. And so these kind of powerful people said, why don't we market this? and there was a lot of resistance from local neighbourhoods, people said, that doesn't sound good that sounds like exclusive development, so making nice office buildings on the river with fences around them and people from the neighbourhood either wouldn't be able to go or wouldn't want to go. And so, a citizens initiative was organised which was really successful, it's a good Berlin store (?) collecting signatures and saying yeah we don't like this Media Spree, we want access to the river, we want to have a path a long the river, we don't want to have high-rise buildings, we don't like new car bridges and that influenced the discussion and so 'laughs at baby' was its das denn? Bauen Brunner. So this project and the project across the river (Holzmarkt) you can say both of them are in someway a response to this big Media Spree fight, so that means on both sides, the agreement was made in the beginning we will make the land accessible to the public. The public would have access to the land and we're doing it in different ways. So that's what you see on both sides of the river, you can go there at different times of the day.</p>	<p>INTERVIEW.1</p> <p>Page 1 <i>Participant 1</i> there was a lot of robbing and theft and burglary also and now they made a gate here and here. And that's really a problem that we have here too, but we don't want any gates.</p> <p>INTERVIEW.5</p> <p>Page 3 <i>Participant 5</i> so I did before I did many years project with people who wanted to live together, with these normal Baugruppen projects and in that point I tried to do someone more than making a house together and afterwards divide into different private properties, so we wanted to do something with only one property or more the focus on common things. So that was the start, the idea, in the beginning, to make a project, that's more than only one house, it's more than living something more. So what you have surrounding of your flat, the other people, the neighbourhood, we wanted to build something that...what is <i>Quartier</i>?...Part of the city! A little piece of city.</p> <p>Page 11 <i>Participant 5</i> So it's a special idea, not to have fences, that all people can pass here. This is a public space, even it's our private ground but we let it open. Cause afterwards we have to give it back to the City, they want to make a path along the river, and they take back all these paths of the grounds. So it's a good idea I think but it takes 10 years more I think. So we said okay we start with it till now and we don't close the door, so that's a special situation here, that it's a public space, so you don't go to the garden, you go to the public.</p> <p>Page 27 <i>Participant 5</i> 'quick to answer' Yeah cause such a part of the city, middle of the city, along the river, it's really one of the best parts of town, and its the middle of the town, and we try to do all that there is no gated community or closed shop cause we understand the city as a neighbourhood, or as a thing, where you live between other people, very close, and it's not like living on the landscape where you have around your own garden and country and nobody comes in. So we try to mix ground floor, to mix our living space with the public space. So that's the idea of urban design or of living in a city.</p> <p>Page 28 <i>Participant 5</i> Yeah because we are near Kreuzberg and the middle of town and Kreuzberg is a place where is always living and working mixed, and we come more and more to somehow some people come back to the idea, I live in the city but I want to have my own castle here, I think it doesn't fit together. 'laughs' we try to show how it's possible to live in a city in an open way for the...let's say mainly the ground floor is the most important thing for the street and the neighbourhood that you don't only go along the house and there's only living until the ground floor, and there is some walls or some...</p> <p><i>Participant 5</i> Some fences around and you can't see in. That's clear, some people live there and they close it, and you have street with closed sides, so that's not the idea of a city, I have.</p>

Decision catalogue: mapping the key decisions over the three phases

Mapping the key decisions (concept & planning phase 2007–2011)

4	5	6
Founded the Spreecker non-profit association (community gardening)	Density of 2.5 (built 8,000m² of possible 11,000m³)	Maximum opportunities for participation
Cooperative	Cooperative	Cooperative
Collaborative	Collaborative	Collaborative
Social engagement, social inclusivity, active participation	Spatial quality, flexibility	Social engagement, active participation
Management	Planning	Organisational
Food forest, fruit meadow, fruit garden, community garden	All	All
Determining	Determining	Determining
Formal	Formal	Formal
Internal community resource, local resource	Internal community resource	Internal community resource
INTERVIEW.1	INTERVIEW.1	INTERVIEW.1
Page 9 Participant 1 And they also have an association called Spreecker. Spree is the name of the river, and Acker means field. Spreefeld Spree field and also Spreecker. Acker is somewhere where the farmer does his farming, that kind of field. They are interested in planting local plants, edible plants, and it's like community gardening association. Part of the people live here and are members of the cooperative. Some people just live here and are not members of the cooperative. And some people are from, everywhere! But only a very few.	Page 26 Participant 1 But Berlin is still a lot cheaper than Munich or Hamburg. Depending to the history of Berlin. Okay. And you're an architect. We have a density of 2.5, which is not much. So we have, umm, they could have built 11,000 square meters, of living area. And they only made built 8000. Participant 1 Yeah. It's like a bit of luxury. So you have two separate buildings. Normally it would have been a U.	Page 10 Participant 1 so we have different kinds of meetings. okay, there are two meetings per year that have to take place. This is a general gathering. <i>Generalsammlung</i> . And the other is just the full meeting, that's optional. So to the general meeting, everyone has either to show up in person, or to bring some signed document that he gives his voice ? To someone else. And every member can just have two voices. Uh so three, his own words and two voices from someone else. And this is how they do it. And to the general gatherings once or twice a year, there are about 60 people, depending on what has to be decided 60 to 70 people in person and to the normal gathering every month, there's about 20 people who show up in person, okay, 20 to 30. And they bring a lot of option voices too.
INTERVIEW.4		INTERVIEW.3
Page 19 Participant 4 So that's one of the concepts put to look at it more closely, if you go back to 2011 and 2012 before the construction started, the cooperative organised an initiative that was called Spreecker. And that meant that the cooperative organised a competition and invited people to submit ideas.	Participant 1 For more space. And they wanted to keep the garden. They decided to have open staircases, because then the fire brigade doesn't have to come with a car with a fire car into the yard. Because the staircase is open, there will never be much turns. And even if it's burning, they can come down the stairs.	Page 7 Participant 3 So there was a lot of things in the beginning, they said let's see, we don't want to finish the plan. We want to let the thing grow.
Participant 4 Anybody, from the City, right? So the idea was from the community or from the City and the cooperative selected about 10 projects and that was a mix of gardening and culture and educational projects. And so that started actually before the construction, but outside of the construction fence was developed so that meant not only outside but also along the water and on the sides		INTERVIEW.4
Participant 4 And that meant these projects had a three year lease, or three year lease agreement for a particular use of the ground to develop the idea, and thereafter the construction was finished in 2014 out of the Spreecker initiative a new non-profit organisation was formed called Spreecker. And the main idea that really survived was the gardening. So the Spreecker has.. it's a specially a non-profit organisation...these idea about landscapes or food forests, productive landscape, so Spreecker is especially interested in taking care of managing and developing the spaces on the outside edges that are really the most public spaces.		Page 9 Participant 4 Yeah it's mixed so one of the fundamental ideas is we want to give people maximum opportunities for participation, the emphasis is on the word 'opportunities'. no one is forced to do anything. If people want to make decisions they can, they go to a meeting or they participate in a working group, some people do some people don't, some people arrive, some people are less active, the big group, meaning the neighbourhood or the whole cooperative meets once every month and talks about the important issues.
Page 21 Participant 4 Well it's some people who live here but some people who don't live here. That includes for example, some people from Teepsee Land but it includes some people who live in other neighbourhoods, people who are really have a lot of experience with gardening or who just have a lot of interest with these ideas of edible landscapes.		Page 21 Participant 4 But there was really much participation in planning. We had every month, so now we have every month this bigger meeting of the whole group, really tell, today there come 30 people or 40 people to these meetings, so it's really big interest in making decisions here. So it's more than in other groups. I know from other groups. From the problem that people don't part... take part in these common decisions. But in that project here, we don't have this problem, that's even because of this, till now we don't have such an hour system, because it works, yeah. There are many people who want to do something.
MS Right and do you know roughly how many people?		Page 25 Participant 4 It's umm, with this concept of giving people a lot of opportunities to participate that means it's important to delegate responsibility, so the group has to keep looking for way to involve people. So working groups and things like that.
Participant 4 mmm maybe 20 are a part of it. The people who are really active, I would say it's more like, 10 or 15 people, not so much.		
Participant 4 Actually it goes back even further, it's something like that. So this part here now we call it Food Forest. So that's done this year. It's an interesting agreement because that land..so all of this land was bought by ... around 2010 and this was sold to the local government because it was part of a new public path and new public street. and the Spreecker organisation has a use agreement with the local government to develop and maintain it with the concept of the Food Forest. So that's really just gone into the ground this year. Fruit trees and as much as possible, the idea of the food forest and really edible plants		

7	8	9
No parking lot	Cooperative finish Option Rooms themselves	Architectural design of Option Rooms to let cooperative finish them
Cooperative	Cooperative	Commissioned architects
Collaborative	Collaborative	Participatory
Spatial quality, sustainability, social engagement, flexibility, affordability	Affordability, flexibility, active participation	Flexibility, spatial quality
Planning	Design, financial	Design
Food forest, fruit meadow, fruit garden, community garden, rose and apple garden, butterfly garden, soccer lawn, kindergarten playspace, open outdoor areas	Option Rooms	Option Rooms
Determining	Determining	Determining, informing
Formal	Formal	Formal
Internal community resource	Internal community resource	External contracted
INTERVIEW 4	INTERVIEW 5	INTERVIEW 3
<p>Page 19</p> <p>Participant 4</p> <p>If we talk about the garden spaces then first of all, I would say one very important decision was back in the planning phase and that was to not have a parking garage. Basically no car parking spaces. At the entrance on the side you will find two or three parking spaces. But really no parking lot or no parking garage that was a decision to save money. But that also means we have good opportunities for gardens and the point...or let's just say an important part of the concept is to have a lot of green but to not to just have decorative green but we often used to words productive or edible. So the idea of a productive landscape or the edible landscape. So you walk around you'll see there's lots of fruit plants, even a lot of fruit trees but also a lot of productive plants.</p>	<p>Page 19</p> <p>Participant 5</p> <p>It's invisible because it's not written, and some people do really much, and they do it because they want to do, so it's okay, but there are sometimes points we discuss about, if it's the right idea to manage at the end. For example Option Rooms are built ourself and there are some people who really put much work in it, and they got for that, let's say a pack of beer 'laughs' it's not much. And many clapping "claps" donations, also so celebration, but sometimes they feel a little but lonely 'laughs' and they have the idea to organise it more as a system, these working hours. So the people who do much, they bring this idea, so I think we should thought (think) about this.</p> <p>Participant 5</p> <p>It's really informal, that means for each one of the big community spaces so the ground level, this space, this space, 'draws on map' and this space, so these are four separate groups or 4 little teams of curators (option rooms) and then the garden is another space so we actually have one, two, three, four, five curator teams, and in each one of those we have somewhere between 3 to about 5 people, and the groups are pretty much self selected meaning people just say, I wanna work in the group, but then once a year the cooperative at a monthly meeting has an opportunity to confirm these people. Or the cooperative can say no we don't like that group or no we don't like this person but it's kind of a confirmation that okay these people have this responsibility or these rights for this here to do that work and then its up to those people how they make the decisions. So that means the people that go to the meetings or the people that find time to develop ideas have more power, it's informal.</p>	<p>Page 8</p> <p>Participant 3</p> <p>... if you want to talk about the social component and obviously this is what is very strong here. But I think because we, we didn't put the architecture in such a foreground. We took it to a position where it is more like, it is quite quiet, the architecture, but it has a huge potential of possibilities. And that's what I'm interested in, and I think we should talk about this because otherwise we get into this very kind of boring participation discussion, I'm not very interested. For instance here you see this image, "shows image of Option Room next to the river, dance hall" this is a space in each building, which is not finished by us. It's finished by the cooperative. So, they, "ticks through paper", you see here are the three buildings, and in each building is each kind of similar space. And so what the cooperative asked us, is how, we would like to leave something open in the architecture. We would like to be part in this, not only in the question of, um, filling the building with different sizes of flats, and maybe shifting one window, but we would also have a part where we need some time. And we want to have a part in the building that is dedicated for the relationship between the public and our project, but it should be a space, but we don't know yet. And we would like to see</p> <p>Page 9</p> <p>Participant 3</p> <p>This space, okay, we take this, we just build the, this area here, up to the ceiling, and then we insulate the ceiling and then the building is done. And anything you do underneath is not Passive House, is very simple facade, you can leave it open, you can close it, and it's yours, take it. Out of the framework of complexity. So you have to take it out of it. And you have to absolutely clear how you do it. And then they realised, okay, if we put an insulation here, of 20cm, it will cost us probably as much as making our facade.</p> <p>Participant 3</p> <p>So they realised, this is not clever. This is stupid. So then they decided, let's do it. We make our spaces and this is what they did themselves. And it looks very different, but it fits really well. So they kind of, had a lot of freedom that we didn't have that way, that we allowed them, and they respected our architecture to put in their architecture. And that's for instance a moment I really enjoyed. I thought, if we talk about undetermined things that we say okay we leave space for them. Ah the space, ne? They can decide. So for me this is a very interesting moment. Where they took over.</p>

Mapping the key decisions (construction phase 2012-2013)

Decision number	10	11	12
What	Do gardening themselves	Courtyard concept planning (urban garden)	Bike and bin shed location
Who	Cooperative	Cooperative	Cooperative
How	Collaborative	Collaborative	Collaborative
Why	Affordability, social engagement, social inclusivity, active participation, recreation	Sustainability, social engagement, spatial quality	Spatial quality, flexibility
Type	Financial	Planning	Planning
Outcome impacted	Rose and apple garden, butterfly garden	Rose and apple garden, butterfly garden, timber platform	Rose and apple garden, butterfly garden, open outdoor areas
Agency	Determining	Determining, informing	Determining
Formality	Formal	Formal	Informal
Form of contract	Internal community resource	Internal community resource, local community resource, external resource	Internal community resource
Extract from interview	<p><u>INTERVIEW 1</u></p> <p>Page 9 Participant 1</p> <p>Uh for example when you build a building, the building costs tend to rise, this is what they did here as well. So uh they needed some more money. They asked some of the members to give money and they got shares for that, so they sold more shares. And they uh they also cut down for example the gardening, the costs for gardening, this is why they do it themselves, (?) Subbotniks. [laughs] this is why it looks a bit uh, wild!</p> <p><u>INTERVIEW 4</u></p> <p>Page 22 Participant 4</p> <p>So for, for the rest of these spaces, that's called the <i>Spreefeld Freiraum</i>, Open space or green space. there are really 5 people right now who are really active in that group. So these 5 people are helped with the ideas but..oh wow...they're also really important for organising maintenance actions and um garden work days and things like that. So let's say there's 5 people who are really involved planning and coordination but at least twice a year two or three times a year we have kind of garden days, and on those days these 25 or 30 people will participate, meaning they will help in clean up, help to plant new trees so plants help them to weed, help them to.. basically keep things under control</p>	<p><u>INTERVIEW 4</u></p> <p>Page 23 Participant 4</p> <p>If you go back to about, well, 2012, 2013, so "sighs" before we moved in, we had some workshops which involved everybody who was interested and in those workshops we did the concept planning. So that meant we agreed in these workshops the basic concept. In these workshops there were a lot of discussions, so for example, we discussed how urban should it be or how green it should be, in the end we had, well a discussion and a vote between three concepts...<i>Hallo</i>...so like one of them was called the Urban Garden or the Stadtgarten, one was called the Urban Jungle, then there was another one called, something like the uh the Urban Square. So like different variations of like really really green or really little (?) and we agreed on what we called the Stadtgarten. So it shouldn't be a jungle, it should be quite green but in some way it should be urban, meaning, places to meet, places to hang out...</p> <p>Participant 4</p> <p>No that was the most important thing for the interior, let's call it the courtyard area. That's really like this area. That's where most people were like, yeah what should that be?</p> <p>Page 46 Participant 4</p> <p>In the beginning, like 2012, 2013, we had some advice from an external Landscape Architecture firm that gave us ideas, suggestions, how to do the landscape. So that was good to have some input and to help us make decisions</p>	<p><u>INTERVIEW 4</u></p> <p>Page 23 Participant 4</p> <p>For the outsidess spaces we've had a lot of discussions, a lot of fighting, and in the end, like you'll see here, you'll have one building for waste recycling, well actually two, and a building for bicycles and another building for ... well not really building, sheds, for bicycles. And that was also a long process because there were many ways we could have done it. We could have put the bicycles here, we could have distributed the bicycles everywhere, but in the end we agreed on two main covered buildings for bicycles.</p>

Decision number	13	14	15
What	What trees to plant for community areas	What trees to plant for public areas	Planting trees and shrubs (gardening days)
Who	Working group 4	Spreeacker	Working group 4, Spreeacker
How	Collaborative, participatory, individual	Collaborative	Participatory
Why	Sustainability, spatial quality, social inclusivity, social engagement, personal preference	Sustainability, spatial quality, social inclusivity, social engagement	Social engagement, social inclusivity, recreation, health, active participation, affordability, spatial quality, sustainability
Type	Design	Design	Organisational
Outcome impacted	Rose and apple garden, butterfly garden	Food forest, fruit meadow, fruit garden, community garden	Food forest, fruit meadow, fruit garden, community garden, rose and apple garden, butterfly garden
Agency	Determining, informing	Determining, informing	Suggesting
Formality	Informal	Informal	Informal
Form of contract	Internal community resource, local community resource	Internal community resource, local community resource	Internal community resource, local community resource
Extract from interview	<p>INTERVIEW 4</p> <p>Page 24 Participant 4 So that was like an important kind of direction, but then if you go to the next level like, you know, what kind of trees do we plant, what kind of bushes, those decisions are really, most people aren't involved in those decisions, that's the small working group.</p> <p>Page 26 Participant 4 And in the end it depends on how important the decision is. So it's like well you know here we have some fruit trees, like an apple tree, a cherry tree, and another apple tree, well that's what these are here, but not everybody has to talk about that. The people from the garden working group can assume responsibility and say well the general concept of the urban garden says we want to have trees and we have to think okay well where should they go and is that a good idea and we'll just do it.</p> <p>Participant 4 A lot of times in the outdoor spaces and the garden spaces, I would say that the risks or the decisions in general, they're more of an emotional nature rather than an aesthetic nature. That mean's it's really less objective and it's more subjective. That doesn't mean it's less important but you're dealing with emotions and opinions. So you take a risk of making people unhappy. You take a risk of people either not liking it or not using it. We're pretty careful with the money so we don't spend more money than we have, meaning sometimes we're spending personal money like donating a plant or a tree. But usually we're getting money from the cooperative and then like each year, you know, 2 or 3000 Euros and we invest that. So that's kind of careful assessment, how much money can we spend and what can we spend it on? At terms of risk I would say, another big risk is if you talk about these kinds of gardens then, you could say, many many people like to plant trees or help to plant things but very few people like to maintain the garden. And very few people like to water the garden. So that's a risk, to plant a lot of trees and plants and nobody is taking care of them. Kind of a... that's something we have to think about it.</p> <p>INTERVIEW 5</p> <p>Page 18 Participant 5 'Laughs' only 5 people now, so the garden group is a problem because it's not really representing the others, so they have hard work, they make suggestions to the whole group, and the whole group decide, but is not deep in it. That's not easy for them. I don't know why this group is so small but it is 'laughs' depends on many things! So we have so many things to do.</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 5</p> <p>Page 12 Participant 5 I think association with the whole neighbourhood. And they care about the whole garden. They care about this part and they care about this part. And this is a group of our cooperation, but this part is dedicated for the care of this association. And this is a bigger neighbourhood.</p> <p>MS Is that the Spreeacker?</p> <p>Participant 5 Yeah it's the Spreeacker E.V. So we invite the neighbours to come here and make this ground as a public ground.</p> <p>Participant 6 To use it.</p> <p>Participant 5 Not only to private, that's ah one of the main ideas of that (this) project, that we try to find a form, or, to organise the public ground via the neighbourhood itself. But hold it open to all people. So this is the main thing that a city buyed back the ground and bought it back, and Spreeacker E.V. has a contract with the City, that they care about this public green (food forest by entrance) and the City is happy, that she, that they don't have to care about, because they save money, 'Laughs' and Spreeacker E.V. he has to care about that nobody damage it and yep, have to do all things yep. But they can decide what happens.</p> <p>INTERVIEW 4</p> <p>Page 20 Participant 4 And that meant these projects had a three year lease, or three year lease agreement for a particular use of the ground to develop the idea, and thereafter the construction was finished in 2014 out of the Spreeacker initiative a new non-profit organisation was formed called Spreeacker. And the main idea that really survived was the gardening. So the Spreeacker has... it's a specially a non-profit organisation...these idea about landscapes or food forests, productive landscape, so Spreeacker is especially interested in taking care of managing and developing the spaces on the outside edges that are really the most public spaces.</p> <p>page 21 MS So how many members are in the Spreeacker and who does that consist of?</p> <p>Participant 4 Well it's some people who live here but some people who don't live here. That includes for example, some people from Teepeland but it includes some people who live in other neighbourhoods, people who are really have a lot of experience with gardening or who just have a lot of interest with these ideas of edible landscapes.</p> <p>MS Right and do you know roughly how many people?</p> <p>Participant 4 mmm maybe 20 are a part of it. The people who are really active, I would say it's more like, 10 or 15 people, not so much.</p>	<p>INTERVIEW 5</p> <p>Page 13 MS And have you personally ever taken part of any of those sorts of activities with the gardens or the making of it?</p> <p>Participant 5 Yes so we are part of the Spreeacker too. So we take part in of the association and sometimes we have some working day, we work together with, yeah. But I'm not really in the organising group there.</p> <p>INTERVIEW 4</p> <p>Page 21 MS Yeah right and how about the working groups for the other gardens? Could you tell me how many people are involved and who they are?</p> <p>Participant 4 So for, for the rest of these spaces, that's called the <i>Spreefeld Freiraum</i>, Open space or green space, there are really 5 people right now who are really active in that group. So these 5 people are helped with the ideas but, oh wow...they're also really important for organising maintenance actions and um garden work days and things like that. So let's say there's 5 people who are really involved planning and coordination but at least twice a year two or three times a year we have kind of garden days, and on those days these 25 or 30 people will participate, meaning they will help in clean up, help to plant new trees so plants help them to weed, help them to... basically keep things under control</p>

Mapping the key decisions (ongoing 2014-2018)

16	17	18
Organising Teepeeland to maintain the garden	Convert concrete foundation for ice storage into natural swimming pool	Approve natural swimming pool
Working group 4	Working group 4	Cooperative
Collaborative	Collaborative	Participatory
Affordability, social engagement	Sustainability, recreation, social engagement	Sustainability, recreation, social engagement
Financial management	Design	Approval
Rose and apple garden, butterfly garden	Natural swimming pool	Natural swimming pool
Determining	Determining, informing	Determining, suggesting
Informal	Informal	Formal
Local community resource	Internal community resource	External contracted
INTERVIEW.5	INTERVIEW.1	INTERVIEW.1
Page 12 Participant 5 Yes and we also work together with the people from Teepee Land, for example the whole summer, <i>an wie heißt es? Gartenglessen?</i>	Page 9 Participant 1 We have a little pond now. It was a common decision. Shall we have a pond? or another place where you could store bikes.	Page 20 Participant 1 For example the little pond, I think one year in the making, because you had people, they have the idea let's make a pond and someone else said no no let's have some more bicycle space, then they said okay, how much will it cost? who was going to do it? Do we have any plans what should it look like? and then people started working and made a presentation and after the presentation there was discussion and then the next month they decided, it's a long process.
Participant 6 Ah they took the...	MS And who comes up with these ideas? Is it...	Page 21 Participant 1 yep, and the pond was not done by people who live here, but from a firm, and he get money for that, of course he made an offer, it will cost this much, and the cooperative decided, 'yes! let's have it!'
Participant 5 They had the job to water the flowers. Or how is it called?	MS So they just say, oh! Wouldn't it be nice to have a pond! And...	
MS Yeah yeah, watering the flowers		
Participant 5 Without the Teepee Land people we wouldn't manage that. And there is a group of people, a <i>Verrein?</i>	Participant 1 that's it.	
INTERVIEW.4	INTERVIEW.4	
page 32 Participant 4 mm yeah so, if we talk about like these spaces then it's the Sprechacker. So that's a group of people and then they have to think about it for themselves, can we do that. Every year we have the question then who's going to take care of the plants, who's going to water, who has the time and energy and who has the skills? So for example here we've developed the cooperation with the Teepeeland and for this past summer most of the gardening here is done by the guy from the Teepeeland. Who's basically here, his name is Lucean so we have this agreement and last year it was other people and other things but the idea of the community gardening, the Sprechacker has the responsibility but we have an agreement with this guy and we say, okay look, you can take care of it and we agree on the concept and otherwise we talk a lot about the idea of the urnm...what's the word in English...it's not like response (?) but it's kind of like a Tree Patron or something. So there's the idea that some people have the vision that we can divide up into a lot of like sub gardens and give people at least for one year at a time or one summer at a time the responsibility to do the watering. And so we try that and so this summer we tried it and it worked to a certain extent but it's always a challenge. Like in this summer we had no rain for many many months and it's a lot of work and it takes a lot of time and we still don't have the final answer for it. So like in the food forest now we start off with the idea of...do you know about permaculture or...?	Page 22 Participant 1 It's next to the heating house because it used to be state of the art for energy making to have an Ice House. Ice House so you covered thing where there's ice inside and from the temperature differences between the ice and the outside air you could gain generate energy energy, but there was so much state of the art that they didn't dare to build it 'laughs' but during building this whole thing they have the pond or their their...the concrete thing that now is the pond they had made. It's a pond for swimming upon facilities like this little room but bigger. In the ground.	
	INTERVIEW.4 Page 35 Participant 4 I mean another really serious debate or serious conflict was the decision of what to do with the space here where the water is now. Originally we planned to have something called an Ice Storage. It's kind of a common technology to store energy. So for people who are producing energy locally especially becoming more significant with the years to also have a local storage ability. Something like a large battery. And the Ice Storage is something like a large battery, but we built this concrete basin but we didn't actually build the ice storage. And so for the last years we've been looking for, thinking about other alternative use, and a few ideas were proposed and the one that won was the idea of the, in English we would call it a natural swimming pool. So a swimming pool that's cleaned biologically by plants and so that's just getting started now. Some people didn't like it or just didn't believe it would work, or yeah it will, it's a good idea, so that's what you see there. A beginning of an experiment I would say.	

19	20	21
Event management of Option Rooms	Have a fence for the kindergarten playspace	Design of kindergarten fence
Working group 5	External (kindergarten)	Working group 4, working group 6, external (kindergarten)
Individual	Participatory	Collaborative
Social engagement, social inclusivity, self-governing	Safety, social inclusivity, social engagement, health	Safety, social inclusivity, social engagement, health, spatial quality
Management	Planning	Design
Option Rooms	Kindergarten playspace, rose and apple garden, open outdoor area	Kindergarten playspace, rose and apple garden, open outdoor area
Determining	Informing	Determining
Formal	Formal	Informal
Internal community resource	Internal community resource, local community resource	Internal community resource, local community resource
INTERVIEW.1	INTERVIEW.5	INTERVIEW.4
Page 35 Participant 1 We have one person who has to decide. She is in charge of the Option Rooms and the Boat House.	Page 27 Participant 6 The middle space I think is most used by the people of the kindergarten. That is the main use of it because they are always outside. Or at least in summer they are always using the spaces here, playing football here and yeah thats the football space and also people out of the house, people of the house they use these spaces a lot. And also this space is, it had a fence around it and it is especially for the kindergarten, because you know, the people, it was always a thing that the people could go to the water and fall in. So it's a little dangerous. So they have to have a space which has a fence around where they can be sure that the kids wont fall into the water.	Page 25 Participant 4 No. So things like that they can take many months or even a year or more, so that can mean that ..pft!...the decision for example with the daycare could mean you need a special working group of people who really find the time to discuss that question and they will have a few meetings and collect information and then make a report to the larger group, and then the smaller group can make a recommendation and then the larger group can make the decision.
MS What does she decide?	Participant 5 And the kindergarten fought hard...	Page 26 Participant 4 But some decisions like, should they put a fence here, that's a question that everybody is invited to participate in. It's a big decision then and in the end we can make decisions in our monthly meetings.
Participant 1 What can be done here and what price you have to pay, because if you are a non-profit organisation you have to pay much less than a profit oriented organisation. And there are many people who would like to have a party in the Boat House but only 12 parties per year are permitted.	Participant 6 Fought 'laughs'	INTERVIEW.10
MS Because people live here and it's too noisy.	Participant 5 Fought getting this fence there. People people live here said no, no fences. And how we have a tolerance for the fence 'laughs'	Participant 12 I think the process that we needed something like that was already started by the person on the job before me. So all these people they know this since 4 years and we need this as a kindergarten and then it was like a year, and then they said okay, yes, no, maybe. And then it took another year to see how could it look like. And then it was decided it was a year for deciding how it have to look like. And we asked the people from Teepeland if they could help us and if they could do it and they brought up the material and they did it and we gave money for that and so it was...I really liked the idea that people could help without being a company
MS Thank you. So have the one lady deciding what can be here, not everybody.	Participant 5 Fought getting this fence there. People people live here said no, no fences. And how we have a tolerance for the fence 'laughs'	Participant 12 There is discussions for the garden once a month and it could take 2 hours but it could also take 5 hours. It depends on how much time you wanna spend. And usually I'm not there all the time I was there a couple of times if I need something to talk about, because otherwise I feel like, okay this is not my main job, this is really something that I should let it go. It takes a lot of time
Participant 1 Yep. And she gets money for that too.	Participant 6 'laughs'	Participant 12 Yeah so parents forced a lot and I said I'm not the right one, I would love to have one as well, so go there. And parents want there as well and they supported with money, they supported with time, they had a garden Subbotnik and they invited us and I know the first invite I didn't show up. And after we had this successful thing I said to the parents, hey there's this garden Subbotnik it would be super cool if some of us turn up and there were 6 families, and that was a lot! I have 25 and 6 families of 25 is really a lot in this case. If they work in the garden where the kids are playing, usually you have company behind the kindergarten. A garden is something that parents don't have to take care about. Usually it's someone who takes care. So it was really nice.
INTERVIEW.3	INTERVIEW.4	Participant 12 I think like right now we have 9 kids in the age of 1 - 3 and they are all, I would say in this age they are out of control. Anything can happen and both colleagues would not go out into the garden because they would say the risk is too high. And I think it's sooo important for kids to go out. Even once a day or 20 minutes a day! Just to have real air, and the kindergarten teacher of the older kids, they are easier with the rules because they know the kids are really taking care. And they understand the rules, they understand the risk and they just follow in these kinds of places. But the younger kids they would not go out, I'm pretty sure.
Page 11 Participant 3 AD ...A bigger group for example is to organise these Option Rooms and to rent, organising the rent, and the using of these option rooms, there are many people in and there are some people who are working always on the carpenter thing and so on.	Page 25 Participant 4 Yeah, so this place here, thats a really significant space, right here, and this space there's the daycare. And this space here, it took a few years but we made the decision to put a small fence around here, something kind of like this. That means the really small children can play here and they can't run away, so quickly and they can't run in the river. That was a very long process. For example, because, we said in the beginning we don't want fence around the project and it's a conflict with the daycare because then you have small children, and they wanted a fence to keep the children in not to keep people out, right, but still it's a fence. So we said no, we wont put a fence everywhere to block the entrance, to keep the children in, so we give them a smaller area and they have to be happy with that, so that's what we did. We made a contract with Teepeland and they made this fence our of recycled pallets. And that was a very big discussion, many people did not want this fence and we're not really happy with, in a sense, giving the daycare a special area.	Participant 12 I didn't decide it, the people who live there and who work there they have this, I don't know how to say, they have these little groups of people who decide everything together. And I came up with these ideas and there's just this one person who said, 'oh no I don't like this!'. Then it's really difficult to move on because ewerrrything is really slow, all the decisions take a long time. I mean if I would live there I would passionately be this kind of person. But for me it's just work. And I just want thing to go on. And yeah. So that's a little bit annoying. But it's okay 'laughs'
INTERVIEW.4	INTERVIEW.10	
Page 11 Participant 3 AD ...A bigger group for example is to organise these Option Rooms and to rent, organising the rent, and the using of these option rooms, there are many people in and there are some people who are working always on the carpenter thing and so on.	Participant 12 Yeah, yeah. It was already built, and they already had kids in, yeah we didn't have a space for, for...in the garden. It's just like they said, we can use it, because we are also renter in the Genossenschaft but there wasn't this little part. I think we did it just a year ago. Because it was a long discussion because other people don't want to have barrier in this area. But I said it's really difficult to take care about the kids if they are super young and there's water and all my colleagues were really freaked out 'laughs' with nothing. So it was really difficult to get this little space there.	
	Participant 12 I didn't decide it, the people who live there and who work there they have this, I don't know how to say, they have these little groups of people who decide everything together. And I came up with these ideas and there's just this one person who said, 'oh no I don't like this!'. Then it's really difficult to move on because ewerrrything is really slow, all the decisions take a long time. I mean if I would live there I would passionately be this kind of person. But for me it's just work. And I just want thing to go on. And yeah. So that's a little bit annoying. But it's okay 'laughs'	

22	23	24	25
Approving the working group's ideas for the kindergarten fence	Created play furniture for kindergarten playspace	Design of Option Rooms	Approving the design of the Option Rooms
Cooperative	External (Kindergarten)	Working group 1, working group 2, working group 3	Working group 1, working group 2, working group 3, cooperative
Participatory	Individual, participatory	Collaborative	Participatory
Safety, social inclusivity, social engagement, health	Time concerns, health, active participation, recreation, social engagement, social inclusivity	Affordability, flexibility, active participation	Affordability, flexibility, active participation
Approval	Design	Design	Approval
Kindergarten playspace, rose and apple garden, open outdoor area	Kindergarten playspace, rose and apple garden	Option Rooms	Option Rooms
Determining, suggesting	Determining	Determining	Determining, suggesting
Formal	Informal	Informal	Formal
Local community resource	Individual, local community resource	Internal community resource	Internal community resource
INTERVIEW 4	INTERVIEW 10	INTERVIEW 3	INTERVIEW 4
Page 25	Page 10 Participant 12	Page 9 Participant 3	Page 30 Participant 4
Participant 4 No. So things like that they can take many months or even a year or more, so that can mean that... pfff... the decision for example with the daycare could mean you need a special working group of people who really find the time to discuss that question and they will have a few meetings and collect information and then make a report to the larger group, and then the smaller group can make a recommendation and then the larger group can make the decision.	Okay the area where they can play with sand that was the only thing that was already there. It's next to the building in this little space. That was the idea of them and there's this little area where we can sit and have lunch or bring lunch and that was from a grandfather of one of the kids so everyone brings a little bit own heart to it so it's really nice.	Yeah. So we decided, very specifically on the way how you could choose. So for me cooperation is one thing where you cooperate with the engineer, you cooperate with the people, maybe a group of people who are part of this project, and you decide okay, this is the way we make this house to become a house of possibilities. And then you say within that, what can I allow to be a thing you can choose. Because in this project, we had very clear... the cost was the most important thing. So we said, can we still make an interesting architecture if you not choosing different doors, yes you can, of course. It's not the question, it's only one question. And here we ask another question. And that's what I meant. You have to be absolutely clear, what are the questions you ask, to allow people to participate. So in this case, again, you have to say stop if I talk too much, yeah? flicks through paper and shows unfinished Option Room* Uh in this case we said, okay, this space, I show you here. This space, okay, we take this, we just build the, this area here, up to the ceiling, and then we insulate the ceiling and then the building is done. And anything you do underneath is not Passive House, is very simple facade, you can leave it open, you can close it, and it's yours, take it. Out of the framework of complexity. So you have to take it out of it. And you have to absolutely clear how you do it. And then they realised, okay, if we put an insulation here, of 20cm, it will cost us probably as much as making our facade.	It's really informal, that means for each one of the big community spaces so the ground level, this space, this space, this space, 'draws on map' and this space, so these are four separate groups or 4 little teams of curators (option rooms) and then the garden is another space so we actually have one, two, three, four, five curator teams, and in each one of those we have somewhere between 3 to about 5 people, and the groups are pretty much self selected meaning people just say, I wanna work in the group, but then once a year the cooperative at a monthly meeting has an opportunity to confirm these people. Or the cooperative can say no we don't like that group or no we don't like this person but it's kind of a confirmation that okay these people have this responsibility or these rights for this here to do that work and then its up to those people how they make the decisions. So that means the people that go to the meetings or the people that find time to develop ideas have more power, it's informal.
INTERVIEW 10	Participant 12 mmm no, no. I just did it 'laughs'	MS Ah okay	INTERVIEW 5
Page 3 Participant 12	MS 'laughs' oh you just did it!	MS Ah okay	Page 18 Participant 5
...but I think like they realised that I really strong fighting for the thing at all, but then also I wasn't fighting for, it has to look like this, or it should look like this, they were collaborating and me as well. In the end they said okay do what you wanna do but please there have to be something. And that was the maximum height for the people who yelled they want to have one so everyone moved a little bit from their side and that's how things are possible, that's the only way.	Participant 12 Yeah I was like, sometimes I got really fed, or really mad about how things are so slowly in the idea of talking each other and some people who live there said, "Just do it! If they really want to move it then they really have to move it themselves", and it's a little bit how I'm working here 'laughs' I just do it and then they have to bring energy to remove it	Participant 3 So they realised, this is not clever. This is stupid. So then they decided, let's do it. We make our spaces and this is what they did themselves. And it looks very different, but it fits really well. So they kind of, had a lot of freedom that we didn't have that way, that we allowed them, and they respected our architecture to put in their architecture. And that's for instance a moment I really enjoyed. I thought, if we talk about undetermined things that we say okay we leave space for them. Ah the space, ne? They can decide. So for me this is a very interesting moment. Where they took over.	...they make suggestions and bring it to the general meeting of all Spreetfeld people. Also, the whole cooperation. We are cooperation, all in this now 'laughs' and the general <i>Versammlung</i> (gathering) meeting, also all people together decide about these things.
Page 4 Participant 12	No I was involved but not with all the people. I took one of the garden group then I took one of the organisation group and then I said, "they let's meet up there and let's see, we need this space, is it okay for you, is it okay if the bikes, the place where to put the bikes is out there" and then we walked around and they said okay this is possible, this is too much, not so high, and then other people then... there was this meeting again and okay some of the people living here said okay it is too high, or make it lighter or make it brighter, no colours and think about that and it's just like, just do, just start it! I was at the end I was just like okay just start it with this! But the result is really really nice. I really like it. The kids are super nice. It so small that they could already climb over it. 'laughs' it's just a visual barrier and they just follow the rules and it's really much easier than without	INTERVIEW 4	Page 20 Participant 5 ...So this was an individual decision and then we have for this Option Rooms groups of people who decided about the common rooms.
Page 17 Participant 4	But the idea is still there with these big option spaces, is to ah, continue to use them or allow them to be used as affordable, flexible spaces. That mean they're still not really finished. They're still affordable and every year we do them up a little bit more, we have teams like one team for each space we call them Curators and these little groups they have discussions about how we want people to use them, how can we develop them...		

Significant words: decision-makers and people involved in the decision-making process

interview	3	4	5 & 6	12	1
words	we	people	we	real	they
	make	we	people	we	people
	build	space	real	people	do
	thing	real	idea	kindergarten	build
	process	group	make	garden	flat (apartment)
	people	decision / decide	live	space	decide / decision
	space	idea	space	play	live
	want	want	project	group	real
	architecture	make	want	live	ground (land)
	model	use	group	decide	money
	garden	live	decision / decide	care	cooperative / Genossenschaft
	group	cooperative	good	see	space
	decide / decision	community	city	important	problem
	city	garden	open	parent	work
	money	share	common	outside	open
	important	made	example	work	made
	possibility	public	ground (land)	make	part
	together	develop	public	discussion	person
	cooperative	build	garden	understand	GDR
	phase	everybody	build	feel	meet
	participatory	children	fence	risk	member
	change	important	neighbourhood	good	make
	huge	money	outside	person	talk
	everyone	neighbourhood	everyone	family	garden
	risk	agree	discuss	place	option
	public	discussion	care	friend	Spree
	role	together	money	help	belong
	design	open	friend	passionate	friend
	invent	help	street	neighbourhood	children
	architect	responsible	learn	barrier	fence



The Food Forest greets visitors at the main entrance



The residents converted the foundation for the heating energy house into a natural swimming pool



Families of the children who attend the kindergarten participated to build this play space

