

CITY RHYTHM RESEARCH

CASE MEERZICHT, ZOETERMEER

Visual Research, Rhythm Analysis and Data Analysis in
Meerzicht Winkelcentrum and Savelsbos Housing



Introduction to Case Zoetermeer

The Zoetermeer Municipality presented us a case for special analysis on low sense of safety and lack of participation in Meerzicht neighbourhood. The focus of the analysis was looking at the social problem from three different perspectives: visual research, rhythm analysis, and relating these analyses with the available data from the municipality. This analysis created a chance for City Rhythm Research to go from Physical World to Data, as a new approach.

The analysis has been done in different time frames and from different perspectives for making a comparison between the findings. The time frame which was chosen for the analysis was a vacation week and a regular week, in order to see the differences in the usage of public spaces. The precise dates for these weeks were 20-24th of February and 27th of February - 3rd of March, which was the week of vacation.

1. VISUAL RESEARCH

For the Visual Research, the district of Meerzicht has been divided into 2 main areas: Winkelcentrum and Savelsbos. In both areas, first a general analysis has been done for providing an impression and then, more detailed analysis for selected locations

WINKELCENTRUM

Visual Analysis in Winkelcentrum took place in the week of 20-24 March and 27-3 March.

The Winkelcentrum in Meerzicht is one of the few areas in the district where the residents can visit for doing shopping or simply for recreation. For this reason, the shopping centre works as a catalyst element in the area. Many people around the district meet each other at the entrances, or in the close surroundings where there are bike and car parks.

On the other hand, the surroundings of the Winkelcentrum suffer from the problem of Hangouderen and Hangjongeren, and sometimes from illegal activities such as drug dealing, or drug consuming. Sometimes, other types of activities happen inside the Winkelcentrum which are forbidden, such as smoking or alcohol drinking.



The visual research started with concentrating on the organisation of the Winkelcentrum, and how it works inside the district.

The Winkelcentrum has an interesting organisation in the area, which allows many different connections. There are 5 main entrances to the Winkelcentrum. Although these entrances look very alike, they all give access towards different settings. Thanks to this, based on their needs and their ways of arriving to the area (by car, by foot, or by bike) the visitors prefer to use different entrances.

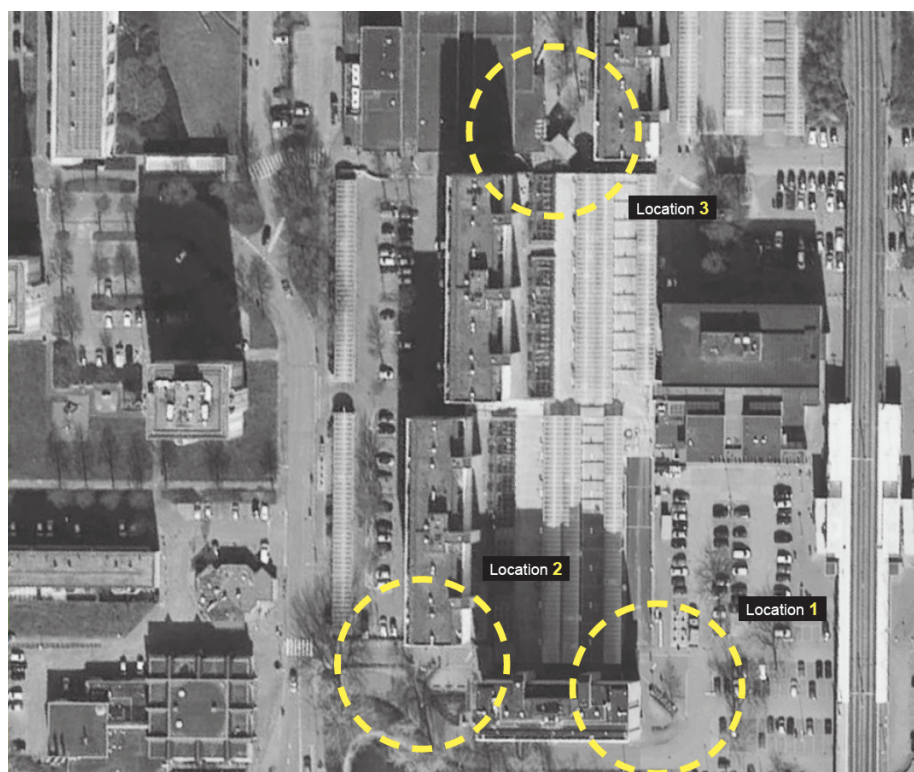
The image above shows an overview of all the entrances, and a pathway that the visitors use to reach the northern entrance.



Around the Winkelcentrum, there are different places where the residents prefer to meet or to hang out. The image above shows where these places are, and what facilitates these spots to attract more people than the others.

The spots number 1, 3, 4, 6, and 9 are the spots where people tend to stay because of the inviting nature of that small area. The first spot is where there is the Loempia stand, surrounded by benches. Many people hang around there, grab a snack and sit on the bench. Also the third spot is surrounded by benches, while the 4th, 6th, and the 9th are preferred because they are in a way private places within the surroundings.

The fact that these places create a certain level of privacy was brought to our attention by the municipality. In these spots it is hard to control the illegal activities. On the other hand, the rest of the spots are in the open and the people tend to stand in these places because they meet someone they know on the way, or they take a stop before entering or while exiting the winkelcentrum. In order to make a deeper analysis of these standing points, 3 locations have been chosen as seen below:



Visual Research Meerzicht, Location 1

The Location 1 is where the entrances A and B are situated. The location is characterised by a large parking space, a ramp that allows access to upstairs parking space and the tram stop Meerzicht Winkelcentrum. Along with the entrances to the Winkelcentrum, there are also other functions that shape the movements of the people, and create different moments of interaction.



Many people prefer this entrance because of the possibility to park. The visitors park their cars in the parking lot, and walk towards the Entrance B. Most of the visitors who come by car do a large amount of shopping, and for this reason they prefer to enter from Entrance B, which gives a direct access to Jumbo.

It happens often that the visitors prefer this entrance because of the trash cans. They come by car, drop their trash, and then go inside the Winkelcentrum. Some of the visitors who come by car stop by their car for few minutes if there is someone they know, and smoke a cigarette or chat.

The Entrance A is preferred by the slow walkers. They come by bike or by foot, and enter the Winkelcentrum. Also the people who work around the area, such as in Piezo, or the Elderly home, walk here during their lunch break. Near this entrance, there is a bench where some people sit when it is sunny. Nevertheless, the maximum sitting time observed in this bench was no more than 15 minutes.

The elevated tram line offers a meeting space for the teenagers. They tend to stop by and chat, while they are parking their cars. Also the visitors who reach the area by tram stop here when they encounter someone they know.

The Loempia Snackbar offers a rather informal space in the area. When it is nice weather, people grab their loempia, wait while it cooks, and then eat it on the bench. The time span for this activity is around 10 minutes, which is the time most people spend at this corner. In one of the observation moments, the “Hangjongeren” have been observed in this corner, sitting on the bench. They were not specifically acting in a way that disturbs the others, but it was clear that they were under the effects of a certain drug use.

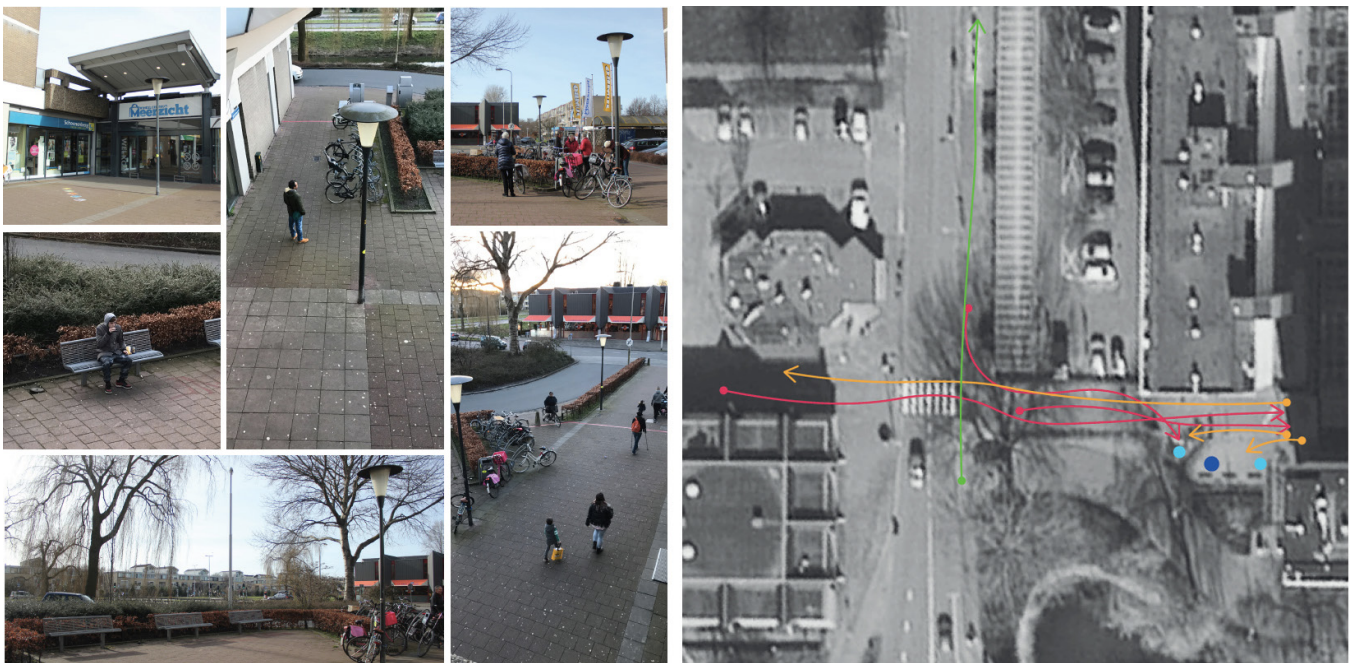
Finally, another inviting space in the area is the corner where Pizza Gigi stands. The customers of Pizza Gigi are mostly young people, they come here by car or sometimes by skateboards, order a pizza and wait for around 10-15 minutes. If it is nice weather they wait outside, which offer a nice scene.

Location 1, Railway Entrance			
	Friday, 24th of February 17:25 - 17:35	Tuesday, 28th of February 12:20 - 12:30	Friday, 3rd of March 17:20 - 17:30
People Entering the Area	47 People	22 People	55 People
People Leaving the Area	50 People	19 People	40 People
People Standing in the Area	2 People	1 Person	2 People by Pizza Gigi and 2 by Loempia
Other Activities in the Area	21 cars parking]	-	A suspicious car stops by

If we look at the behaviour of the people Location 1 in a more detailed way, we can see that there is a large number of visitors during the day. The number of visitors change from weekends to weekdays, however no change was observed between a vacation week and a regular week. It can be noted from this observation that the people use the outdoor spaces only to come in and leave the shopping center, and inside the shopping center they spend around 10-15 minutes. There are very few number of people who choose to stand, which can give an indication on the usage of the space.

Visual Research Meerzicht, Location 2

Location 2 consists of the area which opens to Entrance C, and then leads the way towards the residential area, Boszicht. For this reason, many of the Boszicht residents prefer this entrance, and usually come here by foot.



Thanks to the two benches placed outside the entrance, this spot offers a small recreation space. If sunny, some visitors stay outside enjoying the sun. They sit on the benches or stand right next to the entrance door. Along with the benches, this entrance has a parking space for bikes, which sometimes becomes a meeting spot. For example, some visitors who come by bike park on this side, and sometimes meet someone they know. If the weather is nice, they also stop for chatting, for around 10 minutes.

Location 2 appears to be more silent in comparison to the Location 1. There are no car parking places, so the visitors who come by car do not prefer this entrance. Additionally, this small area is quite recovered from the outside view, thanks to the narrow street that leads to the entrance and the bushes that surround it.

For this reason probably, it has been observed that the Hangjongeren prefer to stay on these benches. During the analysis, it has also been observed that they were consuming alcohol and smoking. However, it has been noticed that, because of this understanding, also the other young people who stand outside, without necessarily doing anything wrong, acquired a negative image as well.

Thanks to the hard visibility of the area, also drug dealing has been observed between two adult men. This happened in the evening around 6pm, while the sun is away and most of the visitors tend not to stand anywhere near the entrance, but they quickly walk inside.

Close by the Location 2, there is a Vishandel, a Bloemenwinkel, a Gym, and a Solarium. Although these shops create a good variety of functions in the area, they do not make an impact on the movement of the visitors. On the other hand, when these locations are closed, also the number of arriving visitors decreases.

Location 2, Entrance C and Residential Area			
	Friday, 24th of February 17:45 - 17:55	Tuesday, 28th of February 12:40 - 12:50	Friday, 3rd of March 17:30 - 17:40
People Entering the Area	10 People	3 People	12 People
People Leaving the Area	25 People	15 People	23 People
People Standing in the Area	2 People	-	-
Other Activities in the Area	Drug dealing at 17:50	-	-

The fact that the Location 2 is more silent can also be seen when we look more closely to the movement of the people. Comparing with Location one, much less people prefer this entrance. Also in this location there is no difference between the vacation week and the regular week, however the number of visitors who prefer this entrance significantly decrease during the weekdays.

Visual Research Meerzicht, Location 3

Location 3 offers a different scale to the residents and visitors than the other locations. It consists of the northern entrance, which is the Entrance E according to the analysis. There is the church of Meerzicht close by and an ATM machine.



It is a rather well defined plot, and there are different ways to access the spot, such as a car parking lot, bike parking places and a small pathway that leads to the railway entrance. The Location 3 is never very busy, but the arrivers to this spot come by a slower movement. Sometimes the visitors stop by the ATM machine, or by the entrance for smoking a cigarette. Their presence in the location lasts for 10 minutes. Also, the visitors who come by bike tend to stop by and speak to each other before entering.

There is an Albert Heijn in this side of the Winkelcentrum, and it happens often that the customers enter and exit within 10 minutes. Although the moments of engagement is not very different than the other locations, thanks to the different sources of movement in the area, problematic situations such as drug dealing, or alcohol consuming by young people has never been observed.

Location 3, Entrance E			
	Friday, 24th of February 18:05 - 18:15	Tuesday, 28th of February	Friday, 3rd of March 17:10 - 17:20
People Entering the Area	26 People	No documentation	20 People
People Leaving the Area	30 People	No documentation	28 People
People Standing in the Area	3 People	No documentation	1 Person Smoking 6 Stop by ATM
Other Activities in the Area	10 People passing by	No documentation	2 people entered and left within 10 minutes

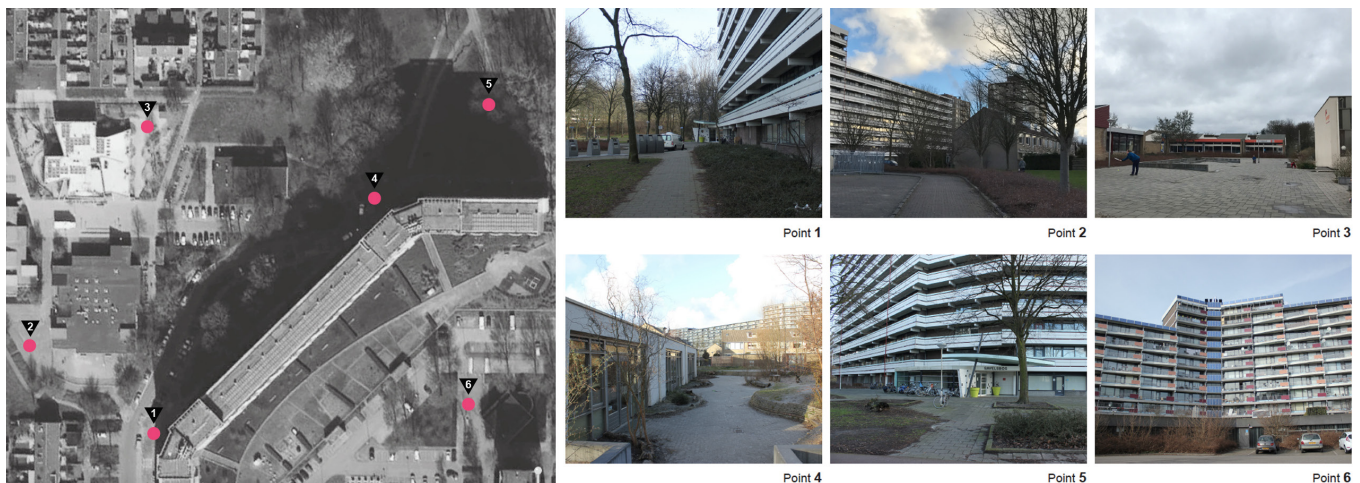
Another factor that improves the quality in this location can be passage way that connects the Entrance E to the railway. Thanks to this, there are many people who pass by from north to south. The passers by contributes to keep the area busy from time to time, and prevents any illegal activities.

The observation that this location is more open for the people to spend time can also be seen when we watch the visitors' movements in a more detailed way. Although the location is not open to a large area, the numebr of passers by and the people who stand are higher than the other locations. On the other hand, the number of the people who enter and leave is also relatively high.

SAVELSBOS

The northern side of Meerzicht is dedicated to residential areas. The second main location of analysis includes the Savelsbos residential building, the elementary schools and and the green area in between both. About this area, the municipality presented us issues related with the behaviour of the residents and passers by. Due to the large number of residents living in Savelsbos building, it is quite hard to keep a track of who lives in the building. Many apartments are being sub-rented illegally, and those who are registered at the building are not always present.

Additionally, many of the residents of Savelsbos are low-income families, who are unemployed and living with a government subsidy. These facts show that there is a general ownership problem in the area, and the residents do not take good care of their surroundings. Following this, we were told by the municipality that sometimes the hangjongeren use badly the school gardens. This effects the sense of safety in the area very negatively.



During the initial analysis, several locations have been highlighted based on where the people around this area tend to stop by. The Points 1, 2, and 5 represent the locations where the people who are walking their dogs or walking together with their kids stop by for few moments. These locations offer almost no social interaction.

The Points 3 and 4 represent the school gardens. Since the space is available all times, the parents come here to play games with their children, and take advantage of the open space. During the site visits, the negative behaviour of the hangjongeren has not been observed.

Finally, the Point 6 is situated right behind the building, near the Winkelcentrum. Although this point looks close to the Savelsbos residential building, from the behind side there is a completely different atmosphere. This is the area where there are garbage cans, and where there is no need for a garbage pass. Therefore, it is much busier than Savelsbos's own garbage location.



Visual Research Meerzicht, Location 4

Due to the mono functional planning of the area, the variety of the activities in Location 4 appears to be quite limited. However, besides the elementary schools, right below the Savelsbos residential building there are few small activities. The first one of this is the Twins Hairsalon, and near that, there is WAS3ZICHT, the wijkagent's office.



During the site visits, almost no movement has been observed in this space. Many people pass from the entrance of Savelsbos by using the path that leads it to the northern side of the green area, and they rarely tend to stand by. Sometimes they are walking their dogs, and they stop if their dog stops.

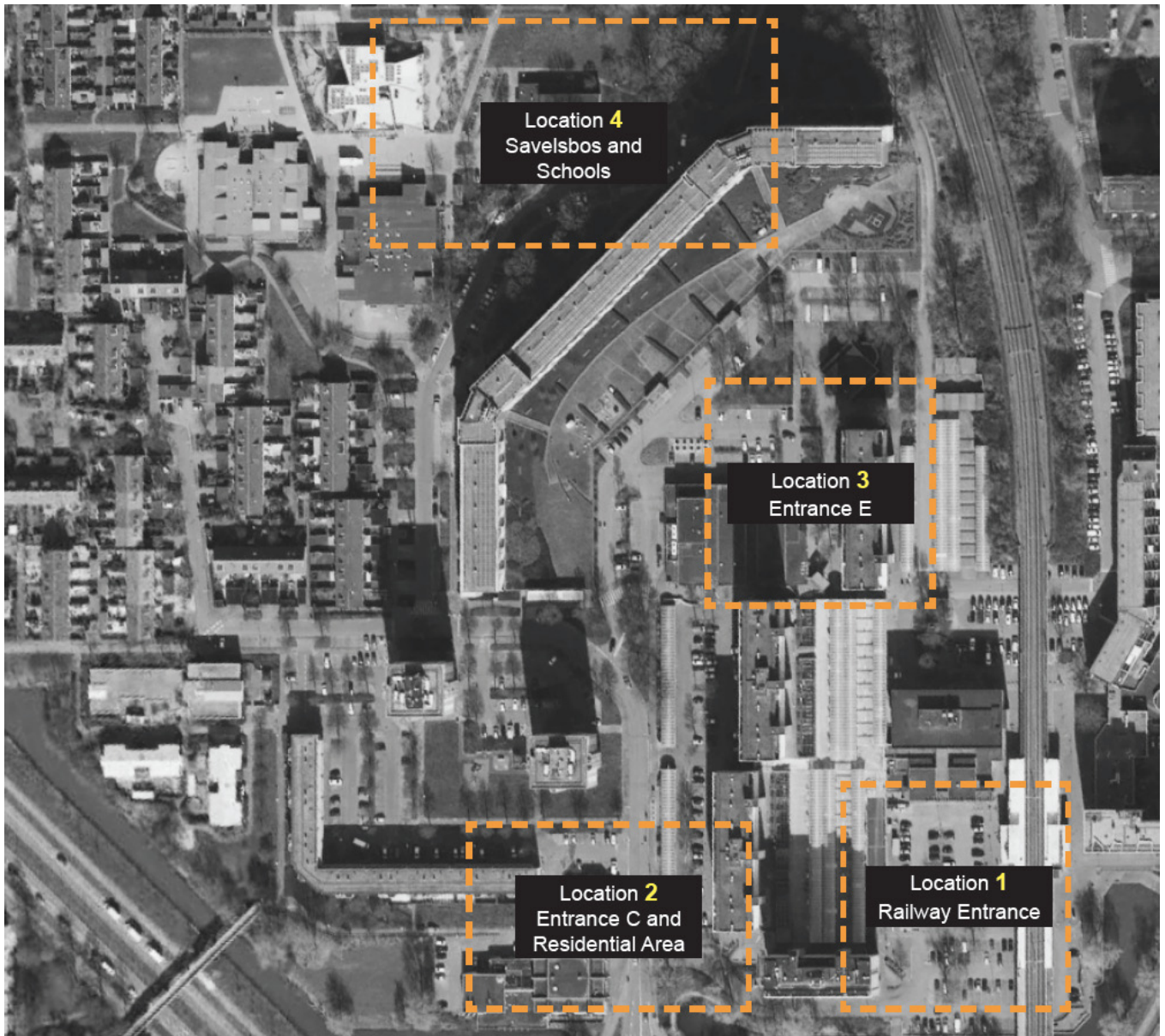
On the green area that Savelsbos is faced to, there is one bench that remains out in the open where it takes some sunlight. This bench is sometimes used by the people who pass by, who are not the residents of Savelsbos. The maximum time they spend on the bench is for around 5 to 10 minutes. It is interesting to see that even the weather gets cold the people still prefer to use this bench, unless it is not raining.

Location 4, Savelsbos and Schools			
	Friday, 24th of February	Tuesday, 28th of February 12:10 - 12:20	Friday, 3rd of March 17:50 - 18:00
People Entering the Area	No documentation	10 People	2 People
People Leaving the Area	No documentation	15 People	3 People
People Standing in the Area	No documentation	No people sitting	-
Other Activities in the Area	No documentation	2 people walking dogs and 20 people passing by	-

The detailed documentation shows that the people prefer to spend time in this area during lunch time, when it is sunny. In the evening there are only few people who pass by. This was very interesting to document, since the housing building happens to be quite big and dense, while there were times where there was almost nobody outside.

2. RHYTHM ANALYSIS

Following the visual analysis, the research on the Meerzicht case was brought further by establishing a rhythm analysis in the presented four locations: Railway Entrance; Entrance C and Residential Area; Entrance E; Savelsbos and Schools. In each location, a site of approximately 60x60 m has been chosen.



For the rhythm analysis, several aspects have been taken into account; the organisation of the area, and the different focus groups to include in the analysis. The main goal of the rhythm analysis was to represent the residents' or visitors' levels of engagement with the area where they live, or where they use for shopping or recreation activities.

For understanding what the organisation in an area would depend on, the functions have been taken into consideration. The functions in each location has been analysed in an hourly basis, along with the moments of engagement of the residents.

- Focus Group

1

Residents / Visitors Between **12 - 26 years**
- Focus Group

2

Residents / Visitors Between **60 - 80 years**
- Focus Group

3

Residents / Visitors Between **26 - 60 years**

Based on the initial observations, three focus groups have been chosen for the rhythm analysis. The first focus group consist of the younger residents or visitors, in order to understand where the complaints for hangjongeren can take place.

Following this logic, the second focus group were the older residents or visitors which were present in the areas, in order to look at the issue of hangouderen from a different perspective. Finally, the other residents who are present in the area have also been included in the analysis, for seeing the difference in activities.

Rhythm Analysis, Location 1

Railway Entrance

- Winkelcentrum
Openingstijden: 8:00 - 22:00
- Bakkerij Cicek
Openingstijden: 8:00 - 20:00
- Pizza Gigi
Openingstijden: 16:00 - 23:00
- Other Shops
Openingstijden: 8:00 - 22:00
- Loempia Corner
Openingstijden: 10:00 - 18:00
- Piezo
Openingstijden: 8:00 - 17:00



The functional analysis in Location 1 shows that the Winkelcentrum dominates the area. In this location, also the other functions inside the Winkelcentrum itself have been taken into consideration, since the movements of the people also depend on these functions. Along with the shops, the Loempia Corner and the Piezo have been included in the analysis. The reason for this is that some people from Piezo walk to the Winkelcentrum during the lunch breaks for buying food.

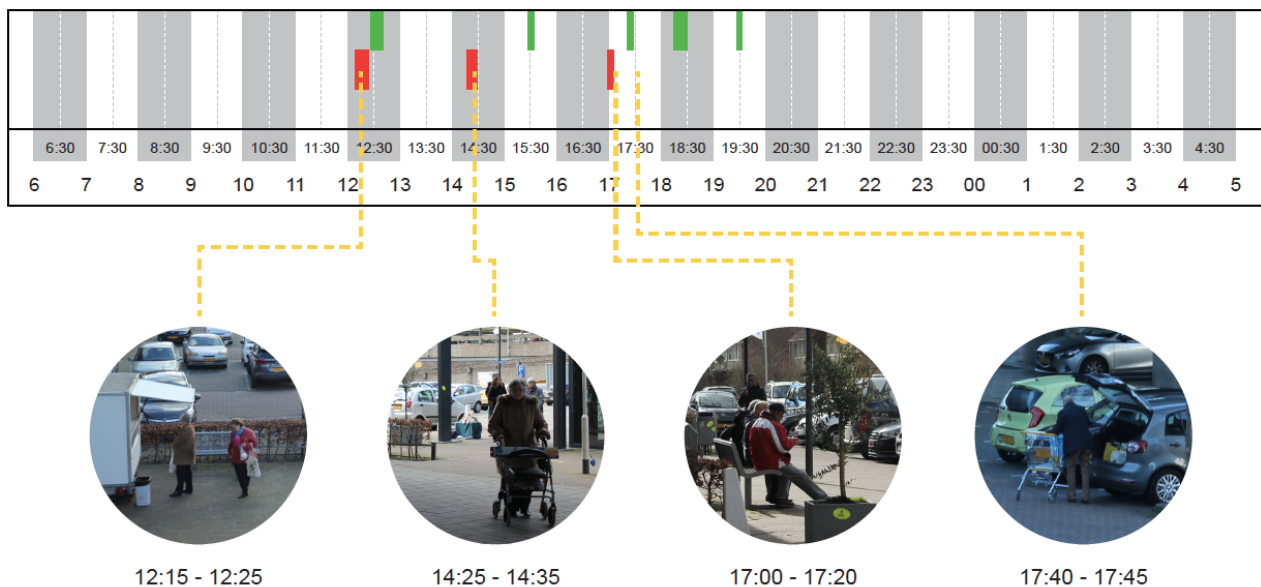


Based on these functions, the movements of the people are shaped. As stated in the visual analysis, most people tend to spend very short time in the area, which creates the lack of engagement, and other issues such as feeling of un-safety.

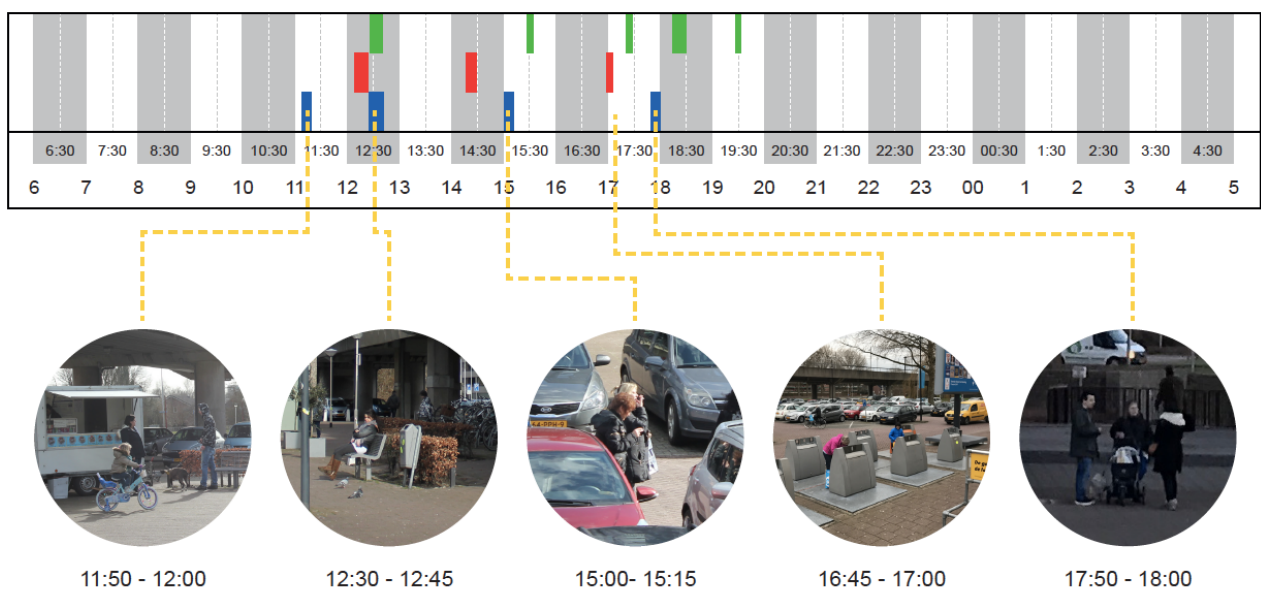
The graph above shows a sketch of how the people spend their time in the area throughout the day. It consists of standing at one point, or walking towards a destination. The following graph shows these movements in a time-based view.



The younger visitors' actions mostly happen at the entrances of the Winkelcentrum, or in Loempia Corner. They consist of chatting, smoking or sitting by while eating a loempia.

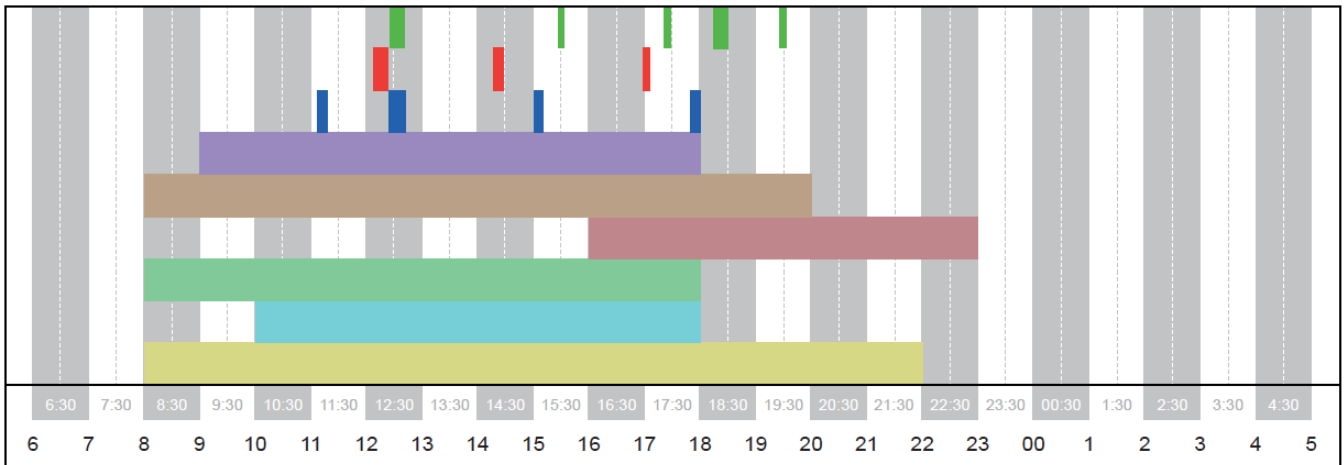


The older visitors' actions are not much different than the younger visitors. They consist of stopping by at the loempia corner, taking a walk if the weather is nice, or simply sitting at the bench. If the visitors prefer to arrive at this location by car, usually it is observed that at a certain point they stop for few minutes for loading their car.



The other visitors also do the same actions. Many times people stop by the trash and spend time for separating it for recycle.

The overall analysis gives an impression of the rhythm view of Location 1. It can be seen from this analysis that although the focus groups are different, the same type of engagement happens by all sides. The levels of engagement do not increase or decrease much during the day. It is interesting to see that they are always limited to small time frames. Due to the fact that there are not many means of engagement with the space, those who prefer to sit down and talk to each other, smoke a cigarette, or drink something (not necessarily alcoholic) tend to be seen as suspicious people. This situation raises the questions, if more people were sitting down, would it produce the same effect or not.



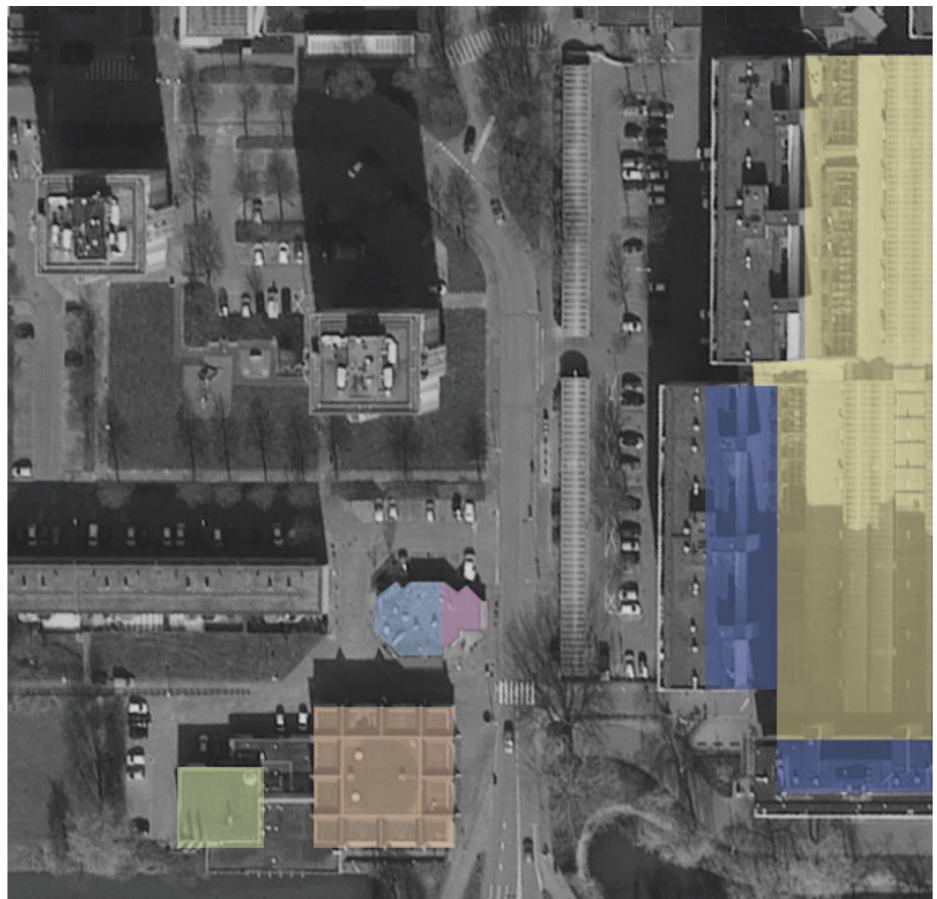
An important outcome of the visual analysis is that the open space around the Entrance A and B offers insufficient means of engagement. There are not many elements such as benches or even a bar where people can sit and have a nice time. Nevertheless, due to the strategic point of the open space, many visitors tend to prefer this entrance, and use it as a space for interaction in case they see someone they know, or take advantage of the space in case the weather is nice.

Rhythm Analysis, Location 2

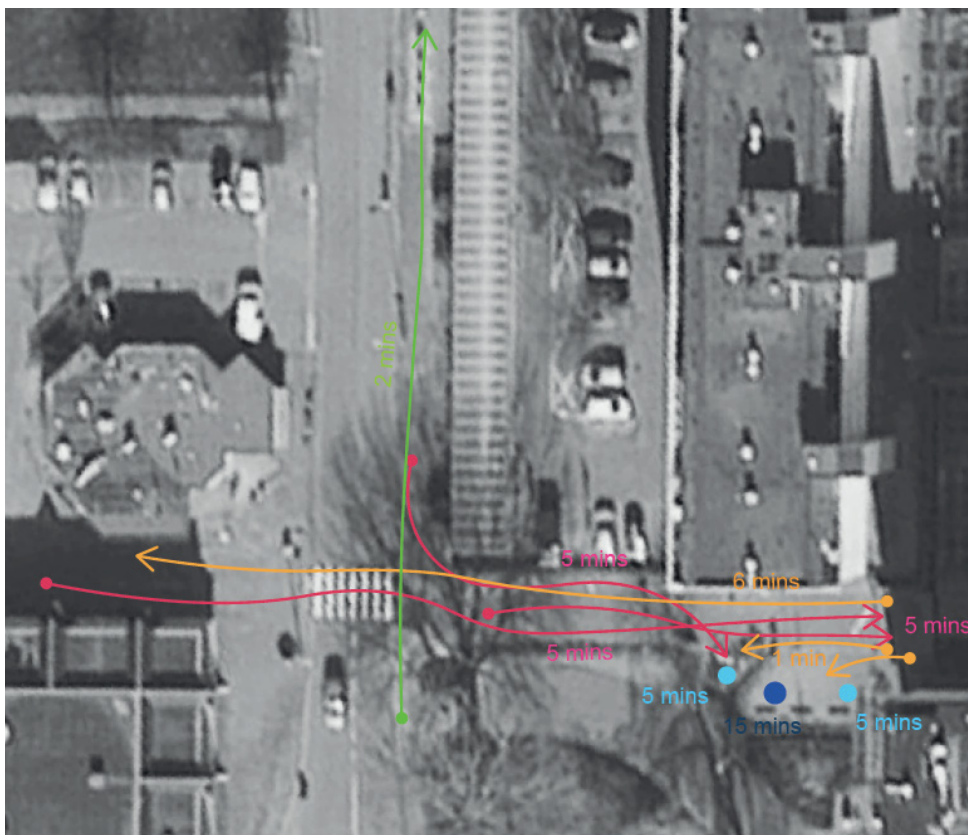
Entrance C and Residential Area

The rhythm analysis in this location aims to look at the illegal issues that were observed during the visual research from a different perspective.

- Winkelcentrum
Openingstijden: 8:00 - 22:00
- Other Shops
Openingstijden: 8:00 - 17:30
- Vishandel Knoester
Openingstijden: 9:00 - 18:00
- Bloemenwinkel
Openingstijden: 9:00 - 18:00
- Fit All Day
Openingstijden: 7:00 - 23:00
- Solarium
Openingstijden: 9:00 - 22:00

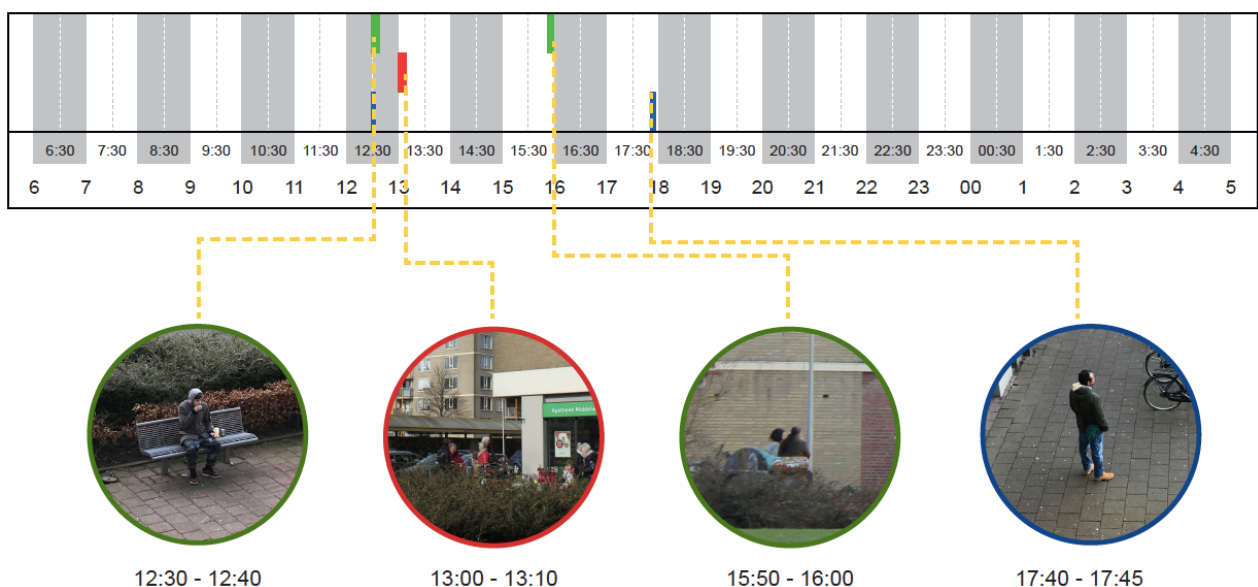


The analysis in Location 2, focuses also on the other shops and functions nearby, besides the Winkelcentrum itself. These functions are Vishandel, Bloemenwinkel, the Gym and the Solarium. They contribute keeping the area alive, along with the Winkelcentrum. This location is the most active one considering the functions and the times they remain open.

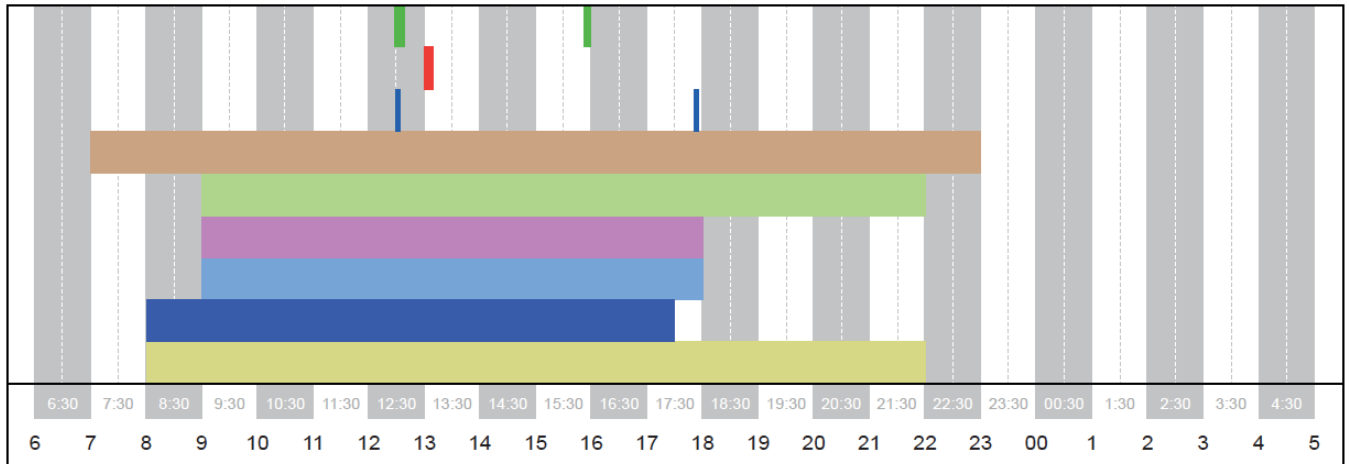


The movements of the visitors had been observed during the analysis, displaying a rather linear flow. Considering the walking distance, it would take the visitors around 5 minutes to walk towards the Winkelcentrum, while around 5 minutes would be spent standing outside.

The benches increase the time that people spend outside this area. During nice weather people use the benches for almost 15 minutes. There are benches also right behind the Vishandel and Bloemenwinkel, where there is also a park for the children. It has been observed during the analysis that mothers prefer to sit on this bench while watching their children play.



From the rhythm analysis, we can see that the Location 2 is mainly characterised by movement of the visitors, rather than time spent outside. The only elements that can provide a more elevated level of engagement are the few benches that can be found in the area. Because of this reason, the time the people spend in this area remains very few. This situation may also influence the happening of the negative activities.

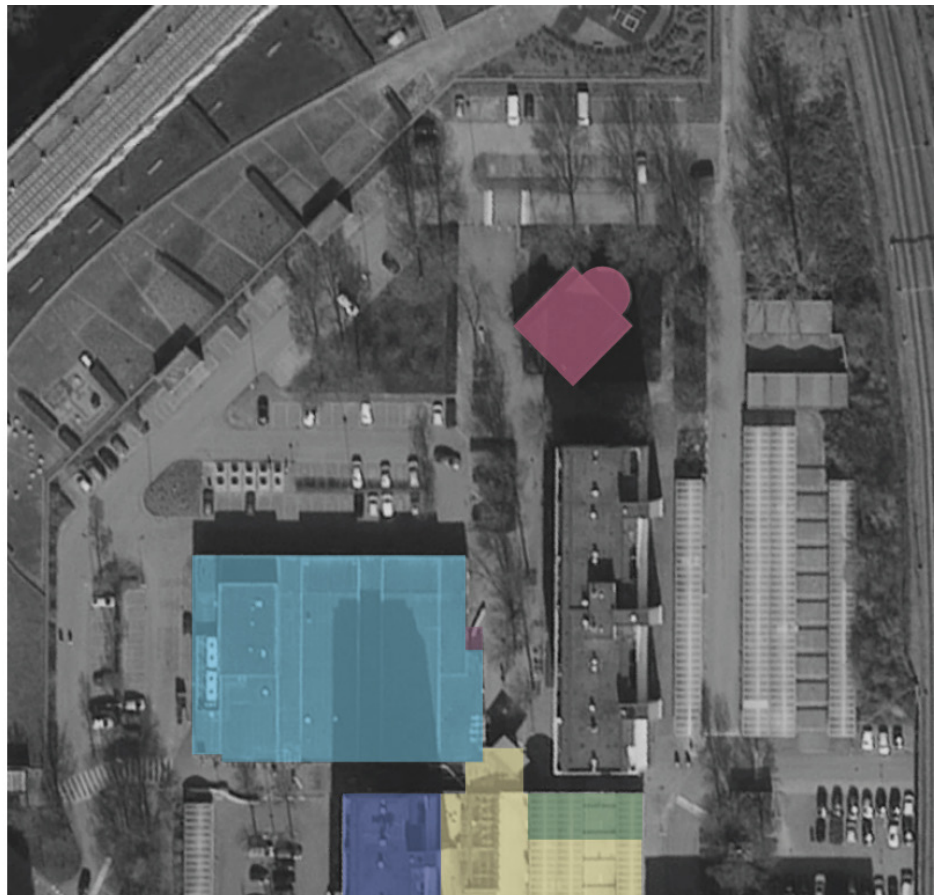


Rhythm Analysis, Location 3

Entrance E

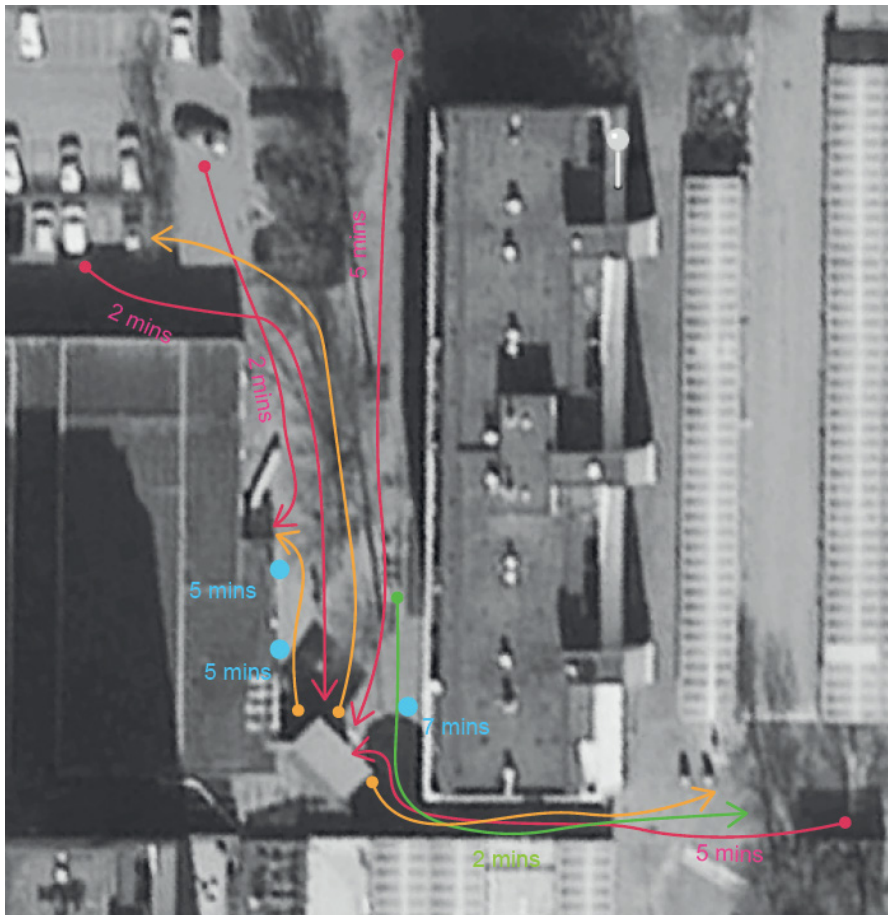
Thanks to its well defined surroundings, different accesses to the Winkelcentrum entrance and the possibility of connection between the north and the eastern side of the Winkelcentrum, the Location 3 has a more inviting atmosphere than the others.

- Winkelcentrum
Openingstijden: 8:00 - 22:00
- Other Shops
Openingstijden: 9:00 - 18:00
- Albert Heijn
Openingstijden: 8:00 - 20:00
- Chinese Restaurant
Openingstijden: 12:00 - 22:00
- ATM
Openingstijden: 24 Hrs
- Kerk
Openingstijden: 10:00 - 12:30



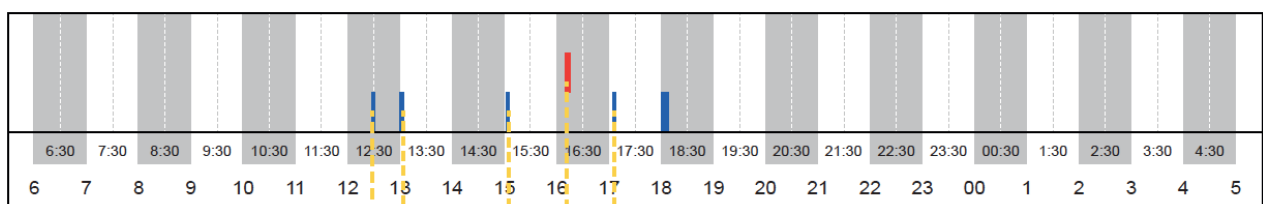
The visitors use this location mostly to go to Albert Heijn, which has a direct access from the Entrance E, to go to the Chinese Restaurant, and to use the ATM. The ATM offers a small standing point for around 5 to 10 minutes, and since it is the only ATM machine in the area, it attracts visitors that come from the different parts of the Winkelcentrum.

Perhaps for this reason, during the analysis, issues such as drug dealing, hangjongeren, or hangouderen were not observed. Since ATM plays a big role in creating a better engagement between the people and their surroundings in this location, it has also been considered in the functional analysis. Besides the ATM, also the church gives a different meaning to the area.



The Location 3 can be reached in many different ways. It allows the visitors come here by car, and park their cars in the car park nearby, and walk to the entrance. This can also be done at the car park near the railway, thanks to the connection path.

Close to the car park, there are trash cans which are mainly used by the residents of Savelsbos. There are also many bike parking spaces, and especially the older residents prefer this entrance for arriving by bike. The Location 3 offers few standing points, the ATM for example, and also next to the entrance door people tend to stand by for smoking or for some fresh air.



12:20 - 12:30

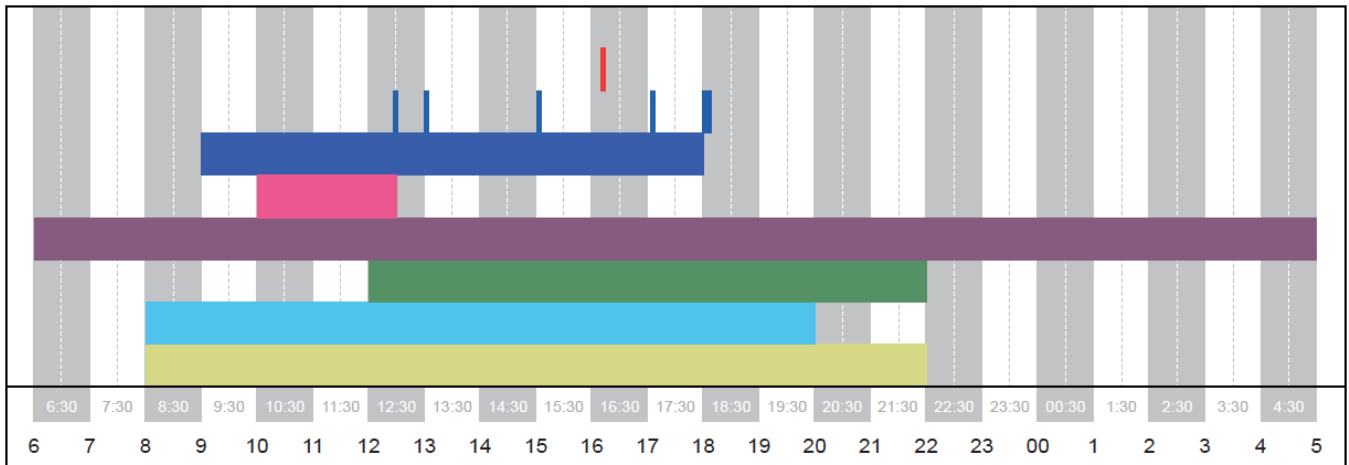
13:00 - 13:15

15:00 - 15:05

16:15 - 16:20

17:10 - 17:20

The rhythm analysis shows the few moments in which the people prefer to spend the time outside in this location. Although the location has a more inviting atmosphere and that many people pass by during the day, the standing time in this location is very brief. Another point that the analysis shows that the young people do not prefer this entrance for meeting or hanging out. On the other hand, also the older visitors spend very few time outside this location in comparison to the other ones. Perhaps through outdoor elements like benches this situation could be improved.

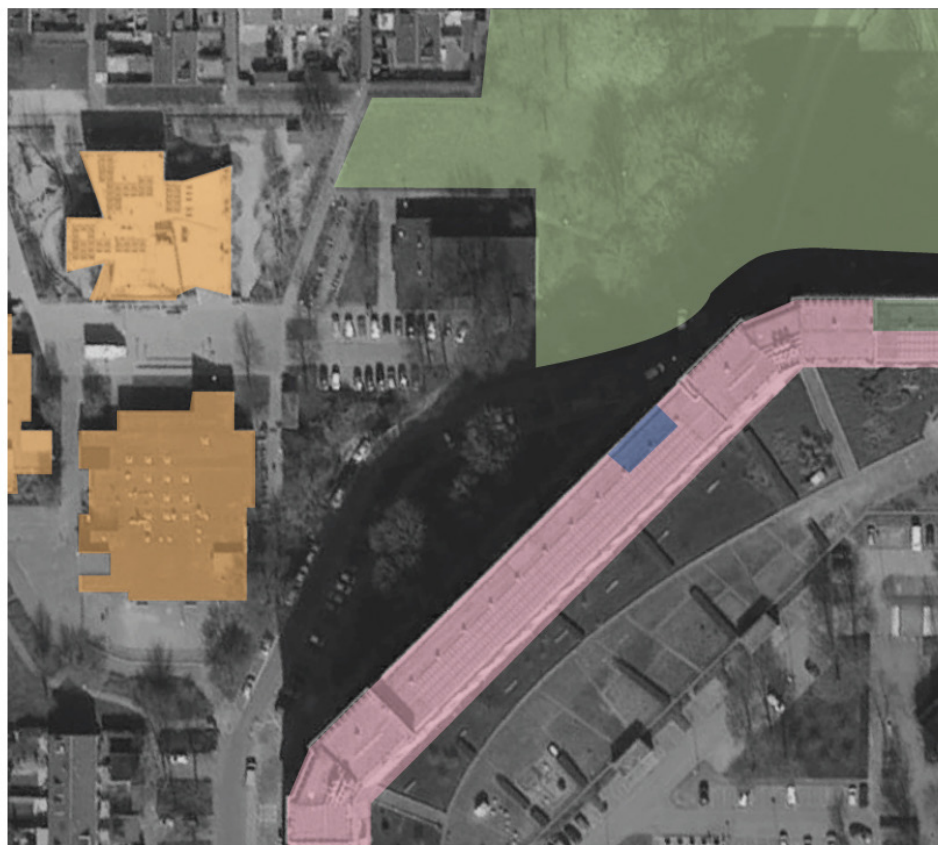


Rhythm Analysis, Location 4

Savelsbos and Schools

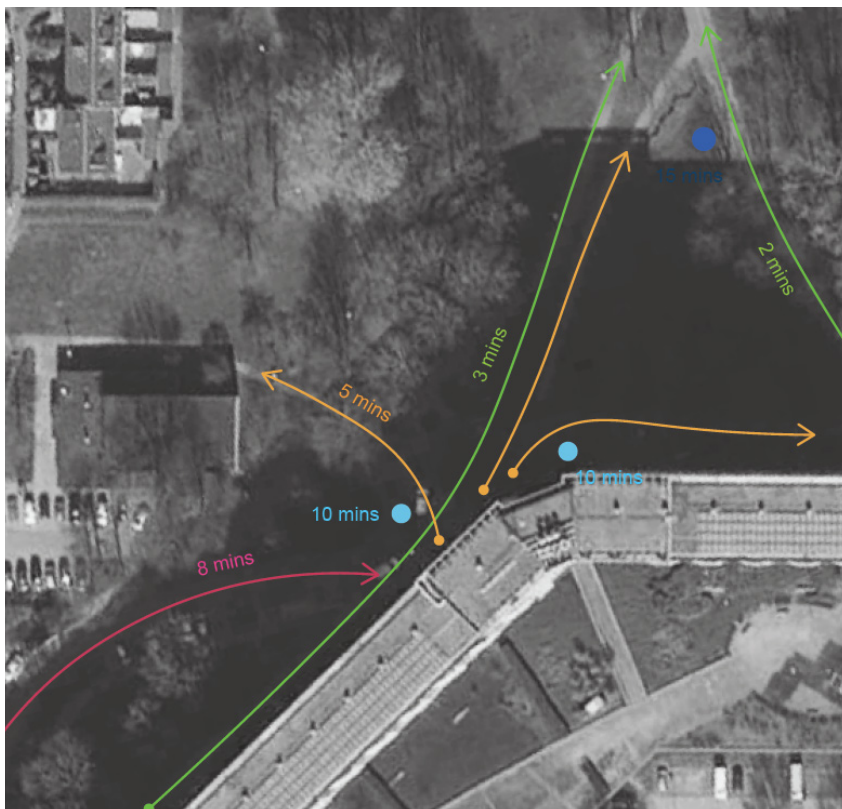
From the functional perspective, the Location 4 appears to be weaker than the other locations. It is surrounded by the big residential building Savelsbos, the elementary schools, and a big garden. In the plinth level of Savelsbos, there is a hair salon and a Wijkagent office.

- Schools
Openingstijden: 7:30 - 16:30
- Twins Hair Salon
Openingstijden: 9:00 - 17:30
- WAS3ZICHT
Openingstijden: 9:00 - 17:00
- Residential Building
Openingstijden: 24 Hrs
- Green Area
Openingstijden: 24 Hrs

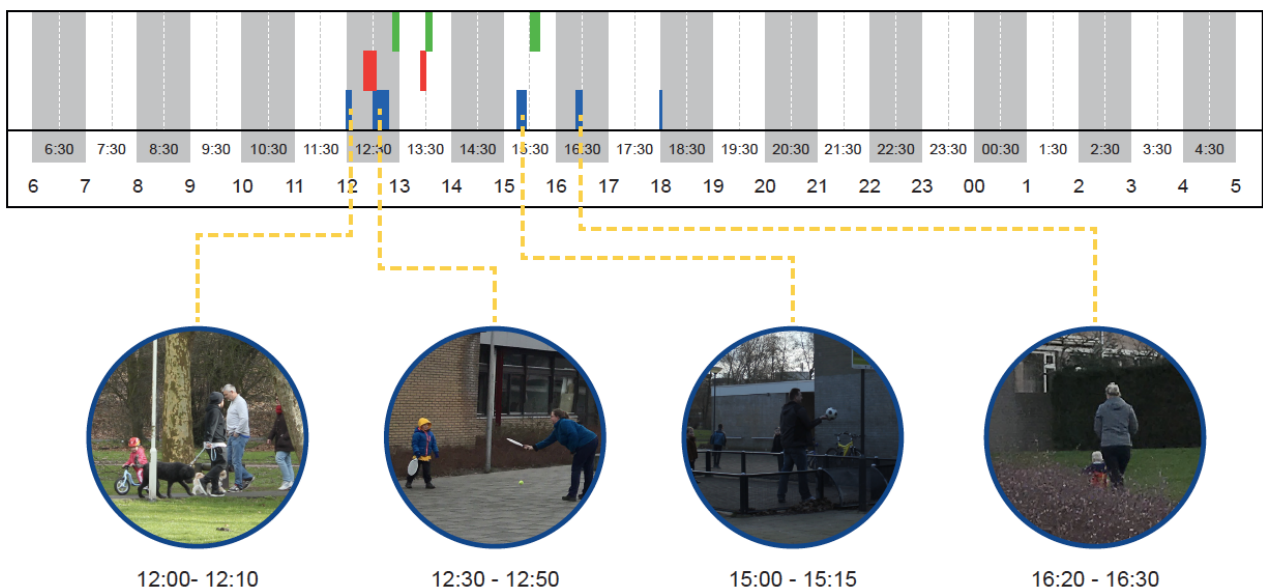


It was nice to see that around the Hair Salon, the entrance was quite clean and taken care of. There were also few tables for the customers to sit. The schools on the other hand, have a different role in the area, the teachers and other people who work in schools keep the area busy during working hours, so the hangjongeren would not come to give any disturbance. During the closing hours of the schools, few parents and children have been observed, who were playing at the school gardens.

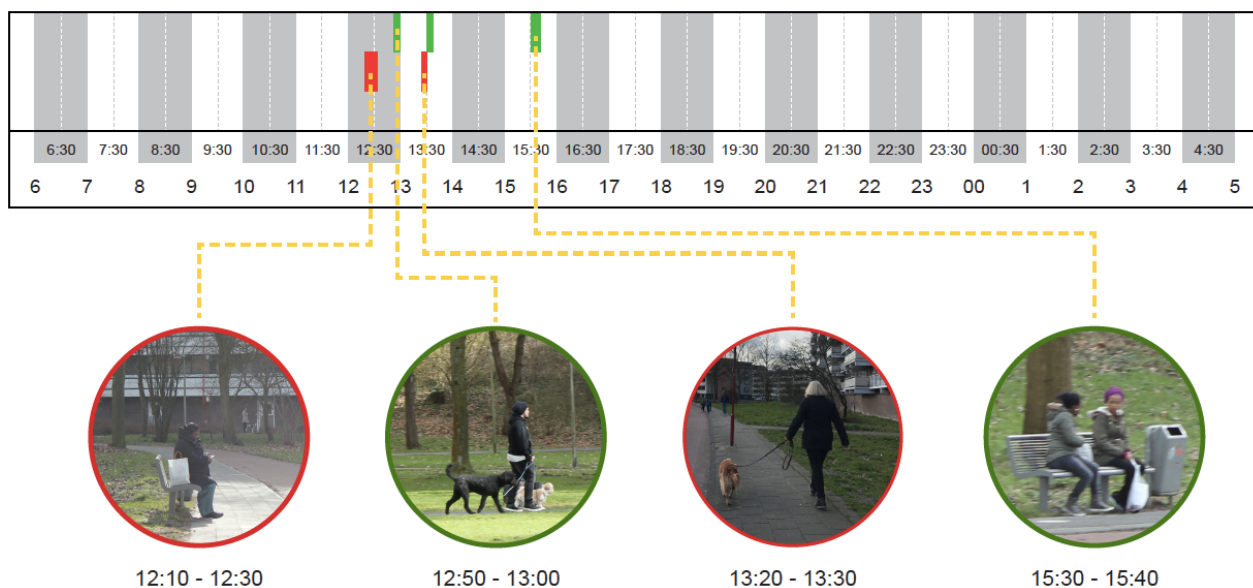
The green area and the residential building are the dominant figures in the area. Throughout the day, it can be observed that not many people leave their house and come back. During the analysis, there has been an attempt to understand what these movements depend on, and when the entering and exiting is more frequent, but perhaps due to the fact that many residents are unemployed, a moment in which many people leave or many people come back has not been observed.



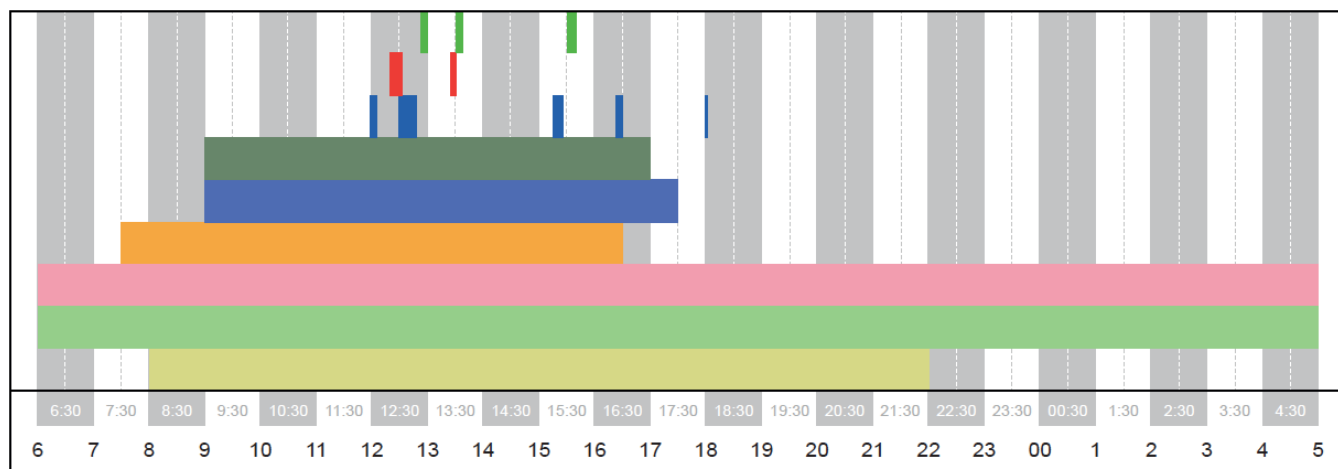
Although there are few functions available in this area, the movements of the people are still guided by the Winkelcentrum. Many people tend to walk towards to the Winkelcentrum, or come back. They use the Location 4 mainly as a passing point, which leads them from the southern side of Meerzicht to the northern side. Also because of these passers by, it is hard to distinguish who lives in Savelsbos or who is a visitor.



When the movements of the people are analysed in a time scale, we can see that the activities that give the people occasion to spend time in this area are based on walking dogs, or sitting on a bench for few moments. The only specific thing that attracts the younger and older focus group is the green area.



The other focus group on the other hand, uses the school parks, which also work as a public space outside the school hours. During the vacation week the activities that involve children and their parents have been observed in the Location 4. Following this, in certain hours people would pass by with their dogs or walking with their kids.



Although Savelsbos has less functions to offer in the area to the residents or visitors, thanks to the green area, and school gardens which happen to take the role of an open air public space, the Location 4 appears to have similar rhythms with the other locations.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

One of the crucial steps for the analysis in Meerzicht is to find validation through available datasets. The questions on Hangouderen and Hangjongeren which were presented by Zoetermeer municipality lead to findings on lack of social cohesion and places in the neighborhood for coming together.

During the visual research and spatial analysis, a number of indications have been found that provided a further understanding on the social cohesion in Meerzicht. From the data perspective, these indications will be used as proxies, which means that we will look for clues in datasets that can signify our observations.

In order to select the right datasets, first the most common activities that people come together in the outdoor spaces have been identified. These activities are: Spending time near the entrances (Standing Spots), arriving to the Winkelcentrum (Traffic), Disposing Trash, Dog Walking. Along with these activities, it would also be interesting to gather information on the well-being of the residents. This would have a meaning especially in the Savelsbos housing building.

The data analysis in Meerzicht, Zoetermeer will deal with finding patterns in these datasets which can be rhythmic, and relating these rhythms in data to spatial rhythms. This way, it will be possible to make a comparison between the findings on social cohesion in physical world and the data world. Below you will find a list of the datasets that have been selected for this analysis.



1- Dog Walking: In Savelsbos, many people use the open air locations to go out with their dogs. As a result, the data on dogs is more dense in Meerzicht West.

- Data on dog poop
- Data on registered dog owners
- Rules on dogs
- Hondenuitlaatkaart



2- Standing Spots: When people spend their time outside, they either smoke or drink something near the entrances of the Winkelcentrum.

- Data on trash like cigarette trash
- Plastik Blink Drankkartons
- Glas op Straat
- Cleaning Data



3- Traffic: The activities which take place in the surroundings of the Winkelcentrum are mostly dedicated to mobility; the visitors arrive by car, bike, on foot or via public transport.

- Meldingen about wrong car parking
- Meldingen about bikes
- Flitsmeister
- Public transportation schedule



4- Disposing Trash: People go to the Winkelcentrum to throw their trash, or meet with each other in the areas where they are dropping their trash.

- Documented trash with trash card
- Information on emptying the trash bins

(the more frequent emptying will show which one people prefer to go)



5- Well being: The economic and family situation of the people who live in an area gives an indication on people's behaviour in common spaces.

- Open CBS Data on income
- Data on density
- Data on demographics

In the data analysis, it is unfortunately not possible to reach a certain granularity that will indicate the difference between the two different weeks in which the analysis has been carried out. However, it can tell us about the social cohesion patterns and how they have been shaped through time. In fact, one of the most interesting expected outcomes of this analysis is the comparison between findings throughout the years. These findings can be good indications on how common life in Meerzicht has been shaped through time.

For now, only a collection of available data has been established in the data analysis. In the next stage, we will be working on identifying patterns in the datasets.

Conclusion to Case Zoetermeer

Case Meerzicht/Zoetermeer presented a great opportunity for City Rhythm, in experiencing the path from Spatial Analysis to Data Analysis. The issues of hangouderen and hangjongeren turned out to be issues directly related with social cohesion and the usage of public spaces.

The initial findings in the analysis brought us a deep understanding on the usage of public space. Dominated by the winkelcentrum, the area of Meerzicht is mostly dedicated to mobile activities, which means that the visitors of the area do not tend to stay there. This can also be seen from the rhythm analysis. Another reason that could have caused this issue could be the fact that there are almost no invitations from a spatial perspective; the outdoor furniture is limited to few benches, and the functions in the area are very similar to each other, mostly dedicated to commercial activities. Mostly, the residents in the area who would choose to stay in a certain spot acquire immediately a negative image, and appear to be hangjongeren or hangouderen.

During the analysis, also illegal activities have been spotted, such as drug dealing and alcohol consumption. These activities happened in the locations or during the time periods in which nobody was watching, or nobody would be interested in their surroundings.

In the data analysis, the available datasets offered the possibility to validate the visually analysed and documented areas where people spent time outside. Although it is still a work in progress, it is intended to see in the patterns the flows and the movements of the people who participate in the Meerzicht neighbourhood.

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