

OLIVENZA SITE 1 / TEAM 1

NEW POLARITIES



European 13-14 Inter-Sessions Forum – Workshop

ARCHITECTURE TO THE RHYTHMS OF CITY AND NATURE

To arouse interactivity at the European level, European and the Junta de Extremadura invited the E13 winning teams (winners and runner-up) for 4 days to consider and design scenarios on the E13 session topic –“The Adaptable City”– applied to urban contexts in the Region of Extremadura. Three urban situations were proposed for the Workshop, all three located in 2 nearby towns – Olivenza (with 2 sites) and Valencia de Alcántara.

In a region like Extremadura, with almost 75% villages of less than 2,000 inhabitants, the city-nature relation is everywhere. Nothing can be done without considering the presence of the rural environment, which has generated enough activity for the urban poles to develop. Still, along the years, the influence of the countryside has gradually (if not drastically) vanished, impacting on the urban spaces which therefore were deserted. So how to regenerate the urban structure through the revitalisation of urban fragments? How to consider today the limit between city and countryside? And how to take back the urban space through new rhythms and uses?

**European
Junta de Extremadura
E13 Winning Teams**



OLIVENZA SITE 1 // ACUPUNCTURE

How Can the Revitalization of Urban Fragments Induce a Larger Regeneration of the Urban Structure?

Olivenza is a small rural town located approximately 22 km South of the provincial capital, Badajoz, and 10 km from the Portuguese border, in an agricultural territory marked by rising unemployment and a shrinking and aging population. The first workshop site proposed a large intervention area covering the historical city centre and its outer edges. Starting from a selection of existing buildings, partially vacant or in need of repair, the participants were asked to reflect on how the town might attract new populations and uses while preserving its local heritage. More precisely, the idea was to explore how to modify the program, use and adaptability of certain sites in and around Olivenza, such as the bus station area—a problematic collection of autonomous fragments consisting of a partially vacant community centre, a series of empty warehouses and an outdoor amphitheatre—or the San Francisco bastion site—a former convent partially occupied by an olive oil mill today—so as to establish the necessary conditions by which these locations might become elements of connection and urban activation in the future development of the city.

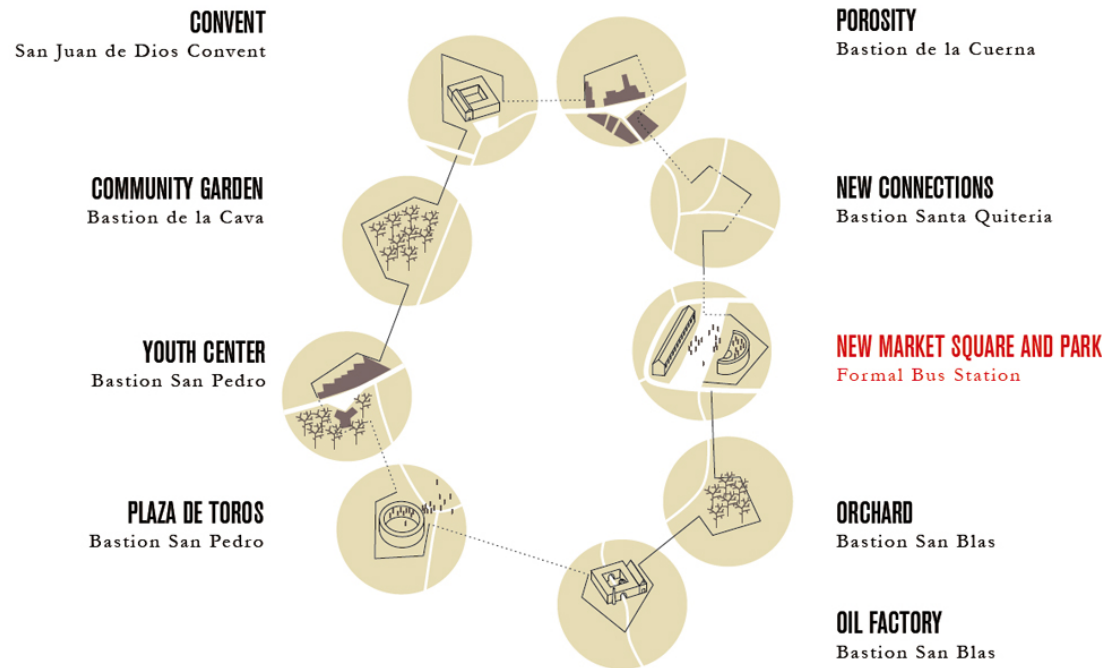
After a collective discussion following the initial site visit, 3 teams differing in size and nationalities were formed based on 3 distinct approaches to the site problematic: how to reconnect the spatial and social fabric through a strategy of urban acupuncture; impact of car traffic and road infrastructure on the future equilibrium of the region; and how to re-articulate the territorial and urban scales of Olivenza through a focus on landscape and its unique local heritage as a social and functional structure to be reclaimed.

A common thread linking all three proposals is the conviction that any intervention on the proposed sites or buildings needs to be first understood within a larger framework: territorial, urban, historical, ecological, and temporal.



NEW POLARITIES

ACUPUNCTURE – REGENERATION OF THE URBAN STRUCTURE



Critical of the focus on tourism and cultural monuments as the primary means to regenerate the city, this proposal explores a wider range of potential actors, uses and tools with the aim of **developing new synergies between heritage, production and everyday life**. The fortified limits of the town punctuated by its nine bastions, provides the visible, physical, symbolic and temporal structure for a series of new collective spaces or **'polarities'**: a **strategy of urban acupuncture** that may be implemented as part of an incremental and non-linear process based on evolving needs and local specificities. For example, the team proposes to reactivate the former bakery in the San Francisco bastion and introduce complementary programs such as restaurants or lodging, so as to enhance the local identity of the site, already partially occupied by the olive oil mill. Similarly, the rethinking of the bus station area into a more integrated and attractive set of public spaces, proposes to connect the existing community centre, open-air amphitheatre and adjacent bastion within a new tree-shaded garden or collective 'backyard', thus restricting vehicular traffic to the west side of the community centre where a new street market for local production is proposed in continuity with the existing pedestrian streetscape. These spaces through their improved connectivity and programmatic intensification become potential 'hotspots' for activity and exchange: between the city and the region, production and consumption, agriculture and culture, everyday life and special events.

PARTICIPANTS

Lotta KINDBERG (FI), Taavi HENTTONEN (FI), Joonas HULMI (FI),
Runner-up in Seinäjoki (FI) with "Semaphore"

Hannele CEDERSTRÖM (FI), Sini RAHIKAINEN (FI), Kirsti PALOHEIMO (FI),
Runner-up in Espoo (FI) with "Pärkse"

Katarzyna FURGALINSKA (PL), Michal LISINSKI (PL),
Runner-up in Selb (DE) with "Selb Round the Corner"

Mihai BUSE (RO), Márton TÖVISSI (RO),
Winner in Graz (AT) with "Walzer"

Nela KADIC (AT),
Runner-up in St Pölten (AT) with "Elastic City"

Laura MARTÍNEZ ALONSO (ES), Marta DE LAS HERAS MARTÍNEZ (ES),
Runner-up in Geneva (CH) with "Open Space Fabric"

Marion LACAS (FR), Denis BROCHARD (FR),
Winner in Bondy (FR) with "Bondy's Count"

COACH: Jim NJOO (CA/FR)

Lotta Kindberg (FIN)

Taavi Henttonen (FIN)

Joona Hulmi (FIN)

[SEMAPHORE, Seinäjoki/FIN]

Hannele Cederström (FIN)

Sini Rahikainen (FIN)

Kirsti Paloheimo (FIN)

[PÄRSKE, Espoo/FIN]

Marion Lacas (FR)

Denis Brochard (FR)

[BONDY'S COUNT, Bondy/FR]

Katarzyna Furgalinska (PL)

Michal Lisinski (PL)

[SELB ROUND THE CORNER, Selb/DE]

NEW POLARITIES

Reactivating Olivenza

Jim Njoo (FR)

[COACH]

Mihai Buse (RO)

Márton Tövissi (RO)

[WALZER, Graz/AT]

Laura Martinez Alonso (ES)

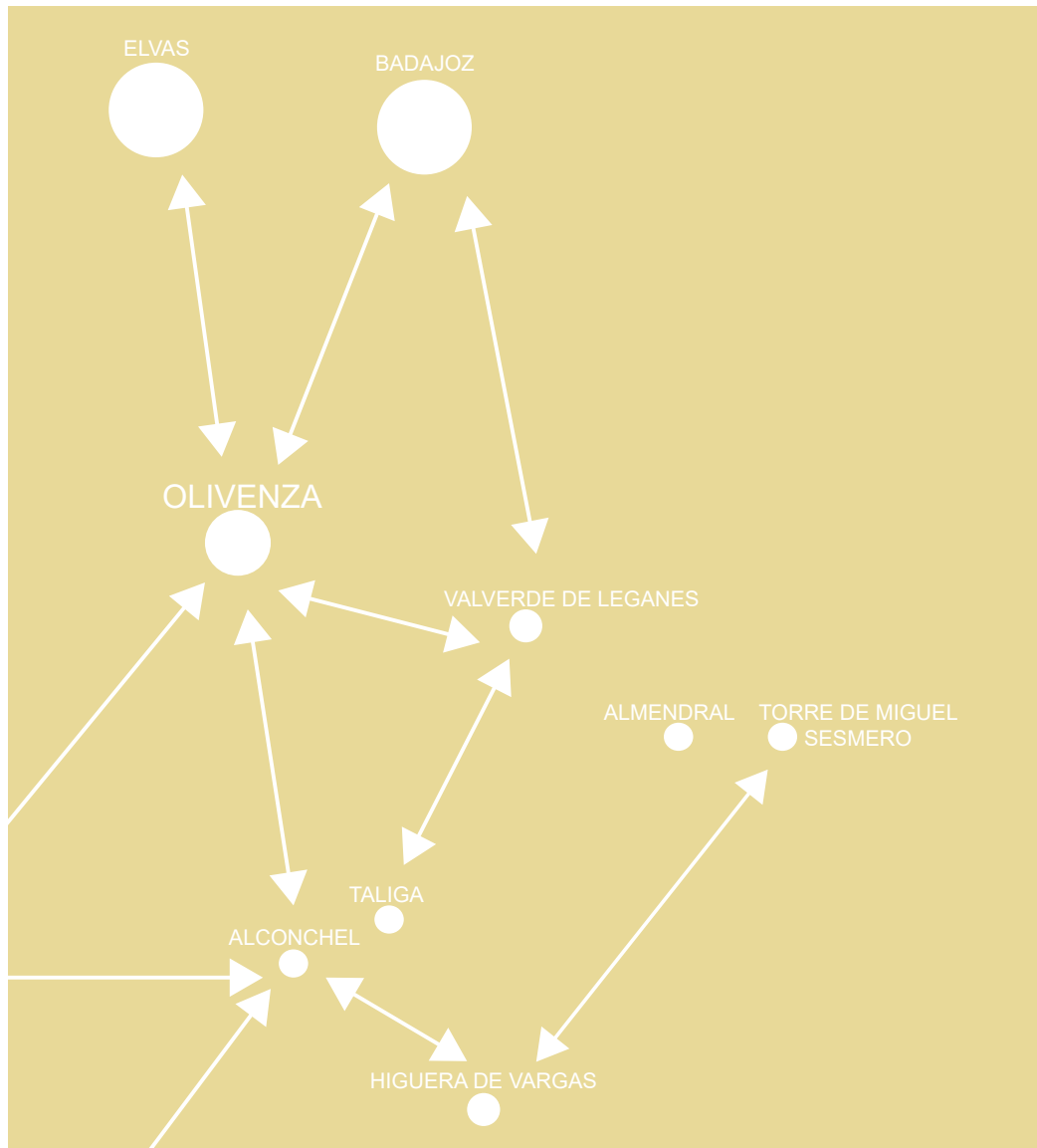
Marta de las Heras Martinez (ES)

[OPEN SPACE FABRIC, Geneva/CH]

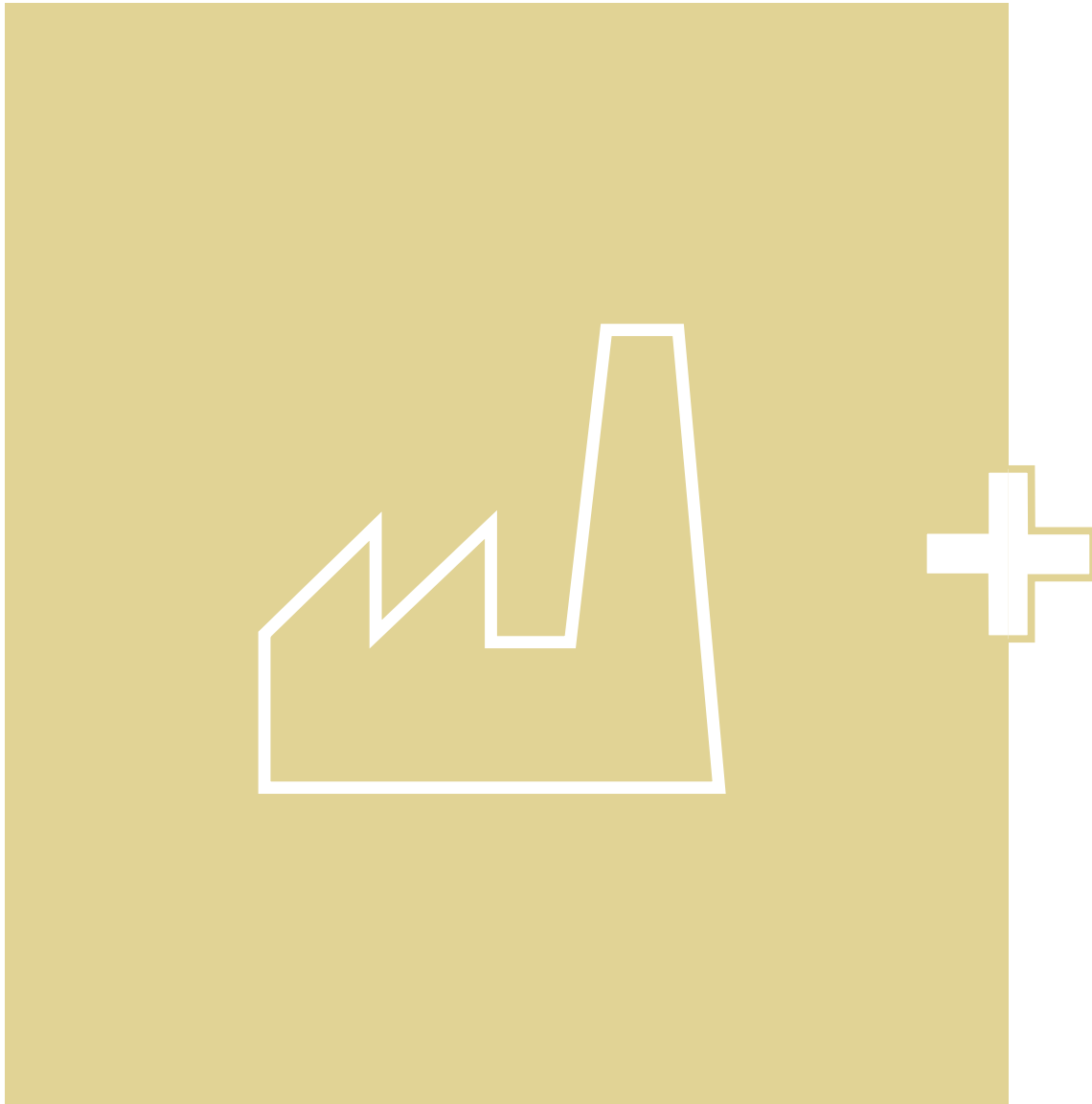
Nela Kadic (AT)

[ELASTIC CITY, St.Pölten/AT]

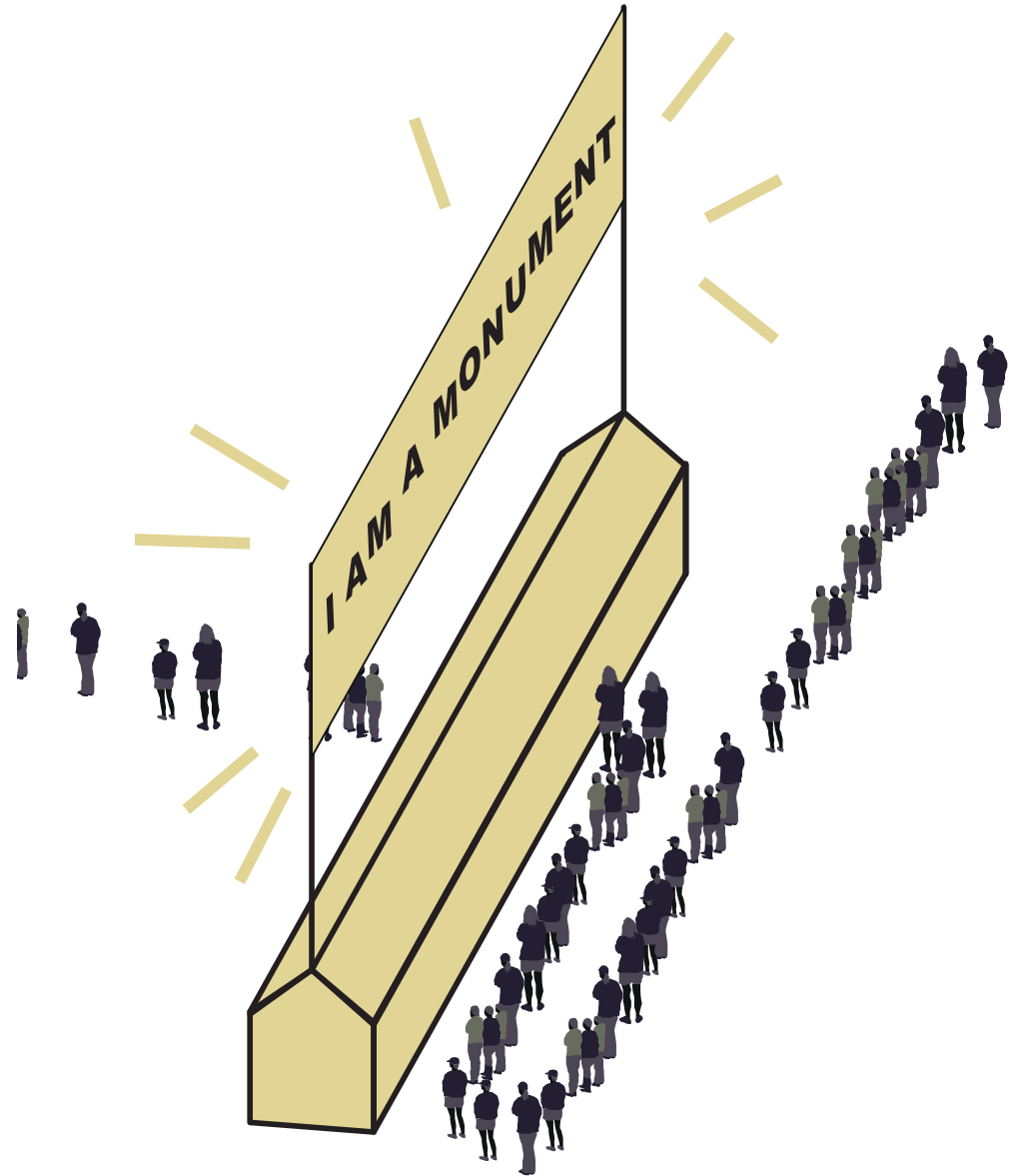
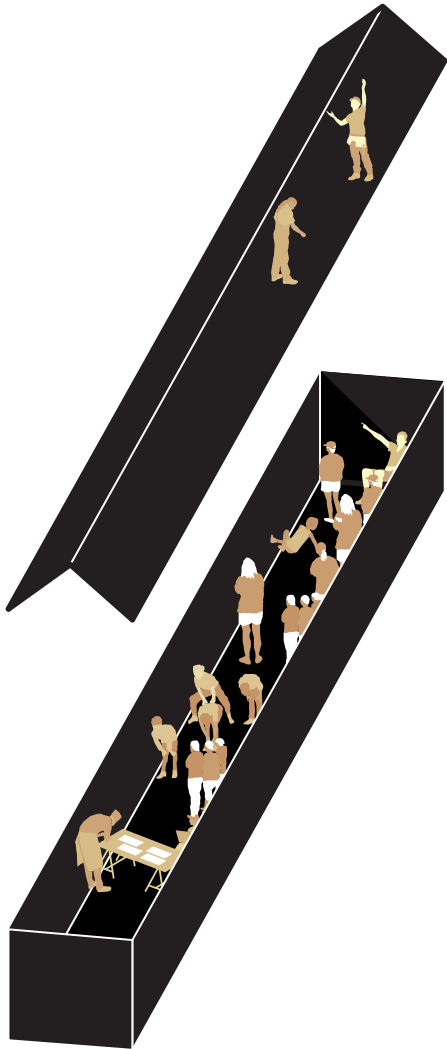
FROM PRODUCTION TO TOURISM?



FROM TOOL TO ICON?



FROM AMENITY TO MONUMENT?



FROM EVERYDAY TO HOLIDAY?

354 days

11 days

URBAN ACUPUNCTURE



A STRATEGY OF FRAGMENTS



IDENTITIES

BUS STATION



OIL FACTORY



PLAZA DE TOROS



PRESERVED



FRAGMENTED



WALL

NEW POLARITIES

CONVENT

San Juan de Dios Convent

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Bastion de la Cava

YOUTH CENTER

Bastion San Pedro

PLAZA DE TOROS

Bastion San Pedro

POROSITY

Bastion de la Cuerna

NEW CONNECTIONS

Bastion Santa Quiteria

NEW MARKET SQUARE AND PARK

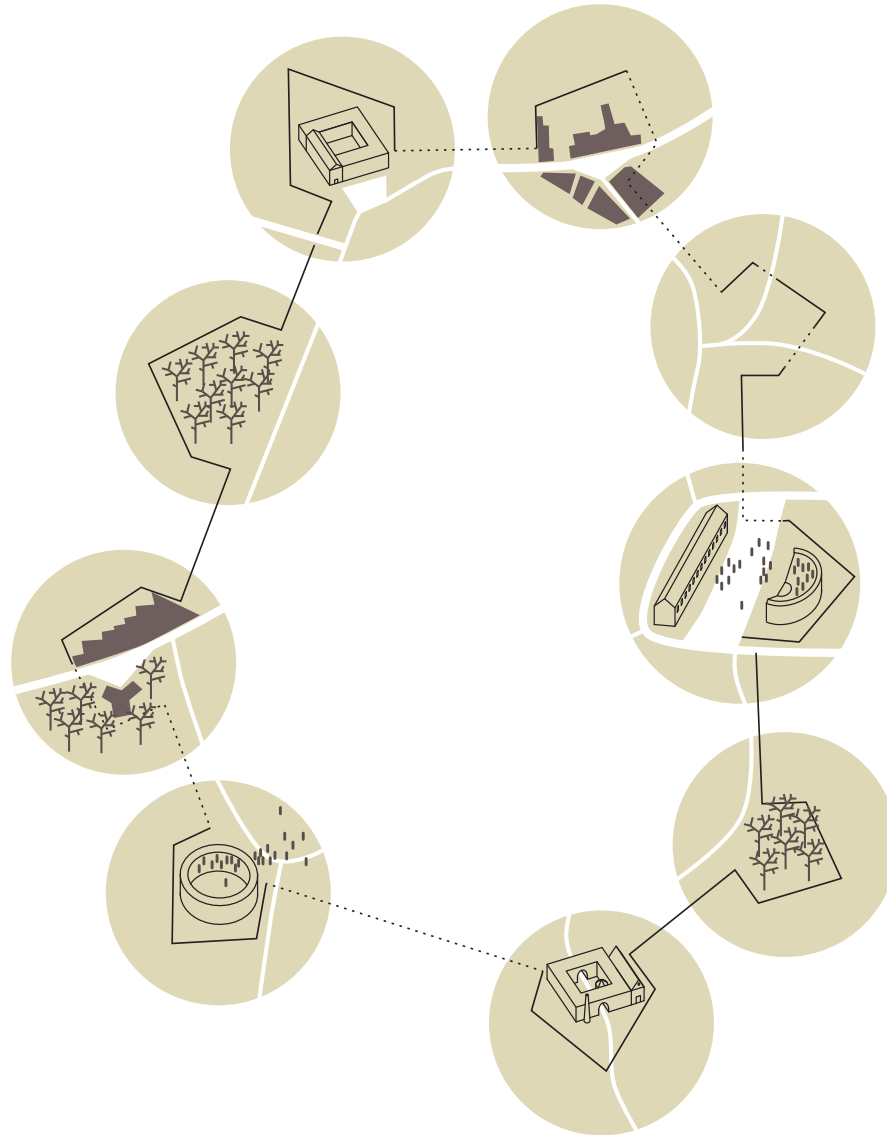
Formal Bus Station

ORCHARD

Bastion San Blas

OIL FACTORY


Bastion San Blas



LOCAL RESOURCES

The Neighbours

La abuela



Age: 80

Rep.POP:
1.076

Need of proximity, main travels are on foot


PLACES OF WORK/CARE

grocery shop, health center

PLACES OF LEISURE

Benches on the public space, sports class, church

La hippie



Age: 35

Rep.POP:
1.230

Precarious work, few hours. Family and friends live in Badajoz so she goes and comes often.

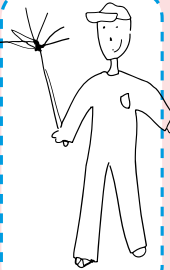
PLACES OF WORK/CARE

People's university (yoga classes)

PLACES OF LEISURE

People's University (ceramic classes), surroundings (walks, weekends)

El deshollinador



Age: 25

Rep.POP:
1.000

Precarious work, few hours.


PLACES OF WORK/CARE

Chimeneys. People's University (English class)

PLACES OF LEISURE

Bar

La Sra. Bonet



Age: 42

Rep.POP:
100

Combines family care & work in family business

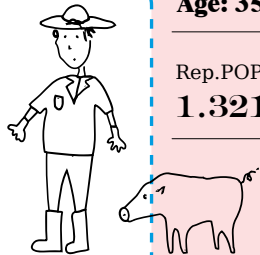
PLACES OF WORK/CARE

Olive oil factory, groceries

PLACES OF LEISURE

Jogging along the balluarts

El ganadero



Age: 35

Rep.POP:
1.321


PLACES OF WORK/CARE

La dehesa (fields around)

PLACES OF LEISURE

Bar

El kinki



Age: 18

Rep.POP:
1.160

Interested in music and bikes


PLACES OF WORK/CARE

School

PLACES OF LEISURE

Parks, amphitheater, bar

El paisano



Age: 50

Rep.POP:
1.300

Seasonal work


PLACES OF WORK/CARE

Olive trees fields, olive oil factory, other agricultural land

PLACES OF LEISURE

Bar

La niña



Age: 9

Rep.POP:
1.027

Need of proximity, main travels are on foot

PLACES OF WORK/CARE

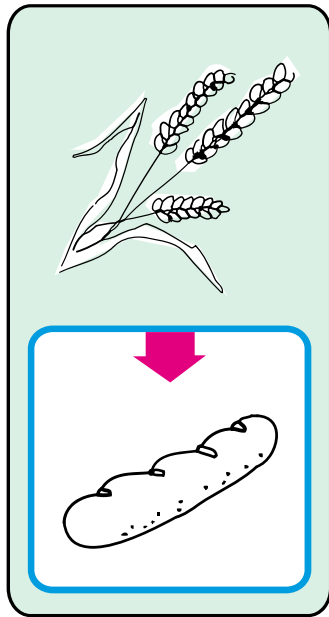
grocery shop, health center

PLACES OF LEISURE

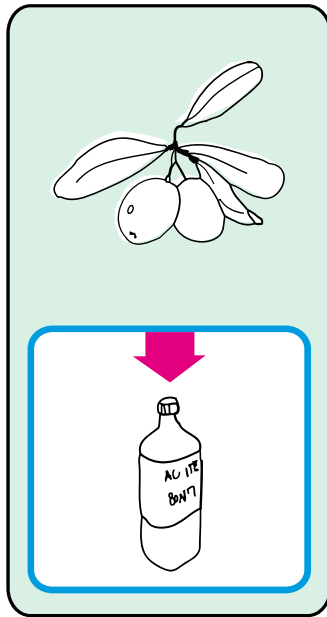
Benches on the public space, sports class, church

LOCAL RESOURCES

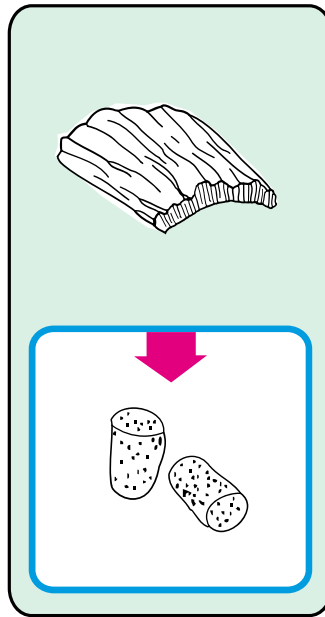
Product, Process and Tool



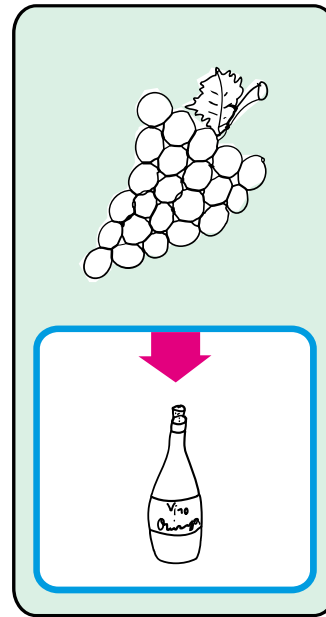
Bread



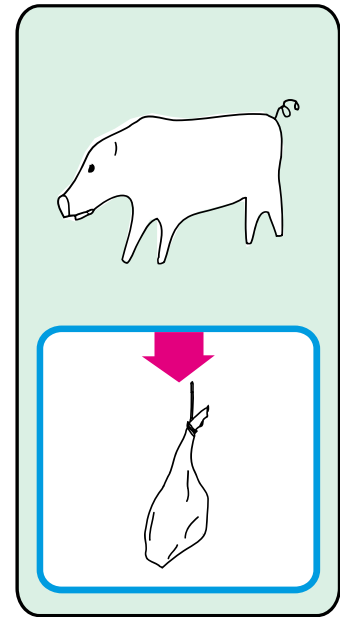
Olive oil



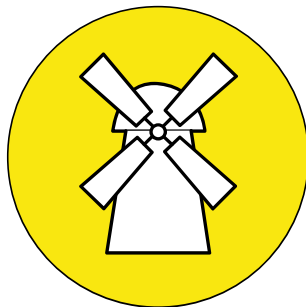
Cork



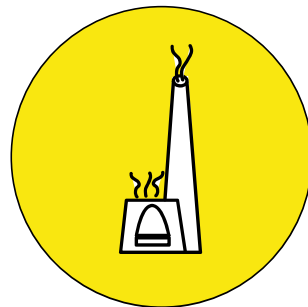
Wine



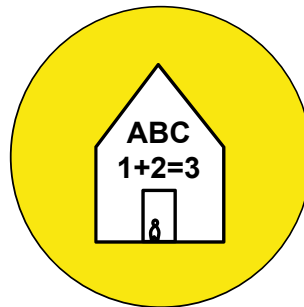
Jamón



The Mill



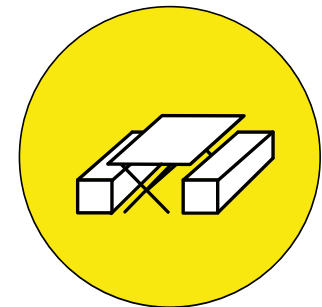
The Oven



The School

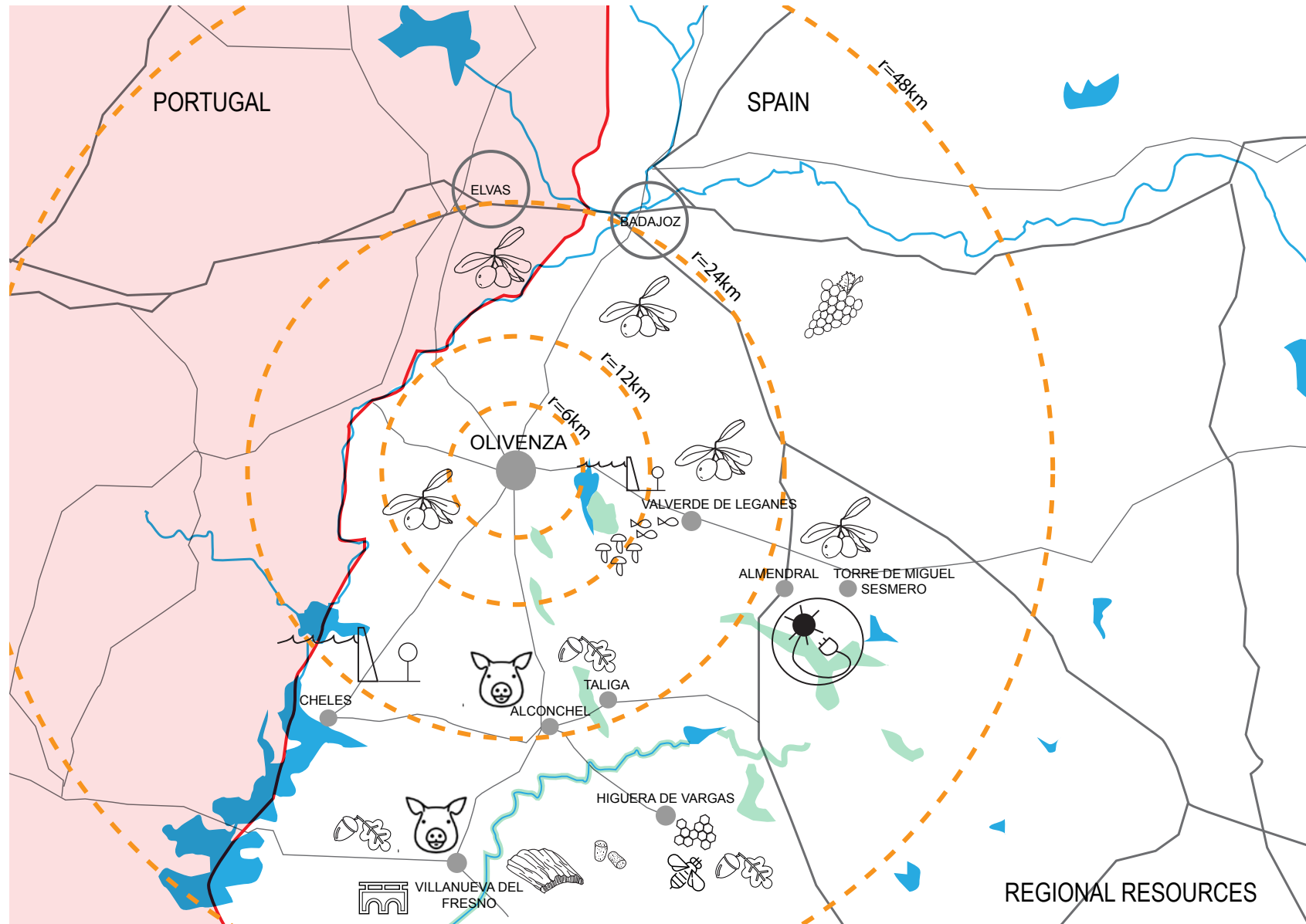


The Market

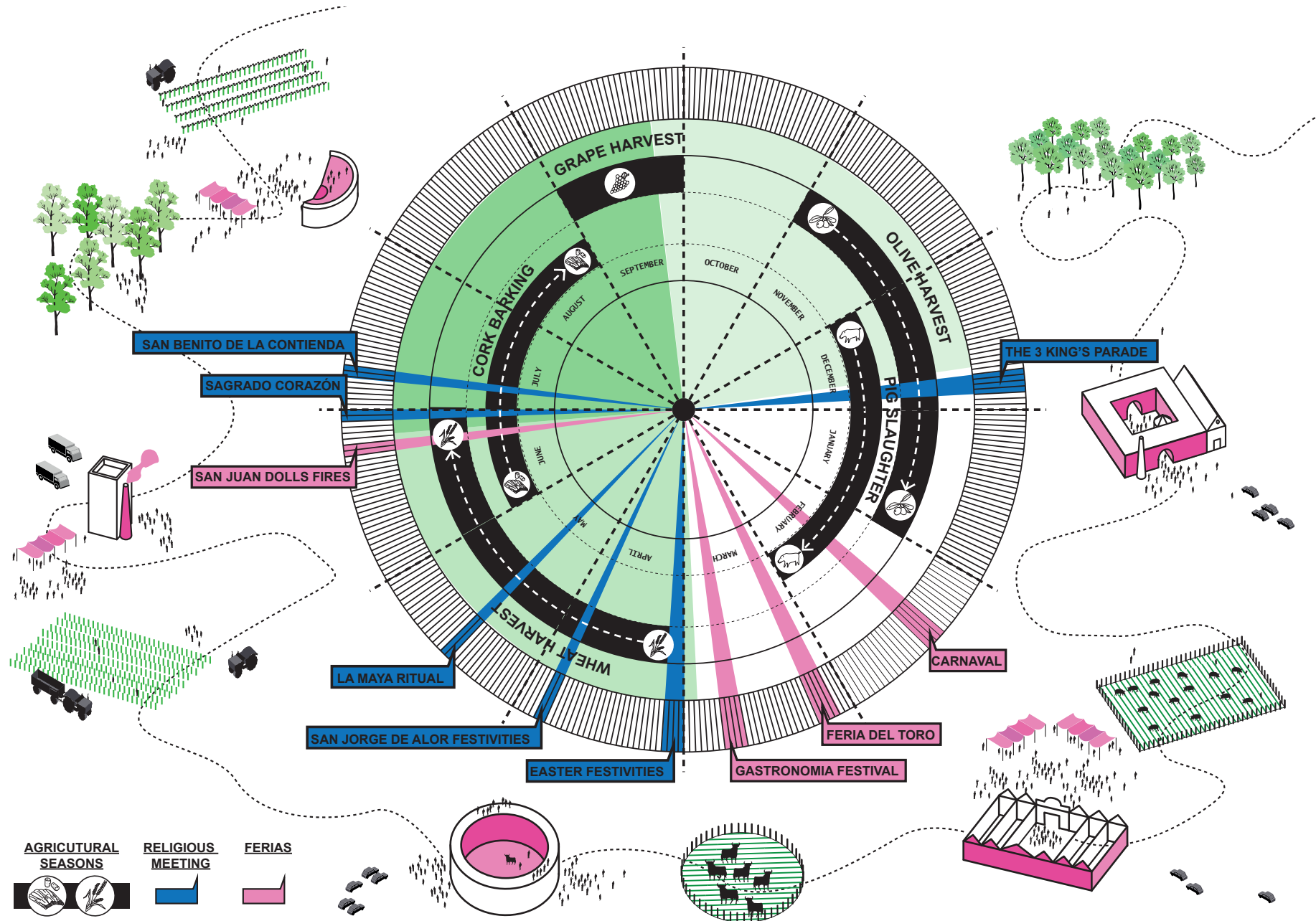


The Kitchen

NETWORKED RESOURCES



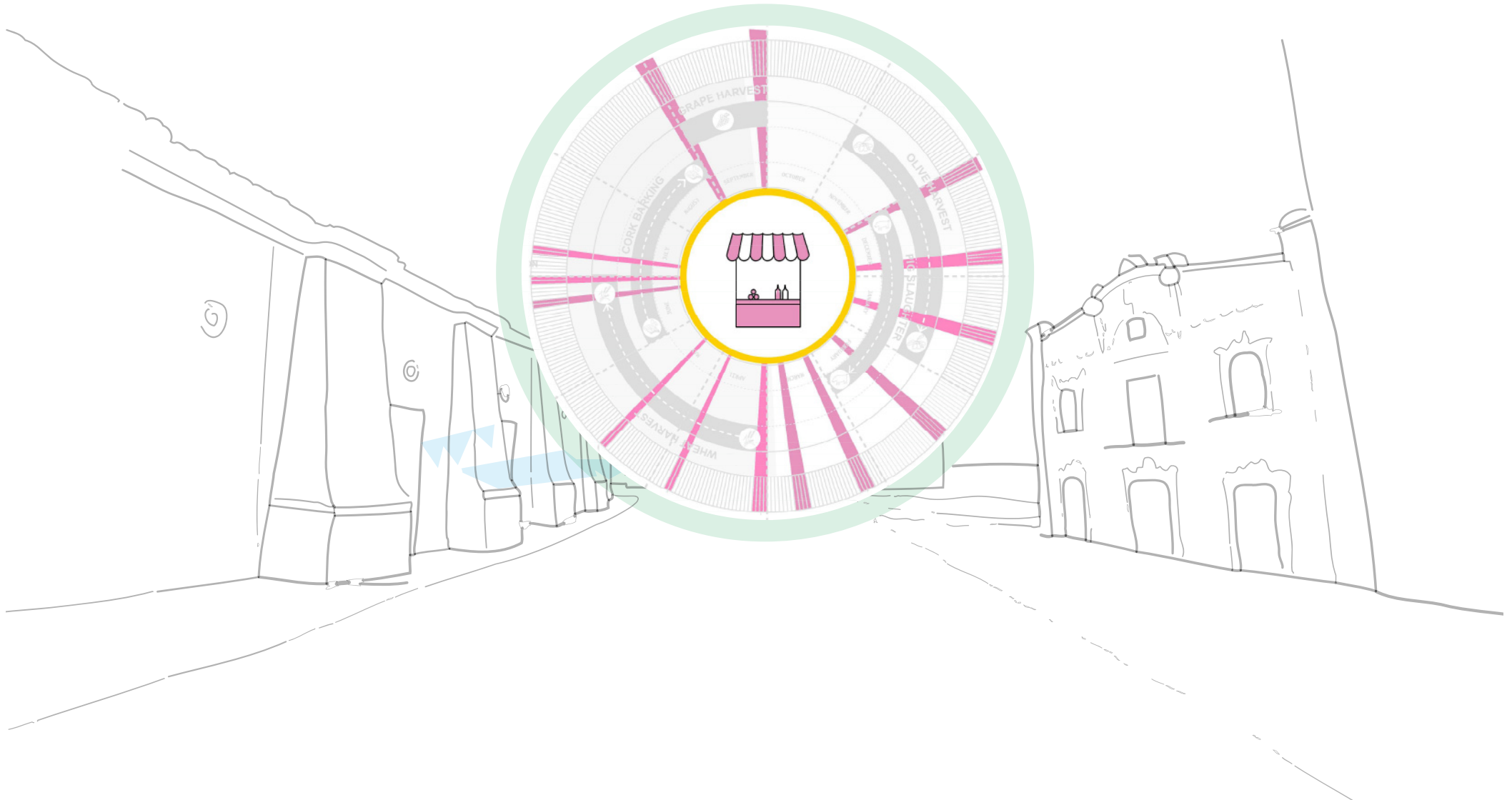
RHYTHMS AND RESOURCES



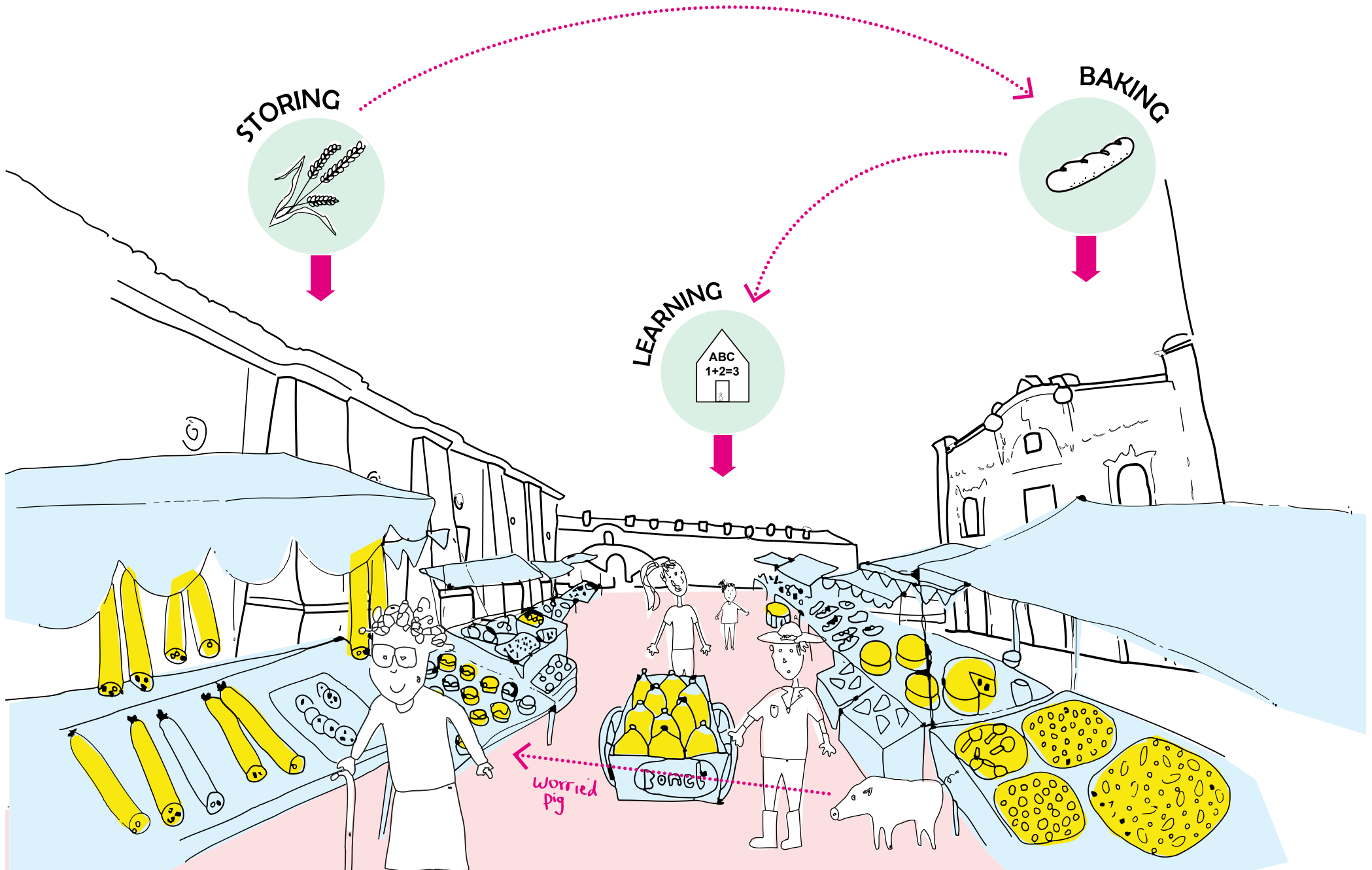
REPROGRAMMING THE PUBLIC SPACE



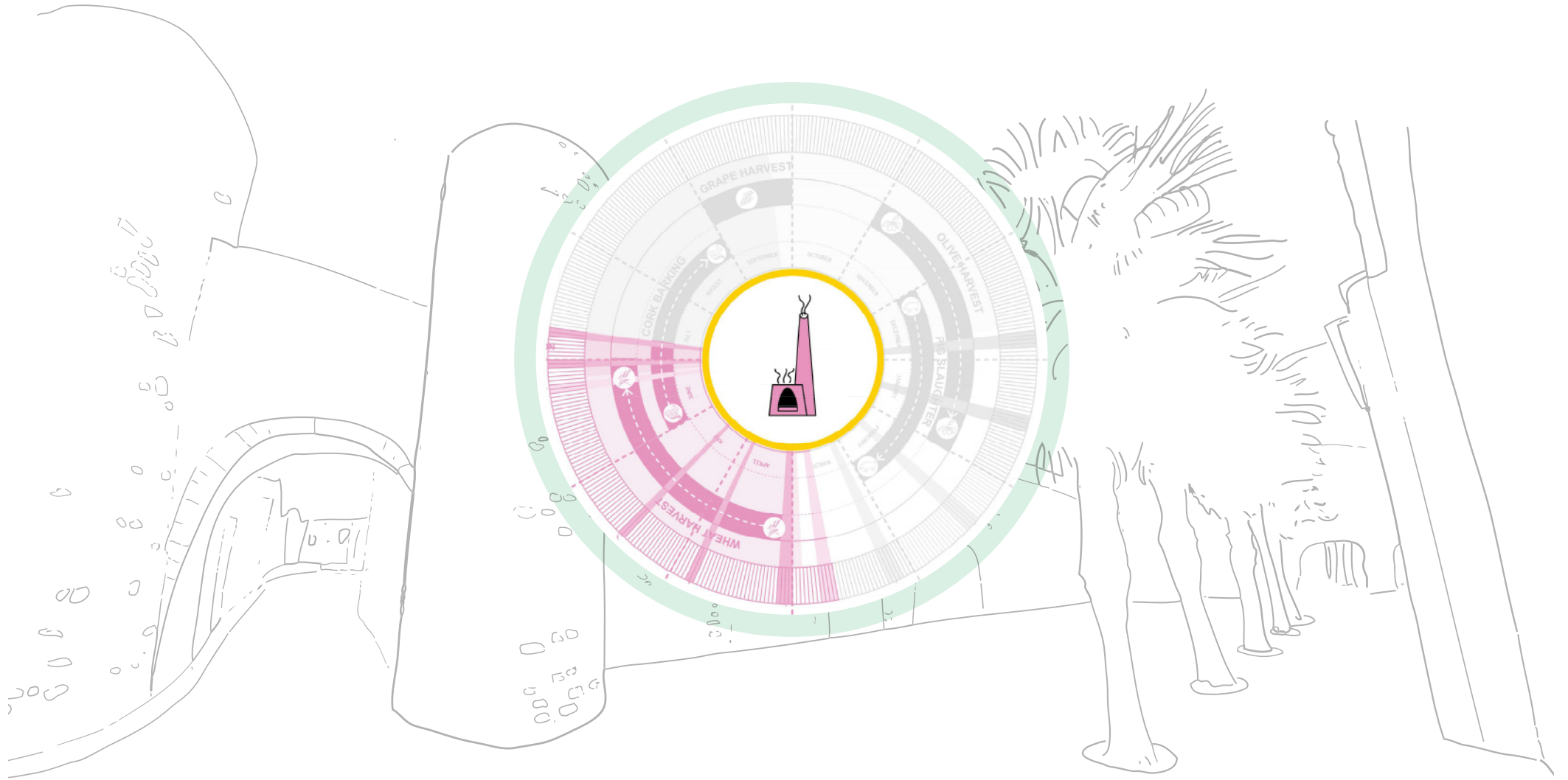
THE MARKET



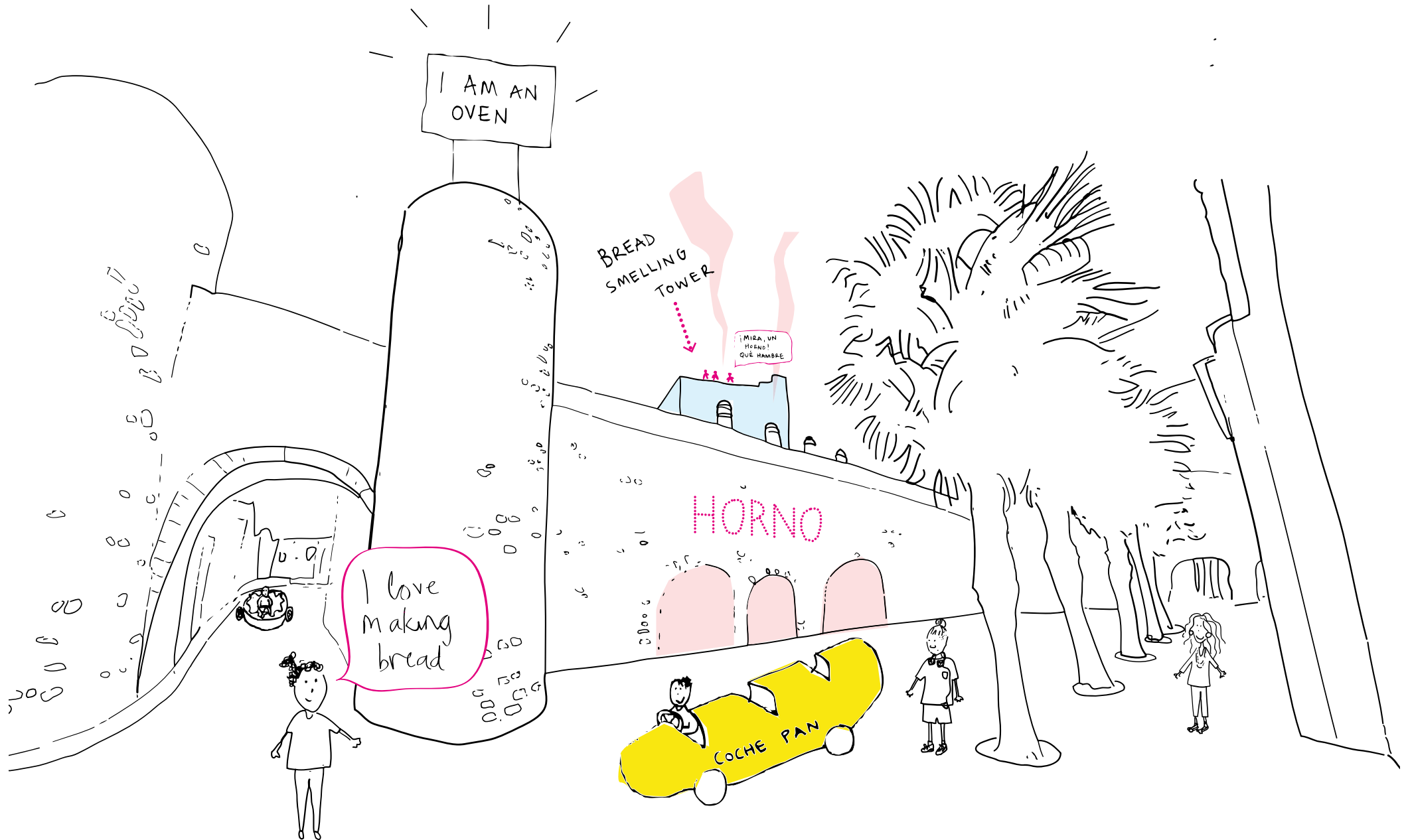
THE MARKET



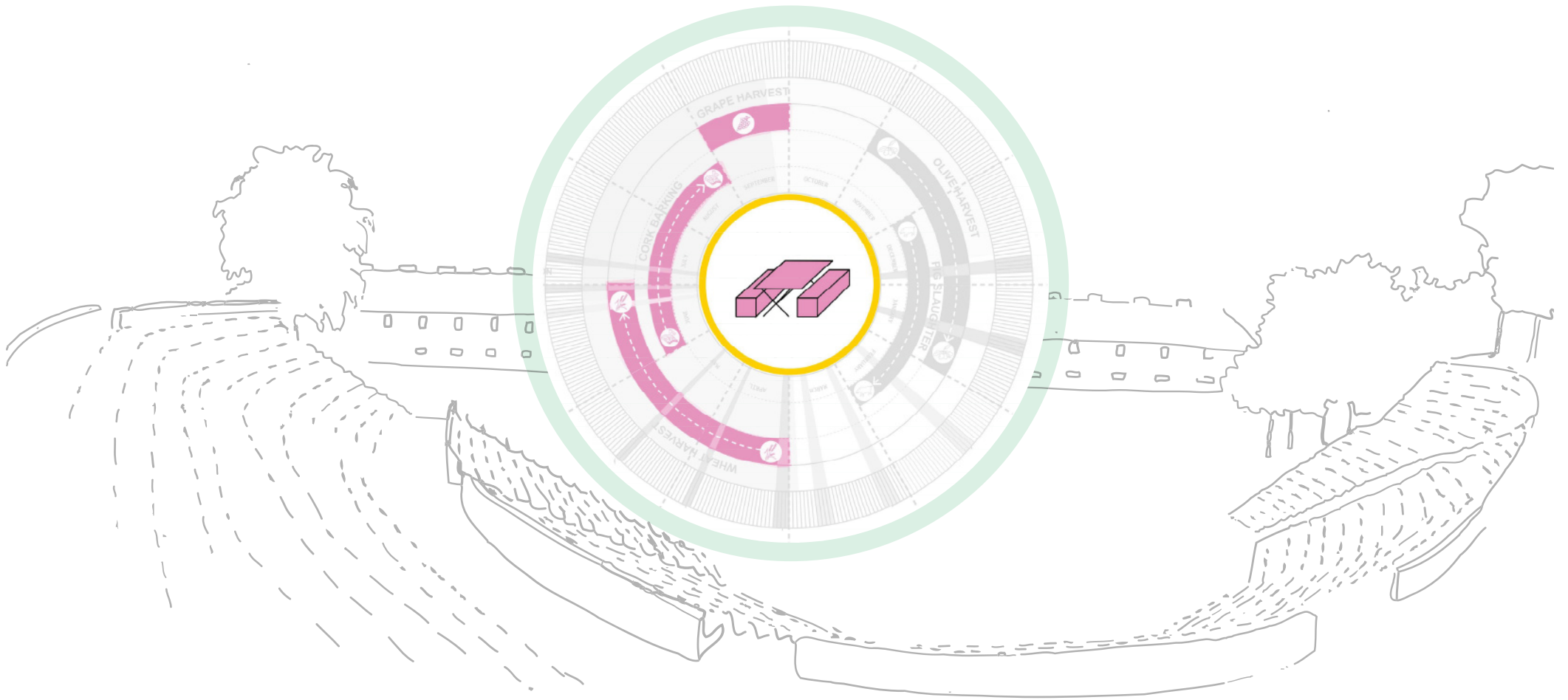
THE OVEN



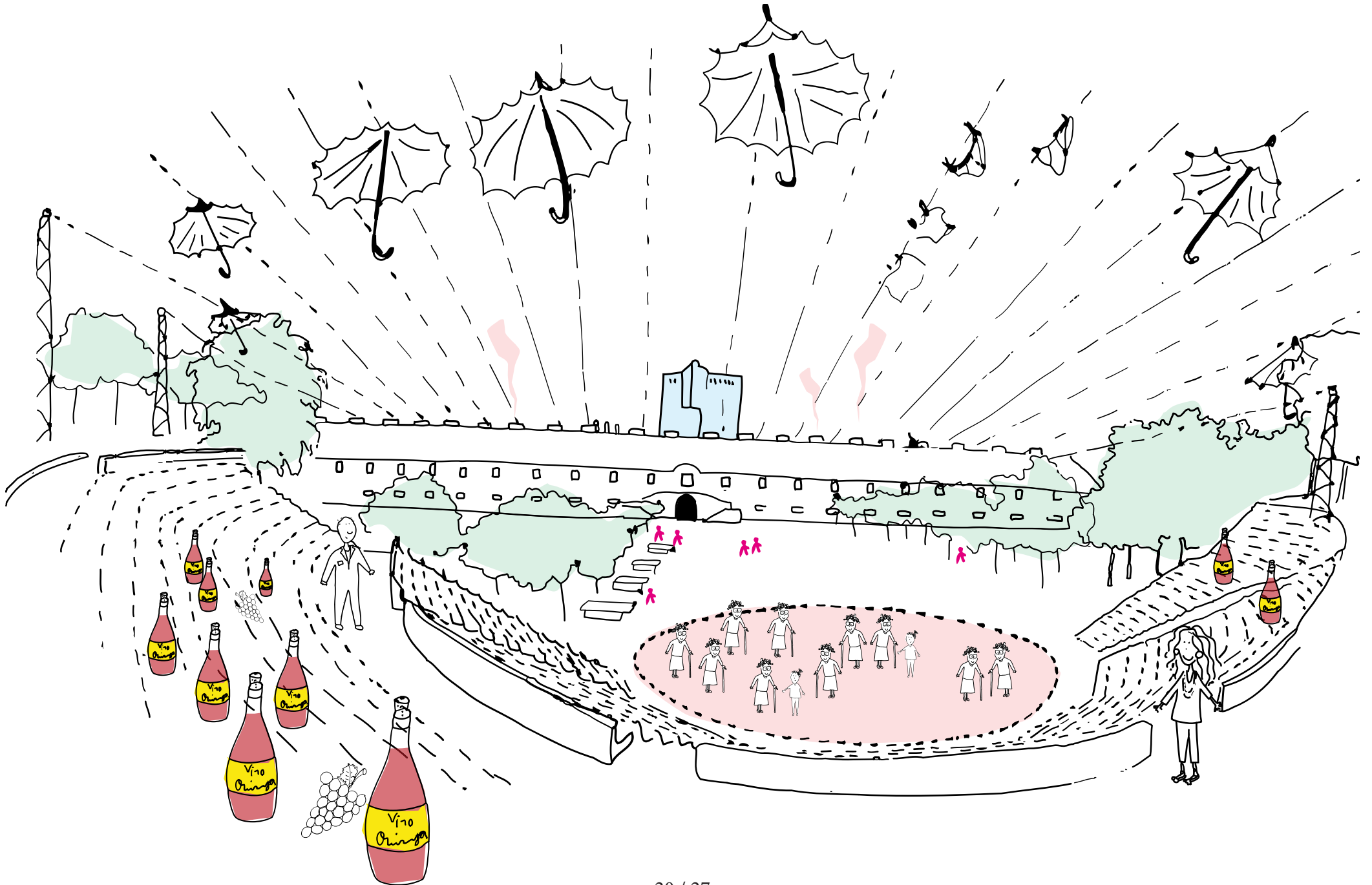
THE OVEN



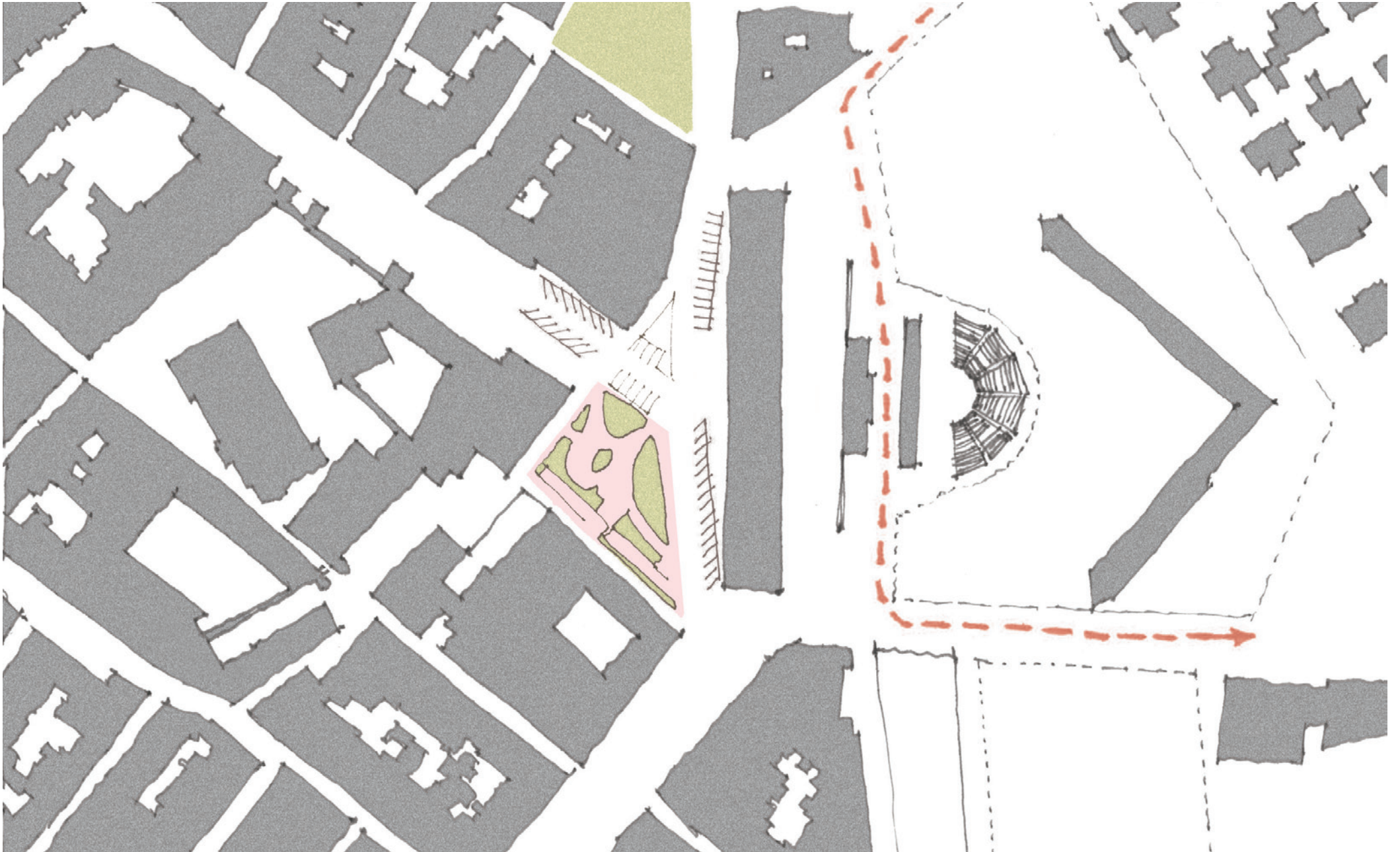
THE BACKYARD



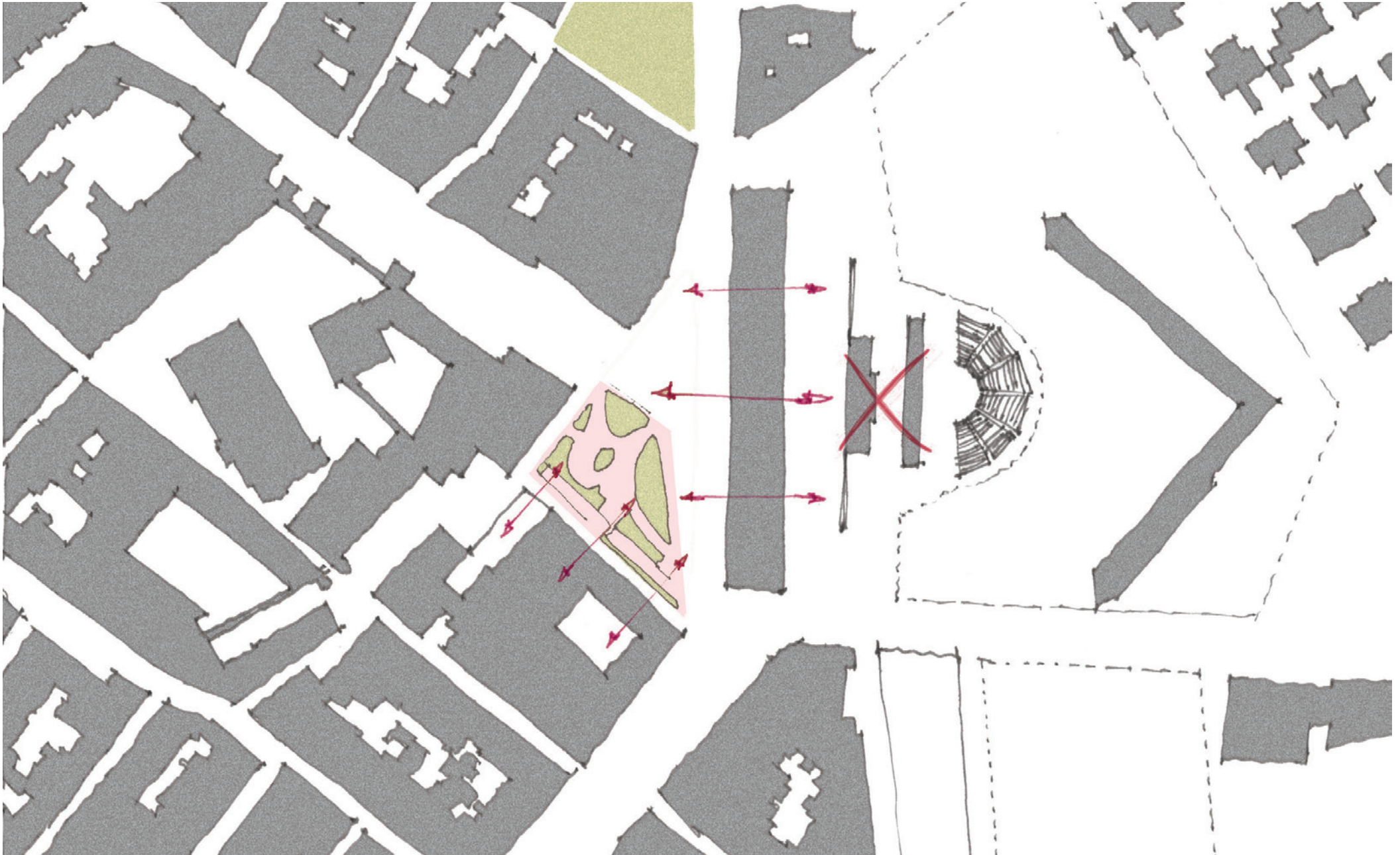
THE BACKYARD



PRESENT SETTING



INTENTION

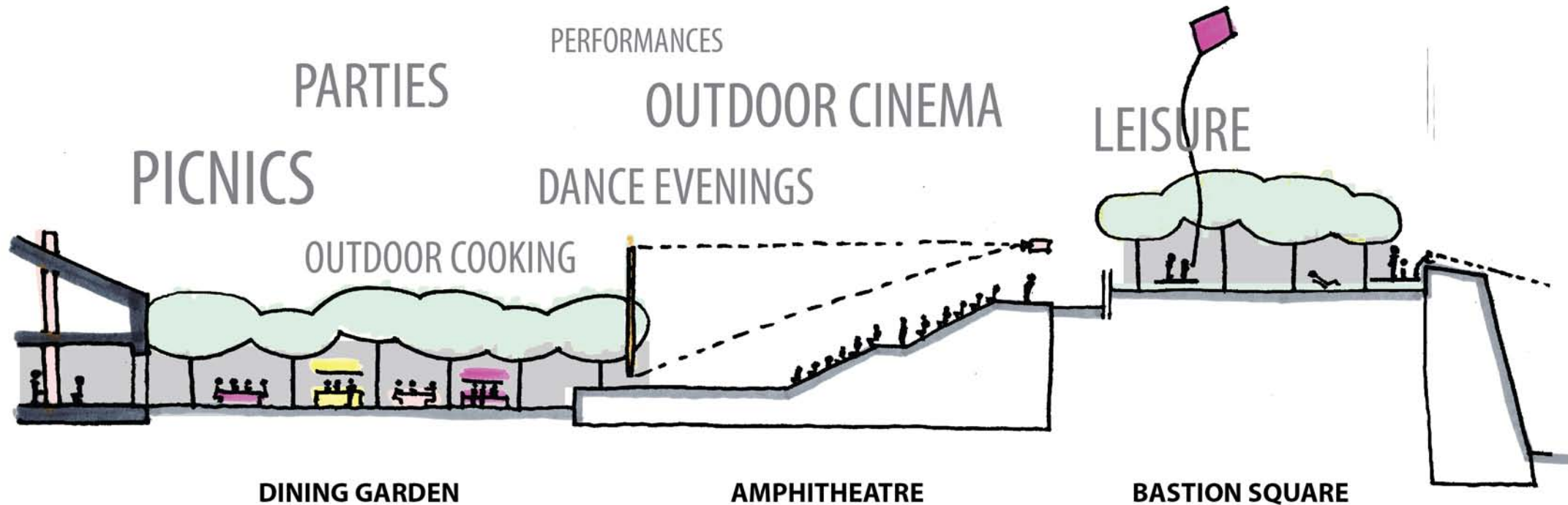


PUBLIC CONNECTIVITY



THE BACKYARD

COMMUNAL
VEGETAL
PEDESTRIAN



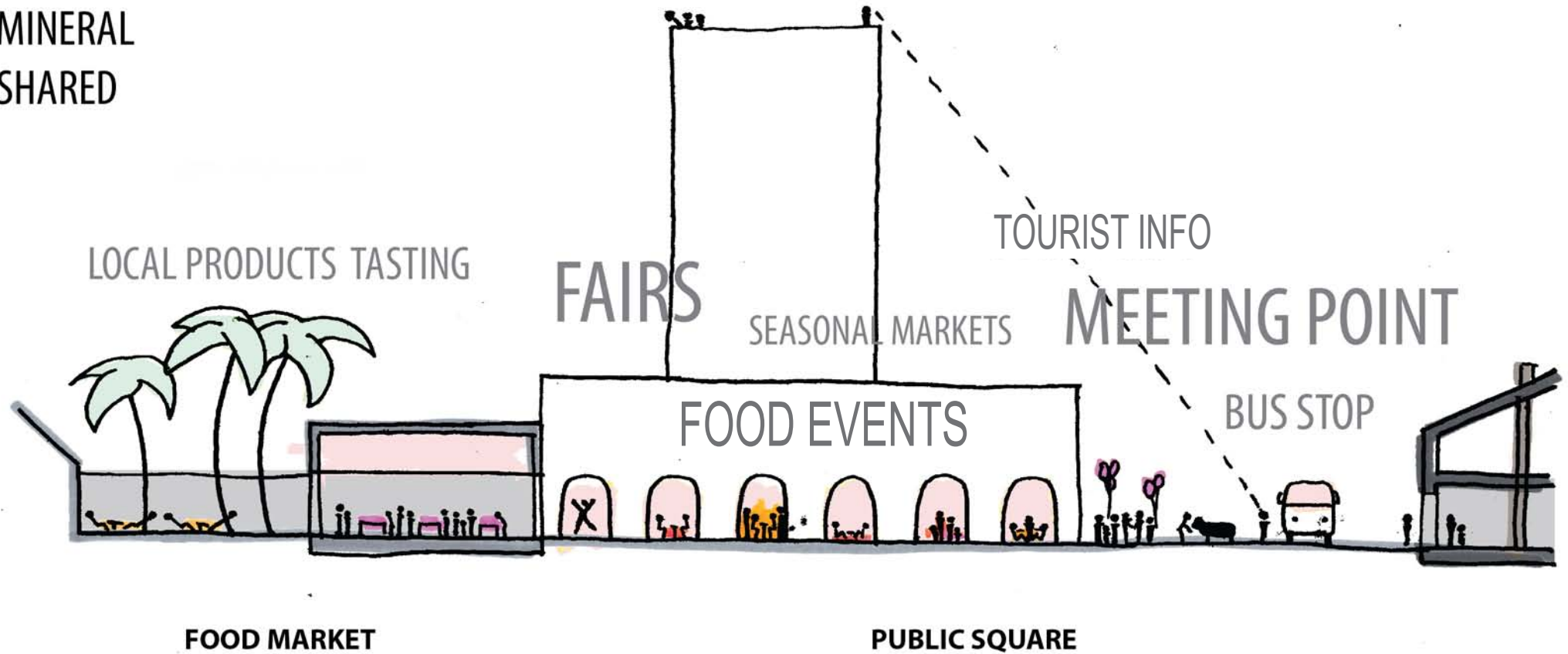
FIESTA

The Backyard



THE FRONT YARD

PUBLIC
MINERAL
SHARED



MARKET DAY

The Front Yard

