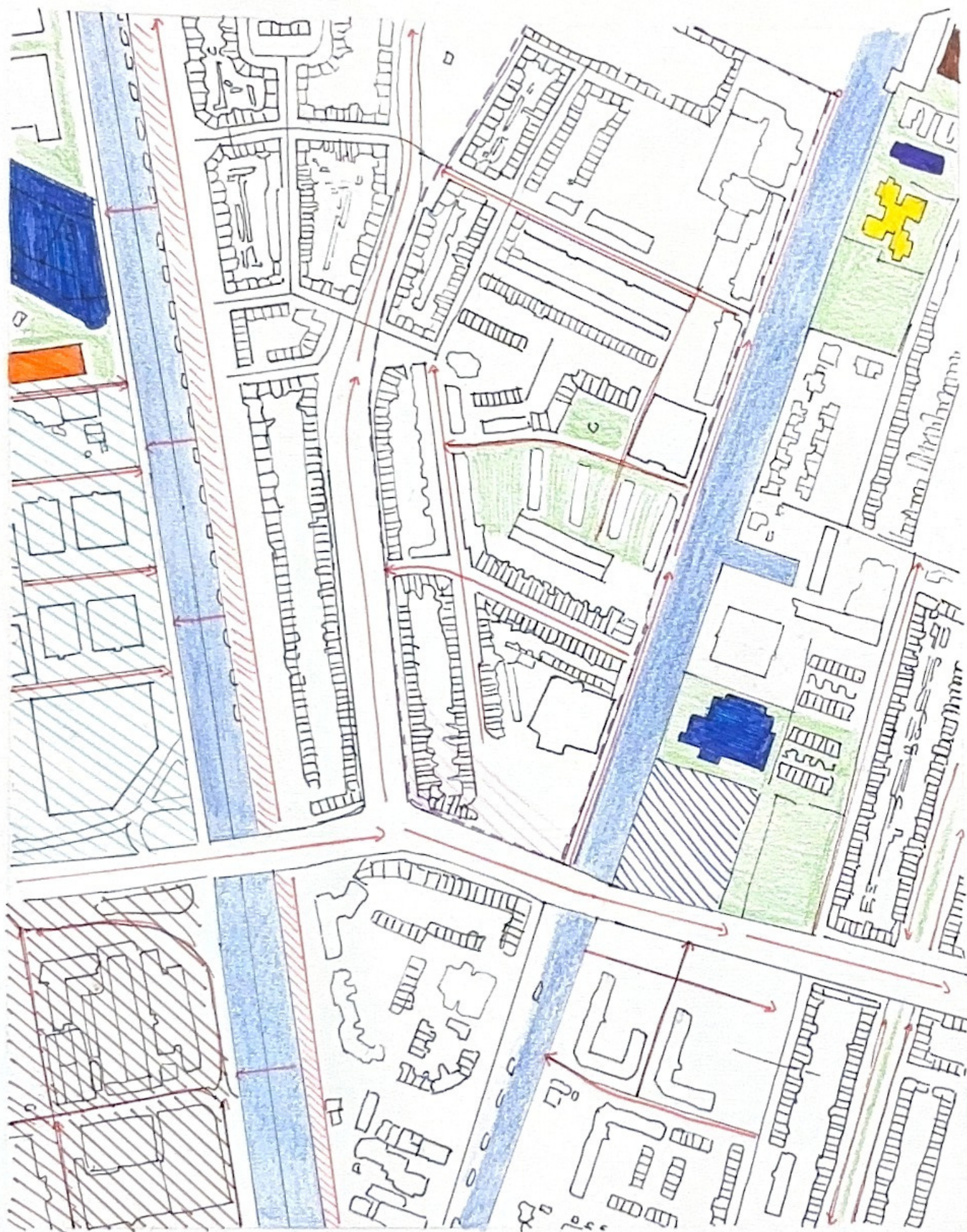


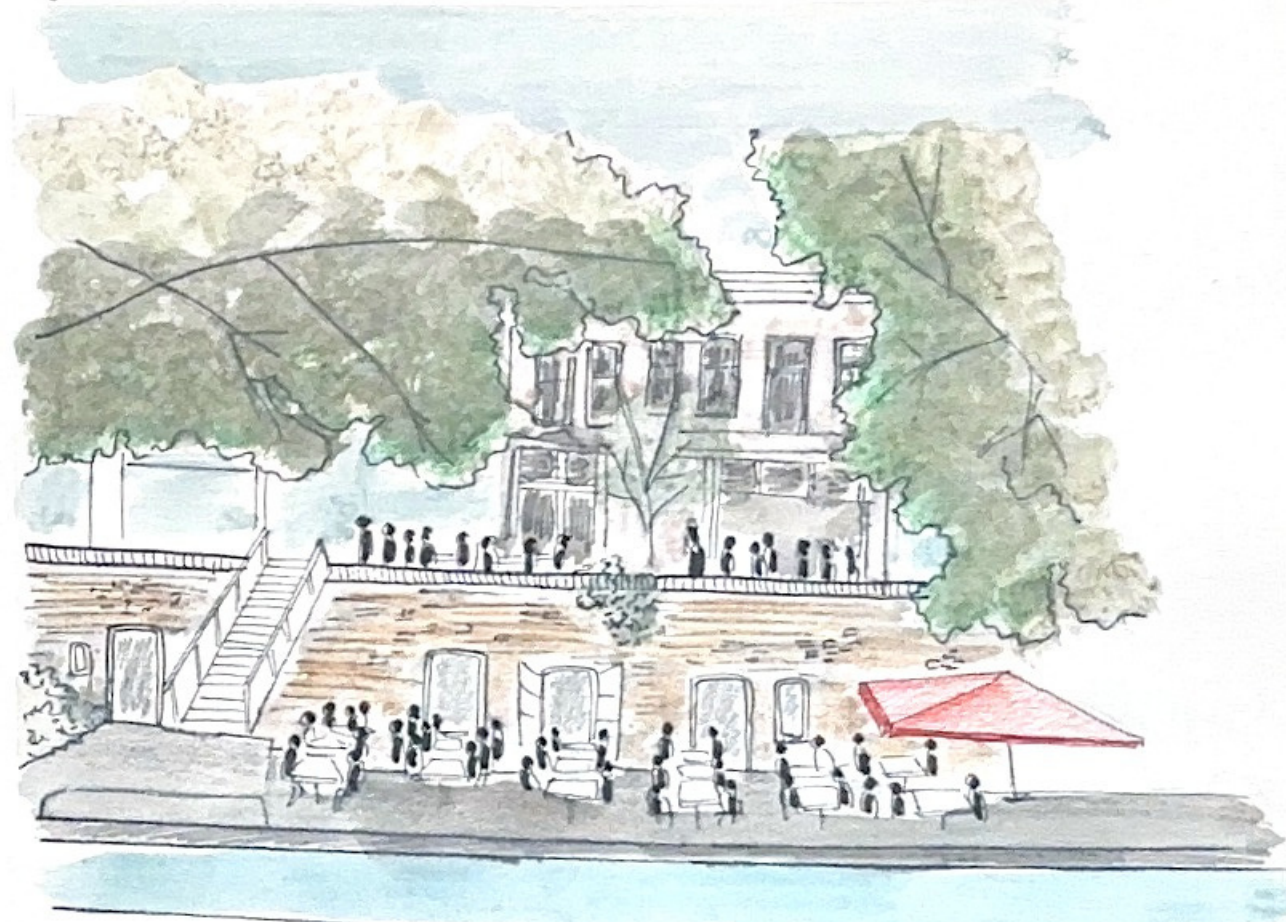
PROJECT 1: WHEN THE RIVERBANKS COME ALIVE 1/2000

Romane AFONSO

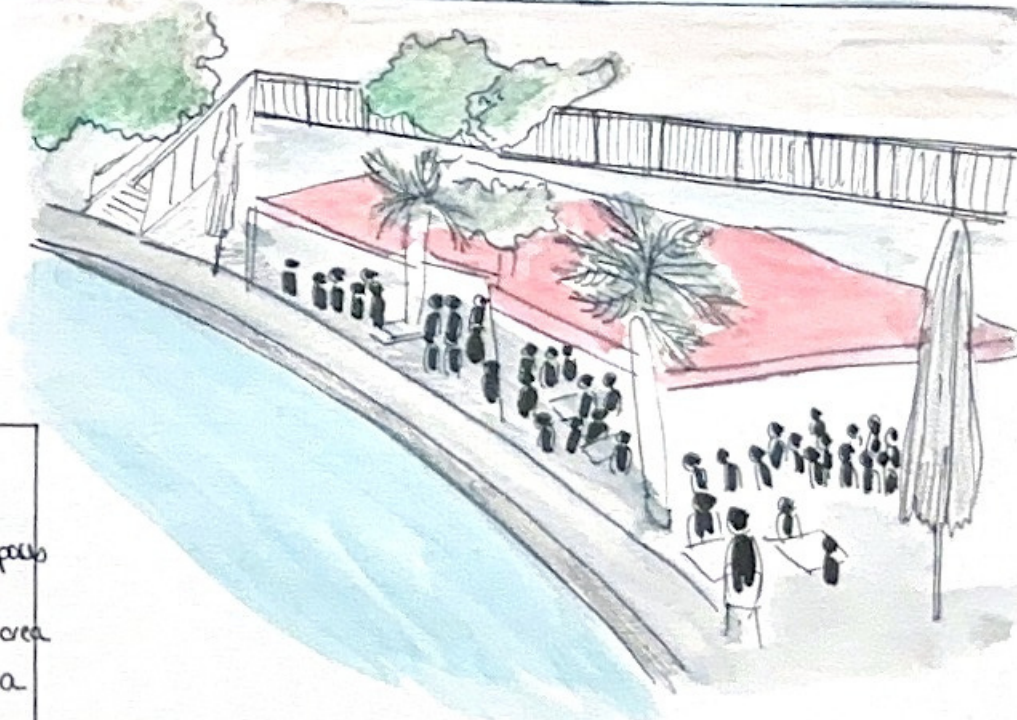
1:2000 10 50 25



In Utrecht, the waterfront areas already developed, cafes, terraces, and pedestrian paths, create lively and welcoming public spaces. But around schools and the university, these kinds of places are still missing, leaving the districts less connected. Linking these areas and adding new meeting spots would strengthen continuity and social life across the city.

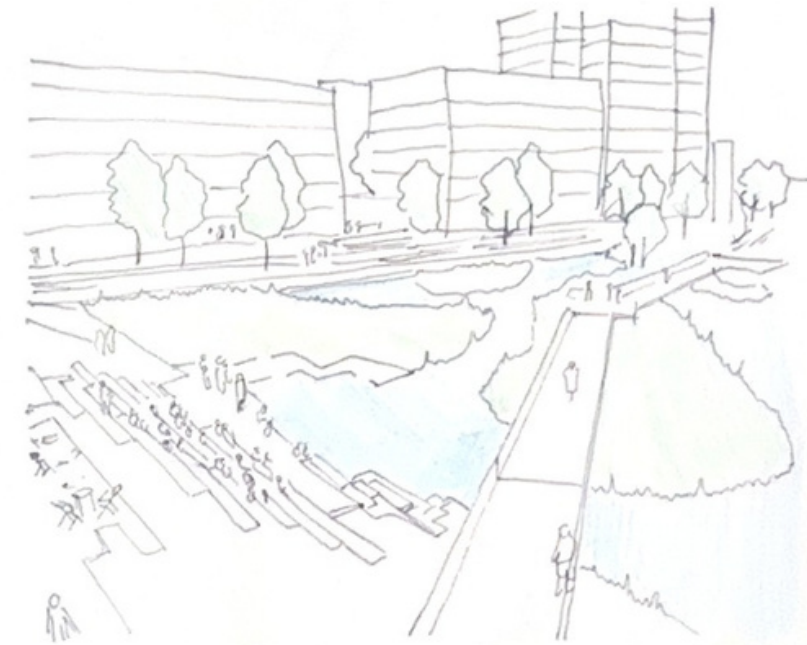
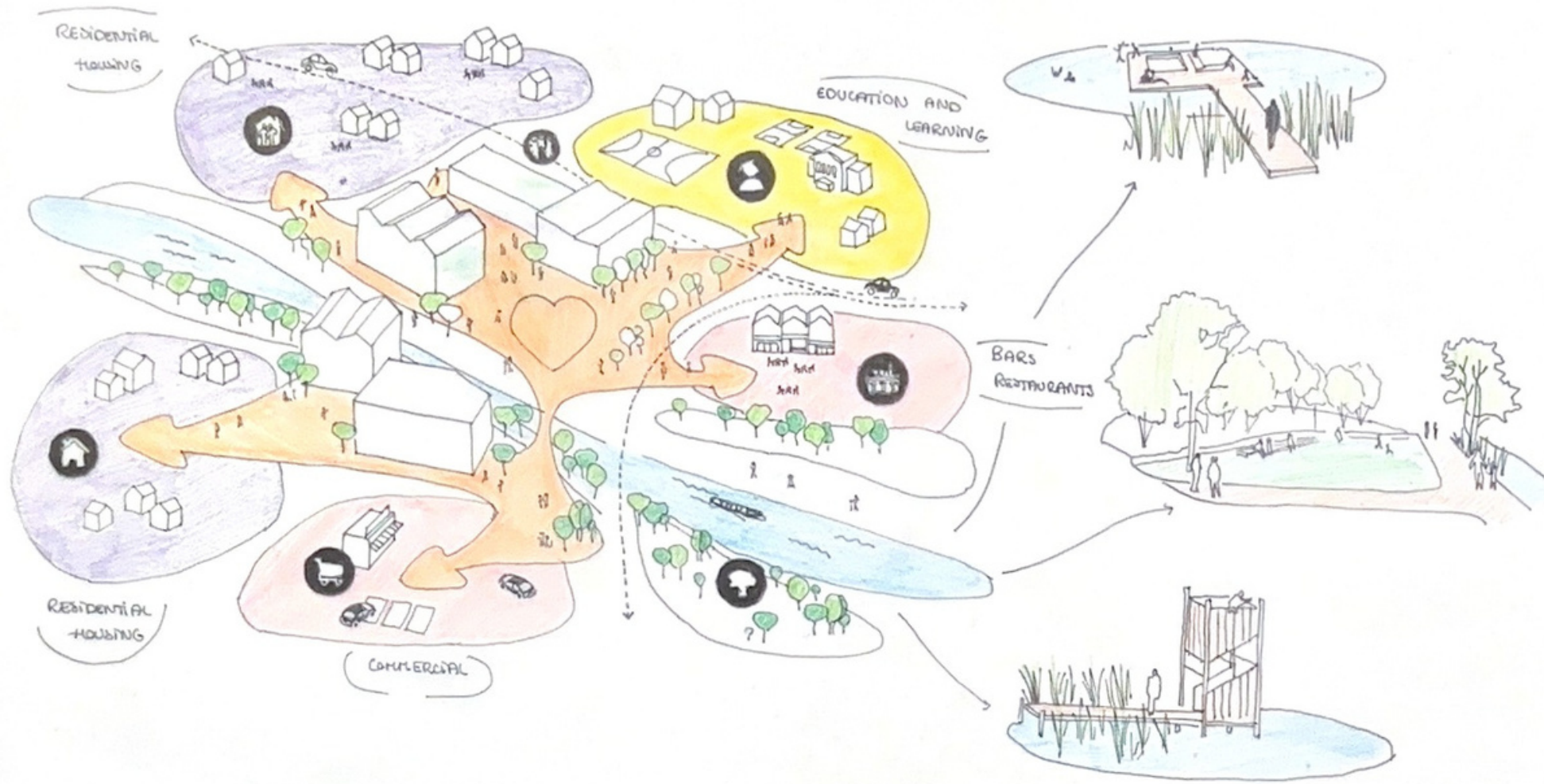


Here's what the few attractive areas look like



PROJECT 1: WHEN THE RIVERBANKS COME ALIVE

Romane AFONSO



The proposal aims to transform the waterfront into a connected urban corridor linking housing, schools, commerce, and leisure. Instead of treating water as a visual background, the project activates it through small, flexible "activity nodes": floating platforms, study terraces, light cafes, sport area or paths for rowing and paddle-boarding. These interventions create social anchors and reintroduce daily life along the canal.



Utrecht has always been shaped by its canals, yet today their activation is uneven. The historic center is lively thanks to cafes, terraces, and cultural spaces along the water, but many residential districts, university areas, and commercial zones remain disconnected from this dynamic. My project begins with this imbalance: the canal has the potential to unify the city, but, it is not yet used as a continuous public space.

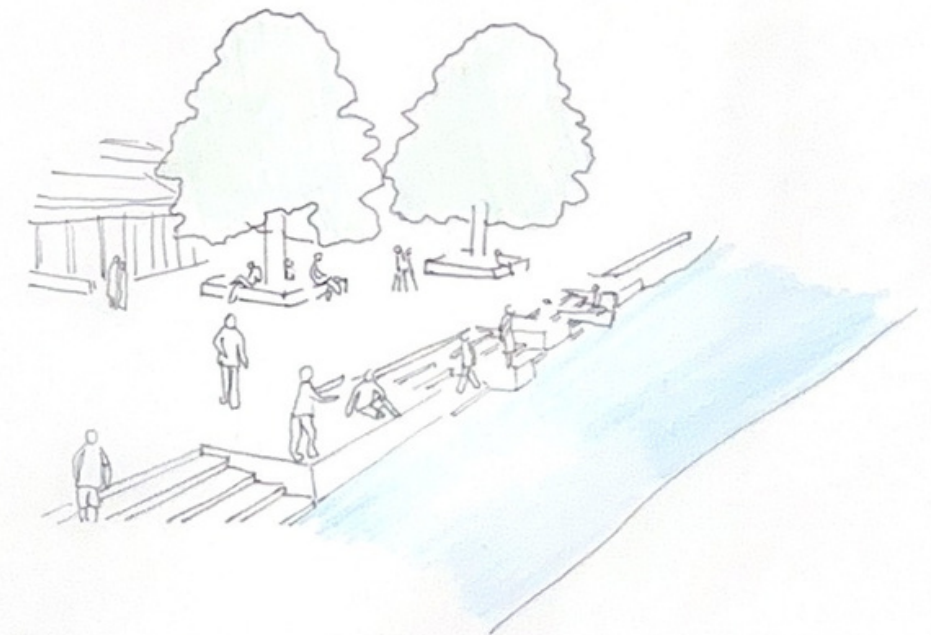
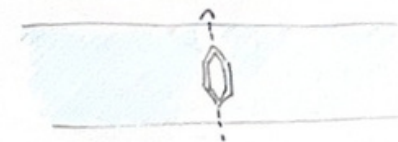


Accessibility is also a key element. Many areas have narrow, hidden, or unused edges. By adding ramps, wider paths, soft seating, and steps down to the water, the project opens the canal to pedestrians and students who currently pass without stopping. At the same time, improved cycling and walking routes along the banks form a continuous spine through the city.

Water mobility → small electric boats for students shuttles, offers an alternative to cars and complements the linear paths and land. This helps reduce traffic pressure while making movement through the city calmer and more sustainable.

Ecological measures such as planted terraces and floating gardens improve biodiversity and soften the hard canal edges, creating pleasant microclimates and reinforcing Utrecht's identity as a sustainable city.

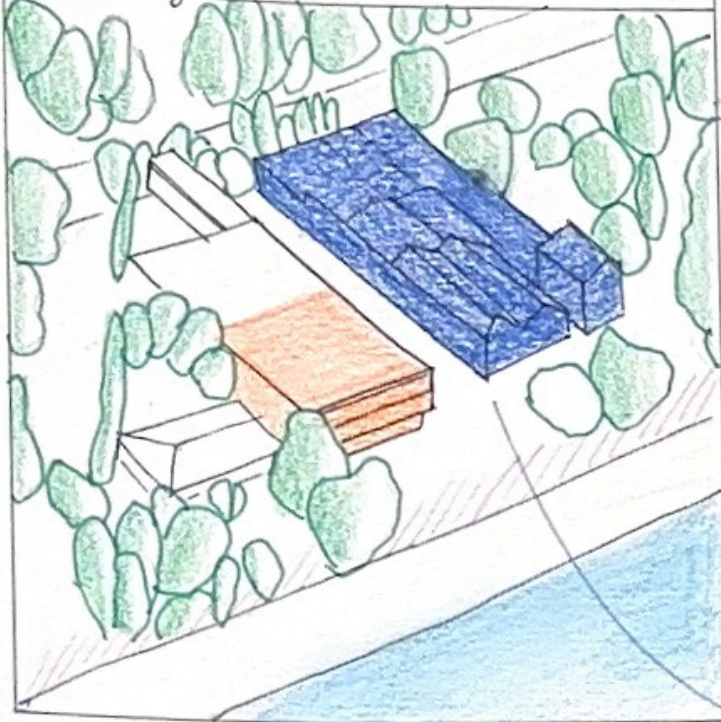
Overall, the project positions water as the most effective tool to reconnect fragmented districts. By activating the edges, improving access, and linking everyday functions, the canal becomes a shared public space that unifies Utrecht socially, environmentally, and spatially.



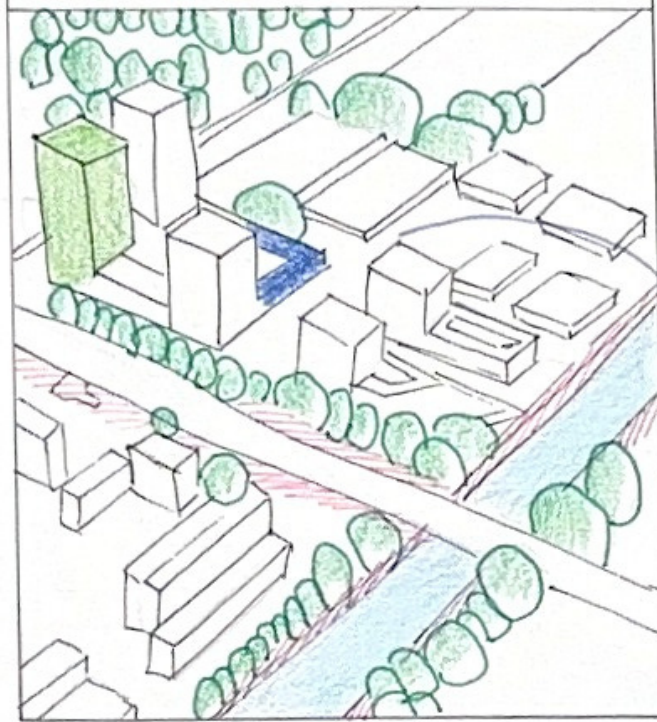
PROJECT 1/2: WHEN THE RIVERBANKS COME ALIVE

Romane AFONSO Camille LECANNELLIER

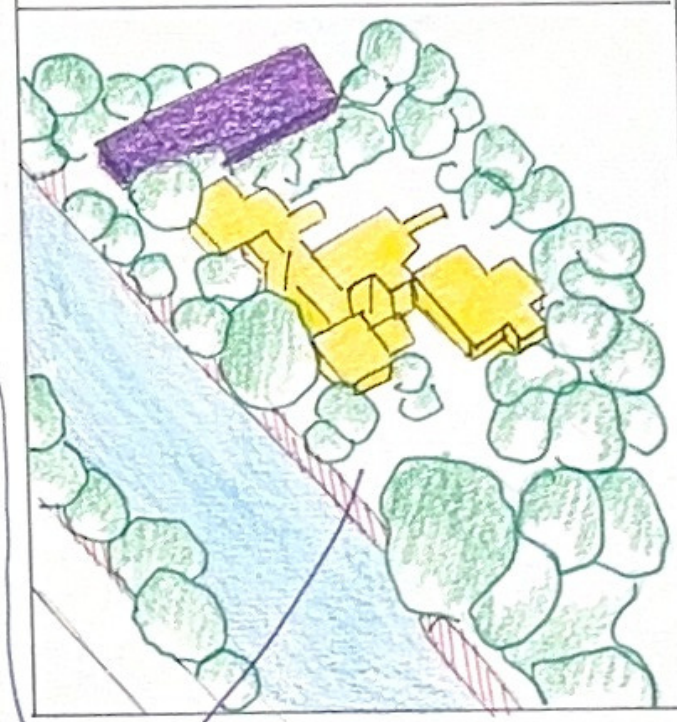
④ Placed near the water, the university sports area and the historic zone, the project activates Utrecht's quay by linking leisure, student life and heritage.



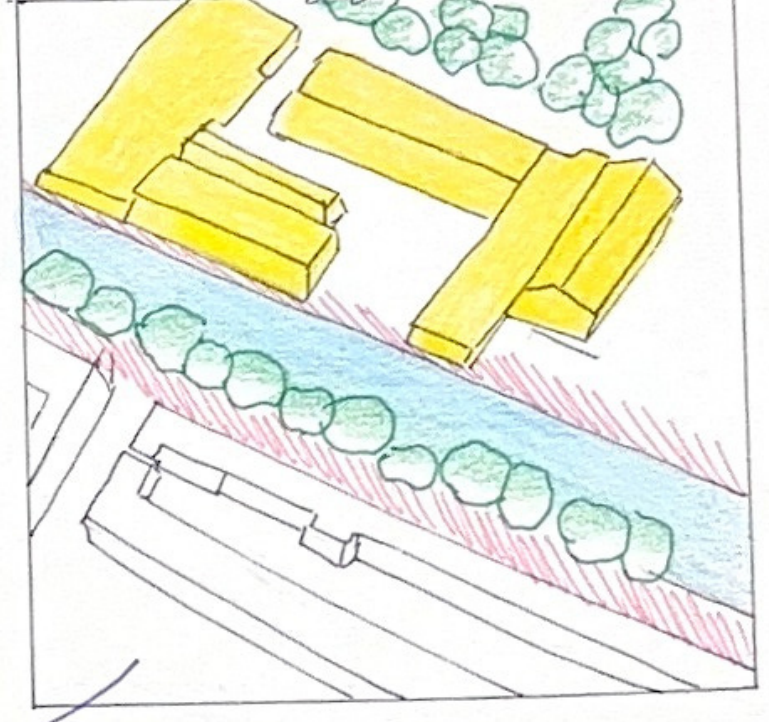
② Health, sports, bridge → close to facilities for care, activity, and connectivity



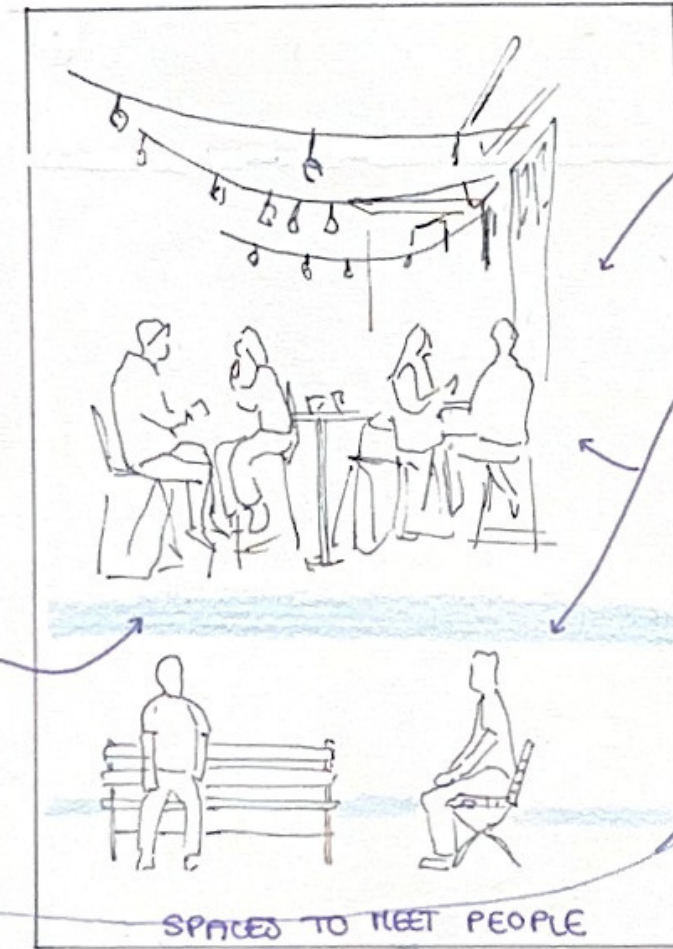
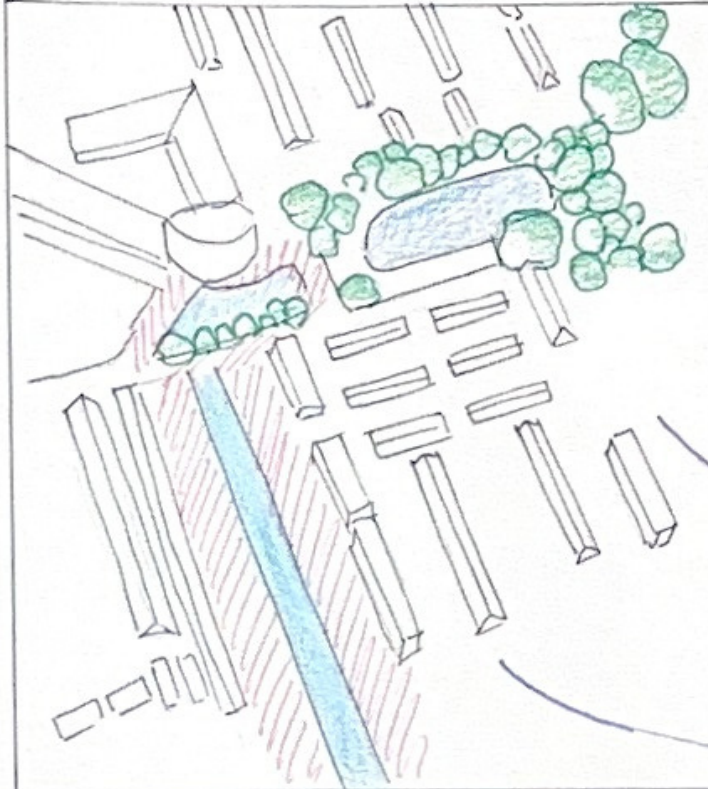
③ To attract activity and interaction near religious and educational hubs.



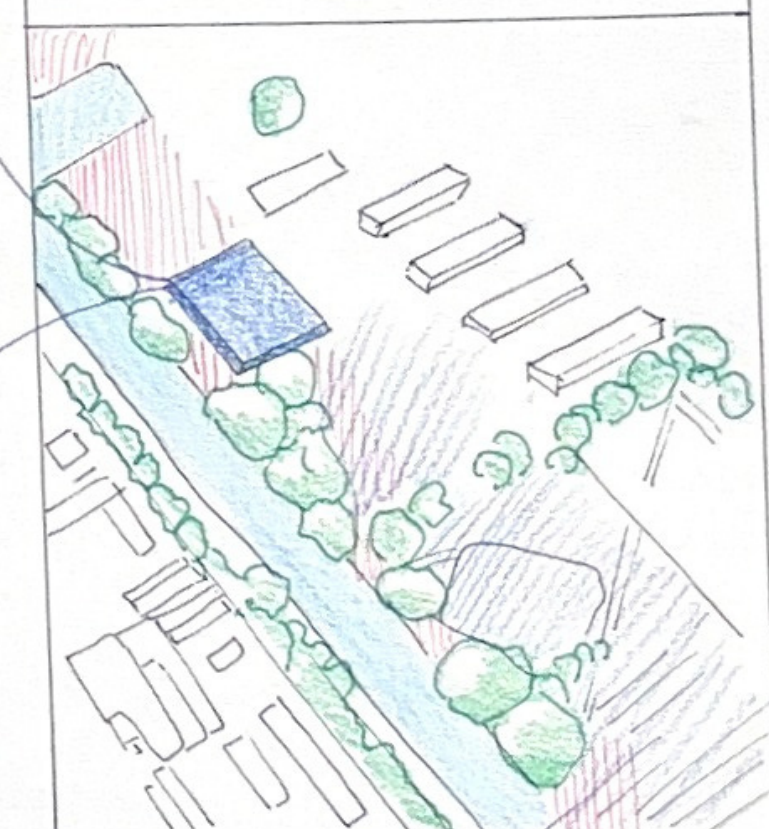
④ To energize the waterfront by leveraging the nearby student campus, creating a connection between the water and urban activities, and encouraging social.



⑤⑥⑦ To activate areas with multiple water outlets, integrating residences and public buildings, fostering lively waterfront spaces and mixed-use interactions.



⑧ At the city scale, waterfront developments link key areas, boosting activity, accessibility and urban life.



PROJECT 1: WHEN THE RIVERBANKS COME ALIVE

Romane AFONSO

