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Exploring Public Space Qualities of Urban University Campuses:
A Mixed-Methods Case Study in Vienna and Copenhagen.

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Abstract

As urban centers face increasing pressure on public space due to densification, social change, and environmental challenges, every available open space gains newfound relevance. This includes spaces not traditionally in public hands, bringing inner-city universities, with their expansive campuses, into the spotlight. Universities are increasingly positioning themselves as key urban actors with a vested interest in shaping city life. This thesis explores what constitutes and influences the qualities of these publicly accessible, institutionally managed open spaces. Therefore, it examines the cases of the University of Vienna's campus on the grounds of the Old General Hospital (Altes AKH) and the University of Copenhagen's City Campus on the grounds of the former Municipal Hospital (Kommunehospitalet), both shaped by their historical transformation and their interconnected courtyard structures. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach that includes the Public Space Index by Mehta (2014), researcher observations, user surveys, informal conversations, as well as semi-structured expert interviews, the study reveals that public space quality emerges as a multi-scalar and relational phenomenon. It is shaped by the interplay of material configurations that create unique atmospheres, systemic interconnection that enables spatial coherence, institutional agency that drives strategic development, and cultural expectations that shape user engagement. The findings offer a nuanced understanding of how these spaces function and of the entangled, performative, and situational characteristics and expressions, influences and conditions that enable or constrain their public space qualities.

Keywords: Spatial Quality, Public Space Index, Semi-Public Space, Urban University Campuses, Urban Publicness, Institutional Agency, Spatial Governance, Cultural Dispositions, Courtyard Typologies, Mixed-Methods Research, Multi-Scalar Urban Analysis, Vienna and Copenhagen

Zusammenfassung

In urbanen Zentren, die zunehmend unter dem Druck von Verdichtung, sozialen Umbrüchen und ökologischen Herausforderungen stehen, gewinnen sämtliche verfügbaren Freiräume an neuer Bedeutung. Dazu zählen auch Flächen, die nicht in öffentlicher Hand sind – und rücken innerstädtische Universitäten mit ihren weitläufigen Campusanlagen ins Blickfeld. Universitäten positionieren sich zunehmend als zentrale Akteure im urbanen Raum mit einem aktiven Interesse an der Mitgestaltung städtischen Lebens. Diese Arbeit untersucht, was die Qualität solcher öffentlich zugänglicher, institutionell verwalteter Freiräume ausmacht und welche Faktoren sie beeinflussen. Im Fokus stehen die Fallstudien des Campus der Universität Wien auf dem Gelände des ehemaligen Allgemeinen Krankenhauses (Altes AKH) sowie des City Campus der Universität Kopenhagen auf dem Areal des einstigen Kommunalen Krankenhauses (Kommunehospitalet) – beide geprägt durch historische Transformationen und vernetzte Innenhof-Strukturen. Mittels eines Mixed-Methods-Ansatzes, bestehend aus dem Public Space Index nach Mehta (2014), Beobachtungen, Nutzer:innenbefragungen, informellen Gesprächen und halbstrukturierten Expert:inneninterviews, zeigt die Studie: Die Qualität öffentlicher Räume entsteht als multiskalares und relationales Phänomen – geformt durch das Zusammenspiel materieller Konfigurationen, die spezifische Atmosphären erzeugen, systemischer Verknüpfungen, die räumliche wie symbolische Kohärenz ermöglichen, institutioneller Steuerung sowie kultureller Erwartungshaltungen. Die Ergebnisse bieten ein differenziertes Verständnis für die Funktionsweise sowie die verflochtenen, situativen und performativen Bedingungen, unter denen sich urbane Freiräume entfalten können – oder eingeschränkt bleiben.

Stichworte: Räumliche Qualität, Public Space Index, Halböffentlicher Raum, Innerstädtische Universitätsstandorte, Urbane Öffentlichkeit, Institutionelle Handlungsfähigkeit, Raumgovernance, Kulturelle Dispositionen, Hoftypologien, Mixed-Methods, Multiskalare Stadtanalyse, Wien und Kopenhagen

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List of Abbreviations

AKH	<i>Allgemeines Krankenhaus (Altes AKH, Vienna)</i>
CSS	<i>Center for Sundhed og Samfund, English: Center for Health and Society (Kopenhagen)</i>
MQ	<i>MuseumsQuartier (Vienna)</i>
PSI	<i>Public Space Index</i>
PPP	<i>Public-private Partnership</i>
PPS	<i>Project for Public Space</i>

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1. Introduction

Urban open spaces are under increasing pressure. Growing awareness of climate adaptation, densification, and social cohesion has brought renewed attention to the importance of accessible, inclusive, and high-quality public spaces – especially in dense inner-city areas (Ahern, 2013; Carmona, 2019; Kabisch et al., 2016; UN-Habitat, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed deep inequalities in access to such spaces and underscored their role as critical infrastructure for urban resilience (Stevens et al., 2021). At the same time, urban land is becoming scarcer, with intensifying competition over its use and control. Processes of privatization, consumerization, and securitization continue to challenge the accessibility and openness of public space (Madanipour, 2010; Nemeth & Schmidt, 2011). This raises the question of how we can maintain and reclaim spaces that are open to all and ensure that even ambiguous or semi-public environments contribute to a just and inclusive urban fabric.

In this context, a growing interest has emerged in publicness beyond strictly municipally owned space. There is increasing recognition that sites with private or institutional ownership, complex governance, or layered functions – such as university campuses, hospital grounds, or cultural institutions – can play an important role in the broader system of urban public space (Carmona, 2014; Langstraat & van Melik, 2013; Peterson, 2017). These are spaces that are not always planned with the city public in mind, but which nonetheless offer significant potentials for civic presence, informal use, and social interaction. Their character as “hybrid spaces” – neither fully public nor fully private – makes them especially relevant for exploring how publicness is produced, performed, and spatially sustained under institutional conditions.

At the same time, universities themselves are undergoing a shift. While historically introverted and institutionally self-contained, universities today are increasingly positioning themselves as urban actors, shaping not only knowledge economies, but also contributing to the physical, cultural, and social development of the cities in which they are embedded (Perry & Wiewel, 2005; Evans et al., 2015). University sites are increasingly designed as multifunctional environments, accommodating both academic activity and elements of public life (Gumprecht, 2003; Posch, 2005; Schmidt-Lauber, 2015). As such, they become sites of negotiation: between openness and security, institutional needs and public claims, designed function and lived experience.

This thesis explores the intersection of these two developments: the growing urban pressure on accessible open space, and the evolving role of universities as stewards of large, central, and partly open campuses. Specifically, it investigates which public space qualities inner-city university sites that are historically layered and outside of municipal control can possess *and how spatial, institutional, and cultural conditions enable or constrain these qualities*. The empirical focus lies

on former hospital grounds that have been adapted into university campuses – spaces that are not only physically prominent, but also symbolically charged and structurally complex.

The central research question guiding this thesis is:

What constitutes and influences the qualities of the open spaces of two inner-city university campuses in Vienna and Copenhagen, informed by case-based qualitative findings and the Public Space Index by Mehta (2014)?

To address this question, the thesis applies a comparative case study design, drawing on two sites: the University of Vienna's campus on the grounds of the Old General Hospital (Altes AKH) and the University of Copenhagen's City Campus on the grounds of the former Municipal Hospital (Kommunehospitalet). Both sites are publicly accessible, centrally located, historically layered through a trajectory of reuse and redevelopment and institutionally managed – yet their ownership and governance structures differ. The empirical material is generated through a mixed-methods approach that combines exploratory, ethnographic fieldwork, encompassing qualitative methods like researcher observations, user surveys and informal conversations, as well as the Public Space Index (PSI) developed by Mehta (2024) und semi-structured expert interviews. Together, these methods aim to capture the multidimension functionality of public space – as a designed environment, a lived practice, and a governed institution – and *the layered and multi-scalar interrelations through which spatial quality emerges*.

The study proceeds in six chapters. Following this introduction, Chapter 2 presents the conceptual and theoretical framework, engaging with debates around public space, publicness, institutional transformation, and spatial justice. Chapter 3 outlines the methodology, including the case selection, data collection methods, and analytical approach. The empirical material is presented in Chapter 4, with two parallel subchapters detailing the results for der Altes AKH in Vienna and the Kommunehospitalet in Copenhagen respectively. These findings are discussed in Chapter 5, which develops a multidimensional, multi-scalar and entangled understanding of spatial quality – from micro-physical attributes to institutional governance and cultural dispositions. Finally, Chapter 6 offers a conclusion, summarizing the main findings, reflecting on their implications, and identifying future paths for research and urban practice.

By placing institutionally shaped, publicly accessible spaces at the center of the analysis, this thesis contributes to ongoing debates about publicness of open space in contemporary cities. It argues that inner-city university sites – particularly those shaped by histories of care and transformation – represent a productive lens for understanding how spatial openness, symbolic accessibility, and everyday practices interact in the production of publicness. In doing so, it aims

to bridge perspectives from urban studies, critical geography, and campus planning, and to offer insights that are both conceptually grounded and practically relevant.

2. Theoretical Foundations and Context

The evaluation and analysis of university open spaces in inner-city contexts requires a nuanced understanding of their spatial, social, and institutional embeddedness. This chapter develops the theoretical and contextual framework for the study and serves as the conceptual preparation for the empirical case analysis. It attempts to provide a broad but condensed consideration of the large body of work on the relevant topics within the interdisciplinary field of urban studies. It begins with a fundamental discussion of public space in the urban context (2.1), followed by an examination of the role of universities as urban actors and spatial agents (2.2). Subsequently, key societal, ecological, and political-institutional conditions are explored in greater depth (2.3), before introducing established approaches for systematically assessing public space (2.4). Finally, the chapter reflects on the selective use of theoretical concepts in the subsequent analysis and discussion (2.5). The aim is to interweave theoretical perspectives, functional demands, and planning-policy frameworks in order to adequately capture the complex qualities and challenges of university open spaces.

2.1 Public Space in the Urban Context

The analysis of open spaces in the context of inner-city universities requires a sound engagement with the concept and theoretical understandings of public space. This chapter systematizes key foundations to make the complexity of public space within the urban fabric analytically accessible. It is structured into a conceptual delineation (2.1.1), a presentation of theoretical perspectives (2.1.2), a functional examination of public spaces in the urban realm (2.1.3), and a typology of relevant spatial forms (2.1.4). The following sections provide the conceptual basis for the empirical analysis and support the analytical classification of the examined spaces in terms of their use, design, and spatial embeddedness.

2.1.1 Terminology of Space: Urban, Open, Public

When considering the body of literature on spaces in cities, there are various scales and levels of conceptualizations found (Smith & Low 2006). Different disciplines focus on different aspects. Whereas architects, urban designers and planners are concerned about the physical aspect and the relationship between people and spaces, urban sociologists are interested in social dynamics.

Geographers and political scientists give attention to aspects like civil society and rights of individuals and groups (Mehta, 2014).

Given the multitude and complexity of analytical perspectives on urban spaces, it becomes evident that conceptual distinctions vary substantially. This necessitates a clear definition of key terms for the purposes of this study.

There is an extensive body of literature on what makes a space urban, including various material and immaterial dimensions in the definitions. For this work, 'urban space' simply means a physical environment that is located within a city.

The term 'open space' also allows for varying interpretations. For this work, the definition of the Cambridge Dictionary is used, saying open space is 'land that has no building on it'. For some, the term already contains an aspect of openness to the public. However, in this work open space is intentionally used as a neutral description of a not built-over space, without alluding to a degree of publicness.

To express the public nature of a space the term 'public space' is used. The distinction between 'open space' and 'public space' is important for this work. At this point, one more relationship to the term 'open space' should be clarified: According to some definitions, 'public space' can also be used to describe an indoor space. For this work, however, the term 'public space' always encompasses the characteristics of 'open space' as well. That is, when 'public space' is used, 'public open space' is meant. When, in a few cases, references are made to public space inside of a building, this is explicitly indicated with additions such as 'indoor'.

The term 'public space' is most typically used to contrast urban open spaces from 'private space'. The exact definitions can vary and base on different criteria such as ownership, control, access and use. Some scholars define public space as being "not controlled by private individuals or organizations, and hence is open to the general public" (Madanipour, 1996, p. 144). Building on the definition of Carr et al. (1992, 50) and following Mehta (2014) and his Public Space Index, for this thesis access and use are chosen as the decisive criteria instead of ownership. Hence, public space is considered

"as the space that is open to the general public, which generates public use and active or passive social behavior, and where people are subject to the general regulations that govern the use of the space." (Mehta, 2014, p. 54)

This means, that also spaces are included, that are privately owned but are still open to the public (Mehta, 2014, p. 54). Moreover, for the purpose of this thesis,

“public space will connote not only the spaces between buildings but also the objects and artifacts therein, and the building edges that help define the physical boundaries of the spaces.” (Mehta, 2014, p. 54)

Mehta recognizes, that the focus on access and use does not covers all possible but still various core dimensions of public space (Mehta, 2014, pp. 54–55).

2.1.2 Public Space as a Theoretical Concept

Public space cannot be understood in one-dimensional terms - it is simultaneously a physical location, a social construct, a site of political negotiation, and a symbolic stage. The following subsections summarize key theoretical dimensions and introduce selected authors as illustrative examples.

Social Dimensions of Public Space

As urban sociologist use to emphasize, beyond being constituted by its physical components, every urban space is also always a social product (Lefebvre, 1991). Public space is not neutral. It is shaped by regulatory structures, planning decisions, and practices of appropriation that reflect existing power relations and social norms (Lefebvre, 1991; Mitchell, 1995; Low, 2000). These dynamics influence both the physical form and the social use of space. Piekut and Valentine (2017) argue, that different kinds of urban micro-settings have a tendency to generate distinct forms of social interactions, often contingent on whether the space leans more towards being public or private. An understanding of the social life in cities that bases on interpersonal relations have been coined by Hunter (1985) and Lofland (1998). They distinguish between different types of social realms characterized by certain relational forms. The private realm comprises the relations of relatives and friends, whereas the public realm comprises the relations and encounters of strangers. The social realms are not to be confused with physical spaces. Rather, an urban space can contain a realm. However, which this is, is not defined by an “immutable culturally or legally given designation.” (Lofland, 1998, p. 11) Instead, it is dependent on the constantly changing ratios and concentration of existing relationship types within the space (Lofland, 1998).

The necessity of differentiating urban realm and urban space gets evident as well in another discussion. As an answer to the wide-spread argument, that social and political movements can take place in the public space because it is of an unrestricted public sphere (Mitchell, 1995), Duncan (1996) points out that some of the functions of the immaterial public realm do not directly translate into the material public space. Specific user groups discourage others, or at least distance themselves spatially or temporally in order to avoid conflicts. Even though public space is understood as space of participation, it is still contested between different users, and between

regulating authorities and the users. Therefore, scholars agree that a public space cannot be unconditionally universally accessible. Conflicts over access, representation, and control are embedded in the regulation and negotiation of public space (Mitchell, 2003; Low & Smith, 2006). Who feels entitled to stay, who is represented, and whose behavior is sanctioned are central questions in understanding how public space functions.

One aspect that is especially novel about Hunter's (1985) conceptualization, is the introduction of a third realm, the parochial realm, one that can be placed between the private and the public. This is an attempt to overcome the typical dichotomy and allow for a more nuanced understanding of cities and – with Wessendorf's (2014) transfer of Hunter's idea – also of urban spaces. She coins the new notion of parochial spaces, which are spaces dominated by parochial kind of relations. Parochial spaces are open to the public, but the relations present are neither as loose as in the public realm, as familiar as within the private realm. The parochial realm is rather defined by “communal relations among neighbors, with colleagues in the workplace, or acquaintances through associations and informal networks.” (Wessendorf, 2014, p. 12) Community centers, libraries or also schoolyards and playgrounds can be seen as such (Schaeffer, 2013). The main difference between public and parochial spaces is which relationship type they support. Interactions in public spaces are typically brief, involving minimal interdependence among individuals, whereas parochial spaces often foster more enduring social relations characterized by greater interdependencies (Piekut & Valentine, 2017) and by equal status (Knipprath, 2023, p. 2020).

“Public space also accommodates everyday routines, fleeting encounters, and the unspectacular practices of diverse urban populations (Amin & Thrift, 2002). These mundane interactions contribute to the social meaning and lived experience of public space.”

Moreover, what also breaks down the clearly separated public-private distinction of urban space is the introduction of the idea of bubbles (Lofland, 1998). Due to the definition based on interpersonal relations, e.g. meetings of friend groups in a park can be seen as a “private realm bubble” within the public space (Lofland, 1998, p. 12).

An additional important insight is, that boundaries between the realms are subject to change. As a consequence of more regular visits a market place can turn from a first as public experienced into a parochial experienced realm and with an increase of personal relationships with others on site even into a private realm (Wessendorf, 2014, p. 13).

Mehta explicitly does not include parochial spaces into his considerations for the Public Space Index (Mehta, 2014, p. 54).

The term semi-public spaces represents another conceptual distinction of a category between public and private (Peterson, 2017). Here, the focus lies on the spatial setting and regards “stricter behavioral rules and greater entry barriers” (Knipprath, 2023, p. 2020), as it is the case in libraries or consumption areas. The concepts of semi-public and parochial spaces are not congruent, but do overlap in some regards and according spaces can be conceptualized as both with regard to different characteristics (Knipprath, 2023).

Moreover, public space is shaped not only by formal regulations and physical design, but also by informal norms, patterns of appropriation, and power relations that govern access and representation. Scholars have highlighted how everyday encounters in public settings reflect broader struggles over visibility, participation, and the right to the city. In this context, the notion of counter-publics (Fraser, 1990) has been proposed to describe alternative spaces of expression that emerge within or against dominant uses and user groups.

Public Space in Urban Development and Governance

While theoretical conceptions of public space emphasize its symbolic, social, and political dimensions, in urban planning practice the question arises as to its concrete roles within the city. These extend far beyond functioning as corridors or passive resting areas – public spaces serve as structuring elements, regulatory frameworks, and identity-forming arenas within the urban fabric.

Since the 1980s, a shift in the management and governance of cities has taken place, often referred to as the “neoliberal turn” (Harvey, 2005, 2007). This development has fundamentally altered how public spaces are produced, maintained, and experienced. Under the influence of neoliberal logics, urban governance increasingly treats the city as a site of economic competition, where entrepreneurialism, private investment, and deregulation dominate policy-making (Harvey, 2000, 2006). In this context, public space is no longer simply a democratic arena for participation, protest, and everyday encounter, but often becomes an asset subject to commodification and market discipline (Harvey, 2004).

One of the most tangible consequences is the proliferation of privately managed public spaces, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs), such as corporate plazas, shopping precincts, or semi-public parks. Although physically accessible, these are governed by behavioral rules, commercial interests, and surveillance practices that often contradict the normative ideals of openness and inclusivity (Mayer, 2016a). These environments tend to prioritize consumer experiences and urban branding over spontaneity, ambiguity, or dissent. Scholars like David

Harvey have analyzed this development as a form of “accumulation by dispossession,” where formerly public goods are transferred into private regimes (Harvey, 2004).

At the same time, public space continues to function as an indicator of democratic quality. Its accessibility, visibility, and openness often reflect the degree of public participation and social inclusion in a given society (Mayer, 2016b). However, as Carmona and de Magalhães (2006) have pointed out, the governance of public space is increasingly fragmented. While normative ideals often remain formally intact, empirical analyses reveal growing contradictions and conflicts between participation goals and control practices. This fragmentation of perspectives and responsibilities has contributed to a fragmented discourse on public space. While normative ideals often remain intact, empirical studies increasingly point to conflicting dynamics in practice (Carmona & de Magalhães, 2006; Carmona, 2014).

2.1.3 Functions of Public Space in the Urban Context

Public spaces fulfil a wide range of essential urban functions that extend far beyond aesthetics or formal design. They facilitate movement and accessibility by connecting different parts of the city through paths, crossings, and transit nodes (Carmona, 2010). They provide opportunities for rest and recreation, through the presence of green areas, seating, and microclimatic comfort zones (Gehl, 2010; Carr et al., 1992). Furthermore, they support social interaction and encounter, by offering open-access meeting places that accommodate both planned gatherings and spontaneous interpersonal contact (Mehta, 2014; Lofland, 1998; see also Section 2.1.2.1).

In addition to these physical and social roles, public spaces carry cultural and symbolic functions – they serve as sites of memory, identity, and collective rituals, ranging from everyday routines to large-scale civic events (Zukin, 1995; Low, 2000). These roles contribute to a shared urban meaning and often reflect underlying dynamics of representation and exclusion (Mitchell, 1995; Fraser, 1990; see also Section 2.1.2.1).

Importantly, public space also acts as a regulatory buffer for urban density and potential conflict, enabling different social groups and activities to co-exist in close proximity (Carr et al., 1992; Carmona, 2010). However, it is essential to recognize that function does not automatically follow form. The actual use of space depends not only on physical features, but also on cultural norms, user needs, and contextual circumstances (Madanipour, 1996). As a result, similar designs can lead to very different outcomes in terms of accessibility, comfort, or social cohesion.

This functional perspective gets relevant for the later evaluation of open space qualities (see Chapter 2.4), especially in addressing the question of which urban functions are supported, restricted, or excluded through design, regulation, or social dynamics.

2.1.4 Typologies of Public Space

Public spaces in cities manifest in a wide variety of spatial forms, each shaped by their geometric structure, historical trajectory, and socio-political context. These types range from traditional open spaces such as streets, squares, and parks to increasingly hybridized and transitional spaces that challenge fixed definitions of “publicness.” The typological diversity is essential to urban life, as different forms support different functions – from circulation to encounter, from symbolic representation to everyday informality. This section introduces key spatial types and sets the stage for the courtyard-specific analysis in Section 2.1.4.1 and for the growing relevance of informal and hybrid formats in urban governance (see Section 2.1.2 and 2.1.3).

Squares are among the oldest urban public space types, often centrally located and geometrically framed to facilitate visibility, orientation, and collective presence. Historically, they served as places for markets, celebrations, and political gatherings. Today, squares continue to embody symbolic and representational functions, while also facing pressures from eventuation, commercialization, and surveillance (Pattacini, 2021).

Streets represent linear public corridors for movement, but they also offer a platform for encounters and informality. Their design influences walkability, social mixing, and commercial viability, making them a crucial component of everyday urban life.

Parks are larger green areas that offer recreational value and ecological benefits. They support restorative functions, facilitate informal gatherings, and serve as social equalizers – though access and safety perceptions can vary by user group and time of day.

Courtyards, which will be examined in detail below, hold a distinct place in the urban morphology, particularly within institutional and residential fabrics.

Beyond classical types, public space has seen a proliferation of flexible, informal, and hybrid spatial forms. These include temporary interventions like pop-up parks, event stages, or street festivals, as well as informal uses of vacant lots or residual areas for community gardening, sports, or gathering. These formats often emerge in response to changing societal demands, land pressures, and participatory governance models, reflecting what Harvey (2012) critiques as the “entrepreneurial city” logic, where space is commodified yet contested.

Additionally, hybrid spaces – such as university campuses, mall atriums, or transit-oriented developments – combine public accessibility with private ownership or control. Known as publicly accessible private spaces (PAPS), or Privately Managed Public Spaces (PMPS), they embody the tensions between openness and regulation. Their ambiguous legal and spatial status influences user behavior, security measures, and the perception of inclusivity (Peterson, 2017). These developments reflect a broader transformation of publicness (see Section 2.1.2) and directly inform the subsequent case study analysis. As cities grapple with spatial scarcity and diverse user needs, such flexible and contested spaces are likely to become even more central to urban design and governance debates.

Courtyards as Transitional and Liminal Public Spaces

Courtyards, especially those embedded within urban institutions like universities, represent a spatial type that is increasingly relevant to debates on urban publicness. Their semi-enclosed nature, intermediary positioning between interior and exterior, and capacity to host multiple activities make them prime examples of transitional or “liminal” public spaces.

Hajer and Reijndorp (2001) describe such spaces as “border crossings” – zones where different social worlds and user groups intersect. Rather than merely leftover spaces or design byproducts, courtyards function as connectors: they mediate between the private sphere of the institution and the more open character of the urban environment. This aligns with the notion of “parochial space” introduced earlier in Section 2.1.2.1, where neither strictly private nor entirely public relationships dominate (Wessendorf, 2014).

Courtyards also embody contemporary spatial trends. As Hajer and Reijndorp (2001) emphasized, densifying cities and the changing role of public institutions have led to a revaluation of inner-city spaces. Campuses, in particular, increasingly serve civic functions, and their courtyards are adapted to support informal learning, community interaction, and climate resilience.

2.2 Universities in the Urban Fabric

Whereas Chapter 2.1 explored the theoretical and functional foundations of public space in urban contexts, the focus now shifts to a specific institutional actor that increasingly shapes and occupies such spaces: the university.

2.2.1 The Evolving Role of Universities in Urban Development

Historically, universities were often physically and symbolically separated from the city – cloistered institutions prioritizing internal academic life over public engagement. In many medieval or early modern cases, the university precinct was defined by a monastic, inward-facing structure. This began to shift with the growth of industrial cities, and particularly accelerated with post-war urbanization and neoliberal governance models (Perry & Wiewel, 2005). In recent decades, universities have emerged as critical anchor institutions within urban regions, contributing not only to knowledge economies but also to cultural identity, community life, and spatial regeneration (Kempen & Wissink, 2014; Perry & Wiewel, 2005).

Universities today serve multiple functions: they are centers of innovation, engines of the local economy, and key players in shaping urban social life. Their campuses increasingly double as semi-public or public spaces – places where formal learning, informal gatherings, civic events, and even protest converge (Sorkin, 1992; Madanipour, 2010). As urban populations diversify and densify, universities are called upon not just to educate but to connect: they act as social connecting agents that help bridge different demographic, cultural, and institutional domains (Zerlang, 2023).

Particularly in Europe, this redefined role aligns with broader urban governance shifts towards multi-scalar, participatory models (Kempen & Wissink, 2014). Universities are now seen as co-producers of the city – not only through spatial investments but also through public programming, collaborative research, and shared infrastructures (Wiewel & Perry, 2008). In this sense, their campuses contribute to the city's cultural capital and its democratic texture (Mitchell, 2003).

The growing presence of students in public life further underscores this shift. As Martin Zerlang noted in a seminar on student life in Copenhagen, the everyday spaces frequented by students – such as courtyards, cafés, and transit hubs – are increasingly integral to the public realm. Thus, studying universities as spatial actors offers insight not only into their educational mission, but also into their civic significance.

2.2.2 Spatial Typologies of University Sites

The spatial form of a university greatly influences its potential for publicness. Traditional campus models – prevalent in the United States – are often peripheral, self-contained, and programmatically homogeneous (Gumprecht, 2003). In contrast, many European universities, especially those located in historic city centers, follow more integrated spatial logics. Their

buildings are distributed across the urban fabric, often interwoven with housing, shops, and other civic functions (Perry & Wiewel, 2005).

This study focuses on two cases exemplifying such inner-city integration: the former hospitals Altes AKH in Vienna and Kommunehospitalet in Copenhagen. Both represent a specific typology of adaptive reuse, where formerly introverted medical institutions were transformed into university campuses, and which is specified in the next subchapter.

Ownership and permeability are key determinants of a site's publicness. Integrated urban universities typically benefit from fragmented property arrangements, shared maintenance responsibilities, and varied spatial access rules, leading to more porous campus boundaries. Conversely, peripheral campuses often exhibit stricter zoning and less daily overlap with the public (Madanipour, 2010; Carmona, 2019). This has implications for public life, accessibility, and the symbolic openness of academia.

In sum, the location and typology of university sites – whether peripheral campuses, inner-city networks, or adaptively reused complexes – directly shape their capacity to act as public institutions. This spatial logic will be revisited in Chapter 4 as part of the comparative case study of Vienna and Copenhagen.

It is important to note that the usage of the term campus in the European colloquial contexts differs from the especially North American academic context. For example, the University of Vienna officially refers to its inner-city facility located on the grounds of the Altes AKH as the “Campus of the University of Vienna.” In this thesis, the term campus is therefore not used in the typologically strict sense of a suburban model, but rather in line with institutional self-descriptions and as a practical synonym for university site. Given the spatial coherence and bounded structure of these sites, particularly in the Vienna and Copenhagen cases, this broader usage is considered both appropriate and analytically useful – even though the spatial realities diverge significantly from the archetypal U.S. campus model.

From Hospital to University: Adaptive Reuse in European City Centers

In several European cities, former hospital sites have been transformed into university campuses, reflecting broader trends in urban redevelopment, heritage conservation, and spatial reuse. These transformations often respond to the increasing demand for centrally located educational infrastructure while preserving historically significant architecture.

Besides the two cases addressed in this study, existing cases include:

Aarhus Municipal Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark: Originally opened in 1893, this large hospital complex is currently undergoing conversion into a university district. The redevelopment project seeks to preserve historical elements while integrating educational spaces and public services (Ramboll, n.d.).

Boerhaave Hospital, Leiden, Netherlands: A 17th-century hospital complex now partially integrated into the University of Leiden's teaching and research infrastructure. The reuse of these facilities reflects an effort to maintain cultural heritage while supporting academic expansion (Leiden University Press, 1980).

Ospedale di San Giovanni di Dio, Florence, Italy: A Renaissance-era hospital that now houses parts of the University of Florence, particularly in the humanities. The transformation prioritizes preservation while adapting interiors for contemporary educational use (Museo Galileo, n.d.).

St. Kevin's Hospital, Cork, Ireland: A former psychiatric hospital site that has been incrementally integrated into the University College Cork campus. The adaptation balances heritage conservation with the introduction of new academic facilities (Reddy Architecture + Urbanism, 2024).

Binnengasthuis, Amsterdam, Netherlands: Formerly Amsterdam's central hospital, this site now accommodates parts of the University of Amsterdam. The redevelopment took advantage of the location's accessibility and symbolic status in the urban fabric (University of Amsterdam, 2022).

These examples illustrate a recurring urban redevelopment pattern in which historic hospital complexes are reimagined as university campuses. Although driven by different local dynamics, they share commonalities such as heritage preservation, centrality, and multi-functionality. Notably, many of these former hospital sites – including those in Vienna and Copenhagen – feature courtyard-based morphologies that lend themselves well to adaptive reuse, creating semi-enclosed, interconnected academic environments.

2.3 Societal and Spatial Framework Conditions

The assessment of open spaces at inner-city university sites must be situated within broader societal and spatial transformations that shape both expectations and design strategies for public space. This chapter outlines key contextual dynamics – from sociocultural change and urban densification to political-economic trends and systemic complexity – that influence both how open spaces function and how they are governed.

2.3.1 Societal Transformation, Urbanization, and Ecological Change

Contemporary urban spaces are being reshaped by overlapping societal, ecological, and cultural transitions that influence everyday life, spatial practices, and design demands. These conditions are particularly pressing in university-related open spaces, which are subject to intense multifunctional pressures in inner-city environments.

Transformations in everyday life – such as more fluid work and study rhythms, increasing digital co-presence, and the blurring of boundaries between public and private activities – are reshaping expectations of open space (Peters et al., 2010). The digitalization of urban life has altered how people encounter and inhabit space, while pluralization of lifestyles leads to more diverse spatial needs (Zukin, 2010). These shifts have created demand for adaptable and inclusive spaces that reflect multiple modes of presence and use.

Processes of urban infill and densification are placing increased pressure on non-commercial open spaces, especially in inner-city contexts (Haase et al., 2017). In many cities, the availability of such spaces is shrinking, intensifying competition for access and visibility. At the same time, compact and multifunctional open spaces are gaining importance as nodes of recreation, mobility, and social interaction (Gehl, 2011). For universities embedded in dense urban settings, such dynamics raise complex spatial and planning challenges.

Urban spaces must increasingly serve climate-regulatory functions, such as heat mitigation, stormwater absorption, and biodiversity protection (Kabisch et al., 2016). Open spaces – including university courtyards – are thus becoming critical assets in urban climate adaptation strategies. In addition to enhancing comfort during heatwaves or providing shade and permeability, they contribute to climate mitigation goals by promoting de-sealing and vegetation-based carbon absorption (Davies et al., 2008). Universities can play a pioneering role here by integrating ecological upgrades into their spatial strategies.

2.3.2 Political-Economic Trends and Their Impacts on Public Space

The growing normative expectations for open spaces – as climate buffers, social inclusion platforms, and design showpieces – interact with political-economic forces that often constrain their realization. Neoliberal urban development logics and commodification of space are shaping how, where, and for whom public space is produced.

Public space is increasingly subject to privatization, securitization, and commercialization (Schmidt & Németh, 2010). Logan and Molotch (1987) describe cities as entrepreneurial actors,

driven by growth coalitions that prioritize market-based development over inclusive planning. These dynamics often result in exclusionary practices and spatial inequality.

Schmidt and Németh (2010) identify three interconnected trends that redefine the provision and experience of public space: the increasing privatization of ownership and management, the increasing securitization of space, and the shift toward consumption-oriented environments. Privatization leads to the emergence of pseudo-public spaces – seemingly open but governed by private regulations – that restrict freedom of use and exclude marginalized groups. Securitization involves the spatial inscription of surveillance, policing, and territorial control, often targeting behaviors deemed “undesirable.” Finally, the commercialization of public space reorients its design and programming toward consumerist activity, reducing the availability of spaces that support informal use, protest, or social mixing (Schmidt & Németh, 2010; Zukin, 1995). These dynamics echo earlier concerns raised by David Harvey (2005) about the rise of privately managed public spaces (PPPs) and the hollowing out of the public realm under neoliberal regimes (see Section 2.1.2.2). Together, these shifts limit the capacity of public space to function as a platform for democratic participation and urban coexistence.

2.3.3 Ownership and Governance

Political-economic trends manifest concretely in how public or semi-public urban spaces are owned, managed, and governed. These structures determine who can shape, access, and use open spaces – and under what conditions.

University open spaces often exist in hybrid governance arrangements that mix public and institutional ownership. This creates ambiguity around control and accountability (Peterson, 2017). Depending on the specific governance model, participation in planning and access to space may be highly unequal. Institutional actors may maintain formal authority over space use, while presenting it as “public” or “open” – a phenomenon explored earlier in the discussion of parochial and semi-public spaces (see Section 2.1.2.1).

Ownership and governance arrangements influence access and control in university spaces, particularly in cases of hybrid regimes that mix institutional and public interests.

2.3.4 Cities as Complex Adaptive Systems

The overlapping societal, ecological, and political transformations outlined above reveal the need for a systemic understanding of urban space. Cities – and public spaces within them – should be understood not as static objects but as complex, adaptive systems.

Traditional scientific approaches were disciplinary and addressed facets of issues in isolation. In the last decades “integrated, system-oriented approaches” that focus on dynamic interrelationships gained momentum. Resilience thinking (Folke, 2016) and complex adaptive systems are examples for those systemic concepts.

Meanwhile there is consensus on the fact, that a city can be described as a complex adaptive system (Sengupta, 2017). From the nature of complex adaptive systems derives, that the observed system can be defined on very different scales. A system can therefore consist of an arbitrary number of subsystems. One subsystem of the city already identified is urban public space. Single researchers applied systems thinking approaches to urban public space, like Yamu et al. (2016) with complex adaptive systems and Xu and Yue (Xu & Xue, 2017) with resilience thinking.

Furthermore Stevens et al. (Stevens et al., 2021) write about an adaptive capacity of public space and subsequently a resilience function of public space in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To this, we may now add: the notion that public space itself constitutes a complex system with emergent properties, influenced by overlapping dynamics of ownership, use, regulation, and symbolic meaning. This reaffirms that both urban environments and their constituent public realms must be approached through flexible, cross-scalar analytic frameworks – such as the one applied in the forthcoming Public Space Index analysis.

2.4 Evaluation Approaches for Public Space

The 20th century was full of pioneering community studies that still coin our understanding of public space and its qualities. Main contributions are made by William H. Whyte (1980), Kevin Lynch (1960), Stephen Carr et al. (1992) and Jan Gehl (2010, 2011).

A variety of approaches have emerged to assess the qualities of public space. These range from early observational studies and visual analysis to participatory evaluation tools and multi-dimensional indices. No single method has gained universal recognition, partly due to the diversity of urban contexts and the difficulty of standardizing experiential qualities. However, each method has contributed unique insights into how public spaces are used, perceived, and designed.

William H. Whyte was among the first to systematically observe human behavior in public spaces, focusing on patterns like seating preferences, movement flows, and visual corridors (Whyte, 1980). His approach demonstrated that successful public space often depends on subtle, micro-scale design factors. Around the same time, Kevin Lynch's seminal work on “The Image of the City”

(1960) laid the foundation for evaluating urban form and legibility, introducing elements such as paths, edges, and nodes that shape spatial perception. Stephen Carr et al. (1992) later expanded this perspective by emphasizing the psychological and social dimensions of public space, such as personalization, diversity of use, and symbolic meaning.

Building on these foundations, Jan Gehl developed a human-centric framework that evaluates public life based on experiential criteria such as protection, comfort, and enjoyment. His “12 Quality Criteria” have been widely adopted by practitioners and planners and later formalized into analytical tools by the Gehl Institute (Gehl, 2010; Gehl Institute, 2017). His application of those tools can be used to help understand the relationship between public spaces and public life, that takes place in them.

More recently, approaches such as the Good Public Space Analysis (Humankind, n.d.) and the tools developed by the Project for Public Spaces (PPS) have gained traction, particularly in placemaking and community-driven planning contexts. PPS proposes four core dimensions: Access & Linkages, Comfort & Image, Uses & Activities, and Sociability, encouraging participatory assessment through walkability audits and collaborative games (Project for Public Space, n.d.).

Among contemporary academic instruments, the Public Space Index developed by Vikas Mehta stands out as a multidimensional, theory-based assessment tool. Building upon the work of Lynch, Carr, and Gehl, Mehta introduces a structured model that empirically evaluates five core dimensions of public space quality. His framework represents a key analytical foundation for this thesis and is examined in more detail in the following section.

2.4.2 Mehta's Public Space Index

The Public Space Index (PSI) developed by Vikas Mehta represents one of the most comprehensive empirical tools for evaluating the quality of public space from a human-centered perspective. Introduced in 2014 and further elaborated in his 2019 publication *Public Space: Notes on Why It Matters*, Mehta's PSI is grounded in a synthesis of multiple disciplinary approaches and urban design theories. It draws explicitly on the conceptual legacies of Kevin Lynch (1960), William H. Whyte (1980), Stephen Carr et al. (1992), and Jan Gehl (2010), combining their insights into spatial legibility, behavioral patterns, experiential qualities, and social use of space (Mehta, 2014).

What distinguishes the PSI from earlier frameworks is this unique integration of both design-based and user-centered criteria into a structured, operationalizable model. Mehta positions public space as a socio-spatial phenomenon that must be understood not only in terms of physical

form or aesthetic appeal but also through its capacity to support meaningful interaction, comfort, and inclusion. This theoretical synthesis results in five core dimensions of public space quality: inclusiveness, meaningful activities, safety, comfort, and pleasurability. Each of these is linked to a set of measurable variables that reflect both objective features (e.g., lighting, seating types, barrier-free design) and subjective perceptions (e.g., sense of safety, emotional attachment).

“Good public space is accessible and open, is meaningful in its design and the activities it supports, provides a sense of safety, physical and environmental comfort and convenience, a sense of control, and sensory pleasure.” – (Mehta, 2014, p. 57)

The variables are collected partly by researcher observations and partly by user surveys. The result is meant to be able to identify issues and help cities and communities to find fields for improving their public space in regard to design, management and renovation (Mehta, 2014).

The Five Dimensions of Public Space Quality after Mehta (2014)

Inclusiveness: This dimension captures the degree to which a space is accessible to different groups, including children, elderly people, minorities, and people with disabilities. Variables include barrier-free access, seating variety, and demographic diversity among users.

Meaningful Activities: Assesses the variety and relevance of activities supported by the space. Indicators range from recreational uses to informal play and educational or cultural programming, reflecting the space's functional richness.

Safety: Measures both perceived and actual safety, considering aspects like lighting, visibility, passive surveillance, and maintenance. These indicators are crucial to understanding whether a space feels and functions securely across time and user groups.

Comfort: Includes environmental and physical comfort, such as availability of shade, shelter, clean seating, and pedestrian-friendly surfaces. This category evaluates how conducive a space is to longer stays and relaxed use.

Pleasurability: Considers the aesthetic and sensory qualities of a space – ambience, noise levels, greenery, and interaction possibilities. It reflects the emotional and atmospheric dimension of spatial experience.

Theoretical Foundation and Evaluation Context

Mehta's work builds on a rich lineage of urban theory but sets itself apart by operationalizing these ideas into a quantifiable, scalable, and context-sensitive format. Unlike many checklists or best-practice manuals, the PSI seeks to retain the complexity of urban life by quantifying perceived and lived qualities rather than imposing rigid design standards.

In terms of practical application, Mehta tested the PSI in the city of Tampa, Florida, across four different public space typologies: parks, streets, plazas, and community gardens. His analysis included both structured observations and user-based surveys, thereby validating the tool in a diverse, real-world urban environment (Mehta, 2014). The index has since been referenced in academic and applied contexts but remains underutilized in broader comparative urban research – partly due to its complexity and the resource-intensity of its dual-method approach.

Mehta also reflects critically on the PSI's potential limitations. He acknowledges that cultural and geographic variability might affect the relevance of certain variables, and that the weighting of dimensions may require adaptation to context-specific goals (Mehta, 2014, 2019). Precisely for this reason, he designed the index to be adaptable and explicitly encourages other scholars to modify and further develop the tool. Mehta positions the PSI as a model that balances standardization with interpretive openness, providing a flexible framework for identifying strengths and weaknesses in diverse public space settings.

Critiques and Suggested Adaptations of the Public Space Index

Mehta's PSI, originally developed in the context of four typologies of public space in Tampa, Florida (Mehta, 2014), has since been adopted in a range of urban environments, demonstrating its transferability and conceptual robustness. Replications have applied the index to car-centric streetscapes in Los Angeles (Blatt, 2020), low-density, mixed-use neighborhoods in Nebraska (Dietrich, 2018), and mid-sized city parks in Northwest Florida (Evans et al., 2018). These studies confirm the PSI's multidimensional applicability across varied urban settings, but also point to the necessity of local calibration and critical methodological reflection.

Evans et al. (2018), for instance, tested the PSI on 60 parks and integrated complementary sketch-based and participatory methods. Their findings underscore both the empirical strength and the need for contextual flexibility, particularly in suburban or peripheral settings. Similarly, Blatt (2020) highlighted the relevance of the PSI in analyzing spatial justice in underserved communities in Los Angeles but noted that indicator scoring can become highly subjective when applied to vulnerable or non-traditional user groups. Dietrich (2018) emphasized that the PSI's

applicability to mixed-use small town contexts requires adaptations in weighting schemes to remain meaningful.

More broadly, critiques focus on two categories: methodological complexity and conceptual scope. First, several authors point to the difficulty of data collection and the interpretive subjectivity of certain indicators, which may reduce consistency in cross-case comparison (Blatt, 2020; Dietrich, 2018; Evans et al., 2018; Karakor & Ögçe, 2023). Second, a growing number of scholars argue that the PSI insufficiently addresses the political and institutional dimensions of public space – particularly questions of ownership, control, and access negotiation. These dimensions are central to more recent frameworks such as Varna and Tiesdell's "Star Model" (2010), which explicitly includes ownership and control alongside civility, animation, and configuration, or the OMAI framework by Langstraat and Van Melik (2013), which introduces a matrix of ownership, management, accessibility, and inclusivity.

In comparative applications, especially where semi-public or privately owned public spaces (POPS) are concerned, researchers suggest that the PSI should be supplemented with such control- and ownership-sensitive frameworks (Nemeth & Schmidt, 2011; Varna & Tiesdell, 2010). This stems from empirical findings that dimensions like ownership structure and institutional gatekeeping significantly shape both accessibility and user experience. Accordingly, the integration of PSI with governance-oriented models is recommended not only for analytical completeness but also to better account for the socio-political conditions underpinning spatial publicness.

Overall, while the PSI remains one of the most comprehensive instruments for evaluating physical and experiential dimensions of public space, its future development and application – particularly in contexts of hybrid governance or contested access – may benefit from deliberate methodological hybridization and clearer articulation of institutional embeddedness.

3. Methodology

This study investigates how qualities of public open spaces on inner-city university campuses are shaped, perceived, and enacted in context. The research is guided by the following question:

What constitutes and influences the qualities of the open spaces of two inner-city university campus in Vienna and Copenhagen, informed by case-based qualitative findings and the Public Space Index by Mehta (2014)?

To explore this question, the research adopts a primarily exploratory, case-based design, situated within a qualitatively led mixed-methods approach. The study focuses on two university campus sites in different cities, selected based on a contrastive case logic. A comparative analytical lens is applied, allowing both inter-case comparisons (between the two campuses) and intra-case insights (between sub-spaces within each site). The aim is to understand how spatial qualities emerge in response to the specific physical, social, and institutional contexts of each case.

The methodological framework combines structured and open qualitative methods. This mixed design enables both systematic comparison and sensitivity to local specificity. The structured core of the study is formed by the application of the Public Space Index (PSI) developed by Vikas Mehta (2014), which functions both as a theoretical framework and as an analytical tool. In this study, the PSI is used to systematically and comparatively assess the presence of spatial, social, and experiential qualities that constitute publicness in the selected spaces. Mehta's index draws on a broad range of existing theories on public space qualities and integrates spatial, social, perceptual, and behavioral dimensions into a coherent and user-centered framework. While the tool provides standardized indicators and allows for comparability, its conceptual foundation remains deeply grounded in a human-oriented and context-aware understanding of public space. Its application in this study contributes to a broader pool of studies using the PSI, including both past and future comparative analyses.

In addition, complementary theoretical perspectives beyond the PSI are also considered where case-specific nuances require further contextual interpretation.

While the PSI offers a comprehensive structure, the research design remains fundamentally exploratory and open-ended, allowing case-sensitive dynamics to emerge. To that end, the index is complemented by a series of qualitative, ethnographically informed methods:

- Exploratory researcher-led participant observation contribute to an embedded, situated reading of the spaces.
- Open-ended user surveys offer everyday perspectives from space users, and
- Informal on-site conversations with street-level infrastructural staff, offer context-sensitive insights into the daily management and lived dynamics of the spaces.

These methods are treated in this work as one methodological cluster, that serves to further explore and refine the understanding of the particular urban spaces, and the spatially situated public space qualities beyond what is captured by the PSI. The data for both, the qualitative method cluster and the PSI, is collected together during extensive field visits.

What those spatially situated methods cannot uncover are more structural underlying influencing factors and contextual conditions for public space quality – like governance structures and institutional implications. In order to get according insights,

- Semi-structured expert interviews are conducted.

These additional methods reflect a mix of an urban ethnographic orientation and serve to embed the research within its field, and the ambition to attempt to also answer structural questions. The presence and situated perspective of the researcher are acknowledged as productive components of the knowledge-generation process. This ethnographic lens reinforces the exploratory character of the study, while the implications of researcher subjectivity and presence are critically reflected in the Discussion chapter, where the limitations of the applied methods and frameworks are also addressed.

The combination of qualitative and structured methods enables triangulation, contrastive validation, and complementarity between data types. While the PSI delivers structured assessments grounded in theory, the qualitative methods open space for the emergence of case-specific nuances. This methodological synergy strengthens the analytical validity of the study: structured comparability is not achieved at the expense of contextual depth. Moreover, by applying and contextualizing the PSI in two distinct university settings, the study also engages in a partial replication of the tool – without this being the main aim of the research. Selected reflections on the PSI's applicability and theoretical assumptions will be presented in the Discussion.

The overall research logic follows a case study approach, emphasizing contextual specificity, comparability, and depth. The comparative analysis across two university campus sites enables the study to identify both patterned and divergent features in the spatial and social constitution of open campus spaces.

The remainder of this chapter is organized as follows: Section 3.1 outlines the overall case study approach, including the logic and criteria for case selection (3.1.1) and the contextual introduction of each case (3.1.2). Section 3.2 details the applied methods of data collection and analysis, followed by Section 3.3, which discusses the integration of data and triangulation strategies. Section 3.4 addresses limitations and researcher reflexivity, and key ethical considerations relevant to the study.

3.1 Case Studies

This study applies a comparative case study approach to examine how qualities of public open spaces on inner-city university campuses are constituted and influenced in their specific spatial and institutional contexts. The empirical investigation focuses on two sites: the campus of the University of Vienna, located on the premises of the former Altes Allgemeines Krankenhaus (Old General Hospital; Altes AKH) in Vienna's Alsergrund district, and the part of the City Campus of the University of Copenhagen, that is called the Center for Health and Society (CSS) and located on the site of the former Kommunehospitalet (Municipal Hospital) in Copenhagen's district of Indre By. Both university sites are characterized by their central location, historical transformation from hospital to university use, and courtyard-based spatial morphology-making them exemplary for the type of institutional public spaces this study investigates. The following section (3.1.1) outlines the rationale and criteria behind the case selection, before introducing each campus in further detail in the case descriptions (3.1.2).

3.1.1 Case Selection

The case selection in this study follows a contrastive and theory-informed logic. It is guided by a combination of spatial typology, institutional diversity, and methodological suitability. The selected cases—the Altes AKH in Vienna and the Kommunehospitalet in Copenhagen—exemplify courtyard-based university campuses situated in dense inner-city settings. Both have undergone a transformation from former hospital complexes into university campuses, facilitating a common case for comparison. At the same time, they differ in ownership, governance structures, and modes of public integration—providing the institutional contrast necessary for comparative insight.

Vienna and Copenhagen were selected as urban contexts due to their comparable level of perceived livability. They both continue to be top ranking in international livability indices. In 2023 and 2024, Vienna ranked first and Copenhagen second in the Global Livability Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit, and in 2025, Copenhagen just overtook Vienna (EIU, 2025). The perceived livability is closely tied to the quality and accessibility of public infrastructure, including open spaces. There is widespread consensus that the quality of public open spaces significantly contributes to urban livability and inclusiveness (Gehl, 2010; Mehta, 2014; Carmona, 2019). This encompasses not only physical but also social, ecological, and political functions of space. The high ranked livability in the case cities provides the potential of relevant insights from an investigation of public spaces within them.

Contemporary urban pressures such as population growth, inner-city densification, and climate change (UN-Habitat, 2020; Kabisch et al., 2016) reinforce the importance of inclusive, high-quality open spaces accessible for the public (Haase et al., 2017). As urban land becomes scarcer, the strategic use of all available open spaces—including those not municipally owned—gains relevance. University campuses are such spaces. Despite being institutionally owned, they often fulfil public functions and can help extend the public realm. Their dual character—as institutional and potentially civic environments—makes them particularly valuable as subject of Investigation.

In this context it is relevant to repeat, that this study adopts Mehta's access- and use-based definition of public space, which includes spaces that are publicly used even if not publicly owned. Based on this conceptual framing, the selected campuses qualify as public spaces within the scope of this research.

In terms of spatial typology, the case selection is grounded in and supported by broader spatial typologies discussed in the literature. The campuses exemplify three enduring trends in European academic space-making: courtyard integration, multifunctionality, and the reuse of embedded urban structures. These features align with the typological logic outlined by Hajer and Reijndorp (2001) and reaffirmed by more recent scholarship (Carmona, 2019). Furthermore, the Altes AKH and the Kommunehospitalet are located in historically significant university settings and represent a specific transformation type: the reuse of hospital complexes as educational environments. This model of adaptive reuse has been realized in several European cities, repurposing spatial structures like courtyards for public engagement (see Literature Chapter 2.2). The selection thus offers typological comparability and reinforces the analytical transferability of findings, supporting both the empirical and theoretical goals of this research.

Each campus is composed of an interconnected system of courtyards. Rather than isolating a single courtyard as representative, this study includes all accessible courtyard spaces per campus in the analysis. Data collection was conducted separately for each subspace, yielding a granular dataset that reflects intra-campus spatial diversity. While analysis is primarily structured at the campus level, this approach enables in-depth comparison across up to 18 individual courtyards. Although a comparison between courtyards within the same campus might appear fragmented, it is justified by their spatial interdependence: the qualities of one courtyard are shaped in relation to others and the broader spatial system. Analyzing them as such avoids misrepresenting the holistic character of each campus.

In addition to spatial typology, the contrasting institutional conditions of the two campuses strengthen their value as comparative cases. While one campus remains under ownership of the University as public institution, the other operates under a hybrid model combining private ownership, university-led governance, and outsourced services. These differing frameworks influence how spatial qualities are managed, maintained, and made accessible. As this dimension is not covered by Mehta's Public Space Index, the study supplements it with semi-structured expert interviews. This mixed-methods approach enables a reflective interrogation of the PSI's comprehensiveness in assessing public space qualities across different governance contexts.

Both cases also met practical criteria such as access to sites, feasibility of on-site observations, and availability of institutional contacts to support data collection.

The purpose of selecting these campuses is not to judge one superior to the other, but to explore how different spatial and institutional configurations influence the production and experience of public space. A comparative perspective enables the identification of patterns, divergences, and context-dependent insights (Flyvbjerg, 2006). This, in turn, supports the formulation of quality-enhancing approaches for university campuses as public spaces - especially relevant for political and institutional actors responsible for spatial development.

In sum, the case selection provides a strong foundation for answering the research question, which asks how the qualities of inner-city university open spaces are constituted and influenced in context. The selected campuses reflect relevant spatial typologies, illustrate contrasting governance models, and are suitable for applying Mehta's PSI as well as extensive context-sensitive qualitative methods. Their spatial and institutional characteristics allow for comparative insight into how publicness is shaped on the ground. At the same time, the selection aligns closely with the exploratory and mixed-methods research design, offering access to structured assessment and situated interpretation alike. Finally, their contextual specificity ensures analytical transferability beyond the immediate cases.

3.1.2 Introducing the Cases

The Case of the Old General Hospital and the University of Vienna



Figure 1: Site map of the University of Vienna Campus (Altes AKH) with numbered courtyards and key facilities. Source: Universität Wien (n.d.).

The University of Vienna's campus, located in the city's 9th district (Alsergrund), occupies a historically layered site between Alserstraße and Spitalgasse. This area, previously home to the city's main hospital complex, is today seamlessly embedded within the urban fabric and surrounded by a mix of residential, civic, and institutional uses. Key landmarks in the immediate vicinity include the Medical University of Vienna, the Josephinum, the Votive Church, and Vienna General Hospital. The campus is easily accessible via public transport, with several tram lines and metro stations nearby, including the future U5 line currently under construction (Universität Wien, 2024; Stadt Wien, 2023).

The spatial configuration of the campus is defined by ten courtyards, formed by the former hospital's historic building wings. Most of these courtyards follow a regular, rectangular layout and are enclosed on all sides, reinforcing an internal orientation of movement and visibility. Hof 6 and 10, however, deviate from this pattern due to their more open or irregular forms, influenced by the site's edge conditions and transition into the surrounding urban structure. Despite their

less formal definition, they are still referred to as “courtyards” by the university, and function as such in its spatial logic (Universität Wien, 2024).

Hof 1 is the largest and most publicly frequented space, hosting not only university departments but also several non-academic uses. These include a supermarket, a bookshop, a driving school, and multiple restaurants. Hof 4 houses a university-affiliated kindergarten. Other courtyards are used primarily for academic purposes, such as Hof 2, which contains a modern lecture hall center built specifically for university teaching (Universität Wien, 2024).

Since 1988, the site has been owned by the University of Vienna, following a formal transfer from the City of Vienna (Posch, 2005). The university is responsible for managing, maintaining, and regulating the site, including issuing rules of conduct via a dedicated Hofordnung (Universität Wien, 2022). These regulations define the semi-public nature of the campus: while it is accessible to the general public during most hours, specific uses and events are subject to internal permissions and restrictions. The clear institutional governance and integrated access control illustrate the dual identity of the site as both a civic and academic space.

The Historic Perspective on the Transformation from Hospital to University Campus

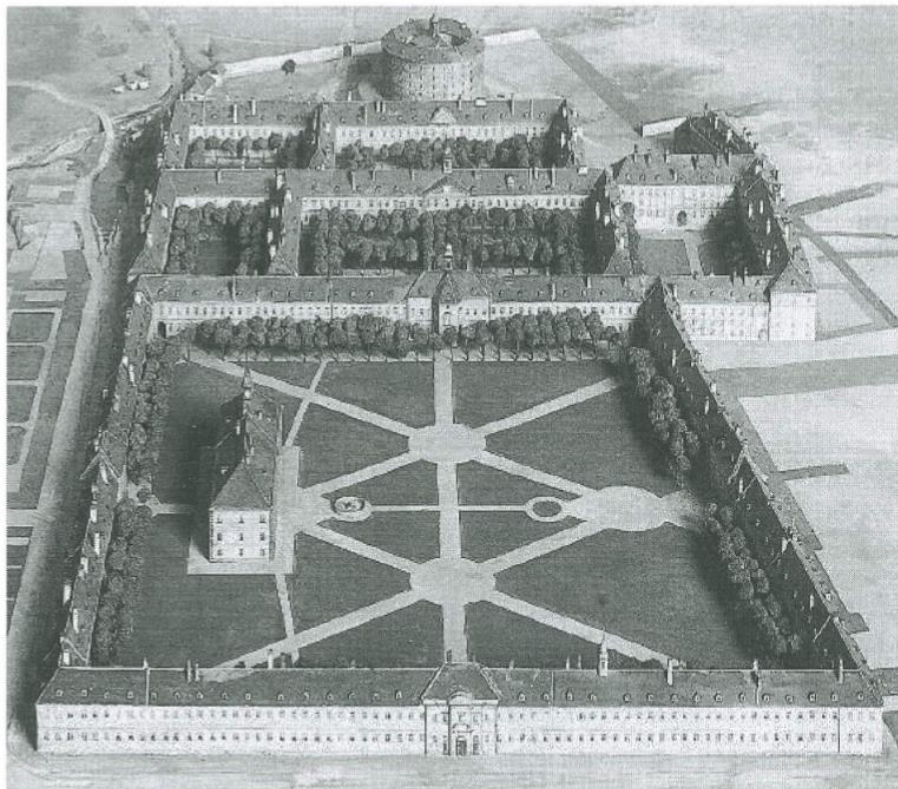


Figure 2: Transformation model of the Old General Hospital (Altes AKH) in Vienna.

Source: Zaimian (2005, p.6)

For much of its existence, the site that now hosts the University of Vienna's campus remained enclosed and symbolically charged with associations of illness, death, and social exclusion. Originally established in the 17th century as a hospital complex, it had long been separated from its urban surroundings, both physically, through high enclosing walls, and socially, through its institutional function. The space was perceived as introverted and disconnected, almost invisible within the dense urban fabric of the Alsergrund district (Schmidt-Lauber, 2015, pp. 11–13).

A major turning point came in 1988 when the City of Vienna officially transferred ownership of the former hospital grounds to the University of Vienna. This symbolic gesture – anchored in the university's 600th anniversary – also had significant urban planning implications. The aim was not only to modernize university infrastructure but to reconceptualize a formerly inaccessible site into an open academic and civic space (Posch, 2005). The physical transformation began in 1995, and the newly inaugurated campus opened its doors in 1998, combining historic preservation with adaptive reuse.

The transformation of the Altes AKH was not only architectural. It signaled a strategic redefinition of how the university positioned itself in the city. The traditional notion of a campus as a closed-off, monofunctional academic enclave as common in Anglo-American models, was explicitly rejected. Instead, planners and university officials emphasized urban permeability and openness, seeking to foster everyday interactions between the university community and the general public (Schmidt-Lauber, 2015, pp. 13–15). The site, thus, became part of a broader narrative about integrating institutions into the urban core, although one might argue that this integration remains somewhat aspirational.

In line with its unique structural qualities and historical significance, the site was designated a protected urban zone by the City of Vienna. This designation underscores its status as a “city within the city” - a phrase used to describe the enclosed yet internally diverse spatial logic of its interconnected courtyards and historic buildings. Elements such as the cylindrical Narrenturm, once used to house and treat psychiatric patients, and the ensemble of 18th and 19th century medical pavilions reflect a layered architectural legacy that warranted conservation (Stadt Wien, 2023; Schmidt-Lauber, 2015, p. 15).

This physical and symbolic repositioning of the space was accompanied by a distinct memorial and cultural agenda. A key initiative in this context was the 2015 launch of the “Axis of Remembrance” - a network of memorial installations designed to acknowledge the hospital's and university's complex roles in Vienna's 20th-century history. One of its central elements is the Marpe Lanefesch memorial located in Hof 6, which commemorates Jewish patients and medical

personnel persecuted during the Nazi era (Universität Wien, 2015). These interventions not only contextualize the space historically but also attempt to activate it as a site of public reflection and democratic memory.

Simultaneously, the site's reinvention echoed other large-scale urban redevelopment projects in Vienna, most notably the MuseumsQuartier (MQ). Both initiatives took formerly closed-off institutional spaces and repurposed them as multifunctional cultural and public areas. While the MQ leaned more heavily into the cultural and leisure sectors, the campus emphasized education and research, but the underlying urban logic of transformation and reuse was very similar (Schmidt-Lauber, 2015, pp. 18–19).

Notably, the idea of a centralized university campus was not new. As early as the university's founding charter in 1365, the notion of a distinct “universitas” space, an academic quarter within the city, was already present. However, it took centuries for this idea to materialize spatially in the form we see today. The modern campus in the Altes AKH could, in this sense, be interpreted as the long-overdue physical realization of an institutional ideal (Schmidt-Lauber, 2015, p. 25).

The Case of the Former Municipal Hospital and the University in Copenhagen

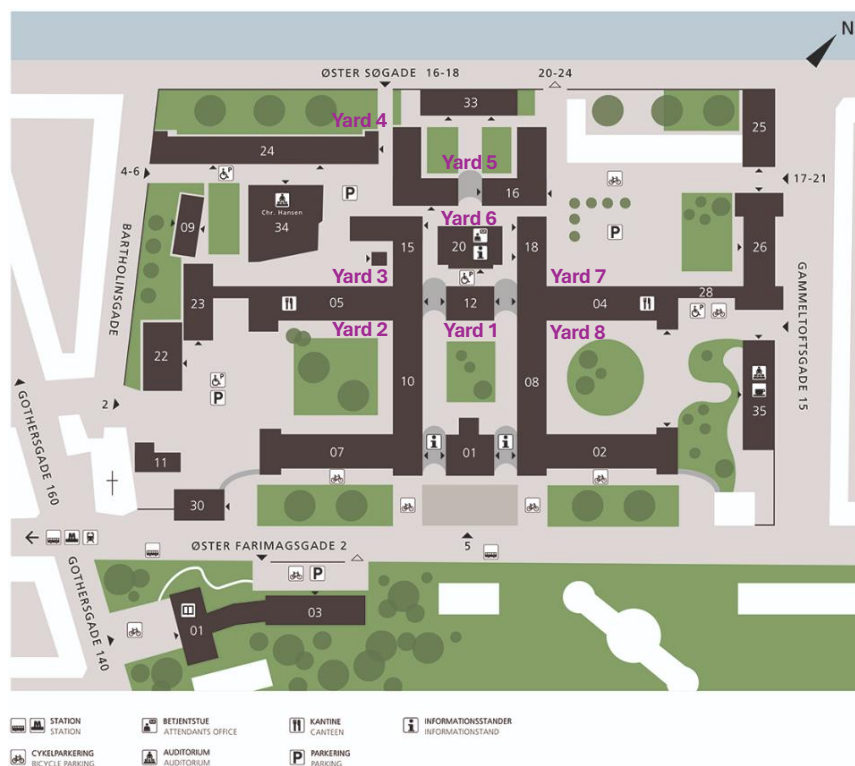


Figure 3: Site map of the Centre for Health and Society (CSS), University of Copenhagen.

Yard numbers (1–8) have been added by the author for clarity of communication in this work.

Source: University of Copenhagen (n.d.)

The Centre for Health and Society (CSS) is part of the City Campus of the University of Copenhagen and is located in the central Copenhagen district Indre By between Øster Farimagsgade and the University Botanical Garden. The complex directly adjoins two busy streets with strong traffic flows, with the Botanical Garden and The Lakes a short walk south-east and north-west respectively. Beyond these, the immediate surroundings are predominantly residential. The main pedestrian and vehicular entrance to the campus is on Øster Farimagsgade, through Yard 1, which serves as the central access and arrival space. Amenities include two university canteens, a university café, and additional student-run informal student cafés in several building surrounding the open spaces (University of Copenhagen, 2024).

The site comprises of historic hospital wings, building courtyard open spaces between them. For the purpose of this work, they have been delineated here as Yards 1-8. Yards 2 and 8 open onto side streets (Gammeltorv, Skånegade, Bartholिंगgade), but there are no direct visual or circulation axes between, for example, Yards 2 and 8 – connections occur only via Yard 6. Yard 6, which follows Yard 1 in sequence, contains a former administration building and acts as a central distributor. While some of the courtyards originally opened onto the streets, they are nowadays partly enclosed by smaller addition buildings, framing the open spaces even more as courtyards. Yard 3 hosts a modern glazed lecture hall building and in building 24 some medical practices. The whole Kommunehospitalet site is surrounded by a wooden fence, approximately 2.4m high, which becomes most tangible when being in Yard 4: This is enclosed by the build on the one side and the fence on the other. The north-western edge of Yard 7 is defined by a building that belongs to the same building ensemble, but which is not rented by the university. It contains a few small businesses, on the side facing Yard 5 and the Lakes, and daycare facilities, a student café, and student housing on the northern side. In 2022, temporary wooden housing structures were erected on a parking and lawn ground, housing since then Ukrainian refugee families. Yard 8 includes a newer lecture complex, Building 35, with a broad open stair descending below street level into the lecture hall and its basement café. Parking areas for cars are especially present in Yards 2, 3, 6, and 7. There was formerly a bookstore, but it is now closed.

The Historic Perspective on the Transformation from Hospital to University Campus



Figure 4: Lithograph of the Copenhagen Municipal Hospital from 1870.

Source: Københavns Museum & Københavns Stadsarkiv (1870).

The hospital was designed by architect Christian Hansen and built between 1859 and 1863. It was established following the 1853 cholera epidemic and constructed on former glacis land outside the city's historical fortifications. The building layout consisted of two symmetrical three-story wings with connecting corridors and internal courtyards. The complex also featured a central domed chapel located within the structure (Lex, 2024).

During its operation, the hospital was expanded, and several of its wings – such as Wards 8 and 10 – retained original architectural features, including narrow rooms, side corridors, and structural heating elements. In the 1890s, decorative interventions were added to the chapel, including Byzantine-inspired murals and painted vaults (Lex, 2024).

The hospital ceased operation in 1999. In 2005, the University of Copenhagen began using the site to house departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The transformation included the internal conversion of wards into seminar rooms, offices, and shared university functions (University of Copenhagen, 2024). In 2013, a new lecture building was added to the complex. Designed by Erik Møller Arkitekter, this building also includes a university daycare facility (University of Copenhagen, 2024).

Today, the site consists of several interconnected buildings and open spaces organized around a series of courtyards. These courtyards serve circulation, recreational, and institutional functions. Some remain enclosed by building volumes, while others are open to adjacent streets or green spaces. Historic structures, such as the chapel dome and corridor wings, continue to define the spatial character of the campus. The entire site is used for academic teaching, administration, and related support functions.

3.2 Methods

This section outlines the specific methods used to collect, analyze, and integrate data in this study. The mixed-methods design combines structured assessments and open-ended qualitative approaches to ensure both comparability and contextual sensitivity. A core component is the application of Mehta's (2014) Public Space Index (PSI), which is systematically operationalized and extended through qualitative supplements. As part of this, researcher observations and user surveys are conducted. In addition, semi-structured expert interviews provide further qualitative insights into the cases overall, the qualities of the open spaces on university campuses, and potentially influencing contextual conditions. Moreover, informal, spontaneous conversations were held with individuals involved in the street-level maintenance and management of the spaces. Within the context of all methods applied, the term users refers to all individuals who interact with or pass through the campus open spaces – including students, staff, visitors, and other city residents.

3.2.1 Mixed-Methods Fieldwork

The Public Space Index developed by Mehta (2014) serves as a central analytical tool for systematically assessing spatial qualities across the selected campus sites. In this study, the index is operationalized through a combination of structured researcher observations and user surveys, both adapted to the specific case contexts. While grounded in the standardized PSI framework, both tools were supplemented with qualitative components to capture user perspectives and contextual particularities that exceed the scope of predefined indicators. The following two sections describe the rationale behind using the PSI and the specific operationalization process.

Rationale for Using the PSI

The decision to apply the Public Space Index as a central evaluative tool in this study is grounded in both conceptual and methodological considerations. This rationale is closely tied to the overall research aim: to systematically assess and compare the quality of public university open spaces in two inner-city European contexts. The PSI offers a structured yet people-centered approach

that bridges spatial, social, and perceptual dimensions of public space – a necessity given the multi-faceted nature of university courtyards and their embeddedness in complex urban systems.

Originally developed by Vikas Mehta (2014), the PSI was explicitly designed to integrate insights from seminal urban thinkers such as Kevin Lynch, Jan Gehl, William Whyte, and Stephen Carr. As such, it consolidates multiple disciplinary perspectives into a unified empirical framework. Mehta's index operationalizes public space quality through five key dimensions: Inclusiveness, Meaningful Activities, Comfort, Safety, and Pleasurability. These dimensions resonate with the theoretical foundations laid out in Chapter 2, and reflect core concerns in both the planning and governance of urban spaces.

Compared to other assessment tools – such as Gehl's 12 Quality Criteria (Gehl, 2010; Gehl Institute, 2017), the PPS's placemaking methods (Project for Public Space, n.d.), or more narrowly defined observational protocols (e.g. Whyte's behavioral mapping) – the PSI stands out for its balanced integration of spatial, behavioral, and experiential variables. While many established models emphasize individual aspects of space quality, the PSI offers a composite perspective that aligns well with the multidimensionality of the research questions posed here. Moreover, its semi-standardized scoring system and modular structure make it adaptable to diverse spatial typologies, including the courtyard-based institutions examined in this study.

From a methodological viewpoint, the PSI functions as the structured quantitative component within a broader mixed-methods design. It provides a robust core of standardized observations and user-based perceptions, which are then supplemented by qualitative material to account for context-specific meanings and practices. This layered structure allows for both comparability and contextual sensitivity – an essential duality when analyzing courtyard spaces that function simultaneously as institutional, urban, and lived environments.

Importantly, the PSI also aligns with the study's ambition to engage with public space not as a fixed entity but as a dynamic field of relations and contestations. Its inherent flexibility – especially in the weighting and variable selection – has been critically discussed by Mehta himself, who acknowledges the index's potential need for adaptation across contexts. In this study, however, the original weighting scheme is retained to maintain comparability and avoid unnecessary complexity by adding another discussion layer.

Finally, the PSI is chosen not only for its methodological coherence, but also for its integrative theoretical ambition. It reflects and re-aggregates concepts explored in the literature review: from Lefebvre's notion of lived space, through ideas of public/private/parochial realms, to typological

and systemic perspectives on urban morphology. It thus serves as both a tool of measurement and a theoretical hinge, translating the conceptual groundwork of Chapter 2 into actionable empirical practice.

Index Dimensions, Variables, Weighting, and Scoring Procedure

The application of the Public Space Index in this study follows a structured and typology-sensitive approach based on Mehta's original framework. The index is composed of five overarching dimensions of public space quality: inclusiveness, meaningful activities, comfort, safety, and pleasurability. Each of these dimensions is assessed through a set of predefined variables. For the dimension of pleasurability, Mehta suggests slightly different variables depending on the typology of the space. Based on the morphological characteristics of the case sites, all observed spaces in this study were categorized as "attached plazas, squares, or parks," meaning they are enclosed or framed by surrounding buildings. In total, the operationalization resulted in 45 variables: 32 to be assessed through researcher observations and 13 through user surveys – in this distinction also following Mehta's original.

All variables are rated on a 0–3 scale, with 0 indicating the complete absence of a quality and 3 indicating a strong, consistent presence. Researcher-assessed variables were recorded using standardized field visit sheets during multiple visits per courtyard. User-rated variables were collected through surveys that included both structured PSI-related questions and complementary qualitative prompts. More detailed information on both instruments is provided in the subsequent sections.

For each courtyard – 10 in the case of the Altes AKH and 8 in the case of the Kommunehospitalet – average scores were calculated per variable: researcher scores were averaged across all observation rounds, and user scores across all respondents per space. These averages were then weighted according to the official PSI weighting system. Each variable's weight corresponds to its relative importance within its respective dimension, with the total weight per dimension summing to 10. Accordingly, when each variable score (0–3) is multiplied by its weight and summed within a dimension, the maximum possible dimension score is 30. A space that achieves the maximum score on all variables within a dimension would thus reach a score of 30 for that dimension.

The same calculation process was repeated for all five dimensions, resulting in a total maximum score of 150 per space. To produce a normalized index value, the total score was then converted into a percentage. A score of 150 thus corresponds to a full index value of 100, and lower scores are proportionally represented. In addition to the overall PSI score, sub-indices were calculated

for each of the five dimensions individually, enabling a more differentiated view of spatial performance.

While Mehta emphasizes the contextual sensitivity of the weighting system and acknowledges that the relative importance of spatial qualities may vary across cultural settings and research aims, this study does not seek to reconfigure or critically interrogate the existing weighting. To ensure consistency and reduce complexity, Mehta's original weightings were adopted without modification.

The calculation of PSI scores was conducted separately for each courtyard, resulting in individual indices for ten courtyards in Vienna and eight in Copenhagen. This spatial granularity enables not only cross-case comparison but also intra-site analysis of courtyard-level differences.

For the extensive matrices representing the calculation process and results, see Appendix G-J.

Researcher Observations

The researcher observations constitute a direct operationalization of the Public Space Index (Mehta 2014), translating its conceptual dimensions into systematic field data.

The researcher observations were carried out over a period of several days in mid to late October 2023 in Vienna and in early to mid-November 2023 in Copenhagen, ensuring a balanced distribution between different times of day and days of the week. In Vienna eleven to twelve observations for each of the ten courtyard were conducted over the course of seven days, resulting in 113 data sets. In Copenhagen eleven observations for each of the eight courtyards were conducted over the course of nine days, resulting in 88 data sets. Each data set consists of a whole number score between zero and three for each of the 32 researcher-based variables. The data sets were incorporated into a score board showing all average scores for each variables for each observed courtyard. A standardized observation sheet was prepared and used for each courtyard and field visit, including the predefined PSI variables and the corresponding 0–3 scale. The scoring was based on Mehta's original definitions, with 0 indicating absence and 3 indicating strong and consistent presence of a quality. To ensure comparability across visits, particular attention was paid to consistent application of the scale throughout all observation rounds.

In his original study about the PSI, Mehta recommends that several researchers carry out the observations independently. An incorporation of these data sets into average scores can balance out subjectivities in perception. Due to the scope of this master's thesis, this was not possible.

To allow for more than purely quantitative results, the PSI constituting researcher observations were supplemented. Using the advantages of ethnographic research, notes on qualitative observations were made during every field visit, such as on striking events, user behaviors or changes compared to other visits. This way, a deeper understanding of the functioning and the processes in the spaces could be obtained.

Given the exploratory nature of this study, the aim was not to eliminate subjectivity but to critically engage with it. The PSI-based scores were complemented by reflexive field notes, allowing the researcher to track their own interpretations and potential biases over time. This approach aligns with the ethnographic orientation of the research and supports a situated understanding of spatial qualities.

The researcher observations were carried out in one continuous time period each. Changes in usage behavior and external circumstances and resulting changes in quality are therefore only reflected to a limited extent and could be recorded through further fieldworks at different times throughout the year. Both during the preparation and the implementation, however, it became apparent that many of the variables do not change between observation times. Although the groups of people present and their usage behavior fluctuate, the majority of spatial characteristics remain largely unchanged, like the availability of seating, the permeability of the building facade or the presence of memorable architecture. The seasonality of the results of this work is thereby being buffered.

During the observation periods, the weather conditions were largely dry and mild, enabling consistent fieldwork and undisturbed outdoor activities across all courtyards. While seasonal limitations are always a consideration in behavioral studies, the favorable autumn weather supported a representative assessment of everyday spatial dynamics.

User Surveys

During the fieldwork 30 user surveys in case space in mid to late October 2023 in Vienna and 28 surveys in the case space in early to mid-November 2023 in Copenhagen were conducted. All the respondents were made aware of the aims of the research project and verbally agreed on the usage of their data and answers in an anonymized way. People present in the spaces were approached with the aim of getting a respondent group as diverse as possible in order to capture all different types of users, considering age, gender, nationality and most importantly space usage behavior. At the same time it was attempted to depict a realistic proportionate representation of users, according to their presence in the space. For example, an excessive part of the respondents

were students, which simply represents the obvious dominance of this user group on a university campus.

To extend the user survey with qualitative components, open and semi-open questions were added, compared to Mehta's survey. When designing the survey it was made sure that the order of the questions allows for a conversation flow as natural as possible. First, the users were asked questions about their usage behavior and what influences it. The following twelve questions were particularly tailored to rate the twelve user-based variables of the PSI in whole numbers from zero to three for each courtyard. Besides the quantitative information, it was asked for an elaboration on reasons and conditions for the given score. After the PSI questions, the respondents were asked for an overall score for each quality dimension, attempting to cross-check the usefulness of using a multitude of differentiated variables as opposed to fewer, more general rating categories. , for changes the respondent would make to the space and for what they like most about the space. The user survey ended with questions about demographic data. Few of the questions of the user survey concerned the respective campus as a whole, but most were targeted towards the separate courtyards. Each respondent replied specifically for those courtyards that they know and use, which makes the collected data very distinguished, aiming to be as free from generalizations as possible.

The open and semi-open questions allowed users to articulate spatial perceptions beyond the predefined PSI categories. In combination with the demographic data, they served to identify divergent or reinforcing perspectives. These findings were not subjected to rigid coding, but rather interpreted in light of the overall exploratory and case-sensitive analytical strategy described in the methodological framework.

The customization of the survey enabled this work to draw conclusions between the quantitative and the qualitative responses and demographics, e.g. identifying gaps by age or gender. It became possible to focus not only on identifying space qualities, but also to attempt explaining their occurrence. Many of the survey questions triggered open conversations. Those gave further information on dynamics and changes over time outside the observation period, such as in terms of usage behavior, external circumstances, and occurring events and activities. Learning from the users was very valuable for understanding the functioning and development of the cases, and gave impulses for further desktop research and for expert interviews. Moreover, these insights mitigate a potential seasonality effect: even though the user surveys were carried out in one continuous time period each, the described user knowledge largely includes experiences previous to the time of the survey itself and are therefore included in the scores of the user-based variables, as well as main component of the qualitative findings.

During both fieldwork periods, the weather conditions were largely dry and mild, allowing for undisturbed outdoor use of the courtyards. While seasonal limitations must always be considered in spatial perception studies, the generally accessible weather supported a representative capture of typical user behavior in autumn.

For the detailed user survey questionnaires see Appendix A-C.

Translation Sensitivities and Cultural Adaptation in the German Survey

Designing and conducting the German version of the user survey for the Vienna case involved specific linguistic and cultural adjustments. Direct translations of concepts used in the original PSI survey were critically assessed, as certain terms carry divergent meanings or problematic historical connotations in the German-speaking context. A central example is the term “race”, commonly used in international academic literature and urban studies (e.g. in Mehta’s work), but in German translated as “Rasse” – a term heavily burdened by its historical use in Nazi ideology and colonial discourse.

Given this, and in line with established research ethics and social science conventions in the German-speaking world, the survey replaced the concept of race with nationality, asking participants for their Nationalität rather than their Staatsangehörigkeit. The term Nationalität captures a dimension of ethnic-cultural self-identification, which made it more suitable for the purposes of this survey. This decision aligns with academic guidance on cultural-linguistic adaptation in cross-language qualitative research (Temple & Young, 2004; Squires, 2009).

For the researcher-based PSI variables, however, the original term race was retained – used only in English and solely for internal, visual observation purposes. Alternative terms such as ethnicity or nationality were deemed inappropriate in this context, as they do not translate into reliably observable physical markers. These decisions reflect a context-sensitive, ethically aware adaptation of the original PSI framework to the German-speaking research environment.

Informal on-site conversations

In the course of the fieldworks spontaneous opportunities arose to talk to maintenance and security personnel, resulting in informal conversations on site. These took place during broader field visits conducted for other parts of the research.

For the case of the Altes AKH, one conversation was held on a Sunday evening with a nightshift Portier employed by the University of Vienna; the other took place on a weekday in the late

afternoon with a long-serving maintenance worker from a private cleaning company contracted by the university.

For the case of Kommunehospitalet, one conversation was held with two parking attendants employed by Europark, the operator of the paid parking areas on the premises. The conversation took place on a weekday afternoon in Yard 1.

Both shared long-term, routine-based perspectives on spatial use, challenges, and daily practices at the Altes AKH. While not central to the study, their insights offered valuable additions to the understanding of spatial dynamics and institutional structures. Additionally, those conversations yielded factual information regarding spatial management and maintenance, which is referenced in the case study introduction to support general site understanding.

The respondents were made aware of the aims of the research project and verbally agreed on the usage of their data and answers in an anonymized form. Notes and transcript fragments were taken immediately after the encounters; no recordings were made, and no complete interview protocols exist. The collected impressions are therefore not treated as a separate dataset, but as an additional qualitative layer that supports, nuances, or grounds findings from other sources.

The insights gained serve to expand the understanding of the cases and are being linked to the findings from document review, as well as quantitative and qualitative researcher observations and user surveys.

3.2.2 Semi-structured Expert Interviews

As supplementation to the fieldwork two semi-structured expert interviews on the Vienna case and two on the Copenhagen case were conducted. Objective was to expand the knowledge of the cases, to get the perspective of the interviewees on the exhibited public space qualities on the university sites, to detect interest, management, and cooperation structures and the associated power relations in the development, design and programming of spaces. Insights from the expert interviews are used for cross-referencing to the findings from the quantitative and qualitative researcher observations and user surveys and the informal on-site conversations.

The selection of the interviewees followed considerations of who has knowledge about the case spaces and can speak for the different involved and interested parties. Essential was the perspective of the respective university as main occupant to be represented. In both cases this could be achieved by interviewing an employee of the respective university's own facility management. Additionally, the perspective of the public interest was crucial to be included. In

both cases they were brought in by a political representative of the respective city district. In order to understand the governance and management structures as influencing aspects of the qualities of the case spaces, interviews with the owners of the spaces were requested as well.

Although perspectives from institutional tenants (e.g., cafés, research groups) could have enriched the study, they would have contributed rather another viewpoint on experienced qualities in the space. Instead, the prioritization here was the generation of institutional and structural insights.

Interviewees and Case Context: Altes AKH in Vienna

For the case in Vienna, an interview with an employee of the *Raum- und Ressourcenmanagement* (RRM), in English Facility and Resources Management, of the University of Vienna was held. In her function, she is representing both the University as main occupant of the space, but also the University as the owner itself. The person wants to stay semi-anonymized such that she will be referred to simply as an employee of the RRM. The interview was held in person in the main building of the University of Vienna and provided insights into the objectives and processes of management, design, maintenance and programming, first, on a day-to-day basis and, second, on a strategic long-term basis.

Furthermore, an interview was held with the *Bezirksvorsteherin* Mag^a Saya Ahmad, the District Mayor of the district the case is situated in, namely Alsergrund. It is the ninth out of 23 Viennese city districts. Mag^a Saya Ahmad, has held the position as the District Mayor since 2018 and is member of the SPÖ, the Social Democratic Party of Austria. In Vienna, the level of the districts plays an integral role in the city's administrative structure. They are being equipped with more powers than in other cities aiming at managing local affairs within the districts themselves. The District Council, which is elected by the district residents during municipal election, makes decisions on local matters like traffic regulation, district-specific services as well as the maintenance of public spaces. The District Mayor is the executive leader of the district and is elected by the members of the District Council. The District Mayor represents the district in city-wide matters and acts as a link between the District Council and the city administration. The Responsibilities of the District Mayor include supervising the implementation of the District Council's resolutions, managing the district budget and administrative functions and coordinating with the municipal departments to safeguard the provision of services and infrastructure in the district. With those responsibilities for Alsergrund, Saya Ahmad was able to provide insights into the public interest in my case space, the cooperation with the university as owner of the space

and the comparison with open spaces in municipal ownership. The interview was held in person in the district office in Alsergrund.

It was also reached out to several members of the urban development and urban planning department of the City of Vienna. The aim would have been to get more information about the Thematic Concept on Public Space as part of the Urban Development Plan 2025 and the contained measures on the open spaces of public educational buildings. Moreover, an assessment of the case in relation to city-wide developments from the perspective of the city administration would have been useful. The requests were being rejected due to a lack of capacities.

Interviewees and Case Context: Kommunehospital in Copenhagen

For my case in Copenhagen I conducted a semi-structured interview with Ulla Kjærgaard in her position as Service Manager for the City Campus at the University of Copenhagen. Her responsibilities span from valet services, cleaning, waste collection, key lending, window cleaning over pest control and gardening services. As she is therefore involved in operating and maintaining the case space of this work and she knows the perspectives of various parties involved, she can provide valuable insights. The interview was held virtually. As opposed to the Vienna case, in the Copenhagen case the university is not the owner of the space itself. It is renting the premises from a private property company, with whom it was not possible to obtain an interview. Insights into their viewpoint of the space development, qualities and future plans would have been interesting. In the interview with Ulla Kjærgaard, it emerged that the owner's exertion of influence on the operational management and development of the space is limited and that the University of Copenhagen therefore has experienced a largely unrestricted scope for action. Therefore, the interviews conducted do include the relevant insights.

To represent the public interest in the Copenhagen case, it was reached out to the *Indre By Lokalforsamling*, the Local Committee of the Copenhagen city district *Indre By*, where the case space is situated. Even though the district level is not equipped with formal decision-making power like in Vienna, the Local Committees' advisory role is impactful. Bridging the local community and the City Council, the twelve existing Local Committees represent the interests of the districts' residents and are involved in the municipal decision-making about local matters, such as social services, urban development, transportation, and environmental issues. They can also hold public participatory events for the local residents and use a budget from the municipality to support local initiatives for the benefit of the community. The Local Committee's are made up of residents, representatives from local associations and political representatives from the City Council. Those Members are appointed through local elections within community organizations and political

appointments by the City Council. For the interview, Sally Mountfield was interviewed, who is the first deputy chairwoman of the *Indre By Lokaludvalg* and representing the *Nørre Kvarters Beboerforening*, a residents' association, since 2018 within the Local Committee. Her designated fields of action are, among other things, urban space for commercial activities, traffic and everyday life. Beyond her knowledge on the districts development as a political representative, Sally Mountfield can also provide valuable insights as a resident of the area around the case, where she has lived for most of her life and experienced the case space both, in its function as a Hospital and as a University Campus. It is to clarify, that Sally Mountfield represents the position of the Local Committee in terms of the overall district development. As the specific case space so far is no particularly discussed topic within the Local Committee, Mountfield speaks on her own behalf when it comes to the development interest in the specific case space. The interview was held virtually

Just as for Vienna, I reached out to the urban development department of the City of Copenhagen to get further information on city strategies and an assessment of the case space in relation to city-wide developments. Again, my requests were turned down due to a lack of capacities.

Interview Guide: Development and Thematic Focus

The interview guide was developed in an partly theory-informed and partly exploratory manner. It was not based on one fixed theoretical framework but rather on reflections about the specific context of the research field. Though considerations on the limitations of the PSI in uncovering ownership and governance structures was taken as inspiration.

The guiding questions were adapted for each interview in a context-sensitive way: while the overarching thematic fields remained constant, the concrete questions were tailored to the specific characteristics of each case and the function of the respective interviewee. This ensured that the data collection itself was already geared towards an open and case-specific capture of perspectives.

3.3 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed through multiple methods, combining quantitative evaluation techniques with qualitative approaches. This multi-level strategy enables a comprehensive understanding of spatial qualities and influencing factors.

3.3.1 Fieldwork: Qualitative Analysis

The qualitative analysis followed an integrated approach, drawing on principles of thematic and structural coding in an open-ended and inductive manner. The objective was to capture the site-specific character and local needs of each case by systematically clustering observations from researcher field notes, informal conversations, and user survey responses along emergent thematic categories. These themes were iteratively developed and subsequently triangulated to form a nuanced, grounded representation of the spatial and social dynamics observed on site.

The coding process was inspired by the methodological frameworks of Kuckartz (2014) and Mayring (2000), yet applied flexibly rather than strictly following any single protocol. This inductive approach led to the identification of eight thematic clusters: Spatial Practices and Use Dynamics, Functional Interdependencies of the Courtyard System, Perceived Qualities and Atmosphere, Access Barriers and Inclusion, Social Cohesion and Informal Coexistence, Emotional, Symbolic and Biographical Attachment, Safety, Trust and Informal Monitoring, and Desired Improvements. These categories partially overlap with the PSI's dimensions but were intentionally developed through a bottom-up, case-sensitive perspective to ensure contextual adequacy.

Each cluster synthesizes findings derived from the three qualitative sources – researcher observations, informal conversations, and open-ended survey responses – based on the thematic coding process. The individual data points were assigned to the clusters that best reflected their content, allowing for a structured and integrated presentation of results. Accordingly, the qualitative findings presented in the results section are thematically organized and already reflect this internal integration of fieldwork methods within a unified methodological cluster.

3.3.2 Fieldwork: Quantitative Analysis

The quantitative analysis of public space quality was conducted using the Public Space Index (Mehta, 2014), which functions not only as an evaluative framework but also as a structured analytical method. Researcher observations and user survey results were translated into index scores and compiled into a comparative matrix (Appendix G–J), enabling both intra-case and cross-case comparisons. Despite limited sample sizes, the inclusion of demographic characteristics from the user surveys provided additional layers for interpretation. Within each case, intra-site variation was explored at both the level of composite dimensions and individual variables. Cross-case analysis, drawing on these differentiated metrics, is embedded in the discussion chapter.

After completing the data collection based on the PSI, the analysis proceeded with a structured evaluation of the collected index scores. Each courtyard within the two case study sites – Vienna and Copenhagen – was treated as a discrete analytical unit. For every courtyard, a full PSI score was calculated, reflecting its individual performance across all dimensions.

Within each case, an intra-case comparison was conducted: PSI scores were comparatively analyzed across all courtyards within the same campus in order to identify internal variability in spatial quality. This allowed for identifying which subspaces performed better or worse across the five PSI dimensions.

To provide a synthetic representation of the entire campus, two aggregated campus-level PSI scores were calculated for each case:

- A simple average score of all courtyards, where each courtyard contributed equally regardless of its size.
- (2) A weighted average score, where each courtyard contributed to the overall campus index in proportion to its share of the total spatial area. This proportional weighting reflects the actual physical dominance of each courtyard within the site.

This aggregation approach extends the original methodology by Mehta (2014), who did not synthesize individual site scores into a composite campus-level indicator. As such, it represents a novel analytical addition within the application of the PSI.

To visualize comparative performance:

- Radar charts (spider diagrams) were used to plot the five PSI dimensions for each courtyard, enabling both intra-case (e.g., all 10 courtyards in Vienna or 8 in Copenhagen) and inter-case (Vienna vs. Copenhagen) comparison at the dimension level.
- Where notable differences appeared within specific dimensions, bar charts were generated to display the full range and variance of dimension-specific scores across the 18 analyzed courtyards. This provided insight into which qualitative dimensions showed the highest disparity between spaces.

Additionally, selected demographic and contextual data, specifically gender and age were consulted to enrich the interpretation of observed patterns in PSI performance, particularly in relation to local user groups and surrounding urban structures.

While the richness of the collected dataset would have allowed for more extensive statistical analyses – such as the construction of correlation matrices or the investigation of potential relationships between demographic characteristics and specific PSI variables – this was consciously not pursued. Such procedures would have required a shift toward a more quantitatively driven and statistically focused research design, which lies beyond the scope and epistemological orientation of this thesis. Given its primarily exploratory and qualitative-interpretive approach, the current analysis emphasizes contextualized spatial understanding over statistical inference. Nevertheless, the available data may serve as a valuable foundation for future research aiming to apply more advanced statistical methods or to test causal relationships between spatial conditions and user characteristics.

3.3.3 Semi-Structured Expert Interviews

The semi-structured expert interviews were analyzed using a multi-step strategy that combined a deductive framework guided by predefined research questions with inductive openness for the emergence of new themes. This approach was methodologically anchored in structured content analysis (Kuckartz, 2016), summarizing content analysis (Mayring, 2000), and thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006), while remaining flexible to accommodate the exploratory nature of this study.

The initial step of analysis involved a systematic assignment of verbatim statements to the guiding questions from the interview protocol. As the interviews often unfolded in non-linear ways – meaning that responses to a particular question could appear at various points in the transcript – each transcript was carefully examined in its entirety. Relevant quotes were extracted and deductively sorted to their corresponding guiding questions, regardless of when or how the answer emerged during the conversation. This procedure ensured conceptual coherence across interviews and enabled a direct engagement with the research framework.

Following this deductive structuring, an inductive second layer of analysis was introduced. Statements that did not clearly map onto predefined questions but nevertheless contained relevant observations, patterns, or context-specific insights were coded inductively. This allowed for the identification of emergent themes that went beyond the initial analytical expectations. The inductive coding process followed a category-building logic, enabling the development of new thematic clusters derived from the material itself.

Thus, the analysis integrated two parallel coding logics: (1) a deductive classification of quotes according to guiding questions, facilitating a focused interpretation per research theme; and (2)

an inductively derived set of emergent codes, which enabled the recognition of additional structural or dynamic phenomena relevant to the open space context.

Each quote was then synthetically interpreted in relation to its guiding question. Instead of merely compiling responses, a thematic synthesis was conducted to summarize how different parts of each interview contributed to answering a given question. Where applicable, quotes were reused across multiple questions if they provided analytically distinct insights in different thematic contexts. Redundant duplications were avoided to maintain analytical clarity.

Given the length of the interviews (each transcript comprising approximately 15–20 pages), full transcripts were not included in the appendix. Instead, central statements were extracted and systematized within structured analytical tables. These tables, included in the appendix, enable transparency and traceability of interpretations without reproducing the full transcripts.

In some cases, the decision to exclude full transcripts was also informed by data protection considerations. While all personally identifying information was removed, some contextual details – particularly in institution-specific interviews – could still allow for indirect identification. The summarized format thus also ensures compliance with ethical and legal standards.

Selected quotes presented in the main text were lightly edited for readability. This included the removal of filler words, correction of grammatical issues, and occasional rephrasing to ensure clarity while preserving the original meaning. Quotes from German-language interviews were translated into English with attention to preserving tone and nuance. All adaptations were carried out in accordance with qualitative research standards (Flick, 2019; Kuckartz, 2016).

3.4 Limitations, Reflexivity and Ethical Considerations

This study is exploratory and case-sensitive in nature. Accordingly, its findings are not intended to be statistically generalizable but aim to generate transferable insights for practice and future research. The limited sample sizes – particularly in the user surveys – restrict the possibility of strong quantitative claims. In addition, selection bias must be acknowledged: respondents were approached when visibly unoccupied, which may skew results toward more time-flexible users.

The qualitative research design is grounded in reflexive engagement with the researcher's positionality. Rather than striving for objectivity, the approach critically incorporates subjective perception as part of the ethnographic method. Observational data, open-ended survey responses, and field notes were interpreted in light of the researcher's situated perspective.

Reflexive memoing throughout the process helped mitigate interpretive bias and track evolving assumptions.

All participants in the semi-structured interviews were informed about the research purpose and signed consent forms authorizing the use of their anonymized statements and the recording of the conversation. Three of the participants did not want any form of anonymization. The fourth wanted to be semi-anonymized and addressed as an employee of the Facility and Resource Management of the University of Vienna. This agreement was compiled,

For the final linguistic refinement of individual sections, an AI-based writing tool (ChatGPT, OpenAI) was used. This concerned formulation aspects only – all content-related decisions, analyses, and arguments were made solely by the author.

4. Results

This chapter presents the empirical results of the case study analysis of the public courtyard spaces of the campus of the University of Vienna at the Altes AKH in Vienna and the CSS University location at the Kommunehospitalet site in Copenhagen. The aim of this section is to develop a comprehensive understanding of spatial practices and perceived qualities as they unfold within these spaces, and the factors or condition that are influencing these qualities.

The results are presented by case and within that in three distinct sections, each corresponding to one method or methodological cluster, respectively:

Section 4.1 focuses on the findings for the Viennese case. Sub-section 4.1.1 presents the findings derived from the qualitative methodological cluster of the field work: qualitative researcher observations, the open-ended part of the user surveys, and informal on-site conversations with street-level infrastructure staff. These findings offer a grounded insight into everyday practices, perceived atmospheres and spatially situated qualities. Within this methodological cluster the insight are presented in narrative and thematic form, organized by content rather than by method. Sub-section 4.1.2 focuses on the quantitative assessments based on the Public Space Index (PSI), providing a systematic and metric overview of spatial quality across all assessed courtyards. This section offers direct intra-case comparisons with visual representation. Sub-section 4.1.3 outlines the findings from the thematic analysis of two semi-structured expert interviews to deepen the understanding of the qualities and influencing factors on them, with a focus on intangible aspects.

In Section 4.2, the same logic is applied to the case in Copenhagen.

This structure reflects the mixed-methods approach and enables triangulation across experiential, quantitative, and expert perspectives – moving from situated observations to broader analytical frameworks and resulting in the synthesized inter-case comparison presented in Chapter 5 (Discussion).

4.1 Results for the Altes AKH in Vienna

The following sub-sections present the findings for the Viennese case study, which investigates the courtyard spaces of the campus of the University of Vienna at the site of the Altes AKH. As introduced earlier, the empirical material is structured according to three methodological strands: qualitative fieldwork, spatial quality assessments using the Public Space Index, and expert interviews. Together, these methods provide complementary insights into how spatial qualities are produced, experienced, and governed on site.

4.1.1 Qualitative Insights from the Fieldwork

This section presents the findings from the exploratory, immersive, and context-sensitive methodological cluster of the fieldwork at the Altes AKH campus in Vienna in October 2023. The data includes qualitative researcher observations, open-ended responses from user surveys, and informal conversations with street-level infrastructure staff such as cleaning personnel, and security staff. These insights provide an empirical foundation for understanding how spatial practices, social dynamics, atmospheres, and perceptions of space manifest on-site. Attention is paid to perceived atmospheres, routines of use, and the role of material and sensory conditions in the formation of spatial qualities.

The findings are organized thematically, reflecting shared patterns and distinctive features, rather than separating them by method. Demographic characteristics of the user survey respondents, which are part of this qualitative strand, are detailed in Section 4.1.2 alongside the Public Space Index results.

Spatial Practices and Use Dynamics

Users engage with the courtyards of the Altes AKH in a variety of ways that are shaped by spatial conditions, temporal rhythms, individual needs, and social patterns. Across all qualitative sources, a clear pattern of differentiated spatial use emerged. Spatial use is time-dependent. During weekday daytime hours, the courtyards serve as zones for transit, breaks between



Figure 5:
Hof 2, view on the gate towards Hof 3.
Source: Author



Figure 6:
Hof 7, view on the fountain with a family in front of it.
Source: Author.



Figure 7:
Hof 1, people in front of the supermarket next to playground. Source: Author.



Figure 8:
Hof 1, view along the middle axis towards Hof 2..
Source: Author. .



Figure 9:
Hof 2, people gathering for a celebration.
Source: Author.



Figure 10:
Hof 10, view down the staircase towards Spitalgasse. Source: Author.

university obligations, shopping, and social interaction. Observed and self-reported by users activities include walking, relaxing, studying, reading, eating and drinking in public space, using gastronomic offerings, shopping at the supermarket or bookstore. Cycling and occasional running were also observed, especially in the peripheral areas.

Transit takes two primary forms: external shortcut use by non-affiliated passers-by, and internal circulation between university buildings. Several users described the site as a central spatial connector within their daily routines. One user described deliberately choosing to walk through the campus as a form of “moving pause,” using the route not only to change locations but to mentally recalibrate.

Another observed and reported pattern of use connects the Altes AKH not only to its internal features but also to its surrounding urban context. Several users were seen bringing takeaway food from nearby eateries and using the courtyards as a place to eat or rest briefly. Some interviewees described the space as a welcome stopover in the course of daily routines – whether during professional errands or private appointments in the neighborhood.

While the majority of spatial practices are habitual and tied to daily or academic rhythms, there are also individualized uses such as unicycle practice in Hof 5 or contemplative use of Hof 3 described as “my personal garden” by one respondent.

Hof 1 emerged as the spatial and social core of the site. Its accessibility from the tram station and its clustering of services (supermarket, gastronomy, bookshop) generate high foot traffic throughout the day, with peaks around lunch and early evening hours. The maintenance worker emphasized, that especially the opening of the supermarket increased frequency drastically. According to both users and security staff, Hof 1's vibrancy is appreciated by some but avoided by others seeking quieter alternatives. Children and families are mostly observed in the playground zone of Hof 1 but also spilling over to other subspaces of Hof 1 or other courtyards, with activities like playing ball or riding bikes or scooters. Besides the availability of gastronomic offers, the amount of consumption-free seating is widely appreciated, especially in combination with tables. These are frequently used for studying, eating or gathering. Many users Events being hosted here regularly in the past were mentioned The many statues on-site and design elements like fountains are attractors, as well as the explicitly old tree population. Squirrels, birds and even owls are to be seen in Hof 1 and enjoyed by the space users. Many older people sit and observe the changing position of the sun and resulting light effects. A noteworthy insight from the conversation with the security staff: the university is responsible in all courtyards but Hof 1. Due to its commercial use, the city takes that role in Hof 1.

Hof 2 is especially attracting in his functions of hosting the big lecture center, and libraries and is appreciated for design elements like flower beds, as well as tables and seating,; also a known site for informal youth gatherings in summer evenings and nights, as has repeatedly come up in the conversations with staff and users. Occasionally, complaints are voiced due to noise and dangerous broken glass. During field visits a family Halloween event and a party organized by student associations where observed to be well frequented.

Hof 3 is valued for its particularly high tranquility, shade, and greenery and seen as a retreat space between activities. User emphasis the canopy effect of the trees and the availability of seating elements that allow flexible use.

Hof 4 is characterized by users as a transit courtyard, offering short ways from an to Spitalgasse. The university-affiliated Kindergarten is set into the middle of the courtyard resulting in fragmented space.

Hof 5 is mainly noted for its particularly low visitor frequency. Passing through this courtyard would not make the ways of uses more direct, which was mentioned as a reason for almost never being in Hof 5.

Hof 6 is one of the peripheral spaces and therefore spatially calmer and less manicured than other courtyards. User on the one side value the sloping meadow and a wall to play ball and on the other side the historic sense of the space, as the Narrenturm and the Marpe Lanefesch memorial are located here. Hof 6 is also positively mentioned by many people for its ramp access to and from Sensengasse.

Hof 7 is a central nod to get through the campus area, but also attracts people, especially children and families, due to its interactive science-inspired play stations and the centrally located fountain.

The latter is also perceived a high quality in Hof 8. Together with Hof 9, they are courtyards quiet in atmosphere, often used for transit but also during breaks by people visiting the institute libraries in the adjunct buildings. One user reports of choirs meeting here outside to sing.

Hof 10 the most peripheral courtyard when using Hof 1 as the anchor point. It is perceived as unwelcoming, dark and not accessible by bike, with strollers or limited mobility, with no pull factor other than the useful direct connection to the tram station Lazarettgasse. Not only users, but even the security staff avoids being there longer than needed during night shifts.

Functional Interdependencies of the Courtyard System

The Altes AKH courtyards operate as a spatial system defined by functional differentiation and complementary affordances. The courtyards are not experienced as isolated units but as parts of a relational network. This is evident in user descriptions of alternating between calm and busy zones depending on mood, task, or group constellation.

Some users reported that the contrast between Hof 1's dynamism and quieter courtyards enhanced their overall experience of the site. Internal sub-zonings were also visible: for example, Hof 1 contains a learning area with tables and benches, a grassy leisure zone, a playground, and a gastronomy cluster, which were used by different groups without major conflicts.

Functions also shift over the course of the day. Courtyards that are quiet in the morning may host informal student meetings or be used for sunbathing and food breaks during peak hours. This dynamic use pattern demonstrates the site's capacity for temporal flexibility and non-prescriptive spatial appropriation.

Perceived Qualities and Atmosphere

Atmospheric perceptions converged across user feedback and researcher observations. Key qualities mentioned include peace and quiet, dappled sunlight through trees, rustling leaves, the ringing of nearby bells, and the presence of birds and squirrels.

The most frequently mentioned quality, however, was the shielding from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding city. The site was repeatedly described as a "green oasis" or an "urban retreat," with one user even noting a form of collective deceleration – stating that people seemed to slow down upon entering the space, as if the atmosphere itself had a calming effect on those within it.

Positive daylight conditions were a frequently mentioned factor, especially in connection to the relatively low building height surrounding the courtyards. The resulting good light incidence and shade patterns were seen as contributing to overall comfort.

Visual orientation and the sense of openness varied. While the labyrinthine structure was sometimes disorienting for first-time visitors, many users appreciated the visual connectivity and enclosure once familiar with the layout. These perceptions were also identified as influencing feelings of safety.

Access, Barriers, and Inclusion

Accessibility varied across the courtyards. Hof 6 was noted for its inclusive design due to its ramped connection to Sensengasse, whereas Hof 10 posed challenges due to steep steps and poor signage.

Some users – especially those not affiliated with the university – reported subtle exclusionary signals such as institutional signage, coded language on posters, or social unfamiliarity with student culture.

Despite these barriers, the site was overall perceived as open and inviting, with a low threshold for entry. The combination of historic architecture and informal usage patterns seemed to reduce intimidation for some while reinforcing a sense of belonging for others.

Social Cohesion and Informal Coexistence

The Altes AKH courtyards are characterized by overlapping use, with a range of user groups occupying the same space simultaneously. While students dominate numerically, the presence of families, elderly individuals, staff, and non-affiliated visitors creates a heterogeneous social environment.

Informal norms of coexistence appear to be in place. For instance, some users share space without interacting directly but with mutual respect – such as young children playing while nearby students study. A recurring anecdote from several surveys describes users helping others locate specific courtyards, indicating a tacit culture of helpfulness.

One notable observation concerned the coexistence of marginalized users. A homeless person reported the welcoming attitude he faces when approaching students in the Altes AKH. They share Wi-Fi with him and help safeguarding personal belongings in the buildings. Conversations with staff confirmed that regular users are often tolerated if they do not interfere with operations.

Emotional, Symbolic, and Biographical Attachments

Several respondents described deep emotional attachments to specific courtyards. The term “Kraftort” (place of strength) was used by one respondent to describe Hof 3, noting its importance during a personal health crisis. Another user referred to the “healing power of light and silence” experienced in the garden-like setting.

Return visits by alumni and personal stories of orientation rituals in early semesters suggest biographical embedding. Emotional ties are reinforced by the combination of architectural continuity, seasonal rhythm, and affective atmosphere.

Safety, Trust, and Informal Monitoring

Subjective feelings of safety were generally high across all courtyards – even as high, that many respondents found the questions about it absurd in the very safe context of Vienna. Users reported feeling secure even in less frequented spaces, attributing this to a sense of community and familiarity rather than surveillance.

Notably, the absence of visible security measures such as cameras was interpreted positively by many, reinforcing a perception of trust-based monitoring. In contrast, areas perceived as outside university control - such as Hof 10 - were more often described as uncomfortable or even avoided, particularly at night.

Evening use by teenagers was reported as occasional and primarily occurring during summer weekends, with corresponding increases in litter and noise. Maintenance staff noted recurring clean-up duties in Hof 2 following such events.

Desired Improvements

While few respondents voiced strong dissatisfaction, many offered thoughtful suggestions for improving the courtyards' usability and comfort. Most critical comments centered on the lawn – either for being overused and patchy or, after recent upgrades, too manicured to feel accessible. Occasional concerns were also raised about noise from younger users.

Proposed improvements often addressed climate comfort and everyday functionality. Frequently mentioned were public drinking fountains, more shaded and covered seating, additional benches and tables, and small-scale infrastructure to support studying, eating, and social interaction outdoors. The affordability and accessibility of campus food, especially through the student canteen, were also seen as vital to maintaining an inclusive, consumption-free environment.

Several participants suggested ecological enhancements such as more biodiverse planting and pollinator-friendly landscaping. Others proposed creative interventions like designated graffiti areas to support informal expression.

A notable counter current also emerged: some respondents expressed a clear preference for leaving the courtyards unchanged, emphasizing their existing atmosphere and current balance of uses as something uniquely valuable and worth preserving. Diverging views on the seating elements, called “Enzis” and originally designed for the MuseumsQuartier, – seen by some as iconic and comfortable, by others as impractical – highlight the ongoing negotiation between aesthetic preference and functional needs in shared spaces.

4.1.3 Quantified Assessment: Public Space Index

This section presents results from the Public Space Index, a structured tool used to assess spatial qualities across the courtyards of Altes AKH. Based on user surveys and on-site researcher observations, it quantifies key dimensions of public space quality – namely inclusiveness, comfort, meaningful activities, safety, and pleasurability. While offering measurable indicators, the method remains grounded in lived experience and spatial use, and complements the preceding qualitative findings with a comparative and systematically structured perspective.

To contextualize the data: A total of 30 survey participants contributed ratings for user-based variables. The sample covered a wide age range (18–75+), with a slight majority in the 25–34 age bracket. Gender distribution was relatively balanced (57% male, 43% female), and more than half of the respondents held Austrian nationality, complemented by a mix of other origins. Occupations were diverse, ranging from students and university staff to retirees and workers in logistics, healthcare, and education.

To account for differences in courtyard size, two types of PSI averages were calculated: an unweighted mean, where each courtyard contributes equally to the result, and a surface-weighted mean, where courtyards with larger area sizes have proportionally more influence. The latter was used as the basis for the following analysis to provide a more spatially accurate representation of overall site performance.

Table 1: Characteristics of User Survey Participants, Altes AKH (Vienna).

Own compilation.

Altes AKH Vienna		Count	%			Count	%
Total responses		30					
Age	18-24	6	20.00%	Gender	Male	17	56.67%
	25-34	7	23.33%		Female	13	43.33%
	35-44	5	16.67%		Other	0	0.00%
	45-54	6	20.00%	Occupation	Student	11	36.67%
	55-64	2	6.67%		Retiree	3	10.00%
	65-74	3	10.00%		Teacher	2	6.67%
	75 and above	1	3.33%		IT Worker	2	6.67%
Nationality	Austrian	16	53.33%		Actor	1	3.33%
	German	4	13.33%		Assistent (at Uni)	1	3.33%
	Indian	1	3.33%		Au Pair	1	3.33%
	Austrian-Italian	1	3.33%		Bike Messenger	1	3.33%
	Bulgarian-French	1	3.33%		Clinical Psychiatrist	1	3.33%
	Ungarisch	1	3.33%		Delivery Person	1	3.33%
	Philipino	1	3.33%		Editor	1	3.33%
	South Triol	1	3.33%		Lecturer (at Uni)	1	3.33%
	Somalia	1	3.33%		Librarian (at Uni)	1	3.33%
	Colombian	1	3.33%		Painter	1	3.33%
	Austrian-Persian	1	3.33%		Social Worker	1	3.33%
	Turkish	1	3.33%		Worker at Billa	1	3.33%

Average Dimensional Indices:
Altes AKH (Vienna)**Figure 11:** Average Dimensional Indices: Altes AKH (Vienna).

Source: Author.

Key Sitewide Findings – Overall Scores and Highlights

Across the site, Inclusiveness and Safety were rated highest, with Comfort also scoring positively. In contrast, Pleasurability and, most notably, Meaningful Activities received the lowest ratings. The weak performance in the latter dimension reflects a general lack of activity diversity, limited options for non-commercial engagement, and sparse provision of community-oriented uses.

Among all measured variables, those with the highest scores included perceived openness, safety (both from crime and traffic), and gender diversity. Variables such as “Opening hours of public space” and “Perceived ability to conduct and participate in activities” reached values near or at the maximum, reflecting strong baseline perceptions of accessibility and general safety.

At the other end of the spectrum, the lowest-rated variables point to structural and programmatic weaknesses. “Personalization of building edges,” “Visual and physical openness to adjacent streets,” and “Presence of people with physical disabilities” all received notably low scores. These results highlight design shortcomings regarding edge permeability, inclusion, and social infrastructure.

Table 2: Presentation of most relevant Public Space Index data, Altes AKH (Vienna). Own compilation.

(For complete calculation matrix including weighting factors, weighted scores, surface shares and subtotals, see Appendix G-H.)

Altes AKH, Vienna	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10	Average (equally)	Average (by surface)
Inclusiveness	Scores (0-3)											
1 Presence of people of diverse ages	2.55	1.67	1.58	2.00	1.82	1.64	1.82	1.45	1.45	1.00	1.70	2.02
2 Presence of people of different genders	2.73	2.75	2.83	3.00	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	3.00	3.00	2.86	2.80
3 Presence of people of diverse classes	1.82	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.09	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.09	1.38
4 Presence of people of diverse races	2.18	1.92	1.92	2.63	2.09	1.91	1.91	1.82	1.82	1.70	1.99	2.04
5 Presence of people of diverse physical abilities	1.09	0.17	0.17	0.38	0.18	0.09	0.45	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.31	0.61
6 Control of entrance to PS: presence of lockable gates, fences, etc.	3.00	2.00	1.92	2.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.09	2.48
7 Range of activities and behaviors	1.91	1.33	1.00	0.55	0.55	0.36	1.18	0.73	0.55	0.08	0.82	1.26
8 Opening hours of PS	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00

Altes AKH, Vienna	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10	Average (equally)	Average (by surface)
9 Presence of posted signs to exclude certain people or behavior	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.80	1.82
10 Presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, guides, ushers, etc. intimidating and privacy is infringed upon	2.65	2.60	2.70	2.50	2.50	2.67	2.77	2.75	2.73	2.71	2.66	2.66
11 Perceived openness and accessibility	2.72	2.50	2.68	2.69	2.60	2.57	2.65	2.69	2.67	2.44	2.62	2.65
12 Perceived ability to conduct and participate in activities and events in space	2.66	2.83	2.83	2.69	2.80	2.79	2.85	2.81	2.80	2.78	2.78	2.73
→ Index for Inclusiveness (out of 100)	82.68	72.56	72.73	72.41	67.48	66.47	77.67	72.03	71.41	63.81	71.93	75.98
Meaningful Activities												
13 Presence of community-gathering third places	2.82	0.75	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.42	1.40
14 Range of activities and behaviors	1.91	1.33	1.00	0.55	0.55	0.36	1.18	0.73	0.55	0.08	0.82	1.26
15 Space flexibility to suit users needs	1.73	1.17	1.08	1.00	1.18	1.00	1.18	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.13	1.37
16 Availability of food within or at the edges of the space	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	1.40
17 Variety of businesses and other uses at the edges of the space	3.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	1.43
18 Perceived suitability of space layout and design to activities and behaviors	2.38	2.26	2.28	2.17	2.20	2.36	2.32	2.31	2.33	2.33	2.29	2.34
19 Perceived usefulness of businesses and other uses	2.52	0.63	0.61	0.46	0.30	0.79	0.60	0.56	0.67	0.22	0.74	1.48
→ Index for Meaningful Activities (out of 100)	85.16	30.49	24.17	28.71	21.42	22.88	25.32	23.05	22.93	19.91	30.40	52.73
Comfort												
20 Places to sit without paying for goods and services	3.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.90	2.27
21 Seating provided by businesses	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.93
22 Other furniture and artefacts in the space	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.40	1.98
23 Climatic comfort of space - shade and shelter	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.90	1.29
24 Design elements discouraging use of space	1.55	2.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.45	2.02
25 Perceived physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space	2.55	2.58	2.56	2.62	2.40	2.50	2.55	2.56	2.53	2.33	2.52	2.53
26 Perceived nuisance noise from traffic or otherwise	2.31	2.58	2.78	2.77	2.80	2.79	2.80	2.88	2.87	2.78	2.73	2.55

Altes AKH, Vienna		Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10	Average (equally)	Average (by surface)
→	Index for Comfort (out of 100)	79.86	65.83	66.30	50.00	58.67	32.62	69.67	63.33	63.11	31.48	58.09	65.56

Safety

27	Visual and physical connection and openness to adjacent street/s or spaces	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.20	0.18
28	Physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.90	1.91
29	Lightning quality in space after dark	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.50	1.32
30	Perceived safety from presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, guides, ushers, etc. providing safety	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
31	Perceived safety from crime during daytime	2.93	2.92	2.89	3.00	2.90	2.93	2.90	2.94	2.93	2.89	2.92	2.92
32	Perceived safety from crime after dark	2.78	2.78	2.76	3.00	2.78	2.92	2.84	2.93	2.93	2.88	2.86	2.82
33	Perceived safety from traffic	2.83	2.83	2.89	2.77	2.80	2.86	2.90	2.88	2.87	2.78	2.84	2.84
→	Index for Safety (out of 100)	73.58	80.24	76.95	75.13	73.19	78.06	77.61	78.31	78.19	70.28	76.15	75.25

Pleasurability

34	Presence of memorable architectural or landscape features (imageability)	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.90	2.42
35	Sense of enclosure	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	2.70	2.74
36	Variety of sub-spaces	3.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.20	1.93
37	Density of elements in space providing sensory complexity	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.10	1.42
38	Variety of elements in space providing sensory complexity	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.10	1.42
39	Design elements providing focal points	3.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.70	2.25
40	Visual and physical connection and openness to adjacent street/s or spaces	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.40	0.36
41	Permeability of building facades on the street front	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.20	2.10
42	Personalization of the buildings on the street front	0.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.20
43	Articulation and variety in architectural features of building facades on the street front	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.09
44	Perceived attractiveness of space	2.38	2.00	2.39	2.46	2.30	2.29	2.50	2.38	2.33	2.11	2.31	2.32

Altes AKH, Vienna		Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10	Average (equally)	Average (by surface)
45	Perceived interestingness of space	1.52	2.00	1.56	1.23	1.40	1.64	1.50	1.38	1.40	1.40	1.50	1.54
→	Index for Pleasurability (out of 100)	65.25	69.00	51.44	48.51	45.67	46.38	56.67	53.08	52.89	35.07	52.40	57.77
→	Average Public Space Index (out of 100)	77.31	63.62	58.32	54.95	53.29	49.28	61.39	57.96	57.71	44.11	57.79	65.46

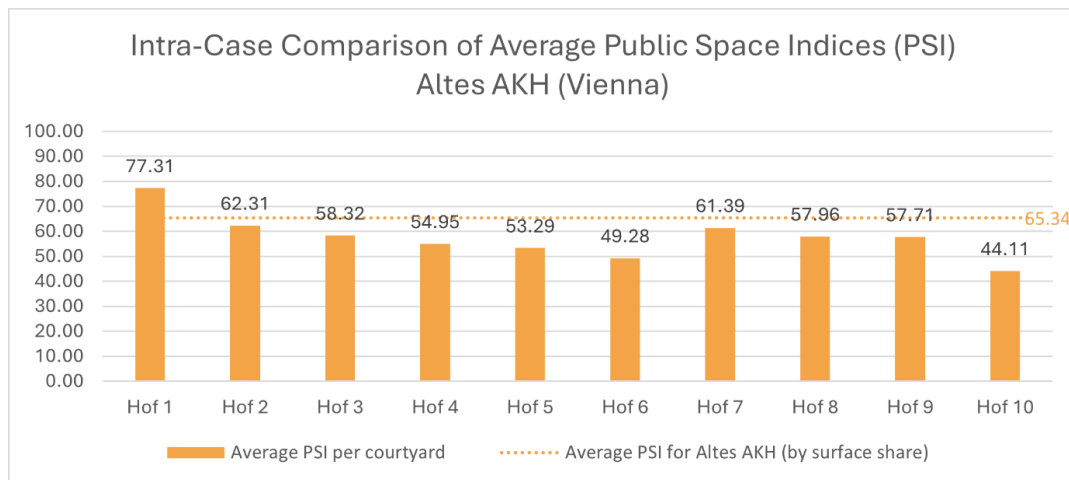


Figure 12: Intra-Case Comparison of Average Public Space Indices (PSI), Altes AKH (Vienna).

Source: Author.

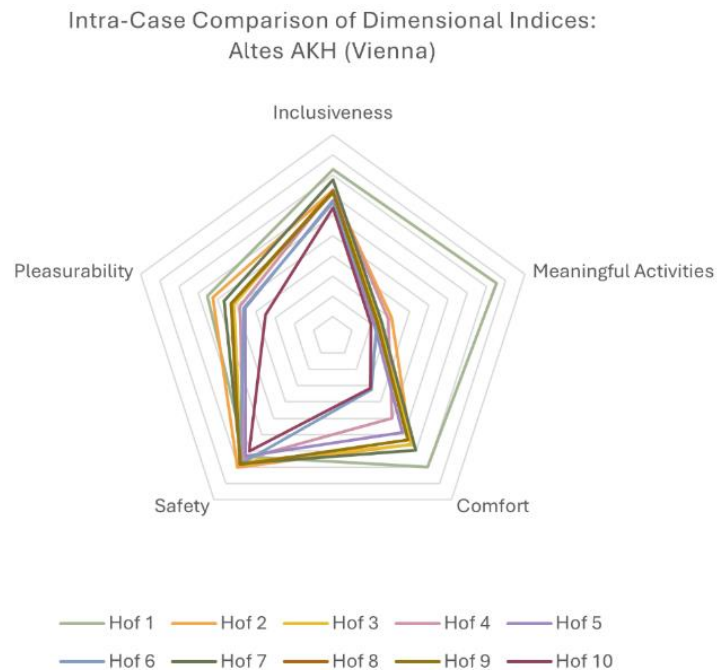


Figure 13: Intra-Case Comparison of Dimensional Indices, Altes AKH (Vienna).

Source: Author.

Intra-Case Comparison – Spatial Differentiation Across the Site

Among the ten courtyards, Hof 1 consistently scored the highest across almost all dimensions, particularly for Comfort, Inclusiveness, and Meaningful Activities. Its mix of seating, amenities, and vibrant edge uses, including restaurants and play areas, contributed to its leading role in the site's PSI. However, in terms of perceived safety, Hof 1 performed only moderately, while smaller courtyards like Hof 2 and Hof 7 achieved slightly better scores. However, when switching from the relative to the absolute layer, Hof 1's index for safety is still to be considered high.

Hof 10, by contrast, was rated the lowest-performing space overall. It received minimal values in variables such as lighting, visual appeal, and seating comfort. Hof 6 showed similarly weak results, particularly in Comfort and Inclusiveness, though it performed better in Safety and Pleasurability than Hof 10.

The group of Hof 2 through Hof 9 – excluding the two extremes – formed a relatively homogeneous middle field. Within this group, Hof 7 and Hof 2 showed slightly elevated scores in individual dimensions. In general, this cluster demonstrated consistent strengths in Safety and Inclusiveness but only moderate performance in Comfort and Pleasurability and a poor one in Meaningful Activities.

Dimension-Specific Patterns and User Perceptions

The site is perceived as highly inclusive in several respects. Most courtyards were positively rated for their openness and accessibility, with consistently high scores for the presence of people of different genders and cultural backgrounds. This suggests a generally welcoming atmosphere. While accessibility for people with physical impairments received lower evaluations, the overall impression was one of social permeability and informal openness.

While the dimension Meaningful Activities received the lowest scores overall, it still revealed pockets of strong performance. Hof 1, in particular, offers diverse uses – from dining and sitting to informal gatherings – which contributes significantly to the activity landscape. Other courtyards provide a calm environment that may be valued for passive or individual use, though more structured programming could enhance their role in supporting social interaction.

Comfort emerged as a notable strength in central courtyards, especially Hof 1, where a wide range of seating, shade, and protection from the elements were observed. Even in less equipped courtyards, the presence of greenery and quietness contributed positively to perceived comfort. Some locations would benefit from improved seating and shelter infrastructure, but the overall ambience is often appreciated by users seeking a pause from the city.

Safety ratings were high throughout the site, with users across all age groups reporting a strong sense of security during both day and night. This applies particularly to traffic safety and social safety. Minor deficits in lighting and maintenance were noted in select courtyards, but these did not significantly affect the overall positive perception of safety on site.

Regarding Pleasurability, several courtyards were perceived as aesthetically pleasing and atmospherically rich, thanks to natural elements such as trees, birdsong, and historic architecture. Hof 1, 2, and 7 stood out for their sensory variety and spatial identity. Courtyards with lower ratings in this dimension often lacked design features or focal points, but even these were appreciated for their calm and understated charm.

Perception Differences by Gender and Age

Gender-Based Variation: Female respondents generally assessed the site's maintenance and visual appeal more positively than males and found the courtyards more “interesting.” Conversely, male participants rated the site slightly higher in Inclusiveness and tended to perceive Hof 10 as more accessible.

Age-Based Variation: Interestingly, older users (particularly 55+) evaluated the site as equally inclusive and accessible as younger users, challenging assumptions that university-based spaces might exclude non-affiliated or elderly visitors. Moreover, older participants consistently gave higher ratings in categories like interestingness and overall atmosphere, especially for Hof 1 and Hof 6. Middle-aged respondents (35–54) rated the availability of meaningful activities most favorably. In terms of safety, older users rated peripheral courtyards slightly less secure, though all values remained relatively high.

4.1.3 Insights from Expert Interviews

This section summarizes key findings from two expert interviews on the case of the Altes AKH in Vienna: one with the District Mayor of Vienna Alsergrund, Mag^a Saya Ahmad, and one with a member of the facility and resource management department of the University of Vienna. Without claiming representativity, their perspectives offer context on use, perception, governance, and institutional strategies at the site. Going beyond what is visible on site, these interviews complement the preceding spatial analysis by highlighting structural and operational dynamics that shape the space through expert, experience-based knowledge.

Altes AKH as Everyday Urban Space

In both interviews, the Altes AKH site was portrayed as much more than just a university courtyard. The interviewees repeatedly referred to it as a “Lebensraum” – a space that people use as part of their everyday lives. Rather than simply being a place to pass through, the space was described as somewhere people come to be, to relax, to sit, to meet, or to spend time without any pressure to consume anything. It offers, in their words, a non-commercial kind of publicness. Even though the space is technically university property, the way it's used and perceived blurs the lines between institutional grounds and public urban space. Both interviewees spoke as if it were self-evident that Hof 1 is the most prominent and most used part of the complex. This seemed to be based on its programmatic offers like seating, amenities for children and families, and access to restaurants.

Embeddedness and Spatial Integration

The embeddedness of the site in the urban environment was also emphasized. The transitions to adjacent spaces, especially Alser Straße, were described as “seamless,” reinforcing the idea that the space functions as part of the wider city. The university representative noted that educational buildings, especially in such central locations, come with certain spatial potentials – due to their size and visibility – and that these depend heavily on how open the site is conceived and managed.

Qualities and User Diversity

When talking about the qualities of the space, both the university representative and the District Mayor described the campus as green, quiet, and permeable. These were named as important indicators of spatial quality. They also described a diverse group of users: students, university staff, local residents, and other visitors. This diversity, though seen as a strength, also creates tension. According to the university representative, the various needs are not always easy to balance. Some users want a calm environment for studying or working, others come for sports or leisure, and still others just want to relax or pass time. Managing these different expectations is seen as one of the key challenges of the space.

User Feedback and Responsive Design Decisions

This complexity became especially clear in the example of the roll-out lawn. It was installed after repeated complaints from users about poor grass conditions due to overuse. While the university staff admitted that from an ecological perspective it was not the ideal solution, they decided to respond to these user complaints and laid down the new turf. The result, however, was mixed:

while many appreciated the improved look and comfort, others became hesitant to even use it, unsure whether it was “meant” for public access. This example illustrates how user expectations can sometimes be hard to predict and how design decisions carry unintended consequences.

University's Role and Public Orientation

The interviews also gave insight into how the university sees its own role in shaping the space. It became clear that the institution sees itself not only as a place for research and teaching, but also as an actor with a public and city-facing responsibility. The university representative made repeated references to the fact that everything they do is, in their view, in the public interest. They described a goal of being perceived as a socially engaged and city-shaping institution. This includes being responsive to complaints or needs that are brought to them directly by users, which, as implied in the interview, seems to happen on a regular basis. Alongside formal feedback processes, they also described participatory structures like working groups and thematic workshops, which include faculty, staff, and student representatives. These structures are used to gather input, generate ideas, and inform planning decisions.

Ownership and Governance Structures

Governance and ownership structures play a central role in how the space is managed. The site is owned by the University of Vienna, but its use is shaped by a foundational donation agreement from 1988. This agreement referenced both by the university and District Mayor guarantees that the inner courtyards must remain publicly accessible. In return, the City of Vienna maintains Hof 1, for example by taking care of tree pruning and street lighting. According to the university, this arrangement works well, and the institution doesn't see it as limiting. It was described as a long-standing, positive collaboration with municipal actors, and this cooperative tone came across throughout the interview.

Cooperation and Inter-Institutional Relationships

More broadly, the interviews suggested that the relationship between the university and district-level actors is close and friendly. The two interviewees addressed each other by first name and spoke of each other in terms of mutual appreciation and long-standing collaboration. For example, the District Mayor mentioned that the university had been invited to take part in participatory planning processes for Frankplatz, which is neighboring the Altes AKH site and is municipally owned. The university representative also mentioned regular coordination with the district and with city planning authorities. All of this points to a relatively stable and collegial governance setting.

Autonomy and Experiences from Other Sites

A separate but important point came up when the university representative discussed their experiences at other sites they use, such as the main university building. Although they are only tenants there (with the Federal Real Estate Company, BIG, as the formal owner), they reported having a high degree of autonomy, describing the setup as almost “owner-like.” This allows them to make decisions about everyday use – for example, putting out deck chairs or setting up a kiosk – without needing constant external approval. However, they also made clear that such flexibility is only possible where they have either ownership or long-term rental arrangements. In locations where they don't have these rights, implementation becomes much harder.

Intensified Use and Spatial Pressures

Another focus in both interviews was the growing intensity of use. Since the pandemic, both the university and the District Mayor observed that people spend more time outdoors, which has increased the pressure on public spaces in general and also the Altes AKH specifically. As a result, maintaining quality has become a bigger priority. This was linked to other themes like noise, waste, and the limits of infrastructure – for example, too few public toilets during large events. In the past, more public events were held on site, ranging from concerts to public viewing events. But over time, especially due to complaints from staff and users, these were scaled back. Now, only events with a clear academic context are allowed, and long-standing festivals like Südwind and the Christmas market are exceptions.

Future Outlook and Campus 2030 Strategy

Looking forward, the university is working on a new strategic plan called “Campus 2030.” This plan builds on earlier development concepts and is closely tied to the university's declared goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2030. As part of this, the university is considering how to develop the courtyards further. Parts of their considerations are thematic zoning and targeted improvements that respond to ecological, social, and educational needs. These ambitions also show up in the way they talk about integrating sustainability into everyday decisions and aligning spatial design with long-term institutional goals.

Conclusion: A Carefully Balanced Public-Academic Space

Altogether, the interviews depict Altes AKH as a complex and carefully negotiated space. It is described as a site that belongs to the university but also serves a wider public, shaped by both formal agreements and informal practices. Both interviewees see the space as valuable for the city and as a place that reflects a mix of openness, ecological awareness, and institutional

responsibility. At the same time, they highlight that managing such a space – especially with so many different users – always involves trade-offs, and that finding the right balance is an ongoing task.

4.2 Results for the Kommunehospital in Copenhagen

The following sub-sections present the findings for the Copenhagen case study, which investigates courtyard spaces of the former Kommunehospital site, now part of the City Campus of the University of Copenhagen. As introduced earlier, the empirical material is structured according to three methodological strands: qualitative fieldwork, spatial quality assessments using the Public Space Index (PSI), and expert interviews. Together, these methods provide complementary insights into how spatial qualities are produced, experienced, and governed on site.

4.2.1 Qualitative Insights from the Fieldwork

This section presents the findings from the qualitative fieldwork at the Kommunehospital site in Copenhagen, conducted in November 2023. The data includes researcher observations, open-ended responses from user surveys, and informal conversations with on-site infrastructure personnel, specifically parking attendants. These insights provide an empirical foundation for understanding how the courtyard spaces are used, experienced, and interpreted in daily life, with attention to practices, atmospheres, and emergent social dynamics. As with the Viennese case, the findings are organized thematically rather than by method. Demographic characteristics of user survey participants are discussed in Section 4.2.2.

Spatial Practices and Use Dynamics

Across all qualitative sources, it becomes clear that the courtyards of Kommunehospital serve a variety of functions shaped by daily rhythms, user identity, and institutional frameworks. Students reported strategically choosing different yards depending on their purpose – be it solitude, sunlight, or proximity to indoor facilities. For instance, Yard 8 is colloquially known as the "sun yard" due to its favorable exposure, attracting individuals for breaks, relaxation, and outdoor gatherings such as picnics and orientation events. In contrast, Yard 7 has become less accessible for informal uses since the installation of temporary housing containers for Ukrainian refugees, which replaced part of a previously open lawn.



Figure 14:
Yard 1, view towards building 01.
Source: Author



Figure 15:
Yard 2, view towards eastern courtyard corner between building 07 and 10.
Source: Author.



Figure 16:
Yard 7, group of children walking towards building 16, temporary housing on the left behind hedge. Source: Author.



Figure 17:
Yard 6, view towards building 12, building 20 on the left. Source: Author. .



Figure 18:
Yard 5, view towards eastern courtyard corner.
Source: Author.



Figure 19:
Yard 3, view towards building 34. From west to east. Source: Author

Observed practices include students using the space between lectures, families accessing nearby childcare services, and occasional community events such as graduation tents or campus days. Despite the occasional variety of use, the site was frequently characterized as usually calm and slow-paced; transit movement was limited and deliberate, contributing to a sense of localized destination rather than urban shortcut.

Functional Interdependencies of the Courtyard System

Unlike in Vienna, the courtyards at Kommunehospitalet are not easily navigated in succession. Spatial access between them is often only possible through adjacent buildings – a fact complicated by door locking systems, which limit permeability based on access credentials. This reduces the legibility of the space as a coherent ensemble and makes spontaneous transitions between yards unlikely. Users, especially non-university-members – described being unaware of certain courtyards' existence, or avoiding crossing through interior corridors. Visual connectivity is similarly limited; few sightlines extend beyond individual yards, reinforcing the fragmented nature of the campus.

Nevertheless, functional differentiation does exist. Some spaces host university functions (e.g., Building 17 with student events), while others accommodate external or hybrid functions, such as Yard 7, where a youth club, municipal services, and residential uses co-exist. Observations and user accounts indicate a fragmentation of spatial logic that reflects both historical layering and institutional diversity.

Perceived Qualities and Atmospheres

Atmospheric assessments were mixed but converged on the perception of the space as a green and quiet enclave within the city. This was particularly emphasized by non-student residents, who repeatedly described the site as a "hidden oasis" or a "spiritual place." In contrast, students tended to frame the space more pragmatically, referencing its functionality rather than affective qualities.

Material and sensory conditions influenced perceptions: the presence of old trees, occasional birdlife, and protection from traffic noise were mentioned positively, while insufficient lighting, sparse seating, and underused corners contributed to a feeling of underutilization. The historical architecture, while appreciated aesthetically, did not appear to dominate user experience.

Access, Barriers, and Inclusion

The semi-public character of Kommunehospitalet is shaped by a combination of spatial, institutional, and symbolic barriers. The transformation of parking regulations – introducing paid

parking managed by Europark - has paradoxically increased spatial permeability by necessitating that gates remain open 24/7. At the same time, entrances to certain yards remain hidden and unproportionally better accessible with a university key card.

Some users – especially non-university-affiliated individuals – reported uncertainty about whether they were allowed to use the space. This was particularly the case for on-site cafés and canteens, which many assumed were reserved for university members. These perceived thresholds were compounded by signage, gate structures, and social unfamiliarity, limiting inclusivity despite physical openness.

Social Cohesion and Informal Coexistence

Interactions across user groups were generally sparse. While residents, students, and staff used the same courtyards, their patterns rarely overlapped temporally or socially. Nevertheless, coexistence appeared peaceful, and occasional points of contact – such as assistance with orientation, shared appreciation of green elements or a student petting the dog of a neighbor – were noted.

The parking attendants, although peripheral actors, provided meaningful insight into the rhythms of the space. Their twice-daily patrols gave them a grounded sense of spatial change, especially in relation to land-use transitions and infrastructural shifts. Their accounts of the area as calm and orderly were echoed in user surveys.

Emotional, Symbolic, and Biographical Attachments

While students rarely expressed deep attachment, several long-term residents shared stories of personal resonance. One woman described visiting Yard 7 to recall her youth living in a former nurses' dormitory, now repurposed. Others described the site as a personal “backyard” or private green refuge. A few residents even reported minimal engagement with the space despite living nearby - suggesting both latent potential and social segmentation.

The presence of temporary refugee housing in Yard 7 also introduced a symbolic dimension. Residents noted how this intervention transformed the space's meaning, turning a leisure zone into a site of necessity and humanitarian accommodation.

One resident, a poet, shared a particularly reflective experience: she described entering the space with a sense of reverence, feeling as though she was “meeting the souls” of the former patients who once inhabited the hospital. For her, the atmosphere carried a spiritual resonance that transcended everyday use – evoking the layered presence of memory, care, and loss

Safety, Trust, and Informal Monitoring

Overall, users described the site as safe. However, the reasons differed from the Viennese context. Security was attributed not to social familiarity but to surveillance routines and controlled access. Reports of evening flashlight patrols by security staff reinforced a perception of formal rather than informal monitoring.

One notable shift occurred following reports of vandalism and the presence of homeless individuals, after which access to interior corridors was restricted to cardholders. While this reduced perceived disorder, it also introduced a clear inside-outside logic, especially for non-affiliated users.

Desired Improvements

Respondents offered modest suggestions for improving the campus, but these were often qualified by a sense of limited ownership. Non-students in particular were hesitant to voice ideas, noting they did not feel entitled to make proposals, as it is a University site. Still, some mentioned better lighting, more covered seating, and clearer signage as possible enhancements. Others emphasized the potential for more community events, ecological landscaping or modernized sporting facility.

The presence of temporary housing was not criticized, but rather accepted as part of the evolving function of the space. However, the resulting displacement of green space and play areas was noted by both students and youth workers.

Ultimately, the findings indicate that Kommunehospitallet serves as a fragmented yet appreciated urban enclave. The courtyard spaces are valued for their tranquility and greenery, though their potential is moderated by institutional compartmentalization and limited interaction across user groups. While current conditions are largely accepted, there remains a subdued receptiveness to greater activation – provided clearer signals of openness and opportunity emerge.

4.2.3 Quantified Assessment: Public Space Index

This section presents the results of the Public Space Index assessment for Kommunehospitallet in Copenhagen. As in the Vienna case, the index is based on user surveys and on-site observations and allows for a comparative evaluation of spatial qualities across five dimensions. The analysis complements previous qualitative insights and enables an intra-site comparison of spatial performance.

A total of 28 respondents participated in the survey. The sample was relatively young, with half aged 18–24. Gender distribution was nearly even, with 50% identifying as female, 46% as male, and one respondent identifying as non-binary. A majority (79%) were Danish nationals, and the occupational spectrum was broad – ranging from students (54%) to professionals in education, construction, healthcare, and technology.

As for the Viennese case, both equal and surface-weighted average indices for the combined site were calculated. If not differently stated, the reference is always the surface-weighted index to provide a more proportional picture of site.

Table 3: Characteristics of User Survey Participants, Kommunehospitalet (Copenhagen).

Own compilation.

Kommunehospitalet Copenhagen		Count	%			Count	%
Total responses		28					
Age	18-24	14	50.00%	Gender	Male	13	46.43%
	25-34	4	14.29%		Female	14	50.00%
	35-44	2	7.14%		Other	1	3.57%
	45-54	4	14.29%	Occupation	Student	15	53.57%
	55-64	3	10.71%		Construction Worker	1	3.57%
	65-74	1	3.57%		Consultant	1	3.57%
	75 and above	0	0.00%		Graphic designer	1	3.57%
Nationality	Danish	22	78.57%		High School Stundet	1	3.57%
	Sri Lankan	1	3.57%		IT Worker	1	3.57%
	Norwegian	1	3.57%		Marketing Consultant	1	3.57%
	Ukrainian	2	7.14%		Pedagogue	1	3.57%
	American	1	3.57%		Parking attendant	1	3.57%
	Polish	1	3.57%		Professor (at Uni)	1	3.57%
					Post Doc (at Uni)	1	3.57%
					Retiree	1	3.57%
					Software Engineer	1	3.57%
					Veterinarian	1	3.57%

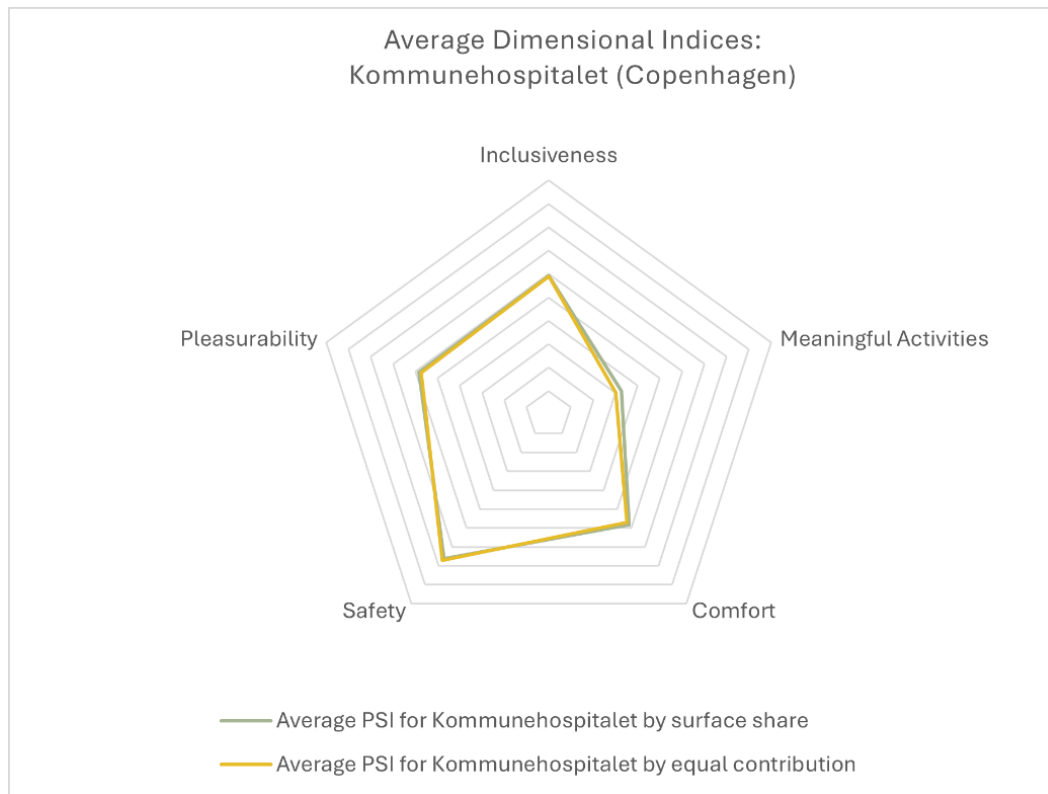


Figure 20: Average Dimensional Indices: Kommunehospital (Copenhagen).

Source: Author.

Key Sitewide Findings – Overall Scores and Highlights

Across Kommunehospital, the highest-scoring dimensions were safety and inclusiveness, indicating a general sense of openness and physical security across the site. Notably, comfort showed moderate results, while pleasurability and especially meaningful activities were evaluated comparatively low.

The highest-performing variables were related to security and physical condition: *“Perceived safety from crime (day and night)”*, *“Traffic safety”*, and *“Physical maintenance”* received consistently high marks. The site also scored well in gender diversity and universal opening hours. The latter are due to the fact that factually there is always some open ways into every courtyard. However, values for *“Presence of community-oriented third places”* and *“Availability of food”* remained very low, underscoring a lack of programmatic diversity and spatial activation.

Table 4: Presentation of most relevant Public Space Index data, Kommunehuspitalet (Copenhagen).
Own compilation. (For complete calculation matrix including weighting factors, weighted scores, surface shares and subtotals, see Appendix I-J.)

Kommunehuspitalet, Copenhagen	Yard 1	Yard 2	Yard 3	Yard 4	Yard 5	Yard 6	Yard 7	Yard 8		Average (equally)	Average (by surface)
Inclusiveness	Scores (0-3)										
1 Presence of people of diverse ages	0.60	0.55	0.60	1.33	0.50	1.20	1.91	1.18		0.98	0.97
2 Presence of people of different genders	2.90	2.82	2.90	2.83	2.88	3.00	3.00	2.91		2.90	2.90
3 Presence of people of diverse classes	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.17	1.13	1.40	1.91	1.00		1.21	1.20
4 Presence of people of diverse races	1.10	0.73	1.00	0.67	1.00	0.90	1.82	0.91		1.02	1.03
5 Presence of people of diverse physical abilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
6 Control of entrance to PS: presence of lockable gates, fences, etc.	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00		1.50	1.42
7 Range of activities and behaviors	0.50	0.36	0.50	0.00	0.11	0.10	1.00	0.55		0.39	0.49
8 Opening hours of PS	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00
9 Presence of posted signs to exclude certain people or behavior	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00
10 Presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, guides, ushers, etc. intimidating and privacy is infringed upon	2.39	2.56	2.44	2.50	2.42	2.42	2.50	2.60		2.48	2.51
11 Perceived openness and accessibility	1.71	1.74	1.72	1.78	1.72	1.72	1.76	1.68		1.73	1.73
12 Perceived ability to conduct and participate in activities and events in space	2.50	2.54	2.40	2.22	2.40	2.40	2.36	2.55		2.42	2.45
→ Index for Inclusiveness (out of 100)	56.82	56.61	60.08	55.59	58.57	59.87	66.12	58.18		58.98	59.20
Meaningful Activities											
13 Presence of community-gathering third places	1.18	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.18	1.27	1.09	1.64		0.81	0.87
14 Range of activities and behaviors	0.50	0.36	0.50	0.00	0.11	0.10	1.00	0.55		0.39	0.49
15 Space flexibility to suit users needs	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00
16 Availability of food within or at the edges of the space	0.00	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.09		0.20	0.33

Kommunehospitalet, Copenhagen	Yard 1	Yard 2	Yard 3	Yard 4	Yard 5	Yard 6	Yard 7	Yard 8		Average (equally)	Average (by surface)
17 Variety of businesses and other uses at the edges of the space	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00		1.13	1.16
18 Perceived suitability of space layout and design to activities and behaviors	1.78	1.74	1.79	1.89	1.75	1.58	1.75	1.86		1.77	1.78
19 Perceived usefulness of businesses and other uses	1.14	1.36	1.43	0.00	0.78	0.74	1.00	1.50		0.99	1.18
→ Index for Meaningful Activities (out of 100)	85.16	30.49	24.17	28.71	21.42	22.88	25.32	23.05		30.23	32.62
Comfort											
20 Places to sit without paying for goods and services	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00		1.13	1.31
21 Seating provided by businesses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
22 Other furniture and artefacts in the space	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.38	2.51
23 Climatic comfort of space - shade and shelter	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00
24 Design elements discouraging use of space	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.00		2.38	2.27
25 Perceived physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space	2.75	2.75	2.80	2.67	2.76	2.76	2.76	2.82		2.76	2.77
26 Perceived nuisance noise from traffic or otherwise	2.63	2.58	2.60	2.44	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.64		2.59	2.60
→ Index for Comfort (out of 100)	31.88	31.29	28.70	19.26	22.52	28.50	35.61	44.05		57.01	58.41
Safety											
27 Visual and physical connection and openness to adjacent street/s or spaces	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
28 Physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space	3.00	2.64	2.82	2.91	2.73	3.00	2.55	2.73		2.80	2.74
29 Lightning quality n space after dark	2.00	0.00	0.67	1.00	1.33	2.00	1.00	2.00		1.25	1.05
30 Perceived safety from presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, guides, ushers, etc. providing safety	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88		1.88	1.88
31 Perceived safety from crime during daytime	2.96	3.00	2.96	3.00	2.96	2.96	2.96	2.95		2.97	2.97
32 Perceived safety from crime after dark	2.79	2.83	2.80	2.89	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.77		2.81	2.81
33 Perceived safety from traffic	2.83	2.83	2.81	3.00	2.84	2.80	2.80	2.86		2.85	2.84
→ Index for Safety (out of 100)	67.08	66.94	60.67	55.93	60.40	43.73	43.73	57.58		77.27	76.33

Kommunehospitalet, Copenhagen	Yard 1	Yard 2	Yard 3	Yard 4	Yard 5	Yard 6	Yard 7	Yard 8		Average (equally)	Average (by surface)
Pleasurability											
34 Presence of memorable architectural or landscape features (imageability)	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	3.00		1.75	1.84
35 Sense of enclosure	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00
36 Variety of sub-spaces	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.13
37 Density of elements in space providing sensory complexity	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00
38 Variety of elements in space providing sensory complexity	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00		1.38	1.51
39 Design elements providing focal points	3.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00		1.75	1.85
40 Visual and physical connection and openness to adjacent street/s or spaces	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
41 Permeability of building facades on the street front	2.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00		2.00	2.01
42 Personalization of the buildings on the street front	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
43 Articulation and variety in architectural features of building facades on the street front	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00
44 Perceived attractiveness of space	2.58	2.54	2.20	2.56	2.56	2.56	2.52	2.55		2.51	2.49
45 Perceived interestingness of space	1.71	1.67	1.72	2.22	1.72	1.72	1.80	1.77		1.79	1.76
→ Index for Pleasurability(out of 100)	64.92	59.83	55.40	57.11	55.47	50.80	50.80	64.88		57.40	58.25
→ Average Public Space Index (out of 100)	60.17	57.49	55.97	53.29	54.82	52.58	54.28	60.80		56.18	56.96

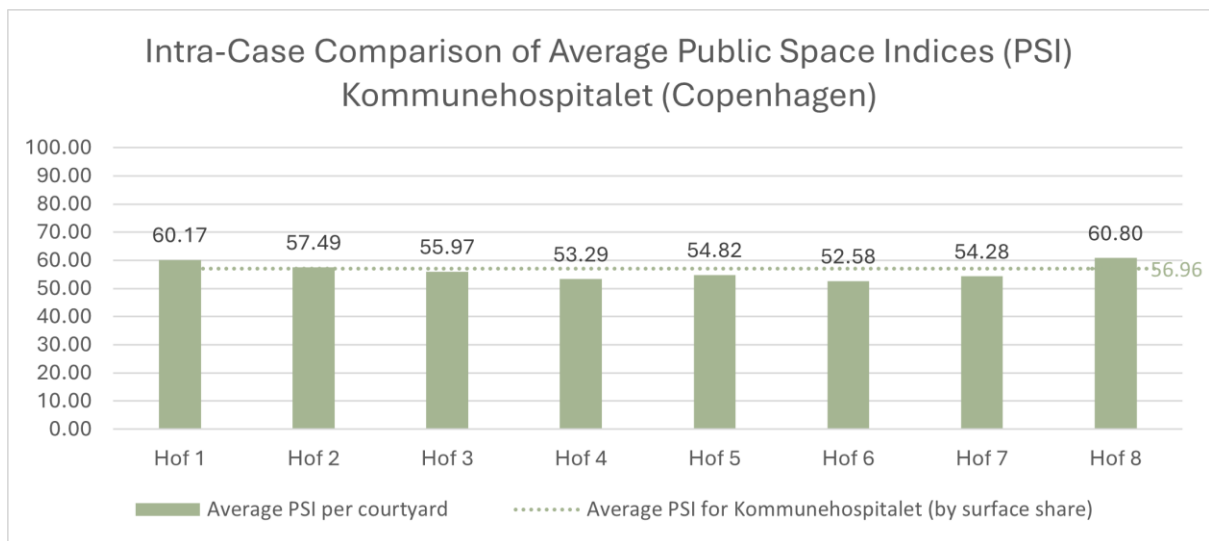


Figure 21: Intra-Case Comparison of Average Public Space Indices: Kommunehospitalet, Copenhagen.

Source: Author.

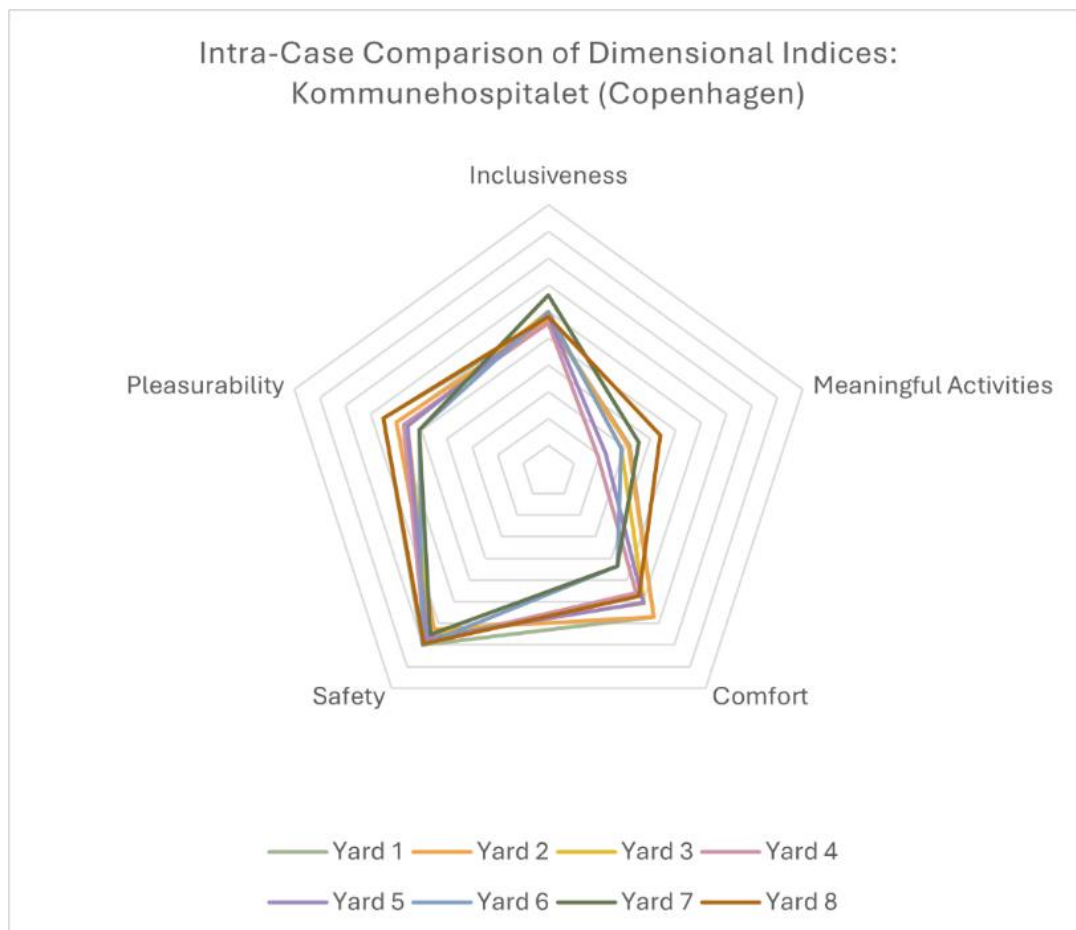


Figure 22: Intra-Case Comparison of Dimensional Indices: Kommunehospitalet, Copenhagen.

Source: Author.

Intra-Case Comparison – Spatial Differentiation Across the Site

The courtyards at Kommunehospitalet display a relatively narrow spread in overall scores, suggesting a more homogeneous spatial performance compared to the Altes AKH case.

Yard 8 achieved the highest overall PSI at 60.80, followed closely by Yard 1 with 60.17. These two yards show more favorable values in comfort and pleasurability, particularly due to seating, sensory quality, and perceived atmosphere. At the other end, Yard 6 received the lowest index (52.58), largely due to low ratings in comfort and meaningful activities, despite performing adequately in safety.

Visual support: The radar chart (see above) presents a dimensional comparison between all yards, revealing slight but notable spatial differentiation, particularly in comfort and meaningful activities.

The remaining yards (2 through 7) clustered within a narrow band between 53.3 and 57.5, forming a middle field. These spaces were generally perceived as safe and accessible but lack significant programmatic or design features that would enhance their distinctiveness.

Dimension-Specific Patterns and User Perceptions

Inclusiveness: Respondents noted a high level of gender and cultural diversity. Yards were rated positively for openness and entrance control, but the lack of visible accessibility infrastructure (0.0 across all yards for people with physical disabilities) marks a clear area for improvement.

Meaningful Activities: This dimension received the weakest overall scores. Community-oriented uses, variety of businesses, and flexibility of space were all rated low. Only Yard 7 showed somewhat higher values in this area, yet no yard exceeded minimal to moderate activity diversity.

Comfort: Evaluations for comfort were mixed. Positive feedback centered on general quietness, physical condition, and noise levels. However, a widespread lack of seating (especially free and non-commercial), as well as limited shade and shelter, reduced scores – particularly in Yards 6 and 7.

Safety: Safety emerged as a strong dimension. Scores for crime-related safety (day and night), traffic safety, and surveillance presence were high across all yards. Lighting, however, was more uneven, especially in Yards 2 and 3.

Pleasurability: Several yards (notably Yard 1 and 8) offered rich sensory environments and design variation, but many lacked distinctive architectural or natural features. Still, the site overall was perceived as aesthetically coherent and atmospherically calm.

Perception Differences by Gender and Age

Despite a relatively small sample, the analysis suggests no significant variation in spatial perception based on gender. Only in isolated cases – such as an individual variable in a yard with very low respondent numbers – did average responses differ notably. These are considered statistically negligible due to limited sample size.

Similarly, few clear trends emerged along age lines. However, it is worth noting that older participants (aged 55 and above) tended to rate inclusiveness and comfort particularly highly. All respondents over 55 agreed that the space supports participation in activities and social engagement – indicating that Kommunehospitallet is perceived as accessible and comfortable even by non-university-affiliated or older users.

4.1.3 Insights from Expert Interviews

Two semi-structured interviews on the case of the Kommunehospitallet in Vienna were conducted with, first, the Service Manager of the City Campus of the University of Copenhagen and second, with the first deputy chairwoman of the local committee of the Copenhagen's district Indre By.

The interviewees offer two complementary perspectives on Kommunehospitallet as a public open space. Their accounts intersect in thematic areas such as spatial openness, relevance for the wider public, physical qualities, institutional responsibility, and the challenges of balancing access and regulation in central Copenhagen. While their perspectives differ one managing the grounds from within, the other reflecting on the site from a district governance position – their statements together offer a multifaceted account of the space's role, potential, and limitations.

Understandings of Public Open Space

Both interviewees articulate an understanding of public open space rooted in practical accessibility, though framed through different lenses. The Service Manager refers to Kommunehospitallet as a privately owned but openly accessible space, used primarily by students, staff, and nearby residents. While technically under university management and not advertised as public, she emphasizes that everyone is welcome to enter and use the grounds. She identifies the space as “not closed off,” highlighting its informal openness despite the absence of signage or institutional partnerships that might signal this more clearly.

The Deputy Chairwoman echoes this idea from a broader urban perspective. She regards central Copenhagen as “one big public area,” where ownership is not the defining criterion of publicness.

Instead, physical openness and usability are key. For her, even café seating zones on sidewalks are between university perceived as public, as long as they are not gated or locked. The distinction between public and private, she states, only becomes meaningful when a space is visibly enclosed or inaccessible. In this light, Kommunehuspitalet, with its unfenced areas and permeable borders, qualifies in practice as a public space – even if not officially designated as such.

Relevance for the Public and the District

The perceived relevance of Kommunehuspitalet as a public asset is affirmed by both interviewees, even if in different ways. The Service Manager stresses the importance of the outdoor spaces for the university community, particularly students and staff, who use the area to socialize, relax, eat, or study. She notes that neighbors frequently walk their dogs on campus and are made to feel welcome. However, she also observes that many residents of Copenhagen likely do not think of the space as one they can or should use, suggesting a gap between openness in theory and actual public perception.

The Deputy Chairwoman sees Kommunehuspitalet as a potential solution to the shortage of space in Indre By. Given the shortage of public recreational infrastructure in the district, she expresses support for opening up the site more deliberately. Any accessible green space, she argues, is a valuable contribution in such a densely built environment. Yet she also conveys a sense of disconnect between the site and its surrounding urban life, stating that she has not heard much about Kommunehuspitalet in recent years and perceives it as underused, particularly in the evenings.

Spatial Qualities and Design

Both interviewees offer input on the physical and atmospheric aspects of the space, identifying both strengths and missed opportunities. The Service Manager describes a campus that is clean, orderly, and increasingly shaped by biodiverse and student-friendly planting schemes. She values ground diversity, the reduction of lawns in favor of flowers and trees, and the creation of new features like a small apple orchard. She would prefer that gardeners spend less time on lawn maintenance and more on horticultural work that adds sensory and ecological value.

The Deputy Chairwoman, from an external perspective, finds the space visually acceptable but not particularly inviting. She stresses the importance of a “sense of space,” defined by light, air, and the ability to move freely, qualities she finds lacking in many parts of Indre By. For

Kommunehospitalet, she believes even small additions like benches would have a notable impact in making the space more inclusive. While she sees the area as generally pleasant, she finds little to encourage prolonged visits or engagement beyond passing through.

Target Groups and Perceived Intentions

When discussing who the space is for, both interviewees highlight ambiguity. The Service Manager defines the public broadly, including students, staff, neighbors, and citizens. She emphasizes that everyone is welcome, and she is open to suggestions from users regarding new uses or design interventions. However, she acknowledges that the university does not actively promote the space as public, nor does it engage in structured outreach or partnership with the municipality.

The Deputy Chairwoman expresses uncertainty about the university's intentions, questioning whether it wants to open up the site at all. She finds no evidence of clear communication, signage, or participatory processes that would signal such a goal. This lack of visible engagement leads her to suspect that the space is not intended for broader public use, despite its accessibility in practice.

Institutional Strategies, Autonomy, and Decision-Making

The Service Manager reports a high degree of autonomy in managing Kommunehospitalet's outdoor areas. Each year, she and her gardening team develop a local strategy, focusing on biodiversity, functionality, and alignment with university-wide goals such as the 2030 sustainability agenda. The property owner is consulted only when necessary and generally supports proposed initiatives, as long as they do not affect the structural integrity of the buildings. She also notes that similar autonomy exists at other campuses, suggesting a decentralized and flexible management model.

Participation, while welcomed informally, is not structured. Students and users can suggest ideas, such as planting vegetables or adding infrastructure, and these are often considered feasible. However, the Service Manager confirms that there is no formal collaboration with municipal bodies or civil society groups, and no systematic efforts to engage the broader public in decision-making.

Ownership Structures and Governance Critique

The Deputy Chairwoman takes a more critical stance on ownership and governance structures, particularly at the city level. She argues that decision-making processes often prioritize property owners over residents, with hearings and consultations excluding non-owners. This leads to outcomes where public space is increasingly taken over by cafés and bars, diminishing local

residents' sense of ownership or belonging in their own neighborhoods. While not speaking directly about Kommunehospitalet in this context, her critique outlines a wider urban pattern that may shape perceptions of any semi-public space in the district.

Challenges and Limitations

Both interviewees identify challenges that reflect their respective roles. For the Service Manager, the primary concern is maintaining a balance between openness and security. She recalls past issues involving groups of young people or homeless individuals using the space in disruptive ways. These were mostly temporary, but they highlight the difficulty of keeping a space "neat and welcoming" without resorting to exclusion. She describes gate closures at night as symbolic acts rooted in habit rather than strict regulation and confirms that access is still possible through other entrances.

The Deputy Chairwoman's concerns are more structural. She highlights weak municipal enforcement of public space regulations, especially when businesses violate use agreements. She notes that the city often does not act until multiple complaints are filed, and even then, enforcement is often delayed or superficial. This leads to a situation where public space is effectively privatized, and local communities feel alienated. While this critique is citywide, it provides important context for understanding skepticism about the university's public role at Kommunehospitalet.

Reflections on Change and Future Outlook

When asked about recent developments, the Service Manager points to several positive changes, including the introduction of more biodiversity and user-oriented design. She expresses continued interest in maintaining and enhancing the site until the university's planned relocation around 2027 or 2028, which she sees as part of a larger strategy to reduce infrastructure costs and adapt to more flexible work and study models.

In contrast, the Deputy Chairwoman reports having heard little about Kommunehospitalet in recent years. Her impression is one of stagnation and limited visibility, suggesting that the site plays only a minor role in local political or civic discourse. The only concern she raises is occasional noise from student gatherings, which she does not frame as a major issue.

Despite these differences, both interviews convey a cautious optimism: the Service Manager in terms of what is still possible under current conditions, and the Deputy Chairwoman in terms of what could be improved with minimal interventions – "a few benches would make a huge difference."

5. Discussion

This chapter discusses the findings of the study along four analytical strands that reflect different layers of spatial quality and agency. The structure follows a deliberately scalar logic: it begins at the level of the immediate, spatially situated qualities observed within the courtyards themselves and gradually moves outward – to the spatial system as a whole, to institutional agency, and finally to wider cultural dispositions. This structure reflects the study's multi-layered approach: by integrating observational, experiential, and strategic dimensions, it traces how qualities of public space are shaped both from within and beyond the built environment.

The first part of the discussion (5.1) is divided into two sections: it first identifies the tangible, physical elements that define the courtyards as public environments, and then turns to the more subtle, atmospheric and emotional dynamics they foster. This is followed by three further sections addressing increasingly systemic questions: how these spaces relate to each other within the larger spatial system (5.1.2), how institutions use their room for maneuver in shaping these spaces (5.1.3), and how underlying cultural dispositions influence perceptions and expectations toward public space (5.1.4). Section 5.1.5 then synthesizes the findings in response to the central research question.

The second part reflects on the methodological approach to this study and the resulting limitations and potentials.

5.1 Public Space Qualities of Urban University Campuses

5.1.1 Spatially Situated Qualities

The following two sections focus on spatial qualities as they unfold within the individual courtyards of both case studies. While the first takes stock of concrete, materially anchored design elements, the second turns to the more subtle, atmospheric and emotional dynamics that emerge from everyday use.

Tangible Spatial Qualities: Material Form and the Everyday

Beyond perceptions and atmospheres, both sites exhibit distinct physical characteristics that influence how they are used and understood. Key commonalities include the presence of greenery, human-scale proportions, and sheltered courtyard configurations – all of which create a perceptible break from the surrounding city. Trees, historical façades, and reduced noise form a spatial buffer, lending the sites a sense of calm.

In Vienna, this material calm is paired with functional granularity: Hof 1, for example, combines informal lawns, shaded study zones, and gastronomy in close proximity – offering spatial diversity and comfort. PSI scores confirm this setup with high values in “Comfort,” “Seating Options,” and “Meaningful Activities.” Other courtyards provide simpler but still distinct micro-zones: quiet benches, empty lawns, or tucked-away play areas.

At Kommunehospitallet, physical infrastructure is more minimalist. Despite the presence of old trees and architectural coherence, seating is limited and often rigid; shade and shelter are inconsistently distributed. As PSI data shows, “Comfort” and “Activity Diversity” remain low, though “Sensory Complexity” is rated higher – a result of visual harmony and historic character. The layout of the site – segmented by buildings and indirect routes – also restricts movement between spaces, creating functional fragmentation.

While both locations feature appealing material frameworks, the difference lies in how these are equipped and made usable. Vienna's spaces actively invite varied use; in Copenhagen, material qualities are appreciated, but less effectively mobilized.

Subtle Qualities of Place: Atmosphere, Aesthetics, and the Everyday

Across both case studies, the courtyards emerge as places of quiet significance – not because of programmed uses or bold design gestures, but through their ability to accommodate everyday presence. It is in the simple acts of sitting, walking, observing that their relevance unfolds – slowly, subtly, and often without the need for formal instruction (Carr et al., 1992; Mehta, 2014).

In both the Kommunehospitallet and the Altes AKH, people described the spaces as an “oasis” – pointing to the contrast between the green calmness inside and the surrounding intensity of the city. In Vienna, this was often paired with phrases like “healing power” or “place to recharge,” evoking an atmosphere carried by tall trees, filtered light, silence, and historical façades. In Copenhagen, this was expressed even more emphatically by one local resident, who spoke of connecting with “the souls of former patients” while walking through Yard 7 – suggesting how spatial mood and layered history can produce deeply personal, even spiritual attachments (Zukin, 1995).

Yet while both sites share this emotional register, their functional landscapes diverge. In Vienna, the different courtyards offer a clear variety of moods and uses: study, retreat, social pause, informal play. People intuitively shift between them, depending on need or moment – indicating a strong spatial literacy. The subtle micro-zoning – with benches, open lawns, food areas, quieter corners – allows for coexisting activities without tension. PSI data reflects this: especially in Hof

1, scores for “Meaningful Activities” and “Comfort” are consistently high, supported by good infrastructure and well-balanced design.

At Kommunehospitalet, by contrast, the spatial qualities are more homogeneous. The courtyards have high aesthetic and sensory appeal – confirmed by elevated PSI scores in “Sensory Complexity” and “Safety” – but the range of functional possibilities remains narrow. While users value the space, its role remains quiet, more observed than used. This aligns with Mehta’s (2014) emphasis that activity diversity is key for fostering inclusivity and urban life.

Still, what both cases make visible is that strong atmosphere doesn’t require much. Sometimes, a bench, a stretch of shade, and the sound of birds are enough. Particularly in Copenhagen, people spoke of the comfort of a place that doesn’t demand anything – just being there was already valuable. Such low-threshold spatial offers are what Gehl (2010) describes as subtle invitations to linger, to stay without obligation.

The significance of these spaces lies precisely in that: they don’t shout, but they stay. Spatial attachment doesn’t need grand gestures – it often grows slowly, through repetition, small routines, time spent. One person described the courtyards as having a kind of “quiet dignity” – a calm richness that’s hard to put into words, but easy to sense. This resonance is not only lived; it is also inherited – shaped by the aesthetic depth and historical layering embedded in the built environment. What makes the calmness tangible is not just the moment itself, but the feeling of being part of a space that holds traces of other times, other people. That, too, becomes part of what is felt.

5.1.1 System Quality: Spatial and Functional Synergies

A second central line of discussion concerns the concept of system quality – that is, the way individual courtyards or spaces are interconnected and how they influence one another’s overall quality. It becomes clear: public spaces rarely unfold their full potential in isolation – rather, it is their interplay that enhances usability and meaning (cf. Gehl, 2010; Carr et al., 1992), as the value of a space often depends on its role within a broader spatial and functional network.

In the Altes AKH in Vienna, Hof 1 stands out as a strong attractor, particularly for those users who enter the site not primarily for university-related purposes. It is not only the courtyard with the highest index values, but it also clearly distinguishes itself in terms of perceived spatial quality. Interviewees and survey respondents frequently mentioned that they come to the area specifically because of this courtyard – for events, social interaction, or simply the quality of stay. The other courtyards, which are used more as spaces of retreat, gain in significance precisely

through their proximity to this central and active hub. This systemic effect, this spatial synergy became evident across all qualitative methods: in interviews, researcher observations, the user survey and the informal conversations.

In Copenhagen, by contrast, no such courtyard with similar gravitational pull exists. While the courtyards at the Kommunehuset scored similarly to Hof 2 through 10 in Vienna – in some cases even slightly higher – their effect as a system remains weaker. This is partly due to spatial barriers: access from one courtyard to another often leads through the university buildings themselves – a layout which, due to spatial barriers and limited transparency, fosters a form of internal fragmentation (cf. Madanipour, 2010), hindering the permeability and systemic cohesion of public space. These are not always open or accessible, particularly for those not affiliated with the university. Moreover, the spatial layout requires a relatively high degree of local knowledge to navigate. Even though the courtyards are theoretically connected by routes through the open spaces, too, in many cases there are only few direct paths or visual connections between them. Notably, even for university members, technical issues with the door systems occasionally restrict building access, which is also limiting movement between the courtyards. This means that accessibility was practically restricted: not only for the general public but sometimes even for those formally entitled and required to access the site.

That said, system quality does play a role in the Copenhagen case, although in a more limited way. Students mentioned that they use the opportunity to switch between courtyards when staying at the Kommunehuset, for example depending on proximity to lecture rooms, availability of seating, or differences in space character. However, this usage pattern was only mentioned by students, and only for contexts in which they were already on site due to academic reasons. It follows that system quality exists in this case as well, but less as a quality that attracts people to the site in the first place.

While in the Kommunehuset the university usage itself – with its exclusive character – appears to be the sole attractor, the Altes AKH offers an additional point of attraction with Hof 1. Importantly, this courtyard also invites and includes people beyond the university community. This suggests that even when a spatial system exists, it still requires an attractor that address specific user groups in order to reach its full potential.

The immediate urban surroundings also influence how attractive these sites become. Even though both case areas can be perceived as distinct campus-like units, their public spaces are not entirely cut off from their urban context (cf. Stanek, 2011). In Vienna, users noted that they use the adjacent streets and nearby shops for everyday needs. This takes pressure off the site itself to

provide all services internally. At the Kommunehospitalet, by contrast, no service-oriented infrastructure is located in the direct vicinity. In fact, no participant referred to such external offers as a reason to stay in or move through the site.

The institutional actors interviewed for the Altes AKH explicitly recognize this importance of contextual connectivity. Both the District Mayor and the university's facility and resource manager referenced the relevance of interfaces and transitions between the campus and the surrounding urban context. The university has been involved in the participation process of the neighboring Frankhplatz, and active exchange with municipal actors is part of the strategic approaches. Such an integrative approach is not visible in the Copenhagen case, a contrast to Vienna's strategic urban integration efforts (cf. Kazepov & Verwiebe, 2022), which emphasize the role of institutional actors in steering systemic spatial development through intersectoral cooperation. The university administration appears to define its scope of influence along the site's physical borders, and the Local Committee does not include the Kommunehospitalet in its planning discussions either. There is no coordinated effort toward integration or cross-boundary development, and the awareness of the potential spatial synergies that might emerge from such efforts seems to be lacking.

In summary, the quality of individual open spaces is significantly shaped by how well they are embedded within a functioning spatial system. In Vienna's Altes AKH, Hof 1 serves as a clear attractor with evident spillover effects on neighboring courtyards, upgrading the entire site. The Altes AKH is also strongly integrated into its urban surroundings - through walkable transitions and nearby services, it operates not as an isolated enclave, but as part of the broader city structure. As opposed to that, the Kommunehospitalet remains more spatially fragmented - lacking a comparable gravitational function besides the university and showing limited connection to its context. The takeaway is transferable: system effects - understood as functional, spatial, and strategic interlinkages - are a central quality factor of public space and should be more actively considered in planning and evaluation.

5.1.3 Institutional Scope of Action: Between Governance, Ownership, and Strategic Agenda-Setting

One central line of discussion concerns the institutional scope of action within public space - in other words, how actors like universities or municipal actors use, coordinate, and strategically approach their available room for maneuver in spatial matters. What becomes apparent is that it is not the formal ownership structure alone that determines outcomes, but rather the interplay between factual influence, strategic objectives, and the quality of lived cooperation.

Institutional Agency in Practice: Between Ownership and Influence

Both case studies clearly show that legal ownership does not automatically translate into greater influence – or vice versa: even without formal ownership, institutions can have a far-reaching scope of action. What matters most is how these are negotiated and applied in practice.

The employee of the facility and recourse manager from the University of Vienna explained that even in locations like the university's main building – where the university is only the principal tenant (with the Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft, that is the federal real estate agency, as owner) - they effectively hold an ownership-equivalent degree of autonomy.

This observation was echoed by the Service Manager for the City Campus concerning the university site in the Kommunehospitalet. She described a similarly flexible setup, where interventions that do not involve structural modifications can typically be agreed upon quickly and informally. She described the cooperative relationship with the property owner as a matter for granted.

What emerges from these parallels is that legal status is only one part of the picture. Much more decisive is whether a foundation of institutional trust exists, and whether there is a shared commitment to co-shaping the space. This becomes particularly visible in Vienna, where the collaboration between the university and the district authority is relatively close. Events held at the Altes AKH are sometimes co-coordinated with the district level, and in the redesign of the neighboring Frankhplatz, falling under public management, the university is involved as a stakeholder. This cooperative attitude was also confirmed in the interview with the District Mayor, who described the university as a key partner. She describes the exchange as appreciative and collegial.

The strength of this governance approach lies not only in its ability to avoid conflict but also in its ability to respond to diverse needs of the users. The university administration also takes these into account, so that the public is not only considered through the filter of formal representation by the District Mayor, but also directly. One example discussed was the lawn at the Altes AKH: although the installation of rolled turf was ecologically questionable, it was undertaken in response to recurring complaints from users. This shows an institutional self-image that not only tolerates public engagement but actively seeks to integrate it and to use the scope of action accordingly.

Strategic Agenda-Setting and Ownership Structures

This institutional openness and cooperation are closely linked to the strategic relevance each space has for the respective institution – and to the ownership structures that either support or

limit such strategies. The University of Vienna clearly articulates its goal: it aims to be visible within the city, to actively help shape public space quality, and to position itself as a contributing actor within urban society. This is explicitly framed as part of a broader strategic agenda and addressed both in the interview with the District Mayor and by the university's facility and resources management. It reflects a consciously "visible" self-image: the campus in the Altes AKH is meant to be perceived and experienced as public space, with the university acting as a host.

This attitude becomes tangible in spatial expressions: uniform signage in the university's corporate design, flags displaying its logo, and a consistent visual appearance throughout the open spaces – all of these are signs of a strategically guided spatial branding (cf. Harvey, 2007), where visibility becomes part of an institutional positioning strategy shaped by urban competition logics. The space is not just managed, but deliberately staged. Even though this can also lead to an exclusive effect of people who are not affiliated with the university, as stated by some space users. It represents a performative approach to space-making that clearly goes beyond administrative oversight.

At the Kommunehospitalet in Copenhagen, however, there is no such strategic focus visible. The university is physically present, but it hardly takes an active spatial role. The Service Manager refers to an upcoming relocation of the campus and explains that, for this reason, larger transformations do currently not make sense. As she said: "I think it's to use money on education and science instead of bricks." (Ulla Kjærgaard, 05 August, 2023) Consequently, the Kommunehospitalet is not a focus area within the University of Copenhagen's current strategic development horizon.

This perspective is not necessarily a sign of lacking ambition in the spatial development. It rather reflects a resource-oriented prioritization. However, it has tangible spatial consequences: the unclear future of the site does not help to define a direction for development. Spatial practice becomes one of maintaining the status quo – with some small scale interventions where situationally wanted. An approach reminiscent of what Kazepov and Verwiebe (2022) describe as governance modes that symbolically invite participation but avoid deep structural engagement. The Service Manager frames this indirectly by stating that the university remains open to external proposals – from students or other actors. This stance is echoed in the interview with the deputy chairwoman of the local committee of the district of Indre By: they do not integrate the Kommunehospitalet into development considerations, and no work is being done on spatial interfaces, unlike in the Viennese case.

The relationship between ownership and agenda-setting is not automatic, but it is structurally significant (cf. Peterson, 2017), as governance models and ownership

structures fundamentally shape spatial agency and long-term development logic. Where long-term ownership exists, it is generally more worthwhile to invest in strategic development. Conversely, where ownership is lacking or temporary, spatial design tends to become a matter of administrative maintenance.

This interplay between ownership, institutional positioning, and lived governance appears to be a key driver for public-facing spatial development. Having the capacity to shape space is one thing – being willing to actively use that capacity is another. In the case of the Altes AKH in Vienna, this will to act is clearly present: the scope of action given by ownership and functioning cooperation is used deliberately and strategically to position the university as a spatial actor within the city. In the case of the Kommunehospitalet in Copenhagen, by contrast, such room for maneuver remains largely unused – not due to a lack of competence, but due to the absence of a future-oriented perspective.

5.1.4 Cultural Dispositions: Aspiration vs. Contentment

Building on the previously outlined connection between institutional agenda-setting and governance practice, another central finding emerges: the cultural attitude towards public space as an expression of underlying social logics of entitlement. When comparing the cases in Vienna and Copenhagen, a striking contrast becomes visible. One that not only shapes the ways space is used, but also influences how institutions approach their scope of action and to what extent these scopes are actually utilized.

In the Altes AKH, a strong sense of entitlement is observable – both among the general public and in the way institutions position themselves. Respondents from semi-structured interviews and the user survey frequently expressed concrete suggestions for improvement. These expressions were not rooted in dissatisfaction per se, but rather reflected a culturally embedded understanding of public space as something one is allowed to shape – echoing Lefebvre's idea of the right to the city as a collective claim to spatial production and use (Lefebvre, 1991). Already in response to general questions about spatial quality, users made proposals relating to greening, infrastructure, or overall comfort. This suggests a well-established awareness of participation and influence and a understanding of civic responsibility that goes beyond reactive feedback and is instead expressed proactively.

This attitude is also mirrored and reinforced at the institutional level. The facility and resource management department at the University of Vienna pointed to several participatory formats in which students and other stakeholders are regularly included. In working groups, workshops, and internal coordination processes, user needs are actively collected and thus enter directly into planning. The case of the lawn in the Altes AKH illustrates this: despite ecologically not ideal, the

university decided to replace the grass with roll turf after repeated complaints from the public. This decision shows a high degree of responsiveness, representing a institutional self-understanding that not only tolerates public demands, but actively integrates them, using its spatial agency in flexible and adaptive ways.

The situation in the Kommunehospital is quite different. There, a more reserved stance predominates: a tendency to be content with the existing situation, evident both among users and in institutional communication. Conversations with local users – especially those from the surrounding neighborhoods who are not affiliated with the university – mostly conveyed the impression that the space was “fine.” This attitude often seemed deeply rooted: only when asked more specifically people began to share occasional ideas for improvements, such as additional seating or more comfortable places to stay. This rather hesitant expression of needs implies a cultural disposition: one of modest contentment and, at the same time, one of setting low expectations toward the own agency over public space – a dynamic that aligns with Wessendorf's (2014) understanding of parochial space, where informal norms shape who feels entitled to act or speak.

A particularly revealing moment was the semi-structured interview with the representative from the University of Copenhagen. She emphasized the institution's openness to external suggestions and welcomed proactive requests. She said “[The open space of the Kommunehospital] is for everyone. So if you have a great idea, bring it on and we will see” and “They would like to have more x here? They could just say it – everything could be possible” But this openness is not part of a broader strategy of needs assessment. Instead, it rests on the assumption that ideas will emerge externally and be brought forward. The impulse for change is therefore positioned in a bottom-up logic, rather than being structurally encouraged from within the institution.

This observation was confirmed in the second interview, with the deputy chairwoman of the local committee. She noted, “There are no complaints about the space” – a phrase that implicitly justifies the absence of change. Again, it became clear that new ideas only came up during the conversation itself, and that change was seen less as a structural necessity than as a result of individual initiative.

Interestingly, this reflects a deeper cultural difference in how satisfaction is perceived. At Kommunehospital, the dominant view seems to be: if a space causes no disturbance, it must be working well. The absence of complaints is equated with the absence of action – a pattern that resonates with what Mayer (2016) describes as consensus-oriented, post-political governance, where dissent or initiative is not structurally encouraged. According their own description, the management focusses on keeping the space “secure and neat”. In the Viennese case, by contrast,

the existence of functioning structures appears to open up the room for further improvement. People are not only appreciative, they feel entitled to express demands.

These patterns are also observable in the surveys. At the Kommunehuset, initial responses in the user surveys were overwhelmingly positive across dimensions such as inclusiveness and comfort. Only when asked more specifically about individual variables or specific courtyards more came more critical feedback up. This often regarded limited diversity of uses or insufficient seating. Also respondents that were local residents initially stated that they were content with the state of the space. If this contentment stemmed from genuine satisfaction or more from the absence of an impulse to think critically about what else could be improved remains to be interpreted. By asking specific questions, people began to formulate ideas for changes that they would like to see implemented, but which did not arise from an internal expectation. The survey respondents that were not university-members seemed to think about the site as purely being a university campus and did not want to seem ungrateful for the space being open to them. In fact some were not even sure, if they were welcome. Accordingly, they did not want to interfere in a place where they feel they have no say. Some specifically stated, that it is a space for students, who should stay the one prioritized target group of the campus.

In Vienna, by contrast, the public's expectations were more obviously present. Users see themselves as legitimate actors in public space, not purely as passive recipients, but as co-shapers. While they acknowledge and appreciate existing qualities, they also articulate clear demands towards the university and other stakeholders. This attitude can lead to goal conflicts, but it also increases the chance of continuous, user-centered and quality-driven spatial development.

One example: In Vienna, some users expressed a desire for colorful graffiti at the walls – an intervention that would directly challenge the current historical and protected character of the site. In Copenhagen, the dominant attitude was more one of preservation, a reluctance to interfere with the given setting. The point here is not to say, that there were not also preservation-focused voices at the Altes AKH – the point is to demonstrate that users feel entitled enough to think about such un-easy changes they would like to see on their own initiative and express them.

These cultural differences have wide-ranging implications. While the Viennese model frames design as a public negotiation process, the Copenhagen model tends to treat the absence of conflict as a measure of success – perhaps reflecting a broader cultural pattern, rooted in Danish consensus-orientation. At Kommunehuset, this results in calm, low-tension environment – but one that also produces fewer impulses for innovation. There is a risk that “satisfaction” becomes a concealer for structural lethargy, especially with regard to the space users from outside the student environment: if needs are not expressed, their perspective will not be proactively

taken into account. In times of increasing urban challenges (climate change, social fragmentation, mental health), such passivity becomes a structural vulnerability. Seen in this light, the cultural depositions to express expectation can be understood as a core parameter shaping the transformative capacity of public spaces. In Vienna, strategic agenda-setting meets an active public that formulates and accompanies change. In Copenhagen, the transformative potential remains largely unused - it exists, but is rarely activated.

At the same time, a culture of continuous demands does not automatically translate into a more inclusive and high-quality space – especially if it lacks sensitivity towards the needs of others and systemic requirements, such as resilience-focused ones. While this is not the case at the Altes AKH site, it is worth noting that complaint-driven discourse alone can create unnecessary tensions and draw attention away from more pressing concerns. A well-balanced approach would be one that combines empowering open space users to co-shape public space with an respectful attitude that remains attentive to other needs.

5.1.5 Synoptic Reflection

This final analytical section integrates the four thematic strands of the discussion to formulate an overarching response to the study's research question: What constitutes and influences the qualities of the open spaces of two inner-city university campuses in Vienna and Copenhagen? The aim here is to highlight how qualities unfold on different scales and are shaped by the interaction of spatial, institutional, and cultural dimensions.

At the most immediate level, the comparative analysis of courtyard spaces reveals a shared set of physical features that support a high baseline quality in both cases: tree cover, human-scale architecture, relative quiet, and protection from traffic. These features form the backbone of spatial comfort and sensory richness and are reflected in high scores in "Safety" and "Sensory Complexity" in the PSI. Yet beyond this shared foundation, the way space is activated and emotionally appropriated differs: while the Altes AKH in Vienna presents a patchwork of differentiated zones that foster everyday use and co-presence, the Kommunehospital in Copenhagen offers a quieter, more passive mode of occupation. The spatial materialities may be similar, but the lived atmospheres they support diverge. These distinctions point to an important insight: spatial quality is not purely a matter of design – it is the result of use, meaning, and narrative overlay.

On the system level, the Vienna case stands out for its spatial integration and functional synergy. Courtyards are not used in isolation but in sequence, forming a flexible spatial ecosystem that accommodates a wide range of activities. Hof 1 serves as a gravitational center with clear spillover

effects to adjacent spaces. The site is well-connected to its urban surroundings, enabling permeability and continuity. The Copenhagen case lacks this systemic cohesion: courtyards remain physically and symbolically segmented, and movement between them is limited. This difference illustrates how spatial connectivity and attraction logics are critical components of quality, even when individual courtyards are well-designed in themselves.

Institutionally, the Vienna case is shaped by a high degree of strategic orientation and inter-organizational cooperation. The University of Vienna actively positions itself as a spatial actor and embraces its role in shaping the quality of public life. This is not only visible in symbolic gestures like branding, but in concrete practices such as participatory engagement and responsive maintenance. In contrast, the University of Copenhagen adopts a more reserved, maintenance-focused approach, shaped in part by the site's uncertain future. This comparison demonstrates that institutional agency is not only a question of ownership but of strategic commitment and relational governance.

Culturally, different expectations toward public space become visible. In Vienna, a proactive public expresses detailed spatial preferences and sees itself as co-owner of the site. In Copenhagen, the public appears more reserved – appreciative, but hesitant to formulate demands. This does not necessarily indicate satisfaction; rather, it reflects differing social norms around entitlement and initiative. The Viennese pattern supports an iterative culture of spatial improvement, while the Copenhagen case risks interpretive closure, where lack of complaint is mistaken for absence of need. The comparative lens thus reveals that cultural dispositions are key in activating or stalling the transformative potential of public spaces.

Together, these findings suggest that spatial quality in inner-city university courtyards is not a fixed trait, but a multi-scalar achievement – emerging from the interplay of spatial design, user practice, institutional intention, and cultural framing. The case of Kommunehospitalet shows that even courtyards with high sensory and aesthetic appeal can remain underutilized when systemic, institutional, and cultural conditions do not support their activation. Conversely, the Altes AKH illustrates how spatial quality can be nurtured not only by design but through synergy, openness, and participation. As such, it offers a model for how inner-city university sites can become meaningful and inclusive urban resources.

5.6 Methodological Reflection

Reflecting on the Public Space Index as Method

The Public Space Index was initially intended to serve as the core methodological tool of this study, offering a quantifiable and comparable assessment of public space quality. Derived from ethnographic urban theory and inspired by the work of Gehl and Whyte, the PSI attempts to combine measurability with a people-centered ethos. Its structured framework facilitates both intra- and inter-site comparisons and renders spatial qualities legible to stakeholders and practitioners in planning and management.

However, the case study work quickly revealed several limitations in both the conceptual framing and practical implementation of the Index. Key critiques include:

Reductionism through quantification: Complex and contextual social qualities are reduced to scores, which may fail to capture experiential and relational dimensions of space. For instance, “inclusiveness” can be perceived very differently depending on whether a respondent evaluates it for themselves or imagines how others might feel.

Inconsistency and bias in scoring: The lack of standardized benchmarks (e.g., what qualifies as a ‘2’ vs. a ‘3’) introduces subjectivity. In smaller samples or single-researcher contexts, this can distort results.

Contextual misalignment: Variables such as “visual openness to streets” may carry high relevance in high-crime urban environments, but are of less concern in perceived safe areas like Vienna. Yet their weighting still impacts the final index score negatively, underrepresenting locally valued qualities such as the sense of enclosure or calmness.

Ambiguity in scoring edge cases: For example, gates that exist but are never locked, third spaces that are closed on weekends, or flexibility implied by potential rather than observed use pose dilemmas in assigning clear scores.

Overlooked non-users: The PSI captures perceptions of current users, but not of absent groups. Therefore, it may misrepresent inclusiveness or accessibility by failing to address why some groups are not present.

Despite these limitations, the PSI remains a valuable entry point for public space evaluation. It effectively flags potential areas for deeper investigation and offers structured dimensions that guide further analysis. Nonetheless, it should not be interpreted as a stand-alone diagnostic but rather as one layer within a broader, multi-methodological inquiry.

Repositioning the PSI: From Core Tool to Supplement

During the research process, the role of the PSI gradually shifted. While it was originally designed to provide the primary data foundation, the richness and relevance of insights gained through qualitative methods increasingly took precedence. Open-ended interviews, informal user dialogues, and on-site observations revealed layers of meaning that numerical scores could not fully capture.

For example, low scores in “meaningful activities” or “inclusiveness” in the Copenhagen case could easily be misinterpreted as problems requiring intervention. However, qualitative feedback revealed that many users did not desire increased activity or social mixing – rather, they valued the calm, student-oriented character of the site. Without these insights, actions based on index scores alone could risk misalignment with user desires and lead to unsuccessful or even counterproductive interventions.

This inversion of methodological emphasis – from PSI-supported qualitative research to qualitatively led PSI enhancement – suggests the need for more adaptive research designs. It also underlines the importance of a dialogical relationship between numeric data and situated, subjective knowledge.

Evaluating the Combined Methodological Approach

The combination of quantitative and qualitative methods proved to be a robust and mutually reinforcing research design. In particular:

Semi-structured interviews captured personal narratives, nuanced opinions, and underlying motivations that index scores could not express.

Participant observation revealed behavioral patterns and unspoken norms, contributing to the contextualization of index findings.

Reflexive field protocols allowed for recognition of researcher influence, environmental variability, and interpersonal dynamics during data collection.

This triangulation improved internal validity and offered a richer understanding of public space qualities, user perceptions, and underlying urban dynamics. At the same time, it illustrated the epistemological tension between generalizability and specificity – between abstract dimensions and lived place.

Recommendations and Outlook

To strengthen the PSI's applicability and interpretive power in future research, several adaptations could be considered:

1. Contextual calibration: Adapt weighting schemes and variable interpretations to local conditions (e.g., safety norms, climate, cultural codes).
2. Guidelines for rating consistency: Provide clearer benchmarks and scoring criteria to minimize subjectivity and ensure comparability.
3. In-built qualitative modules: Embed a qualitative supplement into the PSI structure, allowing case-specific insight without compromising comparability.
4. Multi-researcher application: Where feasible, include multiple observers to neutralize individual bias and improve score reliability.
5. User diversity checks: Expand outreach to include non-users and underrepresented groups, potentially through snowball sampling or outreach beyond the immediate site.

In sum, the PSI remains a promising tool for structured analysis and stakeholder communication. However, its strength lies in combination, not isolation. The most meaningful insights in this study emerged not from numeric rankings but from the interplay between structured and exploratory data – between index and narrative.

6. Conclusion

This thesis set out to examine what constitutes and influences inner-city university campuses as public spaces, based on the spatial and experiential configurations of two historic sites: the Altes AKH in Vienna and the Kommunehospitalet in Copenhagen. Using a multi-method research design that combined spatial-analytical, qualitative, and ethnographic approaches, it investigated how spatial quality emerges at the intersection of material form, everyday practices, institutional agendas, and cultural dispositions.

In response to the central research question, the findings demonstrate that spatial quality in both cases is not reducible to design or infrastructure alone, but emerges through complex configurations of physical, functional, and symbolic elements. Both sites exhibit distinct material qualities – human scale, historic layering, greenery, and protection from traffic – that contribute to a baseline sense of calm and comfort. Yet it is only through their everyday use, lived perception, and atmospheric resonance that these spaces unfold their full potential as public environments. Particularly in Vienna, a differentiated courtyard system supports fluid transitions between zones of study, rest, and encounter. In Copenhagen, by contrast, atmospheric depth is high, but the fragmented structure and less articulated programming result in a quieter, more passive mode of

use. These distinctions reveal that publicness is not a given condition but a performative, time-bound, and culturally mediated process.

Importantly, the analysis of system quality highlights that spatial impact is magnified when individual spaces are embedded within a coherent, interconnected framework. The Altes AKH benefits from a gravitational center in Hof 1 and a clear interface with the surrounding urban environment, which activates and enhances the value of adjacent courtyards. In Copenhagen, the lack of permeability and visual connection between the courtyards constrains this systemic potential, limiting not only movement but also symbolic inclusion. In both cases, the value of spatial coherence – understood as both physical connectivity and experiential legibility – emerges as a key driver of public space quality.

Institutional agency also proved to be a decisive variable. The University of Vienna adopts an explicit spatial strategy that integrates branding, maintenance, and participation, using its scope of action – legally and relationally – to shape spatial quality proactively. The Kommunehuset, in contrast, reflects a more static mode of governance, shaped by uncertain long-term perspectives and a lower degree of strategic investment. This contrast shows that spatial potential is closely tied to institutional willingness to act – and to the presence of a shared governance culture that supports the iterative development of public-facing spaces. Publicness in institutional space is not automatically guaranteed by ownership or legal status – it depends on how institutions understand and operationalize their role as spatial actors. In the Viennese case, such spatial agency is visibly enacted; in the Copenhagen case, it remains largely latent.

Lastly, cultural expectations toward public space – what might be called civic spatial literacy – shape how space is perceived, used, and demanded. In Vienna, users articulate detailed ideas for improvement and see themselves as legitimate actors in the shaping of public environments. This creates a productive feedback loop between public demand and institutional responsiveness. In Copenhagen, public attitudes are more reserved: the absence of complaint is interpreted as satisfaction, but this can also reflect low expectations or uncertainty regarding entitlement. The ability and willingness to articulate spatial needs – even conflicting ones – appears as a key enabler of transformative spatial development. These differences suggest that the cultural disposition to express spatial needs is itself a core quality of publicness – one that influences whether space remains inert or becomes a platform for collective life.

Taken together, the study shows that spatial quality in university courtyards is a multi-scalar and relational achievement. It emerges not solely from material characteristics or formal ownership but from the interplay of spatial connectivity, institutional intention, cultural entitlement, and everyday use. The findings make clear that hybrid spaces like those studied here carry the

potential to act as meaningful urban resources – especially when minimal infrastructures allow informal use, symbolic boundaries are porous, and institutions embrace publicness as a strategic commitment.

The research design proved well suited to capturing these dynamics. While the Public Space Index was initially envisioned as the primary analytical instrument, the iterative and exploratory nature of the research process led to its repositioning as a supplementary tool within a broader qualitative strategy. The most salient insights emerged from ethnographic observation, open-ended interviews, and situated engagement with users. These methods allowed for the articulation of subtle atmospheric qualities, the recognition of symbolic barriers, and the identification of unspoken norms of inclusion and exclusion. Nonetheless, the PSI remained valuable for identifying spatial tendencies, offering structured comparisons, and triangulating experiential findings. In this way, the research benefited from the complementarity of methods – not as a redundancy, but as a way to capture layered and partially hidden dimensions of spatial publicness.

At the same time, the study has its limitations. The PSI, while structured and transparent, does not address governance, ownership, or symbolic accessibility – all of which emerged as central in the qualitative data. The absence of direct interviews with institutional planners, particularly in the Copenhagen case, limited the ability to analyze strategic intent in greater depth. Seasonal constraints further reduced visibility into long-term usage patterns. These limitations, however, do not undermine the findings. Rather, they illustrate the contextual nature of situated knowledge and underscore the strength of thick description over generalizability.

From a theoretical perspective, the study contributes to ongoing debates in public space theory, urban institutionalism, and everyday urbanism. It foregrounds the micro-politics of hybrid places – spaces that are neither entirely public nor private, but contingent, shared, and negotiated. It shows how urban universities, as semi-public actors, hold a unique potential: they are often large landholders, operate within civic mandates, and maintain enduring physical presences in central city locations. Their open spaces, when activated inclusively, can become anchors of urban cohesion, supporting the everyday rather than spectacle.

Practically, the findings offer implications for spatial planning, campus development, and public space management. They argue for minimally invasive, flexible interventions that support appropriation without overdesign. They suggest that spatial permeability, low-threshold infrastructure, and informal seating can foster urban attachment more effectively than prescriptive programming. And they caution against underestimating the influence of

institutional scope of action, especially when it intersects with ownership structures and strategic agendas.

Finally, the study opens new avenues for research. Future inquiries could explore how cultural norms shape spatial entitlement across different urban contexts, or how symbolic boundaries influence perceptions of accessibility. Equally, questions of governance – both formal and lived – merit closer attention, especially in sites that are semi-public but not municipally governed. As cities become denser and spatial pressures rise, the capacity to produce and sustain inclusive, adaptable, and emotionally resonant public spaces will only become more urgent. This thesis offers no universal model – but it affirms that publicness is a co-produced, iterative, and situated process. And that even under institutional constraints, the everyday remains a vital locus of urban transformation.

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Appendix A: User Survey Questionnaire – Altes AKH, Vienna (ENG)

User Number	Location	Date	Time

A) Custom Part 1

1. Why are you in this space?
 - a. I live here
 - b. I work/study here
 - c. I live and work/study here
 - d. I'm visiting here
 - e. Other - please specify: _____
2. I have used this space in these ways:
 - a. Commuting by foot
 - b. Commuting by bike
 - c. Working/Studying within Altes AKH
 - d. Doing groceries at Billa
 - e. Eating food of surrounding shops
 - f. Eating/Drinking in the edging restaurants
 - g. Playing
 - h. Leisure/relaxation
 - i. Jogging/exercising
 - j. People-watching
 - k. Another: _____

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
activity										

Further elaboration (from/to, times of the day/year etc.):

3. If you use more than this one courtyard, which route do you usually take through the courtyards and which do you stop/stay in?



→ Why this?

4. How frequently do you visit here?

- a. Once a day or more
- b. Few times a week
- c. Few times a month
- d. Only occasionally

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
answer										

5. Why do you chose this space and not others to do what you are doing?

- a. Location regarding home/work
- b. For other particular qualities: _____

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10

6. How does the enclosure by the building complex, this courtyards character influences your perception of the space?

- a. Feeling enclosed – sheltered/protected – positive
- b. Feeling – trapped/caged – negative
- c. Wasn't aware
- d. Others: _____
- ➔ Different perception depending on
- e. Time of the day
- f. Time of the year
- g. Who you are with
- h. Something else: _____

7. How does the existence of the other courtyards influence your use of the other courtyards?

- a. Open: _____
- b. I have to walk through to reach: _____
- c. I can change my location depending on my needs, which are
 - i. Silence
 - ii. Seeing other people
 - iii. Others: _____

B) PSI-related Questions

8. The presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, guides, ushers, etc in this space intimidates me and/or infringes upon my privacy:

- a. Not at all
- b. Somewhat
- c. Moderately
- d. Very much

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day/year, during event):

9. I perceive this space to be:

- Not at all open and accessible
- Partly open and accessible/open and accessible at some times
- Mostly open and accessible
- Completely open and accessible

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day/year, during events etc.):

10. My perceived ability to conduct and participate in activities and events in this space is:

- I cannot conduct and participate in most activities and events
- I can conduct and participate in some activities and events or at some times
- I can conduct and participate in many activities and events
- I can conduct and participate in all or almost all activities and events

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day, which events/activities etc.):

11. I perceive the spatial layout and design suitability for activities and behaviours to be:

- Not suitable at all
- Somewhat suitable
- Moderately suitable
- Very suitable

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day, etc.):

12. I perceive the usefulness of businesses and other uses of this space to be:

- Not at all useful
- Somewhat useful
- Moderately useful
- Very useful

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

13. I perceive the physical condition and maintenance of this space to be:

- Not at all appropriate
- Somewhat appropriate
- Mostly appropriate
- Very appropriate

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

14. I perceive the nuisance noise from traffic or other sources in this space to be:

- Not at all
- Very little
- Moderate
- High

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

15. I perceive the safety from the presence of surveillance cameras, security guards, guides, ushers, etc providing safety to:

- Very much provide a sense of safety
- Provide some sense of safety
- Not at all provide a sense of safety
- Make me feel unsafe

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

16. I perceive the safety level from crime in this space during daytime to be:

- Not safe at all
- Somewhat unsafe
- Mostly safe
- Very safe

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

17. I perceive the safety level from crime in this space after dark to be:

- Not safe at all
- Somewhat unsafe
- Mostly safe
- Very safe

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

18. I perceive the safety level from traffic in this space to be:

- Not safe at all
- Somewhat unsafe
- Mostly safe
- Very safe

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

19. I perceive the attractiveness level of this space to be:

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Moderate
- Very much

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

20. I perceive the interestingness of this space to be:

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Moderate
- Very much

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Further elaboration (at different times of the day etc.):

C) Custom Part 2

21. I perceive this space to have a:

- High level of inclusivity
- Moderate level of inclusivity
- Low level of inclusivity
- Very limited level of inclusivity

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

22. I perceive that: (satisfy our need for contact, communication, play and relaxation)

- Many meaningful activities can and do take place in this space
- A moderate level of meaningful activities can and do take place in this space
- A low level of meaningful activities can and do take place in this space
- Hardly any meaningful activities can or do take place in this space

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

23. In this space I feel:

- Very comfortable
- Moderately comfortable
- Somewhat uncomfortable
- Not at all comfortable

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

24. In this space I feel:

- Very safe

- b. Mostly safe
- c. Somewhat unsafe
- d. Not safe at all

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

25. I find this space to be:

- a. Very pleasurable
- b. Moderately pleasurable
- c. Somewhat unpleasurable
- d. Not at all pleasurable

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

26. (Optional) What changes would you make to this space?

27. (Optional) What do you like most about this space?

How old are you? _____

What is your gender? Male, Female, Non-binary, Other _____

What is your nationality? _____

What is your occupation? _____

Appendix B: User Survey Questionnaire – Altes AKH, Vienna (DE)

User Number	Location	Date	Time

A) Custom Part 1

1. Warum sind Sie in diesem öffentlichen Raum?
 - a. Ich wohne hier
 - b. Ich arbeite/studiere hier
 - c. Ich wohne und arbeite/studiere hier
 - d. Ich bin hier zu Besuch
 - e. Sonstiges: _____
2. Ich habe diesen Raum bereits auf folgende Weise genutzt:
 - a. Pendeln/Durchlaufen zu Fuß
 - b. Pendeln/Durchlaufen mit dem Fahrrad
 - c. Arbeiten/Studieren innerhalb des Altes AKH
 - d. Einkaufen bei Billa
 - e. Essen/Trinken von umliegenden Geschäften verzehren
 - f. Essen/Trinken in den ansässigen Restaurants
 - g. Spielen
 - h. Freizeit/Entspannen
 - i. Jogging/Sport machen
 - j. Menschen beobachten
 - k. Sonstiges: _____

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
Antwort										

Weitere Ausführung (von/nach wo, Tages-/Jahreszeiten usw.):

3. Wenn Sie mehr als diesen einen Hof nutzen, welchen Weg nehmen Sie normalerweise durch die Höfe und in welchem halten Sie an/bleiben Sie?



→ Warum?

4. Wie häufig kommen Sie hierher?
- Einmal pro Tag oder öfter
 - Ein paar Male pro Woche
 - Ein paar Male im Monat
 - Nur gelegentlich

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
answer										

5. Warum wählen Sie diesen Raum und nicht einen anderen, um das zu tun, was Sie tun?
- Lage in Bezug auf Wohnung/Arbeit
 - Für andere besondere Eigenschaften: _____

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
answer										

6. Wie beeinflusst die Einfriedung durch den Gebäudekomplex, der Charakter als umschlossener Innenhof, Ihre Wahrnehmung des Raumes?
- Gefühl des Geborgenseins/geschützt – positiv
 - Gefühl des Gefangenseins/eingesperrt – negativ
 - Neutral oder war mir nicht bewusst
 - Sonstiges: _____
- ➔ Unterschiedliche Wahrnehmung je nach
- Tageszeit
 - Jahreszeit
 - Mit wem Sie zusammen hier sind
 - Sonstiges: _____
7. Wie beeinflusst die Existenz der anderen Höfe Ihre Nutzung der anderen Höfe?
- Offen: _____
 - Ich muss durchlaufen, um an folgenden Ort zu kommen: _____
 - Ich kann meinen Standort je nach meinen Bedürfnissen ändern, die da wären
 - Ruhe
 - Andere Menschen sehen
 - Sonstiges: _____

B) PSI-related Questions

8. Die Anwesenheit von Überwachungskameras, Sicherheitspersonal, Führern, Platzanweisern usw. in diesem Raum schüchtert mich ein und/oder verletzt meine Privatsphäre:
- Überhaupt nicht
 - Ein bisschen
 - Mäßig stark
 - Sehr stark

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

9. Ich nehme diesen Raum wahr als:
- Überhaupt nicht offen und zugänglich
 - Teilweise offen und zugänglich / zu bestimmten Zeiten offen und zugänglich
 - Meistens offen und zugänglich
 - Vollständig offen und zugänglich

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

10. Meine wahrgenommene Fähigkeit, Aktivitäten und Veranstaltungen in diesem Raum durchzuführen und daran teilzunehmen, ist:
- Ich kann die meisten Aktivitäten und Veranstaltungen nicht durchführen und daran teilnehmen
 - Ich kann an einigen Aktivitäten und Veranstaltungen oder zu bestimmten Zeiten teilnehmen
 - Ich kann viele Aktivitäten und Veranstaltungen durchführen und an ihnen teilnehmen
 - Ich kann alle oder fast alle Aktivitäten und Veranstaltungen durchführen und daran teilnehmen

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

11. Ich empfinde die räumliche Anordnung und Gestaltung als geeignet für Aktivitäten und Verhaltensweisen:
- Überhaupt nicht geeignet
 - Ein bisschen geeignet
 - Mäßig geeignet
 - Sehr gut geeignet

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

12. Ich empfinde die Nützlichkeit der Unternehmen und anderen Nutzungen in diesen Raum als:
- Überhaupt nicht nützlich
 - Ein bisschen nützlich
 - Mäßig nützlich
 - Sehr nützlich

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

13. Ich empfinde den physischen Zustand und die Instandhaltung dieses Raumes:

- Überhaupt nicht angemessen
- Ein bisschen angemessen
- Mäßig angemessen
- Sehr angemessen

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

14. Ich empfinde die Lärmbelästigung durch Verkehr oder andere Quellen in diesem Raum als:

- Nicht vorhanden
- Sehr wenig
- Mäßig
- Hoch

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

15. Die Anwesenheit von Überwachungskameras, Sicherheitspersonal usw. vermittelt mir:

- Ein sehr gutes Sicherheitsgefühl
- Ein gewisses Sicherheitsgefühl
- Überhaupt kein Sicherheitsgefühl
- Ich fühle mich unsicher

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

16. Ich empfinde das Sicherheitsniveau vor Kriminalität in diesem Raum tagsüber als:

- Überhaupt nicht sicher
- Ziemlich unsicher
- Ziemlich sicher
- Sehr sicher

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

17. Ich empfinde das Sicherheitsniveau vor Kriminalität in diesem Raum nach Einbruch der Dunkelheit als:

- Überhaupt nicht sicher
- Ziemlich unsicher
- Ziemlich sicher
- Sehr sicher

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

18. Ich empfinde das Sicherheitsniveau vor Verkehr in diesem Raum als:

- Überhaupt nicht sicher
- Ziemlich unsicher
- Ziemlich sicher
- Sehr sicher

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

19. Ich empfinde die Attraktivität dieses Raums als:

- Überhaupt nicht attraktiv
- Ein bisschen attraktiv
- Mäßig attraktiv
- Sehr attraktiv

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

Weitere Ausführung
(von/nach wo, Tages-
/Jahreszeiten usw.):

20. Ich empfinde die Interessantheit dieses Raums als:

- Überhaupt nicht interessant
- Ein bisschen interessant
- Mäßig interessant
- Sehr interessant

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10	Weitere Ausführung (von/nach wo, Tages- /Jahreszeiten usw.):
score											

C) Custom Part 2

21. Ich nehme diesen Raum wahr als:

- Sehr inklusiv
- Mäßig inklusiv
- Wenig inklusiv
- Sehr begrenzt inklusiv

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

22. Ich empfinde, dass:

(unser Bedürfnis nach Kontakt, Kommunikation, Spiel und Entspannung befriedigen)

- Viele bedeutungsvolle Aktivitäten in diesem Raum stattfinden können und tun
- Mäßig viele bedeutungsvolle Aktivitäten in diesem Raum stattfinden können und tun
- wenige bedeutungsvolle Aktivitäten in diesem Raum stattfinden können und tun
- kaum bedeutungsvolle Aktivitäten in diesem Raum stattfinden können und tun

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

23. In diesem Raum fühle ich mich:

- Sehr wohl
- Mäßig wohl
- Eher unwohl
- Überhaupt nicht wohl

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

24. In diesem Raum fühle ich mich:

- Sehr sicher
- Meistens sicher

- c. Etwas unsicher
- d. Überhaupt nicht sicher

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

25. Ich finde diesen Raum:

- a. Sehr vergnüglich
- b. Mäßig vergnüglich
- c. Wenig vergnüglich
- d. Überhaupt nicht vergnüglich

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
score										

26. (Optional) Welche Änderungen würden Sie an diesem Raum vornehmen?

27. (Optional) Was gefällt Ihnen an diesem Raum am besten?

Wie alt sind Sie? _____

Was ist Ihr Geschlecht? Männlich, Weiblich, Non-binär, Anderes: _____

Was ist Ihre Nationalität? _____

Was ist Ihr Beruf? _____

Appendix C: User Survey Questionnaire – Kommunehospital, Copenhagen

User Number	Location	Date	Time

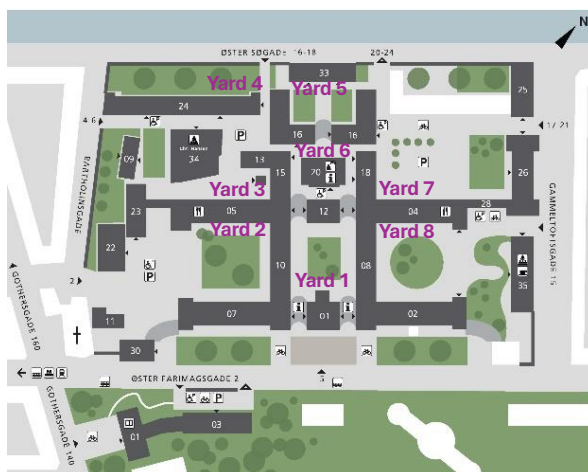
A) Custom Part 1

28. Why are you in this space?
- I live here
 - I work/study here
 - I live and work/study here
 - I'm visiting here
 - Other - please specify: _____
29. I have used this space in these ways:
- Commuting by foot
 - Commuting by bike
 - Working/Studying within Altes AKH
 - Eating food of surrounding shops
 - Eating/Drinking in the edging restaurants
 - Playing
 - Leisure/relaxation
 - Jogging/exercising
 - People-watching
 - Another: _____

	Hof 1	Hof 2	Hof 3	Hof 4	Hof 5	Hof 6	Hof 7	Hof 8	Hof 9	Hof 10
activity										

Further elaboration (from/to, times of the day/year etc.):

30. If you use more than this one courtyard, which route do you usually take through the courtyards and which do you stop/stay in?



→ Why this?

(The remainder of this guide corresponds exactly to Appendix A and is not repeated here to avoid duplication..)

Appendix D: Fieldwork Scheme for Researcher Observations, based on Mehta (2014)

Location	Date, time range	Climate	Other

Inclusiveness	Variables	Notes	Scoring criteria	Measuring criteria
1	Presence of people of diverse ages		0 very limited 1 low 2 medium 3 high	Determined by observations using counts
2	Presence of people of different genders		0 very limited 1 low 2 medium 3 high	Determined by observations using counts
3	Presence of people of diverse classes		0 very limited 1 low 2 medium 3 high	Determined by observations using counts
4	Presende of people of diverse races		0 very limited 1 low 2 medium 3 high	Determined by observations using counts
5	Presende of people of diverse physical abilities		0 very limited 1 low 2 medium 3 high	Determined by observations using counts
6	Control of entrence to PS: presence of lockable gates, fences, etc.		0 high 1 medium 2 low 3 none	Determined by observations
7	Range of activities and behaviours		0 very limited 1 low 2 medium 3 high	Determined by observations using counts of activities, behaviours, postures
8	Opening hours of PS		0 very limited <10 hrs 1 at least 10 hours 2 open most hours 3 no restrictions	Determined by signs indicating such and/or security guards, guides, etc. asking

				people to leave
9	Presence of posted signs to exclude certain people or behaviour		3 none 2 somewhat 1 moderately 0 very much	Determined by number of signs, size and the verbiage
Meaningful Activities	Variables	Notes	Scoring criteria	Measuring criteria
13	Presence of community-gathering third places		0 none 1 one 2 two 3 few	Determined by observations of businesses or other specific places that act as community gathering places
14	Range of activities and behaviours		0 very limited 1 low 2 medium 3 high	Determined by observations using counts of activities, behaviours, postures
15	Space flexibility to suit users needs		0 none 1 somewhat flexible 2 moderately flexible 3 very flexible	Determined by observing any modifications made by users over time
16	Availability of food within or at the edges of the space		0 none 1 one 2 two 3 several	Determined by observations using counts
17	Variety of businesses and other uses at the edges of the space		0 none 1 very little 2 moderate 3 high	Determined by observations using counts
Comfort	Variables	Notes	Scoring criteria	Measuring criteria
20	Places to sit without paying for goods and services		0 none 1 few 2 several in some parts of the space 3 several in	Determined by observations using counts

			many parts of the space	
21	Seating provided by businesses		0 none 1 few 2 several in some parts of the space 3 several in many parts of the space	Determined by observations using counts
22	Other furniture and artefacts in the space		0 very limited 1 low 2 medium 3 high	
23	Climatic comfort of space - shade and shelter		0 not comfortable 1 somewhat comfortable in some parts of space 2 comfortable in some of the space 3 comfortable in most parts of the space	Determined by observations
24	Design elements discouraging use of space		3 none 2 one or two 1 few 0 several	Determined by observations
Safety	Variables	Notes	Scoring criteria	Measuring criteria
27	Visual and physical connection and openness to adjacent street/s or spaces		0 almost none or very poor 1 somewhat tentative 2 moderately well connected 3 very well connected	Determined by observations
28	Physical condition and maintenance appropriate for the space		0 not at all 1 somewhat 2 mostly 3 very much	Determined by observations

29	Lightning quality n space after dark		0 very poor 1 many parts not well lit 2 mostly well lit 3 very well lit	Determined by observations
Pleasurability (for attached plaza, square, park)	Variables	Notes	Scoring criteria	Measuring criteria
34	Presence of memorable architectural or landscape features (imageability)		0 none 1 very few 2 moderate 3 very poor	Determined by observations
35	Sense of enclosure		0 very poor sense of enclosure 1 moderately well enclosed 2 good sense of enclosure 3 very good sense of enclosure	Determined by observations
36	Variety of sub- spaces		0 none 1 very few 2 moderate 3 several	Determined by observations using counts
37	Density of elements in space providing sensory complexity		0 none or very few 1 few 2 moderate 3 high	Determined by observations using counts
38	Variety of elements in space providing sensory complexity		0 none 1 very little 2 moderate 3 high	Determined by observations using counts
39	Design elements providing focal points		0 none 1 one 2 two 3 several	Determined by observations using counts
40	Visual and physical connection and openness to adjacent street/s or spaces		0 almost none or very poor 1 somewhat tentative 2 moderately well connected 3 very well onnected	Determined by observations

41	Permeability of building facades on the streetfront		0 not at all 1 some parts somewhat permeable 2 moderate permeability 3 very permeable all along	Determined by observations
Pleasurability (for attached plaza, square, park)	Variables	Notes	Scoring criteria	Measuring criteria
42	Personalization of the buildings on the streetfront		0 not at all 1 some parts somewhat personalized 2 moderate personalization 3 very personalized all along	Determined by observations
43	Articulation and variety in architectural features of building facades on the streetfront		0 poor articulation and variety 1 somewhat articulated 2 moderate articulation 3 very well articulated	Determined by observations

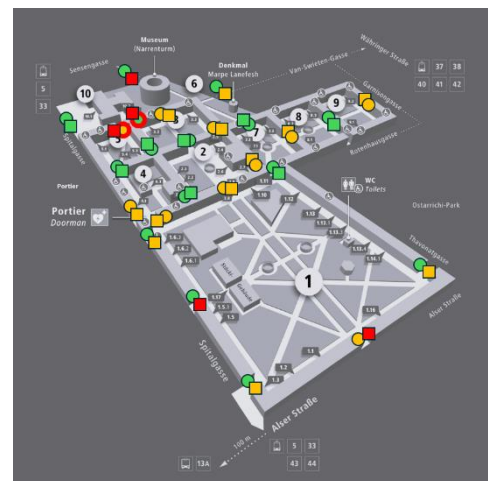
Appendix E: Assessment Material for Variable 6

Presence of Lockable Gates

-  Pedestrians/cyclists:
-  Vehicle:
-  Always inaccessible:
-  Lockable, but usually accessible:
-  Always accessible:
-  Special barrier:

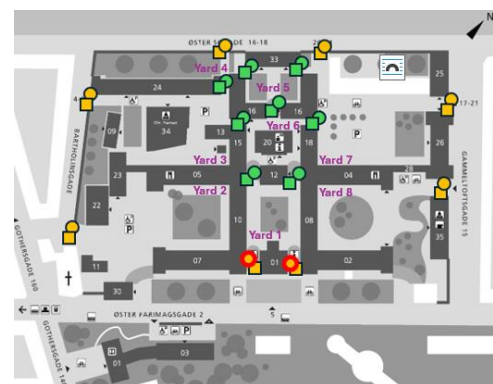
Inner courtyards are also affected by the lockability of gates that do not directly border them.

- Hof 1: for pedestrians/cyclists **always** / for vehicle **mostly** = 3
 Hof 2: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Hof 3: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Hof 4: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Hof 5: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** /
 2 of 3 gates are **barrier-free**, remaining **transit not useful** = 1
 Hof 6: for pedestrians/cyclists **always** / for vehicle **mostly** /
 2 of 3 gates is **barrier-free**, remaining transit still useful = 2
 Hof 7: for pedestrians/cyclists **always** / for vehicle **mostly** = 3
 Hof 8: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Hof 9: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Hof 10: for pedestrians/cyclists **always** / for vehicle **always** /
 1 of 3 gates is **barrier-free**, passage not possible = 2



*Access to the area on the north-west side is **not barrier-free** (gates between Hof 5, 6 and 10). Influence on other Höfe, as well. But barrier-free access on north and on west side still given.*

- Yard 1: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** /
 2/4 access points closed at outside university operation hours = 1
 Yard 2: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** **accessible** /
 only 1 access point, **transit not useful** = 1
 Yard 3: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Yard 4: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** **accessible** /
 only 1 access point, **transit not useful** = 1
 Yard 5: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Yard 6: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Yard 7: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** = 2
 Yard 8: for pedestrians/cyclists **mostly** / for vehicle **mostly** /
 only 1 access point, **transit not useful** = 1



Appendix F: Calculation of Surface Shares per Courtyard

The gross site surface was estimated from the outer boundary of the plot, using publicly available geodata from the Vienna city map (<https://www.wien.gv.at/stadtplan/>) and Copenhagen's KBH Kort platform (<https://kbhkort.kk.dk/profiles/>). Covered surface (building footprints) were visually subtracted to approximate the net open space, used and referred simply as "surface" throughout this work.

Table 5: Calculation of Surface Shares per Courtyard, Altes AKH (Vienna).

Own compilation.

Courtyard	Gross site surface in qm	Covered surface in qm	Surface in qm	Share in %
Hof 1	32252	1821	30431	46.70%
Hof 2	5708		5708	8.76%
Hof 3	3971		3971	6.09%
Hof 4	2305	408	1897	2.91%
Hof 5	2078		2078	3.19%
Hof 6	6751		6751	10.36%
Hof 7	2974		2974	4.56%
Hof 8	3295		3295	5.06%
Hof 9	3043		3043	4.67%
Hof 10	5328	313	5015	7.70%
Total			65163	100.00%

Table 6: Calculation of Surface Shares per Courtyard, Kommunehospitalet (Copenhagen).

Own compilation.

Courtyard	Gross site surface in qm	Covered surface in qm	Surface in qm	Share in %
Yard 1	3077.83		3077.83	9.01%
Yard 2	7988.4		7988.4	23.39%
Yard 3	7428.42	1600.89	5827.53	17.06%
Yard 4	2199.74		2199.74	6.44%
Yard 5	1812.08		1812.08	5.31%
Yard 6	2048.63	622.72	1425.91	4.17%
Yard 7	6899.23	1452.75	5446.48	15.95%
Yard 8	6378.72		6378.72	18.67%
Total			34156.69	100.00%

Appendix G: Public Space Index –Matrix Altes AKH 1/2

Table 7: Public Space Index – Matrix, Altes AKH (Vienna), Hof 1-6.

Own compilation.

variable	weight (w)	Hof 1			Hof 2			Hof 3			Hof 4			Hof 5			Hof 6		
		initial score (i1) (0-3)	final score (f1) (i1 * w)	share of site surface (s1)	initial score (i2) (0-3)	final score (f2) (i2 * w)	share of site surface (s2)	initial score (i3) (0-3)	final score (f3) (i3 * w)	share of site surface (s3)	initial score (i4) (0-3)	final score (f4) (i4 * w)	share of site surface (s4)	initial score (i5) (0-3)	final score (f5) (i5 * w)	share of site surface (s5)	initial score (i6) (0-3)	final score (f6) (i6 * w)	share of site surface (s6)
1	0.40	2.55	1.02	0.47	1.67	0.67	0.09	1.58	0.63	0.06	2.00	0.80	0.03	1.82	0.73	0.03	1.64	0.65	0.10
2	0.40	2.73	1.09		2.75	1.10		2.83	1.13		3.00	1.20		2.82	1.13		2.82	1.13	
3	0.40	1.82	0.73		1.00	0.40		1.00	0.40		1.00	0.40		1.09	0.44		1.00	0.40	
4	0.40	2.18	0.87		1.92	0.77		1.92	0.77		2.63	1.05		1.09	0.84		1.91	0.76	
5	0.40	1.09	0.44		0.17	0.07		0.17	0.07		0.38	0.15		0.18	0.07		0.09	0.04	
6	1.00	3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00		1.92	1.92		2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00		2.00	2.00	
7	1.00	1.91	1.91		1.33	1.33		1.00	1.00		0.55	0.55		0.55	0.55		0.36	0.36	
8	1.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00	
9	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00	
10	1.00	2.65	2.65		2.60	2.60		2.70	2.70		2.50	2.50		2.50	2.50		2.67	2.67	
11	2.00	2.72	5.45		2.50	5.00		2.68	5.37		2.69	5.38		2.60	5.20		2.57	5.14	
12	1.00	2.66	2.66		2.83	2.83		2.83	2.83		2.69	2.69		2.80	2.80		2.79	2.79	
sub-total score (out of 30)			24.81			21.77			21.82			21.72			20.25			19.94	
index for inclusiveness (out of 100)			82.68			72.56			72.73			72.41			67.48			66.47	
13	2.00	2.82	5.64	0.47	0.75	1.50	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.64	1.27	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.10
14	1.00	1.91	1.91		1.33	1.33		1.00	1.00		0.55	0.55		0.55	0.55		0.36	0.36	
15	1.00	1.73	1.73		1.17	1.17		1.08	1.08		1.00	1.00		1.18	1.18		1.00	1.00	
16	2.00	3.00	6.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
17	1.00	3.00	3.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		1.00	1.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
18	2.00	2.38	4.76		2.26	4.52		2.28	4.56		2.17	4.33		2.20	4.40		2.36	4.71	
19	1.00	2.52	2.52		0.63	0.63		0.61	0.61		0.46	0.46		0.30	0.30		0.79	0.79	
sub-total score (out of 30)			25.55			9.15			7.25			8.61			6.43			6.86	
index for mean.f. activity (out of 100)			85.16			30.49			24.17			28.71			21.42			22.88	
20	2.00	3.00	6.00	0.47	3.00	6.00	0.09	3.00	6.00	0.06	1.00	2.00	0.03	2.00	4.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.10
21	1.00	2.00	2.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
22	1.00	3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		0.00	0.00	
23	2.00	2.00	4.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		0.00	0.00	
24	1.00	1.55	1.55		2.00	2.00		3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00		3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00	
25	2.00	2.55	5.10		2.58	5.17		2.56	5.11		2.62	5.23		2.40	4.80		2.50	5.00	
26	1.00	2.31	2.31		2.58	2.58		2.78	2.78		2.77	2.77		2.80	2.80		2.79	2.79	
sub-total score (out of 30)			23.96			19.75			19.89			15.00			17.60			9.79	
index for comfort (out of 100)			79.86			65.83			66.30			50.00			58.67			32.62	
27	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.00	1.00	0.10
28	1.00	2.00	2.00		3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00	
29	1.00	1.00	1.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		2.00	2.00	
30	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00	
31	2.00	2.93	5.86		2.92	5.84		2.89	5.78		3.00	6.00		2.90	5.80		2.93	5.86	
32	2.00	2.78	5.56		2.78	5.57		2.76	5.53		3.00	6.00		2.78	5.56		2.92	5.85	
33	2.00	2.83	5.66		2.83	5.67		2.89	5.78		2.77	5.54		2.80	5.60		2.86	5.71	
sub-total score (out of 30)			22.07			24.07			23.08			22.54			21.96			23.42	
index for safety (out of 100)			73.58			80.24			76.95			75.13			73.19			78.06	
34	0.70	3.00	2.10	0.47	3.00	2.10	0.09	2.00	1.40	0.06	1.00	0.70	0.03	1.00	0.70	0.03	2.00	1.40	0.10
35	0.70	3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		2.00	1.40	
36	0.70	3.00	2.10		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70	
37	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		0.00	0.00	
38	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		0.00	0.00	
39	0.70	3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		2.00	1.40		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		2.00	1.40	
40	0.70	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		1.00	0.70	
41	0.70	2.00	1.40		3.00	2.10		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40	
42	0.70	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		1.00	0.70		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
43	0.70	1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70	
44	2.00	2.38	4.76		2.33	4.67		2.39	4.78		2.46	4.92		2.30	4.60		2.29	4.57	
45	1.00	1.52	1.52		1.46	1.46		1.56	1.56		1.23	1.23		1.40	1.40		1.64	1.64	
sub-total score (out of 30)			19.58			18.73			15.43			14.55			13.70			13.91	
index for pleasurability (out of 100)			65.25			62.42			51.44			48.51			45.67			46.38	
Total Score for all Aspects of PSI			115.96			93.46			87.48			82.43			79.93			73.92	
Average Public Space Index			77.31			62.31			58.32			54.95			53.29			49.28	

Appendix H: Public Space Index – Matrix Altes AKH 2/2

Table 8: Public Space Index – Matrix, Altes AKH (Vienna), Hof 7-10 and Altes AKH Averages.*Own compilation.*

variable	weight (w)	Hof 7			Hof 8			Hof 9			Hof 10			Altes AKH			
		initial score (f7) (0-3)	final score (f7) (f7 * w)	share of site surface (s7)	initial score (f8) (0-3)	final score (f8) (f8 * w)	share of site surface (s8)	initial score (f9) (0-3)	final score (f9) (f9 * w)	share of site surface (s9)	initial score (f10) (0-3)	final score (f10) (f10 * w)	share of site surface (s10)	initial score (equal courtyards) ((f1+...+f10)/10)	final score (equal courtyards) ((f1+...+f10)/10)	initial score (by surface share) ((f1*s1+...+f10*s10) /10)	final score (by surface share) ((f1*s1+...+f10*s10) /10)
1	0.40	1.82	0.73	0.05	1.45	0.58	0.05	1.45	0.58	0.05	1.00	0.40	0.08	1.70	0.68	2.02	0.81
2	0.40	2.82	1.13		2.82	1.13		3.00	1.20		3.00	1.20		2.86	1.14	2.80	1.12
3	0.40	1.00	0.40		1.00	0.40		1.00	0.40		1.00	0.40		1.09	0.44	1.38	0.55
4	0.40	1.91	0.76		1.82	0.73		1.82	0.73		1.70	0.68		1.99	0.80	2.04	0.82
5	0.40	0.45	0.18		0.27	0.11		0.27	0.11		0.00	0.00		0.31	0.12	0.61	0.24
6	1.00	3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.09	2.09	2.48	2.48
7	1.00	1.18	1.18		0.73	0.73		0.55	0.55		0.08	0.08		0.82	0.82	1.26	1.26
8	1.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
9	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00		1.80	1.80	1.82	1.82
10	1.00	2.77	2.77		2.75	2.75		2.73	2.73		2.71	2.71		2.66	2.66	2.66	2.66
11	2.00	2.65	5.30		2.69	5.38		2.67	5.33		2.44	4.89		2.62	5.24	2.65	5.30
12	1.00	2.85	2.85		2.81	2.81		2.80	2.80		2.78	2.78		2.78	2.78	2.73	2.73
sub-total score (out of 30)			23.30			21.61			21.42			19.14			21.58		22.79
index for inclusiveness (out of 100)		77.67			72.03			71.41			63.81			71.93		75.98	
14	1.00	1.18	1.18	0.05	0.73	0.73	0.05	0.55	0.55	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.82	0.82	1.26	1.26
15	1.00	1.18	1.18		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.13	1.13	1.37	1.37
16	2.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.30	0.60	1.40	2.80
17	1.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.40	0.40	1.43	1.43
18	2.00	2.32	4.63		2.31	4.63		2.33	4.67		2.33	4.67		2.29	4.59	2.34	4.67
19	1.00	0.60	0.60		0.56	0.56		0.67	0.67		0.22	0.22		0.74	0.74	1.48	1.48
sub-total score (out of 30)			7.60			6.91			6.88			5.97			9.12		15.82
index for mean.f. activity (out of 100)		25.32			23.05			22.93			19.91			30.40		52.73	
20	2.00	3.00	6.00	0.05	2.00	4.00	0.05	2.00	4.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.08	1.90	3.80	2.27	4.54
22	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		0.00	0.00		1.40	1.40	1.98	1.98
23	2.00	1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		0.00	0.00		0.90	1.80	1.29	2.57
24	1.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00		2.45	2.45	2.02	2.02
25	2.00	2.55	5.10		2.56	5.13		2.53	5.07		2.33	4.67		2.52	5.04	2.53	5.06
26	1.00	2.80	2.80		2.88	2.88		2.87	2.87		2.78	2.78		2.73	2.73	2.55	2.55
sub-total score (out of 30)			20.90			19.00			18.93			9.44			17.43		19.67
index for comfort (out of 100)		69.67			63.33			63.11			31.48			58.09		65.56	
27	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05	1.00	1.00	0.08	0.20	0.20	0.18	0.18
28	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00		1.90	1.90	1.91	1.91
30	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
31	2.00	2.90	5.80		2.94	5.88		2.93	5.87		2.89	5.78		2.92	5.85	2.92	5.85
32	2.00	2.84	5.68		2.93	5.87		2.93	5.86		2.88	5.75		2.86	5.72	2.82	5.65
33	2.00	2.90	5.80		2.88	5.75		2.87	5.73		2.78	5.56		2.84	5.68	2.84	5.67
sub-total score (out of 30)			23.28			23.49			23.46			21.08			22.85		22.57
index for safety (out of 100)		77.61			78.31			78.19			70.28			76.15		75.25	
34	0.70	2.00	1.40	0.05	2.00	1.40	0.05	2.00	1.40	0.05	1.00	0.70	0.08	1.90	1.33	2.42	1.69
35	0.70	3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		1.00	0.70		2.70	1.89	2.74	1.92
36	0.70	1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.20	0.84	1.93	1.35
38	0.70	2.00	1.40		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		0.00	0.00		1.10	0.77	1.42	0.99
39	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		0.00	0.00		1.80	1.26	2.34	1.64
40	0.70	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		1.00	0.70		0.20	0.14	0.18	0.13
41	0.70	2.00	1.40		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		2.00	1.40		2.30	1.61	2.18	1.53
42	0.70	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.10	0.07	0.03	0.02
43	0.70	1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70	1.00	0.70
44	2.00	2.50	5.00		2.38	4.75		2.33	4.67		2.11	4.22		2.35	4.69	2.35	4.70
45	1.00	1.50	1.50		1.38	1.38		1.40	1.40		1.40	1.40		1.45	1.45	1.49	1.49
sub-total score (out of 30)			17.00			15.93			15.87			10.52			15.52		17.16
index for pleasurability (out of 100)		56.67			53.08			52.89			35.07			51.74		57.19	
Total Score for all Aspects of PSI			92.08			86.94			86.56			66.17			86.49		98.01
Average Public Space Index		61.39			57.96			57.71			44.11			57.66		65.34	

Appendix I: Public Space Index – Matrix Kommunehospitalet 1/2

Table 9: Public Space Index – Matrix, Kommunehospitalet (Copenhagen), Yard 1-6.

Own compilation.

variable	weight (w)	initial score (i1) (0-3)	final score (f1) (i1 * w)	share of site surface (s1)	initial score (i2) (0-3)	final score (f2) (i2 * w)	share of site surface (s2)	initial score (i3) (0-3)	final score (f3) (i3 * w)	share of site surface (s3)	initial score (i4) (0-3)	final score (f4) (i4 * w)	share of site surface (s4)	initial score (i5) (0-3)	final score (f5) (i5 * w)	share of site surface (s5)	initial score (i6) (0-3)	final score (f6) (i6 * w)	share of site surface (s6)
1	0.40	0.60	0.24	0.09	0.55	0.22	0.23	0.60	0.24	0.17	1.33	0.53	0.06	0.50	0.20	0.05	1.20	0.48	0.04
2	0.40	2.90	1.16		2.82	1.13		2.90	1.16		2.83	1.13		2.88	1.15		3.00	1.20	
3	0.40	1.00	0.40		1.00	0.40		1.10	0.44		1.17	0.47		1.13	0.45		1.40	0.56	
4	0.40	1.10	0.44		0.73	0.29		1.00	0.40		0.67	0.27		1.00	0.40		0.90	0.36	
5	0.40	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
6	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00	
7	1.00	0.50	0.50		0.36	0.36		0.50	0.50		0.00	0.00		0.11	0.11		0.10	0.10	
8	1.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00	
9	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00	
10	1.00	2.39	2.39		2.56	2.56		2.44	2.44		2.50	2.50		2.42	2.42		2.42	2.42	
11	2.00	1.71	3.42		1.74	3.48		1.72	3.44		1.78	3.56		1.72	3.44		1.72	3.44	
12	1.00	2.50	2.50		2.54	2.54		2.40	2.40		2.22	2.22		2.40	2.40		2.40	2.40	
sub-total score (out of 30)			17.05			16.98			18.02			16.68			17.57			17.96	
index for inclusiveness (out of 100)			56.82			56.61			60.08			55.59			58.57			59.87	
13	2.00	1.18	2.36	0.09	0.55	1.09	0.23	0.55	1.09	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.18	0.36	0.05	1.27	2.55	0.04
14	1.00	0.50	0.50		0.36	0.36		0.50	0.50		0.00	0.00		0.11	0.11		0.10	0.10	
15	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00	
16	2.00	0.00	0.00		0.55	1.09		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
17	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00	
18	2.00	1.78	3.57		1.74	3.48		1.79	3.58		1.89	3.78		1.75	3.50		1.58	3.17	
19	1.00	1.14	1.14		1.36	1.36		1.43	1.43		0.00	0.00		0.78	0.78		0.74	0.74	
sub-total score (out of 30)			9.57			9.39			8.61			5.78			6.76			8.55	
index for mean.f. activity (out of 100)			31.88			31.29			28.70			19.26			22.52			28.50	
20	2.00	2.00	4.00	0.09	2.00	4.00	0.23	1.00	2.00	0.17	1.00	2.00	0.06	1.00	2.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.04
21	1.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
22	1.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00		3.00	3.00		1.00	1.00	
23	2.00	1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00	
24	1.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		2.00	2.00	
25	2.00	2.75	5.50		2.75	5.50		2.80	5.60		2.67	5.33		2.76	5.52		2.76	5.52	
26	1.00	2.63	2.63		2.58	2.58		2.60	2.60		2.44	2.44		2.60	2.60		2.60	2.60	
sub-total score (out of 30)			20.13			20.08			18.20			16.78			18.12			13.12	
index for comfort (out of 100)			67.08			66.94			60.67			55.93			60.40			43.73	
27	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.04
28	1.00	3.00	3.00		2.64	2.64		2.82	2.82		2.91	2.91		2.73	2.73		3.00	3.00	
29	1.00	2.00	2.00		0.00	0.00		0.67	0.67		1.00	1.00		1.33	1.33		2.00	2.00	
30	1.00	1.88	1.88		1.88	1.88		1.88	1.88		1.88	1.88		1.88	1.88		1.88	1.88	
31	2.00	2.96	5.92		3.00	6.00		2.96	5.92		3.00	6.00		2.96	5.92		2.96	5.92	
32	2.00	2.79	5.58		2.83	5.67		2.80	5.60		2.89	5.78		2.80	5.60		2.80	5.60	
33	2.00	2.83	5.67		2.83	5.65		2.81	5.62		3.00	6.00		2.84	5.68		2.80	5.60	
sub-total score (out of 30)			24.05			21.84			22.50			23.57			23.14			24.00	
index for safety (out of 100)			80.16			72.79			75.01			78.56			77.14			80.01	
34	0.70	3.00	2.10	0.09	2.00	1.40	0.23	1.00	0.70	0.17	1.00	0.70	0.06	2.00	1.40	0.05	1.00	0.70	0.04
35	0.70	3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10	
36	0.70	1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		2.00	1.40		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		0.00	0.00	
37	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40	
38	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70	
39	0.70	3.00	2.10		2.00	1.40		1.00	0.70		2.00	1.40		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70	
40	0.70	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
41	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		3.00	2.10		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40	
42	0.70	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
43	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40	
44	2.00	2.58	5.17		2.54	5.08		2.20	4.40		2.56	5.11		2.56	5.12		2.56	5.12	
45	1.00	1.71	1.71		1.67	1.67		1.72	1.72		2.22	2.22		1.72	1.72		1.72	1.72	
sub-total score (out of 30)			19.48			17.95			16.62			17.13			16.64			15.24	
index for pleasurability (out of 100)			64.92			59.83			55.40			57.11			55.47			50.80	
Total Score for all Aspects of Public			90.26			86.24			83.96			79.94			82.23			78.87	
Average Public Space Index			60.17			57.49			55.97			53.29			54.82			52.58	

Appendix J: Public Space Index – Matrix Kommunehospitalet 2/2

Table 10: Public Space Index – Matrix, Kommunehospitalet (Copenhagen), Yard 7-8 and Kommunehospitalet Averages. Own compilation.

variable	weight (w)	Yard 7			Yard 8			Kommunehospitalet			
		initial score (i7) (0-3)	final score (f7) (i7 * w)	share of site surface (s7)	initial score (i8) (0-3)	final score (f8) (i8 * w)	share of site surface (s8)	initial score (equal courtyards) ((i1+...+i8)/8)	final score (equal courtyards) ((f1+...+f8)/8)	initial score (by surface share) ((i1*s1+...+i8*s8)/8)	final score (by surface share) ((f1*s1+...+f8*s8)/8)
1	0.40	1.91	0.76	0.16	1.18	0.47	0.19	0.98	0.39	0.97	0.39
2	0.40	3.00	1.20		2.91	1.16		2.90	1.16	2.90	1.16
3	0.40	1.91	0.76		1.00	0.40		1.21	0.49	1.20	0.48
4	0.40	1.82	0.73		0.91	0.36		1.02	0.41	1.03	0.41
5	0.40	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	1.00	2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00		1.50	1.50	1.42	1.42
7	1.00	1.00	1.00		0.55	0.55		0.39	0.39	0.49	0.49
8	1.00	3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00		3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
9	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
10	1.00	2.50	2.50		2.60	2.60		2.48	2.48	2.51	2.51
11	2.00	1.76	3.52		1.68	3.36		1.73	3.46	1.73	3.45
12	1.00	2.36	2.36		2.55	2.55		2.42	2.42	2.45	2.45
sub-total score (out of 30)			19.83			17.45			17.69		17.76
index for inclusiveness (out of 100)			66.12			58.18			58.98		59.20
13	2.00	1.09	2.18	0.16	1.64	3.27	0.19	0.81	1.61	0.87	1.74
14	1.00	1.00	1.00		0.55	0.55		0.39	0.39	0.49	0.49
15	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
16	2.00	0.00	0.00		1.09	2.18		0.20	0.41	0.33	0.66
17	1.00	2.00	2.00		1.00	1.00		1.13	1.13	1.16	1.16
18	2.00	1.75	3.50		1.86	3.71		1.77	3.54	1.78	3.56
19	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.50	1.50		0.99	0.99	1.18	1.18
sub-total score (out of 30)			10.68			13.21			9.07		9.78
index for mean.f. activity (out of 100)			35.61			44.05			30.23		32.62
20	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	2.00	4.00	0.19	1.13	2.25	1.31	2.62
21	1.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	1.00	2.00	2.00		2.00	2.00		2.38	2.38	2.51	2.51
23	2.00	1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00		1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00
24	1.00	1.00	1.00		1.00	1.00		2.38	2.38	2.27	2.27
25	2.00	2.76	5.52		2.82	5.64		2.76	5.52	2.77	5.54
26	1.00	2.60	2.60		2.64	2.64		2.59	2.59	2.60	2.60
sub-total score (out of 30)			13.12			17.27			17.10		17.52
index for comfort (out of 100)			43.73			57.58			57.01		58.41
27	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	1.00	2.55	2.55		2.73	2.73		2.80	2.80	2.74	2.74
29	1.00	1.00	1.00		2.00	2.00		1.25	1.25	1.05	1.05
30	1.00	1.88	1.88		1.88	1.88		1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88
31	2.00	2.96	5.92		2.95	5.91		2.97	5.94	2.97	5.94
32	2.00	2.80	5.60		2.77	5.55		2.81	5.62	2.81	5.62
33	2.00	2.80	5.60		2.86	5.73		2.85	5.69	2.84	5.67
sub-total score (out of 30)			22.55			23.79			23.18		22.90
index for safety (out of 100)			75.16			79.30			77.27		76.33
34	0.70	1.00	0.70	0.16	3.00	2.10	0.19	1.75	1.23	1.84	1.29
35	0.70	3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10		3.00	2.10	3.00	2.10
36	0.70	1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70		1.00	0.70	1.13	0.79
37	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40	2.00	1.40
38	0.70	1.00	0.70		2.00	1.40		1.38	0.96	1.51	1.06
39	0.70	1.00	0.70		3.00	2.10		1.75	1.23	1.85	1.30
40	0.70	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
41	0.70	1.00	0.70		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40	2.01	1.41
42	0.70	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
43	0.70	2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40		2.00	1.40	2.00	1.40
44	2.00	2.52	5.04		2.55	5.09		2.51	5.02	2.49	4.97
45	1.00	1.80	1.80		1.77	1.77		1.79	1.79	1.76	1.76
sub-total score (out of 30)			15.24			19.46			17.22		17.48
index for pleasurability (out of 100)			50.80			64.88			57.40		58.25
Total Score for all Aspects of Public			81.42			91.20			84.27		85.44
Average Public Space Index			54.28			60.80			56.18		56.96

Appendix K: Interview Guide – District Mayor Vienna (DE)

(Original German version)

Interviewte Person, Name und Funktion:

Mag^a Saya Ahmad, Bezirksvorsteherin des 9. Wiener Gemeindebezirks Alsergrund

Datum: 25.06.2024

Ort: Büro der Bezirksvorsteherung Wien-Alsergrund

1. Öffentlicher Freiraum und seine Qualitäten

1.1 Verständnis öffentlicher Freiräume allgemein

1.1.1 Was bedeutet „öffentlicher Freiraum“ für Sie?

1.2 Wahrgenommene Qualitäten

1.2.1 Welche Qualitäten sollte ein öffentlicher Freiraum Ihrer Einschätzung nach aufweisen?

1.3 Einflussfaktoren auf Freiraumqualitäten

1.3.1 Welche Faktoren haben Ihrer Erfahrung nach Einfluss darauf, ob ein öffentlicher Freiraum diese Qualitäten erfüllt?

1.3.2 Welche Rolle spielen dabei aus Ihrer Sicht Eigentums- und Verwaltungsstrukturen?

1.4 Herausforderungen

1.4.1 Vor welchen aktuellen Herausforderungen stehen öffentliche Freiräume – insbesondere in Wiens 9. Bezirk?

2. Der Fall des Alten AKH in Wien

2.1 Bedeutung des Areals

2.1.1 Welche Bedeutung hat der Freiraum des Alten AKH Ihrer Einschätzung nach für die Stadtgesellschaft – sowohl im Umkreis Alsergrund als auch für Wien insgesamt?

2.1.2 Welche Wechselwirkungen bestehen Ihrer Ansicht nach zwischen dem Freiraum des Alten AKH und anderen städtischen Freiräumen (z. B. hinsichtlich der Nutzung und Frequentierung)?

2.2 Universitäre Campusanlagen als Freiräume

2.2.1 Welche Rolle spielen universitäre Campusanlagen Ihrer Meinung nach für die Stadtgesellschaft – allgemein und speziell in Wien?

2.2.2 Inwiefern schätzen Sie die Bedeutung des Freiraums des Alten AKH im Vergleich zu anderen Campusanlagen in Wien anders ein?

2.3 Bewertung des konkreten Freiraums

2.3.1 Der Freiraum des Alten AKH ist im Eigentum der Universität und wird auch von dieser verwaltet. Wie beurteilen Sie in diesem Kontext die Rolle der Stadtöffentlichkeit – ist diese dennoch Zielgruppe der Gestaltung, Erhaltung und Nutzung oder stehen die Studierenden im Vordergrund (Stichwort Schenkungsklausel)?

2.3.2 Inwiefern weist der Freiraum des Alten AKH Ihrer Einschätzung nach die zuvor genannten Qualitäten auf (vgl. 1.2)?

2.3.3 Welche der zuvor besprochenen Faktoren (oder weitere Aspekte) führen aus Ihrer Sicht im

konkreten Fall dazu, dass bestimmte Qualitäten gegeben oder nicht gegeben sind (vgl. 1.3)? → Bitte denken Sie dabei sowohl an physische als auch an prozessuale Aspekte.

2.3.4 Inwieweit ist der Freiraum des Alten AKH aus Ihrer Sicht von den genannten Herausforderungen betroffen (vgl. 1.4)?

2.4 Eigentums-, Verwaltungs- und Kooperationsstrukturen

2.4.1 Politische Involvierung und Steuerung

2.4.1.1 Inwiefern sind Sie bzw. ist die Bezirksvorstehung an der Gestaltung, Bespielung oder Erhaltung des Freiraums des Alten AKH beteiligt? → Beispiele: Alsergrunder Kultursommer, Märkte, Messen ...

2.4.1.2 Inwieweit können politische Entscheidungen auf Bezirks- oder Stadtebene die Entwicklung dieses Freiraums beeinflussen?

2.4.2 Weitere Akteure

2.4.2.1 Welche weiteren Akteure sind Ihrer Einschätzung nach in die Entwicklung oder Nutzung dieses Freiraums involviert?

2.4.3 Koordination und strategische Einbettung

2.4.3.1 Wie verlaufen Abstimmungsprozesse und Kooperationen zwischen den beteiligten Akteuren?

2.4.3.2 Inwiefern ist der Freiraum in übergeordnete Strategien oder Planungen auf Bezirks- oder Stadtebene eingebettet?

2.4.3.3 Inwiefern bestehen Koordinationen oder Absprachen bezüglich der Übergangszonen zu benachbarten städtisch verwalteten Freiräumen?

2.4.4 Auswirkungen der institutionellen Struktur auf Qualitäten

2.4.4.1 Inwieweit wirken sich Eigentums-, Verwaltungs- und Kooperationsstrukturen auf die wahrgenommenen Qualitäten dieses Freiraums aus?

2.4.4.2 Wie würden sich die Qualitäten Ihrer Einschätzung nach verändern, wenn sich das Areal in städtischer Hand befände?

2.4.5 Gestaltungswünsche und Verbesserungspotenziale

2.4.5.1 Wenn Sie mehr Einfluss auf die Entwicklung dieses Freiraums hätten – was würden Sie verändern? → Beispielsweise in Bezug auf den physischen Raum oder die Nutzungsmöglichkeiten

2.4.5.2 Und was würden Sie an den prozessualen Strukturen ändern? → Zum Beispiel Beteiligungsformate, Entscheidungswege etc.

Appendix L: Interview Guide –District Mayor Vienna (ENG)

(Original in German, translated to English for documentation and analysis purposes)

Interviewee, name and function:

Mag^a Saya Ahmad, Political District Head (Bezirksvorsteherin) of Vienna's 9th municipal district Alsergrund

Date: 25 June 2024

Location: Office of the Political District Head (Bezirksvorsteherin) of Vienna's 9th municipal district Alsergrund

1. Public Open Space and Its Qualities

1.1 Understanding of Public Open Space

1.1.1 What does “public open space” mean to you?

1.2 Perceived qualities

1.2.1 In your opinion, what qualities should a public open space have?

1.3 Factors influencing open space qualities

1.3.1 In your experience, what factors influence whether a public open space possesses these qualities?

1.3.2 What role do ownership and administrative structures play in this, in your view?

1.4 Current challenges

1.4.1 What current challenges do public open spaces face – particularly in Vienna's 9th district?

2. The Case of Altes AKH in Vienna

2.1 Significance of the site

2.1.1 In your opinion, what is the significance of the open space at Altes AKH for urban society – both for the Alsergrund district and for Vienna as a whole?

2.1.2 In your view, what interrelations exist between the Altes AKH open space and other urban open spaces (e.g. in terms of use and frequency)?

2.2 University campuses as open spaces

2.2.1 What role do university campus areas play for urban society – in general and in Vienna in particular?

2.2.2 In what ways do you perceive the Altes AKH campus space as different from other university campuses in Vienna?

2.3 Assessment of the specific space

2.3.1 The open space at Altes AKH is owned and managed by the University of Vienna. How do you assess the role of the urban public in this context – is the general public still considered a target group for its design, maintenance and use, or do students take precedence (e.g. considering the original donation clause)?

2.3.2 To what extent does the open space at Altes AKH, in your view, exhibit the qualities mentioned earlier (see 1.2)?

2.3.3 Which of the previously discussed factors (or additional aspects) contribute in this specific case to the presence or absence of certain qualities (see 1.3) → Please consider both physical and procedural aspects.

2.3.4 To what extent is the open space at Altes AKH affected by the challenges mentioned earlier (see 1.4)?

2.4 Ownership, Governance and Cooperation Structures

2.4.1 Political involvement and governance

2.4.1.1 To what extent are you or the district authority involved in the design, use or maintenance of the Altes AKH open space? → e.g. Alsergrund Cultural Summer, markets, fairs etc.

2.4.1.2 To what extent can political decisions at the district or city level influence the development of this open space?

2.4.2 Other relevant actors

2.4.2.1 Which other actors are, in your opinion, involved in the development or use of this open space?

2.4.3 Coordination and strategic embedding

2.4.3.1 How do coordination processes and cooperation among involved actors take place?

2.4.3.2 To what extent is this open space embedded in overarching strategies or planning frameworks at the district or city level?

2.4.3.3 Is there any coordination or agreement regarding transition zones to adjacent municipally managed open spaces?

2.4.4 Effects of governance structures on space quality

2.4.4.1 To what extent do ownership, governance and cooperation structures influence the perceived qualities of this open space?

2.4.4.2 In your opinion, how would these qualities change if the area were municipally owned?

2.4.5 Design preferences and improvement potentials

2.4.5.1 If you had more influence over the development of this open space – what would you change? → For example, regarding its physical layout or uses

2.4.5.2 And what would you change regarding the procedural structures? → For example, participation formats, decision-making processes, etc.

Appendix M: Interview Guide – University of Vienna (DE)

(Original German version)

Interviewte Person, Name und Funktion:

Anonymisierte angestellte Person des Raum- und Ressourcenmanagements der Universität Wien

Datum: 26.06.2024

Ort: Hauptgebäude der Universität Wien

1. Öffentlicher Freiraum und seine Qualitäten

1.1 Verständnis öffentlicher Freiräume allgemein

1.1.1 Was bedeutet „öffentlicher Freiraum“ für Sie?

1.2 Wahrgenommene Qualitäten

1.2.1 Welche Qualitäten sollte ein öffentlicher Freiraum Ihrer Einschätzung nach aufweisen?

1.3 Einflussfaktoren auf Freiraumqualitäten

1.3.1 Welche Faktoren haben Ihrer Erfahrung nach Einfluss darauf, ob ein öffentlicher Freiraum diese Qualitäten erfüllt?

1.3.2 Welche Rolle spielen dabei aus Ihrer Sicht Eigentums- und Verwaltungsstrukturen?

1.4 Herausforderungen

1.4.1 Vor welchen aktuellen Herausforderungen stehen öffentliche Freiräume – insbesondere in Wien?

2. Der Fall des Alten AKH in Wien

2.1 Bedeutung des Areals

2.1.1 Welche Bedeutung hat der Freiraum des Alten AKH Ihrer Einschätzung nach für die Stadtgesellschaft?

2.1.2 Welche Wechselwirkungen bestehen Ihrer Ansicht nach zwischen dem Freiraum des Alten AKH und anderen städtischen Freiräumen?

2.2 Universitäre Campusanlagen als Freiräume

2.2.1 Welche Rolle spielen universitäre Campusanlagen Ihrer Meinung nach für die Stadtgesellschaft – allgemein und speziell in Wien?

2.2.2 Inwiefern schätzen Sie die Bedeutung des Freiraums des Alten AKH im Vergleich zu anderen Campusanlagen in Wien anders ein?

2.2.3 Das STEP25 Fachkonzept Öffentlicher Raum (2018), Maßnahme 23, betont die Potenziale von Bildungsbauten für Freiraumnutzung. Wie schätzen Sie diese Aussage ein?

2.3 Bewertung des konkreten Freiraums

2.3.1 Wie beurteilen Sie die Zielgruppenorientierung der Gestaltung, Erhaltung und Nutzung des Freiraums des Alten AKH? Steht Ihrer Ansicht nach die Stadtöffentlichkeit oder die Studierenden im Vordergrund (Stichwort Schenkungsklausel)?

2.3.2 Inwiefern weist der Freiraum des Alten AKH Ihrer Einschätzung nach die zuvor genannten

Qualitäten auf (vgl. 1.2)?

2.3.3 Welche der zuvor besprochenen Faktoren (oder weitere Aspekte) führen aus Ihrer Sicht im konkreten Fall dazu, dass bestimmte Qualitäten gegeben oder nicht gegeben sind (vgl. 1.3)? → Bitte denken Sie dabei sowohl an physische als auch an prozessuale Aspekte.

2.3.4 Inwieweit ist der Freiraum des Alten AKH aus Ihrer Sicht von den genannten Herausforderungen betroffen (vgl. 1.4)?

2.3.5 Welche Veränderungen nehmen Sie im Hinblick auf Anforderungen, Zielgruppen oder Nutzung des Freiraums wahr?

2.4 Eigentums-, Verwaltungs- und Kooperationsstrukturen

2.4.1 Beteiligte Akteure und Zuständigkeiten

2.4.1.1 Welche Akteure sind an der Gestaltung, Nutzung und Erhaltung des Freiraums des Alten AKH beteiligt?

2.4.1.2 Wer entscheidet über die Auswahl von Dienstleistern (z. B. Sicherheit, Reinigung) sowie über die Zulassung von außeruniversitären Nutzungen (z. B. Gastronomie, Supermarkt) und Veranstaltungen (z. B. Märkte, Events)?

2.4.2. Nutzungsvereinbarungen und Verantwortungsteilung

2.4.2.1 Es besteht eine Vereinbarung mit dem Bezirk bzw. der Stadt. Welche Aufgabenverteilungen sind darin geregelt?

2.4.2.2 Wie kam es zu dieser Vereinbarung, und welche Bedeutung hat sie für Sie?

2.4.2.3 Welche Vorteile und Nachteile ergeben sich aus dieser Regelung für die Universität?

2.4.3 Koordination und strategische Einbettung

2.4.3.1 Inwiefern ist der Freiraum in übergeordnete Strategien oder Planungen auf Bezirks- oder Stadtebene eingebettet?

2.4.3.2 Inwiefern bestehen Koordinationen oder Absprachen bezüglich der Übergangszonen zu benachbarten städtisch verwalteten Freiräumen?

2.4.3.3 Ist Ihnen die Maßnahme 23 im STEP25 Fachkonzept Öffentlicher Raum bekannt? Gab es hierzu Kontakte mit der Stadt Wien?

2.4.4 Auswirkungen der institutionellen Struktur auf Qualitäten

2.4.4.1 Inwieweit wirken sich Eigentums-, Verwaltungs- und Kooperationsstrukturen auf die wahrgenommenen Qualitäten dieses Freiraums aus?

2.4.4.2 Wie würden sich die Qualitäten Ihrer Einschätzung nach verändern, wenn sich das Areal in städtischer, bzw. privatwirtschaftlicher Hand befände?

Appendix N: Interview Guide – University of Vienna (ENG)

(Original in German, translated to English for documentation and analysis purposes)

Interviewee, name and function:

Anonymous employee of the Facility and Resources Management Unit (Raum- und Ressourcenmanagement), University of Vienna

Date: 26 June 2024

Location: Main building, University of Vienna

1. Public Open Space and Its Qualities

1.1 Understanding of Public Open Space

1.1.1 What does “public open space” mean to you?

1.2 Perceived qualities

1.2.1 In your opinion, what qualities should a public open space have?

1.3 Factors influencing open space qualities

1.3.1 In your experience, what factors influence whether a public open space possesses these qualities?

1.3.2 What role do ownership and administrative structures play in this, in your view?

1.4 Current challenges

1.4.1 What current challenges do public open spaces face – particularly in Vienna?

2. The Case of Altes AKH in Vienna

2.1 Significance of the site

2.1.1 In your opinion, what is the significance of the open space at Altes AKH for urban society?

2.1.2 In your view, what interrelations exist between the Altes AKH open space and other urban open spaces?

2.2 University campuses as open spaces

2.2.1 What role do university campus areas play for urban society – in general and in Vienna in particular?

2.2.2 In what ways do you perceive the Altes AKH campus space as different from other university campuses in Vienna?

2.2.3 The STEP25 Concept for Public Space (2018), Measure 23, highlights the potential of open spaces at educational institutions. How do you assess this statement?

2.3 Assessment of the specific space

2.3.1 How do you assess the target group orientation of the design, maintenance and use of the Altes AKH open space? Do you consider the general public or students to be the main focus (e.g. in light of the donation clause)?

2.3.2 To what extent does the open space at Altes AKH, in your view, exhibit the qualities mentioned earlier (see 1.2)?

2.3.3 Which of the previously discussed factors (or additional aspects) contribute in this specific case to the presence or absence of certain qualities (see 1.3) → Please consider both physical and procedural aspects.

2.3.4 To what extent is the open space at Altes AKH affected by the challenges mentioned earlier (see 1.4)?

2.3.5 What changes do you observe with regard to the requirements, target groups or uses of the open space?

2.4 Ownership, Governance and Cooperation Structures

2.4.1 Relevant actors and responsibilities

2.4.1.1 Which actors are involved in the design, use and maintenance of the open space at Altes AKH?

2.4.1.2 Who decides on the selection of service providers (e.g. security, cleaning), as well as on the approval of non-university uses (e.g. gastronomy, supermarket) and events (e.g. markets, festivals)?

2.4.2 Usage agreements and distribution of responsibilities

2.4.2.1 There is an agreement with the district or the city. What responsibilities are regulated within this agreement?

2.4.2.2 How did this agreement come about, and what significance does it hold for you?

2.4.2.3 What advantages and disadvantages does this arrangement have for the university?

2.4.3 Coordination and strategic embedding

2.4.3.1 To what extent is this open space embedded in overarching strategies or planning frameworks at the district or city level?

2.4.3.2 Is there any coordination or agreement regarding transition zones to adjacent municipally managed open spaces?

2.4.3.3 Are you familiar with Measure 23 of the STEP25 Concept for Public Space? Have there been contacts with the City of Vienna in this regard?

2.4.4 Effects of governance structures on space quality

2.4.4.1 To what extent do ownership, governance and cooperation structures influence the perceived qualities of this open space?

2.4.4.2 In your opinion, how would these qualities change if the area were municipally or privately owned?

Appendix O: Interview Guide – University of Copenhagen

Interviewee, name and function:

Ulla Kjærgaard, Leader of Campus Services City Campus of University of Copenhagen **Date:** 05 August 2024

Location: Video call

0. General Introduction

0.1 Role and Responsibilities

0.1.1 Could you briefly describe your role and responsibilities as Head of Campus Services at City Campus?

0.1.2 What specific services fall under your management (e.g. cleaning, gardening, security, etc.)?

0.1.3 How do you refer to the area within City Campus that includes CSS (e.g. "former Municipal Hospital") and why?

1. Public Open Space and Its Qualities

1.1 Understanding of Public Open Space

1.1.1 What does the term "public open space" mean to you?

1.1.2 In your opinion, can a privately owned space still be considered public?

1.1.3 Do you view the open space of the university campus as public open space?

1.2 Qualities of Public Open Space

1.2.1 In your opinion, what qualities should a public open space have?

1.3 Factors influencing open space qualities

1.3.1 In your experience, what factors influence whether a public open space possesses these qualities?

1.3.2 What role do ownership and administrative structures play in this, in your view?

1.4 Current challenges

1.4.1 What current challenges do public open spaces face – particularly in Copenhagen's Indre By?

2. The Case of the Former Municipal Hospital (CSS)

2.1 Historical Background and Transition

2.1.1 How did you experience the transition from the former Municipal Hospital to the current university use?

2.1.2 What role did the university play in the establishment of Lokalplan 349?

2.1.3 Can you add any personal reflections on key milestones (1995: closure decision, 1999–2009: planning phase, etc.)?

2.2 Significance of the site

2.2.1 In your opinion, what significance does the open space at CSS have for the district and the city as a whole?

2.2.2 What interrelations do you observe between the CSS open space and other public spaces in Copenhagen?

2.3 University campuses as open spaces

2.3.1 What role do university campus areas play in urban society generally, – in general and in Copenhagen in particular?

2.3.2 In what ways do you perceive the CSS open space as different from other university campuses in Copenhagen?

2.4 Assessment of the specific space

2.4.1 The open space is privately owned and managed. Who do you consider the target group for its design, maintenance and use – the general public or primarily students?

2.4.2 To what extent does the CSS open space, in your view, exhibit the qualities mentioned earlier (see 1.2)?

2.4.3 Which factors or specific characteristics contribute to or hinder these qualities in your view (physical, procedural etc.)?

2.4.4 To what extent is the CSS space affected by the challenges mentioned earlier (see 1.4)?

2.5 Recent Changes and Observations

2.5.1 What developments have you observed in the CSS open space in recent years? → E.g. change in user demands, altered use policies, new management guidelines?

2.5.2 Could you elaborate on specific access policies (e.g. night closures, card-only access, opening hours)?

2.6 Ownership, Governance and Cooperation Structures

2.6.1 Which actors are involved in managing, maintaining, and programming the CSS open space?

2.6.2 To what extent does the university influence decisions, given its role as tenant rather than owner?

2.6.3 What responsibilities lie with the property owner, and what with KU and its staff (e.g. security, gardening)?

2.6.4 Are there other actors involved in the site (e.g. businesses, kindergartens, cultural institutions)?

2.6.5 Do these actors rent from the university or directly from the owner?

2.6.6 What role does the municipality or local civil society play in decision-making processes?

2.6.3 Strategic Integration and Cooperation

2.6.3.1 Are there strategic development plans for CSS or its open spaces by the university or owner?

2.6.3.2 Is CSS integrated into wider urban planning strategies (e.g. Kommuneplan, district plans)?

2.6.3.3 Are there cooperation structures with respect to the transition to adjacent public spaces?

2.6.4 Influence of Institutional Framework on Space Quality

2.6.4.1 To what extent do you think that ownership, management, and cooperation structures shape the space's qualities?

2.6.4.2 How would these qualities potentially change if the space were owned by the university?
Or by the municipality?

2.7 Potential Improvements and Outlook

2.7.1 Desired Changes

2.7.1.1 If you had more influence – what would you change in terms of physical design and programming?

2.7.1.2 What would you change regarding participation processes and decision-making structures?

2.7.1.3 Have there been any conflicts or local demands around the site?

2.7.2 Future Developments

2.7.2.1 What are the implications of the university's planned relocation for the open space and its governance?

Appendix P: Interview Guide – Local Committee Copenhagen

Interviewee, name and function:

Sally Mountfield, First Deputy Chairwoman (Næstforperson) of the Local Committee (Lokaludvalg) of Copenhagen's district Indre By

Date: 16 July 2024

Location: Video call

1. Public Open Space and Its Qualities

1.1 Understanding of Public Open Space

1.1.1 What does the term "public open space" mean to you?

1.1.2 In your opinion, can a privately owned space still be considered public?

1.2 Qualities of Public Open Space

1.2.1 In your opinion, what qualities should a public open space have?

1.3 Factors influencing open space qualities

1.3.1 In your experience, what factors influence whether a public open space possesses these qualities?

1.3.2 What role do ownership and administrative structures play in this, in your view?

1.4 Current challenges

1.4.1 What current challenges do public open spaces face – particularly in Copenhagen's Indre By?

2. The Case of the Former Municipal Hospital (CSS)

2.1 Historical Background and Transition

2.1.1 How did you experience the transition from the former Municipal Hospital to the current university use?

2.1.2 What role did the Local Committee play in the discussions or planning process around Lokalplan 349?

2.1.3 Can you share any reflections on public or political debates surrounding the transformation (e.g. citizen protests, debates in the Citizens' Representation)?

2.2 Significance of the site

2.2.1 In your opinion, what significance does the open space at CSS have for the district and the city as a whole?

2.2.2 What interrelations do you observe between the CSS open space and other public spaces in Copenhagen?

2.3 University campuses as open spaces

2.3.1 What role do university campus areas play in urban society generally – in general and in Copenhagen in particular?

2.3.2 In what ways do you perceive the CSS open space as different from other university campuses in Copenhagen?

2.4 Assessment of the specific space

2.4.1 The open space is privately owned and managed. Who do you consider the target group for its design, maintenance and use – the general public or primarily students?

2.4.2 To what extent does the CSS open space, in your view, exhibit the qualities mentioned earlier (see 1.2)?

2.4.3 Which factors or specific characteristics contribute to or hinder these qualities in your view (physical, procedural etc.)?

2.4.4 To what extent is the CSS space affected by the challenges mentioned earlier (see 1.4)?

2.5 Recent Changes and Observations

2.5.1 What developments have you observed in the CSS open space in recent years? → E.g. change in user demands, altered use policies, new management guidelines?

2.6 Ownership, Governance and Cooperation Structures

2.6.1 To what extent are the Local Committee or the City involved in the design, maintenance and use of the CSS open space?

2.6.2 What role does the municipality or local civil society play in decision-making processes?

2.6.3 Are there other actors involved in the site (e.g. businesses, kindergartens, cultural institutions)?

2.6.4 What are the corresponding coordination and co-operation structures?

2.6.3 Strategic Integration and Cooperation

2.6.3.1 Is CSS integrated into wider urban planning strategies (e.g. Kommuneplan, district plans)? In the Kommuneplan or Bydelsplan?

2.6.3.2 The Bydelsplan does not seem to mention the CSS area. For what reasons?

2.6.3.3 Are there cooperation structures with respect to the transition to adjacent public spaces?

2.6.4 Influence of Institutional Framework on Space Quality

2.6.4.1 To what extent do you think that ownership, management, and cooperation structures shape the space's qualities?

2.6.4.2 How would these qualities potentially change if the space were owned by the municipality?

2.7 Potential Improvements and Outlook

2.7.1 Desired Changes

2.7.1.1 If you had more influence – what would you change in terms of physical design and programming?

2.7.1.2 What would you change regarding participation processes and decision-making structures?

2.7.1.3 Have there been any conflicts or local demands around the site?

Appendix Q: Interview Synthesis – Facility and Resources Management University of Vienna

Table 11: Interview Synthesis – Facility and Resources Management University of Vienna

Own compilation.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
1.1.1 What does “public open space” mean to you?	„Für mich ist tatsächlich der öffentliche Raum, das, was es ist ich im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes. Also alles, was draußen ist, ist öffentlicher Raum. Und das ist auch das, was als Bezirksvorsteherin tatsächlich mein Hauptkompetenzbereich ist. Mein Hauptjob ist alles, was draußen ist und als öffentliches Gut definiert ist.“ "To me, public space is exactly what it says – literally. Everything that is outdoors is public space. And that is also what, as District Mayor, is truly my main area of responsibility. My main job is everything that is outdoors and defined as a public good." „Wir haben als neunter Bezirk relativ viele Flächen, die private Grundstücke sind, die aber sozusagen das Potenzial bieten, dass sie auch der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich gemacht werden könnten oder wo es für die Öffentlichkeit einen Benefit haben könnte. [...] Ich glaub das ist das sozusagen nicht öffentlicher Raum im Sinne von öffentliches Gut, und das Grundstück gehört jemandem, ist im Privatbesitz, von irgendwelchen Stakeholdern, egal, aber natürlich gibt es schon auch Flächen [...] die sehr wohl ein Benefit haben könnten für die Öffentlichkeit.“ "As the ninth district, we have quite a few areas that are private properties, but that offer the potential to be made accessible to the public or that could have a benefit for the public. [...] I believe that is not public space in the sense of a public good, and the property belongs to someone, is privately owned by some stakeholder, but of course there are also areas [...] that could very well offer a benefit to the public."	Public open space is understood as any outdoor area that is publicly defined and accessible. For the District Mayor, public space is quite literally “everything that is outdoors,” which she also identifies as the core of her responsibilities. At the same time, she acknowledges that private properties with potential public benefit blur the line between public and private – while legally private, they may serve public functions or be perceived as semi-public due to their potential to provide value to the community.
1.2.1 In your opinion, what qualities should a public open space have?	„Also qualitätsvoller öffentlicher Raum heißt für mich tatsächlich Lebensqualität in den öffentlichen Raum zu bringen.“ "A high-quality public space for me truly means bringing quality of life into public space." „Mein grundsätzliches Credo ist erstens, der öffentliche Raum gehört allen. Zweitens, der öffentliche Raum ist ein sozialer Treffpunkt oder ist auch ein sozialer Raum. So und drittens der öffentliche Raum ist auch aus einer (...) Umverteilungsperspektive zu betrachten.“ "My fundamental credo is: first, public space belongs to everyone. Second, public space is a social meeting point or a social space. And third, public space must also be viewed from a (...) redistribution perspective."	A high-quality public space should promote quality of life, be inclusive, and serve as a social and equitable space. Public space is seen as a place of encounter and redistribution, prioritising not just universal accessibility but particularly the needs of socially disadvantaged groups.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„Das heißt, wir wollen, dass der öffentliche Raum so gestaltet ist, dass ihn Menschen nutzen können. Idealerweise alle. Mein Fokus liegt aber auf den Menschen, die jetzt nicht quasi zu den Reichsten gehören [...] für die gestalten wir den öffentlichen Raum in allererster Linie.“ "That means we want public space to be designed in a way that people can use it – ideally everyone. But my focus is on people who do not belong to the wealthiest [...] for them we design public space first and foremost." „Die Erfahrung zeigt, alle profitieren davon nicht, aber das ist sozusagen der Fokus liegt auf diese sozialen Gruppen. So, also das ist das eine, das ist die soziale Frage, die Gerechtigkeitsfrage.“ "Experience shows that not everyone benefits, but the focus is precisely on these social groups. So, that's one thing – the social question, the issue of justice." „Und die zweite Ebene ist: Wie ist der öffentliche Raum derzeit verteilt? [...] Da versuchen wir tatsächlich [...] den öffentlichen Raum umzuverteilen.“ "And the second level is: how is public space currently distributed? [...] We are indeed trying to redistribute public space." „[...] und da versuchen wir einen Shift herbeizuführen, dass wir einfach stärker in sanfte und nachhaltige Mobilitätsformen investieren.“ "[...] and we are trying to create a shift by investing more in soft and sustainable forms of mobility."	The space should be designed to be usable by all, ideally with an emphasis on vulnerable populations. Furthermore, public space should be reallocated to favour soft, sustainable mobility and climate-sensitive design, reflecting both social and ecological justice.
1.3.1 In your experience, what factors influence whether a public open space possesses these qualities?	„Ich glaube, es sind mehrere Faktoren, die ineinander spielen oder spielen müssen. Also die eine Ebene ist, und die ist schon sehr wesentlich, finde ich, ist der politische Wille da?“ "I believe there are several factors that interact or must interact. So one level, which I find very essential, is: is there political will?" „Also politische Ebene muss sozusagen das wollen und entsprechende Beschlüsse auch, also sozusagen demokratischen politischen Prozess auch herbeibringen.“ "So the political level must want it and also bring about the necessary decisions – essentially bring about a democratic political process." „Die zweite Ebene ist, von dem ein bisschen ableitend, der Versuch oder halt die Möglichkeit, die Menschen, die Bewohnerinnen mitzunehmen in diesem Prozess, das halte ich schon für wesentlich.“ "The second level, derived a bit from this, is the attempt or rather the possibility to involve the people, the residents, in this process – I consider that quite essential." „Da geht es viel um eine andere Ebene, die ganz oft übersehen wird. Da geht es um eine Wertschätzung gegenüber den Menschen, die genau diesen öffentlichen Raum nutzen, da geht es darum, dass sie gesehen werden und gehört werden, und da geht es darum, dass man in einen Dialog oder auch in einen politischen Aushandlungsprozess sozusagen tritt, mit auch mit den Bewohnerinnen im Grätzl.“ "There's another level that is often overlooked. It's about appreciation for the people who actually use this public space. It's about them being seen and heard, and about entering into a dialogue or political negotiation process with them, including residents of the neighborhood."	Political will – Public space transformation depends fundamentally on democratic commitment and decision-making. Involvement of residents and stakeholders – Including users in the process is essential. This includes recognition, dialogue, and negotiation with all social groups, from residents to local businesses and institutions. Technical feasibility – Physical infrastructure, such as utilities beneath streets, can limit or enable redesigns. Successful development depends on navigating these practical constraints while respecting the social fabric.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„Und das Dritte ist, glaube ich, ein bisschen, viel banaler als das, sind die technischen Gegebenheiten dafür da? Also tatsächlich einfach physisch was, ist möglich, wie viele Einbauten [Kanalisation etc.] haben wir unter einer Fahrbahn oder unter einem Gehweg.“ "And the third thing, I think, is a bit more banal: are the technical conditions there? So, very practically – what's physically possible? How many built-in structures [sewers, etc.] do we have under a street or a sidewalk?" „Und bei der Beteiligung geht es nicht ‚nur‘, um Bewohnerinnen. Sondern um Stakeholder im Allgemeinen. Das sind Geschäftstreibende, die vor Ort sind, das sind Einrichtungen, das können Schulen sein, das können soziale Einrichtungen, was auch immer [...] also auch dieses soziale Gefüge immer im Blick zu behalten.“ "And participation isn't 'just' about residents. It's about stakeholders in general. These are local business operators, institutions, schools, social organizations, whatever [...] so always keeping the social fabric in mind."	
1.3.2 What role do ownership and administrative structures play in this, in your view?	„Naja, es hat keinen kleinen Einfluss, muss ich sagen. Ich glaube, es kommt immer, es kommt immer drauf an ... Diplomatie spielte eine große Rolle in solchen Fällen. Tatsächlich.“ "Well, it doesn't have a minor influence, I must say. I think it always depends ... Diplomacy plays a major role in such cases. Truly." „Diplomatie spielt eine große Rolle, und die Frage ist auch immer, was für einen Mehrwert hat es auch für in dem Fall Eigentümerinnen und Eigentümer.“ "Diplomacy plays a big role, and the question is always what kind of added value it offers the owners in that case." „Ich kann sozusagen nicht eingreifen, natürlich nicht, in ein privates Grundstück, das ist ganz klar, aber auf der anderen Seite gibt es auch öffentliches Interesse, das ich hier vertrete.“ "I cannot intervene, of course not, in a private property – that's obvious – but on the other hand, there is a public interest that I represent here." „So und genau in diesem Spannungsfeld bewegt man sich ganz oft, wenn es um Flächen geht, die oder Areale geht, die jetzt nicht irgendwie als öffentliches Gut definiert sind.“ "And precisely in this tension we often operate when it comes to spaces or areas that are not defined as public goods." „In unserem Bezirk, ist es ja zu einen der Uni Campus. Da hat mein Vorgänger beispielsweise eine Vereinbarung getroffen mit der Universität, genau da gibt es eine Nutzungsvereinbarung, einen Vertrag, wo in dem Fall es so ist, dass die Uni Wien den Uni Campus zugänglich macht für alle und auf der anderen Seite aber wir als Bezirk beziehungsweise auch die Stadtverwaltung in dem Fall zum Beispiel für die Pflege der Grünanlagen aufkommt.“ "In our district, there's the Uni Campus. My predecessor made an agreement with the university – there's a usage agreement, a contract, in which the Uni Wien makes the campus accessible for all, and in turn we as a district or the city administration take care of the green space maintenance." „Das ist dann ein Geben und Nehmen tatsächlich am Ende des Tages.“ "It really is a give and take, at the end of the day."	Ownership structures are described as highly influential. While municipalities cannot intervene in private property, there is a public interest mandate, especially where private land offers community benefit. The mayor describes frequent work in the tension between private ownership and public value. Agreements – like the district's contract with the University of Vienna – can mediate this, ensuring public access in exchange for municipal services like green space maintenance. Ultimately, diplomacy and mutual benefit ("give and take") are key to successful cooperation.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„Und die zweite Ebene ist, sie machen ja auch etwas mit dem Stadtbild so. Also es macht einen Unterschied, ob jetzt alle Tore des Uni Campus geöffnet sind, man kann einfach rein und raus spazieren, so und einfach sich mal auf die Wiese setzen und im Schatten liegen, oder es sind alle Türen zu, alle Tore absurd, das macht einfach einen großen Unterschied.“ "And the second level is, they also shape the urban image. It makes a difference whether all gates of the Uni Campus are open – people can just walk in and out and sit on the grass in the shade – or if all the gates are closed. That makes a big difference." „Mein Ziel ist, noch ein paar weitere Stakeholder davon zu überzeugen, dass sie ihre Pforten öffnen, aber soweit sind wir leider noch nicht.“ "My goal is to convince a few more stakeholders to open their gates – but we're not there yet."	
1.4.1 What current challenges do public open spaces face – particularly in Vienna?	„Ich glaube, die größere Herausforderung, die wir haben, und die haben wir bei weitem nicht nur als Bezirk, sondern das ist sowieso eine grundsätzliche Herausforderung, ist die Bekämpfung der Klimakrise.“ "I believe the greater challenge we face – and not just as a district, but as a general challenge – is combating the climate crisis." „Wir sind im innerstädtischen Raum. Damit sehr dicht besiedelt. Und wir haben die Fläche, die wir haben. Im Gegensatz zu anderen Bezirken haben wir keine großen Stadtentwicklungsgebiete. Wir können nicht zusätzlich an Areal gewinnen. Wir können nur das, was wir haben, umverteilen.“ "We are in an inner-city area. Thus, very densely populated. And we have the area we have. Unlike other districts, we have no large urban development areas. We cannot gain additional area. We can only redistribute what we have." „Wir sind ein Durchzugsbezirk. [...] Menschen, die vom 18. in den 1. wollen, die vom 20. in den 8. wollen.“ "We are a transit district. [...] People traveling from the 18th to the 1st, from the 20th to the 8th." „Das ist schon etwas, wo wir jetzt merken, wir sind schon recht weit in so Umgestaltungsprojekten – Grätzler, Gassen, Straßenzüge – klimaresilienter und klimafitter gestalten.“ "That is something we are starting to notice, we are already quite advanced in redesign projects – neighborhoods, alleys, streets – to make them more climate-resilient and climate-adapted." „Die Projekte, die wir jetzt angehen [...] da geht es nicht darum, irgendwie die riesige Wirkung zu haben, aber im mikroklimatischen Bereich.“ "The projects we are taking on now [...] are not about having a huge impact, but rather on the microclimatic level." „Also ich glaube, wenn es meine Generation nicht schafft, diese [klimafitten] Projekte auch gut umzusetzen und dahin zu greifen, wo es auch ein bisschen weh tut, dann wird es, glaube ich, ganz schwierig, ja.“ "So I think if my generation doesn't manage to implement these [climate-adapted] projects well and also reach into the areas where it hurts a little, then it will be quite difficult, I believe." „Radweg Alserbachstraße, da hab ich mir nicht nur FreundInnen gemacht. [...] Aber ich glaube, es ist das Richtige.“ "Bike path Alserbachstraße, I didn't just make friends there. [...] But I think it's the right thing."	The main challenge is climate change, especially in a dense inner-city district with limited space. Redistribution – not expansion – is the only viable option. The district is also a transit zone, limiting its spatial autonomy. Climate adaptation through microclimatic interventions (e.g. street redesigns) is underway, although often controversial. Reallocation of space from cars to more resilient uses (green space, bikes) is politically sensitive, but seen as necessary – even if it means “reaching where it hurts.”

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„Dann dürfen wir auch dorthin greifen, wo es vielleicht nicht alle immer super finden.“ "Then we must also reach into areas that not everyone may always like." „Es braucht nicht jedes Auto im öffentlichen Raum einen Parkplatz [...] Natürlich gibt es die Menschen, die in irgendeiner Form aufs Auto angewiesen sind. Das versteh ich auch [...] Aber sozusagen, es geht doch gar nicht darum zu sagen, es darf nie wieder ein Auto durch den Bezirk fahren, das ist gut, ich finde das alles eher sehr illusorisch [...]“ "Not every car needs a parking spot in public space [...] Of course, there are people who are dependent on a car in some way. I understand that [...] But it's not about saying that no car should ever pass through the district again – I think that's rather illusory." „Dann sind wir aber beim Thema Garagen und Garagen-Konzepte und welche Konzepte gibt es und wie sind Garagen leistbar im innerstädtischen Raum.“ "Then we are at the topic of garages and garage concepts, and what concepts exist and how garages are affordable in the inner-city area."	
2.1.1 In your opinion, what is the significance of the open space at Altes AKH for urban society – both for the Alsergrund district and for Vienna as a whole?	„Ich glaube, dass der Uni Campus erstens nicht wegzudenken ist als für die Öffentlichkeit zugänglicher Raum.“ "I believe that the university campus is, firstly, indispensable as a publicly accessible space." „Ich glaube auch, dass ganz viele Menschen, kann ich mir vorstellen, dass gerade die jüngeren Generationen gar nicht wissen, dass es gar nicht öffentlich ist. Per Definition, also rechtlich betrachtet.“ "I also believe that many people, especially younger generations, don't even know that it is not actually public – in legal terms." „Ich glaube auch, es bringt einen Mehrwert für das gesamte Grätzl als Erholungsraum, also als Naherholungsgebiet, als Grünraum – am Ende des Tages ist es nicht wegzudenken für das Grätzl, auch wenn es um das Mikroklima geht.“ "I also believe it adds value for the entire neighborhood as a recreational area, as a green space – ultimately, it is indispensable for the district, also in terms of microclimate." „Also ich glaube, dass hier sehr wohl auch private – also aus Bezirkssicht private – aus Bezirkssicht ist die Uni Wien ein privater Stakeholder, spielt keine unwissentliche Rolle, wenn es darum geht, was für einen Mehrwert hat ein Stakeholder, eine Stakeholderin für die Allgemeinheit.“ "So I believe that private actors – from the district's point of view, the University of Vienna is a private stakeholder – play a significant role in creating public value."	The Altes AKH campus is considered indispensable as a recreational and green space for the district and beyond. While legally private, it is widely perceived as public, especially by younger generations. It provides essential microclimatic and social value and contributes visibly to the urban landscape. The university is seen as a significant stakeholder, whose openness directly affects the district's spatial quality and accessibility.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„Und die zweite Ebene ist, sie machen ja auch etwas mit dem Stadtbild so. [...] Also es macht einen Unterschied, ob jetzt alle Tore des Uni Campus geöffnet sind, man kann einfach rein und raus spazieren, so und einfach sich mal auf die Wiese setzen und im Schatten liegen, oder es sind alle Türen zu, alle Tore absurd, das macht einfach einen großen Unterschied.“ "And the second level is, they also affect the cityscape. [...] It makes a difference whether all the gates of the campus are open and you can just walk in and sit on the lawn in the shade, or whether all doors are shut – that makes a big difference."	
2.1.2 In your view, what interrelations exist between the Altes AKH open space and other urban open spaces (e.g. in terms of use and frequency)?	„Mein Ziel ist, noch ein paar weitere Stakeholder davon zu überzeugen, dass sie ihre Pforten öffnen, aber soweit sind wir leider noch nicht. [...] Gerade bei uns im Bezirk, wo wir tatsächlich ein paar solcher Areale haben.“ "My goal is to convince a few more stakeholders to open their gates, but we are unfortunately not there yet. [...] Especially in our district, where we actually have a few such areas." „Was wir auf jeden Fall jetzt gemacht haben beim Frankhplatz [...]. Wir haben jetzt in den letzten eineinhalb, 2 Monaten haben wir einen Beteiligungsprozess gestartet, mit 2-3 Terminen, die wir schon hatten, wo wir zum Beispiel auch die Uni eingeladen haben, tatsächlich die Uni Wien da auch sich einzubringen und auch eine Stakeholderin zu sein, tatsächlich auch erstens einfach aus der physischen Nähe.“ "What we definitely did recently at Frankhplatz [...]. In the last one and a half to two months, we launched a participatory process with 2–3 events, where we also invited the university to participate as a stakeholder, mainly due to its physical proximity." „Also es macht einen Unterschied, ob jetzt alle Tore des Uni Campus geöffnet sind, man kann einfach rein und raus spazieren, so und einfach sich mal auf die Wiese setzen und im Schatten liegen, oder es sind alle Türen zu, alle Tore absurd, das macht einfach einen großen Unterschied.“ "It makes a difference whether all gates of the university campus are open, allowing you to walk in and sit on the lawn in the shade, or whether all doors are shut – that makes a big difference."	The campus is part of a broader network of semi-public areas. The district seeks to persuade other stakeholders to emulate the open-campus model. At Frankhplatz, participatory processes include the university as a stakeholder due to spatial proximity and shared concerns, indicating that successful integration depends on physical and institutional connectivity.
2.2.2 In what ways do you perceive the Altes AKH campus space as different from other university campuses in Vienna?	„Ich glaube die größte Qualität, die der Uni Campus hat, ist, dass es mehrere Faktoren miteinander verbindet. Das zu Fuß gehen sowieso und teilweise, ich glaube, man kann sogar zu Rad fahren, zumindest machen wir es mal hier, ich weiß gar nicht ob es erlaubt ist oder nicht. Man tut es einfach, und gleichzeitig ist es auch ein Raum, wo man studieren kann, aber nicht muss.“ "I think the greatest quality the university campus has is that it combines several factors. Walking, of course, and partially, I believe one can even ride a bike – at least we do it here, I don't even know if it's allowed or not. People just do it, and at the same time, it's a space where one can study – but doesn't have to."	The campus stands out by combining multiple uses – walking, biking, resting, studying – within a car-free environment. It accommodates diverse groups: students building their future and seniors seeking relaxation. This mix of uses and users fosters

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„[...] unterschiedliche Lebensrealität aufeinandertreffen dürfen. Und das sind halt nun mal zum einen die Studierenden, die quasi jetzt auch sich ein Leben aufbauen, so sage ich mal. Und trotzdem können die Seniorinnen und Senioren, die eigentlich nur quasi im Schatten ein bisschen sich ausruhen wollen, auf einem Bankerl oder so können wir es halt auch machen.[...] Ich glaube, das ist am Ende – und jetzt guck ich wieder auf die große Metaebene – das braucht's! Für einen sozialen Frieden am Ende des Tages.“ "[...] different life realities are allowed to intersect. On the one hand, there are students building their lives, and at the same time, elderly people who just want to rest in the shade on a bench can also do that. [...] I think that's what we need – for social peace in the end." „[...] schafft man auch quasi die zweite Qualität neben mehreren Faktoren miteinander verbinden, dass es auch Begegnungsraum ist. Also einfach Möglichkeiten des sozialen Begegnungen und der Interaktion auch da sind.“ "[...] one also achieves the second quality besides combining several factors: that it is a space of encounter. So simply possibilities for social interaction and exchange are there too."	social peace and makes the space a true space of encounter. Its openness and multifunctionality are defining qualities.
2.3.1 How do you assess the role of the urban public in this context – is the general public still considered a target group for its design, maintenance and use, or do students take precedence?	„[...] in dem Fall, wenn es um den Uni Campus geht [...] ist es schon so, dass die Uni sehr wohl auch immer die Öffentlichkeit oder den Bezirk oder die Stadtebene schon auch im Blick hat. Das heißt nicht, dass wir uns in allem einig sind, tatsächlich. Aber, es finden schon immer Gespräch statt, weil der Blick füreinander schon da ist, muss ich sagen.“ "[...] in the case of the university campus [...] it is indeed the case that the university always also has the public, the district, or the city level in mind. That doesn't mean that we always agree on everything, actually. But discussions always take place, because the mutual consideration is there, I have to say." „[...] Ich glaube, dass ganz viele Menschen, kann ich mir vorstellen, dass gerade die jüngeren Generationen gar nicht wissen, dass es gar nicht öffentlich ist. Per Definition, also rechtlich betrachtet.“ "[...] I believe that many people, especially younger generations, don't even know that it's not actually public. Legally speaking, that is."	Although privately owned, the university keeps public benefit in view. There is regular dialogue with the district, and while consensus is not always reached, there is mutual recognition. Most users are unaware that the space is legally private, underlining its de facto public character.
2.3.2 To what extent does the open space at Altes AKH, in your view, exhibit the qualities mentioned earlier (see 1.2)?	„Ja, also ich glaube, es ist tatsächlich der Anteil an Grünraum. Gepaart mit der Möglichkeit, dass Menschen einfach dort verweilen können. Also es ist nicht nur so, dass man Grünraum hat und es tut sich sonst nichts, sondern man hat z.B. im Hof 1 einen Spielplatz, der für die Kinder da ist. Also es ist ein extrem wichtiges Naherholungsgebiet für junge Familien zum Beispiel, die sich ganz oft dort aufhalten. Ja, dann hat man eh auch die Gastro, also auch diese Möglichkeiten gibt es irgendwie, der sozialen Begegnungen. Oder im Supermarkt.“ “Yes, so I think it's actually the amount of green space. Combined with the possibility for people to simply linger there. So it's not just that there's green space and nothing else happens, but you have, for example, in Hof 1 a playground for the children. So it's an extremely important local recreational area, for example, for young families who often spend time there. Yes, and then there's also the restaurants, so those opportunities for social encounters also exist. Or in the supermarket.“	Yes, the campus excels in key areas: it provides green space, opportunities to linger, and facilities for different age groups (e.g. playgrounds, restaurants). It promotes everyday social interaction and supports a mix of functions – study, leisure, and mobility. These layered uses make it a model of inclusive urban design.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„Ich glaube die größte Qualität, die der Uni Campus hat, ist, dass es mehrere Faktoren miteinander verbindet. Das Zu-Fuß-Gehen sowieso und teilweise, ich glaube, man kann sogar zu Rad fahren, zumindest machen wir es mal hier, ich weiß gar nicht ob es erlaubt ist oder nicht. Man tut es einfach, und gleichzeitig ist es auch ein Raum, wo man studieren kann, aber nicht muss.“ “I think the greatest quality the university campus has is that it combines multiple factors. Walking, definitely, and partly I think you can even bike – at least we do it here, I’m not sure it’s allowed. You just do it, and at the same time, it’s a space where you can study – but don’t have to.” „Und das sind halt nun mal zum einen die Studierenden, die quasi jetzt auch sich ein Leben aufbauen, so sage ich mal. Und trotzdem können die Seniorinnen und Senioren, die eigentlich nur quasi im Schatten ein bisschen sich ausruhen wollen, auf einem Bankerl oder so, können es halt auch machen. So, und damit schafft man auch quasi die zweite Qualität neben mehreren Faktoren miteinander verbinden, dass es auch Begegnungsraum ist.“ “And those are on the one hand the students, who are now also building a life for themselves, I’d say. And still the elderly, who actually just want to rest a little in the shade on a bench, can also do so. And that creates the second quality, in addition to connecting several factors: that it is also a meeting space.” „Eine große Qualität ist, dass ja tatsächlich das ganze Areal autofrei ist.“ “A major quality is that the entire area is actually car-free.”	
2.3.3 Which of the previously discussed factors (or additional aspects) contribute in this specific case to the presence or absence of certain qualities (see 1.3)? → Please consider both physical and procedural aspects.	„Da hat mein Vorgänger beispielsweise eine Vereinbarung getroffen mit der Universität, genau da gibt es eine Nutzungsvereinbarung, einen Vertrag, wo in dem Fall es so ist, dass die Uni Wien den Uni Campus zulänglich macht für alle und auf der anderen Seite aber wir als Bezirk beziehungsweise auch die Stadtverwaltung in dem Fall zum Beispiel für die Pflege der Grünanlagen aufkommt. Das ist dann ein Geben und Nehmen tatsächlich am Ende des Tages.“ “In our district, for instance, my predecessor made an agreement with the university – there’s a usage agreement, a contract, where in this case the University of Vienna makes the campus accessible to everyone, and in turn we as the district, or the city administration, take care of maintaining the green areas. It’s a give and take, really, at the end of the day.” „Ich glaube auch, es bringt einen Mehrwert für das gesamte Grätz als Erholungsraum, also als Naherholungsgebiet, als Grünraum - am Ende des Tages ist es nicht wegzudenken für das Grätz, auch wenn es um das Mikroklima geht.“ “I also think it provides added value for the entire neighborhood as a recreational area, a local green space – at the end of the day, it’s indispensable for the area, also when it comes to microclimate.”	The success results from a contractual agreement between the university and the district, allowing public access in exchange for maintenance. The campus’ central location, historical significance, and the university’s continued willingness to cooperate contribute to its qualities. Together, these aspects demonstrate how procedural agreements and mutual interest can foster public-like qualities in a private setting.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„Aber in dem Fall, wenn es um den Uni Campus geht – und ich glaube auch, dass da die historische Komponente eine Rolle spielt und vermutlich [...] die Chance der zentralen und damit auch sehr exponierten Lage des Uni Campus – ist es schon so, dass die Uni sehr wohl auch immer die Öffentlichkeit oder den Bezirk oder die Stadtebene schon auch im Blick hat.“ “But in this case, when it comes to the university campus – and I think the historical component also plays a role, and probably the chance of the central and thus very prominent location of the campus – the university really does keep the public, the district, and the city level in view.”	
2.3.4 To what extent is the open space at Altes AKH affected by the challenges mentioned earlier (see 1.4)?	„Und wir haben die Fläche, die wir haben. Im Gegensatz zu anderen Bezirken haben wir keine großen Stadtentwicklungsgebiete. Wir können nicht zusätzlich an Areal gewinnen. Wir können nur das, was wir haben, umverteilen.“ “And we have the space that we have. Unlike other districts, we don't have major urban development areas. We can't gain any additional area. We can only redistribute what we already have.” „Ich glaube, die größere Auswahl, die wir haben, und die haben wir bei weitem nicht nur als Bezirk, sondern das ist sowieso eine grundsätzliche Herausforderung, ist die Bekämpfung der Klimakrise.“ “I think the greater challenge we have – and not just as a district but in general – is tackling the climate crisis.” „Wir sind ein Durchzugsbezirk. [...] Das fällt unter die Kategorie Rahmenbedingungen, mit der wir arbeiten müssen.“ “We are a transit district. [...] That falls under the category of framework conditions we have to work with.” „...da geht es nicht darum, irgendwie die riesige Wirkung zu haben, aber im mikroklimatischen Bereich.“ “...it's not about having a huge impact, but rather something in the microclimatic area.”	Challenges include spatial limitations (no expansion area) and climate resilience needs. The campus plays a role in addressing these through its green infrastructure. Being part of a dense, transit-heavy district, the space's contribution to urban climate and liveability is especially valuable.
2.4.1.1 To what extent are you or the district authority involved in the design, use or maintenance of the Altes AKH open space? → e.g. Alsergrund Cultural Summer, markets, fairs etc.	„Schon in regelmäßigem Austausch. Das eine ist die Bespielung, das andere ist natürlich immer wieder, wenn es immer in Situation kommt, keine Ahnung, covid war einfach sehr schwierig, es waren sehr schwierige Jahre, wo wir noch eng im Austausch waren, aber an und für sich sind wir in einem regelmäßigen Austausch auch mit dem Vizerektorat, das ist das glaube ich, für Infrastruktur. Weil es natürlich aus Bezirkssicht ein großes Interesse daran gibt, dass der Uni Campus weiterhin für die Öffentlichkeit zugänglich ist.“ “We're in regular exchange. One part is the programming, the other part is, of course, when situations arise – no idea, covid was very difficult, those were really difficult years when we were still in close exchange – but basically we are in regular exchange also with the vice-rectorate, I believe, concerning infrastructure. Because from the district's point of view, there is a strong interest in keeping the university campus accessible to the public.”	The district maintains regular contact with the university, especially during crises like Covid. Cultural programming (e.g. Alsergrund Cultural Summer) and infrastructure concerns are jointly discussed. The district has a strong interest in ensuring continued public access.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.4.1.2 To what extent can political decisions at the district or city level influence the development of this open space?	„Naja, es hat keinen kleinen Einfluss, muss ich sagen. Ich glaube, es kommt immer, es kommt immer drauf an ... Diplomatie spielte eine große Rolle in solchen Fällen. Tatsächlich. Diplomatie spielt eine große Rolle, und die Frage ist auch immer, was für einen Mehrwert hat es auch für in dem Fall Eigentümerinnen und Eigentümer.““Well, it doesn't have a small influence, I must say. I think it always depends... Diplomacy played a big role in such cases. Indeed. Diplomacy plays a big role, and the question is always what added value it has for the owners in that case.” „Also ich glaub es ist immer so n bisschen ein Spannungsfeld. Ich kann sozusagen nicht eingreifen, natürlich nicht, in ein privates Grundstück, das ist ganz klar, aber auf der anderen Seite gibt es auch öffentliches Interesse, dass ich hier vertrete.“ “I think it's always a bit of a tension. I can't really intervene, of course not, in private property, that's obvious, but on the other hand there is also a public interest that I represent here.” „Mein Ziel ist, noch ein paar weitere Stakeholder davon zu überzeugen, dass sie ihre Pforten öffnen, aber soweit sind wir leider noch nicht.“ “My goal is to convince a few more stakeholders to open their gates, but unfortunately, we're not quite there yet.”	Yes, though within limits. While the district cannot interfere with private property, diplomacy and negotiated benefits are central tools. The district works to persuade stakeholders to open their spaces and align with public interests.
2.4.3.1 How do coordination processes and cooperation among involved actors take place?	„Schon in regelmäßigem Austausch. Das eine ist die Bespielung, das andere ist natürlich immer wieder, wenn es zu immer in Situation kommt, keine Ahnung, covid war einfach sehr schwierig, es waren sehr schwierige Jahre, wo wir noch eng im Austausch waren, aber an und für sich sind wir in einem regelmäßigen Austausch auch mit dem Vizerektorat, das ist das glaube ich, für Infrastruktur. Weil es natürlich aus Bezirkssicht ein großes Interesse daran gibt, dass der Uni Campus weiterhin für die Öffentlichkeit zugänglich ist.“ “We are in regular exchange. One aspect is the programming, and the other is that whenever situations arise – no idea, covid was just very difficult, those were very difficult years when we were still closely in contact – but overall, we are in regular exchange with the vice-rectorate, mainly about infrastructure. Because from the district's perspective, there is of course a strong interest in keeping the university campus accessible to the public.”	The district and university engage in ongoing, structured dialogue, especially through the vice-rectorate. Programming and infrastructure topics are discussed regularly, reinforcing a collaborative model of shared responsibility.
2.4.3.3 Is there any coordination or agreement regarding transition zones to adjacent municipally managed open spaces?	„Was wir auf jeden Fall jetzt gemacht haben beim Frankhplatz, wie haben jetzt bis zum 30. geht das sogar, ja noch 5 Tage. Wir haben jetzt in den letzten eineinhalb, 2 Monaten haben wir einen Beteiligungsprozess gestartet, mit 2-3 Terminen, die wir schon hatten, wo wir zum Beispiel auch die Uni eingeladen haben, tatsächlich die Uni Wien da auch sich einzubringen und auch eine Stakeholderin zu sein, tatsächlich auch erstens einfach aus der physischen Nähe. Und zweitens, weil wir ebenso gemeinsame organische Projekte oder halt gemeinsame Anliegen auch haben.“ “What we've definitely done recently at Frankhplatz – it's still going on until the 30th, so five more days – is start a participation process over the past one and a half to two months. We've already had two to three sessions, where we also invited the University of Vienna to participate, as a stakeholder – partly because of the physical proximity, and also because we share organic projects and common concerns.”	Yes. At Frankhplatz, joint participatory processes involve the university and other stakeholders due to shared geography and interest. These initiatives are still in exploratory stages, but reflect efforts to bridge institutional and municipal zones.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„...also wir sind jetzt noch in dem Bereich, wo wir sagen, wir sammeln mal alle Gedanken, auch vom Stakeholderinnen, die es gibt, aber auch von Bewohnerinnen, und deswegen kann ich jetzt noch nicht konkret sagen, ob da jetzt etwas tatsächlich direktes dabei rauskommt...“ “...we are still in the phase where we're collecting all ideas – from stakeholders, but also residents – so I can't say yet whether anything concrete will come out of it...” „...das ist glaube ich sogar ein Wiener Linien Projekt, wenn mich nicht alles täuscht. Also die Beteiligungsformate die gelten viel mehr für den Frankhplatz und weniger für die Universitätsstraße als Projekt.““...I believe this is actually a Wiener Linien project, if I'm not mistaken. The participation formats apply much more to Frankhplatz and less to Universitätsstraße as a project.”	
2.4.4.1 To what extent do ownership, governance and cooperation structures influence the perceived qualities of this open space?	„Naja, es hat keinen kleinen Einfluss, muss ich sagen. Ich glaube, es kommt immer, es kommt immer drauf an ... Diplomatie spielte eine große Rolle in solchen Fällen. Tatsächlich. Diplomatie spielt eine große Rolle, und die Frage ist auch immer, was für einen Mehrwert hat es auch für in dem Fall Eigentümerinnen und Eigentümer.“ “Well, it has no small influence, I must say. I believe it always depends... Diplomacy played a big role in such cases. Indeed. Diplomacy plays a big role, and the question is always what added value there is for the respective owners.” „Ich kann sozusagen nicht eingreifen, natürlich nicht, in ein privates Grundstück, das ist ganz klar, aber auf der anderen Seite gibt es auch öffentliches Interesse, dass ich hier vertrete. So und genau in diesem Spannungsfeld bewegt man sich ganz oft, wenn es um Flächen geht, die oder Areale geht, die jetzt nicht irgendwie als öffentliches Gut definiert sind.“ “I can't intervene in private property, of course – that's clear – but on the other hand, there is also a public interest that I represent. So, precisely in this tension is where you often find yourself when dealing with areas not clearly defined as public goods.” „...mein Vorgänger beispielsweise eine Vereinbarung getroffen mit der Universität, genau da gibt es eine Nutzungsvereinbarung, einen Vertrag, wo in dem Fall es so ist, dass die Uni Wien den Uni Campus zulänglich macht für alle und auf der anderen Seite aber wir als Bezirk beziehungsweise auch die Stadtverwaltung in dem Fall zum Beispiel für die Pflege der Grünanlagen aufkommt.“ “...my predecessor made an agreement with the university, specifically a usage agreement – a contract – so in this case, the University of Vienna makes the campus accessible to all, and in turn we, as the district or city administration, are responsible for maintaining the green spaces.” „Das ist dann ein Geben und Nehmen tatsächlich am Ende des Tages.“ “In the end, it really is a give and take.”	Ownership and governance play a critical role. Public benefit can only be secured through cooperation and contracts. The space's perceived quality stems directly from negotiated agreements, such as the district maintaining green areas in exchange for public access. These arrangements exemplify shared governance.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.4.4.2 In your opinion, how would these qualities change if the area were municipally or privately owned?	„Am Campus? Hui, darüber habe ich noch nie nachgedacht, weil es eben nicht quasi in meiner Hand liegt. [...] Ich glaube, es ist tatsächlich schon sehr, sehr viel da muss ich sagen, was der Uni Campus so bietet. Vermutlich würde ich ein bisschen vermutlich darauf achten, gibt es sowas wie soziale Innenräume. Gibt es Möglichkeiten für Menschen sich dort aufzuhalten und miteinander da zu sein, wenn das Wetter schlecht ist, bzw. kalt ist. Also sowas wie – ich will es jetzt gar nicht Veranstaltungsstätten nennen, es geht nämlich gar nicht darum jetzt irgendwie Veranstaltungen zu machen. Aber schon Begegnungsräume zu schaffen, die sozusagen auch innerhalb der Gebäude stattfinden können.“ “At the campus? Wow, I’ve never really thought about that because it’s not actually within my responsibility. [...] I think the Uni Campus already provides a lot, I must say. But I would probably focus a bit more on whether there are indoor social spaces. Are there opportunities for people to stay and be together when the weather is bad or cold? I don’t want to call them event venues – it’s not about hosting events – but rather creating social spaces that are located indoors.”	If fully privately owned, the fear is that profit motives would dominate, risking the loss of social and ecological functions. Large developments or commercial uses could replace inclusive, climate-resilient spaces. Conversely, municipal ownership might increase control but isn’t seen as a panacea without shared intent.
2.4.5.1 If you had more influence over the development of this open space – what would you change? → For example, regarding its physical layout or uses	„Am Campus? Hui, darüber habe ich noch nie nachgedacht, weil es eben nicht quasi in meiner Hand liegt. [...] Ich glaube, es ist tatsächlich schon sehr, sehr viel da muss ich sagen, was der Uni Campus so bietet. Vermutlich würde ich ein bisschen vermutlich darauf achten, gibt es sowas wie soziale Innenräume. Gibt es Möglichkeiten für Menschen sich dort aufzuhalten und miteinander da zu sein, wenn das Wetter schlecht ist, bzw. kalt ist. Also sowas wie – ich will es jetzt gar nicht Veranstaltungsstätten nennen, es geht nämlich gar nicht darum jetzt irgendwie Veranstaltungen zu machen. Aber schon Begegnungsräume zu schaffen, die sozusagen auch innerhalb der Gebäude stattfinden können.“ “At the campus? Wow, I’ve never really thought about that because it’s not actually within my responsibility. [...] I think the Uni Campus already provides a lot, I must say. But I would probably focus a bit more on whether there are indoor social spaces. Are there opportunities for people to stay and be together when the weather is bad or cold? I don’t want to call them event venues – it’s not about hosting events – but rather creating social spaces that are located indoors.”	The main identified gap is the lack of indoor social spaces for bad weather. The space already offers much, but creating indoor areas for informal gathering – without formal programming – could increase year-round accessibility and social value.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
Privatization concerns	„Das heißt, es wäre nicht mehr in einer öffentlichen oder Halböffentlichen, sondern ganz in privater Hand? Dann hätte ich schon ein bisschen die Befürchtung, dass dann Profit an erster Stelle steht. So und damit ganz viele andere Faktoren einfach dem unterstellt werden. Das heißt, die Klimaresilienz und klimaresiliente Maßnahmen, das heißt quasi die sozialen, die soziale Komponente solcher Räume wie wir sie haben. Und sonst eher nur Profit und Profit heißt meistens aus meiner Erfahrung große Bauten mit frei finanziertem Eigentumswohnungen. Oder ein Einkaufszentrum, was auch immer.“ “So that would mean it's no longer public or semi-public, but entirely privately owned? Then I'd be a bit worried that profit would come first. And many other factors would be subordinated to that – climate resilience, social components of such spaces. And instead, only profit, which in my experience usually means large private housing developments or shopping centers, whatever it may be.”	If the space were fully privately owned, there is a clear concern that profit motives would take precedence over social and ecological values. Climate resilience and social inclusivity would likely become secondary to economic gain. Based on past experience, the speaker associates profit-driven development with large-scale housing projects or commercial infrastructures like shopping malls – uses that typically offer little public benefit. This highlights a fear that full privatization could lead to the erosion of the area's existing public-like qualities.

Appendix R: Interview Synthesis – District Mayor Vienna Alsergrund

Table 12: Interview Synthesis – District Mayor Vienna Alsergrund.

Own compilation.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
1.1.1 What does “public open space” mean to you?	„Als universitäre Einrichtung sind wir natürlich sowohl in unseren Gebäuden als auch in unseren Freiräumen ein öffentlicher Raum. Also dadurch, dass wir so viele Studierende, Fakultätspersonal, Universitätspersonal haben, als auch Besucherinnen, sind wir eigentlich überall ein öffentlich zugänglicher Raum. [...] Wir wollen natürlich ein öffentlich interessanter und zugänglicher Raum sein.“ "As a university institution, we are of course a public space both in our buildings and in our open spaces. Since we have so many students, faculty staff, university staff, as well as visitors, we are actually a publicly accessible space everywhere. [...] We naturally want to be a publicly interesting and accessible space."	Public open space is understood as a space that is accessible and open to a broad range of users – including students, university staff, and visitors. The institution sees itself as inherently public and aims to be inviting and socially relevant.
1.2.1 In your opinion, what qualities should a public open space have?	„Also man kann zwischen den unterschiedlichen Höfen spazieren, man kann sich dort auf eine Bank setzen, wir haben sehr viele Bereiche, wo man auch nicht-konsumpflichtig sich hinsetzen kann.“ "You can walk between the different courtyards, you can sit on a bench, we have a lot of areas where you can sit without having to consume anything." "Wir planen auch dort, wo wir innerhalb des Campus Flächen zurückbekommen, die vielmehr für Universitäts-nahe Zwecke zu nutzen. Also z.B., wir wollen gerne autofrei werden [...] und dafür aber Fahrradabstellplätze vermehrt anbieten." "We are also planning to reclaim areas within the campus that are more suited to university-related purposes. For example, we would like to become car-free [...] but instead offer more bicycle parking spaces." „Also es ist halt immer dieses: Die einen wünschen sich einen schönen Hof [...] wir haben großflächig Rollrasen verlegen lassen. [...] Dann kamen Resonanzen von ‚oh das ist super schön‘ bis hin zu ‚wir wollen Biodiversität‘. [...] jetzt traut sich keiner mehr, auf diesen Rasen zu gehen.“ "Some people want a nice courtyard [...] we laid down rolled turf [...] the feedback ranged from ‘this is great’ to ‘we want biodiversity’ [...] now no one dares to step on the grass." „Wir haben halt einfach gemerkt, dass der Druck auf die Freiraumnutzung viel höher geworden ist. [...] und wir dadurch einfach auch die Freiraumqualität viel prioritärer behandeln müssen.“ "We have simply noticed that the pressure on the use of open space has increased significantly [...] and that we therefore have to treat open space quality as a much higher priority."	It should offer free, non-commercial seating, be walkable, and ideally car-free. User feedback highlights tensions between aesthetic expectations (e.g. lawn) and ecological values (e.g. biodiversity). High user pressure increases the need for quality, accessibility, and inclusive design.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
1.3.1 In your experience, what factors influence whether a public open space possesses these qualities?	„Also wir machen da schon viele Themen, einfach um das übergeordnete Ziel der Klimaneutralität und öffentlicher Campus und Freiraumqualität auch zu stärken und wirklich zu leben auch.“ “We are doing a lot to strengthen and truly live the overarching goal of climate neutrality and quality of public campus space.” "Also wir haben Arbeitsgruppen, wo Fakultätsvertreter von den vor Ort ansässigen Fakultäten drinnen sitzen, wo der Betriebsrat drinnen sitzt und wo auch Studierendenvertreterinnen sind. Da gibt es unterschiedliche Workshops zu unterschiedlichen Themen. Ich sag mal die Personen, die vor Ort sind, haben natürlich ein größeres Verständnis davon was sie brauchen oder was ihre Bedürfnisse sind. Und die bringen ganz, ganz viel ein und es liegt halt dann an uns zu prüfen, was kann umgesetzt werden, was ist möglich, und da auch bestmöglich auf die Wünsche einzugehen." "So we have working groups that include faculty representatives from the local faculties, the works council and student representatives. There are various workshops on different topics. I would say that the people who are on site naturally have a better understanding of what they need or what their needs are. And they contribute a great deal, and it is then up to us to examine what can be implemented, what is possible, and to respond to their wishes in the best possible way."	Goals such as climate neutrality and campus openness shape planning. Involvement of diverse stakeholders (faculty, students, staff) through working groups and workshops is key, as their needs directly inform planning and prioritization.
1.3.2 What role do ownership and administrative structures play in this, in your view?	„Also wir sind natürlich staatlich. Ja, wir sind jetzt keine private, sondern wir sind ja eine staatlich Universität, das heißt, bei uns ist alles was wir tun natürlich immer unter Beobachtung. Alles was wir machen ist im öffentlichen Interesse und das wollen wir natürlich auch. [...] Ich sag mal, wenn wir irgendwo jetzt die Mauern hochziehen und uns verbarrikadieren, dann würde es die Universität nicht so lange geben, wie es sie gibt.“ "We are of course a public institution. We are not a private one, but a public university. This means everything we do is always under public scrutiny. Everything we do is in the public interest, and we want that. [...] I would say if we were to put up walls and barricade ourselves, the university wouldn't have lasted as long as it has." „Wir sind dann auch beschränkt in unserem Handeln und müssen alles im Vorfeld planen, kommunizieren ... weil das natürlich viele auch als IHREN Campus sehen.“ "We are limited in our actions and have to plan and communicate everything in advance ... because many see it as THEIR campus." „Der Campus ist ein Teil [...] der einzige Standort, den wir eigentlich besitzen. [...] wir selber darüber verfügen können und selber gestalten können.“ "The campus is [...] the only site we actually own [...] which allows us to make decisions and shape it ourselves."	Being a public university means acting under public scrutiny, which supports openness and accountability. The university owns the campus, enabling full control over design and use. However, as a public body, decisions require careful planning and communication.
1.4.1 What current challenges do public open spaces face – particularly in Vienna?	„Wenn jetzt wirklich jemand kommt, der jetzt dreimal die Woche irgendwelche Veranstaltungen dort im Campus plant ... sind dort die Voraussetzungen für Forschung und Lehre nicht mehr gegeben.“ "If someone came and planned events three times a week ... the conditions for research and teaching would no longer be met."	Key challenges include balancing competing uses (e.g. events vs. quiet study), intensified use after COVID-19, and the

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	"Wir haben halt einfach gemerkt, dass [durch Corona] der Druck auf die Freiraumnutzung viel höher geworden ist. Also von allen Seiten, weil halt einfach die Leute viel mehr Zeit im Freien verbringen, noch immer, und wir dadurch einfach auch die Freiraumqualität viel prioritärer behandeln müssen und ihr einen wichtigeren Stellenwert einräumen müssen als dass das früher der Fall war." "We simply noticed that [due to coronavirus] the pressure on the use of open spaces has become much greater. This is true from all sides, because people are still spending much more time outdoors, and as a result, we simply have to treat the quality of open spaces as a much higher priority and give it greater importance than was previously the case." „Die Schwierigkeit [...] ist halt einfach, dass man [...] so viele unterschiedliche Interessen hat [...]“ "The difficulty is simply that there are so many different interests to balance [...]" „Früher war echt viel mehr Veranstaltungsfläche [...] jetzt genehmigen wir wirklich nur noch, wenn es einen wissenschaftlichen Kontext hat.“ "There used to be many more events [...] now we only approve them if they have a scientific context."	need to prioritize open space quality. Excessive programming risks undermining the academic function of the space.
2.1.1 In your opinion, what is the significance of the open space at Altes AKH for urban society?	„...da kann man sich auch einmal zurückziehen oder einfach nur draußen sein. Es ist keine Verpflichtung, man muss nichts konsumieren.“ "You can also retreat there or just be outside. There's no obligation; you don't have to consume anything." „Es gibt Menschen, die sind täglich da, die nutzen das als Lebensraum, nicht nur als Durchgangsort.“ "There are people who are there every day, using it as living space, not just as a place to pass through."	It serves as both a place for retreat and daily use. Some people use it as living space, not just a thoroughfare, underlining its social and residential relevance.
2.1.2 In your view, what interrelations exist between the Altes AKH open space and other urban open spaces?	„Der Übergang zur Alser Straße, das ist ja nicht getrennt, das geht über.“ "The transition to Alser Straße is seamless, it continues on."	The campus is physically and perceptually connected to surrounding streets and areas – especially Alser Straße – highlighting its integration into the urban fabric.
2.2.1 What role do university campus areas play for urban society – in general and in Vienna in particular?	„...die Bildungsbauten haben halt oft große Flächen, und da ist das Potenzial natürlich da – je nachdem, wie offen sie gedacht sind.“ "Educational buildings often have large areas, and there is certainly potential – depending on how open they are conceived."	University spaces hold untapped potential due to their size. Their value depends heavily on how open and accessible they are designed to be.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.2.2 In what ways do you perceive the Altes AKH campus space as different from other university campuses in Vienna?	„...es ist ja ein Unicampus, der aber offen ist. Das ist vielleicht nicht selbstverständlich. [...] Also das ist ja auch ein gesellschaftlicher Beitrag.“ “It’s a university campus, but it’s open. That’s perhaps not a given. [...] So that’s also a contribution to society.” „...der Standort ist halt einzigartig. So zentral hat kein anderer Unicampus so eine große Freifläche.“ “This site is unique. No other university campus has such a large open space in such a central location.”	Altes AKH is unique in its central location and its openness. It functions as both a campus and a public space, offering a rare blend of academic and civic use.
2.2.3 The STEP25 Concept for Public Space (2018), Measure 23, highlights the potential of open spaces at educational institutions. How do you assess this statement?	„...natürlich gibt es eine Verantwortung gegenüber der Öffentlichkeit, weil es ist geschenkt worden.“ “Of course, there is a responsibility towards the public because it was a donation.”	There’s an acknowledged responsibility toward the public, especially since the space was donated, but concrete action from the city in this regard has been limited.
2.3.1 How do you assess the target group orientation of the design, maintenance and use of the Altes AKH open space? Do you consider the general public or students to be the main focus (e.g. in light of the donation clause)?	Die Schwierigkeit am Campus, beziehungsweise die Schwierigkeit an solchen großen öffentlichkeitswirksamen Bereich ist halt einfach, dass man dadurch dass man so viele unterschiedliche Nutzer*innen hat, auch so viele unterschiedliche Interessen hat und die alle zu vereinen und unter einen Hut zu bringen, das hat schon relativ herausfordernd. Weil wir haben dort zum einen die Studierenden, die dort gerne zusammenkommen wollen, die sich dort austauschen wollen, die das auch als eine Art erweitertes Klassenzimmer sehen. Dann haben wir natürlich die Anrainer*innen, die dort vielleicht Sport machen, die dort mit den Kindern spielen, die dort ins Restaurant gehen, um zu verweilen. Dann haben wir aber auch das Universitätspersonal, die dann eigentlich dort auch in Ruhe konzentriert arbeiten wollen. Also es ist halt immer dieses: Die einen wünschen sich einen schönen Hof. "The difficulty on campus, or rather the difficulty in such large, high-profile areas, is simply that because there are so many different users, there are also so many different interests, and bringing them all together and reconciling them is quite challenging. On the one hand, we have the students who want to get together there, who want to exchange ideas, who also see it as a kind of extended classroom. Then, of course, we have the local residents who may do sports there, play with their children there, or go to the restaurant there to relax. But then we also have the university staff who actually want to work there in peace and quiet. So it's always the same: some people want a beautiful courtyard.."	The space serves a highly diverse user base – students, staff, and neighbors – each with different needs (study, recreation, quiet, socializing). Balancing these interests is described as complex and ongoing.
2.3.2 To what extent does the open space at Altes AKH, in your view, exhibit the qualities mentioned earlier (see 1.2)?	„Also, es wird genutzt von ganz unterschiedlichen Gruppen. [...] Es ist durchgrünt, es ist ruhig, es ist durchlässig.“ “So, it is used by very different groups. [...] It has greenery, it's quiet, it's permeable.”	Yes. It is green, quiet, permeable, and actively used by varied groups – indicating strong alignment with earlier stated qualities.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.3.3 Which of the previously discussed factors (or additional aspects) contribute in this specific case to the presence or absence of certain qualities (see 1.3)? → Please consider both physical and procedural aspects.	see above	
2.3.4 To what extent is the open space at Altes AKH affected by the challenges mentioned earlier (see 1.4)?	see above	
2.3.5 What changes do you observe with regard to the requirements,	„Ich habe den Eindruck, dass sich die Anforderungen ändern. Es gibt mehr Veranstaltungen, es ist mehr los als früher.“ “I have the impression that requirements are changing. There are more events, more activity than in the past.”	Use has intensified, with more events and changing requirements. A history of frequent

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
target groups or uses of the open space?	. Also erstmal das Thema Veranstaltung: Wir haben in der Vergangenheit viel mehr öffentliche Veranstaltungen gehabt. Das war von Konzerten über Public Viewing – also da hat eigentlich fast alles stattgefunden. Und da haben wir dann einfach gemerkt, dass halt vor allem die dauerhaften Benutzer*innne, also vor allem das Universitätspersonal dann wahnsinnig sich daran gestört hat. Weil es war immer laut und dreckig, weil natürlich wenn große Menschenmassen zusammenkommen, dann hinterlassen die natürlich auch entsprechende Müllinseln. Dann das Thema, wenn dort viele Leute zusammenkommen, wieviel trinken die sich dann halt auch erleichtern müssen und das Angebot an öffentlichen Toiletten halt auch dann irgendwo an die Grenzen stößt, dass sie sich dann überall erleichtert haben und das dann zu Geruchsbelästigungen gekommen ist. Also früher war echt viel mehr Veranstaltungsfläche, was wir jetzt wirklich stark reduziert haben. Wir haben jetzt wirklich nur noch vereinzelte Veranstaltungen aus der Historie heraus, die wir beide haben, wie zum Beispiel unseren Weihnachtsmarkt oder Südwind-Festival und ansonsten alles, was jetzt an neuen Veranstaltungen dazu kommt genehmigen wir wirklich nur noch, wenn es wirklich einen wissenschaftlichen Kontext hat. [...] Es hat sich natürlich doch einiges verändert aufgrund der Corona-Krise. Dadurch hat sich natürlich das Veranstaltungsmanagement überhaupt verändert." "So, first of all, the issue of events: we used to have a lot more public events in the past. These ranged from concerts to public viewing – in fact, almost everything took place there. And then we simply noticed that it was mainly the regular users, i.e. the university staff, who were incredibly bothered by this. Because it was always loud and dirty, because of course when large crowds of people come together, they naturally leave behind islands of rubbish. Then there's the issue of when lots of people come together, how much they drink and then need to relieve themselves, and the availability of public toilets reaches its limits, so they relieve themselves everywhere and that leads to unpleasant odours. In the past, there was much more event space, which we have now greatly reduced. We now only have a few events from our shared history, such as our Christmas market or the Südwind Festival, and otherwise we only approve new events if they have a scientific context. [...] Of course, a lot has changed due to the coronavirus crisis. This has naturally changed event management as a whole." "Wir haben halt einfach gemerkt, dass [durch Corona] der Druck auf die Freiraumnutzung viel höher geworden ist. Also von allen Seiten, weil halt einfach die Leute viel mehr Zeit im Freien verbringen, noch immer, und wir dadurch einfach auch die Freiraumqualität viel prioritärer behandeln müssen und ihr einen wichtigeren Stellenwert einräumen müssen als dass das früher der Fall war." "We simply noticed that [due to coronavirus] the pressure on the use of open spaces has become much greater. This is true from all sides, because people are still spending much more time outdoors, and as a result, we simply have to treat the quality of open spaces as a much higher priority and give it greater importance than was previously the case."	events has been scaled back due to noise, waste, and sanitation issues, especially post-COVID.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.4.1.1 Which actors are involved in the design, use and maintenance of the open space at Altes AKH?	„Also, Reinigung und Sicherheit vergeben wir direkt – über Dienstleister.“ “So, cleaning and security we assign directly – through service providers.”	Cleaning and security are managed through external service providers contracted by the university.
2.4.1.2 Who decides on the selection of service providers (e.g. security, cleaning), as well as on the approval of non-university uses (e.g. gastronomy, supermarket) and events (e.g. markets, festivals)?	„...die Bezirksvorstehung ist zum Beispiel involviert bei bestimmten Veranstaltungen.“ “...the district authority is, for example, involved in certain events.”	Decisions are partly made in cooperation with external actors like the district authority, especially for events.
2.4.2.1 There is an agreement with the district or the city. What responsibilities are regulated within this agreement?	"[...] alle Rechte und Pflichten im Zusammenhang mit dem Campus sind im Schenkungsvertrag zwischen der Stadt Wien und der Universität Wien aus dem Jahr 1988 geregelt. In diesem Schenkungsvertrag ist geregelt, dass als Bedingung der Schenkung die Universität Wien die Innenhöfe des Campus der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich halten muss. Im Gegenzug übernimmt die Stadt Wien die gärtnerische Pflege des Hof 1, also alles, was mit Baumschnitt, sowie der Straßenbeleuchtung zu tun hat. Die Universität ist seit der Schenkung 1988 bzw. der Eröffnung des Campus 1998 an diese Vereinbarung gebunden und lebt sie im besten Einvernehmen mit der Stadt Wien. Aufgrund unseres Bestrebens den Campus als universitären Arbeitsplatz, als einzigartige „Grünoase“ im Stadtgebiet und als beliebter Ort der freien Begegnung und Kommunikation zu positionieren, hat diese Vereinbarung keinerlei Nachteile für uns. Der Campus hat, wie jedes andere Universitätsgebäude das öffentlich zugänglich ist, einen hohen Stellenwert für die umliegende Bevölkerung und lebt von den Menschen, die es besuchen."	The 1988 donation agreement between the City of Vienna and the University of Vienna states that the university must keep the campus courtyards open to the public. In return, the city is responsible for maintaining Hof 1, including tree care and street lighting.
2.4.2.2 How did this agreement come about, and what significance does it hold for you?	"[...] all rights and obligations relating to the campus are regulated in the donation agreement between the City of Vienna and the University of Vienna from 1988. This donation agreement stipulates that, as a condition of the donation, the University of Vienna must keep the inner courtyards of the campus open to the public. In return, the City of Vienna is responsible for the gardening of Hof 1, i.e. everything related to tree pruning and street lighting. The university has been bound by this agreement since the donation in 1988 and the opening of the campus in 1998, and it lives up to it in the best possible way with the City of Vienna. Due to our efforts to position the campus as a university workplace, a unique 'green oasis' in the urban area and a	The agreement originated from the donation of the site by the City of Vienna to the university. It has governed campus use since the donation and is seen as a stable foundation for cooperation. It reflects a shared understanding and commitment to openness and public value.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.4.2.3 What advantages and disadvantages does this arrangement have for the university?	popular place for free encounter and communication, this agreement has no disadvantages for us. Like any other university building that is open to the public, the campus is of great importance to the surrounding population and thrives on the people who visit it."	According to the university, the agreement has no disadvantages. It aligns well with their mission to present the campus as an accessible, green, and vibrant public space. The arrangement supports their goal of combining academic use with openness to the broader public. Uses the term "green oasis" to refer to the desired positioning of the Altes AKH.
2.4.3.1 To what extent is this open space embedded in overarching strategies or planning frameworks at the district or city level?	„...wir stimmen uns regelmäßig mit dem Bezirk ab, auch mit der Stadtplanung.“ “...we coordinate regularly with the district and also with city planning.”	Yes, there is regular coordination with both the district and city planning authorities.
2.4.3.2 Is there any coordination or agreement regarding transition zones to adjacent municipally managed open spaces?	„...die Übergänge zu den städtischen Flächen sind halt einfach fließend.“ “...the transitions to the municipal spaces are simply seamless.”	Yes. Transitions between the campus and municipal areas are seamless and not formally separated.
2.4.4.1 To what extent do ownership, governance and cooperation	„Also es wirkt sich schon aus, wem das gehört. [...] Wir sind keine klassische Parkverwaltung.“ “So it really does matter who owns it. [...] We're not a traditional park administration.”	Ownership plays a significant role. Although the space is rented from BIG (Federal Real Estate

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
structures influence the perceived qualities of this open space?	Also ich muss ganz ehrlich sagen, wir haben nicht so viele andere Freiräume. Also das hier, das Hauptgebäude gehört auch der Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft, wobei wir mit der BIG nicht nur wirtschaftlich, sondern auch staatlich ein sehr gutes Verhältnis haben. D.h. mit der BIG kann relativ schnell und unkompliziert Lösungen gefunden werden, wenn sie sinnvoll ist. Also es ist zwar die BIG Eigentümerin, aber dadurch, dass wir das ganze Gebäude gemietet haben, inklusive des Freiraums, ob wir da jetzt Liegestühle aufstellen oder ob wir da jetzt im Sommer vielleicht einen Cocktail-Stand aufbauen, das liegt in unserer Sphäre. Also hier (im Hauptgebäude) haben wir, auch wenn wir eingemietet sind, eigentlich eigentumsähnliche Strukturen. To be honest, we don't have that much other open space. This main building also belongs to the Federal Real Estate Company, but we have a very good relationship with BIG, not only economically but also on a governmental level. This means that solutions can be found relatively quickly and easily with BIG, if they make sense. So BIG is the owner, but because we have rented the entire building, including the open space, whether we set up deck chairs there or perhaps a cocktail stand in the summer is up to us. So here (in the main building), even though we are tenants, we actually have income-like structures. "Dadurch, dass wir Mieter sind, ist natürlich meistens relativ schwierig Einfluss auf das Gebäude zu nehmen. Deswegen haben wir uns Standorte ausgesucht, wo wir wirklich auch Verfügungsberechtigte sind, wie eben den Campus, wo wir Maßnahmen wirklich umsetzen können." "As tenants, it is of course usually relatively difficult to influence the building. That is why we have chosen locations where we really have control, such as the campus, where we can actually implement measures."	Company), the university has broad freedom over use. On-site ownership allows more direct action compared to other locations.
2.4.4.2 In your opinion, how would these qualities change if the area were municipally or privately owned?	"Das ist ja das Schöne an der Universität, eben dass sie nicht profit-orientiert ist, sondern alles, was wir machen und die Standortentscheidungen, die wir treffen, sind immer im Interesse, dass wir bestmögliche Voraussetzungen für Forschung und Lehre zur Verfügung stellen können. Wenn jetzt wirklich jemand kommt, der jetzt dreimal die Woche irgendwelche Veranstaltungen dort im Campus plant, von Open Air Konzerten über Fußball-EM über Sonstiges, sind dort die Voraussetzungen für Forschung und Lehre nicht mehr gegeben. Also dann kann ich weder konzentriert arbeiten, noch kann ich dort eine Freiraumqualität gewährleisten. Also das wäre dann schwierig. Aber dadurch dass wir Gott sei Dank Eigentümerin sind, stellt sich die Frage nicht." "That's the great thing about the university – it's not profit-oriented. Everything we do and the decisions we make about locations are always made with the goal of providing the best possible conditions for research and teaching. If someone came and planned events on campus three times a week – from open-air concerts to football championships and so on – the conditions for research and teaching would no longer be met. I wouldn't be able to work in a focused way, nor could we ensure any kind of open space quality. That would be difficult. But fortunately, since we own the site, that question doesn't arise."	The interviewee argues that university ownership ensures that decisions prioritize academic needs rather than commercial use. Frequent external events would undermine the open space's quality and its function as a research and teaching environment. Fortunately, since the university owns the site, such conflicts are avoided – a scenario that might be different under municipal or private ownership.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
Long-Term Strategic Planning & Climate-Oriented Spatial Design	"Also wir beschäftigen uns wirklich schon sehr, sehr lange mit dem Campus-Areal, was man da machen kann, wie man da etwas machen kann. Es gab auch einen Plan für die Entwicklung des Campus 2025, wo wir auch mit einem Landschaftsarchitekturbüro zusammengearbeitet haben, der auch ein Freiraumkonzept ausgearbeitet hat, wie man die unterschiedlichen Höfe ausgestalten kann. Dann kam Corona und dann ist das alles einmal quasi gestorben. Jetzt ist es so, dass wir das Ganze wieder aufgenommen haben und derzeit auch intensiv arbeiten am Campus 2030. Weil wir uns auch als Universität das Ziel gesetzt haben, eine klimaneutrale Universität zu werden, und 2030 klimaneutral sein wollen. Und da haben wir uns jetzt einige Pilotprojekte ausgesucht. [...] Da sind wir gerade dabei, eben in dem Projekt Campus 2030 sowohl den Aspekt der Klimaneutralität zu beleuchten, als auch dann im selben Punkt zu sagen, wie kann man jetzt den Freiraum entsprechend ausgestalten. Da gibt es Überlegungen von unterschiedlichen Themenschwerpunkten in unterschiedlichen Höfen." "We have been considering the campus area for a very long time, exploring possibilities for its development. There was also a plan for the development of Campus 2025, where we collaborated with a landscape architecture firm that developed an open space concept for the design of the various courtyards. Then Corona came along and everything came to a standstill. Now we have resumed the whole project and are currently working intensively on Campus 2030. As a university, we have set ourselves the goal of becoming climate neutral by 2030. We have now selected a number of pilot projects.[...] We are currently in the process of examining the aspect of climate neutrality in the Campus 2030 project and, at the same time, considering how we can design the open space accordingly. There are ideas for different focal points in different courtyards. As we are tenants, it is of course usually relatively difficult to influence the building. That is why we have chosen locations where we really have control, such as the campus, where we can actually implement measures."	The university has been engaging in long-term, strategic planning of its campus open space, aligning it with broader institutional goals like achieving climate neutrality by 2030. The quote highlights how open space development is directly tied to sustainability efforts (e.g. Campus 2030), and that specific thematic designs are being considered for different courtyards. It also reveals that implementation is only possible in areas where the university has full control – illustrating how tenure status influences the ability to realize spatial visions.
Design Trade-offs & User Uncertainty	„Also es ist halt immer dieses: Die einen wünschen sich einen schönen Hof [...] wir haben großflächig Rollrasen verlegen lassen. [...] Dann kamen Resonanzen von ‚oh das ist super schön‘ bis hin zu ‚wir wollen Biodiversität‘. [...] jetzt traut sich keiner mehr, auf diesen Rasen zu gehen.“	Conflicting expectations among users (aesthetic vs. ecological goals) can lead to uncertainty – e.g. people no longer dare to use newly installed lawns due to mixed signals. Spatial design affects not just usability but behavior.
Event Overload vs. Academic Function	„Wenn jetzt wirklich jemand kommt, der jetzt dreimal die Woche irgendwelche Veranstaltungen dort im Campus plant ... sind dort die Voraussetzungen für Forschung und Lehre nicht mehr gegeben.“	Frequent public events threaten the core academic mission by disrupting concentration and spatial quality. Protecting the educational function of the space is a priority, especially where ownership enables control.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
Use Beyond Transit – Emotional Attachment	„Es gibt Menschen, die sind täglich da, die nutzen das als Lebensraum, nicht nur als Durchgangsort.“	Some people use the space not just as a passage but as a daily "living environment", reflecting emotional and habitual connection that goes beyond typical use categories.
Operational Strain of Public Events	„Wir haben in der Vergangenheit viel mehr öffentliche Veranstaltungen gehabt. [...] Dann haben wir dann einfach gemerkt, dass halt vor allem die dauerhaften Benutzer*innen, also vor allem das Universitätspersonal dann wahnsinnig sich daran gestört hat. Weil es war immer laut und dreckig [...] Das Angebot an öffentlichen Toiletten [...] dass sie sich dann überall erleichtert haben und das dann zu Geruchsbelästigungen gekommen ist.“	Past large events caused cleanliness and infrastructure issues (e.g. toilet shortages, trash), which led to event reduction. Highlights how overuse strains maintenance systems and affects user satisfaction.
Tenant Autonomy Through Full Site Rental	„Also hier (im Hauptgebäude) haben wir, auch wenn wir eingemietet sind, eigentlich eigentumsähnliche Strukturen.“ „Ob wir da jetzt Liegestühle aufstellen oder ob wir da jetzt im Sommer vielleicht einen Cocktail-Stand aufbauen, das liegt in unserer Sphäre.“	Although the university is a tenant, full-site rental agreements (incl. outdoor space) allow near-owner-like autonomy. This setup enables flexible and creative programming (e.g. deck chairs, summer kiosks).
Strategic Freiraumentwicklung for Climate Goals	„Wir haben uns auch als Universität das Ziel gesetzt, eine klimaneutrale Universität zu werden, und 2030 klimaneutral sein zu wollen. [...] In dem Projekt Campus 2030 sowohl den Aspekt der Klimaneutralität zu beleuchten, als auch dann im selben Punkt zu sagen, wie kann man jetzt den Freiraum entsprechend ausgestalten. Da gibt es Überlegungen von unterschiedlichen Themenschwerpunkten in unterschiedlichen Höfen.“	Open space planning is linked to strategic climate goals (e.g. Campus 2030). Courtyards are being reimagined with thematic foci, demonstrating how spatial design aligns with long-term sustainability visions.

Appendix S: Interview Synthesis – Local Committee Indre By Copenhagen

Table 13: Interview Synthesis – Local Committee Indre By Copenhagen.

Own compilation.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
1.1.1 What does the term "public open space" mean to you?	"So when you say public life, public space, Copenhagen city centre is one big public area." "Well, that's the issue because you have a lot of privately owned areas in the city centre. Which is most commonly used for cafés and chairs so people can earn money. So even though they are private, they're actually public. You wouldn't know. If you saw them you would never know they were private. [...] If anything's private, it needs to be behind a locked door. If not, it is public."	Public open space is understood as any space that is accessible and used by the public – regardless of ownership. In Copenhagen's city centre, the entirety is perceived as a continuous public zone. Even privately owned areas (such as café zones) are considered public in practice, as they are indistinguishable to users unless physically locked off.
1.1.2 In your opinion, can a privately owned space still be considered public?	"Well, that's the issue because you have a lot of privately owned areas in the city centre. Which is most commonly used for cafés and chairs so people can earn money. So even though they are private, they're actually public. You wouldn't know. If you saw them you would never know they were private. [...] If anything's private, it needs to be behind a locked door. If not, it is public."	Yes, if a space is physically accessible and open, it is perceived as public, even when privately owned. For Sally, the line is drawn at physical barriers – if there is no locked door, the space is effectively public.
1.2.1 In your opinion, what qualities should a public open space have?	"One of the most common ones is that the houses aren't too tall. Which means you have sunlight. [...] My point is – the sense of space is what I'm trying to say. It's a sense of space. You can see the sunlight, you can move around on the streets." "[...] a few benches would make a huge difference." "We need space because we have close to no facilities for anything. I think we have like 2 tennis courts in this entire area."	A good public space provides a "sense of space": sunlight access, low building heights, physical openness, and the ability to move freely. Even small interventions like adding benches can significantly enhance usability. Additionally, the area should offer basic amenities and recreational infrastructure, which are currently lacking in Indre By.
1.3.1 In your experience, what factors influence whether a public open space possesses these qualities?	"So one thing is to respect the area [...] another thing is people live there and care about the area." "The cafes will take the area and then the kommune won't check and stuff. [...] It's a huge issue here that we don't feel welcome now in our own neighbourhood."	Respect for the space and the people who live in the area is crucial. If the users – especially residents – care for the space, its quality improves. Conversely, commercial interests, such as cafés overtaking sidewalks, can diminish the sense of publicness and inclusivity.
1.3.2 What role do ownership and administrative structures play in this, in your view?	"Only the owner of the house gets a hearing, not the people living there, and they don't care because they don't live here." "For years businesses have known this and just done whatever they wanted, with no consequence."	Ownership determines whose voice is heard. Currently, only property owners are involved in hearings, not tenants or everyday users. This, combined with weak enforcement by authorities, leads to unchecked commercial appropriation of public areas.
1.4.1 What current challenges do public open	"It's a huge issue here that we don't feel welcome now in our own neighbourhood because the cafés will take the area and then the kommune won't check and stuff."	Residents feel increasingly unwelcome due to commercial encroachment, particularly by cafés and bars. Lax municipal enforcement allows misuse of

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
spaces face – particularly in Copenhagen's Indre By?	"The city has very lax rules. [...] If someone uses public space without a licence, this will happen: The city will not react until someone complains multiple times. Then they will start an application process. [...] All the business has to do is to take away the extra furniture and all is forgiven." "There are similar stories for bars where a bar can cordon off public space but has no requirements to make sure that their own guests, who often stand outside in residential areas, show any kind of consideration. [...] There is less enforcement at night." "So one thing is to respect the area [...] another thing is people live there and care about the area."	public space until complaints accumulate, and even then, consequences are minimal. Enforcement is limited in time (e.g. not at night), leading to a sense of lawlessness in spatial management.
2.1.1 How did you experience the transition from the former Municipal Hospital to the current university use?	"Yes, I heard that people were angry when the hospital had to close down but I really haven't heard anything about it since."	Recalls public discontent when the hospital closed but notes a lack of continued local engagement or discussion since then.
2.1.3 Can you share any reflections on public or political debates surrounding the transformation (e.g. citizen protests, debates in the Citizens' Representation)?	"Yes, I heard that people were angry when the hospital had to close down."	The only remembered reaction was initial anger at the hospital closure; no ongoing debates or protests were recalled.
2.2.1 In your opinion, what significance does the open space at CSS have for the district and the city as a whole?	"That's why I'm so happy to answer this question because the issue is that [...] we need space in this area." "Whenever you can open up stuff inside the inner city for that, it's a plus."	In a district with a serious lack of recreational infrastructure, any additional accessible space is highly valuable. Thus, opening up parts of CSS to the public would be a welcomed contribution.
2.2.2 What interrelations do you observe between the CSS open space and other public spaces in Copenhagen?	"You can just see that across the street you have Botanisk Have, you have Kongens Have."	CSS is spatially embedded among prominent green areas like Botanisk Have and Kongens Have, forming part of a larger green and open network.
2.3.1 What role do university campus areas play in urban society generally, – in general and in Copenhagen in particular?	"Back to the old issue again, because when you have people coming in here who don't live here, that means that you had a lot of universities by Strøget. That would in turn mean that the shops in Strøget would either be book shops or it would be food for tourists and people who just needed a quick snack. Not, not people from here."	University campuses are seen as shaping local commercial dynamics more than social integration. Observes that the presence of universities in central areas like Strøget leads to a shift in retail offerings toward tourist-oriented and transient-use services. Rather than serving local communities, such campuses are perceived as contributing to a

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
		consumption-based, less rooted urban environment.
2.3.2 In what ways do you perceive the CSS open space as different from other university campuses in Copenhagen?	"It was almost no people at evenings or nights, and many during the day." "People might pass through, but I don't stay for recreation."	CSS appears underused in the evenings, with some transient daytime use. It lacks strong pull factors for lingering or recreation, making it feel less integrated into the urban social fabric.
2.4.1 The open space is privately owned and managed. Who do you consider the target group for its design, maintenance and use – the general public or primarily students?	"It worked [...] but do you know if the university has any goals of opening up? Or they don't care?"	There is uncertainty regarding the university's goals for the site. Questions whether the university intends to engage with the public at all, indicating a lack of transparency or dialogue.
2.4.2 To what extent does the CSS open space, in your view, exhibit the qualities mentioned earlier (see 1.2)?	"It seems fine when you walk through. But if the goal is to have a more inclusive environment, then no." "They might stay a bit extra, but it was more like 'Yes, it's OK to be here.' I mean, the area seem nice when I was there. But I didn't see a lot that would keep people."	The space is considered passable but uninspiring. Sally remarks, Suggests the space is functionally open but lacks amenities, programming, or design features that encourage extended or inclusive use.
2.4.3 Which factors or specific characteristics contribute to or hinder these qualities in your view (physical, procedural etc.)?	"A few benches would make a huge difference." "If the goal is that you collaborate more with people from the outside, then no. But if the goal is to have an area where you have a university, then it's fine."	Small changes like adding benches could improve the space. However, there is a general sense that the university does not actively seek community collaboration or outreach.
2.4.4 To what extent is the CSS space affected by the challenges mentioned earlier (see 1.4)?	"It seems fine when you walk through. But if the goal is to have a more inclusive environment, then no." "A few benches would make a huge difference." "If the goal is that you collaborate more with people from the outside, then no."	Yes, CSS reflects broader trends in Copenhagen: lack of inclusive design, insufficient engagement with local needs, and weak integration with surrounding life. Despite seeming fine on the surface, it does not fulfill its potential as a social or civic resource.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.5.1 What developments have you observed in the CSS open space in recent years? → E.g. change in user demands, altered use policies, new management guidelines?	"I really haven't heard anything about it since."	There is a perception of stagnation. Refers to the transformation from hospital to university. This indicates that the space has seen little visible change or initiative in recent years, at least from the perspective of local residents. The site seems to lack presence in public discourse or daily community life.
2.6.2 What role does the municipality or local civil society play in decision-making processes?	"Do you know if the university has any goals of opening up? Or they don't care?"	Unclear. Questions whether the university intends to collaborate or not, pointing to a lack of visible or known engagement and a lack of communication between the actors.
2.6.4.2 How would these qualities potentially change if the space were owned by the municipality?	The city has very lax rules. [...] For years businesses have known this and just done whatever they wanted, with no consequence."	Not about the Kommunehospitalet, but about the inner city in general: Criticises the city's weak enforcement practices, implying that municipal ownership alone would not necessarily improve the situation unless enforcement changes.
2.7.1.1 If you had more influence – what would you change in terms of physical design and programming?	"A few benches would make a huge difference."	Adding basic infrastructure like benches could greatly enhance usability.
2.7.1.3 Have there been any conflicts or local demands around the site?	"I could ask them. But I mean, I don't know what they would answer."	There appear to be no formal complaints or active local demands regarding the CSS site. Shows uncertainty about broader opinions. The only recurring issue mentioned is occasional noise from student parties. This suggests limited public engagement with the space, and a general sense of detachment rather than active opposition or civic mobilisation.

Appendix T: Interview Synthesis – University of Copenhagen

Table 14: Interview Synthesis – University of Copenhagen.

Own compilation.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
0.1.1 Could you briefly describe your role and responsibilities as Head of Campus Services at City Campus?	„I'm in charge of gardening and the surroundings. I'm not the head of the campus, no. But I'm in charge of waste and yes, and the surroundings and keep them tight and and needy and to the public to visit and yes, for the students as well, yeah.“	The interviewee is responsible for gardening, waste management, and maintaining the campus surroundings to keep them clean and welcoming for students and visitors. They clarify they are not the head of the entire campus.
0.1.2 What specific services fall under your management (e.g. cleaning, gardening, security, etc.)?	„I'm in charge of gardening and the surroundings. [...] I'm in charge of waste and yes, and the surroundings [...]“ „No, it's not in my department, the security isn't, but I have employees that take care of a waste. They are employed here.“ „Yes, on my side here. It's not the same everywhere, it depends on ... history, you know. But I have gardening and waste, yes.“	The interviewee manages gardening, waste management, and the campus surroundings. Security is not part of their department. Responsibilities may vary by location, but gardening and waste are consistently under their oversight.
0.1.3 How do you refer to the area within City Campus that includes CSS (e.g. "former Municipal Hospital") and why?	„Kommunehospitalet or CSS.“ „Yeah, but now the city campus is also the administration at Fure Plads. And it's also the Botanic Garden. But their institute, has their own employed gardening to take care, because all the flowers and everything over there is for science. Even though it's city campus as well.“	The interviewee refers to the City Campus as including areas like the administration at Fure Plads and the Botanic Garden, though they note that parts like the Botanic Garden have separate staff due to their scientific function. This suggests that “City Campus” is used broadly but includes distinct areas with different responsibilities.
1.1.1 What does the term "public open space" mean to you?	„When I say the public, it's mostly the student and the employers here. But also for our neighbours and for citizens, for everyone. So, it's not that, you know, all the gates are closed and you're not allowed to be here. It's not like that. So, yes, so it's for everyone, although it's still a private area, yeah.“	To the interviewee, “public open space” means a space accessible to everyone – primarily students and staff, but also neighbors and citizens. While the area is privately owned, it is not closed off, and the intention is to make it feel open and welcoming.
1.1.2 In your opinion, can a privately owned space still be considered public?	„So, yes, so it's for everyone, although it's still a private area, yeah.“ „Yeah. Yes, it does, because it's signalling that it's not for everyone.“ (auf die Frage, ob das Schließen von Toren beeinflusst, wie öffentlich der Raum wirkt)	Yes, the interviewee believes a privately owned space can still be public if it's accessible to everyone. However, actions like closing gates can undermine that perception, as they signal exclusion and make the space feel less public.
1.1.3 Do you view the open space of the university campus as	„Yeah, yeah, because everyone's allowed to use the site.“ „There are many people, you know, that are dog walking here and it's mostly neighbours but we like them to feel they have the right to be here. It's an open space and but it's mostly neighbours. I don't think there are so many citizens in the city that think of this as an open space, that you are allowed to be here.“	The interviewee sees the campus as public in principle, since everyone is allowed to use it. In practice, however, it's mostly used by neighbors, and many citizens may not perceive it as accessible. There's a desire to be open, but the lack of signage or formal

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
public open space?	„I think it's an interesting question because ... it is! Because on one side we would like to invite all in and on the other side, if you don't know us, too bad - some kind of. So it's just like if you know we're here come on in, but we don't have a banner or something or have some side some kind of signs or cooperation with the Municipality.“ „Yeah, of course. Yeah, yeah!“ (auf die Frage, ob sie sich wünschen würde, dass mehr Leute denken, sie dürften den Raum nutzen)	outreach limits public awareness and inclusion.
1.2.1 In your opinion, what qualities should a public open space have?	„Some benches, some diversity in the in the floor, in the ground material. And that it's nice to sit in and that you can ... It's it's difficult to explain, sorry. But it's tight and it's clean and it's inviting you to use the area.“ „I think everyone wants less cars. I think if you went out and interviewed some they will say it's nice there are less cars. Of course I think for me myself I will say the same, yeah, I haven't really thought about it.“ „It's very much an open time to talk about the diversity in the trees, in the garden and everything and for all the small animals to ... sorry...“ - "Biodiversity?" - „Yeah! And we like to see a lot more of that. And people just, you know use the plants if we can, we have some fruit and you are welcome to come and pick it. Yes. „Yeah, that is to have less lawn. And have flowers instead. Yeah. I would like the gardeners to use their knowledge for gardening and not for sitting on a lawn mower.““ „In in building 35 in the yard over there, we have some apples and and some other sorts. We have just planted in what we call The Woman or The Secret Garden, we just planted 10 apple trees to make a little apple forest, you know?“ „The value of our outdoor thing here for the student: when the sun starts and the heat is on – if you can say so – the life is outside. I think it has a great value that you can go outside and that you can eat your lunch outside and you can socialise you can do your master' thesis. You can sit outside. I think that has a great value. Also for staf working here.“ „If you want people to use the outdoor more, everything is possible! I think if you think a new thought of something ... I like it very much.“	A public open space should be clean, inviting, and include seating, diverse ground materials, and biodiversity (e.g. trees, flowers, fewer lawns). It should reduce car presence and support social use – like relaxing, eating, or studying outdoors. Spaces should feel alive and useful, encouraging interaction with nature and people.
1.3.1 In your experience, what factors influence whether a public open space possesses these qualities?	„Every year me and the gardeners we make a strategy for the year. And what would we like to see more of here and that's how it works.“ „Just we have this 2030 Goals about, you know, green everything and I think it's as much of their interest that we achieve that. It's for the whole university. Yeah, all campus have to achieve these goals. It's, you know, it's on energy, it's on waste, everything. I think last year there was a consulting firm, that made a study on the whole university, on all campuses, how is the status now on this biodiversity and are we on track?“	Strategic planning by staff (e.g. yearly plans with gardeners) and broader sustainability goals (like the university's 2030 agenda) strongly influence quality. External evaluations, such as biodiversity assessments, also guide development.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
1.3.2 What role do ownership and administrative structures play in this, in your view?	„No, no, no. If I want to make some changes with the with the gardening we just do it. We have a dialogue with the owners of the place and they are very like 'Go ahead. Do it!'"	Ownership plays a minimal restricting role. There's a cooperative relationship with property owners, who are supportive of changes. The campus teams have high autonomy and freedom to implement strategies that benefit users and align with shared sustainability goals.
	„Their agenda for this? They want to look good as well. Just we have this 2030 Goals about, you know, green everything and I think it's as much of their interest that we achieve that.“	agenda
	„We just consult [the owner] when we want to do something that they could have an opinion on.“	
	„Yeah, yes.“ (auf die Frage: „you pretty much have all the power you need?“)	
	„I think it's pretty much the same because when I talk to all my colleagues on the other campuses, they decide, they do the strategy for 'what should we do here, what would be nice for the public, what would be nice for the students...'. I don't think that there are any restrictions for what we can do.“	
1.4.1 What current challenges do public open spaces face – particularly in Copenhagen's Indre By?	„I think it's something with security. We had some years ago some dealing. And you know, you can have some young people at a period that they think this is a very nice place to be. But you know when they grow it fades out and maybe some come again. And we had a lot of homeless people sleeping in the area and, you know, we cannot force them out, but you can say that this is a public place. We are trying to keep it secure and neat, tight and everything.“	Challenges include ensuring safety, dealing with temporary disruptive groups (e.g. young people), and the presence of homeless individuals. Maintaining the space as both secure and welcoming is a balancing act.
2.1.1 How did you experience the transition from the former Municipal Hospital to the current university use?	„The hospital closed definitive in 1999. And the university rented it from 2000. [...] I think the university saw an opportunity to get rid of all the expensive addresses in downtown. [...] It was history. That was how you know the university was in the centre of Copenhagen and it was vivid and it gave some life [...] but I think all the student moved out of the centre in 2009.“	The transition began in 2000, turning a historical hospital space into a university campus. Initially maintained as a quiet, park-like area for recovery, it has gradually been adapted over the last few years to better serve students and staff, while preserving its green, open character.
	„They moved in in 2004. And in 2005, there was this opening celebration with Prince Joachim.“	
	„Yeah. I think again, it's history and it's mostly like a big park because it was for the patients to recover, to sit quietly. We have kept it for 20 years on that track, if you can say so. So it's in in from the last four years we have been working seriously on making it more unlike a park. But for the students and the employers to still have a place to sit and to ... yeah.“	
2.1.2 What role did the university play in the establishment of Lokalplan 349?	„There was a plan for private fancy housing here. Yeah. Private. Yeah. But I don't think that did get far. [...] But I don't think the university had any involvement in how this local plan turned out. I don't think so.“	The interviewee believes the university had no significant involvement in shaping the local plan; initial ideas for private housing existed but did not progress.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.1.3 Can you add any personal reflections on key milestones (1995: closure decision, 1999–2009: planning phase, etc.)?	„The hospital closed definitive in 1999. And the university rented it from 2000.“ „They moved in in 2004. And in 2005, there was this opening celebration with Prince Joachim.“	The hospital closed in 1999, the university began renting in 2000, moved in around 2004, and officially opened in 2005 with a celebration attended by Prince Joachim.
2.2.1 In your opinion, what significance does the open space at CSS have for the district and the city as a whole?	„The value of our outdoor thing here for the student: when the sun starts and the heat is on – if you can say so – the life is outside. I think it has a great value that you can go outside and that you can eat your lunch outside and you can socialise you can do your master' thesis. You can sit outside. I think that has a great value. Also for staff working here.“ „There are many people, you know, that are dog walking here and it's mostly neighbours but we like them to feel they have the right to be here. It's an open space [...] I don't think there are so many citizens in the city that think of this as an open space, that you are allowed to be here.“ „Yeah. Yes, it does, because it's signalling that it's not for everyone.“ (auf die Frage, ob Tore Einfluss auf die Wahrnehmung der Öffentlichkeit haben) „Yeah. I think again, it's history and it's mostly like a big park because it was for the patients to recover, to sit quietly. We have kept it for 20 years on that track, if you can say so.“	The space holds strong value for students and staff as a social and study area. Neighbors use it too, but many city residents don't perceive it as accessible. Its park-like character from hospital days has been preserved.
2.3.2 In what ways do you perceive the CSS open space as different from other university campuses in Copenhagen?	„Yes, yeah, if you take Frederiksberg Campus it's mostly for science. All the flowers and everything they have there because it's an old site from – what do you call it – for farming and it's still like that. So it's very much for education to the students to know all the plans and blah, blah, blah. So it's not facility to take care of the site there. They are employed at the institutes.“ „They have outsourced the gardening there. But of course, somebody on campus is in charge of what they're planning to do but I don't know their strategy for their campus.“ (bezieht sich auf South Campus) "The owner is Bygningssstyrelsen." „Yeah. I think again, it's history and [the CSS is] mostly like a big park because it was for the patients to recover, to sit quietly. We have kept it for 20 years on that track, if you can say so.“	CSS is more park-like and historically shaped by its hospital past. Other campuses, like Frederiksberg or South Campus, are more functionally tied to education and science, often with outsourced gardening and less emphasis on openness.
2.4.1 The open space is privately owned and managed. Who do you consider the target group for its design, maintenance and use – the general public or primarily students?	„When I say the public, it's mostly the student and the employers here. But also for our neighbours and for citizens, for everyone.“ „Yeah, yeah, because everyone's allowed to use the site.“ „There are many people, you know, that are dog walking here and it's mostly neighbours but we like them to feel they have the right to be here.“ „So it's just like if you know we're here come on in, but we don't have a banner or something or have some side some kind of signs or cooperation with the Municipality.“ „Yeah, it could be the students. Some of the students. Some representatives or some users. 'They would like to have more x here, is it possible?' Or if somebody want to grow carrots or something, they could just ... everything could be possible! Yeah. Yeah.“	Primarily students and staff, but also neighbors and citizens. The space is intended for broad use, though visibility and signage are limited. Input from users is welcomed.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„The value of our outdoor thing here for the student.“	
2.4.2 To what extent does the CSS open space, in your view, exhibit the qualities mentioned earlier (see 1.2)?	„It's tight and it's clean and it's inviting you to use the area.“ „We have just planted in what we call The Woman or The Secret Garden, we just planted 10 apple trees to make a little apple forest, you know?“ „Yeah, that is to have less lawn. And have flowers instead. Yeah. I would like the gardeners to use their knowledge for gardening and not for sitting on a lawn mower.“ „Everything is possible! I think if you think a new thought of something ... I like it very much.“	It is described as clean, welcoming, and biodiverse. Initiatives include planting apple trees and shifting from lawn to flowers. Creativity and new ideas are encouraged.
2.4.3 Which factors or specific characteristics contribute to or hinder these qualities in your view (physical, procedural etc.)?	„Because on one side we would like to invite all in and on the other side, if you don't know us, too bad – some kind of.“ „We are trying to keep it secure and neat, tight and everything.“ „I think it's something with security. We had some years ago some dealing. [...] We had a lot of homeless people sleeping in the area [...]“ „We just consult [the owner] when we want to do something that they could have an opinion on.“ „I would like the gardeners to use their knowledge for gardening and not for sitting on a lawn mower.“ „I think it's pretty much the same because when I talk to all my colleagues on the other campuses, they decide, they do the strategy [...]. I don't think that there are any restrictions for what we can do.“	Support comes from management freedom and a willing property owner. Challenges include visibility (few signs), some safety issues, and past misuse (e.g. by homeless individuals). Physical upkeep and flexible use help maintain quality.
2.4.4 To what extent is the CSS space affected by the challenges mentioned earlier (see 1.4)?	„We had some years ago some dealing. [...] We had a lot of homeless people sleeping in the area and, you know, we cannot force them out [...]“	Past issues include temporary misuse (e.g. sleeping in the area) and the need to balance openness with security.
2.5.1 What developments have you observed in the CSS open space in recent years? → E.g. change in user demands, altered use policies, new management guidelines?	„In in building 35 in the yard over there, we have some apples and and some other sorts. We have just planted in what we call The Woman or The Secret Garden, we just planted 10 apple trees to make a little apple forest, you know?“ „Yeah, that is to have less lawn. And have flowers instead. Yeah. I would like the gardeners to use their knowledge for gardening and not for sitting on a lawn mower.“ So it's in in from the last four years we have been working seriously on making it more unlike a park. But for the students and the employers to still have a place to sit and to ... yeah.“	Efforts have focused on transforming the space from a park to a more student-focused area, including planting new trees and promoting biodiversity. There's a desire for gardeners to focus more on planting than lawn maintenance.
2.5.2 Could you elaborate on specific access policies (e.g. night closures, card-only access, opening hours)?	„I think it's something with security. We had some years ago some dealing. [...] And we had a lot of homeless people sleeping in the area [...] So it's mostly a signal about 'now we (the employees) are at home everyone'. But you can come in from the other gates around, yeah.“ „Yeah, because of the paid parking because of that, because if you park your car here, you have to get out.“ „Because you could always come in here if you wanted. The gate to Gammeltoftsgade is open 24/7 because it's a fire security path.“	While some gates close at night for symbolic reasons, access is still possible (e.g. 24/7 through Gammeltoftsgade for fire safety). Gate closures reflect habit and history more than restriction.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
	„Us closing the gates was ... history. Because it was like that when it was a hospital and you know the gates were there. We're closing them. But mostly for signalling, that now we are in bed.“	
2.6.1 Which actors are involved in managing, maintaining, and programming the CSS open space?	„I'm in charge of gardening and the surroundings. [...] I'm in charge of waste [...]“ „I have employees that take care of a waste. They are employed here.“ „Yes, on my side here. [...] I have gardening and waste, yes.“ „Every year me and the gardeners we make a strategy for the year. And what would we like to see more of here and that's how it works.“ „We have a dialogue with the owners of the place and they are very like 'Go ahead. Do it!'“	The interviewee and their team handle gardening and waste. Planning is done yearly with the gardeners. Property owners are consulted but supportive.
2.6.2 To what extent does the university influence decisions, given its role as tenant rather than owner?	„No, no, no. If I want to make some changes with the with the gardening we just do it. We have a dialogue with the owners of the place and they are very like 'Go ahead. Do it!'“ „We just consult when we want to do something that they could have an opinion on.“ „Yeah, yes.“ (auf die Frage, ob sie genug Entscheidungsmacht haben) „I think it's pretty much the same because when I talk to all my colleagues on the other campuses, they decide, they do the strategy for 'what should we do here, what would be nice for the public, what would be nice for the students...'. I don't think that there are any restrictions for what we can do.“	The university has substantial autonomy. There's regular but minimal consultation with the owner, who is generally supportive. Comparable freedom exists across other university campuses.
2.6.3 What responsibilities lie with the property owner, and what with KU and its staff (e.g. security, gardening)?	„We hadn't rent the parking lots. That is not a part of the deal of all the rent. „We have only for our facility cars, you know. And for I think 10 places has the university. So, no one is allowed to park here privately.“ „They were totally in their right to do that.“ (zur Einführung des bezahlten Parkens durch den Eigentümer) „I think their agenda is or all the things they focus on is 'as long as we don't damage the buildings'.“	The property owner is mainly concerned with building integrity and controls areas like parking. KU staff, on the other hand, manage daily operations like gardening and waste, with broad autonomy as long as the buildings aren't damaged.
2.6.4 Are there other actors involved in the site (e.g. businesses, kindergartens, cultural institutions)?	„We don't have any cooperation because ... I don't know. You know, it's the Municipality. They have the kindergarten and the youth club that is here, but I don't think they are ... They have their own area, their own little garden. So, that has nothing to do with us.“	Yes, there's a kindergarten and youth club run by the Municipality, but they operate independently within their own areas and don't coordinate with the university.
2.6.6 What role does the municipality or local civil society play in decision-making processes?	„No, but we're always very open if somebody has anything, if they want to ... have a little area, or they have good ideas because I think it's for everyone. So if you have a great idea, bring it on and we will see, yeah.“ „I don't think there are any initiatives. No, not what I'm aware of. [...] we don't have a banner or something or have some side some kind of signs or cooperation with the Municipality.“ „I will say it's on our table here. It's our decision. Yeah. Yeah.“	There is no formal cooperation or municipal involvement, but the university is open to community ideas and initiatives. Ultimately, decisions lie with KU.
2.6.3.1 Are there strategic	„Every year me and the gardeners we make a strategy for the year. And what would we like to see more of here and that's how it works.“	Yes, internal yearly strategies are developed with the gardening team,

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
development plans for CSS or its open spaces by the university or owner?	„No, we do that here in November for the next year. But it'll be for the green diversity. Yeah.“	focusing on biodiversity and green improvements.
2.6.4.1 To what extent do you think that ownership, management, and cooperation structures shape the space's qualities?	„No, no, no. If I want to make some changes with the with the gardening we just do it. We have a dialogue with the owners of the place and they are very like 'Go ahead. Do it!'“ „We just consult when we want to do something that they could have an opinion on.“ „I think their agenda is or all the things they focus on is 'as long as we don't damage the buildings'.“	Ownership has minimal influence as long as structural integrity is maintained. The university has a high degree of freedom in shaping the space.
2.6.4.2 How would these qualities potentially change if the space were owned by the university? Or by the municipality?	„I think it's pretty much the same because when I talk to all my colleagues on the other campuses [...] I don't think that there are any restrictions for what we can do.“	The interviewee sees little difference, as similar autonomy and strategy-setting exist across campuses regardless of ownership.
2.7.1.1 If you had more influence – what would you change in terms of physical design and programming?	„I think it's pretty much the same because when I talk to all my colleagues on the other campuses [...] I don't think that there are any restrictions for what we can do.“ „Yeah, that is to have less lawn. And have flowers instead. Yeah. I would like the gardeners to use their knowledge for gardening and not for sitting on a lawn mower.“ „I know those gymnastic things. It's about 10-12 years ago they were placed there and it was some of the employers wishes. [...] But we are open for everything.“ „Yeah, could be. If you want people to use the outdoor more, everything is possible! I think if you think a new thought of something ... I like it very much.“ „Yeah, it could be the students. Some of the students. Some representatives or some users. 'They would like to have more x here, is it possible?' Or if somebody want to grow carrots or something, they could just ... everything could be possible! Yeah. Yeah.“	Not much would change, as there's already significant freedom. However, suggestions include reducing lawn, adding flowers, enabling community gardening, and responding to student ideas. Everything is considered possible.
2.7.1.2 What would you change regarding participation processes and decision-making structures?	„We are open for everything.“ „Yeah, it could be the students. [...] Everything could be possible!“ „No, but we're always very open if somebody has anything, if they want to ... have a little area, or they have good ideas because I think it's for everyone. So if you have a great idea, bring it on and we will see, yeah.“	Participation is already open and informal. Ideas from students and users are welcomed; there's no formal structure, but high openness to input.

Guiding Question	Extracted Relevant Verbatim Responses (DE + EN)	Synthesised Response
2.7.1.3 Have there been any conflicts or local demands around the site?	„I don't think there are any initiatives.“	No known conflicts or active local initiatives.
2.7.2.1 What are the implications of the university's planned relocation for the open space and its governance?	„I think it's to use money on education and science instead of bricks. Yeah, I think that's a part of it as well because we don't own them. We don't own the building.“ „And you know, everything changes and maybe more people, more employees are working at home or on the distance [...] I think it's part of a bigger strategy.“ „I think it's in 2027/2028, maybe, when we have to relocate. That that's the latest I have seen.“ „Yeah, until we hear something different, we go ahead as usual [with the space management]. Yeah. Yeah.“	The move, expected around 2027/2028, is seen as part of a broader strategy to reduce building-related costs and adapt to flexible work/study models. Until then, operations and space management continue as usual.
Ambiguity Between Openness and Lack of Outreach	“I think it's an interesting question because ... it is! Because on one side we would like to invite all in and on the other side, if you don't know us, too bad – some kind of. [...] no banner or cooperation with the Municipality.”	There is a tension between the desire to be open to everyone and the absence of visible signs or outreach efforts that actually communicate this openness to the broader public.
Ecological Focus Over Maintenance Formalities	“Yeah, that is to have less lawn. And have flowers instead. [...] not for sitting on a lawn mower.”	The interviewee strongly favors a more ecologically diverse and naturalistic design, emphasizing flowers and biodiversity over conventional lawn maintenance, which is seen as outdated and uninspired.
Limited Public Perception Despite Open Access	“There are many people, you know, that are dog walking here and it's mostly neighbours [...] I don't think there are so many citizens [...] that think of this as an open space.”	While the space is technically accessible to all, the general public does not widely perceive it as open. Actual use is largely limited to nearby residents, highlighting a gap in awareness or invitation.
Readiness for Participatory and Creative Use	“[...] if somebody want to grow carrots or something, they could just ... everything could be possible!”	The interviewee expresses openness to participatory uses, such as urban gardening. There is an inviting attitude toward user-driven ideas, suggesting potential for grassroots engagement in shaping the space.