PEOPLE
TRANSFORMATIONS

CONTENT

"People. Transformations"

This is a collection of materials that has been made by three groups of participants of the international youth exchange "People.Transformation" during two meetings in Berlin / Germany and Buchach / Ukraine.

During the exchange, the participants explored the city space and analyzed the influence of historical events on changes in the cities and the people.

The collection includes ideas of the participants about transformations of city-spaces and some information about the research methods that have been tested during the seminars.

TRASFORMATIONS

"" change/alteration ""

MIND MAP | How do you understand the concept of "transformation"? Select the first word-association that has come to your mind. Think: why did you choose this word and what it means to you?

GLOBALIZATION

PLASTICITY

RESEARCH

OPENNESS

CHALLENGE

STRATEGY

PROCESS

LOCALITY

VALUES

FIXATION

COMFORT

AWARENESS

WHY DO WE NEED TO WORK WITH THE TOPIC OF TRANSFORMATIONS

Try to find the answer to the question "Where we came from? How did we get there?». Try to understand the transformations that have created the current circumstances in the cities where we live.

Study the past transformations to avoid the increase of conflicts as the result of the transformations that are occurring now and should happen in the future.

To apply/use/attach knowledge about transformations in different spheres: literature, arts, business, city planning.
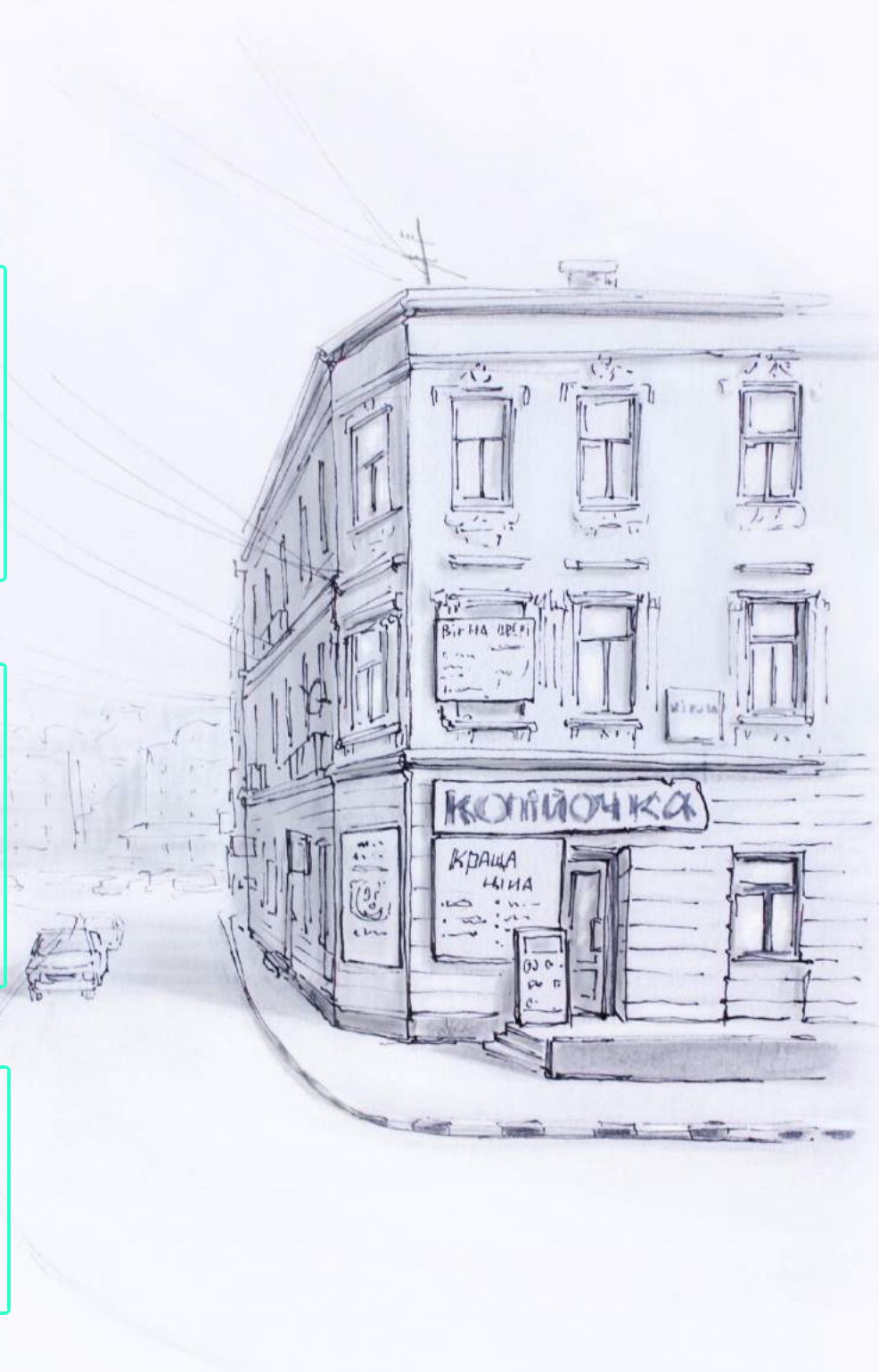
HOW TRANSFORMATIONS EFFECT
THE CITY DWELLERS

- The decrease of stereotypes;
- A great diversity of options "who I am and what to do";
- More facilities and development of infrastructure;
- Development of the standard of living.

- Discomfort, fear of change;
- Split by interests;
- People cannot always find a place in the new environment;
- The disappearance of the city's history;
- Increase of the conflicts (in a case when the transformation satisfies only one part of the citizens).
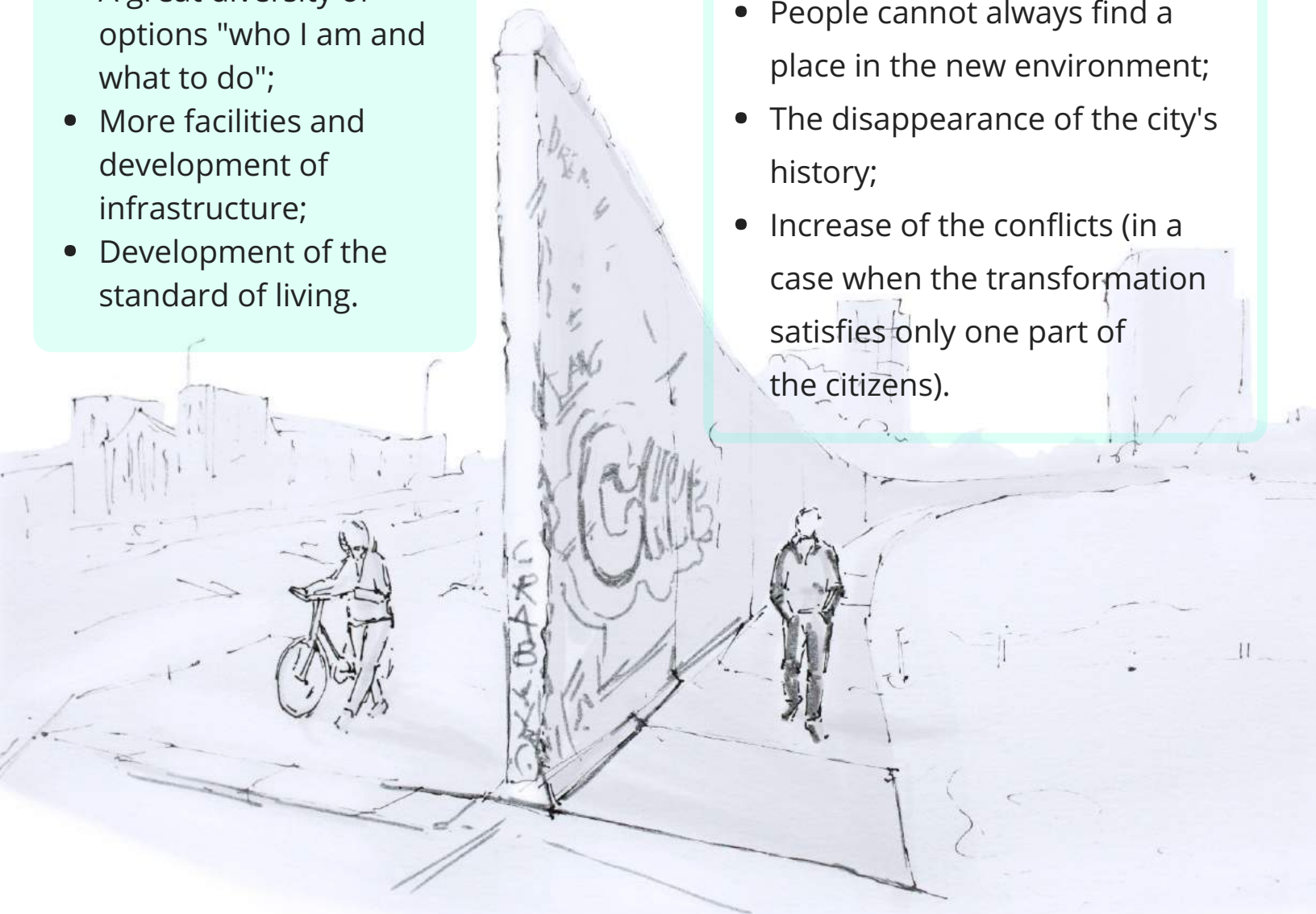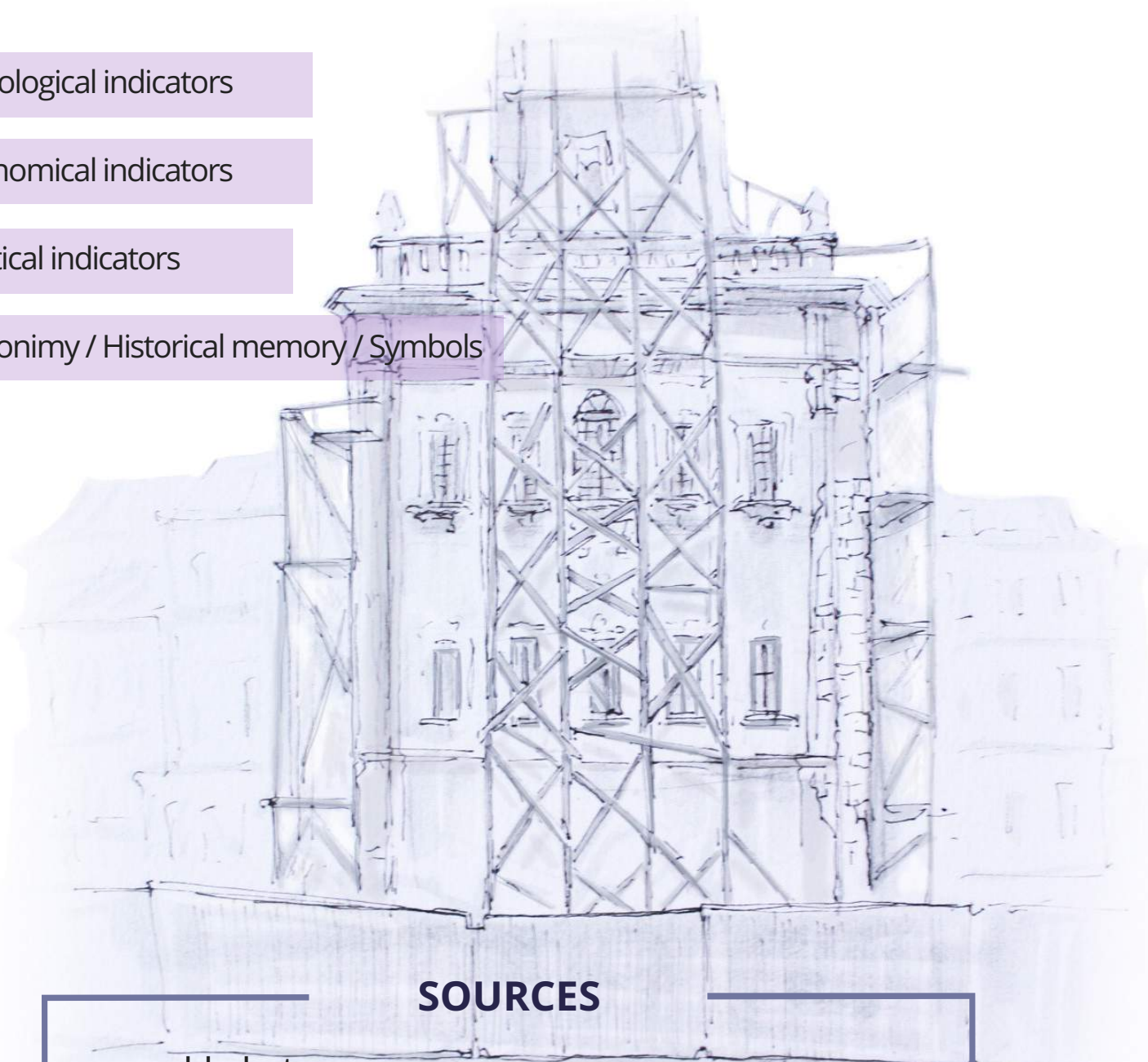
WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS OF TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE CITY ?

- Sociological indicators
- Economical indicators
- Political indicators
- Toponimy / Historical memory / Symbols

SOURCES

old photos

city plans

documents

works of art

buildings

documentary films

interviews

HOW TO GET STARTED

Before studying the city transformation, we offer to answer the following questions:

1. How much time do I have?
2. What do we want to find out?
3. Who I want to work with?
4. Why do we want to get the information?
5. Which competence do I have?
6. Which resources do I need?
7. Which method do I choose?
8. What do I need to do ?
9. Location
10. The work with media/other resources
11. Do I need an expert?
12. In which form I want to present the result?
13. How to work with the info I have?
14. Can I use the result in other fields?
15. Is the research useful for locals?

METHODS

- MY EVENING IN THE CITY AS A PERSON OF ... CENTURY

- WHAT A RESIDENT'S HISTORY SAYS ABOUT CITY HISTORY?

- TRANSFORMATION THAT CAN BE FELT

- FLANEURING: FINDING WITHOUT SEEKING

- TOPONYMIC AND MEMORY PLACES AS INDICATORS OF TRANSFORMATIONS

- WORK WITH CITY MAPS

- WHAT COULD SYMBOLS TELL ABOUT THEIR TOWN

- ARCHITECTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN URBAN SPACE

- WHERE COMMUNICATION IS LIVING

- DRAW A CITY FOR ME
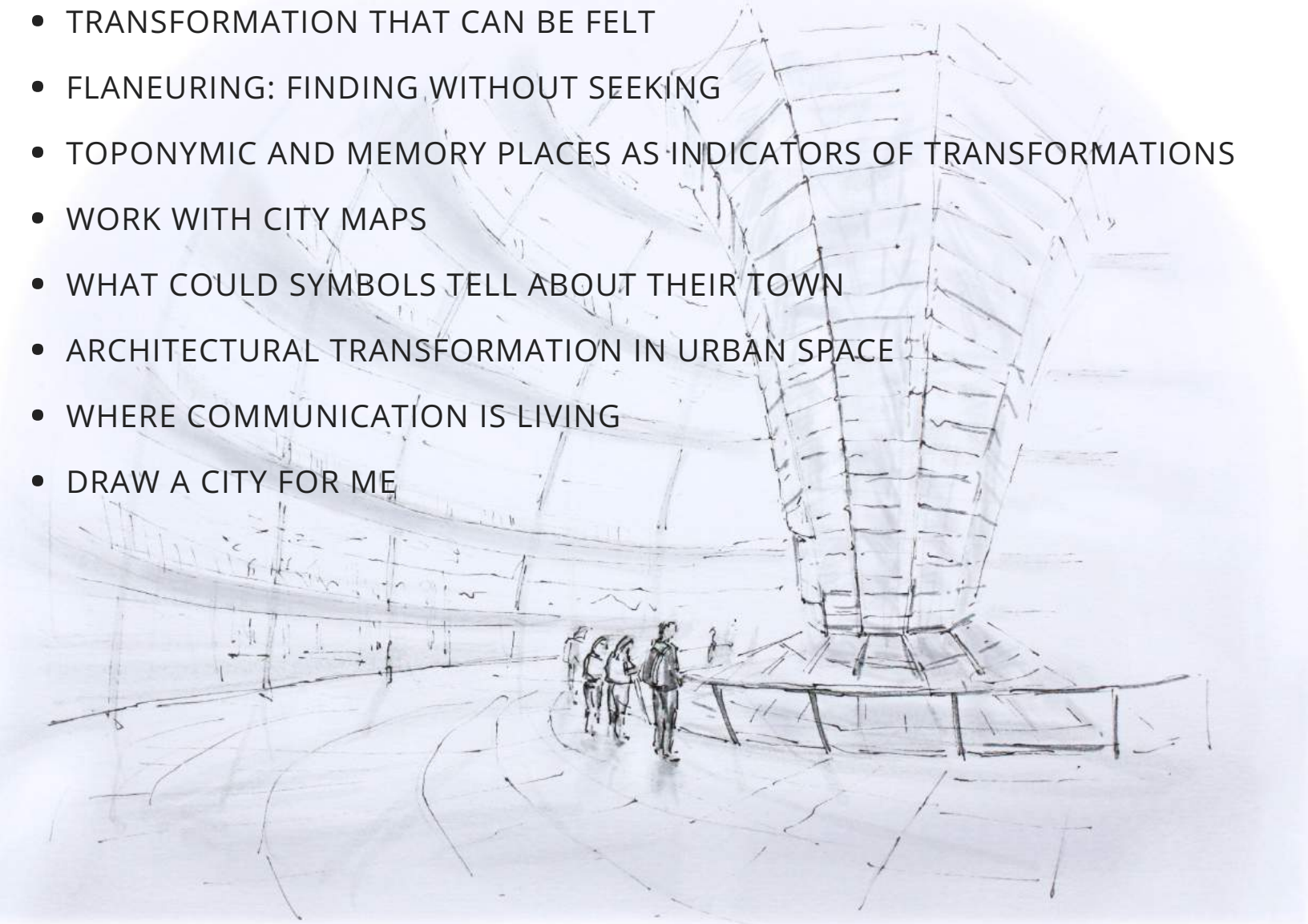
MY EVENING IN THE CITY AS A PERSON OF ... CENTURY

Objective: to understand how the transformation in the urban space can/cannot influence the daily life of its inhabitants; feel the importance / significance of the transformation of the city on a personal level.

Participants are united in three research teams, each of them chooses a century in which it wants "to spend an evening" (20th, 21st or 22nd).

1. Where I am going ?
2. What I see?
3. Whom I see and where we will meet?
4. What will I eat on dinner and where?
5. How will l entertain myself?
6. How I am moving through the city?
7. What buildings surround me ?
8. In what mood I am ?

After a night walk in the city each team must share the impressions of spending the evening and discuss:

- How comfortable is the city of the 20th, 21st or 22nd centuries? What influences the comfort / discomfort?
  What is the evening city holiday in the 20th, 21st or 22nd centuries? What are the changes in the public space of the town of the 21st century compared with the town in the 20th century?
- Are changes happening now?
- What changes should(not) happen in the city. Under what conditions?

P.S. One can try this exercise by yourself, you need to "spend three nights walking" in three different centuries in the city and then reflect on your personal perception and importance of the transformation that has taken place or is taking place in the city space.
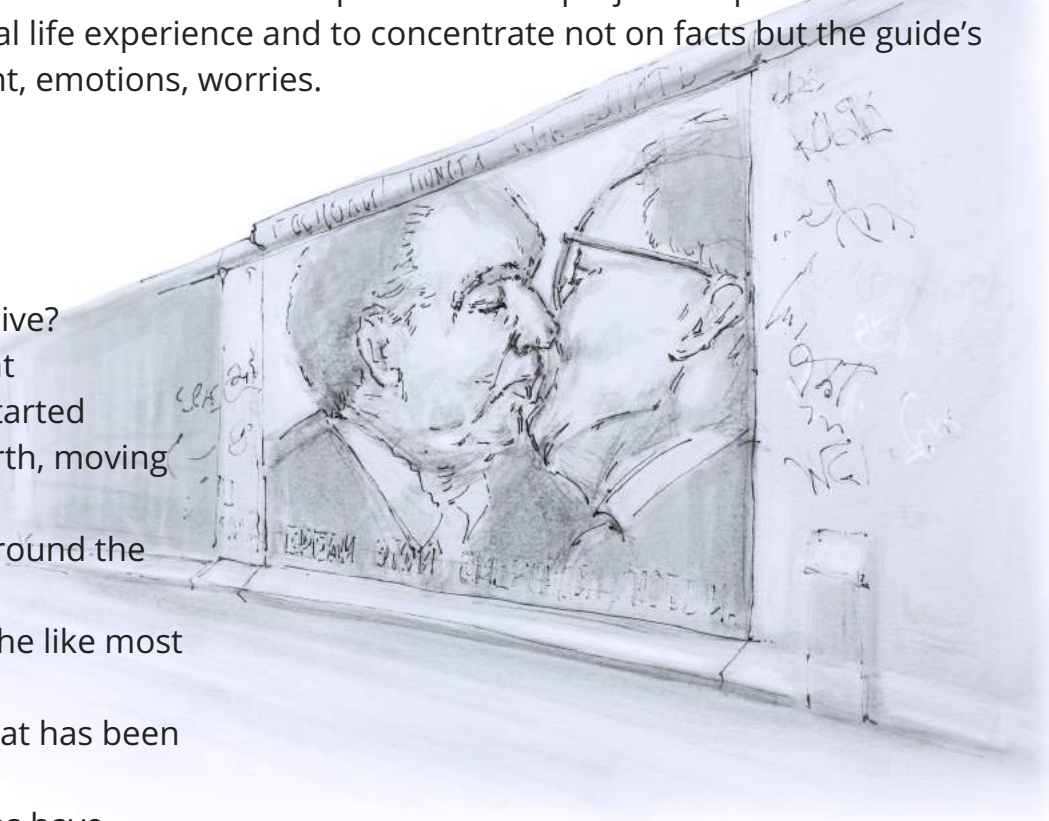
Objective: to understand what transformations have happened in a particular urban district through the history of its individual residents

It is necessary to choose a particular urban area and to found residents from the age of 30 who lives in this city and who is ready to give a tour. A guide (a person who gives a tour) has to choose a route of a journey by himself/herself. It is important for this course to include significant places for a guide or places that were changed or transformed.

Before or during the route one can interview the guide for more information and for penetrating a person deeply into a subject. While interview it is important to ask projective questions that are referred to the study of individual life experience and to concentrate not on facts but the guide's attitude, stereotypes, assessment, emotions, worries.

Questions:

- where does a person exactly live?
- how long and because of what circumstances did a person started residing in this place (from birth, moving because of the job, etc.)?
- how does the person move around the city?
- what parts of a city does he/she like most and why?
- what is missing in the city, what has been disappeared?
- what and how transformations have affected the person's life?

It is desirable to have several walks with different guides through the same district. It will give an opportunity to compare a different experience and to have the wider understanding of this issue.

TRANSFORMATION THAT CAN BE FELT

Objective: to find places related to different perception channels (visual, auditory, kinesthetic) of people. To find out and explain the common and distinctive features of the sites for people of different age and social groups.

To interview ten people of different age groups (18-35, 35-55, 55-75).
1. How does the city sound to you? What noises in which parts of the city do you notice? What are those that you like, and others that annoy you?
2. What visual images come to your mind immediately? (landscapes, street art, urban facilities) Where are they located? How often do you notice or see them?
3. What does the city smell like?
4. Do you have some special places in the city that taste you the best? What is the taste?

You need to analyze the results and make a map with sites mentioned by the respondents. It is also important to mark the places often encountered in the older age respondents' answers and were not referred to by the younger generation. To analyze how and why the meaning of those locations has been changed for the city residents.

FLANEURING: FINDING WITHOUT SEEKING

FLANEURING means walking along in a slow and relaxed manner. This is not an observation method because the observer sees extensive, holistic pictures and units that grab our attention with their substance or aesthetics, while the flaneur discovers unique things that are not usually visible on the city surface.

Objective:

> to feel the city, to observe your own and city's mood, let the city set a route, without seeking something specific.

Option 1
To enter the city space and let the city lead you through its small corners or wide squares, lay your directions spontaneously relying on your own feelings, to observe things that grab your attention as long as you want, listen to your whims and don't try to get to any particular places.

Option 2
To form a spontaneous route conditions and follow them, for example: go outside, walk to the nearest bus stop, get on the bus and drive through 4 stops, then walk on the street till you hear a car honk, and turn left at next street and pass exactly 300 steps, when you see a woman in red, go towards the highest antenna on the apartment building…

This method helps to expand the boundaries of the city perception; find new significant places, develops communication with the city throughout all body and contributes to the reflection about your relationship with space.

TOPONYMIC AND MEMORY PLACES AS INDICATORS OF TRANSFORMATIONS

Objective: To investigate how and when memory places in urban spaces were transformed and what is the marking policy towards those spaces made by the dominant political regime.

Objects of research:

monuments
symbolic buildings
plaques
place names
information and advertising
posters

A work in archives; usage of maps, photographs, documents, plans of cities and operations with oral history were used in order to investigate in complex the ways how to build a memory place and how was formed/shaped prevailed construct of memory. It also aimed to pay attention to what was the process of changing historical characters (displacement, imposition, replacement, hybridization).

This study may also help to understand to what extent multi-prospect representation of different communities of the city could be and how far the transformation of historical records is controlled by the state institutions.

WORK WITH CITY MAPS

Objective:
to explore how the space had been changing the last 100 years, analyse the causes and reasons of transformation.

To find city maps and plans (of late 19th century, early / mid / late 20th century and present). The maps should be readable and scaled enough to identify areas and streets.

TO COMPARE AND ANALYSE THE MAPS:

- To find the centre of the city on every map, compare and find out whether its boundaries had been changed. If so, what influenced this change? Does the geographical city centre coincide with the actual?

- Where were / are major enterprises that supported / are supporting the city's economy?

- What ethnic communities were living / are living in the city and how this information can be found in the public city space?

- What can toponyms tell you about the city?

- To study the most ancient map of all existing and find which parts of the city, streets, areas, markets, cemeteries still are present in modern city area.
What parts of the city disappeared and what are there now?
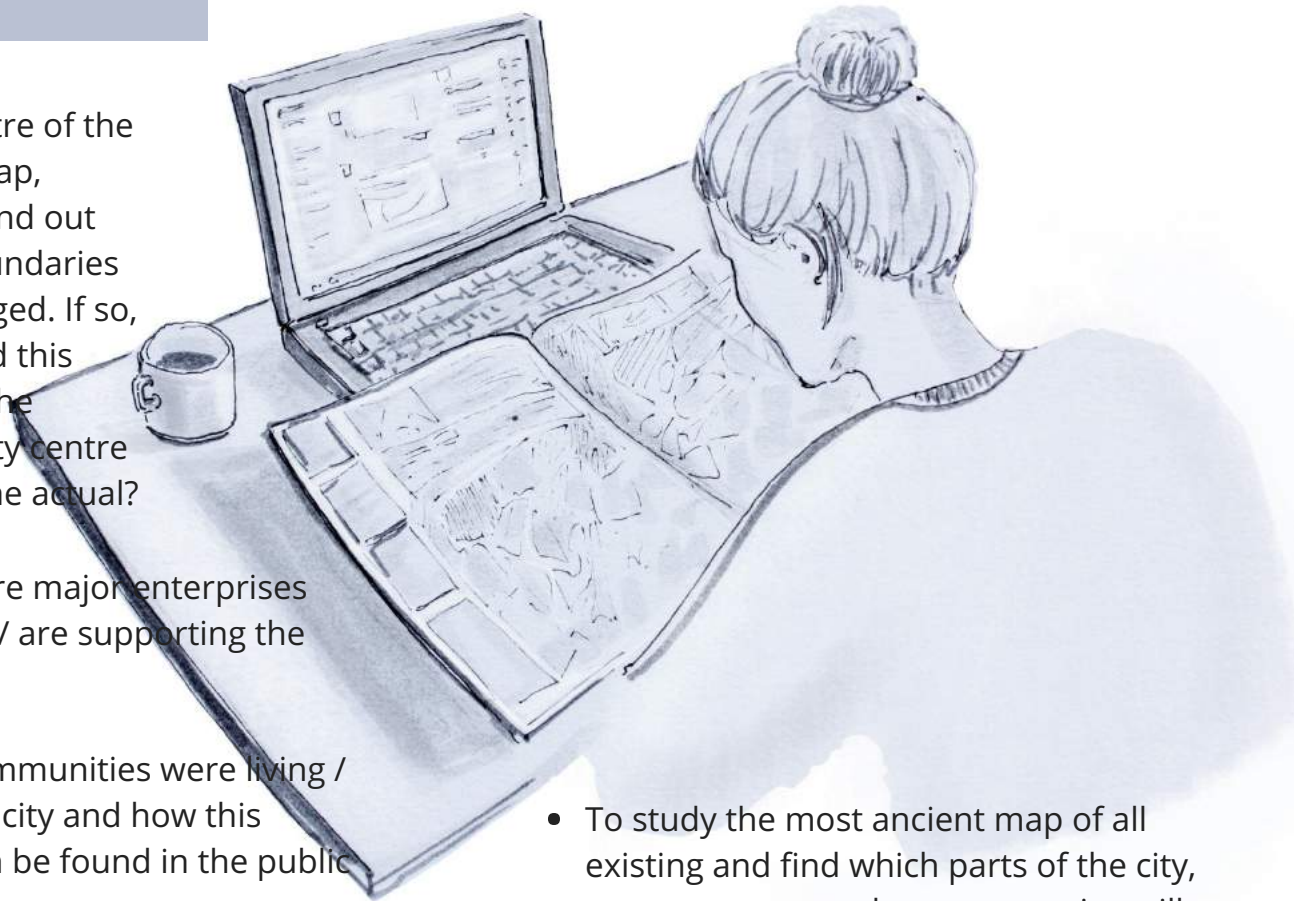
Objective: To find out which characteristics of the city constitute its image

We are using the survey method (questioning or short interviewing)
The questionnaire provides an opportunity to interview more people at lower time cost, but we have to keep in mind that such a format gives no opportunity to clarify, specify or simply ask respondent about what he or she meant.

We use unfinished sentences as questions in the questionnaire:

"Symbols of Buchach are..."

Respondents just have to enumerate those objects or phenomena they consider as symbols of the city.

- Hall, a fortress, a monument to Shevchenko, Assumption Catholic Church are historical sites
- Flag, trident are the symbols of state
- The mayor, city council are the political elite
- Dirty river, litter on the marketplace are environmental problems

Answers to this particular question make it possible to better understand the structure of social stereotypes and those components that form the image of the city. Special attention deserves historical monuments. It seems reasonable to examine which ones occur more often in the responses and how important are these attractions for towns people.
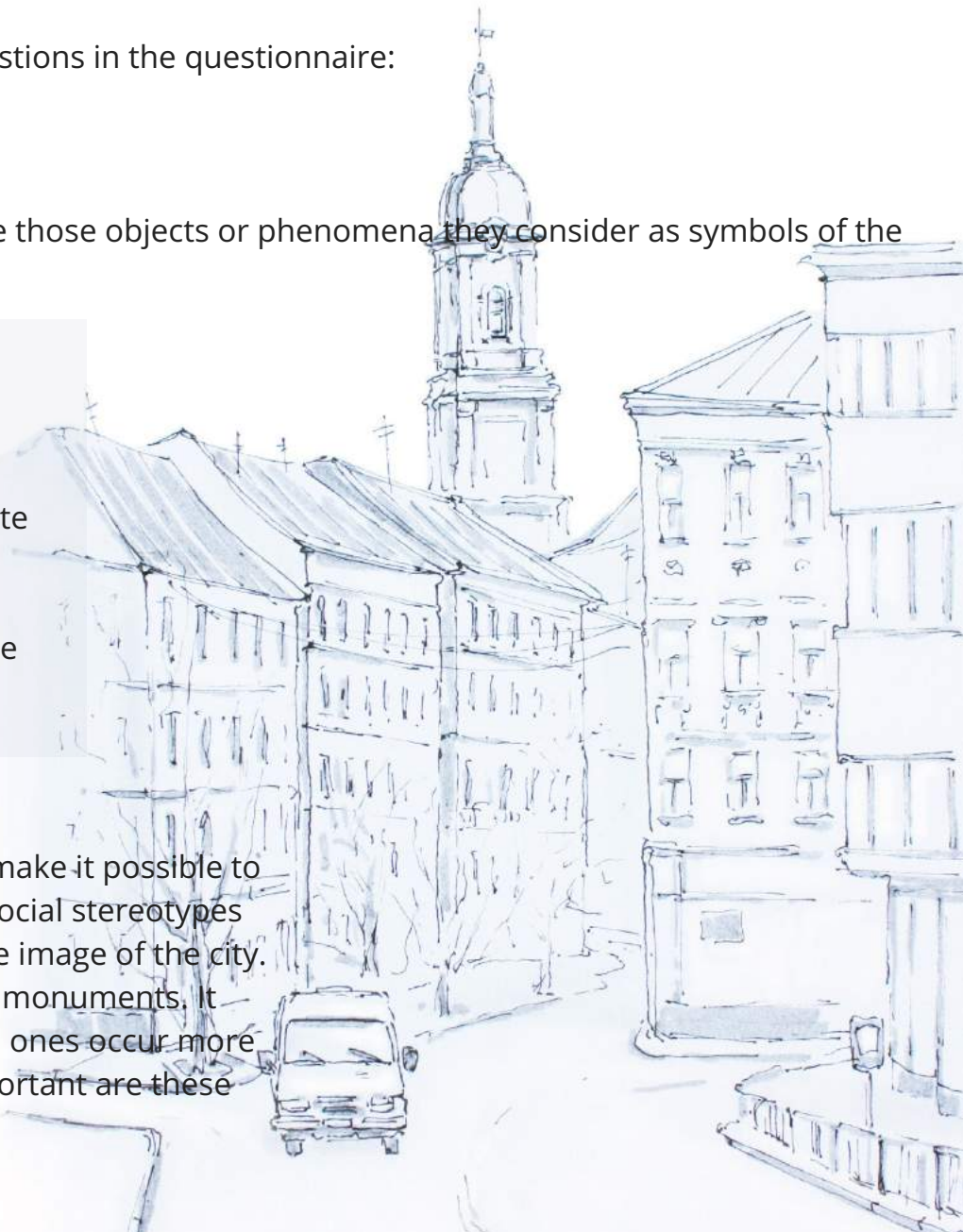
ARCHITECTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN URBAN SPACE

Objective: to follow the architectural transformation of urban space in the historic part of Buchach

Identify architectural styles present in the historic district and mark them on the map.

- historicism /classicism - yellow;
- art nouveau - orange;
- the soviet period - green ;
- constructivism- pink ;
- new buildings - white .

Comprehensively examine changes undergone architecture of a city style map results adds to the scheme:

W windows has changed
B balconies
D doors
S added stores
C changed color of houses
A advertising

# WHERE COMMUNICATION IS LIVING

Objective:

To investigate which areas of the city are platforms for communication between the citizens and see how those places have changed over the past 50 years.

Step1: interviews with indigenous people in the city who have lived there for 30-50 years. Find out which spots were popular in the days of their youth:
- where did they spend time in the city during the weekend;
- circumstances and where the could meet strangers in the city;
- the meeting points;
- where did they eat ice cream or drink beer;
- how much time did they spend in the public space of the city?

Step 2: Find these places and follow them; what role in the life of citizens do they play nowadays; which of these places are still spots for communication of urban residents.

Step 3: to identify the main areas favorable for the citizens for communication in the modern public space of the city and explore how are they created the conditions to be area for communication and how they are integrated with the urban jungle.
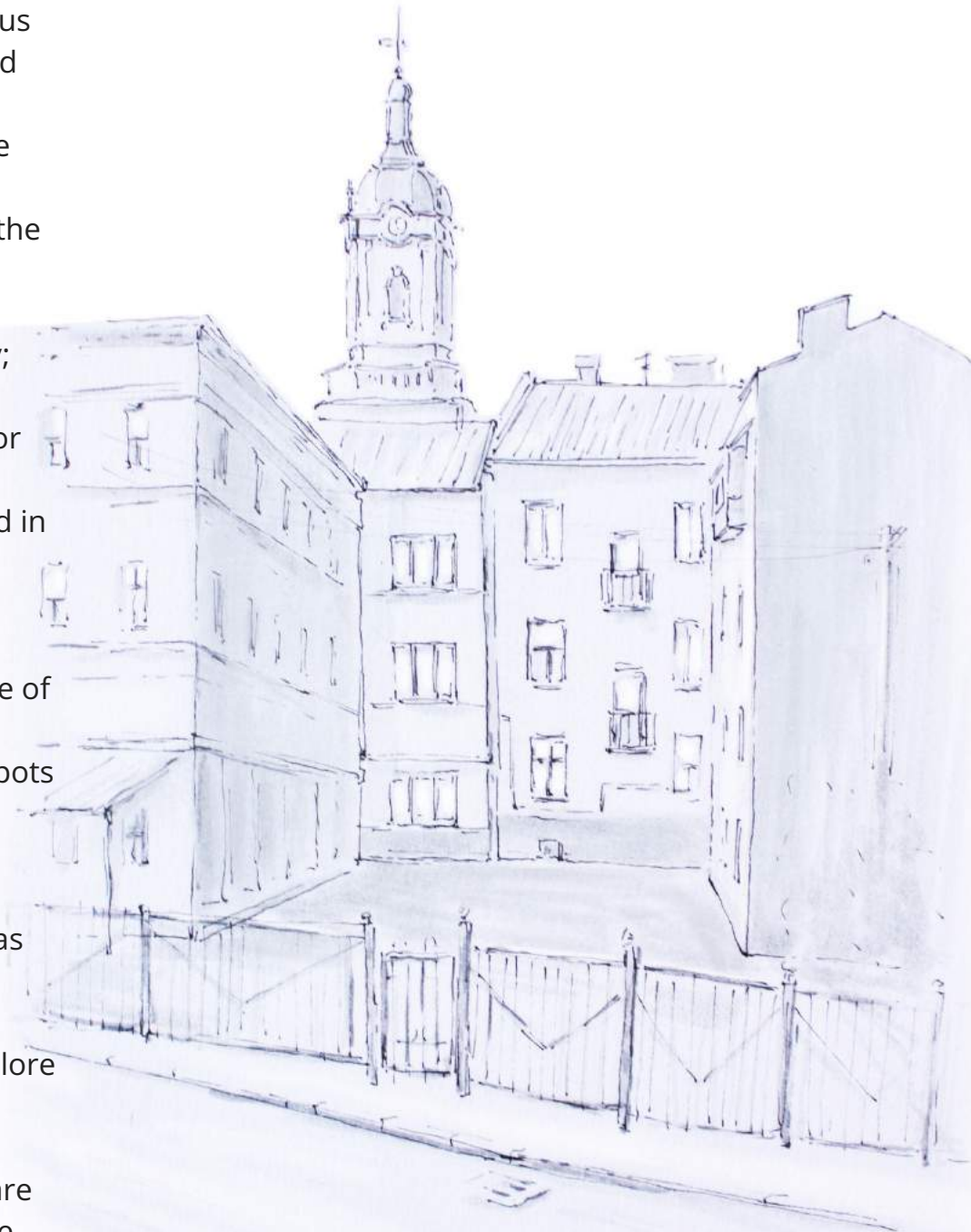
DRAW A CITY FOR ME

Objective: to overview the perception of urban space by citizens and look over districts planning of the city; to define the problematic points in the urban space of the city.

Participants are asked to visualize a city:

1. Drow a city in general and own city district
2. Centre of the town
3. Attractive (famous) places
4. Favorite place for relax
5. That area that could be added or removed from the town
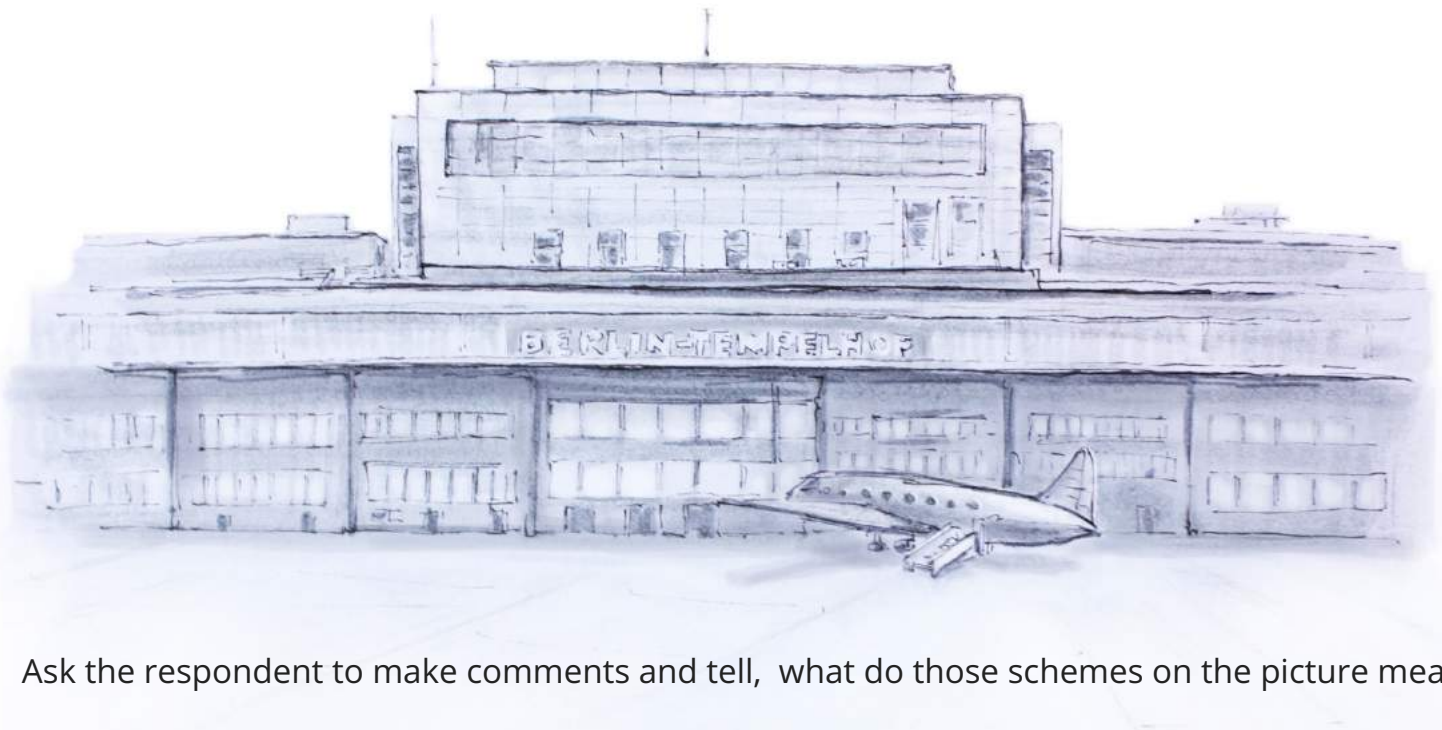
Ask the respondent to make comments and tell, what do those schemes on the picture mean. .

The points 1-4 tell how the participants perceive the city, and how they find theirself in that urban space (detailing their districts, the presence or absence of fences, objects related to work or lifestyle, what is the resting place, how they determined the city center, etc.)

The point 5 refers to the unmet needs that may arise, be absent or are the result of particular transformations in the city. Stay on this point and discuss it with respondents - what needs are urgent, and which of them are strategic to solve.

Peple. Transformations

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