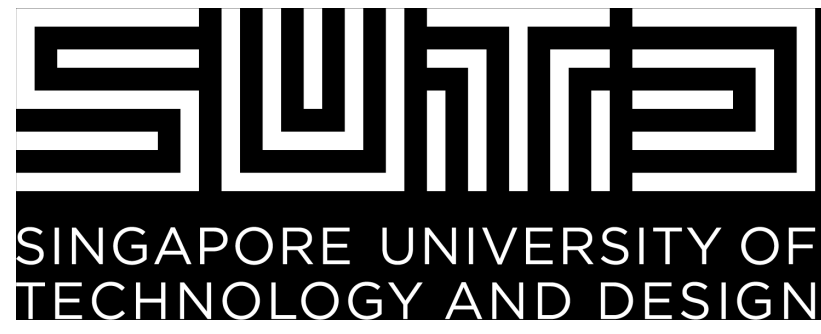


MAPPING URBAN BELONGING IN PLACES OF FLUX

Felicity Hwee-Hwa CHAN, Chloe Shi Yuan NG



Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities

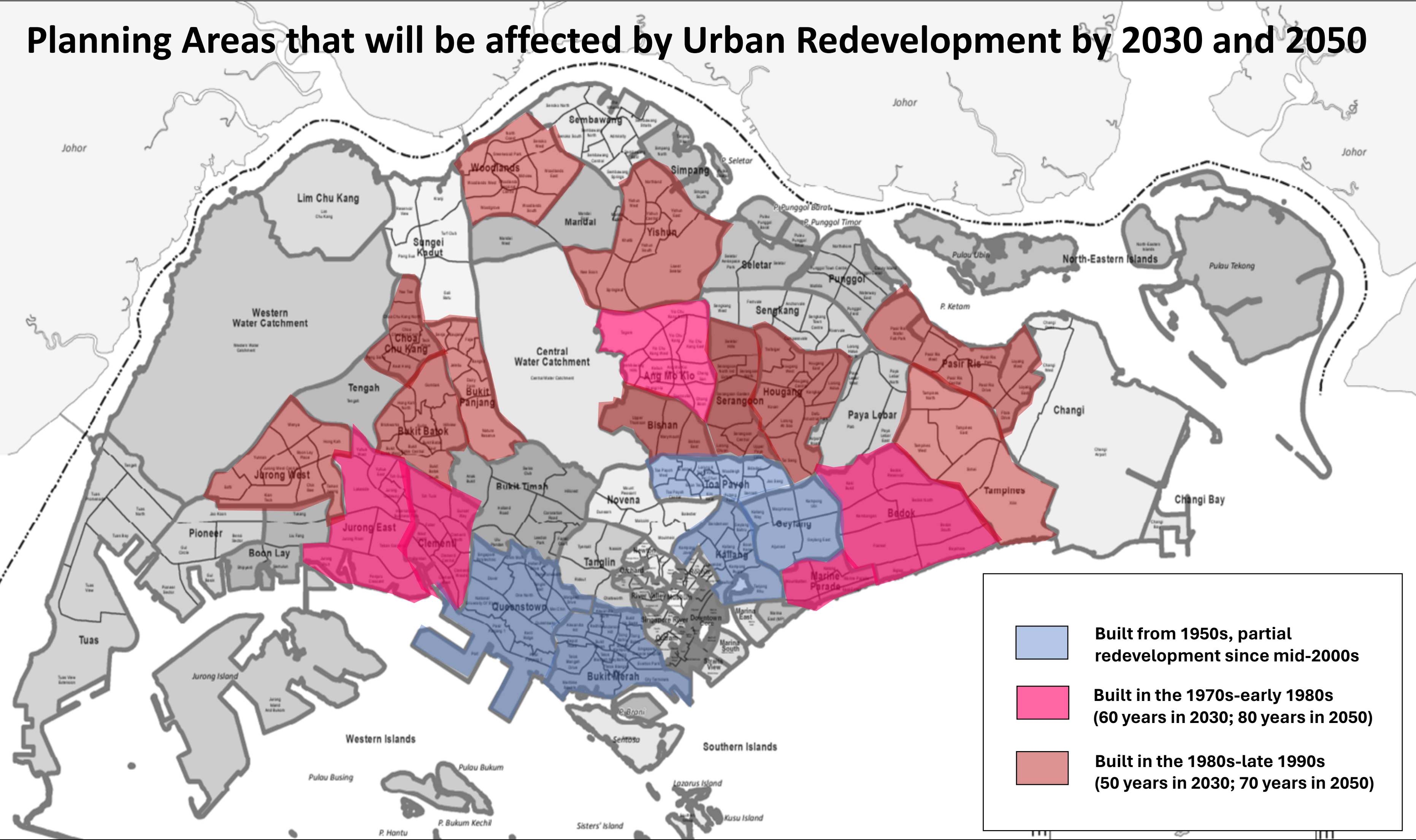
URBAN CHANGE AND REDEVELOPMENT, BELONGING, LIVED EXPERIENCE, NEIGHBORHOODS, COGNITIVE MAPPING, URBAN PLANNING, SINGAPORE

PREMISE

In the next two decades, the **pace of transformation** of Singapore’s built environment is anticipated to **accelerate and heighten** as a large proportion of the neighborhoods developed in the 1970s and 1980s will undergo urban redevelopment.

Everyday life in Singapore will be in a greater state of flux than ever, challenging the **formation of belonging** in the city - a concept associated with stability.

People-centric cities are good cities that care about the **lived experience and meaning-making of urban residents**, in addition to meeting their **physical needs**.



Source: adapted from basemap <https://www.singstat.gov.sg> by Felicity Chan

An inherent CONUNDRUM of PEOPLE-CENTRIC CITIES :
Redevelopment improves urban liveability but also produces a mixed bag of dislocation pains and joys of enhanced belonging for residents in the city.

AIM

“How can the environment help us live with change, and even to enjoy it?”
Kevin Lynch
in The Possible City (1968)

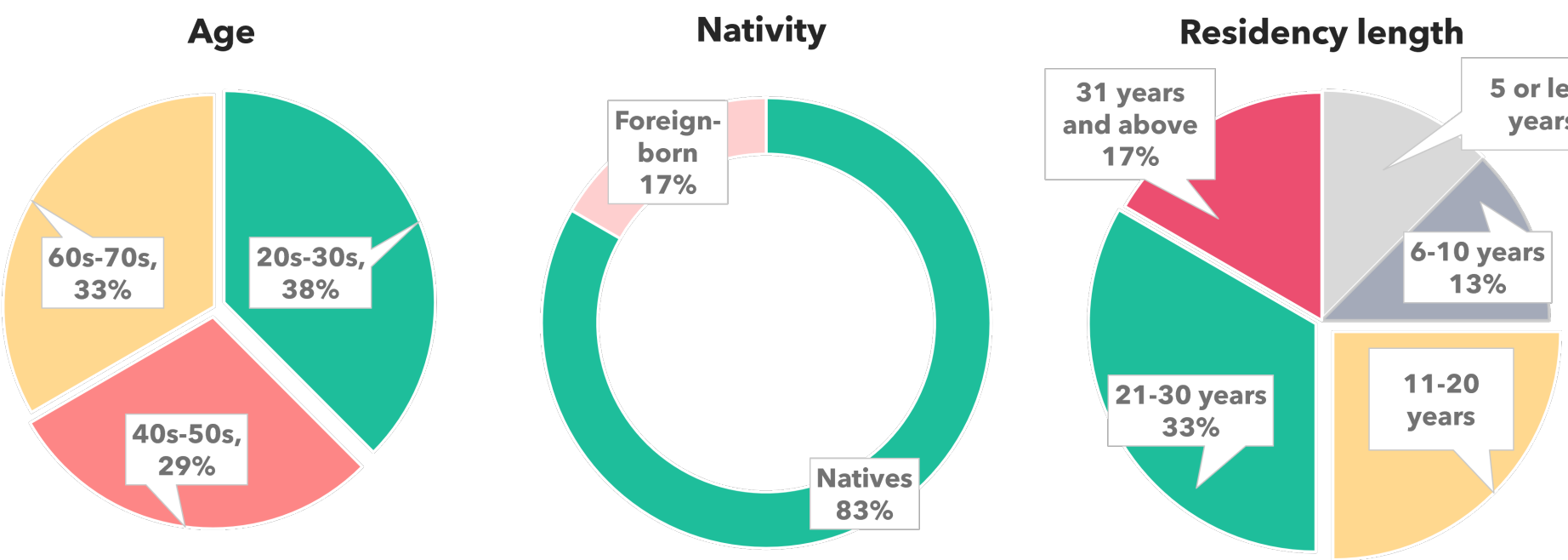
	Count	%
1 Do not expect any change	91	5%
2 Neighborhood environment	531	27%
3 City centre	433	22%
4 Green spaces	747	37%
5 Public gathering spaces	198	10%
Total	2000	100%

In 2050, where do you expect to experience the greatest change in Singapore?

Source: Future Ready Society Survey Oct 2023, Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, N=2000

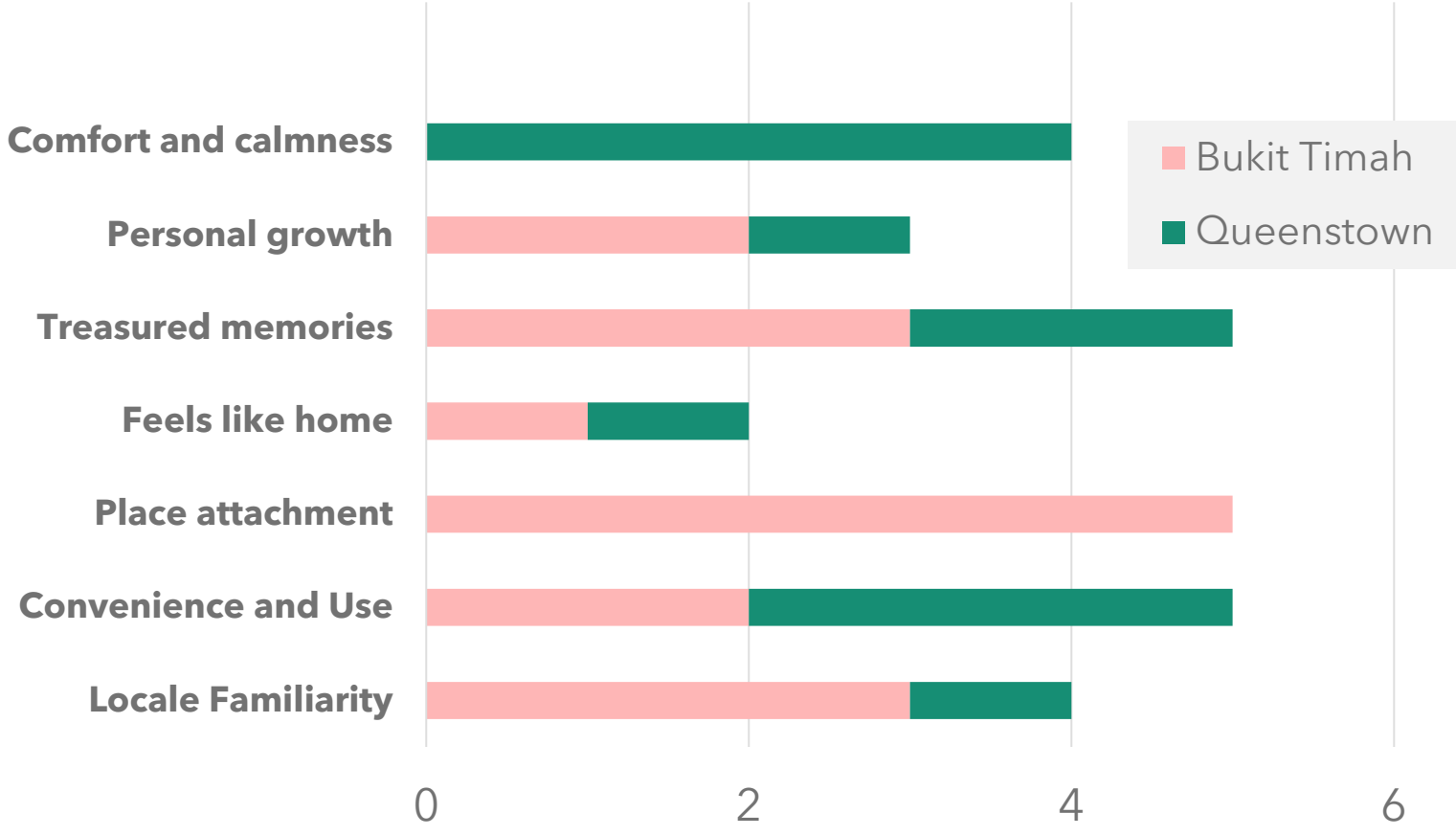
PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

INTERVIEWED 24 RESIDENTS IN 2 NEIGHBORHOODS



Bukit Timah (15 residents) predominantly high-income single-family private housing & **Queenstown (9 residents)** predominantly high-rise public housing

URBAN RESIDENTS' DEFINITIONS OF BELONGING IN PLACES OF FLUX



ENABLERS AND DISABLERS OF BELONGING OF CHANGE

- WHITE LIST (Enablers)**
- Better access and increase in amenity spaces for recreation and social gatherings (Bukit Timah)
 - Neighborhood designed for convenience of daily life (Queenstown)
 - Continued presence of existing amenities and buildings

- BLACK LIST (Disablers)**
- Demolition of familiar buildings and amenities
 - Replacement by poorer amenities
 - Gentrification with new private condo development
 - Outsiders are congesting the area

TYPES OF CHANGES PERCEIVED BY URBAN RESIDENTS

Big Changes	Bukit Timah (Private)	Queenstown (Public)
New high-rise residential buildings	x	x
New neighborhood precincts/blocks	x	x
New malls	x	
Demolition		x
New Linear Park	x	
Metro stations and road works	x	
Newcomers: Foreign-born from China and India	x	
Small Changes	Bukit Timah (Private)	Queenstown (Public)
New Linear Park Connectors		x
New stores	x	x
Renovation of public spaces and seating	x	x
New footpaths	x	
New digital monitors in public housing lift lobbies		x

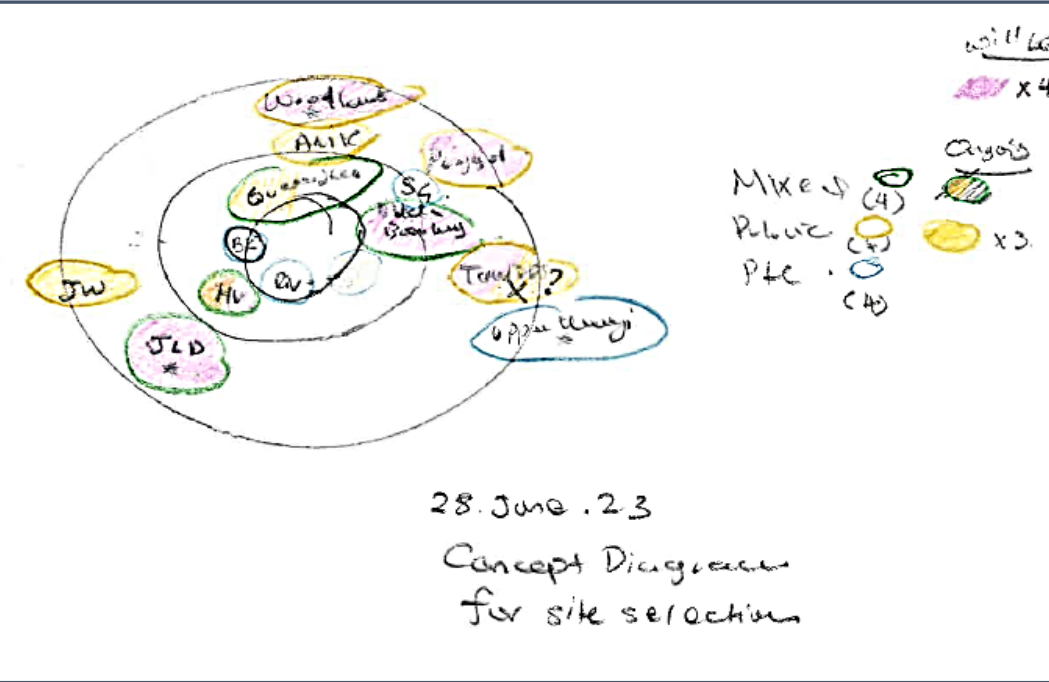
DESIGN & METHODS

CAPTURE SOCIO-SPATIAL COMPLEXITY OF BELONGING



COMPARATIVE STUDY OF 5 NEIGHBORHOODS IN SINGAPORE
Study Sample: 200-250 residents

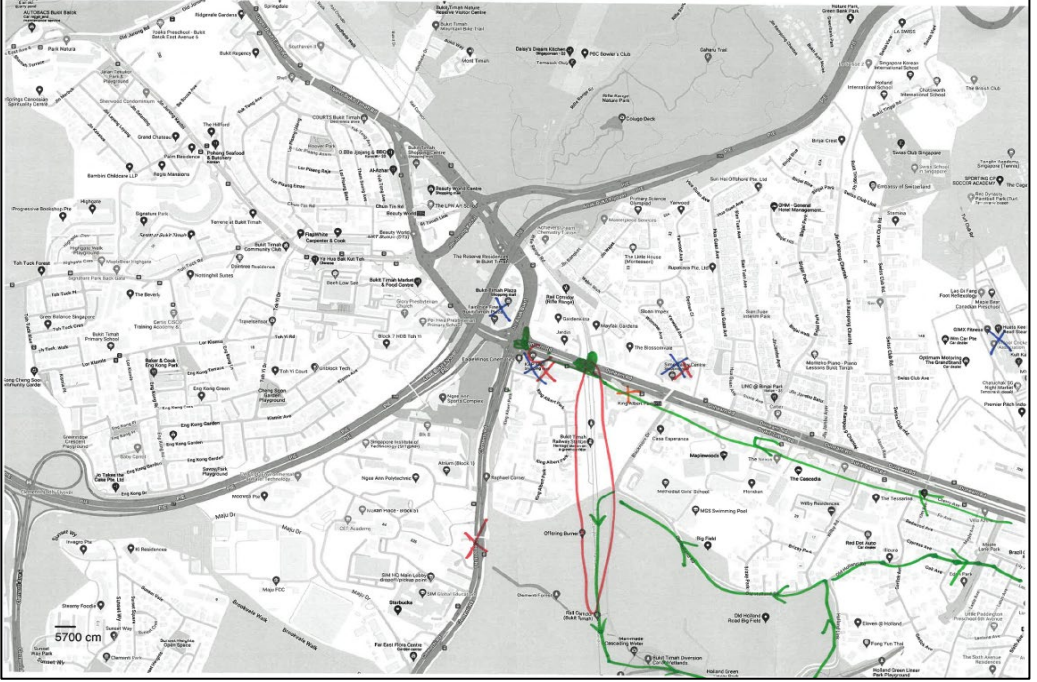
- What are the **urban changes perceived and conceived** by urban residents in Singapore? How do **they experience (lived) changes** in their everyday urban environments?
- Do physical and social changes to the urban built environment shape the **formation of belonging** in the neighborhood and the city? How and Why?
- Are there **spaces in neighborhoods** and in the city that are critical to the formation of belonging of its residents? What kind? What **elements of the urban built environment** or **bundles of socio-spatial attributes** are critical to the **enabling of belonging** in the city?



Site Selection Conceptualization by Felicity Chan



Digital Sketch Mapping with Participant



Mapping lived landscape with resident of Bukit Timah

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