

Overseas Oasis

Designing a community center for International Students

<https://competitions.uni.xyz>

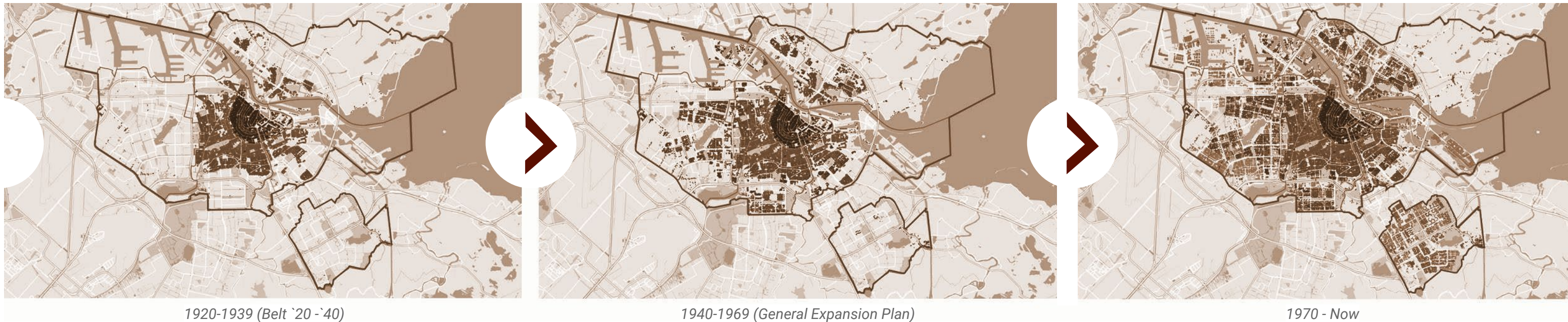


Premise

In 2015, over a billion people migrated: 244 million went abroad and 763 million moved within their home country. In search of a new opportunity, for a better quality of life, to escape violence or an ongoing disaster.

As the century drew to close, a broad-based rehabilitation of the central city as the place to work, live and study has dominated the landscape. This has led to an increase in population and a change in demographics. Among them are **young adults**. Almost 30 percent of the young adults **aged 18-34** in the United States are either foreign-born or of foreign parentage. While Canada saw an 18.5% increase in 2018, international students studying in Amsterdam saw an increase of 8%.

In pursuit of **better opportunities and fulfillment**, more people are choosing to travel abroad. This trend is envisioned to grow as the change gets reflected in the urban fabric of the city.



Img 2: Built density of Amsterdam growing over the years [Source](#)

Evolution

The influx of migrants and refugees has seen the borders of many cities expanding in the last few decades. As of 2017, Amsterdam's population is anticipated to increase by 23% up to just over a million in 2040, mostly due to migration.

Over the past century, one of the biggest urban development challenge for the city has been **densification**. 19th-century buildings are being demolished to accommodate the growing housing crisis. Along with construction on green wedges and land expansion outside the administrative borders has led to the present city fabric.

Though the **city council has proposed housing solutions** to integrate the permanent residents. It's the temporary residents like international students, planning to study in the city who are at loss.



Img_3: 8% increase in population of international students in Amsterdam. [Source](#)

Issue

While students are pursuing their education abroad, they encounter numerous issues in social settings. Adjusting to a new way of living can become overwhelming, as it often differs from what one has identified with all their lives. With university and work being the only place to socialize, it becomes difficult to build a network.

They account for 11.5% of the total student body at Amsterdam University, twice the number 10 years ago. ([Source](#)) Due to reported straining of city housing and course availability for Dutch Students, University of Amsterdam now aims to reduce its influx.

The student housing crisis has also led to a high demand for inhabitable rooms and fraudsters taking advantage of the unaware. Many students were forced to live in tents while some had to leave the opportunity to study in the country. Students, who **don't have the avenue to network** and find a **trustworthy source** for an accommodation became **vulnerable**.



Img 4: Students leaving after a day end at University of Amsterdam. [Source](#)

Brief

The world's 12th best city in terms of 'quality of life', Amsterdam is **known for its cultural inclusivity**. Despite government policies formulated for inclusion of migrants, the **internationalization of education** has been a point of debate for years. 2018 report by OECD reported that about 51% of the population agrees that foreigners who live in the city are not well integrated.

Intercommunal interactions must occur for people to adjust. These adjustments are complex, ambiguous and carry a temporal sense of identity. A space, a stepping stone that **facilitates the process of inclusion** into city fabric. An avenue that helps students feel belonged to society and help in preserving one's identity.

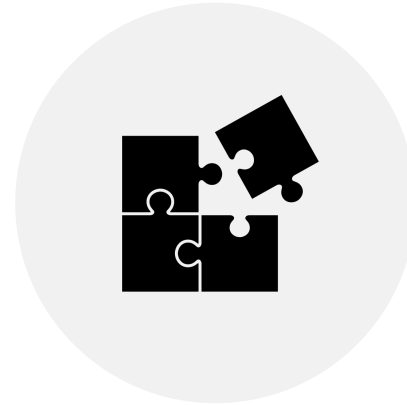
Brief is to design a community center for 100 international students (age 19-35). The creation of the space aims to enable international students to find gateways into familiar circles of the city and find an overlap with the locals.

Objectives



Glocal

Countless nationalities present.
Design should be diverse and yet
belong to the city



Productivity

How can humans do more
and be enabled to do more.



Adaptability

The students are temporary
residents of city. With changing
population, how does design
respond to the changing needs.

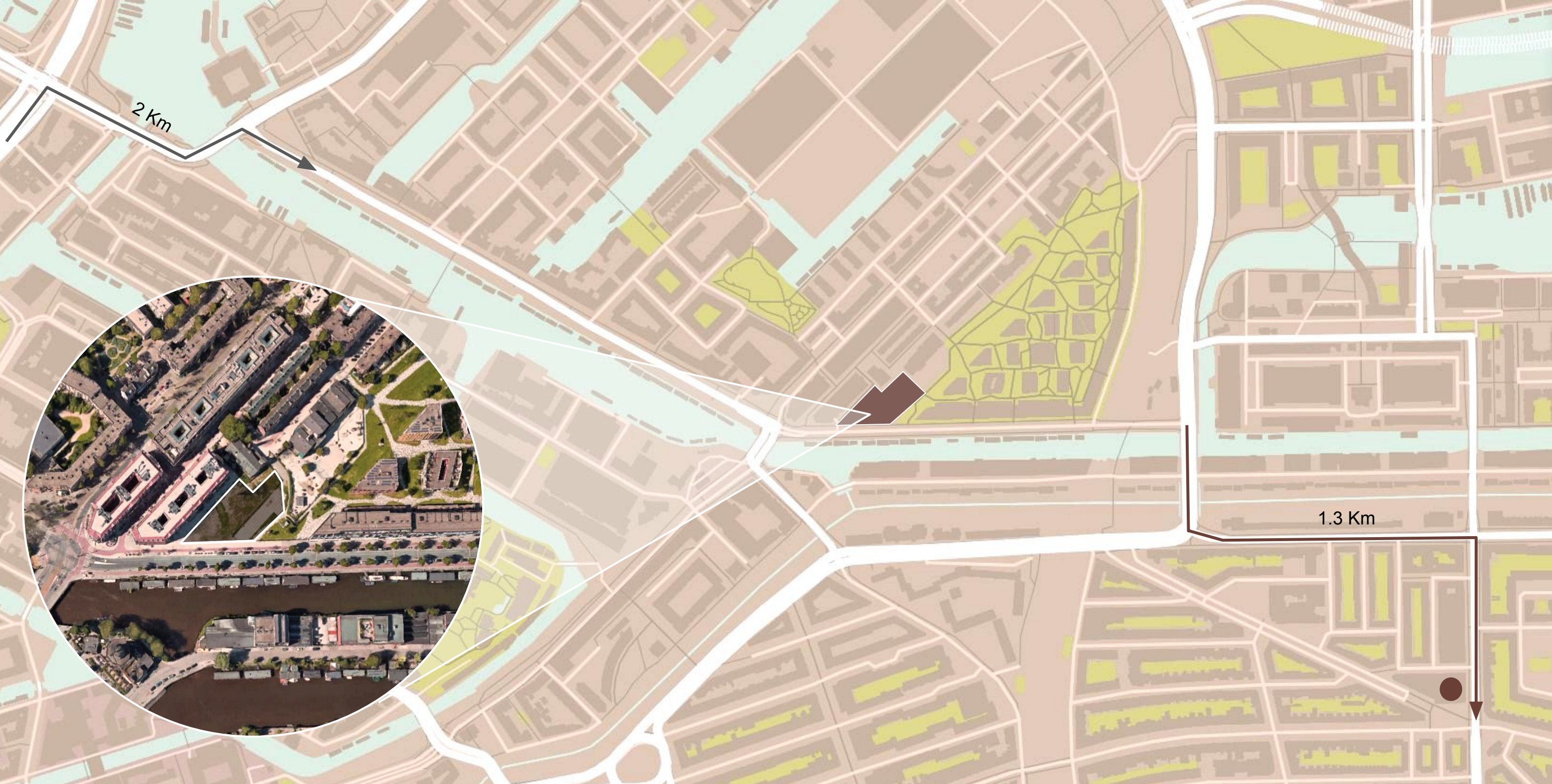


Overlap

Interaction between locals and
international students is critical
for inclusive development

The following objectives can be a point
of beginning to conceive this design.
Participants can assume their own
contexts and users before initiating their
design process.

*The community space will be a stepping
stone, that facilitates smooth inclusion of
international students into local fabric.
Besides resourcing their needs in a
foreign land, it will be a space of
interaction between locals and students.
An avenue to celebrate their culture, and
make it familiar to the people of
Amsterdam. Also a platform for students
to be self sufficient by earning credit or
money.*



Img 1: Left -Site Plan. Right - Location of site in larger context

Czaar Peterbuurt, Amsterdam

Once an industrial suburb, Czaar Peterbuurt has blossomed into a hub of food, drink and shopping since 2014. The area directly borders the city center. The site is adjacent to mix used development, with restaurants and grocery store outlining the ground floor while accommodation and offices sit atop. Residential plot and child care center completes the contextual fabric. Site is 2km away from Amsterdam School of Arts, 1.8km away from Academy of Architecture (same direction) and 1.3km away from community college - Volksuniversiteit Amsterdam. Sports Complex at a walking distance of 300m provides requirement of physical activity.

Site Area - 2500 sqm

Coordinates - [52°22'03.9"N 4°55'39.2"E](#)

Maximum Ground coverage - 100%

Maximum Height - 24m

Setback - 2m

Build Up Area - 4600 sqm

Programmatic Outline



Participants can alter the area programme according to the design concept and intent. Participants don't have to necessary detail out individual spaces.

Submission

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

- Recommended number of boards/presentation images/sheets - **6 (Six)** – Size [**2362px x 3544px**] or [**400mm x 600mm** in **150 dpi**] in portrait digital format (JPEG only). **Minimum 3 (Three)** & **No maximum sheet limit**.
- Each image should be less than **15MB**. (Do not submit PNG format)

This is available on your registered account after registration.

This additional resources folder contains: FAQ Questions, High Res maps, Sketchup Model of the site and CAD file of the site plan.

Minimum requisites are sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

This is the link for new file sizes, [here](#).

- Site plan (Compulsory)
- Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
- 3D views x 4
- Cover image/Thumbnail of size 2000 x 1000 px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
- Floor plans, images, sketches (if any) can be added to support the entry in the form of additional images.
- Answer 6 FAQ questions in the discussion section as given on the '[additional resources folder](#)'.

-
- + The team limit for this competition is 4 members maximum.
 - + Use exploded views to discuss multi levelled conceptual models better.
 - + Ensure that the final sheets which are submitted do not include your name or any other mark of identification.
 - + Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.
 - + This is a design ideas challenge only. There is no built commission/realization is associated with the problem
 - + Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.

Registration page here: <http://competitions.uni.xyz/overseas-oasis>

Discover the competition schedule and deadlines here: [Schedule](#)

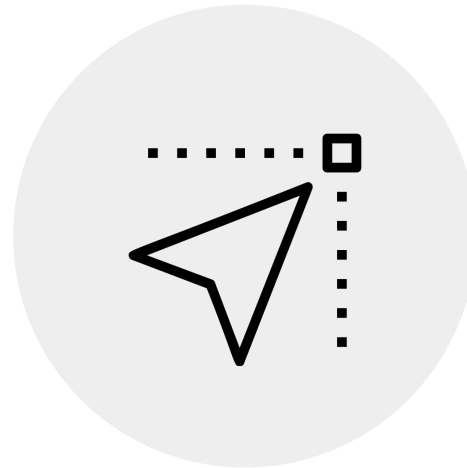
Rewards



Grants of up to a total of **20,000\$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page [here](#).

Judging Criteria

The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criteria:



Presentation

The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.



Concept/Idea

Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.



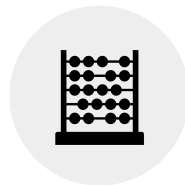
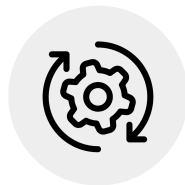
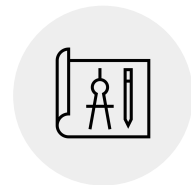
Spaces/Programme

How the spaces are calculated and ordered.



Design Output

The final architectural outcome of the solution.



The judging panel can also add other criterions based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil above given criterions first in their design.

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About



Unyt serves as a part of UNI in the realm of **typological discoveries**. It intends to break the fusion of traditional design barriers and methodologies by making it a platform for experimentation. It embarks on mobilizing ideas where creators can elementally question the buildings we create. It is a research initiative dedicated to providing opportunities for designers from all domains to explore ideas that go beyond the restrictions of usual architectural discourse.

Queries: support@uni.xyz

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