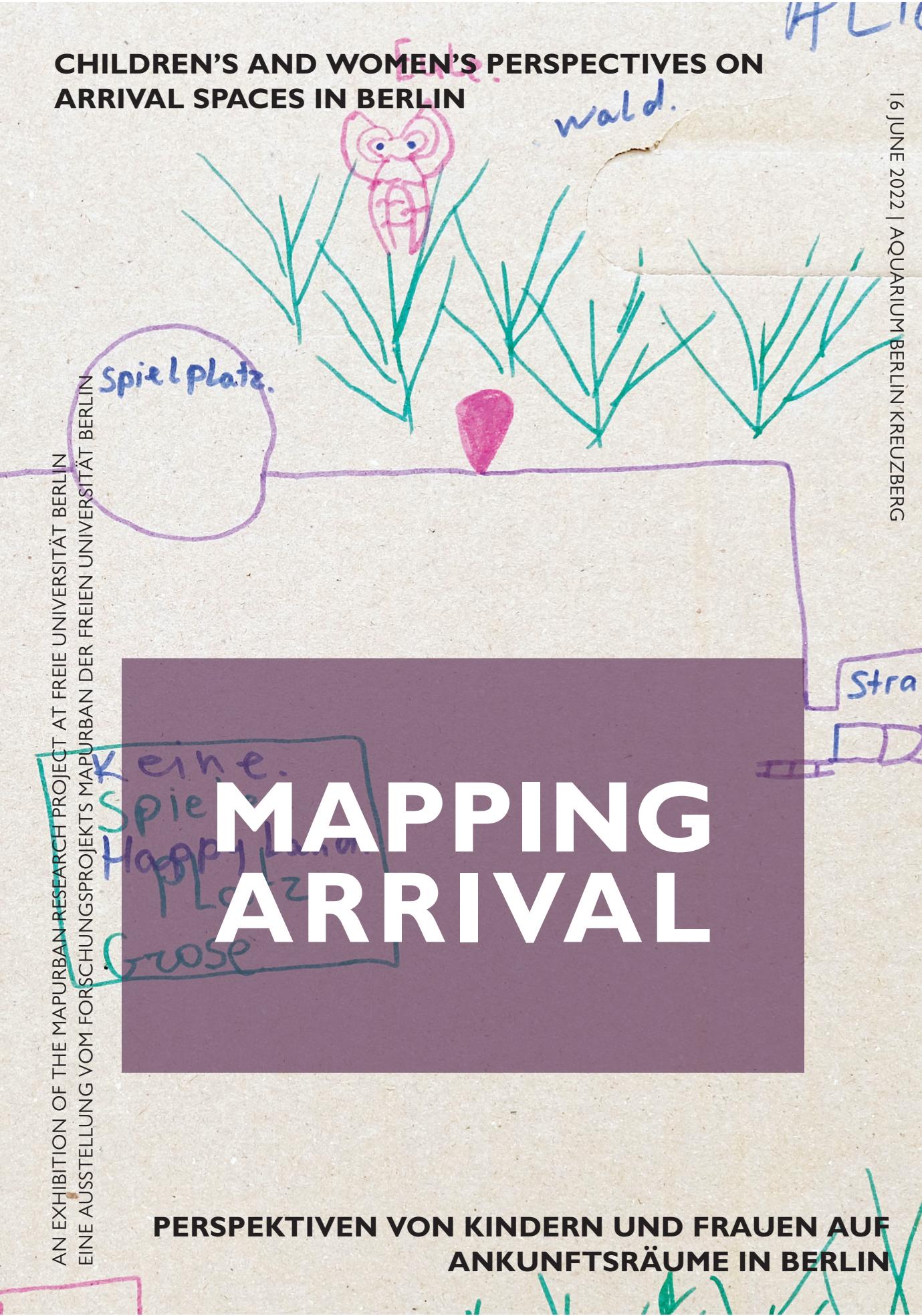


CHILDREN'S AND WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON ARRIVAL SPACES IN BERLIN

16 JUNE 2022 | AQUARIUM BERLIN KREUZBERG



AN EXHIBITION OF THE MAPURBAN RESEARCH PROJECT AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN
EINE AUSSTELLUNG VOM FORSCHUNGSPROJEKTS MAPURBAN DER FREIEN UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

PERSPEKTIVEN VON KINDERN UND FRAUEN AUF ANKUNFTSRÄUME IN BERLIN

MAPPING ARRIVAL

An exhibition on arrival infrastructures in Berlin as part of the MAPURBAN research project at Freie Universität Berlin

Eine Ausstellung zu Berliner Infrastrukturen des Ankommens im Rahmen des Forschungsprojekts MAPURBAN der Freien Universität Berlin

MAPURBAN highlights differences in access to urban resources from both institutional and individual refugee perspectives. In order to address (non-)access, a series of participatory mapping workshops were conducted with people in and around refugee shelters in two Berlin neighbourhoods. The preparation and implementation were carried out in a transdisciplinary collaboration with the collective orangotango and Dr. Ingeborg Beer.

MAPURBAN beleuchtet Unterschiede im Zugang zu städtischen Ressourcen sowohl aus institutioneller als auch aus individueller Perspektive von Geflüchteten. Um individuelle (Nicht-)Zugänge zu thematisieren, wurden eine Reihe von partizipativen Mapping-Workshops mit Menschen in und um Gemeinschaftsunterkünfte für Geflüchtete in zwei Berliner Nachbarschaften durchgeführt. Die Vorbereitung und Durchführung wurden in einer transdisziplinären Zusammenarbeit mit dem kollektiv orangotango und Dr. Ingeborg Beer durchgeführt.

Antonie Schmiz, Sylvana Jahre, Shada Mustafa
Freie Universität Berlin

MAKING CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVES VISIBLE

**Perspektiven von Kindern
sichtbar machen**

Cities are also spaces of childhood. But do children shape their cities in the same way that cities shape children? So far, critical urban research has only marginally considered the perspectives of children (Beurskens et al. 2021, S. 7). In particular, there are gaps with regard to the perspectives of children living in refugee shelters, their interactions in urban space, and the use of public infrastructure. Nevertheless, these are of great importance for their arrival in a new urban society. Although authors have dealt with the everyday life of children in shelters (Lewek & Naber 2017, Wihstutz 2019), they have not dealt with the embedding of these shelters in urban life contexts. The MAPURBAN project employs a participatory mapping process to address this gap. During a two-day workshop, children and young people dealt with the city in a variety of ways. The workshop was organised in cooperation with the integration management BENN-Brizz in the district of Neukölln in Berlin in collaboration with the children's club "Sternschnuppe," and the youth club "Feuerwache". The workshops were conceived with the goal of making the individual experiences and knowledge of children visible and audible. Central questions addressed: how children experience their neighbourhood? How they interact with the city? What they see as important infrastructure and which ones they use? As well as, where they see problems and what they recognise as missing?

CHILDREN'S URBAN SPACES

Individuelle Stadträume der Kinder

At the beginning, the participating children and youth had the task of drawing their neighbourhood on a blank piece of cardboard. This got the children talking about their everyday places; places they like best, where they meet their friends, where they do sports, play music, but also places they don't like. The children could then draw and name places they wished for in speech bubbles and stick them next to their own cards. The children from the refugee shelter expressed wishes, especially with regard to the accommodation itself, such as the desire for a football field and the permission to keep pets.

Zu Beginn hatten die Kinder und Jugendlichen die Aufgabe, ihre Nachbarschaft auf einem leeren Stück Karton zu zeichnen. Dadurch kamen wir über ihre alltäglichen Orte ins Gespräch; Orte, die sie am liebsten mögen, an denen sie sich mit ihren Freund*innen treffen, wo sie Sport treiben, Musik machen, aber auch Orte, die sie nicht mögen. Im Anschluss konnten die Kinder in Sprechblasen Orte malen und nennen, die sie sich wünschen und neben ihre eigenen Karten kleben. Die Kinder aus der Gemeinschaftsunterkunft äußerten Wünsche vor allem hinsichtlich der Unterkunft selbst, wie zum Beispiel der Wunsch nach einem Fußballplatz und die Erlaubnis, Haustiere zu halten.

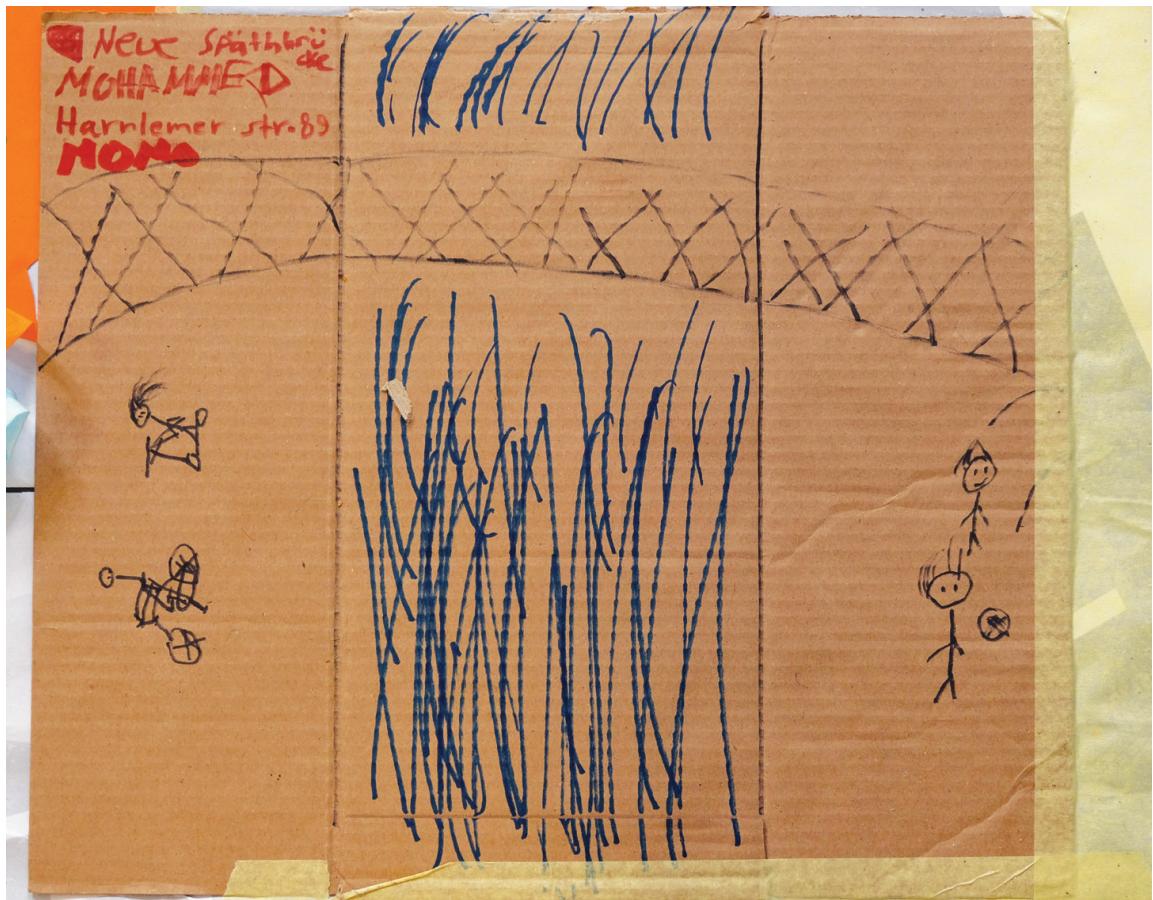
**Children expressed
their wishes to improve
the refugee shelter.**

“This is my home.”

Here we see a drawing of a child. The child says: “This is my home.” I ask again: “Do you live there?” The child first answers with “yes”, then they say: “No, not really. I live in a refugee shelter.”

Ein Kind: „Das ist mein Zuhause“. Ich frage nochmal nach: „Da wohnst du?“ Das Kind antwortet erst nochmal mit „Ja“, dann sagt es: „Nein, nicht wirklich. Ich wohne im Heim.“





Nature is a recurring element in the children's drawings. Two drawings in particular express this. On the first map, we see a river or canal. The child says that it is his favourite place and that they spend time there often.

Die Natur ist ein wiederkehrendes Element in den Karten der Kinder und Jugendlichen. Vor allem zwei Karten drücken dies aus. Auf der ersten Karte sehen wir einen Fluss oder Kanal. Das Kind erzählt, dass es sein Lieblingsort ist und es sich dort oft aufhält.



On the other drawing, the youth drew apple trees and said that they love to pick the apples from the trees and eat them.

Auf dieser Karte haben Jugendliche Apfelbäume gemalt und dazu erzählt, dass sie es lieben die Äpfel von den Bäumen zu pflücken und zu essen.

Nature is a recurring element in the drawings.

CHILDREN'S DREAM CITY

Traumstadt der Kinder

It was important to us to start a conversation with the children and youth about what a city utopia could look like for them. We worked with them on a model, where they could dream of places they long for and to model them with cardboard and other materials. The children built models of trees, a soccer field, a giant roller coaster, table tennis and billiard tables, and a treasure map. For some children, their own room or their own house is also part of the dream city. Two girls described their life model for the future; they dream of a large family with many children and an interesting job.

In addition, we worked with different activities and media to be able to address both the different age groups and different interests. The younger started by building their neighbours as clay figures. Some of them decided to make a stop-motion video with these characters, where they used their self-designed treasure map to search for and find a treasure and share it with all their neighbours. Some teenagers undertook a “drone flight” over the built city model and were able to take a different perspective on their self-built favourite city. A third group made audio recordings. Then the children experimented with different rhythms and sounds and created audio collages from the recordings.

FINDINGS & REFLECTIONS FROM THE WORKSHOPS

**Erkenntnisse & Reflexion
der Workshops**

There are clear differences between the maps of the children from the refugee shelter and those who live decentralised in a rented apartment. The children living in the refugee shelter only drew the shelter – sometimes several houses, sometimes only the house in which they live with their family, sometimes surrounded by plants and trees or with sun or rain. Some of them also drew their families. One girl drew a street full of cars. None of the children presented a detailed view of their neighbourhood. They explained that they don't leave the shelter very often because of the tight security. Some children further addressed elements of urban nature. The river or canal and the apple trees were central and important elements for the children in their maps. The children from the refugee shelter did not draw any playgrounds, parks, or other places for children such as youth clubs and family centres in their maps. It could not be conclusively determined whether they do not know the places, avoid them, or whether they forgot to draw some places they visit.

In contrast, the drawings of the children who do not live in the shelter show not only residential buildings, but many other places, such as the children's club "Sternschuppe", the youth club "Feuerwache" and the houses of their friends. A map also shows the shopping center "Gropi", a fast-food restaurant "KFC" and a playground and the pranks they play on the street, such as "bell prank" and "fouling around". None of the maps show schools, although almost all children are of school age and the workshop took place as a holiday programme.

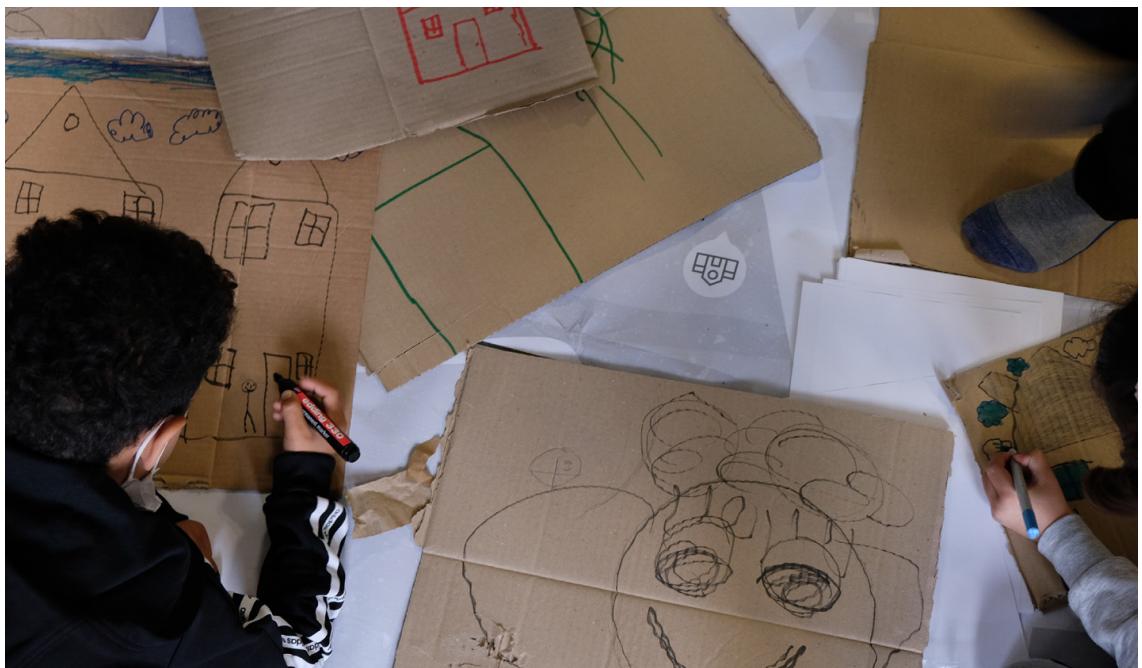


Es zeigen sich deutliche Unterschiede zwischen den Karten der Kinder aus der Gemeinschaftsunterkunft und derer, die dezentral in einer Mietwohnung wohnen. Die in der Gemeinschaftsunterkunft lebenden Kinder zeichneten das „Heim“ - teilweise mehrere Häuser, teilweise ausschließlich das Haus, in dem sie mit ihrer Familie leben, mal umgeben von Pflanzen und Bäumen, mal mit Sonne oder Regen. Einige von ihnen zeichneten auch ihre Familie. Ein Mädchen malte eine Straße voller Autos. Keines der Kinder stellte eine detaillierte Sicht auf Nachbarschaft dar. In der Reflexion erzählten die Kinder, dass sie wegen der strengen Sicherheitsvorkehrungen selten aus dem „Heim“ herauskommen. Darüber hinaus thematisieren einige Kinder Elemente von Stadtnatur. Der Fluss oder Kanal und die Apfelbäume waren für die Kinder zentrale und wichtige Elemente in ihren Karten, die sie ausführlich beschrieben. Die Kinder aus der Gemeinschaftsunterkunft haben in ihren Karten keine Spielplätze, Parks oder andere Orte für Kinder wie zum Beispiel Jugend- oder Kinderclubs eingezeichnet. Es konnte nicht abschließend geklärt werden, ob sie die Orte nicht kennen, ob sie die Orte meiden oder ob sie manche Orte, die sie besuchen, vergessen haben einzuziehen.

Furthermore, there are clear differences in the mobility behaviour of the children. The decentralised housing situation corresponds with greater mobility. For the children from the shelter, the focus was almost exclusively on the accommodation. The immediate living environment and its design seem to be even more important to them.

The children experienced the refugee shelter both as a place of great neighbourly closeness and community and as a space with potential for conflict. Both aspects were reflected among the children during the workshops. This also became very clear afterwards, when some families had to move out of the shelter to make room for people from Afghanistan.

The workshop brought children from the neighbourhood and from the refugee shelter into contact with each other and enabled them to get to know each other. In addition, the children from the shelter got to know two central places in the neighbourhood for children ("Feuerwache" and "Sternschnuppe"). Although the workshop was quite short (two days), the results nevertheless show how important it is to deal more intensively with children's and young people's perspectives on their urban environment.



IMPORTANCE OF URBAN SPACES FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

Bedeutung städtischer Räume für geflüchtete Frauen

A women's place is in the home starts Dolores Hayden's famous essay (1980), titled "What Would a Non-Sexist City Be Like?", in which she critically questions this statement and deals with the reproduction of patriarchal structures through the built environment. The fact that urban spaces produce gender-specific differences, however, continues far beyond the 1980s and the US context, whereby further studies have been conducted on usage of urban spaces (Ruhne 2011, Breckner 2005), especially for refugee women. These studies deal, for example, with the housing of refugee women (Foroutan et al. 2017), with their living situations (Farrokhzad et al. 2022), their rights (Pelzer 2022, Rabe & Nerea González Méndez de Vigo 2022) and their role in education and qualification system (Farrokhzad et al. 2022, Terhart 2022). The role of urban spaces for refugee women, however, remains a marginal topic, especially with regards to relevant arrival infrastructures for refugee women.

In the MAPURBAN research project, we have precisely addressed these questions through exploratory participatory mapping workshops, together with a group of women in the Berlin neighbourhood Hohenschönhausen. The women's perception and knowledge of their neighbourhood and its infrastructures have been central to how these workshops have been conceptualised and implemented to bring to attention their perspectives.

The women already knew each other through weekly meetings and have created a safe space for themselves. The workshops were held from August to October 2021 as part of these regular meetings. The participants of the workshops were a heterogeneous group of refugees, volunteers, and a staff member of BENN-Hohenschönhausen Nord.

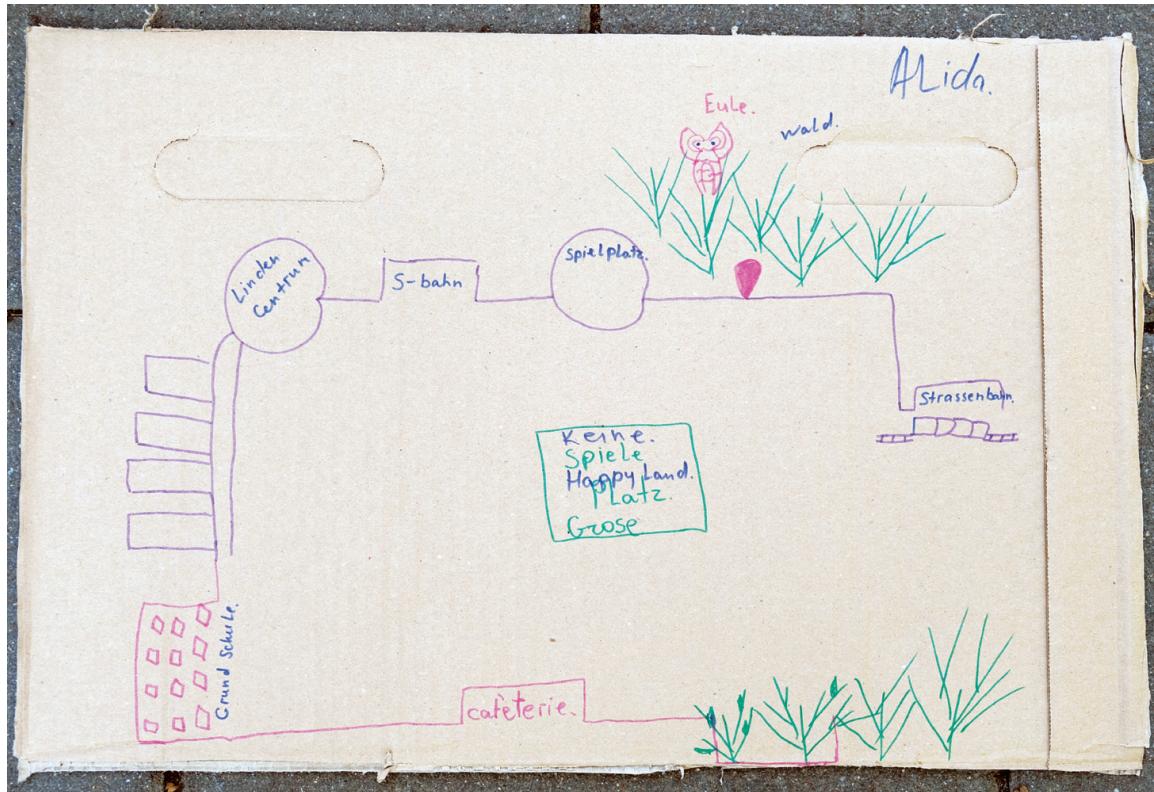
URBAN SPACES OF WOMEN

Individuelle Stadträume der Frauen

In a first workshop, the women drew their own maps of the neighbourhood on cardboard. The aim was to make everyday places in the neighbourhood "Hohenschönhausen" visible, to perceive needs and to address missing infrastructures.

In einem ersten Workshop haben die Frauen individuell Karten ihres Stadtteils auf Pappkarton gezeichnet. Ziel dieser ersten individuellen Karte war es, ihre alltäglichen Orte in Hohenschönhausen sichtbar zu machen, Bedürfnisse wahrzunehmen und fehlende Infrastrukturen zu thematisieren.





Alida has hardly any opportunity to move out of the refugee shelter.

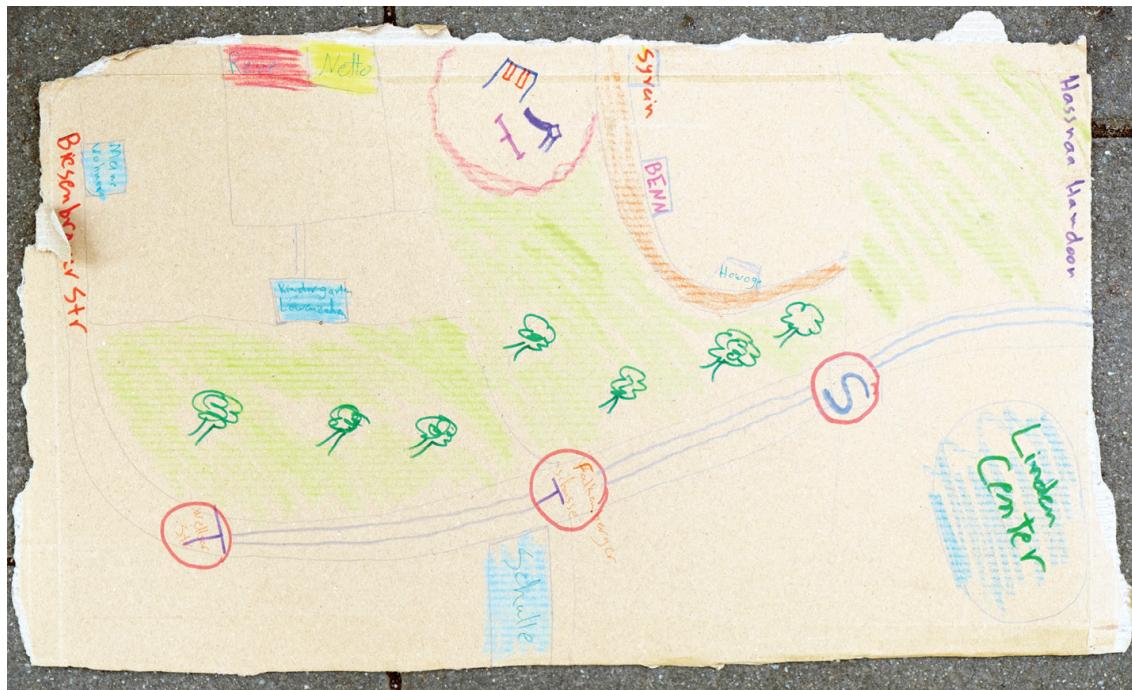
This map was drawn by Alida who lives in the refugee shelter. Presenting her map, Alida speaks of the forest with an owl next to her accommodation. Due to her status, Alida has hardly any opportunity to move out of the refugee shelter and has no right to an integration or language course. Therefore, the opportunity to learn the language as part of the regular meetings with the women's group is very helpful for her. She is missing a HappyLand, which is a large indoor playground, for her children.

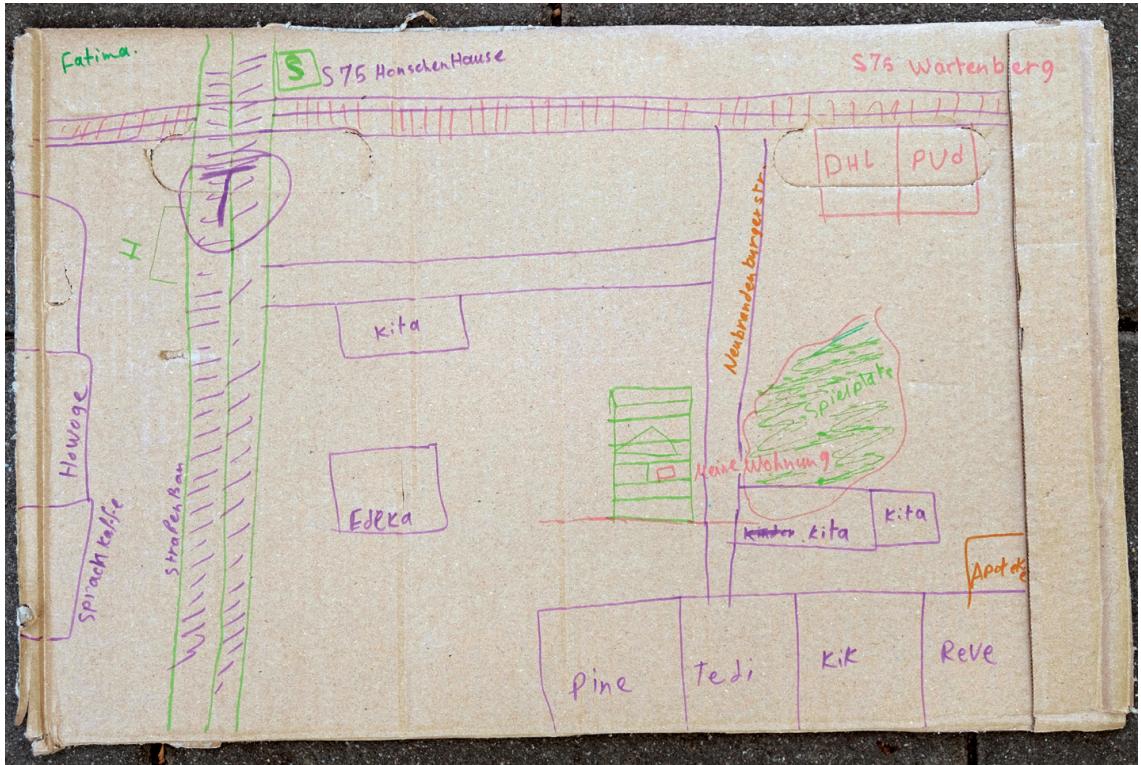
Alida aus der Gemeinschaftsunterkunft erzählt zu ihrer Karte, dass sie aus ihrer Unterkunft in einen Wald guckt und dass sie dort oft eine Eule beobachtet. Aufgrund ihres Status hat sie kaum Möglichkeiten aus der Unterkunft auszuziehen und auch keinen Anspruch auf einen Integrations- oder Sprachkurs. Daher ist die Möglichkeit des Sprachlernens im Rahmen der regelmäßigen Treffen mit der Frauengruppe für sie sehr wichtig. Ihr fehlt ein HappyLand – ein großer Indoor-Spielplatz für ihre Kinder.

The opening of the first Arabic supermarket in the neighbourhood is an important change.

When presenting her neighbourhood, Hassnaa talks about a new Syrian supermarket that has recently opened. The opening of the first and only supermarket with Arabic products in the neighbourhood is an important change, as previously women had to travel very far for groceries. She is longing for a shop for Islamic clothing in the neighbourhood.

Hassnaa berichtet über die Nachbarschaft und erzählt, dass ein neuer syrischer Supermarkt eröffnet hat. Die Eröffnung des ersten und einzigen Supermarktes mit arabischen Produkten in der Nachbarschaft ist eine wichtige Veränderung, da die Frauen vorher zum Einkaufen sehr weit fahren mussten. Sie vermisst weiterhin einen Laden für islamische Kleidung.

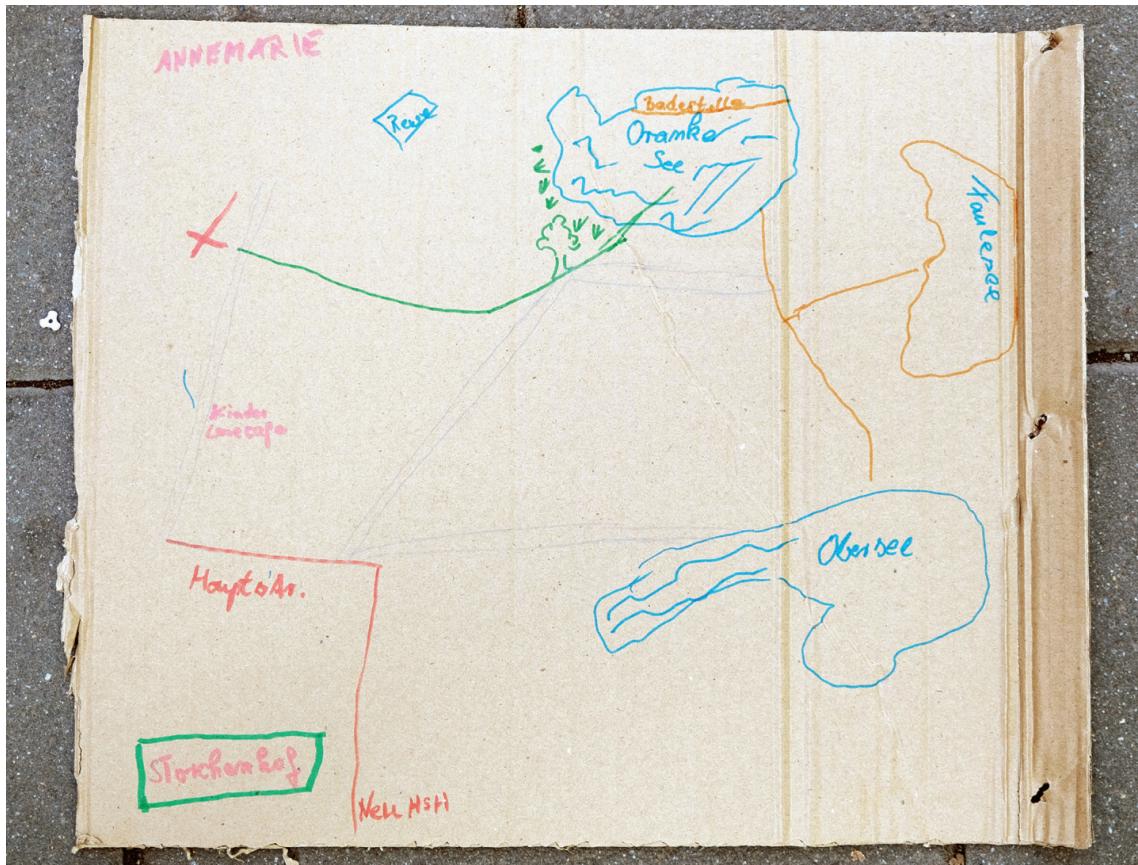




Fatima talks about the many day-care centres in the vicinity of her apartment. The map shows the playground where Fatima spends time with her children. In addition, shops for daily needs are important to her, such as supermarkets "Rewe" and "Penny". She buys clothes and toys for her children from "KIK" and "Tedi". She also mentions the language café and HOWOGE, the housing association.

Fatima erzählt von den vielen Kitas im Umfeld ihrer Wohnung. Die Karte zeigt den Spielplatz, auf dem sie mit ihren Kindern Zeit verbringt. Außerdem sind für sie die Geschäfte des täglichen Bedarfs von Bedeutung, wie Rewe und Penny. Kleidung und Spielzeug für ihre Kinder kauft sie bei KIK und Tedi. Sie erwähnt außerdem das Sprachcafé und die Wohnungsbaugesellschaft HOWOGE.

At the playground Fatima spends time with her children.

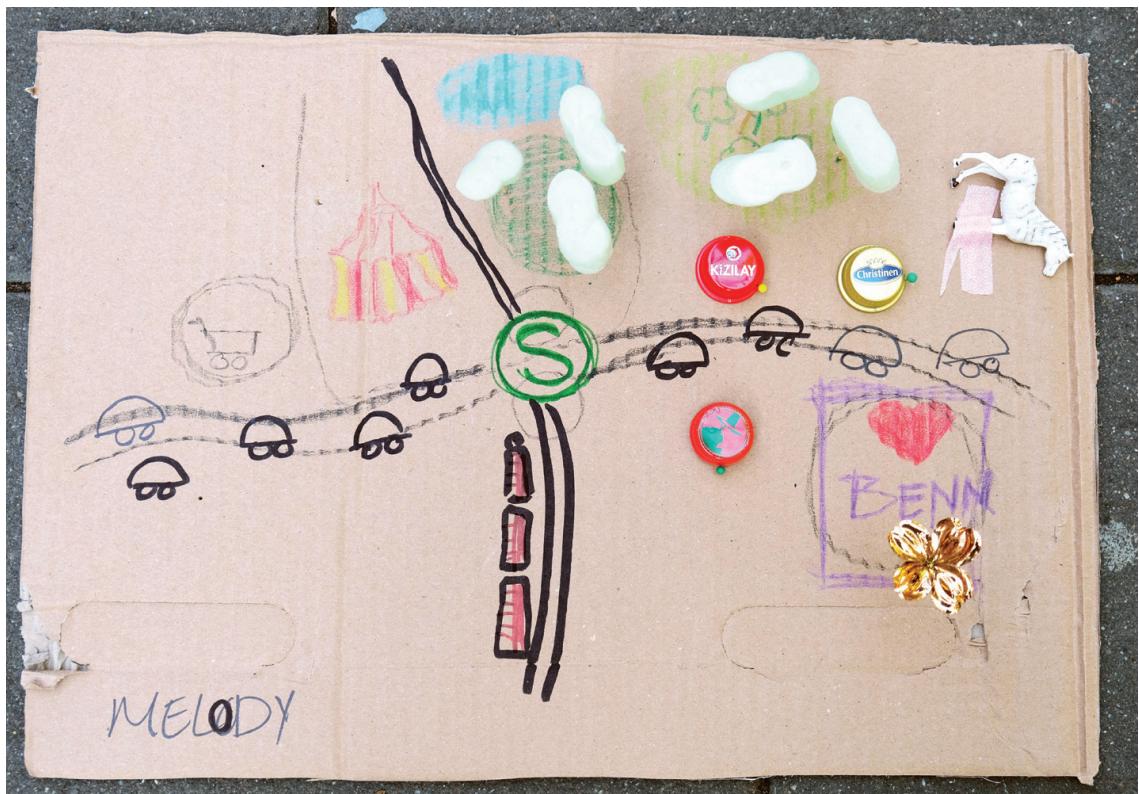


This map was drawn by Annemarie, a woman without a history of migration, who has lived in Hohenschönhausen for many decades and was born in Berlin. Accessibility to the many lakes nearby is very important to her and she emphasizes how green it is in "Alt-Hohenschönhausen" (the neighbourhood nearby). The tram is her main means of transport: "I can go anywhere with the tram, to any place I want, because they are all not far apart". She also mentions "Storchenhof" and the grocery store "Kaufland"; from which she continues to "Neu-Hohenschönhausen". "I don't go further than that", she tells us.

Als einzige beteiligte Frau ohne eigene Fluchtgeschichte, die schon viele Jahrzehnte in Hohenschönhausen lebt und in Berlin geboren ist für Annemarie die Erreichbarkeit der vielen Seen in der Nähe sehr wichtig und sie betont, wie grün es in Alt-Hohenschönhausen ist. Die Straßenbahn ist ihr zentrales Fortbewegungsmittel: „Mit der Straßenbahn kann ich überall hinfahren, an jeden Ort den ich will, weil die alle nicht weit auseinander liegen“. Außerdem erwähnt sie den Storchenhof und Kaufland; von da aus fährt sie weiter nach Neu-Hohenschönhausen. „Weiter komme ich nicht.“

The map shows the perspective of a woman who has been working in the BENN office for almost four years but does not live in the neighbourhood. She describes the BENN office as a meeting place and has decorated it with a heart and flowers. She talks about a new circus that she has visited several times. The Malchower lake is her favourite place. She mentions an animal shelter and many other places that are not discussed by other women. The Linden Centre is one of the few places that is important to her and many of the other women for shopping. The big street and the S-Bahn divide the area into four smaller neighbourhoods. The exchange between the different parts of neighbourhood is rather low. She wishes for cafes and restaurants of different cultures and generally places where people can meet.

Die Karte zeigt Hohenschönhausen Nord aus der Sicht einer Frau, die dort seit fast vier Jahren im BENN-Büro arbeitet, aber nicht in Hohenschönhausen wohnt. Sie versteht das BENN-Büro als Treffpunkt und hat es mit Herz und Blume versehen. Sie erzählt von einem neuen Zirkus, den sie schon mehrmals besucht hat. Der Malchower See ist ihr Lieblingsort. Über ein Tierheim hinaus erwähnt sie viele Orte, die von anderen Frauen nicht thematisiert werden. Das Linden-Center ist einer der wenigen Orte, der für sie und viele der anderen Frauen wichtig ist zum Einkaufen. Die große Straße und die S-Bahn teilen das Gebiet in vier kleinere Nachbarschaften. Der Austausch zwischen den Nachbarschaften ist eher gering. Sie wünscht sich Cafés und Restaurants unterschiedlicher Kulturen und im Allgemeinen Orte, an denen sich Menschen treffen können.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WALK

Spaziergang durch die Nachbarschaft

The aim of the neighbourhood walk was to start a conversation with the women about the places mentioned on the maps. In addition, the women wanted to get to know new places in their neighbourhood. Most of the women have never been to the library, but they also saw no reason to get to know the place. In the "360Grad" leisure and creative centre, the participants in the walk were spontaneously given a tour of all the rooms and were able to get to know activities. An exhibition was set up in one part of the centre, in which the son of one of the women had participated. Therefore, she explained many elements of the exhibition to us. Another neighbourhood house (Association for Active Diversity) was known by two women, who visit the place regularly for storytelling café and yoga; all other women hadn't been familiar with the place. Sharing knowledge about places and getting to know new places was empowering for the women in dealing with their neighbourhood.

**The women wanted to
get to know new places in
their neighbourhood.**

FINDINGS & REFLECTIONS FROM THE WORKSHOPS

**Erkenntnisse & Reflexion
der Workshops**

Recurring elements in the women's maps are day-care centres, schools, and places they visit daily or frequently: the playground near their home and places to shop - supermarkets, women's and children's clothing stores, pharmacies and the post office, as well as the shopping centre "Linden Centre", which is repeatedly emphasized in the discussions. In addition, some women emphasize the importance of the newly opened Arab supermarket. The BENN office and the police station were the only administrative facilities that some of them mentioned. None of them mentioned government offices. In the collective maps as well, there is a focus on infrastructure for daily needs (supermarkets, pharmacy, post office), childcare (school, day-care centre, playgrounds), clothing shops and, in some cases, the language café. The central topics and places in the women's everyday life are therefore (a) caring for the children (b) grocery shopping and (c) language and integration courses.

The women knew little or nothing about all other infrastructures. It was noticeable that they were just as unfamiliar with leisure infrastructures - such as the library or the swimming pool - as they were with social meeting places, such as the "360Grad" leisure and creative centre and the family centre; in other words, places that are commonly negotiated as central arrival infrastructures and which offer classes explicitly for refugees. It remains unclear whether this is specific to this group of women or whether it also applies to other people with a refugee background living in Berlin.

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Haftung:
Prof. Dr. Antonie Schmiz
Freie Universität Berlin
Institut für Geographische Wissenschaften
Malteserstr. 74-100
12249 Berlin

GEFÖRDERT VOM



