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My Idea is ...

...to bring people together.

Culture has the function of integrating the individual into the given century, thereby giving it an identity. Faith plays a central role in identity formation. Different religions and cultures combined have a potential for conflict.

In Rotterdam, Christianity and Islam are the two most popular religions. That's why I've chosen these two as an example for my project, to reduce the complexity of the topic.

How can the interfaith dialogue be encouraged? First I thought of a building that combines the two religions. So I went out to the Essalem Mosque located in northern Rotterdam and spoke to a muslim, who gave away, that he wouldn't pray in a house, where symbols of other religions would be portrayed. That led me to the idea of a square, where the places of worship (the church and the mosque in this case) are built around, to bring them closer together.

On the ground, the christian cross and the muslim crescent are connected through pathways of grass. The pattern looks like a labyrinth, which symbolises the process of finding your identity. The trees around the square are arranged in a circle to build one unit. The place stands for exchange and connection of the cultures, to reduce the distrust of each other.

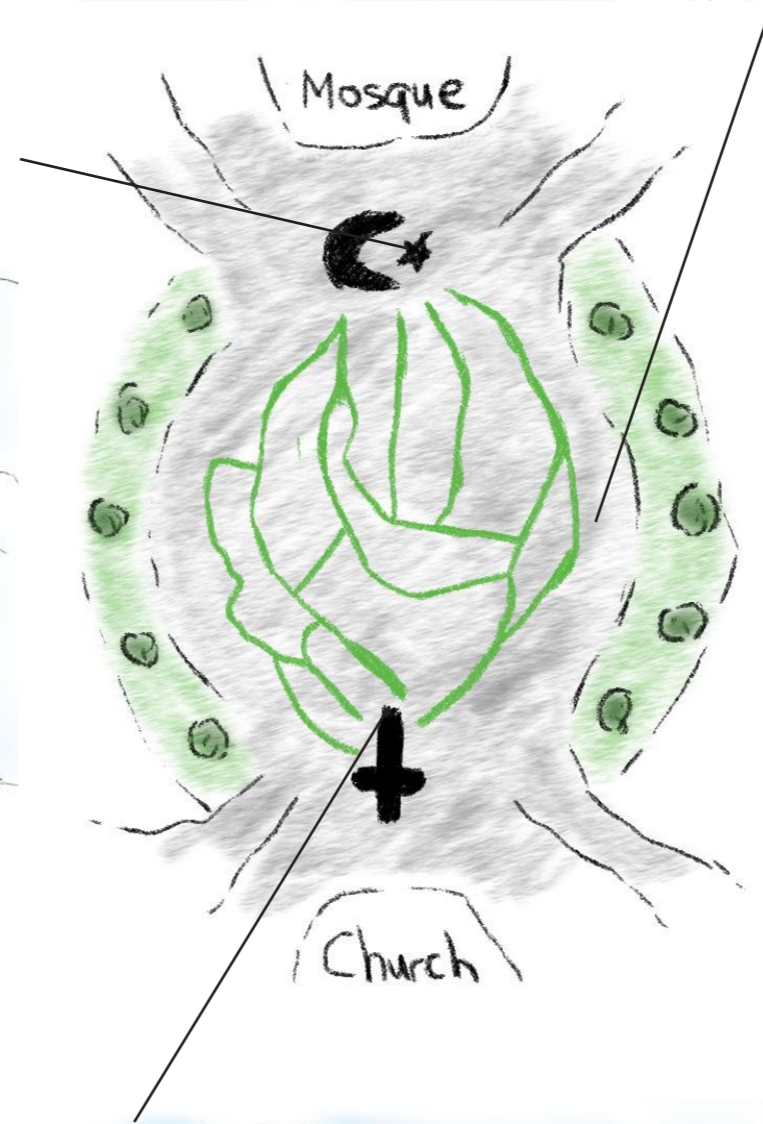
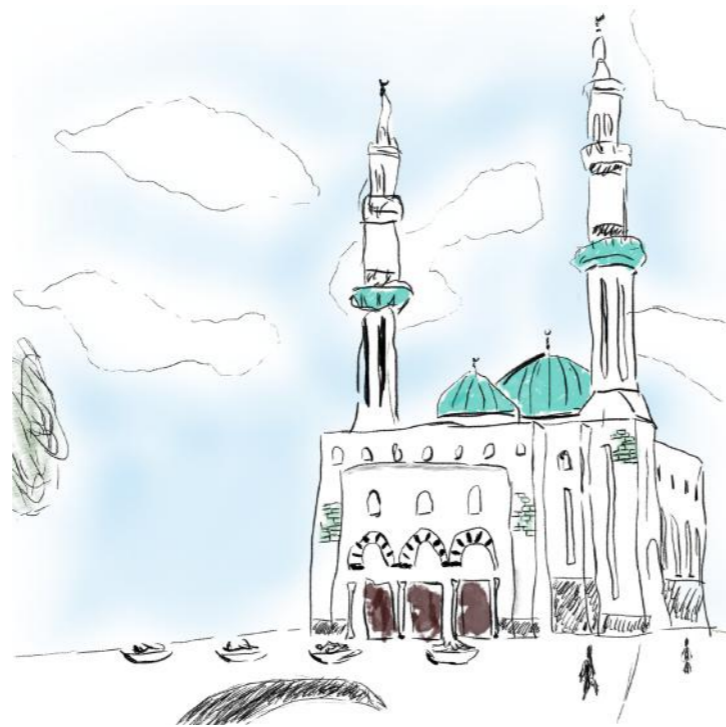
It also should not only be for religious persons. It's a place for everyone who is openminded and peaceful.

To evolve such a square, I sketched a four-step plan, which you can see on the right.



Step 1

Build the place
In the middle you can see it from bird's-eye view



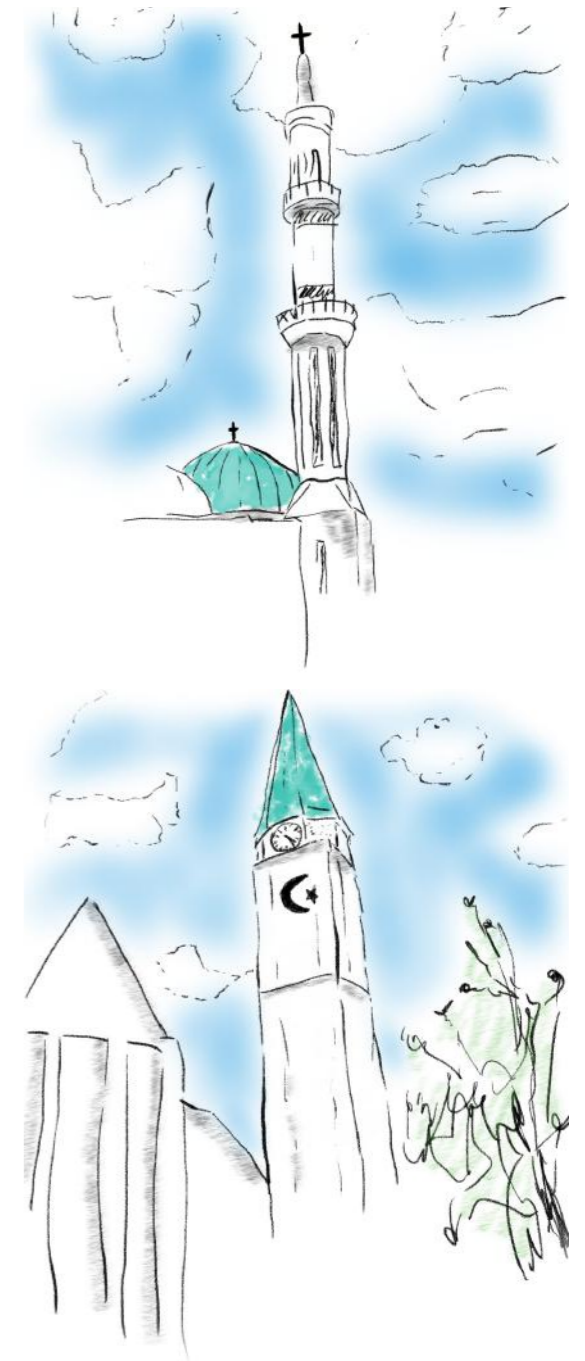
If you plan to construct a new church or mosque, build it near the square

Step 3



Step 2

Organize events and bring people together
Create for instance a temporary „islamic“ church or „christian“ mosque



Add more religions and cultures to the place

Step 4