

Most inviting square - Kastanjeplein

1. Body systems involved in the decision

Most active system – Limbic system

The limbic system handles emotions, memory, and feelings of comfort. When considering Kastanjeplein, this system likely had the biggest impact because the square feels calm, green, and welcoming. The presence of trees, open space, and historical buildings can create a positive emotional response and a sense of safety. These factors can help people feel relaxed and interested in staying longer in the area.

Least active system – Musculatory system

The musculatory system was probably the least active in the decision because the choice of the square was based mainly on visual and emotional impressions rather than physical effort. Although walking through the square involves movement, deciding which square feels most inviting relies more on perception and emotion than on physical activity.

2. Elements of the built environment influencing the decision

Several elements of the built environment influenced the choice of Kastanjeplein:

Historic houses

The surrounding buildings appear to come from different time periods, making the square visually interesting. Architectural variety can capture attention and create a unique identity for the place.

Trees and greenery

The trees provide shade and natural elements, often making public spaces feel calmer and more comfortable. Green spaces are known to help people feel more relaxed and willing to stay longer.

Central artwork or stone structure

The stone or artwork in the middle of the square serves as a focal point. Such elements help organize the space and make it more visually appealing.

