The relationship between research and design
The research for the assignment contained the question on how gaps in the urban fabric are developed. With case studies it's been researched which factors were influential on the development process, each divided into social, economical and architectural factors. The outcome of the research was that not only these specified factors but especially the parties behind these factors; architects, planners, constructors, corporations, municipality and neighbouring communities were guiding the development. All the cases have in common that they were gaps in the urban tissue for a long period of time, and this was caused by the economical crisis and mainly by the revolt of the neighbouring communities. Therefor not only the design of the building is the answer but also the strategy behind the development. The development strategy is to design a building as a mainframe in which the user eventually will develop their own dwelling or non-residential function. To make the development a success for the whole neighbourhood, communication between the different actors is essential. Therefor the mainframe, the building, needs a platform on which the parties can communicate with each other. The platform will be shaped into a website and is linked to social media for maximum transparency. The design of the building itself is focused on a way of flexibility that will provide the user/owner a space in which he or she can develop their own ideal way of living.

The relationship between the theme of the studio and the subject/case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object)
The theme of the assignment was to create a hybrid building with 21st century dwellings on the last empty plot on a row of building blocks on the Oostelijke Handelskade in Amsterdam. Because my research was not focused on the typology of the hybrid building I haven’t designed a building that resembles this specific typology. Though the design is a hybrid in that sense that it can be developed with various functions on the groundfloor and second floor and it will also be suitable for people who would like to create an office at home. So the mix of functions can be achieved by the users themselves. The 21st century dwelling-theme emerges in the way the users have the freedom to design a dwelling which fits their needs right now, but also later during the occupancy of the dwelling. So after 50 years for example, the same owner, or a new owner, could (re-)design a dwelling within the framework, that would fit the needs for a dweller in the 2060’s.

The relationship between the methodical line of approach of the studio and the method chosen by the student in this framework
The intention was to analyse different building typologies such as hybrid buildings, high density buildings and typologies with a high variety of dwellings. In the end I mainly focused on the casco loft typology which has many examples in redevelopment projects but is a quite new concept when it comes to new buildings. The phenomenological method which I intended to use emerged from making many renders to have a good iteration in the process of the design. Although the method produced good images eventually the method was time consuming and switched back to hand drawings instead. Another method was the process-based method. This was mainly important to develop different design ideas for dwellings for possible future tenants.

The relationship between the project and the wider social context
The successful developments of the case studies were the ones where the neighbouring community had something to say about the project and it’s program. I also concluded that we live in times of economical crisis, but at the same time, in times of technical revolution. This makes people creative and active in the ways they organise their lives. We want to take matter in our own hands again, we are not living in a nursing state anymore. The project relates to this theme by serving the users/dwellers with a building that allows them to develop a dwelling or (non-residential function) by their own.