TRANSITIONAL ZONES

The public domain has more and more become a topic of discussion in architecture. Architects no longer only design buildings, spaces around these buildings have become an important integral part of architecture. This can be clearly seen from the increasingly complex designs of spaces surrounding buildings.

This project is about making a gradual transition between the public and private, facilitating residents’ smooth transition from ‘inside’ dwellings to ‘outside’ spaces and back again. Creating diverse spaces, with different degrees of privacy, the architecture enables residents to extend their dwellings by taking place. Characteristically, spaces have a small border area of transition and range from more private around the dwelling to less so closer to the public street. Taking place in these spaces, people are likely to interact with each other, and thus create social cohesion.

“FLEXIBLE BOUNDARIES in the form of TRANSITIONAL ZONES that are neither completely private nor completely public, on the other hand, will often be able to function as CONNECTING LINKS, making it easier for residents and activities to move back and forth between private and public spaces, BETWEEN IN AND OUT”

Jan Gehl – Life between buildings
CONCEPT
This project is about giving residents the possibility to easily move back and forth between their dwelling and outside spaces. The Skin makes it possible to control the inside climate and create a gradual transition between the

SKIN
In the Netherlands the weather is unpredictable. Therefore people cannot sit outside very often. The Skin can reduce or block wind and sunlight; spaces are free from rain and the climate is stable. As a result, residents can extend their living spaces and take place outside more often.

DWELLING VOLUMES
To integrate different target groups, each volume is specifically designed for a particular type of resident and is connected to two different courtyards. At the same time, all volumes share a similar set-up: they have a private space, an in-between and an outside space. On the ground floor there is a connection with the other volumes, which facilitates smooth integration.

INBETWEEN SPACES
To make a gradual transition between a dwelling and an outside, each courtyard has been designed as a distinct place with a distinct function. In this way, the residents can choose in which surrounding they want to be. As public functions are integrated in the outer edges of the construction, people from outside will also come and take place in, for instance, the swimming pool or the sports area.

DIVIDING SPACES
The plot of the building is conceptualized as a grid divided into squares. Representing a location or a dwelling, each square in the grid is connected to four different spaces. In this way, a connection between courtyards and dwellings is ensured.
Each dwelling has an extra space, where the climate can be adapted to the residents’ preference. Sliding doors enable the space to be adjusted to each season. Moreover, the dwelling can be designed to fit a variety of typologies, in order to optimally connect to different inhabitant groups.