Graduation Plan | Architecture and Dwelling

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Studio
Theme MSc3 Studio Architecture & Dwelling [Q1-4 2012-2013]
At Home in The City, Amsterdam
Teachers Olv Klijn, Paul Kuitenbrouwer and Nelson Mota
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Argumentation choice I am interested in the influence of architecture on daily life. How the interaction is or might be between the built and the daily user. Dwelling for me, represents these aspects. I want to be able to design a building that is a contribution to a neighbourhood and its residents.

Title
The new Arrival City

Product

Problem Statement
The location for the design project lays in the Kolenkit neighbourhood in Amsterdam. Because the area is dominated by cheap social housing, it is an attractive neighbourhood for immigrants to start their new city life. Doug Saunders calls these neighbourhoods the ‘Arrival City’. He explains the necessity of successful arrival cities and how most western cities failed to accommodate these. So instead of a stepping stone into the larger society it became the final destination without a prospect of success. How can my design on the Jan van Schaffelaarplantsoen support the Kolenkit neighbourhood to be more successful as an Arrival City?

Goal
I will research some of the successful Arrival Cities to trace the physical elements which make this neighbourhood work as a stepping stone for migrants. My design for the Jan van Schaffelaarplantsoen will be based on these physical characteristics, to come up with an alternative for the existing urban fabric of the Kolenkit neighbourhood. In this way I want to create an environment where newcomers feel at home and where they get a better opportunity for a prospect of success. Simultaneously I will gather information about the history of the neighbourhood, the intensions of the designers and the way it has been used
over time. By time of realisation this project was an answer to a certain problem and due time it is changed to respond to certain developments. When I am aware of these factors I can create a design that has a connecting factor with the existing area.

Process

Method description

My design method is based on several sub questions:

- What is the character and function of the site and the Kolenkit neighbourhood in the larger whole?
  Due a site analysis I will come to a conclusion, a problem statement and a research question. I will research the history of the area by figuring out the intentions of Van Eesterens design and the reasons for made changes.

- What is written about the arrival city?
  I will conduct a broad literary theoretical study on how these arrival cities function and what the requirements are for a successful neighbourhood. I will research the historical background of the theme and explore theories which are related.

- What are good examples of arrival cities?
  With my analysis of successful case studies I will focus on morphology and typologies. By projecting them on the design location I will test the examples.

- What can we learn from them and how could I use them in my design?
  The design will be an evolution influenced repeatedly by the outcome of the different researches. It will be research by design and optimisation.

Literature and general practical preference

To get an insight of the location and her background, the following literature is interesting:

2. Ivan Nio et al., Atlas westelijke tuinsteden Amsterdam: de geplande en de geleefde stad (Amsterdam: SUN, 2008)
3. Hüsnü Yegenoglu et al., De westelijke tuinsteden: breukvlakken (Amsterdam: Stedelijke Woningdienst, 2008)
4. Yannis Zavoleas, At the Fringe of Athens Charter: Interpretive Escaping from an Expected Dead-End (Partas: University of Patras, 2009)

Subjects that are related to my theme are for example the active street and high density neighbourhoods. The following literature is interesting to refer to:

1. Erik Dorsman et al., Intense laagbouw, woningbouw in grote dichtheden (Groningen: Gras Uitgevers, 2009)

Documentaires:

- LUX: De wereld 10 jaar na 9/11: aflevering 4: De migrant als motor van de economie, (Directed by Wilberry Jakobs, IKON, 2011)
- *Douglas Saunders on the trend of urban migration* (Interview by Allan Gregg, TVO, 2012)

**Reflection**

**Relevance**

The Kolenkit neighbourhood is only one of the many examples of after-war dwelling developments which deal with social decline. Many of these neighbourhoods were built with the same intentions as the Kolenkit and went through the same process of becoming an *Arrival City* and later on stagnated. Furthermore, the migration to the city is not completed yet, so more and more people will move to the city. I want to come up with a possible solution for the worldwide issue of dysfunctional arrival cities in western metropolises.
Time planning