Theme research
The urban dweller of the 21st century &
TRANSITIONS
Dwelling graduation studio
Theme research TRANSITIONS
Dwelling graduation studio 2013/2014
At Home in the City
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2.
The beginning of the 21st century is marked by a turning point in human demographics. Since 2007 more than half of the world’s population live in cities. It is estimated that in 2030 eighty percent of the Dutch population will live in cities. Therefore the importance of the city is ever increasing.

City life is characterized by a big diversity and freedom. It offers a wide variety of different lifestyles. This variety of lifestyles also attracts a wide variety of inhabitants of the city. Where cities used to be the domain of the under- and middleclass, city centers are now dominated by the creatives and the upper-class. But also elderly people and foreign workers are attracted to the city, where they can find all their needs in a close reach.

Over the last decades developers and policymakers have strived to create the ‘perfect’ standardized dwelling. A dwelling that would supply in the most common needs of its inhabitants and is cost efficient to build. It is however questionable if this dwelling actually meets the demands and wishes of the ever more critical and diverse urban dweller of the 21st century. So what should a dwelling for the 21st century look like? What does the urban dweller of the 21st century need? What can make him feel at home in the city?

A frequently mentioned development that has changed society drastically in recent years, is the disappearance of ideologies. Citizens are now less driven by political ideologies and religious traditions than in the past. More than ever, individuals make choices suiting their own personality. Therefore, it is less easy to distinguish different groups and people are looking for customized products. These developments are accompanied by the pluralization of society. The present society is composed of diverse populations, each with their own customs, values and norms. Both the disappearance of ideologies as the pluralization of society are often associated with the phenomenon of individualization. In the context of housing, this means that there are more specific requirements for the home, based on distinct lifestyles.

Although the people that appreciate their individuality is increasing, there is also a countermovement that shows the downside of individualization. A negative effect is referred to, is narcissism and a lack of solidarity and social responsibility. Because of this, many neighborhoods show signs of detachment, the social cohesion is decreasing as well as the sense of responsibility for public space and community life. Therefore, more care is taken in the field of housing to meet the needs of people to be part of a social group, also called the need for ‘sense of community’.

Another development in our society is the rise of the internet. In our new information society everything is in our reach, which is blurring the lines between work, leisure and living. Due to the new automation techniques even the lines between healthcare and living are fading. This is changing the way in which we live drastically. We are not bound to specific places anymore, information can be obtained anywhere. This makes us free to separate where we work and live, become an ‘urban nomad’ in a globalizing world.

Next to that it also means that our dwelling will take over a lot of the functions which before would be experienced outside our home. Our home can become our workplace, our health-care facility, our school or our place of leisure; a ‘multifunctional dwelling’.

These phenomena that are happening in our society lead to four themes about living in the 21st century, which will be further investigated. The pluralization of society and the want for freedom of choice lead to the need for flexible dwellings, which is closely linked to the second theme, the multifunctional dwelling.

The other two themes that will be addressed more into depth are that of the urban nomad and the want for more communal living.
Flexible and Multifunctional dwellings

The personal computer has only been a part of our lives for two decades now. In this period of time the use of the computer has changed rapidly from just work related use to a window to the outside world, due to the arrival of the Internet. The computer has become an ever growing extension of ourselves. This phenomenon also changes the way in which we use our dwelling. Because of the fact that we can be online for 24 hours a day, the line between work and our lives start to fade. We can check our email at night, change appointments, prepare for a meeting the next day etc. This fading line between work and private life also changes the relation between the living and working room in our dwellings. The computer can be brought anywhere so it is not necessary anymore to go to a separate room to work, the connection with the outside world can be made anywhere. We want to be in control of how, where and when we do things. Therefore the strong division of rooms with specific functions is fading, openness and transparency become more and more important.

You want to be able to work in your living room, which is than visible from the kitchen. Our day is not determined by specific tasks anymore, therefore living in specific spaces is disappearing as well. The need for privacy will of course always stay, especially in families with children or elderly. However the demand for more open floor plans with less defined spaces is a growing trend for the future, especially with the growing numbers of one-and two-person households. Therefore it is very important that new dwellings are designed in a flexible and multifunctional way, this to make sure that the dwellings can fulfill our changing and different needs and demands.

The dividing lines between living, working and leisure are nowhere near as clear-cut as they used to be. There is a growing trend to enjoy experiences at home which before required going outdoors. Our bathrooms have become small spa’s, our kitchens small restaurants. Next to this more and more specific functions like working, learning and health care are becoming part of the dwelling. Especially health care is a very common and well-known function that is mixed with housing. This demand comes from the need of an ageing population that wants to live at home for as long as possible. They want to stay independent and a part of society, preferably in their old dwelling. The combination of living and working is also a growing trend in our society. Due to ‘het nieuwe werken’ more and more people are working (part-time) at home.

This combination of living and other functions asks for a different dwelling design. A home should be designed for future care, giving enough space to be used by disabled people. Spaces might have to be created where this other functions can take place, or the flexibility to be created when needed in the future. Next to this different levels of privacy might be needed in the dwelling. A home office should be able to be separated from the rest of the house in case clients or colleagues come over, a care home might have a separate room where the medical care can be received without somebody entering the most private parts of the home.

The other way around is of course also possible. When receiving care or working at home a higher level of public-ness might be wanted, to dispel loneliness: be part of society.

The mixing of functions is crucial for the dwelling of the 21st century. Therefore, as stated by Boelhouwer and Hoekstra: “Instead of concentrating on a one-to-one relationship between the problem and the solution, governments, architects and spatial planners should look for models that integrate housing, job creation, leisure and nature, that cater to different preferences and needs and that are flexible and transformable.”
In his book ‘the Third Wave’, Alvin Toffler describes three phases of development in human civilization. The first phase (or wave) is the agricultural era. In this period people are both producer and costumer of their own goods. The second period is the industrial time, in this period production and consumption are being separated, everything is being standardized and made as efficient as possible. The third wave, in which we live now, is the information society, which is the complete opposite of this separation. Due to the rapid IT-developments, production can be tailor-made again. Therefore the distinction between producers and costumers gets blurry again. Although this ideas come from 1980, it is still quoted throughout literature and still repeated in his later books, up until 2006. This change of mindset, of costumer becoming producer again, is also what changes the dwelling demand. Costumers are not satisfied with their standardized dwelling anymore, they want something ‘tailor-made’. Predicting the future is very difficult, this was proven again by doing this research. Sources which where only seven years old, dating just before the economical crisis, are already completely outdated today. Therefore, as stated again by Leupen, designing for the future “means designing for the unknown instead of predicting the unpredictable.”

In his book ‘the Third Wave’, Alvin Toffler describes three phases of development in human civilization. The first phase (or wave) is the agricultural era. In this period people are both producer and costumer of their own goods. The second period is the industrial time, in this period production and consumption are being separated, everything is being standardized and made as efficient as possible. The third wave, in which we live now, is the information society, which is the complete opposite of this separation. Due to the rapid IT-developments, production can be tailor-made again. Therefore the distinction between producers and costumers gets blurry again. Although this ideas come from 1980, it is still quoted throughout literature and still repeated in his later books, up until 2006. This change of mindset, of costumer becoming producer again, is also what changes the dwelling demand. Costumers are not satisfied with their standardized dwelling anymore, they want something ‘tailor-made’. Predicting the future is very difficult, this was proven again by doing this research. Sources which where only seven years old, dating just before the economical crisis, are already completely outdated today. Therefore, as stated again by Leupen, designing for the future “means designing for the unknown instead of predicting the unpredictable.”

Nieuw Australië, Amsterdam – by DKV architects
The building Nieuw Australië is situated at the Oostelijke Handelskade in Amsterdam and is designed by DKV architects.

Aside from the fact that people want to have an influence on the way they live, create their own perfect home, flexible dwellings are also in a practical sense crucial when designing for the future. Dwellings buildings in the Netherlands should have an average lifespan of a 100 years, this to make sure that our dwelling stock keeps supplying in the demands. But already some of the VINEX dwellings, build only 40 years ago have to be demolished because they don’t meet our standards anymore. The same is happening with the ‘minimum dwellings’ of the last century, all designed to perfection, but not able to supply in future needs. In his book ‘Frame and generic space’ Leupen states that “If a dwelling is able to stand the test of time it has to be able to accommodate every imaginable kind of inhabitation and use. One solution lies in enabling certain parts to be changed, for instance the internal layout.”

Nieuw Australië, Amsterdam – by DKV architects
The building Nieuw Australië is situated at the Oostelijke Handelskade in Amsterdam and is designed by DKV architects. The building consists of a renovated old warehouse (Australië) and a new building which is internally connected to the warehouse and creates an overhang over it. The dwellings in the new and old building are completed as ‘shell units’, without any interior structure. The dwellings in the new structure are accessed by a gallery. The wall separating the gallery and the dwelling contains a service duct, where all the pipes and cables for the dwelling are situated. The floor of the dwellings is raised, leaving a space where the services can run freely, giving the possibility to create every possible floor plan wanted. The floor is assembled of 600 by 600 mm concrete floor tiles, supported by steel feet at their corners. This floor system is easy to open up, making it possible to change the service supply later to accommodate in changing needs.

As a result of migration and internationalization of the industry and the education institutions, more and more people stay outside their home town for short or longer periods of time. People come from abroad to work in the Netherlands and Dutch nationals take up jobs in other parts of the world. Similarly studying abroad has undergone significant changes in recent years and is expected to continue changing as globalization becomes ever more a part of our world. These processes also affect the way people live. Fewer people stay in the same house, the same neighbourhood or even the same country for all of their live. Many of the foreign workers that come to the Netherlands are from Central and Eastern Europe. Most of them stay for only a short period of time, varying between weeks and months, and find jobs in the lower segments of the labour market. Specific types of accommodation is needed for this group of people, such as hostels, boarding houses and readily available rented accommodation.

Simultaneously, the flow of foreign workers in the upper segments of the labour market is also increasing. These expats or knowledge workers often work at universities or international organizations. They tend to form their own communities, which are notable for a cosmopolitan lifestyle and a preference for an urban environment. Although they usually set high standards to their living environment with many preferences, their place of residence is often chosen by their companies which take a close interest in the type of housing of their employees.

The expectation is that the demand for temporary housing will grow in the near future. But what are the requirements for those kind of dwellings? Should one think of fully furnished dwellings with all the luxury and facilities one could need or even more hotel-like buildings? How should the environment of the dwelling be designed and in which extend is the urban nomad in search of contact with its neighbors?

The relationship to the temporary homes of the expats or knowledge workers is ambivalent: They know that the dwelling will be for short stay, but because of this they want to feel at home rapidly.

Dfluence van Ooij, journalist and a urban nomad herself, states that these nomads would prefer to take the familiarity from their former neighborhood with them while moving to a new dwelling. The shops where they were a regular costumer, the school of the children where they know the other parents, the local police officer, the friends they made, the neighborhood that is watering their plants. Especially at the moment where one succeeded to form a social context where they can feel at home, they move again, looking for new adventures. Van Ooij furthermore points out that the urban nomad is looking for an environment where they can join the daily life without too much effort. The dwelling should be spacious and rental. The neighborhood should be open enough to welcome newcomers. It should preferably be a diverse neighborhood, with a mixed population and many facilities.

The student hotel

Temporary living in a dwelling can slowly shift into living in a hotel. A new phenomenon are the so-called “student hotels”. This phenomenon can be found in the Netherlands in the cities of the Hague, Rotterdam and Amsterdam. It is a project that focusses on the urban nomad, such as students expats or knowledge workers. They can rent a room for a maximum of 10 months (two semesters). The rooms are like hotel rooms, which means that they are fully furnished and have their own bathroom facilities. To support the fast integration of the dweller, the hotel offers communal areas such as a café, restaurant-bar, games room with Ping-Pong tables, pool tables and lounges for hanging out. Facilities such as child care, libraries, multimedia centers, sports facilities and study areas for groups and individuals offer all that the temporary dweller could need. Activities hasted throughout the year such as parties and BBQs contribute to the social cohesion of the dwellers.

Creating the ideal temporary accommodation experience is the idea behind the Student Hotel. The urban nomad does not have to worry about food shopping or preparing meals, they can choose a meal plan. However, if they prefer making their own meals, all rooms have access to a shared kitchen. And some rooms even have their own pantry.
Living in a community

Over the past twelve years, the number of single-parent families increased in the Netherlands by 21%, the number of singles with 14% and the number of couples without children by 6%. In twenty years, 40 percent of the urban dwellers is single. Therefore, an increasing number of people will be in need for a housing and living environment where the sense of collectivity (interaction, encounter, mutuality, social cohesion) is organized and designed.

Another reason for the upcoming trend of living within a community are the changes in neighbourhood composition. In the past, residents of the same neighbourhood usually knew each other, at least by sight and they certainly knew who lived where. This made them feel safe and secure. Rapid changes in the composition of the population have brought an end to such acquaintanceship in at least some neighbourhood. Misunderstandings about what used to be accepted codes of behavior can lead to conflicts and isolation. In the hope of rediscovering this acquaintanceship many house-seekers look for a dwelling in a neighbourhood where they expect to meet people like themselves and to find safety and assurance.

Quantitative data with regard to the demand for living in common-interest communities is not available. Nevertheless, a recent Dutch housing market survey shows that 19% of the potential homebuyers in the Netherlands prefer to live in a neighbourhood in which all residents have roughly the same income, age, and behavior. This indicates that there certainly is a considerable interest in living with like-minded people, with neighbours who enjoy similar activities and subscribe to the same values as themselves. The emphasis on personal power and success makes way for a bigger “sense of community”. We, as a society, start realizing that we are all part of a greater whole. This can be seen by the increasing focus on corporate social responsibility and sustainability. The desire to live alongside like-minded people finds expression in different forms of housing revolving, for example, around ethnicity (elderly members of ethnic groups who live together in ethnic residential care complexes), life phase (families who live together around an inner courtyard), a leisure pursuit (e.g. horse-riding) or specific convictions (e.g. eco-friendly neighbourhood).

Collectivity manifests itself in and around the playground, football field, the tree house, an elderly hangout. It is the gray area between public space (public area) and family circle (private area). These are the facilities and services - the courtyard, tennis court and concierge - you share with people who are not strangers, but neither family members. The need for collectivity forces us to look with different eyes to dwelling.

During the past decade, architects, planners and developers have come up with new ideas for housing that can better meet household needs under the current conditions of social and demographic change. Those ideas respond to the new forms of households (like, for example, the single parent family), the need for greater affordability and to the desire for more flexible living. Many of those new designs use the shared space as an important link for the social and physical aspects of housing. As Sherry Ahrentzen, who is a researcher in the field of environment and behavior, emphasizes, these designs are unfortunately more often the exception than the rule because it is more common that developers downsize the homes, in order to make them more affordable than to rethink the housing design. In this way, instead of thinking about the possibilities of shared facilities, the conventional room arrangements stay intact while the floorplans shrink proportionally. Reconfiguring the rooms could contribute to more flexibility and overlapping and shared use which can save space and thus money.

A well-known type of common-interest housing is Collective Private Commissioning (CPC). It is a specific form of “participative planning”. Participative planning is defined by Lei Qu and Evert Hasselaar as “a planning process in which the participants (future occupants or people in the surrounding neighborhoods) are stimulated to become actively involved, are helped to form and express their ideas and eventually become co-producers of the neighborhoods and the city”. Groups that start a CPC often share the same interests or beliefs. They are willing to invest big amounts of energy in a collective building process to realize additional functions that are not often present in standard housing projects. Workspaces, a communal garden with a playground, parking solutions and bike stalls, a multi-purpose room for parties, hobbies or guests, secure and/or accessible

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Le Medi is based on "identity-based development"; in other words, it is a common-interest community. The main elements in the design are a central square with a water feature; gates to close off the complex; flexible, easily extendable dwellings; and unconventional use of color and materials. The central square is semi-public space; like the streets and the parking garage, it is managed by the residents. The space is of a higher quality than is customary in Rotterdam. The residents receive a grant from the Municipality for the maintenance of the semi-public space, provided the gates to the complex are left open during the day. The population of Le Medi is wide-ranging: ethnic and non-ethnic, families with and without children. The binding factor is that most of the residents are real city-dwellers. The dwellings are relatively expensive by Rotterdam standards: 220,000 euros for a property measuring 100 square meters. Before Le Medi was built, urban renewal in Delfshaven focused mainly on creating opportunities for existing residents to pursue a housing career. Le Medi is targeting a new affluent group, with the aim of bringing more diversity to the neighbourhood population.

The challenge in designing communal housing in an urban context, is to find the delicate balance between distance and proximity. Distance that guarantees anonymity and freedom and proximity that offers interaction and security.

**Le Medi, Rotterdam**

Le Medi is a housing project in Delfshaven, Rotterdam. It consists of 93 single-family dwellings based on the type of architecture that is common in countries around the Mediterranean. The initiative came from a Moroccan Dutchman called Hassani Idrissi, who had worked for years in Rotterdam social services. Idrissi came up with the idea of building a Mediterranean housing complex in Rotterdam, as a means of expressing the multicultural character of the city in the built environment. The Municipality liked the idea and called in a housing association and a project developer to work it out in detail.

...spaces for the handicapped, extra investments in sustainable energy and materials for a healthy and economic living environment. Especially the combination of living with working and other facilities creates an urban quality which otherwise doesn’t come into being.

CPC’s are clearly on the increase in the Netherlands, but they are still far fewer than in many other countries. It turns out that in practice these kinds of collective housing projects lead to greater social cohesion. The interests of the residents extend beyond their own front door. In the Netherlands CPC’s or sharing facilities could help to keep families with children in the city, as they would provide peace and safety and still be within easy reach of urban facilities. Housing that enables like-minded people to live together within a larger socio-economically and ethnically mixed district might help to build more integrated society. Common-interest housing can play a key role in the regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods.27

Le Medi, Rotterdam. Source: http://www.mimoa.eu/projects/Netherlands/Rotterdam/Le%20Medi

Public, private and the in-between

The themes that are elaborated in the previous chapter show variations in dwelling and dweller typologies. Flexible living and multifunctional living are focusing on the type of dwelling while the urban nomad and living in a community are themes that describe possible types of the urban dweller of the 21st century. Flexible and multifunctional living can therefore be an answer to the needs and preferences of this urban dweller.

Naturally, cities are places where people live in high densities. But apparently, everyone also wishes to claim more personal space. Because there is often not enough space and opportunities for this in the city itself. Many families therefore leave the city to live in more rural environments, even if they are well devoted to the dynamics of the city life.29 A shift can be seen in the preferences of the urban dweller, on the one hand individuals make choices suiting their own personality, which leads to the individualization of society and customization of products and dwellings, on the other hand a countermovement can be seen to meet the needs of people to be part of a social group. Society changes rapidly and the amount of singles, elderly and urban nomads will increase which will encourage the rise of sense of community.

People tend to embrace contact with their direct neighbors and the city around them. To the community dweller, sharing of products and thoughts and thererfor regular encounters with their neighbors are important. The nomadic dweller needs to feel at home rapidly while they know that the dwelling will be for short stay. To achieve this, the direct neighbors are of big importance, as well as the possibilities of the direct environment of their dwelling. The zone between the street and the dwelling will therefore play a role in meeting the needs of the urban dweller, to shift between the public and the private. Jan Gehl explains the phenomenon of this in-between zone very carefully in the book Life Between Buildings: “Whether the public environment invites or repels is, among other things, a question of

how the public environment is placed in relation to the private, and how the border zone between the two areas is designed. Sharply demarcated borders – such as those found in multistory residences, where one is either in a completely private territory indoors and upstairs or in a completely public area outside on the stairs, in the elevator, or on the street – will make it difficult in many situations to move into the public environment if it is not necessary to do so. Flexible boundaries in the form of transitional zones that are neither completely private nor completely public on the other hand, will often enable to function as connecting links making it easier, both physically and psychologically, for residents and activities to move back and forth between private and public spaces, between in and out.” 30

A direct connection between the dwelling and the street will thus probably no longer meet the needs, an intermediate is desirable. This transition zone can encourage encounters and interaction but functions simultaneously as a gradual transition between the public to the private sphere. The transition zone can be designed in such a way that the urban nomad can integrate more easily, the residents can encourage the sense of community and even families can feel at home in the city. These opportunities of the zone in between the private dwelling and the public street, the transition zone, triggered us to further research this topic.

Literature list


Internet

Introduction

The relationship between interior and exterior, between the dwelling and the street, is an aspect of important relevance within the urban dwelling design, especially in a dense context. The privacy of a house is in close proximity to the extrovert public domain of the city. In this sense the space in-between the house and the urban realm becomes a turning point where it is expressed how much a house is protected or opened to the city. It is a point where the dwelling activity is stopped or it is given the possibility to merge with the public, to blend with the outside. It is the point where the sense of collectivity can be enhanced.

In the Dutch tradition a strong relation exists between the house and the street. The dwelling tends to simultaneously embrace the intimacy of the private home with the collectivity of the city. In the typical Amsterdam canal house the relation between the dwelling and the street can at first glance be considered sharp and strict, without any transition from inside to the outside or vice versa. But looking carefully with more detail, the presence of subtle elements in the line between the door and the street generates certain sequence that offers the dweller a moment of preparation before entering the city. It offers a buffer between the private and public. The dwelling is extending to the outside.

This observation triggers us to research more in depth about these transitions and how architectural elements can frame them.

Problem statement

The city center of Amsterdam knows a long tradition of a very strong connection between street and dwelling. This connection is often lost in the more vertical oriented apartment buildings. The necessary vertical movement in such a building separates the dwelling from the street.

With the advancement of transportation system nowadays, cars, not pedestrians, take over cities. Because of the foregoing, buildings are surrounded by vehicle lanes and people have to follow long and complicated routes from the streets in order to enter into buildings. This route contains a lot of different elements that gradually form the transitions from the public to private world. In the Amsterdam streets this transition is made in a very compact space while in a vertical project these transitions are made over a much longer distance.

This transition not only shows the physical boundaries for two territories, but also works as the vocabulary of architecture to invite or chase away by providing the recognition of space in psychological ways for people. This is attributable to the relationship of public space and private space within an densely populated city. For example, compact transition occurs on Amsterdam streets with close relationship with streets. On the other hand, more diverse transitions are generated from the vertical projects with higher density.

For the design of our studio a vertical hybrid dwelling building will have to be designed. If so, what kind of transition do we need today when the relationship of public place and private place, or the relationship of street and dwelling, is emerged in complicated ways? In addition, the transition between the respective spaces has to be known for the transition between inside and outside of buildings as well as the transition between the respective spaces inside the dwelling building.

Research question

From our problem statement arises the question

“What is happening between the (public) street and the (private) dwelling?”

This leads to the following subquestions:
• In what way is the route of the dweller framed?
• How are the transitions shaped by architectural elements?
• What are the differences and similarities in transitions between horizontal and vertical housing projects?
• Can we translate the horizontal transitions to a vertical building?

Research method

To find answers to our research questions we performed literature studies and case studies. The literature studies on city dwellers today clearly displays the relationship of the private place and public place that we mentioned. In other words, by understanding their behaviors in the two spaces within the city, it may be assumed that on what role should the transition space take as well as on what relationship should the public place and private space may have.

The research of case studies may provide information necessary for the understanding of how transitions occur from the distance to dwelling (private location) within our physical world in fact. To get a better understanding of the differences between horizontal- and vertical buildings it is important to select case studies in both categories.

First we have made a criteria list for the selection of the case studies, which is described later in the booklet. Based on this criteria we have selected three horizontal case study projects and three vertical case study projects.

The second step in the research is extracting the information we need from the case study projects by analysis. Because it is difficult to find the relation among all spaces in a building on the two dimensional floor plan, we draw axonometric diagrams of all cases. How we have analyzed the case studies precisely, is also described later in the booklet.

After the analysis we start comparing the different projects with each other. Here we try to find the similarities and differences between the case studies. We will look at the architectural elements, materials and spaces that are being used and compare the transition steps within the different projects.

This comparison of the case study projects lead to conclusions about the transitions between street and dwelling, as well as the differences and similarities between horizontal and vertical projects. Next to that it gives us certain clues we can use when designing our own projects.
Selection case studies

Criteria
For the selection of the case studies we have set the following criteria:

- Visible transitions between street and dwelling
- Residential building
- Urban area (preferably in Amsterdam)
- Built projects
- Entrance facing the street
- Different projects over time

Explanation of criteria
By these criteria, we decided to compare the horizontal transition and vertical transition directly and picked up six projects as case studies. Horizontal buildings refer to residential buildings with a maximum height of 4 stories. The vertical projects contain a diverse program in addition to the dwelling purpose and they should have a height of at least 5 stories.

We chose to analyze three horizontal and three vertical projects. Because we wanted to see the differences in the transition through time, we selected the horizontal projects in Amsterdam over various periods.

The vertical projects are high-rise residential buildings that we compare to the horizontal projects. Also here is chosen to compare buildings dating from various periods in time. We deliberately selected one foreign example, the Shinonome Canal Court in Tokyo, with the reason that we wanted to know how the architect solves the transition in a more complex and dense city than Amsterdam, where our site is located, in order to prepare for the future situation of Amsterdam.

Sources of right page:
1. Google street view: https://maps.google.nl/
Case Studies Horizontal

- Streets of the city centre, Amsterdam
- Haarlemmerhouttuinen, H. Hertzberger, Amsterdam, 1982
- Noordbuurt, VMX Architects, Amsterdam, 2008

Case Studies Vertical

- Studenthousing Weesperstraat, H. Hertzberger, Amsterdam, 1966
- Shinonome Canal Court, Block 2, ADH/workstation, Tokyo, 2005
- La Grande Cour, Meyer & van Schooten, Amsterdam, 2007
Method of Analyzing

To be able to extract the information from the case studies that we need, we determined how we should do the analysis. All the projects have to be analyzed in the same way to be able to compare them to each other.

Phase 1: Axonometric diagram
- We will make an overall axonometric view of the projects, in which we show all the transitional elements. In this axonometric view we will color the different transitions in a gradient.
- Explanation of the color gradation: In general a darker color means more private space. However, we use the color gradation by the occupancy frequency of people when looking at the entirety of the city, not to contemplate if the spatial characteristic has a private or a public feature.

Phase 2: Section
- We draw sections in order to take a look at the relationship of respective space to each point of generating respective transition in full view. It also has the purpose of showing different parts of buildings yet to be shown on the axonometric diagram. On this section, the same color gradation with phase 1 is used to find out the transition occurring on entire building.

Phase 3: Zoom-in diagram
- After the overall axonometric, more than two zoom-in axonometric diagrams are made, where all the transitional elements will be shown more detailed at least. One of them has same color gradation. This will be accompanied with a section of phase 2.
- In the same axonometric diagram, the another zoom-in diagram will be used to show all the different materials that are being used in the project instead of color gradation.

Phase 4: Analysis of pictures
- Pictures of the project will be shown where and how the materials that we analyzed in the zoom-in diagrams of phase 3 are used.

Phase 5: Extraction of elements
- The next of the analyses will really focus on the specific architectural elements that are being used in the case studies to form the transitions. This elements will be highlighted in pictures.

Phase 6: Making a transition path
- These elements of phase 5 will be abstracted to icons, which will lead to a “transition path”, a line where the sequence of elements is shown that form the transitions from street to dwelling. This path also means the circulation from street to dwelling unit. This diagram can inform the relation between circulation and transitional elements.

Phase 7: Making a matrix of transitional elements
- After completing all foregoing analyses, we make the matrix for direct comparison of each element. Through this effort, it is possible to find out how and where the transition is made through certain elements of respective building. Furthermore, the relationship between the transition for each element and characteristics of buildings through the comparison of buildings can be found out.
Case Studies

This part of the booklet shows the analyses of the case studies. First the horizontal case studies are discussed, followed by the vertical case studies. In both categories the projects are ordered chronologically through time. Each case study starts with a short introduction, after which the analyses is made and ends with a conclusion.
We chose Prinsengracht as the subject of case study in Amsterdam. The residential aspect of the street and its variations in the transitions between the street and the house can offer us more tools and insights for the research. The Prinsengracht (Prince’s Canal) is the fourth and the longest of the main canals in Amsterdam. Most of the canal houses along it were built during the Dutch Golden Age.
Horizontal Case Studies: Streets of the city centre Amsterdam

Transition zones
Horizontal Case Studies: Streets of the city centre Amsterdam

Materialization

5. Materials of the stairs merge with the basement and ground floor facade, it can be seen a integration between the street and the house with materialization.

1. Klinkers (Stone Tiles Pavement)
2. White Painted Klinkers
3. Klinkers (different pattern of pavement than in the traffic lane)
4. Klinkers (different pattern).
5. Concrete stairs.

Fig.4

Fig.5

Fig.6
Horizontal Case Studies: Streets of the city centre Amsterdam

Architectural elements

change of pavement

physical object (Amsterdammertje)

change of pavement

physical object (concrete block and chains)

change of pavement

step stair
The transitions between the city and the dwelling in the Amsterdam street are delineated by subtle elements such as changes in the pavement pattern and material, physical objects (amsterdammertje or concrete blocks) and changes in elevation (steps and stairs). These elements play a role in defining a set of open semi-private areas before entering the privacy of home. The different materialization of the stairs and the change of pavement in the space between concrete blocks and the dwelling are insights and attributes that mark the start of a personal domain. The domain of the dweller.

**SOURCES**

1. TU Delft Maps; https://maps.tudelft.nl/index.php
2. Google Street view; https://map.google.nl
3. Own Image
4. Google Street view; https://map.google.nl
5. Duclos Carla, Amsterdammertjes; http://www.flickr.com
6. Google Street view; https://map.google.nl
7-12. Own Image
The central theme in the Haarlemmer Houttuinen is the street as living space, as elaborated in association with Van Herk and Nagelkerke, the architects of the other side of the street. This “living street” is accessible only to the residents’ own cars and to delivery vehicles. Since it is therefore closed to general motorized traffic and has a width of only 7 m—an unusually narrow profile by modern standards—a situation reminiscent of the old city is created. The necessary street furnishings such as lights, bicycle racks, low fencing and public benches are scattered in such a way that a few parked cars are enough to obstruct the passage of traffic.

While the extended block on the north side provides shelter from the through-road and railway behind it, the southern block is one storey lower, so that the sun can shine into the street area.

The decision—which had more to do with politics than with town planning—to reserve an area of 27 metres next to the railway for “traffic purposes” obliged the architects to build at least up to this imposed limit of alignment; as a result there was no room on the north side for back gardens.

These unfavorable circumstances—i.e. undesirable orientation and traffic noise—meant that this north side would have to accommodate the rear wall, therefore all emphasis came to lie on the living street facing south.” (Arnulf Luchinger, Herman Hertzberger 1959-86 (Den Haag, 1987) p. 245.)
Horizontal Case Studies: Haarlemmer Houttuinen

Transition zones
Horizontal Case Studies: Haarlemmer Houttuinen

Transition zones

1. Klinkers (Stone Tiles Pavement)
2. Klinkers (different pattern and color)
3. Klinkers (Same pattern as street but lighter color)
4. Small open wall of open concrete blocks (filled with plants)
5. Concrete band
6. Square concrete tiles
1. Klinkers (Stone Tiles Pavement)
2. Klinkers (different pattern and color)
3. Klinkers (Same pattern as street but lighter color)
4. Small open wall of open concrete blocks (filled with plants)
5. Concrete band
6. Square concrete tiles
Horizontal Case Studies: Haarlemmer Houttuinen

Architectural elements

Fig. 4

column

Fig. 5

overhang

Fig. 6

small wall

Fig. 7

step

stairs

Fig. 8

wall
The central theme in the Haarlemmer Houttuinen is the street as living space, as elaborated in association with Van Herk and Nagelkerke, the architects of the other side of the street. This “living street” is accessible only to the residents’ own cars and to delivery vehicles. Since it is therefore closed to general motorized traffic and has a width of only 7 m—an unusually narrow profile by modern standards—a situation reminiscent of the old city is created. The necessary street furnishings such as lights, bicycle racks, low fencing and public benches are scattered in such a way that a few parked cars are enough to obstruct the passage of traffic. While the extended block on the north side provides shelter from the through-road and railway behind it, the southern block is one storey lower, so that the sun can shine into the street area.

Sources
1. TU Delft Maps; https://maps.tudelft.nl/index.php
2. Abacus; http://blog.abacusarchitects.com/blog-0/?Tag=Density
The Noordbuurt is designed by VMX architects. It is a housing block in IJburg, a suburban district of Amsterdam. The masterplan for this part of IJburg is characterised by its high density, large perimeter blocks and a narrow street pattern. VMX aimed to create housing with as much privacy as possible and high quality private outdoor spaces.

As a starting point, the obligatory use of the perimeter block is combined with the spatial qualities of the ‘slab’. By doing this, nearly every individual house is offered a private outdoor space facing south. In this system, half of the houses (those on the North side) are given their entrances on the street. The remaining houses are opened up with the inside part of the block. This mix of private outdoor spaces and entrances within the block results in a ‘collective atmosphere’.

In offering sufficient privacy in the narrow streets, the ground floor has been raised slightly above street level. Furthermore, multipurpose spaces have been introduced between the street and living room. These spaces allow a highly flexible use - for example as study rooms on the north side and as ‘garden rooms’ on the south side of the block. (VMX Architects, http://www.vmxarchitects.nl/project_458.html)
Horizontal Case Studies: Noordbuurt

Transition zones
1. Klinkers (Stone tiles pavement)
2. Concrete edge sidewalk
3. Klinkers (Different pattern than in the traffic lane)
4. Concrete strip
5. Concrete floor
6. Concrete stairs
7. Concrete platform
8. Sliding doors
9. Square tiles pavement
10. Iron fence
Architectural elements

Horizontal Case Studies: Noordbuurt

Fig.6

Fig.7 entrance door

Fig.8 ramp

Fig.9 fence

Fig.10 vertical sliding door

Fig.11 low stairs step
The dwellings on the ground floor of the Noordbuurt can be entered from two directions. The most common route leads to a courtyard (that is closed off for public by an entrance hall) from where the front door can be reached. In between the semi-private courtyard and the front door, a transition zone is created by private gardens. The fact that the courtyard is already semi-private offers the opportunity to create this private zone without the use of a gate in the fences. Because of this and the low height of the fences, these gardens have a very open appearance. The similarity of all fences creates uniformity.

The other route to reach the dwelling is from the outside of the closed building block. All the ground-floor dwellings have a multipurpose plateau between the street and living room. These spaces allow flexible use, for example as study rooms on the north side and as ‘garden rooms’ on the south side of the block. During summer this space can be opened by a vertical sliding door which allows the dweller to use the room as a terrace connected to the living room. In this way, it transforms to a space for meeting and entering.

Sources
1. TU Delft Maps; https://maps.tudelft.nl/index.php
2. VMX Flickr; http://www.flickr.com/photos/vmxarchitects/set/72157626691527569/with/5763958191/
Student housing Weesperstraat - H. Hertzberger
1966, Amsterdam

This building houses 250 students in a number of living units (18 and 6 rooms each respectively), each with its own front door, rather like apartments grouped around a communal staircase. On the fourth floor there is a covered pedestrian street, along which living units for student-couples are situated. This gallery among the roof-tops and without traffic, so that children can play there quite safely, was regarded as the prototype of the “living street.” The staircases, which were consciously planned as public spaces where the street penetrates as far as possible, as it were, into the building, no longer function in the reality of 1985 as they did at the time when the building was constructed. In this respect, too, certain extensive adjustments are called for. This building, due to its sheer size and its horizontal articulation, situated as it is along a major artery and as such part of the misguided traffic philosophy of the period following the Second World War, has not really been integrated into the remaining adjacent old quarters of the city. However, its accessibility to day and the way in which the urban fabric is allowed to penetrate into the building are necessary for transitions of residential building in the dense city.
Vertical Case Studies: Student housing Weesperstraat

Transition zones
Vertical Case Studies: Student housing Weesperstraat

Architectural elements

Fig.3 Fig.4

colonnade

Fig.5 Fig.6 Fig.7

overhang

blocks

one floor stairs

overhang
Weesperstraat where the student Housing is located is one of the powerful axes to enter into Amsterdam Central. This fact implies that there is a significant flow of vehicles and people and this student housing maintains the flow of people through the colonnade, rather than taking the street from the ground level. Furthermore, this flow is led to the main entrances of buildings through one floor stairs. It used the same materials with the floor materials of street but the pattern was used the method to change. This building is basically the student housing that the community space only for students exists on the 4th floor. This space also is used the factors, such as, ground floor, namely, the materials and patterns of colonnade, block and floor, in a way of expanding the public street onto the internal part of the buildings.

Sources
1. TU Delft Maps; https://maps.tudelft.nl/index.php
2. Architectuurgids.nl; Architectuurgids.nl; http://www.architectuurgids.nl/project/list_projects_of_architect/arc_id/642/prj_id/358
3. Google streetview; http://www.maps.google.com
4. Google streetview; http://www.maps.google.com
6. Own Image
The Shinonome Canal Court is a part of district 'Shinonome' located in waterfront of Tokyo Bay. In the situation that many high-rise residential buildings were built in surrounding area, the Urban Development Corporation (UDC) held a completion in which 6 teams were included Toyo Ito & Assoc in 2004. The S-shaped winding street is a main street to connect 6 buildings in the complex and also expand to the surrounding urban context. With this street, he designed the Block 2 and supporting facilities. To support dwellers in this complex, there are day nursery, kindergarten, drug store and shops in the Block 2. This Block 2 has 5 entrances to dwelling building. Among these, 3 kinds of circulations pass through the supporting facilities on the ground level and the other 2 are met with the urban street directly. The first level is connected to 6 residential buildings by the courtyard with wooden materials. Through these spaces located in buildings, it is possible to establish a network of social relations among the inhabitants.
Vertical Case Studies: Shinonome Canal Court Block 2

Transition zones
Transition zones

YMCA Canal Court nursery

drug store

nursery

cleaning shop

bike parking

bike parking

interior miscellaneous goods

Zoom-in 02
Vertical Case Studies: Shinonome Canal Court Block 2

Transition zones Zoom-in 01
1. Sidewalk Block (Concrete Block Pavement)
2. Boundary Concrete Block (Different Size and Color)
3. Sidewalk Block (Larger Pattern and lighter color than Street)
4. Concrete with striped pattern (Prevention of Slipperiness)
5. Granite (Stone Tiles Pavement)
6. Boundary Concrete Block (Larger than Street)
7. Urethane (Reddish Brown)
1. Sidewalk Block (Concrete Block Pavement)
2. Boundary Concrete Block (Different Size and Color)
3. Sidewalk Block (Larger Pattern and lighter color than Street)
4. Concrete with striped pattern (Prevention of Slipperiness)
5. Granite (Stone Tiles Pavement)
6. Urethane (Reddish Brown)
Fig. 4: change of pattern
Fig. 5: change of pattern
Fig. 6: change of pattern & material
Fig. 7: ramp
Fig. 8: colonnade

Architectural elements Zoom-in 01
Vertical Case Studies: Shinonome Canal Court Block 2

Materialization Zoom-in 02

1. Urethane (Reddish Brown)
2. Concrete (Tiles Pavement)
3. Wood (Two Steps)
4. Wood (Same with Wood Steps)
Lawn (Sometimes, Flowers)
Wood (Same with wood stair)
1. Urethane (Reddish Brown)
2. Concrete (Tiles Pavement)
3. Wood (Two Steps)
4. Wood (Same with Wood Steps)
5. Lawn (Sometimes, Flowers)
6. Wood (Same with wood stair)
Vertical Case Studies: Shinonome Canal Court Block 2

Architectural elements Zoom-in 02

Sources
Tokyo has completely different context from Amsterdam. Overly populated Tokyo has buildings forming an enormous complex when any dwelling building is constructed within the city. Such an enormous complex must be able to communicate with its surrounding atmosphere and Shinonome Canal Court has realized such communication through the pedestrian passage in s-shaped long. The ramp produced from the slope of the complex, changes and patterns of diverse floor materials provide transition that sets the boundary with the completely public space outside of the complex but it does not block the flow of people. However, the dwelling building itself used more physical architectural elements, such as, low stairs or one floor stairs, to provide clear transition. In other words, the first floor deck for the main community space for the residents is available to access from outside only by using the one floor stairs from outside. However, the internal part of the dwelling building does not have such diversity in transition. This is attributable to the fact that only this building has the dwelling program from the first floor or high floors. On the other hand, the ground floor where the living facilities are clustered, there was a variety of transitions existed. Through this project, we are able to learn that there is a difference of having the transition depending on the program or characteristics in the space.
La Grande Cour is a development of 900 new dwellings including retail, cafes and restaurants. The spatial masterplan for Westerdokseiland was drawn up by Peter Defesche (OD205), who divided the island into four blocks with metropolitan-style development on the northern side and smaller-scale development on the side facing the city. La Grande Cour, was entrusted to MVSA Meyer en Van Schooten Architecten. La Grande Cour comprises 250 dwellings.

The dwellings are organized around three courtyards. Large openings ensure that most dwellings have views through the courtyards, thereby making it possible to deliver pleasant dwellings despite the high density (300 dwellings per hectare). The architecture of the block was designed by three different architectural practices, MVSA itself, Heren 5 and de Architekten Cie. Each plan area includes a courtyard (introduction by the architects http://www.mvsarchitects.com/).

In this research we are going to focus in the Courtyard, located at the western part of the block. It has elements that are comparable with the horizontal transition of other projects in the research.
Vertical Case Studies: La Grande Cour

Courtyards

Fig.3

Coutyard I

Fig.4

Coutyard II

Fig.5

Coutyard III
Transition zones
Transition zones
Vertical Case Studies: La Grande Cour

Architectural elements
La Grande Cour has 3 courtyards from those 4 buildings as the transition space built as the entrance for each building. Among them, the courtyard that we analyzed undertakes the role as a type of low stairs in the form of steps with gradually heightened. Unlike other vertical cases, dwelling of the ground level exist that the elements, such as, fence or plateau between the steps and dwelling unit, protect the private dwelling space. In addition, the elements, such as, underpass, undertake the role of inviting the flow of human and it links building to building. However, as in the case of Shinonome Canal Court Block 2, the inside of this building also is consisted of purely dwelling program that transition occurring inside has very simple features only.

Sources
1. TU Delft Maps; https://maps.tudelft.nl/index.php
3-11. Own Image
Architectural elements and Transition paths

In the following chapter, first, description on all different elements will be divided by categories. The category is largely divided into transmit and stop. In other words, it is the description on what element to maintain the flow of people and what elements to stop people to build up respective territory. Second, each element is fragmented by characteristic or effect. Third, the part is shown simultaneously for the transition part that is shown in the earlier chapter to display the relationship with the elements from the moving line in respective building. And, fourth, through the matrix, each of the cases will be shown directly for volume and diversity of elements on cases. In other words, homogeneity and differentiation may be discovered on the transition of cases through what element is commonly used.
The low stairs are one of the easy ways to divide two different spaces. The low stairs give not only different height but also visual connection to the boundary. The different height makes people to feel that the space over stairs is distinct from here. At the same time, it functions as a strong passage by visual connection.

In the four case studies, the low stairs are indicated. In a case of the Amsterdam street, the low stairs are definite to distinguish street and dwelling area. And it is the only way to go to the entrance. The Noordbuurt uses low stairs to connect to the living room of dwelling unit. While this doesn’t interrupt the view from a living room, it also divide the public space (street) and private space (living room). In the Shinonome Block 2, this low stairs work as same function more strongly. Because the site itself has a slope of small degree. To cover this slope, this buildings uses low stairs to the entrance. It is a kind of gesture to divide the street and dwelling and it also divided two different entrances of whole estate. The La Grande Cour has the low stairs between courtyards. It functions as a boundary with fences. These elements make powerful boundaries of private. However, it also leads to the visual connection that dwellers can use this as a passage.

Sources
1. Own Image
2. VMX Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/vmxa rchitects/sets/72157626691527569/w ith/5763958191/
4. Own Image
change of pattern

This element is to repeat with the same material and shift only the arrangement of material. For example, this is to arrange the blocks arranged in length for the pedestrian path on to the width. It would be the transition factor for such a small size that other people could not be perceived unless they carefully take a look.

change of material

Unlike the change of pattern, material is changed to generate more clarified transition. This is correlated to the relationship with the spatial characteristics, and for example, it is mainly generated at the point where the border of the building begins even if it is the same street with the exterior of the dwelling building.

change of pattern & material

This element is emerged on the two foregoing elements in integrated terms and is used for providing the strong spatial hierarchy. The change of material and pattern is perceived to change with the characteristics of space with the strong air circulation for people.

pole

The pole is generally has the knee-high length and it takes the role to divide the dwelling territory and street. It is existed with certain physical height, but there is no interfering element between the poles that people may easily access (pass through), but it implies to inform that it begins the space with different characteristic for them.

step

The step is used in connection with stairs. It undertakes the role to inform that a great change of physical height begins.

ramp

The ramp is an element that stirs the change of height as in the stairs, but it attracts people while maintaining the continuity of space, which is different from the stairs. In addition, it generates the visual connection between the beginning point and ending point by providing gradual change, not a drastic spatial change as in the stairs. However, it sometimes has the weakness of extending the route.

One floor stairs

One floor stairs are mainly used when causing more drastic changes than the low stairs. Because of the foregoing, in between the parts where this one floor stairs begins and ends, there is a visual disconnection and the space with completely different characteristics is arranged. As in the case of Student Housing Weesperstraat and Shinonome Canal Court Block 2, lower part of the stairs has public space but there is some private space above. In other words, climbing the stairs require physical laboring that people use the stairs only when it has certain objectivity.

The staircase is mainly located within the building for vertical cases. This is used only when there is clearer objectivity than one floor stairs. However, in most cases, it is arranged together with the elevator that people use the elevator rather than using the staircases.
The colonnade is used in multiple case study projects as an architectural tool. A colonnade has a dual function; aside from the fact that it can be a necessary construction element, it also functions as a transition element. The columns together function almost like a wall, making the space underneath something different than the outside space. Although the space is still completely open and accessible, you feel like you are in a more private world. Even though you are still part of the urban fabric, at the same time you become a part of the building, not entering it but already a little bit inside.

In the three reference projects the colonnade is used in different ways. The Haarlemmer Houtrustien uses it more as a visual element. The stairs to the upper dwellings go underneath it, but you can’t walk under it. It still forms a real border though of the more private world of the dwellings. In the Student Housing project the public street really continues underneath the colonnade. It is a direct extension of the urban fabric. It does however really feel like you are entering a more private world underneath the colonnade, but everybody is welcome. In the Shinonome project the walkway underneath the colonnade is raised. Therefore you really have to make the choice to either walk down the whole colonnade (if you don’t enter the building) or stay outside it. There is no opportunity to leave the colonnade during the way.

Sources
2. Google streetview: http://www.maps.google.com
The elevator is shown only in vertical cases and it makes the vertical flow of people within buildings. However, while using the elevator, it creates the psychological instability for people by creating the closed environment.

The overhang is used when there is a need for extra space within certain space. The higher part of the overhang sometimes works as the terrace. This space protruded to outside brings strong perception to people. This perception sometimes works as the motive to invite people. For example, as in Student Housing Weesperstraat, the exit is set on the lower part of the overhang to stir natural flow of people.

The column is different from the colonnade, but one or two may be located. It is structurally used to make a large space. Even though it makes visual disconnection, it does not take on the role to block off the flow of people since it exists for the spatial continuity.

The underpass works like a tunnel. At the end of the underpass, there exists a bright space or space with purpose that it frequently generates the flow of people.

The plateau works mainly together with the low stairs. At the end of the stairs, the plateau is presented to be used as a type of resting space. As in the case of La Grande Cour, it is sometimes used as a garden in between the private and public space.

The lawn is a live material that is different from other elements. Therefore, it stir different type of transition. Although it is the space where the flow of people passes around, it is the space for people to stay around and provided to people for recreational activities.
Small block walls, lower concrete walls and iron fences are acting in these case studies as transition elements from a public-communal space to a private one. These are architectonic elements that indicate that you are entering a more private zone without erasing the link to the exterior. Crossing this subtle transition, the dwelling activity is taking part in a private-exterior space without losing the connection with the communal realm. The house is extending to the outside. The space generated can become terraces or gathering places that welcome the dweller and the visitor. It’s a small gesture that makes a big difference. One step inside or outside without opening or closing a door and you are inside a personal domain. Its almost an immaterial border. In projects such as La Grande Cour and Haarlemmer Houttuinen, the transition generated by the small fences is deepened by the materialization. The change of material in the pavement is playing along with the location of the fences, bringing out the character of this specific threshold. This transition it can be seen as well in the street of Amsterdam. The concrete blocks with chains and the change of material in the pavement are elements that show a border between private and public while you still in the city realm. In projects such as Noordbuurt and La Grande Cour this transition point is not happening between the outside street and the dwelling. This transition is happening already inside a private collective courtyard. Nevertheless the merge between a semi-public and private domain is taking place. Furthermore the individuality of each dwelling can begin to be expressed in this transition point in the way the owner accommodate his personal belongings such as furniture and plants.
Architectural elements and Transition paths

Unlike the foregoing door, the entrance door has certain level of openness. It may permit the infl ow of people from outside, but it is also the boundary point to divide the public space and private space.

The chain exists between the pole and concrete block and it cuts off the flow of people. This is a small physical element but generates transition effectively between spaces. As shown on the Amsterdam streets, it takes small physical space while clearly express the territories of street and dwelling.

The vertical sliding door is a very unique factor. It has been mainly facilitated as the entrance to the parking lot on lower floor dwelling, but in the case of Noordbuurt, it stretches the living room, the private dwelling territory, onto the public street. This enables to diversify the flow and responds to the intent of dwellers to work around.

For the blocks, the pedestrian path has difference in size from the blocks in general. As shown on Student Housing Weesperstraat, it works with colonnade, but it also takes on the role as the bench sometimes as it cuts off the flow of people as opposite to the colonnade.

The door is the starting point to enter into the completely private space. It prevents people to enter into the dwelling space from outside and creates private space.

Unlike the foregoing door, the entrance door has certain level of openness. It may permit the infl ow of people from outside, but it is also the boundary point to divide the public space and private space.

For the blocks, the pedestrian path has difference in size from the blocks in general. As shown on Student Housing Weesperstraat, it works with colonnade, but it also takes on the role as the bench sometimes as it cuts off the flow of people as opposite to the colonnade.

Conclusion

Some of the architectural elements used to make the transitions also create certain environments that are not just functioning as a passage to the dwelling. For example in the Haarlemmer Houttuinen, La Grande Cour and Noordbuurt the little fences create small terraces and gathering places.
Element group: Visual vs Physical

While extracting the elements of the different case studies, the distinction between visual and physical elements can be made. An element can form a visual transition, such as a change of material, or a barrier, like poles, without being a direct physical barrier. On the other hand, elements can also form a physical transition, such as a step or a fence. A door is an example of a physical obstruction. In this page all the extracted elements are collected within different groups, to explain the kind of transition or barrier that they form.
### Visual transition
- change of pattern
- change of material
- change of pattern & material
- lawn
- plateau

### Visual barrier
- pole
- colonnade
- blocks
- underpass
- column
- overhang

### Physical transition
- step
- ramp
- low stairs
- one floor stairs
- staircase
- elevator

### Physical barrier
- fence
- chain
- wall

### Physical obstruction
- door
- entrance door
- vertical sliding door

### Conclusion
The architectural elements that are being used to make the transitions can appear in both a physical and a visual way. The transitions that are being made can be very subtle, just a change of material can have the same psychological effect as an actual physical barrier.
Element group: Effect and Characteristics

These architectural elements are divided by respective effect and characteristic. Each element has diverse effects and characteristics, therefore some elements are repeated in different categories. Looking into such effect (reaction), there are ones that are intended to protect the space by the transition to generate such elements while there are elements to form the borderline. For example, even for the same steps, one floor stairs or staircase protects dwelling, or private space, while the low stairs take on the role to make the border between street and dwelling. Next, looking into the characteristics, invitation is the element to stimulate motivation to people. For the case of low stairs, it creates the border as mentioned earlier, but it may also create the flow of people from its low height. The entrance door also is the element with objectivity that it has the characteristic of the same invitation. Looking into the repellence, most of protection elements have such characteristics, but even the elements that build up a boundary, such as the chain, may also have the characteristic of repellence.
Comparison transition paths

Horizontal case studies
Vertical case studies

Student housing Weesperstraat

Shinonome Canal Court Block 2

Le Grande Cour

Conclusion

In the space between the dwelling and the street, there is always a barrier created between the front door and the public life. Even in the compact spaces between the dwelling and the street in both the Amsterdam city center and the Haarlemmer Houttuinen a clear transition is created.

Even though the transitions in the horizontal case studies happen in a much more compact space, this does not mean that there are much less transitions being made compared to the vertical case studies.
## Matrix architectural elements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amsterdam street</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Haarlemmer Houttuinen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noordbuurt</td>
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<td>Student housing</td>
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<td>Weesperstraat</td>
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<td>Shinonome Canal</td>
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<td>Court Block 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Grande Cour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transitions in section

This chapter will show the relation between the changes of level and transition of the different projects by section, that were already shown in the separate analysis of buildings.

Some of the sections are only drawn to the main entrance on the ground level. In this cases the dwelling program is than repeated in a similar way throughout the building.
Transitions in section

Amsterdam Streets

Haarlemmer Houttuinen

Noordbuurt

Student housing Weesperstraat
Conclusion

The projects that we selected to research the vertical transitions, turn out to have mainly horizontal sequences of change. The transitions that are being made are mainly leading to the vertical circulations, they don’t continue until the front door of the dwelling. Except for the Student Housing of Herman Hertzberger where the level with the gallery creates an intermediary space to the dwelling.
General conclusions transitions

- In the space between the dwelling and the street, there is always a barrier created between the front door and the public life. Even in the compact spaces between the dwelling and the street in both the Amsterdam city center and the Haarlemmer Houttuinen a clear transition is created.

- The projects that we selected to research the vertical transitions, turn out to have mainly horizontal sequences of change. The transitions that are being made are mainly leading to the vertical circulations, they don’t continue until the front door of the dwelling. Except for the Student Housing of Herman Hertzberger where the level with the gallery creates an intermediary space to the dwelling.

- Some of the architectural elements used to make the transitions also create certain environments that are not just functioning as a passage to the dwelling. For example in the Haarlemmer Houttuinen, La Grande Cour and Noordbuurt the little fences create small terraces and gathering places.

- The architectural elements that are being used to make the transitions can appear in both a physical and a visual way. The transitions that are being made can be very subtle, just a change of material can have the same psychological effect as an actual physical barrier.

- Even though the transitions in the horizontal case studies happen in a much more compact space, this does not mean that there are much less transitions being made compared to the vertical case studies.