Graduation Plan P2: Architecture

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Studio
Theme: At home in the city
Teachers: Birgit Jurgenhake & Paul Kuitenbrouwer
Argumentation of choice of the studio:

Title
Flexibility within the perimeter block

Product

Problem Statement
Problem:
In the masterplan of Houthavens a different identity for every island is assigned. Island 3 should portrait the identity of the adjacent neighborhood, the Spaarndammerbuurt. The Spaarndammerbuurt is characterized by perimeter blocks and Amsterdam School projects. Most of the buildings have been built in the ‘20s and ‘30s. However during time a lot of things have changed in society and also the demands for living are different now.

One important issue is the demand for outdoor space. More and more people are choosing the city to live in. Until 2040 another 100.000 dwellings will be built in Amsterdam. However the inhabitants still demand an outdoor space. While there is no space to create large private gardens for everyone the importance of well-designed
collective area’s increases. In the Spaarndammerbuurt the collective areas inside the perimeter blocks are functioning poorly. The collective outdoor spaces do not meet to the demands of the current inhabitants.

Besides the demands for outdoor space also the demands for the dwelling itself have changed. Growing prosperity, individualization and distinction of lifestyles, modified household and population structures as well as the changing world of employment, have all contributed to a qualitative shift in housing requirements. The wide variation of demands for the dwelling demands certain flexibility in housing which is limited in the typical perimeter block.

Problem statement: The typical perimeter block typology is not suitable for living in the 21th century

Research question:
How can the typology of the perimeter block be transformed so it meets the demands of dwellers in the 21th century?

Assignment:
The assignment is to transform the typology of the perimeter block to the demands of the 21th century. Because the demands for the dwelling are very diverse the assignment is about creating a flexible structure that can adapt to the preferences of different dwellers.

Goal
The aim of the project is to research and design possibilities to create outdoor space and dwelling types that meet the demands of the 21th century.

Process

Method description
The process consists of:

A research of the location: Houthavens

A thematic research: Territories in outdoor space. A research focused on the use of collective outdoor space.

Research by design; creating different models and studying variants
Literature and general practical preference

Literature regarding the use of outdoor space:
Machiel van Dorst – Een duurzaam leefbare leefomgeving
Christopher Alexander – A pattern language

Literature regarding flexibility in housing:
Bernard Leupen – Frame and generic space
Sigrid Loch – Das adaptive habitat
Frits van der Werf – Open ontwerpen

Reflection

Relevance

The design of flexible dwellings is relevant to the current situation in housing. The large variety in lifestyles, household compositions and the influence of individualization and employment asks for dwelling concepts that demand a degree of flexibility.

Besides the flexibility in housing also the use of outdoor space is very relevant to the current changes in society. More and more people tend to live in the city. Within the city less open space becomes available. The research on territories in outdoor space could be used as a framework to create qualitative outdoor spaces.

Time planning

Juli: Evaluation of design and research. Determining additional research for the final design stage. Researching structure and climate design. Short holiday


September: Further development of materialization, construction and climate design. Further development of dwelling typologies. **P3 presentation**

Oktober: Further elaboration of design. Especially focusing on the housing typologies, interior and the façade system

November: Final elaboration of the design. **P4 presentation**

December: P5 preparations; building model and creating visualizations. **P5 presentation**