

Individual research plan

Introduction

This study aims to investigate: in an urban context, what kind of new architecture would be appropriate for the present and future role of the city of Antwerp, Belgium. In an architectural context, what kind of exhibition and other functional spaces can meet the new requirements placed on the Museum of Modern Art by the times while keeping the historical continuity of the M HKA.

observations and Problematization

It was clear from the research seminar on museums that exhibition spaces and approaches have been changing over time. Exhibition styles are becoming more diverse and the addition of new media has created more requirements for space. Old architectural forms of exhibition need to be changed to adapt them to changing exhibition styles. And how to create a future-oriented building while maintaining the continuity of the building's history requires adapting to the historical texture of the building itself. Therefore, there is a need to pay close attention to the history, culture and materials existing in the building. At the same time, as Richard Rogers says in *A Place for All People: Life, Architecture and the Fair Society*, "We know that the whole idea of the library will change in the next few years, we cannot predict the future, but we can create a space in which the future can begin." Considering the current needs of the building while keeping some flexibility for its future use may be a way of dealing with the future.

Methodology

1. Historical background of the building
 - a) The history of the building
 - b) The urban context of the building
2. The current situation and needs of the building
 - a) The number of exhibits and the space required for the art gallery
 - b) Requirements for the rest of the functional space of the art gallery
3. The future of the building
 - a) The strategy for the future of the museum
 - b) Additional needs: flexible spaces corresponding to different possibilities

Bibliography (in progress)

Richard Rogers, *A Place for All People: Life, Architecture and the Fair Society*, Canongate Books, 2017

Meurs Paul, *Heritage-based design*, 2016

Charlotte Klonk, 'The Dilemma of the Modern Art Museum' in *Spaces of Experience: Art Gallery Interiors from 1800 to 2000* (New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 2009)

Mark Pimlott, 'Visibility, Spectacle, Theatricality and Power: the problem of the museum', *OASE*, 2021

P1 statement: the Ensemble of spaces and artworks

The artist I selected in P1 is Jos de Gruyter, whose artwork is aimed at blurring the boundaries between reality and unreality. So he has created 19 dolls with different stories in his "Mondo Cane" theme collection. There are disturbingly borderline people, criminals and so on, as well as hard-working businessmen and craftsmen from the traditional world. The three I have picked are "The Fool", a mentally disabled man, "Flap & Flop", two lonely sisters, and "Irmgard Speck", a hard-working lady weaver. "

Inspired by the artist's concept, I decided to make my concept 'break the gap between the real & unreal. Therefore I chose to place the exhibits outside the gallery in a more realistic place. After consulting several museums, I chose the entrance area of the ZOYA Museum in Moscow as a reference and modified it a lot according to my ideas. The lonely sisters 'Flap & Flop' are placed in the video room entrance, a quiet corner in low space; The hard-working weaver 'Irmgard Speck' is placed next to a bright and quiet window of the garden, next to a bench where visitors can sit and interact; the mentally disabled 'The Fool' is placed near the ticket gate, at the entrance to a semi-public place, forming a new image with the checker sitting at the gate.

As Thomas Struth has created in his Museum Photographs, new perspectives are created by placing the dolls in the context of everyday life and interacting with real people. The artwork does not necessarily have to be placed in the gallery space, there are also great possibilities for other functional spaces in the museum.