

ABSTRACT: EN AVANT

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The project is concerned with the history and future of the Nederlands Dance Theatre, in the context of its recent demolition of the Lucent Danstheater, to make place for the building of a new cultural centre. I propose to add a new element to the NDT, a danceschool, which fills a gap in the educational development (between the age of 11 and 17) and program of the company.

This new element will be housed in a new building, which will become part of the new identity of NDT. The building is located at Spaarneplein, in the middle of the Rivierenbuurt (a disadvantaged neighbourhood) of The Hague. The chosen location is within walking distance of the (future) Education and Cultural Centre at the Spuiplein, but also brings a social and political agenda with it.

HISTORY

My graduation project is based on the fact that the Lucent Danstheater, built in 1987 after the design by Rem Koolhaas, was the home of the dance company Nederlands Dans Theater for 28 years. However, this building was demolished in 2015. The dance theater and Dr. Anton Philipszaal had to make place for the new Education and Culture Center (OCC) that is currently being built. The OCC must be completed by 2020, so that the NDT, the Royal Conservatoire, the Residentie Orkest and the Dans en Muziekcentrum Den Haag foundation can establish themselves here. Thanks to the arrival of the OCC and the demolition of the Lucent Danstheater, the largest theater in the Netherlands that has been constructed especially for dance is lost. In addition, the dance company NDT also loses a piece of its identity.

AIM

The aim of my graduation project is to give the Nederlands Dans Theater its own home again, but also give back a piece of their own identity. To make this possible, I want to expand the dance company, alongside NDT 1 and NDT 2, with a Junior Company: the breeding ground for talent for the NDT. The Junior Company should become a stepping-stone for young dancers and build a bridge between professional dance training and professional dance company. Given the age, a school function will be added, so that in addition to dancing 'normal' school subjects (such as Dutch, English and Mathematics) can be followed. For students who come from far away, it is possible to live internally.

LOCATION

These different functions require a suitable building - preferably within walking distance of the OCC on the Spui. The center of The Hague has a high urban density, but also struggling with vacancies. For example, the former Post-, Cheque- and Girodienst building, on the Spaarneplein in The Hague, is empty. This building is also located in one of the four 'Krachtwijken' (disadvantaged neighborhoods) of The Hague: De Rivierenbuurt. As a result, the graduation project is no longer just about the dance theater, but the integration of a positive impulse into the Krachtwijk through the new dance school becomes the goal.