P5 Explorelab Graduation Studio

Tectonics and the Contemporary Vernacular

introduction

research translation to design material structure context implementation conclusion

traditionally:









but what if...?











Tectonics: the coming together of physical materials, uniting technical function and artistic expression.





the materials we use:



the resulting tectonics:



neutral!

material

tectonics



non-sustainable resources



modern construction

tectonics



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non-sustainable resources

modern construction



sustainable resources

tectonics



material



non-sustainable resources



modern construction



sustainable resources



tectonics

material



non-sustainable resources



modern construction



sustainable resources



tectonics



introduction **research** translation to design material structure context implementation conclusion

research question

How are sustainable materials used in tectonic architectural design?

research question

How are sustainable materials used in tectonic architectural design?

What makes a material sustainable?

What makes a design tectonic?

How do they relate?

research method



Flat House Practice Architecture 2019 OTOProjects Assemble Studio 2013 Yusuhara Marche Kengo Kuma & Associates 2010

research method



research method





results



when

application order

who skill levels (production / application)

concrete foundation	3/2
blockwork dwarf wall	3/2
Foamglass insulation	3/2
(aluminium ?)	3/3

timber frame	3/2
hempcrete in timber cassettes	3/2
aluminium casement window/door frames	3/3
Panelvent sheathing boards	3/2
Steico wood fibre insulation	3/2
timber battens	3/2
hemp fibre and sugar resin corrugated sheets	3/2
lime wash	3/1

timber floor joists	3/2
steel mesh	3 / 2
Steico wood fibre insulation	3/2
OSB subfloor	3/2
anhydrite screed (latex finish)	3/3

results



when application order

who skill levels (production / application)

rice bags filled with rubble	3 / 1
repurposed timber	1/1
chicken wire	3 / 1
'rubble-dash' render	1/1

timber floor joists	3 / 1
plywood	3 / 1

3/2
3/1
3/1
3/1
3 / 1

results



when application order

who skill levels (production / application)

concrete

3/3

steel curtain wall column	3/3
pivot system	3/3
bamboo culms	2/3
aluminium window frames	3/3
thatched elements	3/3

unknown floor material

concrete glulam cedar rafters plywood polyethylene insulation corrugated metal sheets	3 / 3 3 / 2 3 / 2 3 / 2 3 / 2 3 / 2
polyethylene insulation	3/2







when

application order

who skill levels (production / application)

concrete foundation	3/2
blockwork dwarf wall	3/2
Foamglass insulation	3/2
(aluminium ?)	3/3

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lime wash	3/1

timber floor joists	3/2
steel mesh	3 / 2
Steico wood fibre insulation	3/2
OSB subfloor	3/2
anhydrite screed (latex finish)	3/3



when application order

who skill levels (production / application)

rice bags filled with rubble	3 / 1
repurposed timber	1/1
chicken wire	3 / 1
'rubble-dash' render	1/1

timber floor joists	3 / 1
plywood	3 / 1

3/2
3/1
3/1
3/1
3 / 1



when application order

who skill levels (production / application)

concrete

3/3

steel curtain wall column	3/3
pivot system	3/3
bamboo culms	2/3
aluminium window frames	3/3
thatched elements	3/3

unknown floor material

concrete glulam cedar rafters plywood polyethylene insulation corrugated metal sheets	3 / 3 3 / 2 3 / 2 3 / 2 3 / 2 3 / 2
polyethylene insulation	3/2

design take-aways

- 1. **Be inventive and resourceful**: what is already present and available, and how can it be used?
- 2. Think outside of the box: how can the material be manipulated in such a way that it retains its technical qualities, but attains a new form?
- 3. **Look beyond**: how can the material be exploited to fill multiple functional niches?
- 4. **Be realistic**: consider the dependency your choices have on the current availability of resources and facilities.
- 5. **Rethink your standards**: can it be done simpler or by using less material?
- 6. **Take into account all aspects**: does your material require unconventional accessibility, for example for maintenance?
- 7. **Recognize all parties**: who will build your design, and who will take care of it?
- 8. **Be transparent**: document the use of material in such a way that future designers can learn and benefit.















introduction research **translation to design** material structure context implementation conclusion

translation to design



What does an architecture look like that omits greenwashing from the start, by looking at material first?



translation to design


















material origins





reed

loam

introduction research translation to design **material** structure context implementation conclusion

material properties







-127 kg CO_2 eq/m² CO2



 $-664 \text{ kg CO}_2 \text{ eq/m}^2$ CO2















no industrial processing

Data applies to Northwestern Europe and Scandinavia only





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 $297 \text{ kg } CO_2 \text{ eq/m}^2$

 $215 \text{ kg } CO_2 \text{ eq/m}^2$

5403 kg $CO_2 eq/m^2$

98,2 kg $CO_2 eq/m^2$

material properties





straw



reed phragmites australis

dried wheat stalks

origin	lake shores
harvest	cut from December to March
maintenance	depending on design/application
performance	waterproof from 250 mm

agriculture byproduct

cut and dried end of summer

none required

retouch after direct water exposure, patch occasionally moisture-regulating

 $R = 6,05 W/(m^2K)$ at 300 mm

loam *clay* + *sand* + *water* (+ *straw*)

river deposits

dug up year round



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condition + goal

design theme

maintenance













condition + goal =

maintenance

design theme



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condition + goal

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maintenance	user-friendliness

design theme



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condition + goal

maintenance user-friendliness		ac
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design theme

accessibility

performance density



VS





VS





condition + goal

maintenance	user-friendliness	ac
performance density		

design theme

accessibility



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condition + goal

maintenance	user-friendliness	ac
performance density	effeciency	

design theme

accessibility



condition + goal

maintenance	user-friendliness	ac
performance density	effeciency	space

design theme

accessibility

e management

agency



agency



agency



agency



"There is something really extraordinary about a group of people doing something collectively that none of them really know how to do."

"It didn't feel like, since I didn't know anything about constructing a building, that I would have less impact or anything, it felt like we were all equally responsible and equally part of the project."

"I like the ever evolving nature of this space as people are making it their own."



condition + goal

maintenance	user-friendliness	ac
performance density	effeciency	space
agency		

design theme

accessibility

e management



condition + goal

maintenance	user-friendliness	ac
performance density	effeciency	space
agency	community	

design theme

accessibility

e management



condition + goal

maintenance	user-friendliness		ac
performance density	effeciency		space
agency	community	→	er

design theme

ccessibility

e management

engagement



condition + goal

maintenance	user-friendliness		acces
performance density	effeciency		space ma
agency	community	→	engag

design theme

essibility



anagement



agement



architectural design tools



native materials
















material functionality





reed

straw

$\bullet \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$



loam

material functionality



$\bullet \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$



loam



finishing

combined functionality







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$\bullet \bigcirc \bigcirc$



combined functionality



modular system

$\bullet \bigcirc \bigcirc$



modularity





construction speed

maintenance accessibility



modularity



$\bullet \bigcirc \bigcirc$





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modularity + accessibility















introduction research translation to design material **structure** context implementation conclusion





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maintenance cycle



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maintenance cycle



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introduction research translation to design material structure **context** implementation conclusion

context

time

place



context



place



context: time



non-sustainable resources



modern construction



context: time



non-sustainable resources

modern construction













context



time









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Bevolkingsontwikkeling per gemeente, 2016 – 2024







Bron: CBS



CBS/aug24 www.clo.nl/nl210209

Bevolkingsontwikkeling per gemeente, 2016 – 2024







Bron: CBS



CBS/aug24 www.clo.nl/nl210209



room to experiment

public visibility

manageable scale

complex urban context





source: OPEN Rotterdam





source: OPEN Rotterdam



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room to experiment

public visibility

manageable scale

complex urban context

















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context: place



room to experiment

public visibility

manageable scale

complex urban context

context

time

place



context





program

program







introduction research translation to design material structure context **implementation** conclusion

masterplan



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56 panels 1 panel / 2 months









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21 days



8

84 m2

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21 days



84 m2





space management





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material storage attic / gathering space

2 p. studio apartment

2 p. studio apartment

2 p. studio apartment

shared workshop / kitchen








10 - 15 p.

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14 January 2025 Feiko Nooyens | 4714822

































space management





accessibility











engagement











engagement





space management







legibility





accessibility



legibility





accessibility



climate





space management



climate







space management

climate







source: Eneco

sidedness




sidedness



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P5 Explorelab Graduation Studio Tectonics and the Contemporary Vernacular



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thatching 300mm thatching wire battens 50 x 25mm glulam truss (larch) 400 x 90mm

"knelplank"

zinc gutter



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$\bullet \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$











$\circ \circ \bigcirc$

material choice has led to ...

$\bullet \bigcirc \bigcirc$





when application order

who skill levels (production / application)

blockwork	3/3
pressure resistant insulation	3/3
concrete	3/3

glulam trusses	3/3
straw filled cassettes	3/3
window/door frames	3/3
wood fibre board	3 / 2
thatched elements	2/2
loam render	1/1

CLT floor elements	3 / 3
insulation	3 / 3
floor material	3 / 2
timber framing	3 / 3
timber deck boards	3 / 2

glulam trusses	3/3
timber battens	3 / 2
thatching	2 / 2

resulting in a building which ...

$\circ \bullet \bigcirc$



$\circ \bullet \bigcirc$

which is able to engage with the context...







spatially



expressively



historically





therefore:









the bigger picture





Al generated

conclusion





conclusion







build responsibly.



build responsibly.

build expressively.



build responsibly.

build expressively.

build native.



