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### **Graduation studio**

Transformation of cities and buildings is one of the main themes in architecture today. There is a growing need for transformation and conservation of buildings, mainly those of cultural significance. Many architectural assignments deal with heritage tasks. The graduation studio "Heritage & Architecture" of the TU Delft is focused on these valuable heritage tasks. It deals with different scale levels, such as: urbanism, culture, history, architecture and building technology. The theme of the "Heritage & Architecture" studio was the tolerance for change in the Belvédère area of Maastricht. Municipality of Maastricht has plans to redevelop the north of Maastricht. For example, an infrastructural intervention; the Noorderbrug will be placed further to the north. While doing this, the former area of the infrastructure will be empty. This empty area shall be transformed in a new park; the Frontenpark. This green zone is a former fortification zone. There are still historical elements of this fortification and they will be showed in the new park.

The other part of Maastricht north is the Sphinxkwartier is another part in the northern area of Maastricht. Until 2010, the Sphinx ceramics factory was located at this location. Upon moving to Sweden, many factory buildings in this complex became vacant. A part of this complex, the Mouleurs and Molen building, is the subject of choice for the graduation project. They are empty factory buildings built in the early 1900s. The buildings play a big role in the Boschstraat of Maastricht, which will be in the future the entrance to the city for the tram from Liege. It will be also the transition zone from city center to park. The Mouleurs building, which is located next to the Boschstraat, will therefore play a crucial role in the future plans of Maastricht.

### **Method**

The method for this project is based on design by research. The Faculty of Architecture of the TU Delft has a research tradition that focuses on the cohesion of research and design. This results in research by design. The studio therefore starts with an analysis of different scale and time levels. From urbanism to materialization and from past to future. This analysis leads into a value assessment which is used as a guide line to make the design for the building. All the design decisions will be based on the analysis and value assessment. For example, the analysis clarified that the facades of the Mouleurs building were so important for the building as a whole, that this played an important role in the design. Also, the connections between the Mouleurs and Molen building and the different building phases, resulted in a design which enhanced these aspects.

After the analysis, the design started with a few limitations, since the value assessment valued some elements high. This resulted in design decisions, which were hard to make, but in the end well considered. The solutions were tested in different scales by using sketches and concept drawings. The design decisions were discussed with the tutors and improved or changed. The building can be compared with a fruit basket. If you take some fruits out of the basket and replace these fruits with other fruits, it is still a fruit basket, but a better one for the new function.

### **The wider social context**

The relationship between the project and the wider social context is dealing with heritage. The Netherlands has an interesting reservoir of the knowledge of heritage, which is also highly valued internationally. Many buildings are empty and they need to have a new function. This project is dealing with the reuse of existing buildings which is relevant for the profession as architect. In the future, there will be more reuse of buildings and less new buildings.

Second, it is important to keep old buildings, because they reflect our history. In this project, the building reflects the factory typology of the early 1900s. The Boschstraat is also a street where we can see a factory street of 1900s. It is different from factories nowadays. At last, it is sustainable to keep buildings. It is good to reuse constructions and materials of old buildings for a new function.

This project is an example of dealing with industrial heritage. The strategy can be used for other industrial heritage projects. The method that focuses on the cohesion of research and design, keeps the value of building while the building will be transformed for the new function.

### **The program – Stilwerk**

The new function for the building is “Stilwerk”. This company fits in the future plans of the municipality of Maastricht to make the Belvédère area a cultural and creative center. This company is a luxurious furniture shop. They work with a shop-in-shop concept. The company rents out showrooms, the most shops sell their furniture over the internet. Stilwerk prefers industrial buildings. This has as an advantage since the building can keep its industrial look. Another advantage, is that the Mouleurs and Molen building exactly meet the needed square meters for the new function. Stilwerk also provides workshops, lectures and expeditions.

### **Research & Design**

The research is the base of the design, because the design decisions are based on this research. The research influenced the architectural, building technology and the new function of the building.

The research question was 'What is characteristic for the Sphinx buildings?'. The answer was the use of a show facade and closed plinth. This applied all the buildings on the edge of the Sphinx site. This answer is more relevant for the Mouleurs building. Later in the design process, it was decided to also use the Molen building. Therefore, the research to the Molen building is less extensively than the research to the Mouleurs building. If there was more time available for research, the Molen building should have also an extensive analysis. For now, the main focus was on the Mouleurs building which is visible from the Boschstraat.

### **Outcome research and design strategy**

The building is suitable for a function as an industrial building. It is designed for this function. Unfortunately, the building is less appropriated for a public function. The building is inhibited and with its back to the street. The most difficult part of this project was to transform a private, inhibited building to a public building while keeping the general concept of the building and its values. The strategy which is used to transform this building from private to public is to keep the outlines of the building. The façade of the building will remain the same, but with a change of close and open elements. This intervention will not influence the rhythm of the façade. The façade towards the factory site has another strategy, because the original façade was not visible anymore by keeping the rhythm. A random intervention was here the better option, because the former façade was still recognizable.

This strategy is chosen to make the building ready for its new public function which satisfy the future plans for Maastricht. It is not only adaptable for the building, but improves the context as well. The future plans are a part of the research and they play an essential role in the design. The design is made according the future plans like the Frontenpark, tram in the Boschstraat and the Belvédère as a cultural and creative center.

### **Crucial decisions**

The difficult decisions were the transformation in the elements which were high valued. For example, this was the demolishing of a part of the roof of the inside street, the opening of the closed plinth next to the Boschstraat and the openings in the façade towards the factory site. Another decision which was necessary, was to include the Molen building to this project. There was a lack of space in the Mouleurs building for the new function. the more important reason was that there was an atrium required for the function which could not be made in the Mouleurs building.