Reflection

Clipping Kampung

Nurturing resilience in Hoptille through lessons from Kampung

Nurhadi Nugraha - 5118042
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New Heritage Studio -
AR3AH105 Graduation Studio Adapting 20th Century Heritage

Tutors:
Nicholas Clarke
Ger Warries
Lidwine Spoormans

1. Introduction

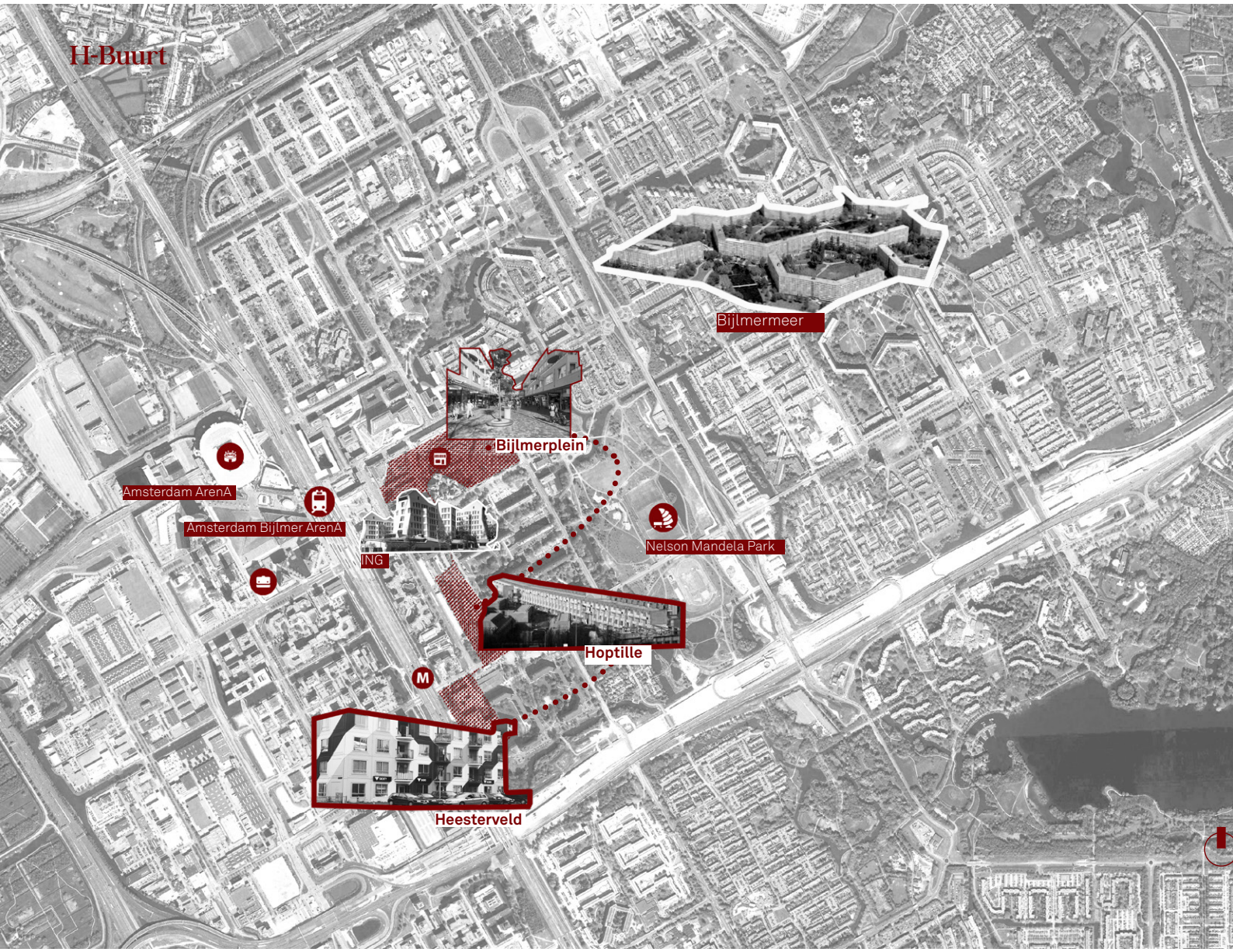
The graduation project is located in Hoptille, H-Buurt, Amsterdam Zuid-Oost. It is part of New Heritage graduation studio that aims to find heritage values in the relatively new built neighbourhood based on the perspective of different stakeholders. It takes the notion of adaptive reuse to maximize the current housing stock to face the housing demand in the Netherlands. Hoptille itself comprises an elongated mid-rise building and low-rise family house complex next to Bijlmermeer. Hoptille was built in the 1970s as part of a housing solution to the housing demand in that era. Along with Bijlmermeer and H-Buurt, the neighbourhood is known for its socio-problem and bad reputation in the past such as criminality, vandalism, and drug dealing. Some renovation and intervention to create new images have been done several times to create a more pleasant environment.

Clipping Kampung aims to improve the resilience of Hoptille neighbourhood in Amsterdam based on lessons learned from Indonesian Kampung. At least, two main qualities from Kampung that are useful for Hoptille's resilience problem have been identified: adaptability and transformability. The Kampung has a quality to be more adaptable due to its residents' bond that encourages them to help and take care of each other and their environment. Moreover, it also has a transformability quality, in which the neighbourhood's function shifts, enriches and organically grows over time. This project believes that time is the dimension that allows people to add layers of growth to their environment.

Understanding the Kampung qualities can help create intervention and framework to tackle Hoptille's socio-spatial issues, hence improving its resilience. Based on the qualities mentioned above, Clipping Kampung is designed as an intervention that offers flexibility and option towards future needs by accommodating the change of functions or size in the Hoptille neighbourhood more flexibly while also promoting higher adaptability.

This reflection is part of constant self-assessment to measure the result of the research and design process. Extending the understanding of the project and an introspection that the design process is answering the research question. This text will provide a summary from the aim of the graduation project research, design approach to the dilemmas. The structure of the reflection :

1. Introduction
2. Research Process
    a. Collective Research of New Heritage Studio
    b. Individual Ambition and Research
3. Design Approach
4. The Graduation Project's Relationship to Wider Context
5. Ethical Issues and Dilemmas of The Project


H-Buurt
Bijlmermeer
Bijlmerplein
Amsterdam ArenA
Amsterdam Bijlmer ArenA
ING
Nelson Mandela Park
Hoptille
M
Heesterveld

2. Research Process

A. Collective Research of New Heritage Studio

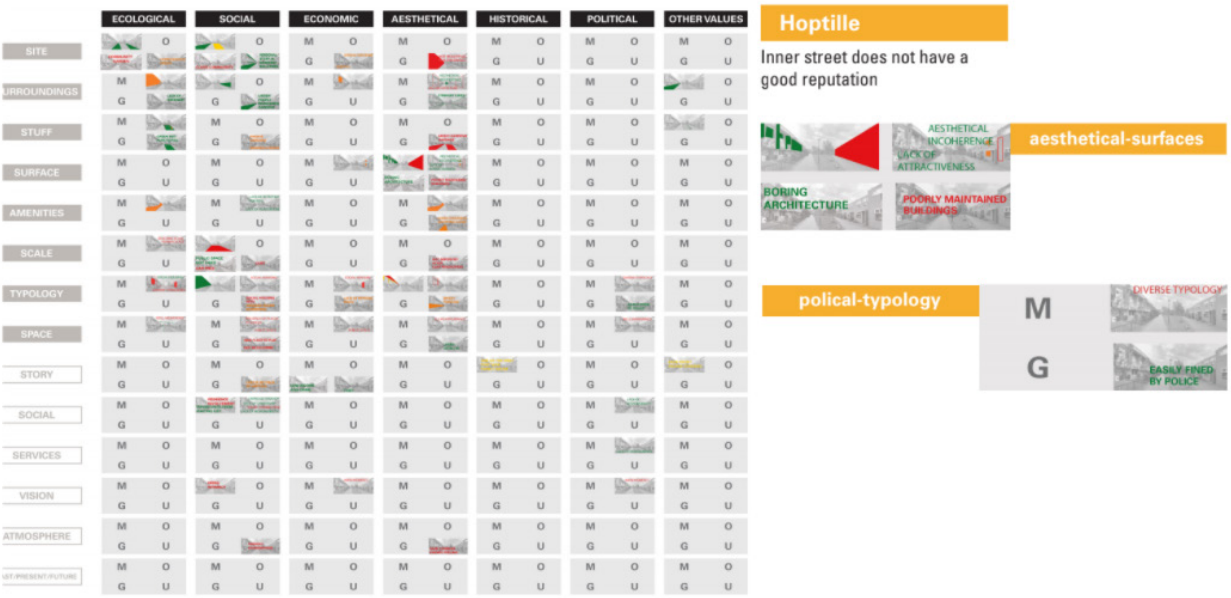
Heritage Hoptille?

Investigating the potential heritage value of the H-Buurt, Amsterdam neighbourhood, Hoptille in one of the buildings, is the main objective of the New Heritage Studio research. This phase 1 research was done in collaboration with fellow students of New Heritage Studio. It conducted interviews with residents, owners, makers and the government to understand their appreciation towards Hoptille. Different tools were used for collecting the data, such as open conversation, set questions, and photo-elicitation (Harper, 2002). On top of that, a literature study was conducted to understand the history, architecture context and social media users perspective towards the building. The research identified that safety, economy, building quality, the lack of public spaces quality and cultural diversity are some of Hoptille's problems and challenges. Other research results also depict in the matrix of photo-elicitation, which is shown in color codes addressing values and attributes extracted from two heritage and value matrices of Tarrafa (2012) and Clarke (2019).

Through reflection, the drawback from these two outcomes was that these methods did not clarify whether or not Hoptille is a heritage building because the building itself is relatively new, and its problems hinder the appreciation. Therefore, reassessment and valuation through Heritage Value Matrix (Clarke and Kuipers, 2017) are needed to understand the heritage value of the Hoptille.

Hoptille consists of elongated 300m mid-rise buildings and low-rise family houses. Based on the heritage valuation, Hoptille can be seen as a potential heritage building. Its mid-rise height has a history to the Bijlmermeer as a reaction to the utopian city of highrise Bijlmermeer. Hoptille midrise can be seen to have heritage potential due to its utopian inner corridor that aims for the residents' interaction that can happen in the level above. It also has aesthetic quality in the facade that represents the architecture of the 80s. On the other hand, the low-rise hoptille does not have the significance of potential heritage value and can be transformed into something that fits the future challenges. Nevertheless, the initial thought from the architect of Hoptille, Kees Rijnbout, put Hoptille mid-rise and low-rise as community neighbourhoods which emphasize on social cohesion. This can be seen as an embedded social value of Hoptille.

Collective Research Through Inteviews



Matrix of Photo Elicitation

B. Individual Ambition and Research

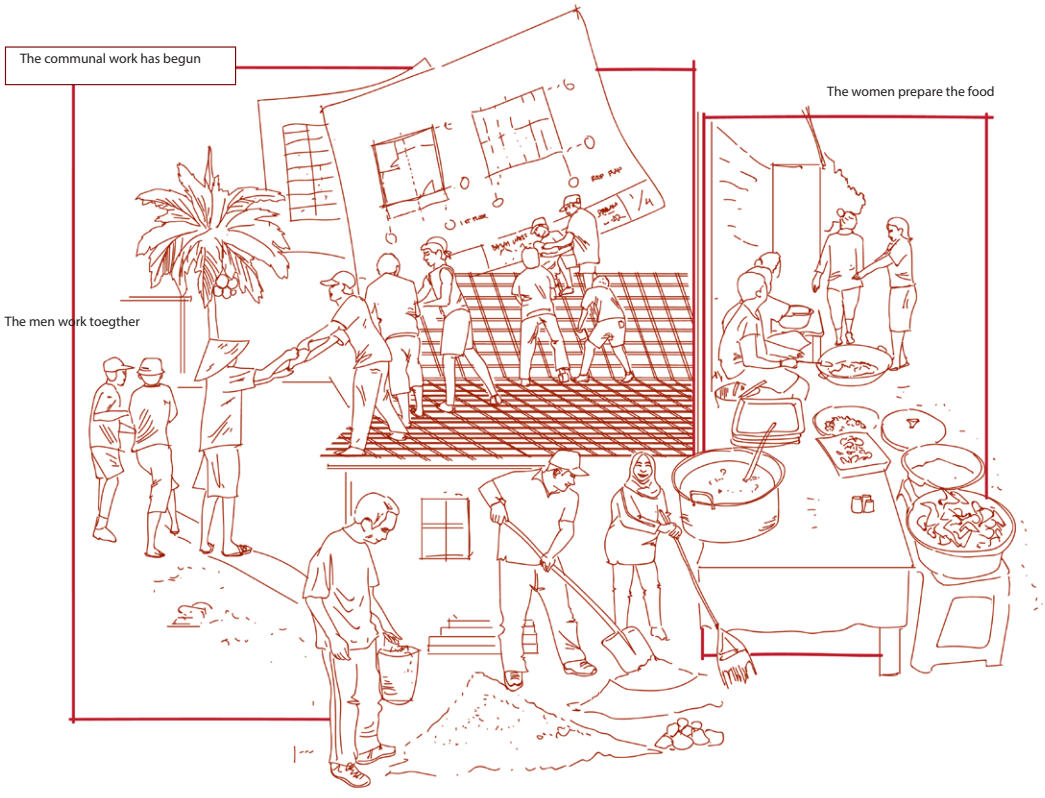
Lesson Learned from Indonesia' Kampung

From the first phase, it is finally understood that Hoptille is still struggling with its inherent socio-problem from the past (Wassenberg, 2013) , which hinders its resilience. As a result, Hoptille is vulnerable to future challenges such as gentrification, social segregation, energy demand, low economy value, to the ecological threats. This finding leads to the research question: "How to improve resilience in the Hoptille neighbourhood?"

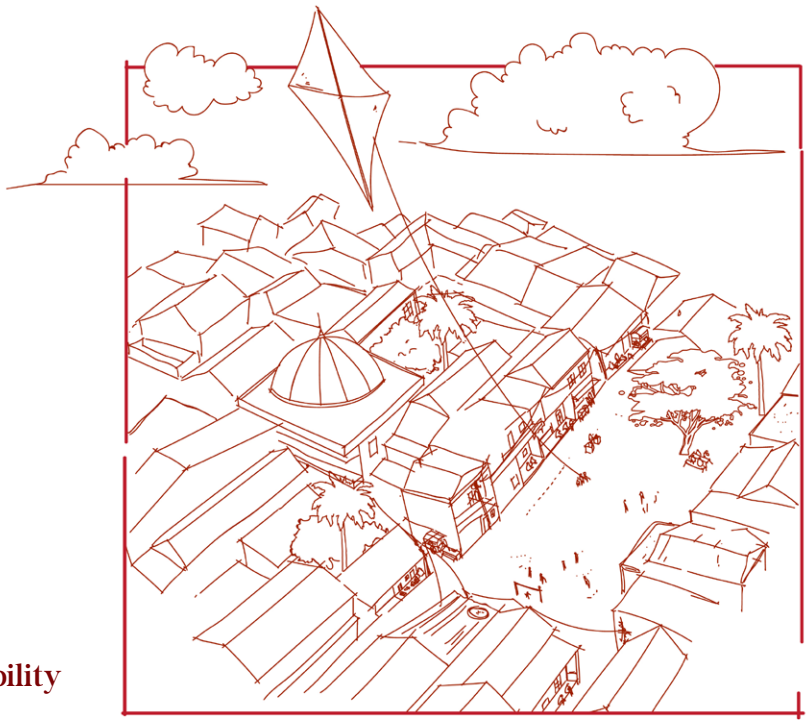
To find ways for improving Hoptille's resilience, a research is conducted on some areas in another country with similar characteristics to Hoptille in terms of its problems and challenges. Indonesian Kampung was chosen as it also faces socio-problems such as safety, low-income economy, building quality, and public spaces quality and quantity, but is resilient.

Shirleyana (2018) found out that Indonesia's Kampung is resilient due to the residents' social bonds. Therefore, how Kampung's residents overcome their socio-problem needs to be identified to see if the same approach, strategies, or qualities from Kampung can be implemented in the design process of the Hoptille project to improve its resilience.

Walker (2004) explained that resilience in social-ecological systems has some qualities. First, the adaptability of the actors to maintain the system and its social components, and second is the transformability quality as the capacity of its system. The idea of these resilience's qualities aligned with the finding from literature research of Indonesia's Kampung. Kampung has the adaptability quality from the community bonds represented in its social network, collective action known as Gotong Royong, self-organization, mutual dependence and reciprocity. Meanwhile, the transformability quality is shown in its urban structure that organically grows, is gradually enriched, flexible, and multifunctional.



Depiction of Collective Actions in Kampung



Adaptability

ACTOR

SOCIAL CAPITAL

Quality

- Social Network
- Self Organization
- Collective Action (*Gotong Royong*)
- Reciprocity
- Trust/mutual dependence

Interaction

- Social Interaction
- Learning
- Collective Activities
- Face-to-face meetings

> Social capital and **interaction mutually shape, and are shaped by, urban form and spatial structures** – an active relationship between place and society .
> (Houghton, 2005).

Transformability

SYSTEM

URBAN STRUCTURE

- Organic
- Gradually enrichment
- Adaptive

Some Lesson Learnt from Kampung

3. Design Approach

The learning process for this project is dynamic. This project took a different approach after P2. The conclusion derived from Kampung in P2 was translated differently from what it is now. This project used to translate lessons from Kampung as the social interactions in the alleys between the houses that blur the boundary between public and private. Also, it emphasized the significance of the terrace in front of Kampung's house as a public space. As a result, the previous approach suggested providing wide galleries in front of units in the mid-rise hoptille where people can meet and interact and use its space flexibly. Considering the feedback from P2, this project changed its approach and took a step back to really understand what Kampung is.

Based on Kampung resilience research, the Kampung people's social bonds and its organic growth as an urban structure allow higher adaptability and flexibility that lead to better resilience. The Kampung's social bonds can be seen in its social network, collective action, self-organization and reciprocity (Shirleyana, 2018). This project defines these characters as adaptability. Meanwhile, social capital and transformability of the urban structure can be seen in the flexibility of space in Kampung. People can improve their home or public facilities based on their need and financial capacity. Accordingly, these qualities become the ingredients to form a strategic framework for improving Hoptille's resilience in this project.

Ecological elements then enrich the framework as part of the environmental position that will cover urban strategy to material selection. Part of the constant reflection from this design process, the environmental impact assessment is conducted to measure how big the impact to the existing values. This becomes crucial to understanding how far the improvement or is there any negative impact that needs to be mitigated.

Adaptability and Transformability

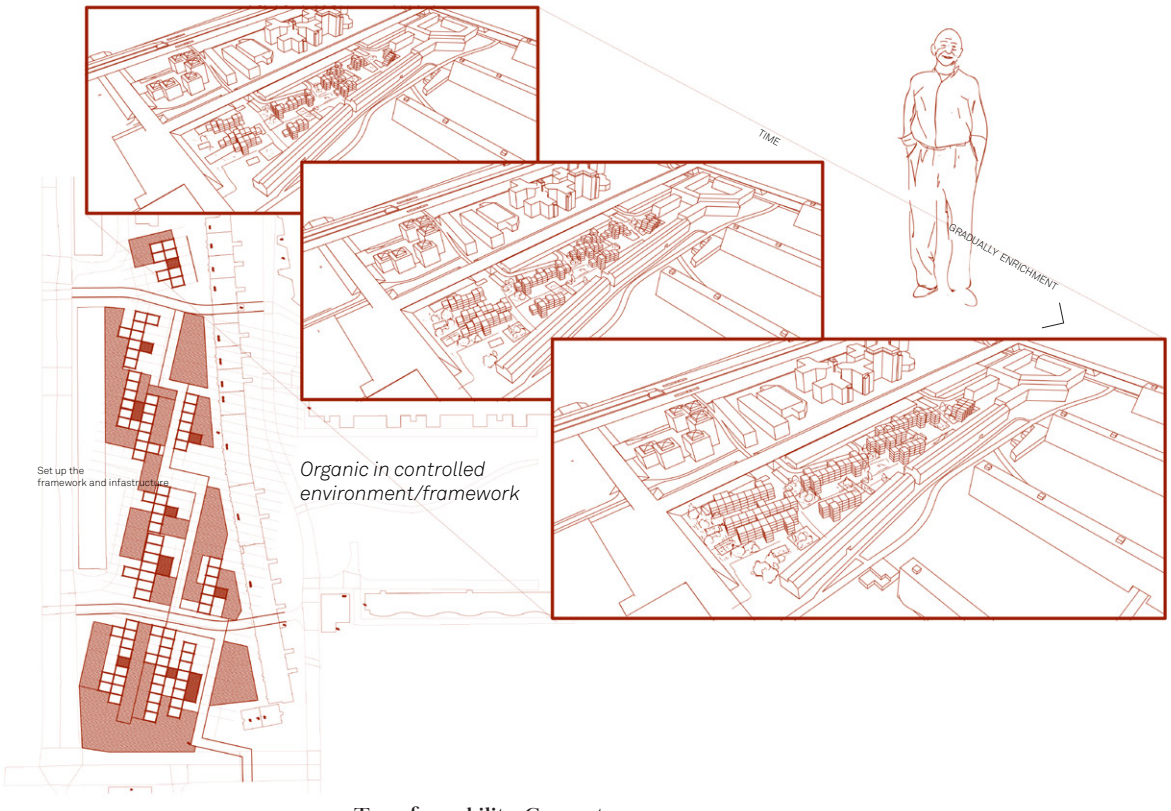
This project focuses on the intervention of the low rise Hoptille, meanwhile the mid-rise building will be on the masterplan level to make sure that the urban structure and the framework introduced is harmonized. The intervention of the 2-3 storeys low-rise Hoptille buildings will implicate the existing structure and demolish some of the houses. Reuse of partially existing foundation and ground floor prefab structure will be the focus of the intervention. The additional 3-4 storeys timber structure will be added on top of the preserve structure to add more units. Timber structure is used to create modular and open buildings that give the resident a certain degree of freedom. The grids of the intervention are based on the existing grids as the starting point. The limit of the building height then be set to four storeys height to maintain the human level and interaction to the Hoptille mid-rise building.

Through research and constant feedback-reflection, this project brings the adaptability in social capital from Kampung to Hoptille through the social interaction, network, and collective action that will be manifested by giving higher autonomy of the residents to self-manage and organize the neighbourhood. Residents also have a position in the decision making, and planning in Hoptille which involve the collaborative process of choosing and building their own building. These approaches are a translation from the Kampung's social interaction and collective activities based on kinship.

The second approach is the transformability aspect of the urban structure that allows the neighbourhood to sustain and grow to some extent to allow some function and size change to adapt to the future needs. It will be manifested through open buildings in the low-rise Hoptille. The flexibility needs modular design that allows people to change and choose function and facade. This approach implies the transformability quality of the Kampung's urban structure that offers flexible use of spaces, as well as gradual improvement over the time to match with needs and financial capacity of the resident. As a result of the gradual improvement concept and open building concept, it becomes another dilemma to find the balance between offering total freedom or controlled freedom to ensure the certain quality is met in this intervention. Offering certain options to the certains plans and elements might suit the intervention, because it still maintains the quality, harmony, and performance.

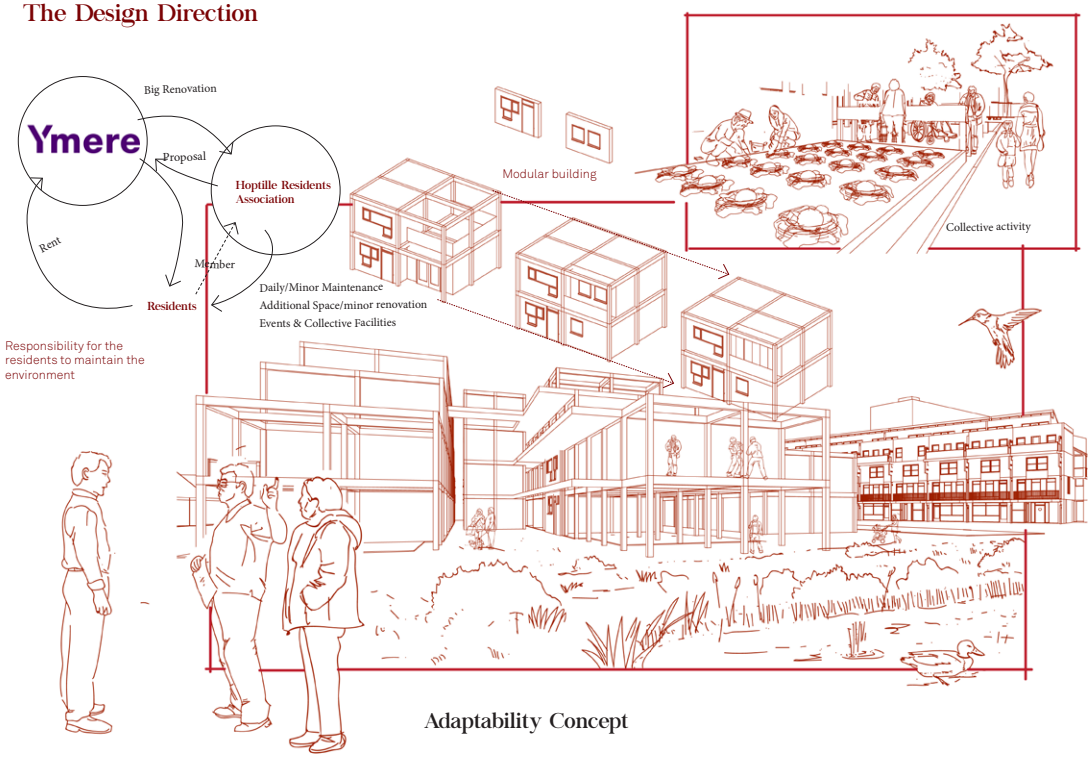
Freedom

In regard to the freedom and higher autonomy of the residents, Amartya Sen implies that higher autonomy, in this case to the local community, could potentially empower them and increase opportunities that would lead to freedom. The proposal to have open buildings that people can arrange and add size based on their need and ability is then translated to have a typical unit that allows them to have different size and scenario and different facade. This requires a certain strategy to place the toilet, kitchen, shaft in the position that allows the resident to do so in certain grids. Each unit also has an open structure at the back to be used in different ways and functions. The floor to floor is raised from 2.8m to 3m to accommodate various utilities under the floor slab. The ground floor units are made to attract a higher income group with loft type and garden access. This also becomes a dilemma in this project that the existing house is a social house. To determine how big the unit for non-social housing or social-housing is becomes the issue.

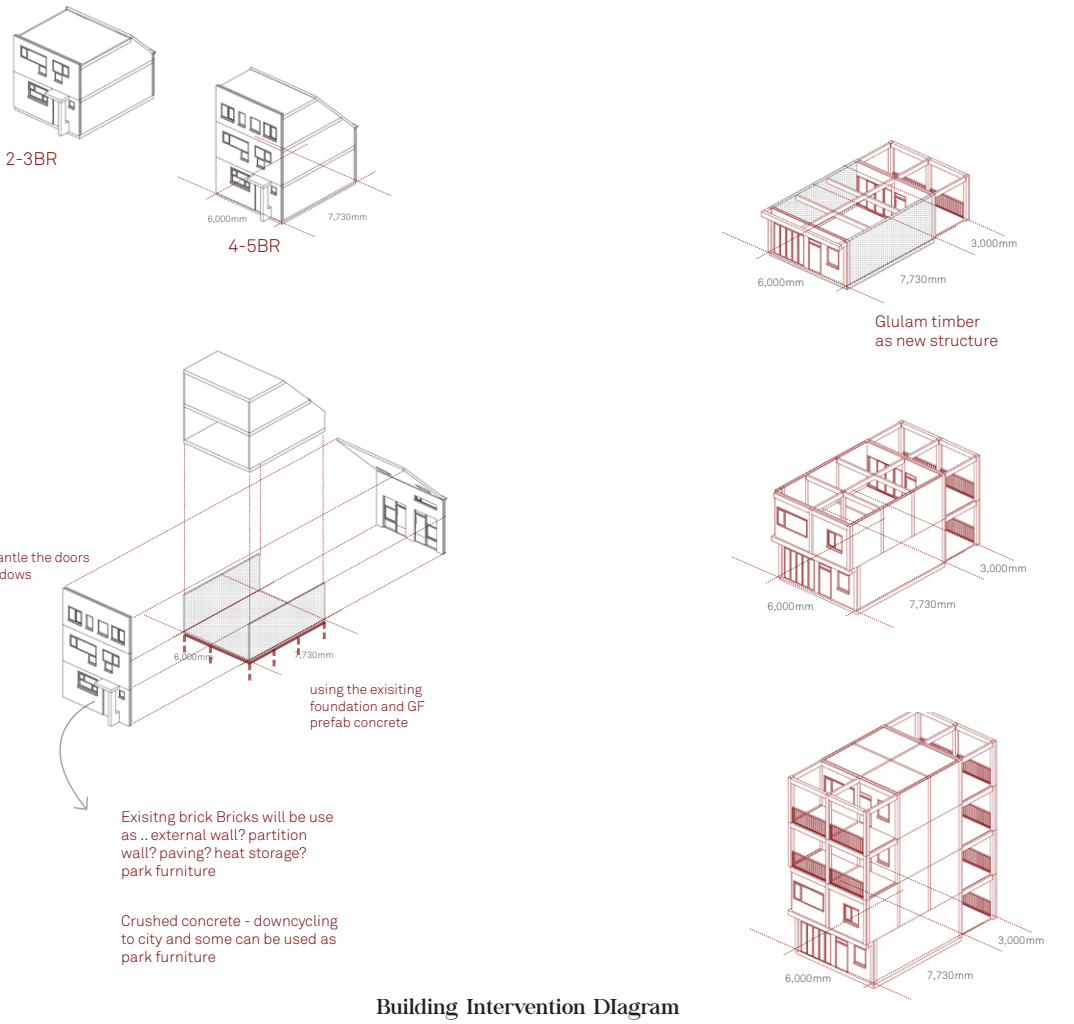


Transformability Concept

The Design Direction



Adaptability Concept



Building Intervention DIagram

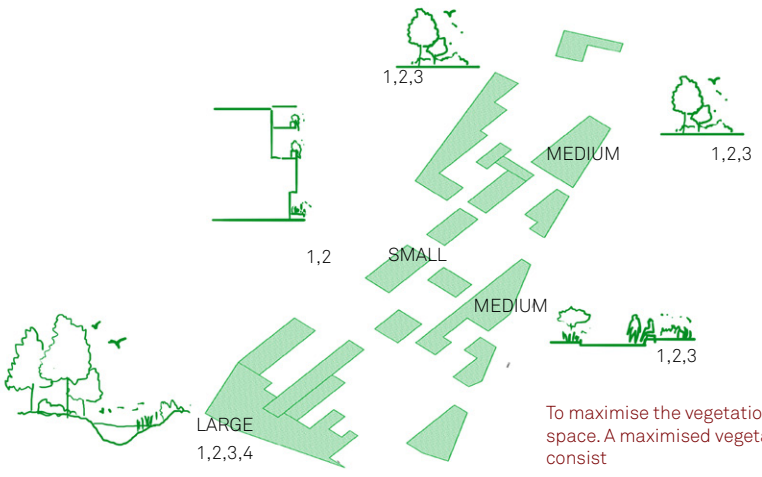
Apart from the unit house, the core also contains some communal facilities that residents can use and adjust based on their need. The buffer zone in the house unit is introduced as climate adaptation and function freedom.

Ecological Approach

The intervention on low-rise buildings is made as the response to the low heritage value of these family houses and potential to further densifying. In order to implement various strategies of transformation, analysis of building blocks and existing housing types have been done. There was a moment where this project demolished the low-rise entirely and created a new urban structure. The ecological boundaries imply the energy and carbon footprint then take into consideration to use some of the existing structures. It resulted in the use partially of the existing building footprint and foundation and some structural elements of the existing building.

The new structural open building is using glue-laminated timber as the main post-beam structure. The reason to use glulam is a consideration to use sustainable material due to the negative carbon footprint of the timber and the flexibility of use of timber that can be dismantled easily. The intervention needs to strip the facade of the low-rise. This also becomes a consideration to reuse the component such as windows or doors in the new intervention.

Layers of different vegetation will be incorporated in the urban structure to ensure the diversity is addressed. The enrichment of the biodiversity in the site will be organized through dedicated green space, green facade, and green roof.



Ecological Vegetation Concept

4. The Graduation Project's Relationship to Wider Context

The New Heritage graduation studio is investigating the potential of a relatively new building by utilizing the participation from the people. This approach will bring a new layer of heritage assessment, not only in the Netherlands but also in other countries. The appreciation and the participation elevate the awareness from the people towards the existence of the significant architectural building or site. This becomes a new approach and a way to gain awareness and put the built environment on the discussion and raise people's appreciation towards their environment that is often neglected.

The cross-culture approach and learning from different cultures to be implemented in Dutch context is something that makes this project interesting. This research is trying to find out the lesson from social ties that makes Indonesia's Kampung is considered as resilience in the socio-spatial aspect of it, and implement its qualities in Dutch housing in Hoptille, Amsterdam. The resilience quality derived from the social bond from the Kampung dwellers is something that this project is investigating. The implementation in the Dutch context is something that is challenging because of its different characteristics from the people, climate, to socio-political aspects. The gap and relevance of the cross-culture approach there and need to be proven further. However, the fact that this project is implementing social quality in a sense that the Netherlands needs to improve some of that quality, e.g. the loneliness in the Netherlands makes this approach interesting and relevant. The new approach and framework to put people responsible to maintain their built environment raises the sense of belonging and adds another layer of different approaches that can be utilized from the level of housing associations to the government.

In the new urban intervention of Hoptille, the new structures are not only the housing and the capacity for it to adapt to future needs but also the biodiversity that resonates with the continuation from the bigger green network of Nelson Mandela Park and bigger Gaasperplas. The new diversity will add richness to the greeneries in Zuid-Oost. In addition, the notion of open building that this project brings adds another reference that flexibility might be the key to the adaptation for the uncertain future.

5. Ethical Issues and Dilemmas of the Project

No Appreciation from the people = No Heritage?

In the early stage of this project, this project tried to find out the heritage value of Hoptille Building. Interviews were conducted with different stakeholders, from the owners, users, makers, academicians, and government. Almost everyone points out that the building doesn't have any value, even the architect said "just demolish it". This causes a dilemma because people's appreciation is what we need to find out. If everyone said no value, does it mean no heritage? Or "just demolish it" is a literal translation to demolish or is that implicitly to say "it might have some values, but this building causes many issues, I am not responsible for it"?. It is hard to find what the people say and what it means for them. It is because of very subjective approach assessment, and the answers might be very personal based on their experience.

Nevertheless, a deeper investigation is needed to understand the building. The notion of "Street in the Sky" from Smithson that is seen as utopian interaction for hi-rise building also implies in Hoptille. Does it mean Hoptille has a heritage value? But then it is not really derived from the assessment of people's appreciation. This project's approach showed that it's difficult to value "non-significant" buildings, moreover in relatively new buildings. Moreover, it shows that sometimes the problems hinder the building quality, in a sense that the problem draws people's attention that the value and quality are often overlooked.

In the end, it is the role of the project architect to decide the value of the building through constant investigation and create a design solution for it.

Old structure vs New Structure

This project took an approach of reuse the existing urban structure based on the existing building footprint and reuse the foundation while adding the new supporting structure to help bear the load of the new building. When it comes to the decision of demolition, or preservation it is really hard to decide. A similar dilemma also took consideration when deciding to intervene in the low-rise building. The new intervention needs a bio-based flexible open structure in which the old structure doesn't really comply with it because the wall bearing structure and load capacity of the two storeys building is not enough to support the new building. The decision to demolish or reuse some of the existing structure became important. Some evaluation and criteria was introduced to help with this decision. And it was derived from transformability quality with criterias e.g. less intervention vs degree of flexibility, urban structure quality, carbon footprint, and potential of densification.

Different Context;
Indonesia - Netherlands

As part of the research, this project took lessons learned of resilience from Indonesia's Kampung. The social and urban aspects were assessed to come to the conclusion that the project intervention will bring adaptability of social quality in Kampung and its transformability of urban structure. The translation of the social capital feels very challenging yet interesting because of this different context because are a lot of factors and background that need to be acknowledged in the translation from the different social interaction, culture, climate, geo-politics, history, to the economic aspect that play a role in shaping the Kampung the way it is now. The translation needs to be carefully assessed that will fit to the Dutch context, and it may raise a discussion over this translation.

The next question is; Can these lessons from Kampung be implemented in Dutch housing context? Is there a proof or any similar project in the Netherlands that emphasizes this social aspect?. It may still lack proven projects and more evidence that implies this cross-culture approach is especially related to resilience in the Dutch context. However, this project sits on a project example and the Hoptille community context. There is a project in Amsterdam, BajesDorp that accentuates the collectivity action and ownership. BajesDorp is a housing project that is owned by the residents and managed by them. The collectivity and freedom to create their own housing become the heart of this project. BajesDorp also manages several community activities and events such as communal garden and culture festivals to bring social interactions. This project gives an example of how the collective self-manages property as a tool to achieve social capital. Furthermore, collective action and community life has been buzzing in Hoptille by the presence of Buurtwerkkammer and Hoptille community garden. This lay a foundation for this graduation project that will resonate in the neighbourhood.

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