

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan

Personal information

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Studio

Name / Theme: Heritage and Architecture
Teachers / tutors: L.Meijers, A.Marx, F.Koopman and I.Nevzgodin

Argumentation of choice of the studio: Fascination for ruins and the redevelopment of abandoned buildings that have lost their function over time.

Graduation project

Title of the graduation project: The Connected Worlds

Goal

Location: Campus South, Hembrug, Zaandam

Hembrug used to be part of the defense line, the Stelling van Amsterdam during the twentieth century with the purpose of ammunition production for the Artillerie Inrichtingen. The whole ordeal was kept as secret. It was a 'blind spot' along one of the busiest shipping routes of the Netherlands. Situated in the middle of the port area of Amsterdam and in the south of Zaandam, the area could be identified as a closed enclave. Since the Artillerie Inrichtingen retreated in 2013, the gate of Hembrug was opened and awaited for redevelopment.

The posed problem:

The redevelopment just kicked off since the ABC Planontwikkeling brought 30 hectare of the 42.5 hectare Hembrug terrain. The aim of redevelopment is to integrate the area to the Amsterdam Metropolitan and to fulfil the rising demand of residential, commercial and recreational needs. However, the area was originally designed with a pragmatic scheme to facilitate the production of ammunition, the large scale factories and the hostile atmosphere is not suitable for a livable environment.

Nowadays, there are already 30 creative entrepreneurs starting their business in the area. Hembrug has gained a little bit of vibrancy during the day yet according to one of the entrepreneurs, Bas Kinsbergen, the area is not a pleasant place to stay during the night.

Research questions

How does the composition of buildings relate to the atmosphere?

Design question

How can the former industrial ensemble, Campus South, be transformed into a new town which facilitates the interaction between the residents?

Design assignment in which these result.

By adding different functions to this ensemble, such as housing units and public amenities, the site can be activated during days and nights, thus the insecure atmosphere in the area can be eliminated. Moreover, the new functions should encourage interaction within the community.

I intended to design a collective housing complex with communal facilities to bring together the elderly and the youngsters. The co-living style can integrate these two social classes, so that both of them will not suffer from loneliness as stated in many researches, loneliness is the new emerging millennial problem due to the uprising of digital gadgets. My graduation project, 'The Connected Worlds' enable people to reconnect with each other.

The redevelopment of Campus South has the purpose to solve the above-named problems.

1. Change the area in a more human friendly environment
2. Make the area safe during the day as well as the night
3. Make the residents connect with each other to prevent loneliness

Process

Method description

(among others)

1. Analysis of a reference project, KNSM island - a former industrial territory that is transformed into a residential area.
2. First visit site of Hembrug – formulating first impression: 'industrial and lack of human scale'.
3. Choosing the ensemble Campus South - unclear composition of the buildings with each a different appearance, measurement and typology. This, together with small-scale elements, a certain cozy and charming atmosphere is created which reminded me of a village.
4. Qualitative research - resulting in drawings and diagrams of the existing situation.
5. Historical research - plans and historical photographs, from among others the archive of the Nationaal Militair Museum, to identify how this terrain and ensemble was formed and functioned in the past.
6. Writing a position paper for research methods - research question: "how can the experience of people contribute to the transformation of the ensemble?"
7. Formulating starting points for the design project - based on the architectural analyses, technical analyses and a cultural value, answering the research question: 'How does the composition of buildings relate to the atmosphere?'
8. Formulating problems (above)
9. Formulating the design question (above)

Literature and general practical preference

SteenhuisMeurs, *Cultuurhistorische-Analyse_Hembrugterrein*. (2010)

SteenhuisMeurs, *Cultuurhistorische-Analyse_Hembrugterrein*. (2016)

M. Kuipers & W. De Jonge, *Designing form heritage*. (Delft, 2017)

Palmbout Urban Landscape, *Beeldkaliteitsplan Hembrug-terrein* (2011)

J. Roos, *De ontdekking van de opgave* (Delft, 2007)

William H. Whyte, *the social life of small urban spaces*

D. Thomas, *The city after abandonment* (Philadelphia, 2013)

H. Van der Woude, *Community architectuur in Nederland* (2012)

Adrian Forty, *Words and buildings* (United Kingdom: : Thames & Hudson, 2000)

William Mangold, *The People, Place, and Space Reader* (New York: Routledge, 2014)

J. Pallasmaa, *The eyes of the skin: architecture and the senses* (Chichester: Wiley, 2014)

Havik, *Buildings atmosphere* (OASE, 2013)

Reflection

Relevance

1. Redevelopment of abandoned former industrial areas
2. The rising need for residential, commercial and recreational in the Amsterdam Metropolitan
3. New emerging millennial problem of loneliness due to the uprising of digital gadgets

Time planning

P2:

- Concrete analysis
- Conclusions of the analysis
- Starting points and guiding theme for the design assignment

P3:

- Elaborated design on the smaller scale
- Finalize the position for each intervention + argumentation how the interventions integrate.
- Products such as sections, floor plans, master plan, elevations, routing etc.
- Initial setup report

P4:

- Final design
- Detailing of the plans and sections
- 3D views and impressions
- Report + reflection

P5:

- Finalized products and presentation
- Finalized report