



Final Reflection

Healthy Living

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Studio Health (H)

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Final Reflection

The Health Lab is a newly introduced studio in which we proud students have attended first. It is a Lab where Architecture, MBE and Urbanism students work together on the same subject. We are working on an project based on the subject Health. The proposed Health Care Institute is Pieter van Foreest which is mostly active in the region of Delft. We started to work collaboratively and searched for solutions. The assignment stems from Pieter van Foreest (PvF) reads as follows:

What contribution can PvF make through their health care real estate portfolio to the autonomous living of elderly?

The students of the LAB have joined this LAB from different tracks what means that we will answer the question from different points of view with each comes with his own answers. The relationship between research and design is there for important for me as a architecture student.

I have stated the following research questions:

How can the residential care centrum of Pieter van Foreest in Delfshove participate in the developments in the Health care industry and contribute to the autonomous living of elderly with different cultural backgrounds living in the region?

Here for I have stated the following sub questions:

- *What are the developments in the Health care?*
- *What is the composition of the population in Delfshove?*
- *How is the residential care centrum of Pieter van Foreest used and what opportunities can the building provide?*
- *How is care offered to the patients in multicultural health care institutions and what added value can this provide to Pieter van Foreest?*
- *What are the health care demands and wishes of the multicultural inhabitants living in the region?*
- *What are the reactions of the potential end-users towards the existing and new design proposal?*

The answers to those questions are strongly connected to the design what will be made on the end of this project. I have selected one of the buildings of Pieter van Foreest located in Delfshove and started to do the research. By learning what the developments are, the population in the district the needs and appropriate references I could use the ingredients to come up with a new design proposal for the already existing but outdated building in Delfshove.

This graduation project in the Health care sector is by doing research and design strongly related to the master track I am following. Architecture is of course not only making a design but it is also learning and supporting the choices you make by doing a research beforehand. It is therefore not only important how to design a building but also learning about the users of the building so you can not only design a building what looks good but which is also friendly for the users. This project is supported and designed by the

research results and the needs of the end-users. I started to do a research to learn what the needs and expectations of migrants are. This because there are 50% migrants living in the Delfshove area but there are no migrants living in the residential care centrum of Pieter van Foreest.

The research results effected the design proposal in major proportions. Migrants are for example afraid to be left in health care centrums but they cannot ignore the fact that it is happening. Therefor I tried to design in three layers what makes this easier. The first layer is to make an urban plan what makes the surrounding of the building a more pleasant place to be. The second layer is to camouflage the health care building so it can actually be exposed as dwellings. The third layer are the rooms an spaces in the building. This will be designed in such a way that it again looks like dwellings and so that the migrants will have more contact with each other because they are not used to live alone.

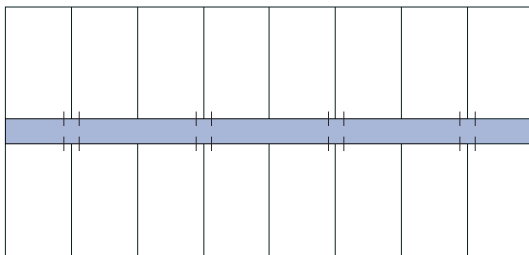


Fig. 1 - Existing structure of the building

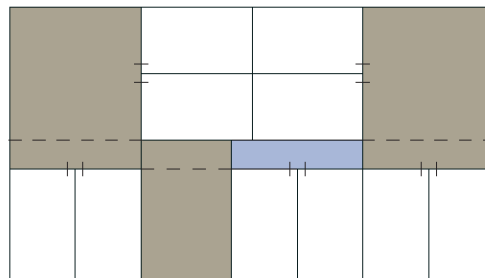


Fig. 2 - New proposal

Figure 1 & 2 shows one of the principles which is been used on the new design proposal. Figure 1 shows how the building setup was arranged. Very practical in use a long hallway and rooms which are interconnected. In Figure 2 you can see that there are more communal spaces on the floor level and that the hallway is faded which makes the collective space look bigger than it actually is.

The research methods which are used to come up with a new design is actually a little bit different than the regular way of designing. There is made use of a Co-Design method. The existing and new proposal of the building is set up in 3D and placed in an Virtual Reality environment. Those are both presented to the managers of Pieter van Foreest, to the teachers and to potential end-users. The design is optimized with the results of the feedback and comments which are made during that process.



Fig. 3 - The use of Virtual Reality

One of the noticeable comments came from the potential end-users. They told me that there was too much light and huge windows. This had negative impacts on their privacy and they also could not make use of an windowsill because the windows were designed till the floor. This is changed in the final proposal.

The enjoyable part of this graduation project is that this is actually a real ongoing problem. There are new rules and regulations made in the Health care sector what means that elderly people have to stay home for as long as possible what results in vacancy in a lot of care institutions like the building of Pieter van Foreest in Delfshove. The people with who I have worked with are also real managers of the complex and are dealing with serious problems. The research and design proposals were therefore appreciated a lot. This could actually be a real project what I could also do when I will work as an architect. The scientific relevance and methods used are very helpful both for the managers and for myself.

When I started the project I had very high ambitions. I wanted to do a lot of interviews with the inhabitants living in the area where the facility is located and make several design proposals. I wanted to use those results and present them both to the managers, teachers and end-users. When I really started the project I could already see that this was not possible. Only making some mass models and working out one design proposal was already time consuming. What made me very happy and proud was that the proposal was very appreciated by the managers of Pieter van Foreest. I want to thank everybody who is and was involved to make this Graduation Project Possible.