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This graduation project attempts to bring together Public Life Studies and Urban Morphology Studies to improve the quality of life in a neighbourhood. To structure the results on the research of both fields the Form Operation Performance method of Ali Guney was used. In this chapter there will be reflected on 6 different aspects. The first aspect is the reflection on the used method.

Aspect 1: Method

The method contributed to the structuring of the results of the literature review that has been done on both field of inquiry. The method gave an overview that made it more easy to compare the scale and aims of the studies of the research fields.

Furthermore the method was used in a different perspective. The FOP scheme describes an artefact through its form, operation and performance and their interrelation. In this project understanding of the form of the area was perceived through the study of the Urban Morphology and the understanding of the operation and the performance of the area was perceived through the study of public life.

To value the results of the studies, the desired performances for the urban environment were determined. With the determination of the desired performances it was possible to design the operation and form of the new plan.

There was also a struggle with using the FOP method during this project. Using the method during the analysis of the project location was complex, whereas the urban fabric is a complex matter. When a single object is analysed with a certain performance in mind, the FOP scheme makes it easy to compare the object to another object with approximately the same operation. Analysing the complete project location by using the FOP scheme would be extremely difficult, because you would need to describe every tiny detail of this complex environment separately. Because I became aware of the impossibility to analyse and describe every detail of an urban environment I used the method with the other three perspectives.

So the FOP scheme was useful to frame the analysis with the described performances. And furthermore in the concluding phase to combine the Form analysis with the Operation & Performance analysis to draw conclusions. The FOP scheme was also useful to structure information and to make a designer aware of the link between the form, operation and performance of an object. However using this scheme to clarify the interrelation of the form, operation and performance of every element of a larger urban environment is not feasible, because of the complexity of the urban fabric.

Aspect 2: the relationship between research and design

In this project the analytical research determined the design location and the amount of interventions needed at this location. The analytical research pointed out the weak and strong points of the location. The results of the analysis were valued to draw conclusions by the performances defined by theoretical research. These performances were used as requirements for the new design and therefore were also used to improve the quality of life at the location. During the design process the performance of the possible design solutions was evaluated by experiencing their form and atmosphere in impressions and 3D models. Therefore there was a direct relation between the theoretical and analytical research and the final design. However from the result of the theoretical research on the performances was not a complete guide on how to design a good performing neighbourhood. At several points in the design process choices has to be made without having a direct support from literature. Therefore the design an interpretation of the designer of results derived from the executed research.

Aspect 3: the relationship between the theme of the graduation lab and the subject/case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object)

The project focused mainly on the physical urban environments and its psychological and socio-cultural structure. The project researched the relation between the physical urban environment and its psychological and social structure. The research group 'Design of the Urban Fabric' also relates, among other things, to the physical urban environment and to its psychological and socio-cultural structures. Within the research group the relation between the two structures is also studied.

This project intended to improve the living environment by linking the observation of public life with the analysis of the urban morphology. The project aim of this project was to gather and link the information about the public life and the Urban Morphology to design a more vital and socially safe urban environment for the current and future residents in Nieuwe Westen/Middelland. This relates to the aim of the project group to create a sustainable and vital urban environment, because this project partly shares this aim with its goal to create a better living quality in the area. ("Research introduction," 2015)

Aspect 4: the relationship between the methodical line of approach of the graduation lab and the method chosen by the student in this framework

This project uses several methods that are common in the methodical line of approach of the research group design of the urban fabric. This project combines the urban morphological analysis with observing behaviour by linking research and design through the described performances. These performances can be seen as a type of patterns. The use of patterns, urban morphological analysis and observing behaviour are methods used by the research group.

Aspect 5: the relationship between the project and the wider social context

The municipality wants to attract more promising families towards Nieuwe Westen. Attracting people with a higher economic capacity could mean that the current residents will have to move to other places or that the current residents will have to cope with the living standards and wishes of their future neighbours. In the past urban renewal projects of problematic neighbourhoods attracted new residents with a higher economic capacity, but at the same time there was not enough capacity to house the original residents again. In Nieuwe Westen and Middelland the target group of the municipality would probably live in bigger housing units than the current population. That would mean that, with the current housing stock, residents of the current neighbourhood will have to move out. If this problem could be solved by creating extra housing it is still interesting to see if the needs of the current and future groups meet. Improving the neighbourhood for the target group does not necessarily mean an improvement for the current population. This project deals with these aspects by trying to improve the neighbourhood for current and future residents. And tries to implement the project in such a way that current residents will not be forced to leave their houses.

An other important point is that it is definitely not easy for the municipality of Rotterdam to reach their goal with all the different stakeholders in the neighbourhood. In a recent article there is stated that Woonbron(housing corporation) does not want to co-operate to sell their social renting houses for bigger family houses but sells them to an investor who will make small (rent)apartments of the houses. To complete their goal they have to show other stakeholders the advantages of the program for them. This project gives an image of what the neighbourhood could look like, which is needed to get all stakeholders involved. To improve a neighbourhood the municipality and the housing corporations have to work together to create the best possible outcome for the population of Rotterdam.

Aspect 6: The role of the urbanist

The role of the urbanist within this project is to show how the desires of several stakeholders can be translated into a spatial plan based on theory. The design in this project gives an example of how a policy of the municipality can be translated in a spatial plan that takes into account the urban morphology and public life. However the design is not a final product that is ready to be implemented. But the plan and approach can be an eye-opener for the municipality, stakeholders and residents to see the potential of the design location and the area Nieuwe Westen and Middelland. If the current plan would be implemented, the voices of all stakeholders and residents need to be heard (the central square could also be a big sports square or a market with different amenities if that is what the residents are missing in their current environment). But in the case that the plan would be implemented, the urban designer should communicate the used approach to the architectural designers to make sure the intention of the plan will succeed. This does not mean designing and determining complete facades and buildings, but making other designers aware of the consequences of the design on the performances of the neighbourhood.

When the role of the urban designer of this project is placed in a broader perspective it would concentrate on the following aspects:

- Defining the design brief (diagnosis).
- Advisory intermediary and designer (giving an example of a possible spatial implementation).
- Guardian of the urban quality (make sure the approach will be used in further design phases to guarantee a successful urban environment).