

06 Reflection

Reflection on wider world

1. The Developing Value with the Social Problem

The New Possibility of the Between-city

The emergent issue of Parkstad is shrinkage of the city in result of the transformation from a industry city to its new developments. In contrast to the economic downturn and the decline in total households, the growing number of older people is particularly conspicuous. In my interviews with local elders, it really shocked me when I asked an old man where the park is, and he replies "it was far and far away". The surprise fact is that the nearest park was only 300 meters away from his place. The similar responses were provided by other elders. Thus, although the green scape of per person was relatively high in Parkstad, the landscape did not offer the elders benefits in terms of caring or entertainment. In Landscape Infrastructure, Hung proposed that the integration of architecture, landscape and mobility helped the infrastructure become more meaningful. This project aims to designing new green space structure to reduce the isolation and marginalisation of elders in urban space and attempt to discover the possibilities of urban city.

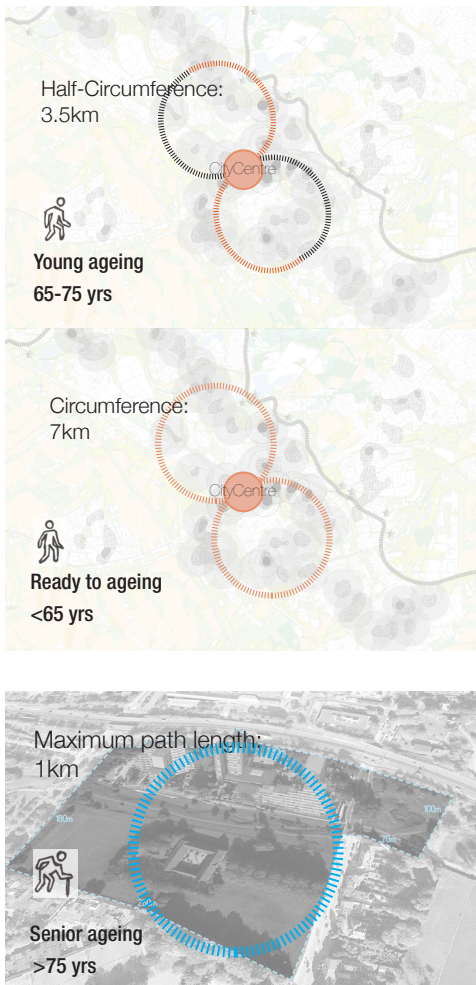
Aging Society

Aging society is remarked as a worldwide problem especially in Europe. According to the statistical prediction, the percentage of elders in total population in European will increase to over 30% in 2070. Exploring new approaches for the benefits of growing amount of elder population is become increasing important. There is 30% of population in Parkstad is elders and it will grow and stay in 50% in the next coming 15-50 years. Most of the elders(94%) in the Netherlands lived without any caring helpers. Therefore, to explore what kind of place is more suitable for the elderly become an important question. In the general stereotype of the public, city is more suitable for youth rather than elders because the fast lifestyle. The rural villages.....(problem). As a shrinking city, Parkstad offered a new possibilities of an place, or lifestyle: lived between urban and rural.

2. Design Value

Identity and Landscape-urbanism

"What defines a city, what deserves to be attracted, and what is the golden ratio of the population", these issues are repeatedly argued in the studies of urban development. The most important goals for designers and planners is to improve the "liveability" of a place, which mainly focus on increasing the quality of the environment. Moreover, the quality of a place is not only determined by the physical features of an environment, but also involves the the psychological factors. Thus, the consideration of social and psychological dimension of the urban environments should be taken into account in planning and design schemes. It is important to establish better understanding of the mutual relationship between people and environments to create and maintain a better place to live. Unfortunately, the realisation of the lack of coherence, diversity and flexibility is usually be discovered after some actions by people. In this project, city will be re-define and renewed through the use of tactics of landscape infrastructure.



Reflection on Research Objectives

Caring Landscape- the Cross-study with Sociology

1. Human-based Caring Strategies

The project is implemented in order to achieve a certain goal: active aging. The first step of achieving it is to development acknowledge and understanding of the special content. Active aging is a positive attitude towards the trend of an ageing society, which suggests that aging is the natural process for everyone. It leads to the central questions: What is the needs of people in different age? The formulation of this strategy is related to sociological research such as individual interviews, observations, and collation of relevant literature, which helped me to build better understanding of their lives.

People lived in different stages in terms of their age is having different ranges of activities. There are three groups that I want to illustrate in my project. For the ready to ageing people(<65 yrs) and the group of young ageing people(65-75yrs), they usually have better mobilities that allowed to move around city. The project provided a 7,000 meters long green loops, which would provide sufficient daily activities and better environment for people in these ageing stages. Most of the senior ageing people(>75yrs) lives in nursing home or elderly community. Compare to the other two groups, the requirement of exercise of for them is relatively low(1km per day). Moreover, the numbers of nursing homes and caring institutions will be increased because the numbers of accumulated numbers of elders who are attracted to live here by the establishment of green loop. The design contributed to the regional development by improving the quality and life, and build healthier lifestyle for the all inhabitants.

There are mainly three requirements that should be highlighted in the concept of all ageing groups: participation of social activities, health lifestyle and safety. The three requirement corresponding to the three interacting spatial elements: nature, pedestrians systems and activities(indoor and outdoor). Thus, I made three researches in related to each aspect.

Landscape Infrastructure:

The goal of the landscape infrastructure is to redefine the local environment by integrating the fragmented landscape, and thus to create a new friendly place. With the marriage of architecture, mobility and landscape, infrastructure become more meaningful in regards to reducing marginalisation, segregation, integrate lands and being new forms of activities(Shannon&Smete, 2010).

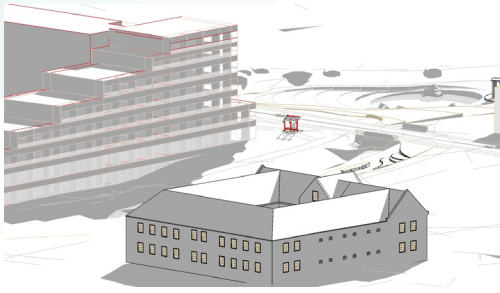
2.Urban Scale: Landscape Urbanism

As large, the role of public green infrastructure is a network which guide people's movements and support different living systems(Gerdo, 2013) Gerdo proposed that there are two basic landscape-based layers inside the network: the second nature and pedestrians system. Once the project relates to lifestyle, it always important to contain another layer: activities. The network will act as a contiguous recreation framework.

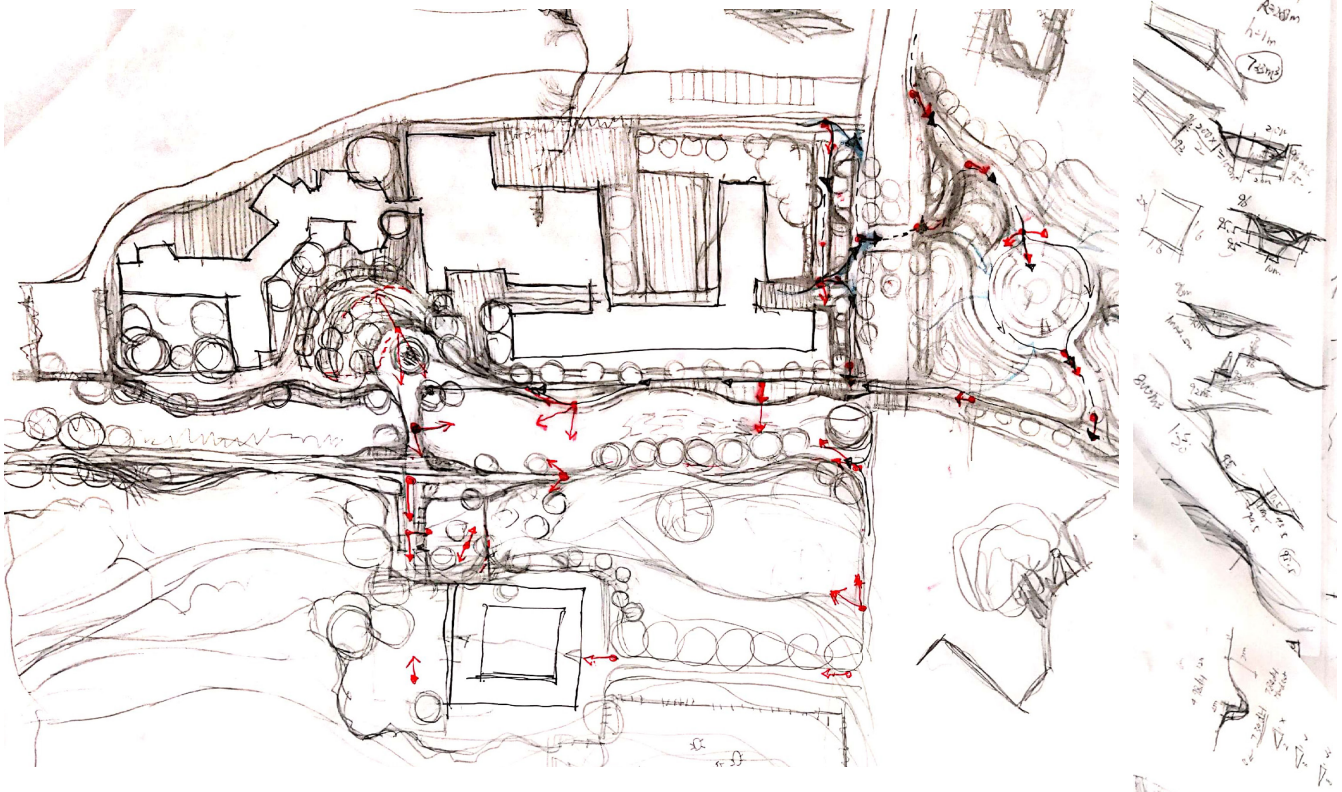
I used this network to integrate the fragmented rural green around heerlen, which leads to develop a liveable and enjoyable environment for public step by step. This is a study of the composite network that includes nature, human movement and staying. Based on the object of active aging, we build relationships with nature on the basis of people's health perspectives. The green loop intend to build a healing atmosphere by providing the more contacts with natural and establishing a safer walking environment. The establishment of an ageing-friendly network enriches people's social interaction and meanings of life for the elders who seek to spend lots of time on leisure. Finally, the system wish to convey a positive attitude, which stated that "don't be afraid of getting old."



3.Community Scale:



In the first step of urban plan is to define the problems of city. Through my analysis of the city, it is clearly showed that the general problems of here is the fragmentations of architectures, nature and pedestrian systems. The site that I chosen is a conspicuous example that has all the general issues, and some specific drawbacks. The strategies that I used here is to build 3D models and spatial imagination to simulate different possibilities and sensory experiences of this site. There are many factors that are included in this process such as the setting of tress, shape of water, line of signs and the route of the activities...Among all the experimentals, which attracted me most is the complex changes of terrain which influence the flow of ground water and sensory feelings during walking. The digital 3D model offered me a more accurate attempts to proof my thinkings.



Reflection on myself as a Landscape Architecture

PEOPLE-ORIENTED STRATEGY: INTERDISCIPLINARY WITH SOCIOLOGY

Firstly, The start point of this project is the consideration of a particular social issue, therefore it is very important to interacted with sociology fields. I have researched the theoretical knowledge go urban sociology in doing each step. It is certainly improved my knowledge on relevant subjects. Secondly, to adopt qualitative research methods such as interviews, observations was an important part of my project. The conversation and discussion with sociology students also provided a border views on the the existed urban and landscape issues.

DESIGN AS SYSTEMATIC EXPLORATION

The exploration of urban systems is complex because the complex interaction between each elements. My attempt is using the problem-solving ideas to find a reasonable network. A good framework need to match local development and people's expectations. This project I tried to divide processes into multiple stages. This exploration has greatly increased my understanding of complex systems and the interaction between people and the landscape.

LANDSCAPE AS 3D-CONSTRUCTIONS

In my previous designs, I normally used the software to simulate the site. This method of meansend prevented the exploration of various possibilities. In this project, I adopt the strategy of using spatial imagination and sensory stimulation. It improved the ideality and comprehensiveness of my project, which is easy for me to diver my thoughts and exercises space sensibility.

Reference:

- Shannon, K., & Smets, M. (2016). *The landscape of contemporary infrastructure*. Rotterdam: Nai010. p.10.
Gerdo Aquino. (2013). *Landscape infrastructure : Case studies by swa (2nd, rev. ed.) [2nd, rev. ed.]*. Basel: Birkhäuser. p.7.