

Reflection
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Influence research / design

The research I conducted in the first semester of the graduation answered the main question: How can the dichotomy between specificity and repetition in architecture open the opportunity for designing context-specific industrial housing? In my research I investigated methods to design location-specific architecture while simultaneously using industrial production techniques in the construction phase. I used these methods when designing the densification of the post-war housing stamp in the Boerhaavewijk.

The design of the densification is shaped by the 'fabric of the site', one of the concluded points of critical regionalism that emerged from my research. In the reference projects and the literature of my research, the design was influenced by the topography on the site, former urban fabrics that could be found on the site or by making use of existing historical linearities. The design for the infill housing stamp has been guided by the urban and landscape fabric that can be found on the site now, but also the former fabric that has been removed and changed by human activities over the centuries. The design aims to create a link between the current urban context and the historic and surrounding peat landscape. The researched methods resulting from the second case study of my research have helped to use industrial production techniques, the design is to build from a system of various prefabricated 3D and 2D elements.

Academic and social value, scope and implication of your graduation project

In the current built environment in the Netherlands, industrial production techniques are used to quickly address the housing shortage. Industrially produced homes offer a more sustainable way of building and will be able to increase the building stock and thus reduce the housing shortage more quickly. However, the main concern of this process is that these industrial houses are designed and developed without context, and the same modules are repeated throughout the country. We risk that industrial housing will create a repetitive and serial urban quality by rapidly expanding the housing stock through this process. This study provides new insight into how industrial architecture can evolve towards a more rooted and context-driven architecture and move away from the utilitarian and production-driven design that creates a sense of genericness within architecture.

Relationship between graduation subject / master track / master program

The research into context-specific industrial architecture is in line with the general theme of the Architectural Engineering studio as it relates to the technical aspects of architecture. The research relates the construction and production process of architecture to the design and aesthetics of architecture. In this way, it is also closely linked to the Master's program in Architecture. The theory of critical regionalism is often referenced, and Kenneth Frampton's writings on architecture have been influential in the field of architecture. My research placed this theory in the framework of the contemporary industrialization of architecture.

Value of transferability

I think the project has a high value of transferability. The design is approached through a developed densification strategy for the densification of the post-war neighborhood, a neighborhood typology that can be found all throughout the Netherlands. The densification strategy is shaped by its context on three different scales, the local landscape, demography and typology. This way the result of the densification will be unique allowing the post-war neighbourhoods to adopt a local and distinctive character, but the approach and degree of standardization through industrial production techniques is a process that is transferable to other projects.

The method of densification will allow the post-war neighborhoods to densify with 20%, applying this strategy to all post-war neighborhoods in the Netherlands means that 92% of the housing shortage will be solved.