

## **P4 Reflection**

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**During the past months of this graduation project, we four worked as a group finished a site research about our site, Oostenburg. And we finished an urban design based on the Urhahn's conceptual design as a product for P1. At the same time, I and Maurits started to research the topic of urban single dwellers, in which we defined our research question as " What elements and factors in Architecture for urban single person households respond to the lifestyles that the single urban dwellers currently possess?". I benefited a lot from this theme research because it combines both abstract architecture concept and practical architecture elements.**

**In the site research, we analyzed many data about the hard side of Oostenburg island, like climate, noise traffic and so on. However, I think the most important part in our site research is the social part, which is the soft side of this site. We researched the Airbnb dwellings and their costs per night, the property value in this neighborhood and this market in Amsterdam. In order to connect our theme research with site research, we researched the single dwellings in Amsterdam. What we found is that there is not enough dwelling for both young pros and expat, which inspired me to form the target group. The two researches worked in a complementary way during the starting time of the design. What's more, I got the news that there would be a new VISA for business starters. After integrating the news, the conclusions from site research and theme research, the final target group was fixed. In the beginning, I had no idea about the target group, but the theme research inspired me a lot about this. As an architect, I think it would be wise to pay attention to what is going on about the policy, especially in the dwelling design. Because this would change the target group or form new target group in some case.**

**Another thing I benefit from the theme research is that how to build a bridge between abstract architectural elements or concept and special target group. I had no idea about the architecture and urban design concept. At the end of the theme research, I found the concept "border" is quite important in dividing collective space and private space. And in the case study, the border condition could be changed through different design methods. From here, I had a brief and clear design concept, which would be the BORDER.**

**As an international student, it would be easier for me to design something for the young foreign business starters. It felt like designing for myself. And during my staying here, I heard a lot complaints about the student houses. Therefore, my design problem statement would be, there is not enough affordable dwellings and**

offices for business starters in the inner city of Amsterdam. And I know the spatial needs of this group.

Knowing the spatial needs and other architectural solutions would be the hard side of the design, but the soft side, what kinds of lives would these starters lead, what kind of commercial mode would this building would take and so on, are the things that I could not find in the research. During my staying in Netherlands, I had been to many Dutch cities, especially in the first half year of this studio. Last year, when I was in Maastricht, I came across a rentable office called Collective workspace Maastricht. With the conclusions from the researches and the business mode in Maastricht, it would nice that these starters could combine their work and life together, like an office version's "Airbnb" mode.

So the design concept and target group is clear after P2, the story fits quite well in the surroundings. But I was wondering the last step for this building, could it hold other programmes in the future? Before P3, I went to a lecture about the Olympic games' facilities, and I got the news that the Dutch government will try to host the Summer Olympic games in 2028. And all the facilities will take too much land in Netherlands. So distributing these facilities around the Randstad circle would a nice choice, and my building could be used as the athletes' village in the later.

Now if I review the progress, it maybe looks coincident in some points during the progress. But the habits of travelling to different cities, going to different lectures, being sensitive to the news and its consequence, making the site research and theme research, make this design progress inevitable. I think I benefit a lot from these habits, not only just for this design but also for the later career.