

'Unexpected' Domesticity: The Oost III Housing Project in IJ-plein Amsterdam Urban Plan by Rem Koolhaas/OMA (1980-1988)

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Important note

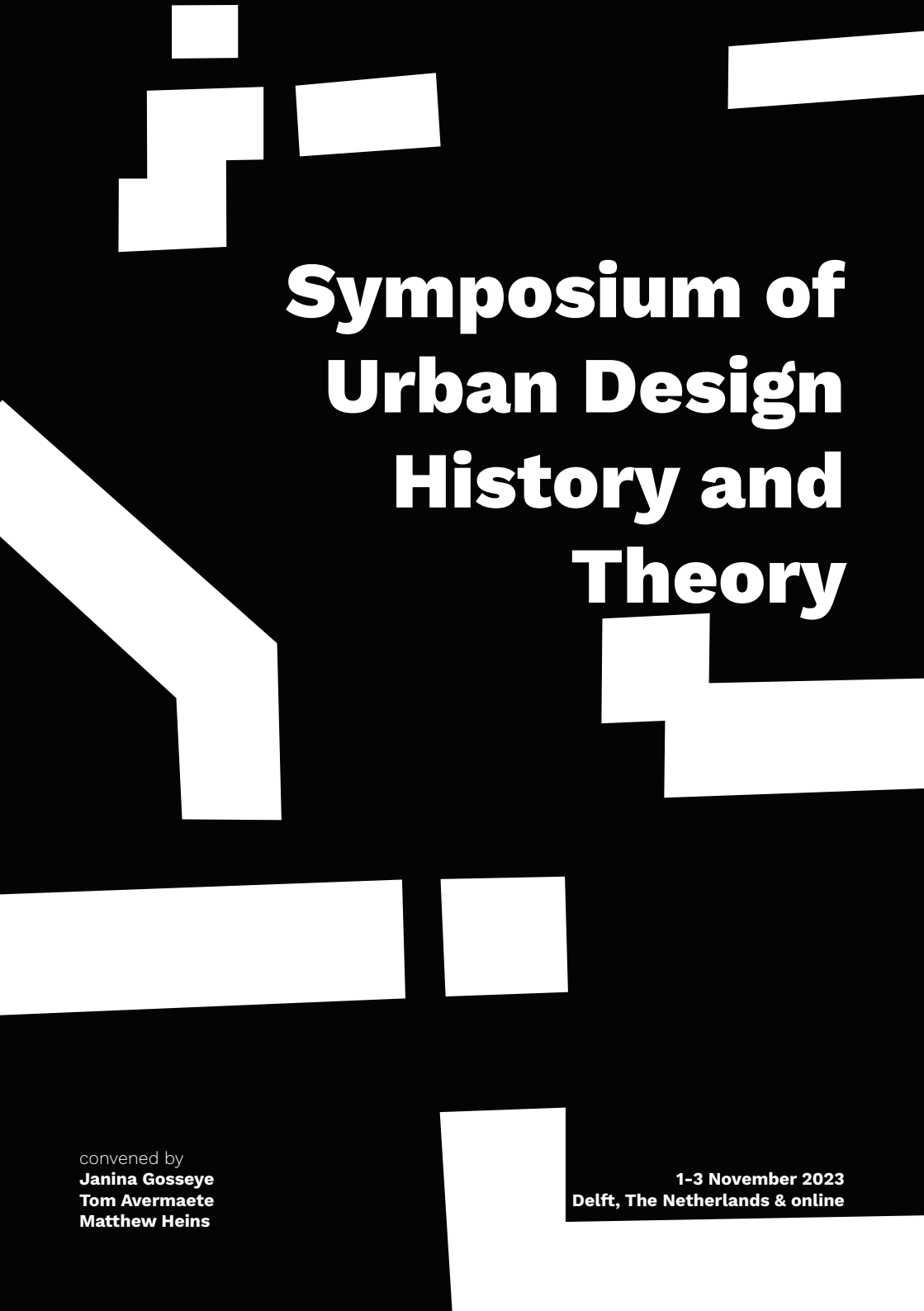
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The background is a solid black field. It is populated with several white geometric shapes: a small square at the top left, a larger square below it, a horizontal rectangle to the right of the larger square, a long horizontal bar at the top right, a large diagonal bar on the left side, a vertical bar extending from the diagonal bar, a horizontal bar on the right side, a horizontal bar at the bottom left, a square at the bottom center, and a vertical bar at the bottom right.

Symposium of Urban Design History and Theory

convened by
Janina Gosseye
Tom Avermaete
Matthew Heins

1-3 November 2023
Delft, The Netherlands
& online

**Symposium of
Urban Design
History and
Theory**

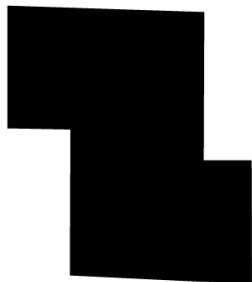


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General Programme

Wednesday, 1 November 2023

13:00 - 15:00	
Berlage Room 1	Opening Conference
15:30 - 18:00	
Varkwerkhuis and Bouwkunde	Parallel Sessions
Berlage room 1	Environments and Ecologies
Berlage room 2	Concepts, Tools, and Theories
Collegezaal	Socio-Politics of Urban Design
Betazaal	Types and Morphologies
18:00 - 19:30	
Varkwerkhuis	Conference Drinks

Thursday, 2 November 2023

08:30 - 10:30	
Varkwerkhuis and Bouwkunde	Parallel Sessions
Berlage room 1	Actors Agents and Agencies
Berlage room 2	Concepts, Tools, and Theories
Collegezaal	Socio-Politics of Urban Design
Betazaal	Types and Morphologies
11:00 - 13:00	
Varkwerkhuis and Bouwkunde	Parallel Sessions
Berlage room 1	Environments and Ecologies
Berlage room 2	Concepts, Tools, and Theories
Collegezaal	Actors Agents and Agencies
Betazaal	Types and Morphologies
13:00 - 14:30	
Varkwerkhuis	Lunch

Thursday, 2 November 2023

14:30 - 16:30	
Varkwerkhuis and Bouwkunde	Parallel Sessions
Berlage room 1	Environments and Ecologies
Berlage room 2	Concepts, Tools, and Theories
Collegezaal	Socio-Politics of Urban Design
Betazaal	Types and Morphologies
17:00 - 19:00	
Varkwerkhuis and Bouwkunde	Parallel Sessions
Berlage room 1	Environments and Ecologies
Berlage room 2	Concepts, Tools, and Theories
Collegezaal	Socio-Politics of Urban Design
Betazaal	Actors Agents and Agencies
19:30	
Restaurant "De Centrale"	Conference Dinner

Friday, 3 November 2023

08:30 - 10:30	
Varkwerkhuis and Bouwkunde	Parallel Sessions
Berlage room 1	Actors Agents and Agencies
Berlage room 2	Concepts, Tools, and Theories
Collegezaal	Socio-Politics of Urban Design
Betazaal	Types and Morphologies
11:00 - 13:00	
Varkwerkhuis and Bouwkunde	Parallel Sessions
Berlage room 1	Environments and Ecologies
Berlage room 2	Actors Agents and Agencies
Collegezaal	Socio-Politics of Urban Design
Betazaal	Types and Morphologies
13:00 - 14:30	
Varkwerkhuis	Lunch
14:30 - 16:30	
Berlage Room 1	Closing Conference

Conference tracks

The conference consists of five thematic “tracks”. Each of these is followed by one or more “track respondents” who will offer a brief summary of the findings and highlights of that track during the closing of the conference on Wednesday, 3 November 2023, between 14.30 and 16.30 in Berlage room 1.

Environments and Ecologies

Redistributing material and immaterial resources, urban design is inextricably entangled with environmental and ecological concerns. This track explores the multi-faceted relationships that urban design maintains with man-made and natural resources, and how it balances the human drive for development with the need for environmental preservation. Presentations in this track explore the complexity of urban design with resource extraction and the disturbance of ecosystems, as well as with the efforts to reduce environmental impact and mitigate ecological harm.

Track respondents:
Rachel Lee
Serah Calitz

Concepts, Tools, and Theories

This track examines the situatedness, role, and capacity of urban design concepts, tools, and theories to frame our understanding of urban complexities and to guide designers in envisioning more sustainable, inclusive, or socially just environments. Presentations in this track explore the suitability of concepts, theories, and tools – such as standards and legal codes – to act as both catalysts and constraints for urban transformation. Papers presented in the track will also consider the role(s) that new tools play in influencing the positions of actors involved in urban design discourse and practice.

Track respondent:
Mina Akhavan

Socio-politics of Urban Design

Social and political matters have a strong influence on urban design. Throughout history urban design has not only expressed (and at times addressed) social questions and concerns, such as inequality, segregation, violence, and disease; but it has also been used to underline and support the advent of new political regimes. The presentations in this track explore the reciprocal relationships that exist between socio-political matters and urban design by examining the social, political, and economic motivations and effects of urban design projects.

Track respondent:
John Hanna

Types and Morphologies

Urban design inevitably engages with the concepts of type and morphology. Certain urban types, such as the street, the square and the grid, have a long lineage in urban design, while others, such as the urban highway and the skyscraper are relatively new. In combining and recombining urban types and elements, urban morphologies change. The presentations in this track examine such types and morphologies, as well as their adaptation and re-formulation over time, through the analysis of specific urban design projects and schemes.

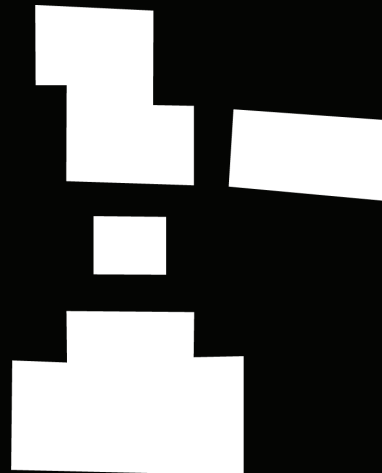
Track respondents:
Li Lu
Xin Sheng

Actors, Agents, and Agencies

Urban design projects almost invariably involve a wide cast of actors and agencies, including designers, commissioners, clients, custodians, patrons, builders, inhabitants, users, etc. The presentations in this track all in one way or another engage with questions of actors, agents, and agency in urban design. Papers presented in this track examine the roles played by communities and social organisations in urban design; they address how the (elusive) ‘public’ can be more closely involved in urban design projects; how changes that occur to urban designs after completion can become part of their history; and so on.

Track respondent:
Phoebus Panigyrakis

Sessions Overview



Wednesday, 1 November 2023

	Berlage room 1	Berlage room 2	Collegezaal	Betazaal
15.30 - 18.00	Environments and Ecologies From Circular to Linear and Back: Unfolding the Material, Spatial and Temporal Dimension of Circularity (pp. 16-23) Cecilia Furlan Victor Muñoz Sanz Julie Marin	Concepts, Tools, and Theories Urban Design Ideas Traveling Between Cultures and Nations (pp. 24-31) Nadi Abusaada	Socio-politics of Urban Design Economics, Resources and Political Systems (pp. 32-39) Janina Gosseye	Types and Morphologies Change over Time (pp. 40-47) Jiaxiu Cai

Thursday, 2 November 2023

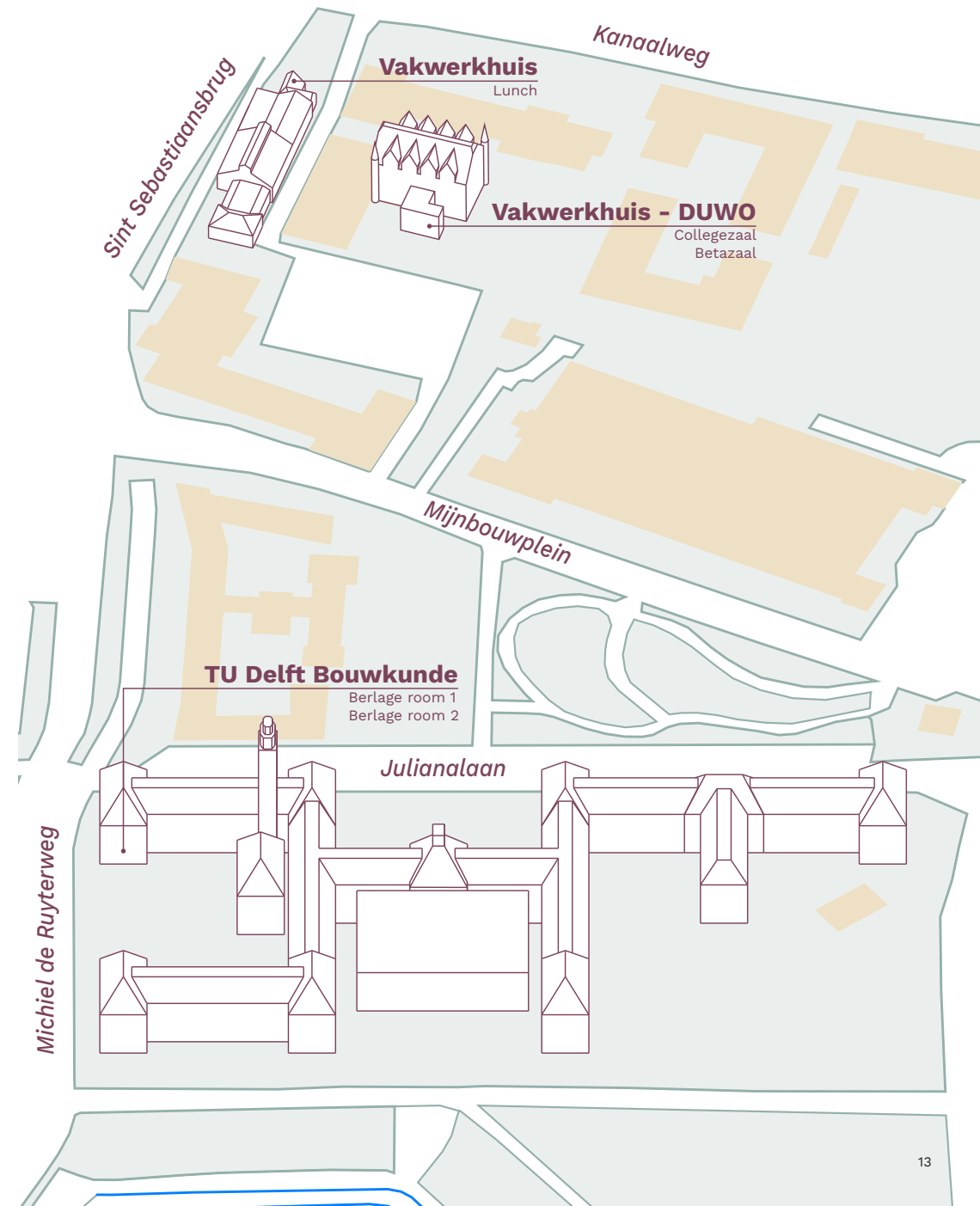
	Berlage room 1	Berlage room 2	Collegezaal	Betazaal
08.30 - 10.30	Actors, Agents, and Agencies Shifting Perspectives: From Histoires des Idées to Histoires Réalisées (pp. 50-57) Jennifer Mack Janina Gosseye	Concepts, Tools, and Theories Standards, Laws, Regulations, and Codes (pp. 58-63) Matthew Heins	Socio-politics of Urban Design Inequality, Segregation, and Injustice (pp. 64-69) Hannah Le Roux	Types and Morphologies Typologies, Streets, and Patterns (pp. 70-75) Jiaxiu Cai
11.00 - 13.00	Environments and Ecologies Making and (Re)Designing Miningscapes: Post-1945 Agencies of Urban Design Practices (pp. 76-83) Carola Hein Sabina Favaro	Concepts, Tools, and Theories Theories of Urban Design (pp. 84-89) Janina Gosseye	Actors, Agents, and Agencies ILAUD and Urban Design Pedagogy: Between Receptions and Influences (pp. 90-97) Hamish Lonergan Elke Couchez	Types and Morphologies Housing and the City (pp. 98-103) Conrad Kickert

Thursday, 2 November 2023

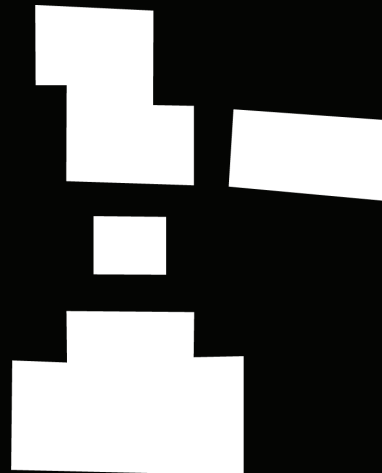
	Berlage room 1	Berlage room 2	Collegezaal	Betazaal
14.30 - 16.30	Environments and Ecologies Environments and Change in the Anthropocene (pp. 104-109) Nadi Abusaada	Concepts, Tools, and Theories Mapping, Archeology, and Orientation (pp. 110-115) Jiaxiu Cai	Socio-politics of Urban Design From Utopian and Radical Urbanisms to Progressive and Idealistic Urban Design (pp. 116-121) Cameron Logan	Types and Morphologies City Centers, Density, and Reinforcing the Historic Urban Fabric (pp. 122-127) Matthew Heins
17.00 - 19.00	Environments and Ecologies Abandonment, Re-use, and Evolution (pp. 128-133) Ellen Braae	Concepts, Tools, and Theories Discourses, Debates, and Ideologies in the Discipline of Urban Design (pp. 134-139) Tom Avermaete	Socio-politics of Urban Design Politics, Activism, and Appropriation (pp. 140-145) Isabelle Doucet	Actors, Agents, and Agencies Southern Patterns in the Historiographies of Urban Design (pp. 146-153) Gaia Caramellino Leonardo Zuccaro Marchi

Friday, 3 November 2023

	Berlage room 1	Berlage room 2	Collegezaal	Betazaal
08.30 - 10.30	Actors, Agents, and Agencies Users, Participants, and Engaging the Public (pp. 156-161) Tom Avermaete	Concepts, Tools, and Theories Philosophy and Urban Design (pp. 162-167) Conrad Kickert	Socio-politics of Urban Design Danger, Violence, and Disease (pp. 168-173) Isabelle Doucet	Types and Morphologies Master Plans and the Large Scale (pp. 174-179) Cameron Logan
11.00 - 13.00	Environments and Ecologies Landscapes, Parks, and Nature (pp. 180-185) Ellen Braae	Actors, Agents, and Agencies Community, Identity, and Social Organizations (pp. 186-191) Matthew Heins	Socio-politics of Urban Design Development, Colonialism, and Modernity (pp. 192-199) Hannah Le Roux	Types and Morphologies Architects, Architecture, and Urban Form (pp. 200-205) Tom Avermaete



Wednesday, 1 November 2023



13:00 - 15:00

Berlage Room 1

Opening Conference

13:00 - 13:30

Welcome by Janina Gosseye, Tom Avermaete and Matthew Heins

13:30 - 14:00

Introduction to 'Urban Design Month' by Taneha Bacchin, Nikos Katsikis and Victor Muñoz Sanz

14:00 - 15:00

Lecture by Carola Hein, 'Dutch Urban Design at the Crossroads of International Exchange'

15:30 - 18:00

Berlage room 1

Berlage room 2

Collegezaal

Betazaal

Environments and Ecologies

Concepts, Tools, and Theories

Socio-politics of Urban Design

Types and Morphologies

From Circular to Linear and Back: Unfolding the Material, Spatial and Temporal Dimension of Circularity

Urban Design Ideas Traveling Between Cultures and Nations

Economics, Resources and Political Systems

Change over Time

Cecilia Furlan
Victor Muñoz Sanz
Julie Marin

Nadi Abusaada

Janina Gosseye

Jiaxiu Cai

18:00 - 19:30

Varkwerkhuis

Conference Drinks

2 November 2023 Types and Morphologies
11:00 - 13:00
Betazaal **Housing and the City**

Conrad Kickert

Alexander Eisenschmidt

Housing Urbanisms: From Mietshaus Pandemonium
to Open Metropolis
University of Illinois, Chicago

Irina Davidovici

The Invention of Housing: Comparative Methods for
the Study of Early Housing in Europe
ETH Zurich

Martino Tattara and Federico Zanfi

The Design Discourse on the Single-Family House: A
Critical Retrospective and a Glance Forward
Politecnico di Milano / KU Leuven

Elena Martinez-Millana

“Unexpected” Domesticity: The Oost III Housing
Project in IJ-plein Amsterdam Urban Plan by Rem
Koolhaas/OMA (1980-1988)
TU Delft / Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

2 November 2023
11:00 – 13:00
Betazaal

The Design Discourse on the Single-Family House: A Critical Retrospective and a Glance Forward

Martino Tattara and Federico Zanfi

The paper aims at reconstructing the design discourse on the transformation of territories of extensive urbanization made by single-family housing. We propose to approach this topic not just as a mere technical issue but differently – or rather primarily – as a cultural issue that affects the disciplines of urban design and architecture. To do that, the paper critically assesses design approaches dedicated to single-family housing territories that have influenced the academic and professional discourse in the last five decades, identifying typologies of projects and design trajectories. We are particularly interested in the critical analysis of those design proposals that contain an explicit architectural dimension and are developed by a designer for a specific territory. Through a selection of cases, the paper will reconstruct a first historical account of such design tradition. This will be based on five main ‘design’ seasons: 1) one dominated by the categories of efficiency and self-sufficiency, 2) one linked to the paradigm of density, 3) one based on processes of typological reorganization, 4) one related to functional and formal reprogramming, and lastly, 5) one dominated by a move towards a collective dimension of living. These approaches are questioned with reference to today’s necessity of a more comprehensive reconceptualization of the suburban settlement, obtained through the adaptation of the present housing stock and taking into consideration questions such as who owns/inherits the house, which resources are available to transform it, and within which perspective of life/work a certain transformation can be undertaken. Lastly, based on this historical account, the paper wishes to indicate the possibility of an alternative urban design approach, one based on selective demolition, alteration, and retrofitting of the existing housing stock, which places the potential of single-family housing center stage into the wider transformation process of low-density settlements.

An earlier version of this paper has been presented in the form of an introductory speech at the symposium ‘What next with mom’s and dad’s house? The transformation potential of the single-family house’, held at the Politecnico di Milano on Sept. 9, 2022 (convenors M. Tabbra and F. Zanfi).

Marino Tabbra is an Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture KU Leuven. His research and teaching focus on issues related to the transformation of domestic space in relation to recent pressing socio-economic challenges. Together with Pier Vittorio Aureli, he directs Dogma, a practice based in Brussels. Among his publications, *Living and Working* (with P. Aureli, The MIT Press, 2022), *The Room of One’s Own* (with P. Aureli, Black Square 2018) and has recently co-edited *Contested Legacies*, a book that tackles the transformation of large-scale post-war housing estates (with A. Migotto, Leuven University Press, 2023).

Federico Zanfi is an Associate Professor in Urban planning and design at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies – Politecnico di Milano. His design and research activity gravitates around the ‘post-growth’ transformation of the 20th-century built heritage, with a focus on Italian urban systems. Among his publications on these issues, *The città abusiva in Contemporary Southern Italy* (Urban Studies vol. 50, n. 16, 2013), *Post-War Middle-Class Housing. Models, Construction and Change* (with G. Caramellino, Peter Lang, 2015), *A portrait of Italian family houses* (City, Territory and Architecture vol. 7, n. 20, 2020).

“Unexpected” Domesticity: The Oost III Housing Project in IJ-plein Amsterdam Urban Plan by Rem Koolhaas/OMA (1980-1988)

Elena Martinez-Millana

In Amsterdam Nord, on the banks of the IJ, is located IJ-plein, the urban plan designed and built between 1980 and 1988, by a team led by Rem Koolhaas and the Office for Metropolitan Architecture. From this extensive urban plan, which was devoted entirely to social housing and included education and leisure programs, this research draws attention to the Oost III section, located on the eastern end side of the plan. The Oost III buildings were also designed by Koolhaas/OMA and consist mainly of two housing blocks: a larger one facing a wharf, which is elevated on a podium and pilons where other programs are included, and a shorter one behind.

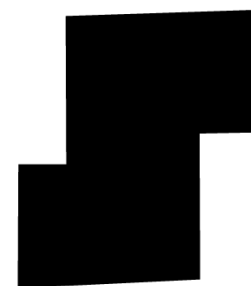
The Oost III blocks comprise many different types of housing, ranging from two to five rooms, and also include a large collective unit for mentally handicapped individuals. Among these, the smallest housing units are the so-called ‘HAT’ units, a novelty in response to the initiative launched in 1975 by the state secretary of Volkshuisvesting en Ruimtelijke ordening, to deal with the problem of affordable housing for singles or pairs, in the nota ‘Huisvesting Alleenstaanden en Tweepersonshuishoudens’. This paper addresses the design of the Oost III in relation to the ‘HAT’ units: could the smallest units offer another lecture on this section of IJ-plein?

The domesticity of the ‘HAT’ units, of their materiality, and their subjects, show the extent to which they challenge the inherent meanings and understanding of housing architecture when the family is no longer the norm, with all that this entails. Here, ‘unexpected’ density refers to the concept of ‘housing the unpredictable’, in other words, the multiple possible realities of home life. This concept is explored at the different scales of the Oost III urban section: the ‘HAT’ housing unit; the interior spaces of the blocks that connect these units, such as the access system; and the exterior spaces of this urban plan. For an ever-changing society, a particular reinterpretation of modern precedents embraced the new.

2 November 2023
11:00 – 13:00
Betazaal

Elena Martinez-Millana is a Margarita Salas Postdoctoral Fellow (Ministry of Universities, Spanish Government) funded by the Next Generation EU programme (European Union) for three years (2022-2024), at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM). Elena holds a PhD in Advanced Architectural Projects (UPM), with ‘Cum Laude’ and ‘International Doctorate’ distinctions, and she received the ‘Extraordinary Doctoral Thesis Award 2020-2021’ (UPM). She is a member of the research groups Collective Housing (UPM), and Architecture Culture and Modernity (TU Delft) and, also Visiting Scholar at the Jaap Bakema Study Centre, Het Nieuwe Instituut (HNI), in Rotterdam.

**Symposium of
Urban Design
History and
Theory**



This symposium is convened by Janina Gosseye, Tom Avermaete, and Matthew Heins. The full conference committee consists of:

Tom Avermaete *ETH Zurich, Switzerland*
Nadi Abusaada *ETH Zurich, Switzerland*
Ellen Braae *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
Jiaxiu Cai *Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China*
Isabelle Doucet *Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden*
Janina Gosseye *TU Delft, The Netherlands*
Matthew Heins *Independent Scholar, United States*
Conrad Kickert *University at Buffalo, United States*
Hannah le Roux *University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa*
Cameron Logan *University of Sydney, Australia*
Faiza Moatasim *University of Southern California, United States*

The local organizing committee of the TU Delft Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment includes:

Mina Akhavan *HAUP, Department of Architecture*
Serah Caltiz *HAUP, Department of Architecture*
John Hanna *HAUP, Department of Architecture*
Carola Hein *HAUP, Department of Architecture*
Li Lu *HAUP, Department of Architecture*
Nikos Katsikis *UD, Department of Urbanism*
Taneha Kuzniecowa Bacchin *UD, Department of Urbanism*
Rachel Lee *HAUP, Department of Architecture*
Victor Muñoz Sanz *UD, Department of Urbanism*
Phoebus Panigyrakis *HAUP, Department of Architecture*
Xin Sheng *HAUP, Department of Architecture*