

STUDIO
URBAN
ARCHITECTURE
—
EXPLORING
NIJMEGEN

2021-2022

Msc3
research plan

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	content
introduction_	04
research_	08
theme and thoughts	09
questions and remarks	11
keys and concepts	13
methods	14
design proposal	15
references	16
diagram_	18

STUDIO URBAN ARCHITECTURE — EXPLORING NIJMEGEN

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INTRODUCTION



the start of exploring an open city context in a lock-down situation (photo I. Boersma)



interpretation of the theme: a mass of water, frozen at the edges. Showing urban context as adaptable, temporary, fragile and unique (photo I. Boersma)

The graduation studio of Urban Architecture started in February 2020 with a call to interpret the theme of this years' studio:

Encounters | Characters | Conversations | Adoptions

These sub themes are important qualifications of the ensemble of the inner city of Nijmegen. With the new projects we will add to the ensemble, replace elements, reinterpret situations, changes and contexts, shed different shadows and new light on certain places and configurations.

The specific content and context of the graduation design project lay open to explore. This not only opened the way to exploring an unknown city, Nijmegen, but also to a freedom of typology, location, context and setup. This research book will show the process of this exploration and the obstacles and treasures that were found.

From start to end of this entire graduation project, the new corona virus determined the exploring, while lock-downs and openings succeeded each other. Giving possibilities and non-possibilities a change to intertwine.

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RESEARCH

- _ theme and thoughts
- _ questions and remarks
- _ keys and concepts
- _ methods
- _ design proposal
- _ references

An introduction to THEME and THOUGHTS distilled from personal fascinations

That moment you step into a temple complex, feeling the large gate slowly passing above your head, swallowing you up into the inside world of the complex. That moment you step into a cemetery, a cinema, a theme park, a church. This world instantly drops your heart-rate upon entry, pushing it right back up once you start absorbing the interior. This overwhelming feeling of the space and the awareness of yourself within this space. The contrast between the interior of this space and the context surrounding this, creates this world within a world.

Bordered by the walls of the temple complex, the cemetery, the circus tent or the gates of the park it seems like it needs these borders to define them. Can you only step into another world by crossing a line? Are these borders crucial to the experience of this world? Or is it the experience of something unfamiliar, a heterotopia, an uncommon place? Can this feeling be part of your home, your work and all the spaces in-between these two?

This unfamiliarity can be scary to some and motivating to others. With different experiences from person to person, from time to time. While thrill and fear simultaneously existing, making it something complex. Nonetheless, it influences the experience of the situation or place.

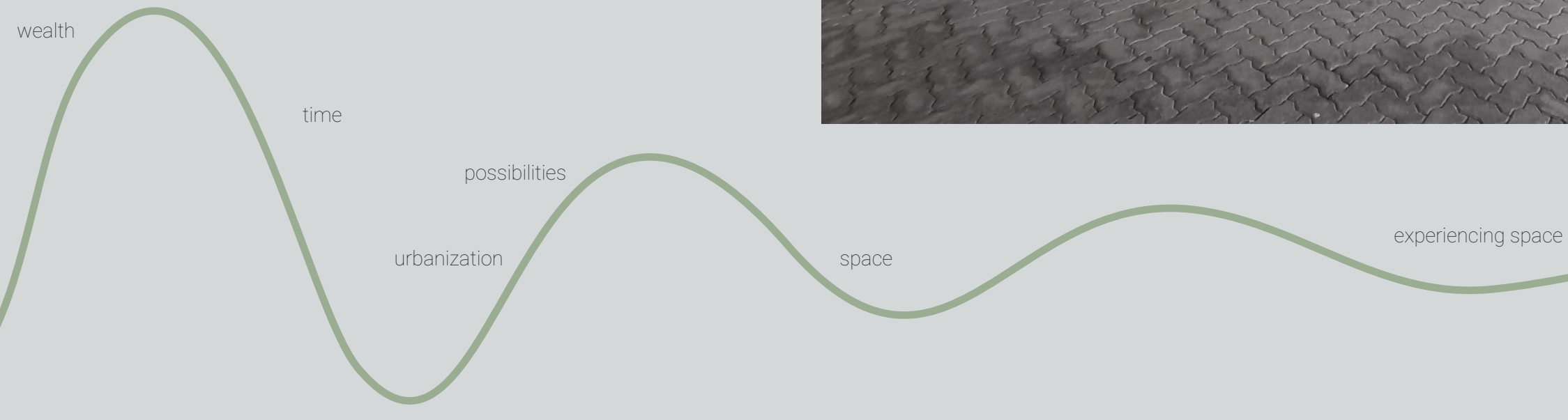
This fascination with the experience of space within an unfamiliar or uncommon context is directly linked to exploring, The astonishment and amazement of the wondering. Wondering through a world within a world, you are not part of it, but you are growing within in nonetheless. Walking in an uncommon environment can feel like a heterotopian space, being a different world to you..

This experience of space could change your perspective of space, and the value of it. Within busy city structures and patterns, could this be an inspiration to the way we use and perceive space?



image 1 _ the fair at Plein 44 in Nijmegen

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QUESTIONS and causative REMARKS regarding the research

How do we fill the diminishing availability of space within our dense urban context, during a time of rising possibilities in all aspects, but space? With more of us wanting more individual space while urbanization is increasing, our available space is decreasing. Meanwhile the real estate market is tearing apart at the seams, while showing a growing shortage of the standard availability, let alone the non-standard desires. This housing market together with a commercialized city center, make the urban context less accessible.

While wealth has only increased in the last century and the possibilities that we have in this age seemingly endless, is it possible that the value of space and time surpasses the value of money? Is the way we now use space in the city

center the optimum way of using the space available? What does this do to the optimum experience of space?

Subsequently, what is this relation between the use of city space and the experience of it? Is the optimum use of space equally important as the optimum experience of space? Is it possible to create outside the standards of today, creating a different balance, while the need for acceleration is high? Moreover, should this be a time of acceleration to meet our rising demands or should this be a time for reconsideration of the way we use and experience our space? Is there time to take time? Or are we heading towards a apparent inevitable burnout of city life?

If we want to continue living in the city center, we should revalue this use



Somewhere in Nijmegen center (photo I. Boersma)

and experience of space within this neighborhood. Space as we now use it, is no longer tenable or sustainable. We should revalue the balance between what we have, what we want and what we need. Seeing space not as the abundant common, but as the valuable uncommon, could create a different balance in the city center. Seeing space not merely as private or public creates possibilities in-between. Using the everyday spaces together with heterotopian spaces could lead to interesting solutions. This means a different way of designing the balance

between private space, public space and everything in-between.

Could the city of Nijmegen, with a rich history of alternative methods of living, through squatting and collective constructions, show an example of experimental living in these times?

Following the problem, this research aims to answer the following question. This research aims to address the way we use and explore space within our city context and to whom we make it available.

How can architecture influence the experience of densification and the balance of bordering space within the urban living environment of Nijmegen?

Specific KEYS and CONCEPTS within
the field(s) of knowledge

The main question within this research contains several concepts. First, the relation between the everyday space and heterotopian space. Talking about heterotopian as opposed to the everyday, asks for a definition. Ideas of Foucault, Lefebvre and Oldenburg form the definitions of the concepts of everyday and heterotopian spaces within this research. The urban living environment of Nijmegen contains concepts regarding domains of city life: architectural typological solutions, urbanization, urban policies, profiles of users of space, urban patterns and historic layers of the city. But also the definition of different types of places within the city, based on the use of these places.

Defining space can be done by defining different types of places, but also by defining borders of space. Borders point out physical shapes, but also psychological

shapes. Environmental psychology and materiality influence and describe these borders.

Describing these places is inextricably linked to talking about the experience of space. The experience of space deals with the concepts of phenomenology and the use of our senses. Sensorial architecture, the psychological and social functions of space are key concept within this. Subsequently the concept of time is of influence to an experience.

To eventually balance is subjective and difficult to define. It has to do with connections between different aspects and experimenting with these different aspects. The balance for one can be the dis-balance for another. Nonetheless, the experiment of this balance can create new insights in the use of space.

HETEROTOPIAN

- A physical (existing) space that provides an interruption of the 'normal', since it lacks the continuity of everyday spaces. It provides surroundings for a holyday-space, that is perceived as 'different'.
- Space that is not private (economical), nor public (political), but catches the tension between the two.
- It is the intrusion of two fundamentally different realms, providing a space for mediation.
- However, not every space with an unusual social code or theatrical elements, is a heterotopia.

EVERYDAY

- The everyday space is linked to the everyday private and public space with a certain continuity.
- It contains the usual social environment of home (the first places), the workspace (second places) and places that are open and accessible to every person.

Explanation of the METHODS as
strategy for the trajectory

The concept of balance cannot be formed by one perspective, being a subjective concept. Different people with different backgrounds can provide these visions on space. Pointing out psychological experiences with space will add the sense of experiencing a space.

A person staying in a temporary place or without home at all, has a different perspective on this balance than a person having a solid place to stay. People who travel around use their space different from people who stay in one place. People following a decluttering guru use their space different from a person who collects. People already sharing some of their space perceive space different from people who have never shared space. Additionally, people can share out of economic motivation or social motivation. Age, background, lifestyle and values all determine this vision of the balance and borders of everyday and heterotopian space.

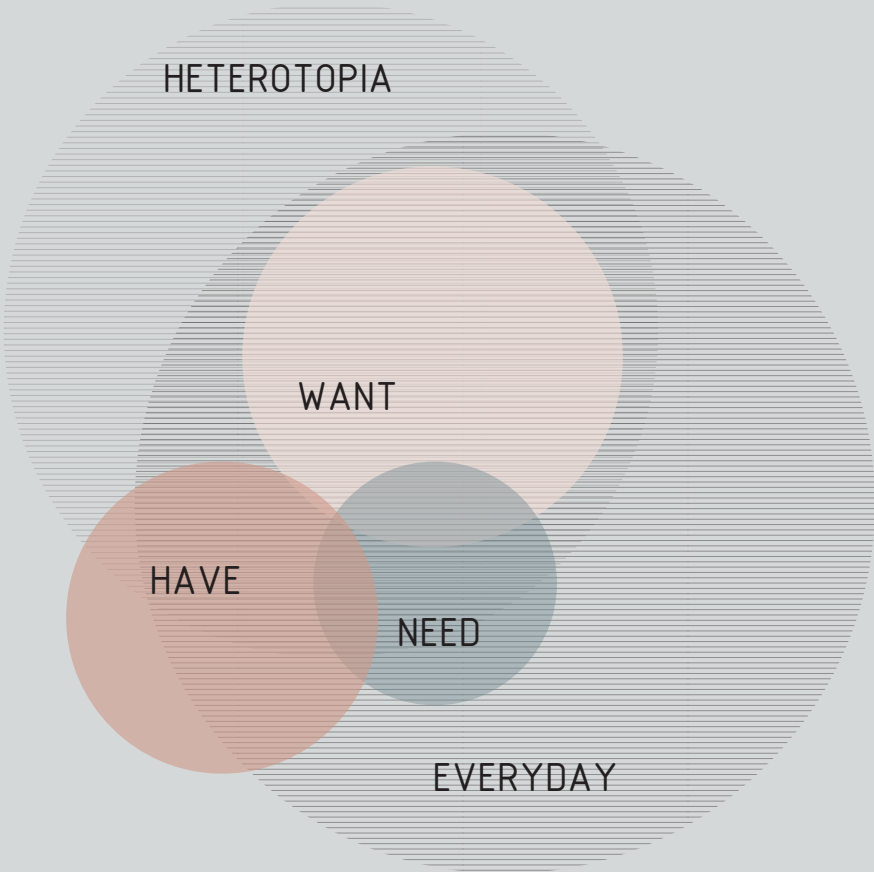
Finding as much examples of people and urban places used in different ways, will provide an in-depth exploration of

the experience of space. Catching these images I will talk with

Additionally, exploring existing places where both everyday and heterotopian space are visible can be used as case-studies of possibilities. These can be located in different cities or countries.

Finally, the urban living environment of Nijmegen, and the design location in particular, can be explored through drawing the city in 2D maps, researching geodata and creating a 3D model of interpretations of data. These will show different typologies, historical layers, use of space, borders, demographics of users etc. Knowing this context is a solid base for providing a design concept within this context.

The context and the created dossier of experience of space according to different faces together, could lead to different insights on the balance and borders of everyday and heterotopian spaces, suitable for the chosen design location within Nijmegen, as input for the design proposal.



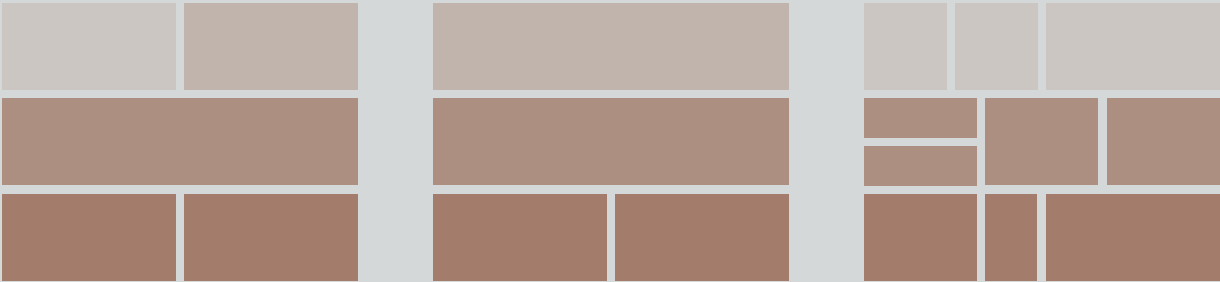
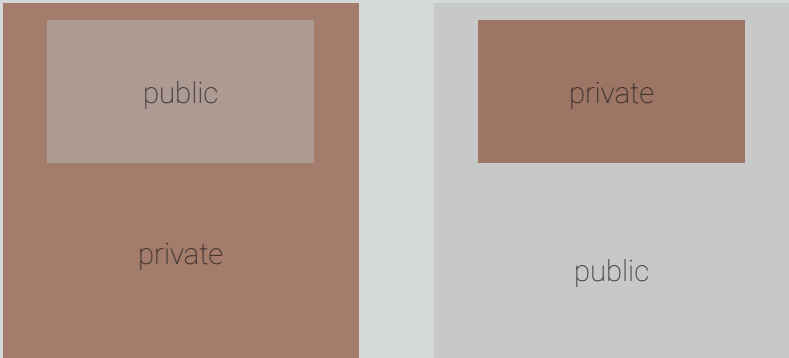
DESIGN PROPOSAL set by field and
documentary research/the urban
and architectural proposal

The design proposal will include a programme for living in combination with an undetermined (semi) private programme. The connection between these two programs, is through sharing or ownership. Whether the main programme is living or not, depends on the dossier that will be formed by the research.

In this design proposal I intend to include several ideas on the balance and borders of everyday space and heterotopian space or use a programme that stands out. Through the remaining weeks of Msc3 the first conversations will take place, simultaneously analyzing the context of Nijmegen city center and the chosen design location. These conversations can take place the latest until the first weeks of Msc4, creating sufficient input.

With more conversations as input, the first experimental drawings on the concrete shapes of the design proposal can take place. The specific infill of additional programs will become clear during these conversations.

- private
- shared
- creating
- (semi) public
- public



design proposal

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Proposed REFERENCES for the
duration of the research

Using references on urbanism, sociology, architecture and environmental psychology will give different perspectives in the research. These title will be studied as reference for creating the dossier on the experience of space by different faces, 2D and 3D mapping and eventually as input for the design proposal.

title	author
Liquid modernity	Z. Bauman
The architecture of the city	A. Rossi
The fall of public man	R. Sennett
Heterotopian Studies	M. Foucault
In search of new public domain	M. Hajer
Public buildings in a private time	386 - C3
Het design van angst	LUX Canvas
The great good place	R. Oldenburg
The city between freedom and security	D. Simpson, V. Jensen, A. Rubing
Heterotopia and the City: Public Space in a Postcivil Society	M. Dehaene, L. de Cauter
Public and private spaces of the city	A. Madanipour

references

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DIAGRAM

