

**Collective Housing for Prisoners  
The Over-Amstel Penitentiary by Pot & Pot-Keegstra**

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MATERIES

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## Collective Housing for Prisoners: The Over-Amstel Penitentiary by Pot & Pot-Keegstra

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This paper critically examines how Dutch architect Jacoba Froukje Pot-Keegstra (1908-1997) and her husband Johan Willem Hindrik Cornelis Pot (1909-1972) designed collective housing for prisoners. From the beginning of their architectural practice, they specialised in developing housing for 'target groups' of people who live alone and collectively, such as the elderly and the young. The design of collective housing for prisoners was the culmination of their career devoted to non-family collective living and it reflects a wider debate about what housing is, i.e. the extent to which domestic services can be shared.

This paper points out that this theme has not been given sufficient attention in architectural historiography and it analyses the Penitentiary Institution Over-Amstel in Amsterdam, commonly known as Bijlmerbajes (1972-1978). This prison was developed at a time when the Netherlands was at the forefront of thinking about how prisoners should be housed in a more humane way, being an outstanding example

of implementing new policies to facilitate their rehabilitation. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that Pot-Keegstra, the first woman architect to graduate from the Academy of Architecture in Amsterdam (1936), is also arguably the first woman to design a prison.

This high-rise prison shows the intertwining of prison and housing architecture in the 1970s; its spatial arrangements did not differ much from those of the typical residential floor plans and did not even include bars. Before its opening, it already had many detractors, both from society at large and from specialists, with numerous protests. Its recent demolition, except for the tower inhabited by women prisoners, comes as no surprise (2019). This paper does not let this project fall into oblivion, analyzing the most relevant aspects of its contributions, and emphasizing the domestic spatial conditions that shaped the lives of the prisoners.

## Dynamic Interactions: The Fluid Nature of Space-Bodies

Esra Yüksek, Aslıhan Şenel (Istanbul Technical University)

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The paper explores the concept of *space-body*, a hybrid or cyborg-like entity that represents the dynamic and relational nature of spaces as they are continuously reconstructed and experienced. It examines how space is shaped through interactions among various actors and actions, and how these interactions contribute to the creation of spatial ecologies.

The study focuses on two distinct spaces: the Tarlabası Solidarity Kitchen, a community kitchen in a diverse Istanbul neighborhood, and the Istanbul Archaeology Museum, a long-established institution. By analyzing these spaces, we aim to illustrate how space-bodies are constructed and transformed through the engagement of actors and actions within them.

The Tarlabası Community Kitchen exemplifies a fluid space-body that evolves through its diverse and changing practices and relationships. It serves as a site where immigrants gather, interact, and build a collective identity, continuously shaping its spatial ecology. The Istanbul Archaeology Museum, despite its static

physical structure, shifts in its space-body through the actions and narratives of its visitors and staff, reflecting subjective interpretations and experiences.

This study analyses the temporal practices of the community kitchen and the museum, the changes their bodies undergo, and their different states of being. In the process, it endeavors to create temporal images of the space-body with multimedia mappings made of photographs, sketches, and texts. With the specificity of the actions in these two spaces and moments, instantaneous recipes of the space-body emerge, and situated knowledge is produced.

**Body Matters Book of Abstracts**

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