

BRINGING BACK MOVEMENT IN SKYDEBANEHAVEN

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Reflection

In the beginning of the graduation studio, research was needed and we, as students, were divided into groups to work on several topics as; city, connection, people and power. The research was for both cities; The Hague and Copenhagen. In my group we worked on the topic 'power'. Before we started getting into designing this research was done, and in my opinion every group was starting to create something influenced by their research. My project will be developed in the city of Copenhagen. As not only the research on Copenhagen was on influence of a method or idea, the comparison between Copenhagen and The Hague was also there.

This previous research influenced a little bit of creating a plan on how to work on things for this project. In my graduation plan a method description was asked in how to approach the studio and its project. In this description, I noted to use technomic, socio-technic and ideological icons elements as an approach. These elements were mentioned in one of the other courses in this studio, also one of the influences on the method to be written. The approach in first was to consider the multiplicity of functions, to find out how a social system would work and how several elements together could transform into an icon.

Reflecting on this approach now, it was not an approach as directly used or tried in its literal form. The example used by this method description was to look at the projects of Herman Hertzberger and Jan Gehl. This approach I literally did follow, which also led to a typology to use in the building. The start of this project was focused on connections, connections between people, and spaces. As in the further process this focus shifted to what was becoming more and more important to me.

As the research in the beginning led to four elements (of the four topics of the research book), one of these elements took a high priority. Reading into approaches and visions of Gehl and Hertzberger, designing for people became more important. The approach to find elements to connect people was not helping, it got my progress slowing down. After reading into these architects the realisation started to kick in, and the theme for movement came into sight on the right time. Besides the realisation of the inspiration of the architects and the realisation of the theme, I also looked at the other three topics of the research book more carefully. The most interesting and most important looking, in my opinion, conclusions were taken out of these topics to connect with the new upcoming theme.

As the process slowed down at some point, this theme made progress in making plans and a different approach into getting a design. The potential of this theme 'movement' was appreciated on all levels, as moving is also a passion of mine. The personal aspect of this theme and therefore project is large. In my gymnastics career, for 15 years, where of approximately the last 7 to 10 years I had practice in a gym for 6 hours in a week. The personal experience in a space where everybody is moving around created a sports family. You make friends, you get to know people and you have a connection with everybody, as in all ages and cultures. The idea of bringing back movement into an area to bring people together, the connection between people that I really wanted to pursue, is therefore a personal passion.

Thus, in the beginning the approach planned in advanced helped looking into elements that were goals to accomplish, while that approach in working towards a design concept did not work in the process. After searching for literature and projects of architects the process started up again (Hertzberger and Gehl).

At the moment I can appreciate both outcomes, because I learned to open myself for other approaches to try. Some of these elements gave an insight in a unique way of looking towards architectural elements. While at the same time the process slowed down, the realisation of creating movement to bring people together became more personal. As for the process in this moment, the statement by choosing a theme helped a lot towards defining a project.

Combining this overall perspective of my experience, tutoring and feedback of several tutors and students also helped in creating progress. As we in Dutch say: *"Door de bomen het bos niet meer zien"*, translated in: *"Can't see the Wood for the Trees"*. This meaning that sometimes we lose ourselves in details or something that we forget the importance for the whole. As my perspective is one way, a students' or a tutors' perspective is another way. As they help to you see it in another light is very helpful to create a better design and making the process more elaborate.

As to reflect on the latest period of time, especially when we had to work from home due to the Covid-19 virus. The communication with other students became less as well, which made it harder to focus on the whole, as said before to lose yourself in details more. Relying on technical aspects became a bigger concern and as for that I am grateful that our tutors created a platform to still discuss our projects.

In the process further on the ambition is to keep a hold of the theme and to emphasize the important elements for the design. Creating a place where people can come together and move around, to connect with others is the most important element of this project. When the project comes to a finish, the reflection at that moment will be a better and more complete view, but when is architecture actually finished..?