

WERKSPLOOR

The function of the factory within society

Research Report

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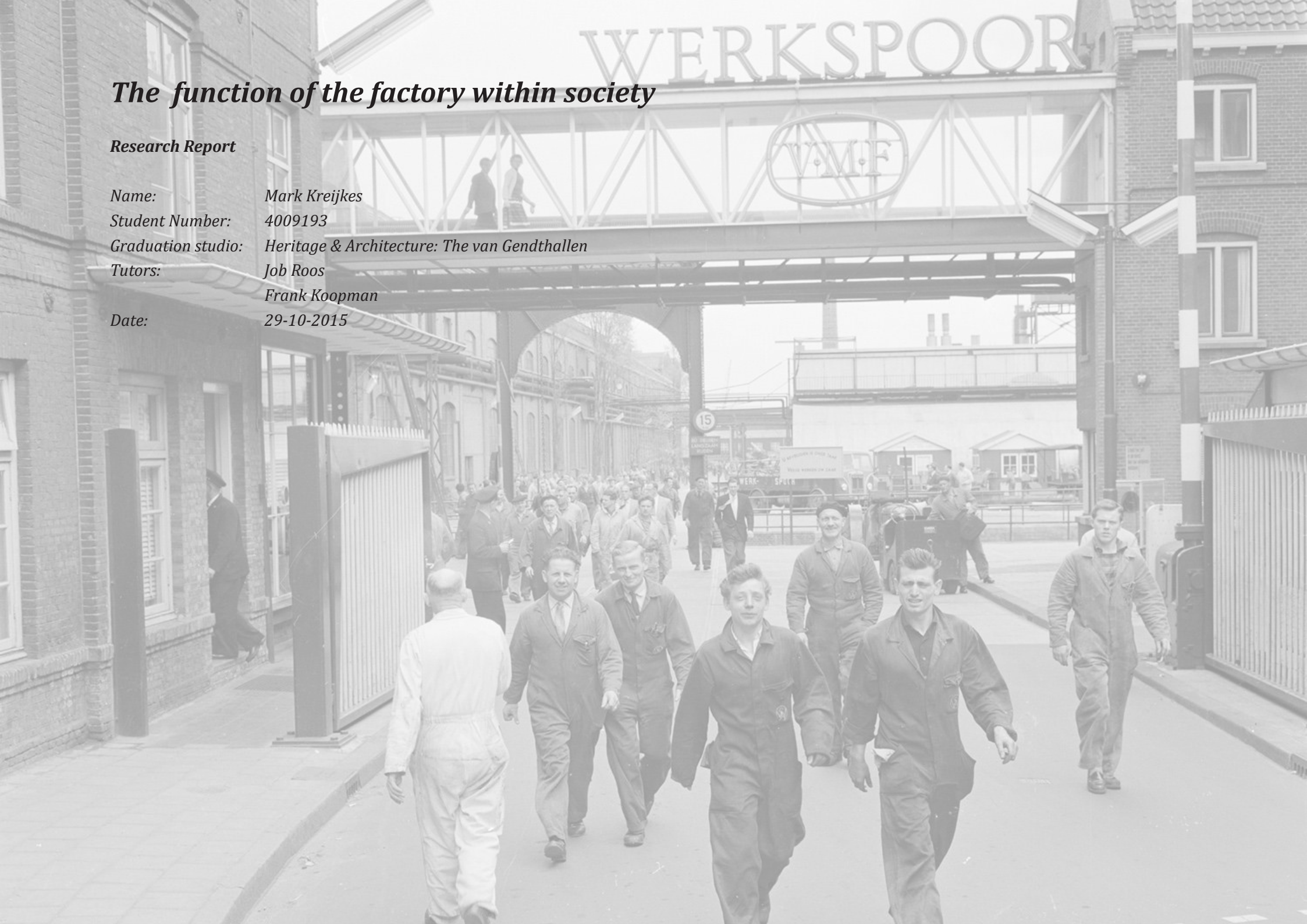
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Preface

This research report is about the van Gendhallen and its social relation with its users. From the start of my graduation project, I was intrigued by the building of course but also by images that show groups of people working together and showing their products. I got a feeling that there was more to working in the van Gendhallen than just getting paid. During my analysis and research I found out this was the case and therefore I want to continue on the subject of the social/ gathering place that the van Gendhallen once were. This report gives an impression of what it was to work in the van Gendhallen or a factory and gives a further definition on what a social or gathering place should be.

Table of contents

Introduction	7
1. Werkspoor, Case Study Zuilen and Amsterdam	9
1.01 Zuilen	9
1.02 Sporen van Staal	10
1.03 Werkspoor factory Zuilen	13
1.04 Werkspoor factory Amsterdam	15
1.05 Conclusion	16
2. Sociology and the factory	19
2.01 alienation and freedom	19
2.02 Industry and community	20
2.03 Conclusion	21
3. The social Space	23
3.01 Lefebvre's theory	24
3.02 Public space	25
3.03 Case Study: The Crystal Palace	27
3.04 Conclusion	29
4. The design of the van Gendthallen	31
4.01 Translation to a (new) design	31
4.02 Sport facts Amsterdam	32
4.03 The application of the toolbox	34
4.03 Conclusion	35
5. Conclusions	36
Bibliography	37

Introduction

The building analysis gave already an impression of the functioning of the Werkspoor-Stork factory. With this research report I want to go further into the subject of the people who worked in the factory.

With the leaving of the Werkspoor-Stork factory came an end to the industrial activities on the site. Werkspoor made a lot of different products and had many employees who worked on the terrain of Werkspoor. These employees were the workers, mechanics, office workers and many more. Therefore it made the whole site a busy place with employees and products moving from one place to another within and outside of the buildings. People who worked there spent at least 8 hours of their day at this site. Those worker were an important aspect to make the site as it was. It is a part of the history, the atmosphere and identity of the place. So what meant that place for those users? Was it just work and getting your salary at the end of the month or was it more than that?

Our (building) analysis was mostly focussed on the products made by Werkspoor and the functioning of the factory. We have analysed the floor plans, movements through the building, climate systems, lightening and also the spacious atmosphere of the building. With

my research report I want to go a bit further in the history of the factory. Mostly I am interested in the history of the workers. Since I have already read a lot about Werkspoor, I have the impressions that the factory was more than just work. This aspect I want to research more about and see how I can use this history for a future function of the van Gendthallen. The research question that is central is:

What was the function of the factory within the society in the 20th century, how was this specific for the location of the van Gendthallen and how can we translate this to a new function?

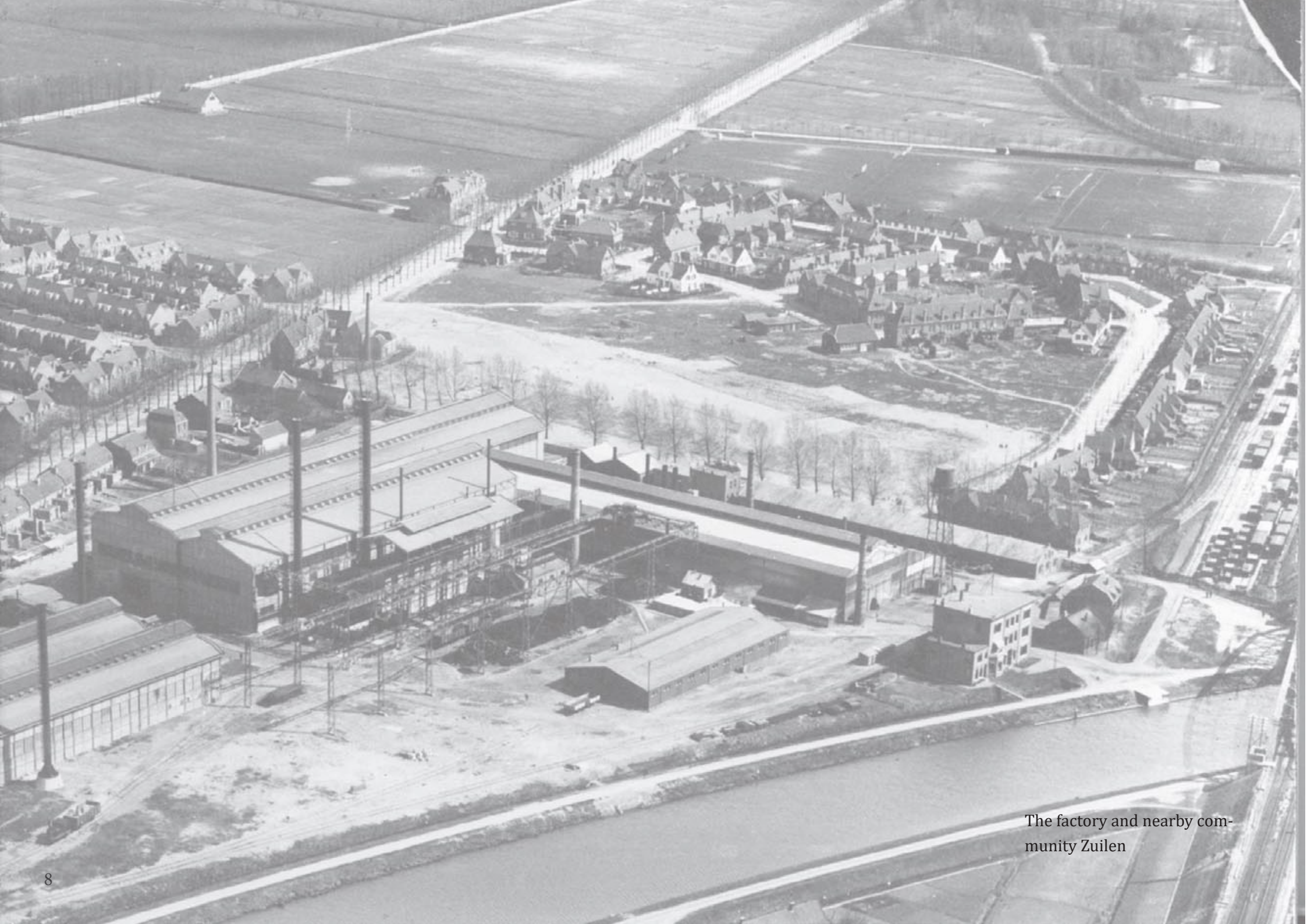
The report will then be divided into three chapters. The first chapter is about Werkspoor in Amsterdam and Zuilen. In Zuilen was an even bigger factory of Werkspoor on which is more information available of the sociology in and around the company. With this information from Zuilen I can make an interpretation for the smaller factory in Amsterdam. The case study will give me information about the social relations within Werkspoor

The second chapter will be a more theoretical

part about sociology and the factory. What kind of influences had working in a factory for the individual and for the family life?

Another part will be on how to translate the situation into a new design. What kind of tools or approach do I need to make a design that fits the former social function of van Gendt

The third part will be about the future function of the van Gendthallen. After the analysis I have made different scenarios for the building. One of those was a sport, health and community complex. This decision was made on the information I had already read on the Werkspoor factory in Amsterdam and Zuilen and the information I had on the van Gendthallen. I want to translate the social function of Werkspoor into this new function for the van Gendthallen.



The factory and nearby community Zuilen

1. Werkspoor, Case study Amsterdam and Zuilen

Introduction

To understand the Werkspoor factory on the Oosterburgereiland in Amsterdam, a part of the research will be focused on the Werkspoor factory in Zuilen. This was an even larger factory of Werkspoor and together with DEMKA, a steel factory, they formed the basis on which Zuilen was built.

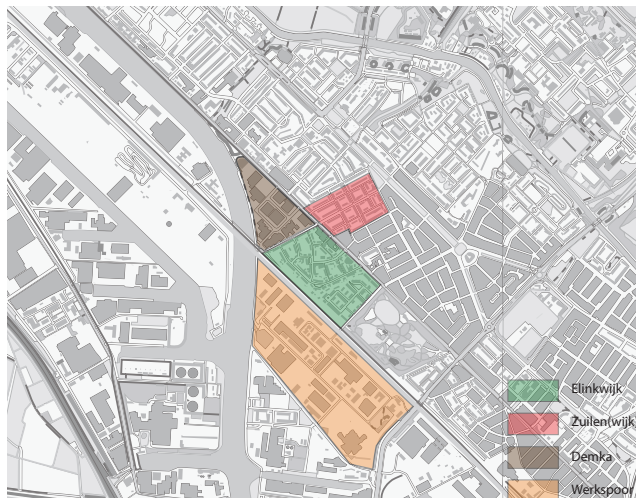


fig 1, maps.tudelft.nl; edited by author
The factory and surrounding districts

1.01 Zuilen

The Werkspoor factory of Amsterdam rearranged a part of its production capacity in 1914 to Zuilen, near Utrecht. A part of the professional employees of Amsterdam moved towards the new factory and the rest of the factory workers were recruited in Utrecht. Because the work in the factory required education and experience, it was important to bond the employees to the factory. That's why Werkspoor connected the workers contract to a rental agreement. For the 1500 families of the workers who moved to Zuilen, tuindorp Elinkswijk was built by architect Karel Muller. The uneducated workers recruited in Utrecht founded their own housing association 'Zuilen' and they built the homonymous district Zuilen. In the original plans, there also should be shops placed in the center of Elinkswijk, but because a lot of dwellings were built in the district Zuilen, those shops were situated there. The dwellings are nowadays sold to the residents. The community building, which was built in the of Elinkswijk, is nowadays still in use. (<http://zoeken.nai.nl/CIS/project/18692>)

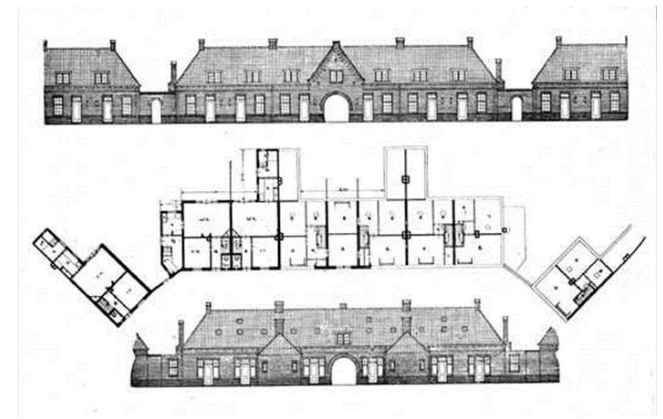


fig 3, Google maps
Current situation

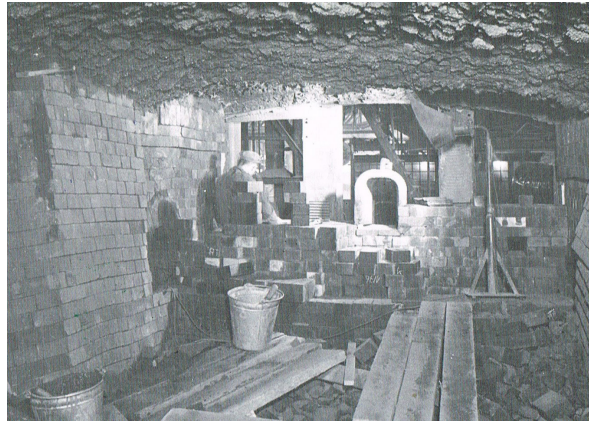
The district of Zuilen and Elinkswijk still exists in their original state today. Since 2013, Zuilen-Elinkswijk has been appointed as beschermd stadsgezicht (protected townscape). The value of the district lies within the urban situation which refers to the English garden city, the amount of greenery and the connection to the Dutch industrial history of Werkspoor and Demka. (Rijksdienst voor Cultureel Erfgoed, 2013)

1.02 Sporen van Staal

The first part of this research about the atmosphere and working conditions of the factory in the period 1914-1984. On the basis of some revealing quotes of the employees we can get a good image on how the factory worked and what it was to work there. The connection with the factory was an important factor in this atmosphere.

In 1914, the steel factory Demka moved to Utrecht. New production halls were built near the Amsterdam-Rijnkanaal and train tracks of Utrecht. Together with the other large steel factory, Werkspoor, they created a new district in Utrecht called Zuilen. The Demka factory produced steel wire like reinforcing steel, chains, bolts and nuts. Another part of the factory focussed on casting products like ship propellers, turbines, wheels and pump. This part is comparable to the products that were made on the Werkspoor terrain in Amsterdam. The following quotes from 'Sporen van Staal' give us an impression what the work in the factory was like.

Ovenbouwer: "De reparaties waren voor ons het moeilijkste. Dan viel er bijvoorbeeld ergens een gat in en kwam het vuur er uit, dus dat moest weer dicht. Je kon er haast niet bijkomen, je moest met een grote handschoen een steen erin leggen en dan moest je je kop weghouden anders stonden je haren in brand."

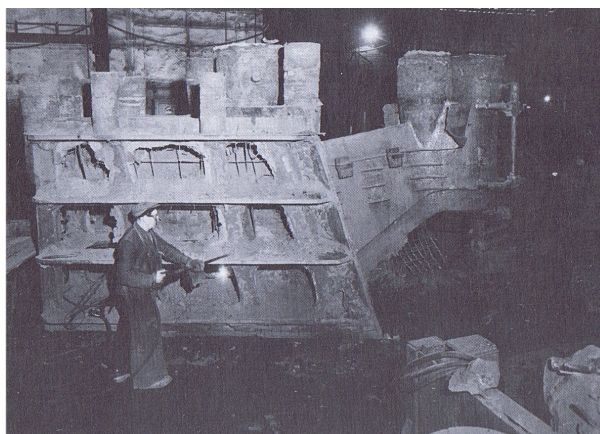
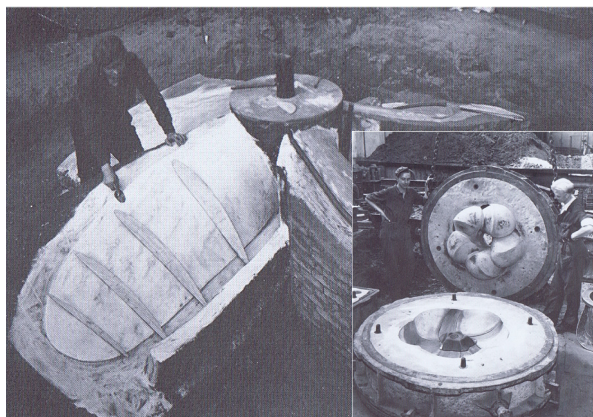


Smelter: "Het was warm, dat was in de smederij nou eenmaal zo. Aan de voorkant verbrand je, aan de achterkant bevries je. In de zomerdag was het helemaal zweten. In de winter stonden alle luiken open om de dampen af te voeren. Dan had je het warm aan de voorkant en koud aan de achterkant."

Smid: "Verscheidene mensen hebben er longziekten aan overgehouden. Het was ook echt ongezond. Je kreeg praktisch geen zuurstof. Je staat in die stoflucht en in de dampen van de ovens. Wie weet wat daar allemaal inzit? Daar werd vroeger niet naar gekeken."



Vormer: "Je moet nagaan: een 'kast' van een meter in het vierkant met een model erin. Om dat model werd eerst modelzand gedaan en daaromheen kwam allemaal zwarte aarde. Dat werd per laag aangestampt en dan schepte je je er weer een laag zand op tot die kast vol was. Dan draaide je met een kraan de hele zaak om en ging je nog eens een keer van die kant beginnen. Dan stond je op een gegeven moment boven je hoofd zand te scheppen."



Poetser/Bramer: "De binnen- en buitenkant van die pomp was allemaal zand, heel hard zand. Dat moesten wij schoonmaken met en luchthamer. Ik kreeg zo'n grote luchthamer maar geen masker, alleen een bril tegen het stof."

Smid: "Het ongezondste vond ik de bramerij en de poetserij. Met die zandstuiverij, al die wolken. In de vormen zat anderhalve kubieke meter zand en dat moest er allemaal uit. Dat stuift metershoog, dat blijft zweven en jij staat daar middenin"

Walser: "Het was een tijd dat je nog fluitend naar je werk ging. Tegenwoordig gaan ze met een afgezaakt gezicht. Doordat wij in de walserij om het half uur rust hadden, zat je te klaverjassen. Je maakte gauw een babbeltje. Mensen uit Zuilen leerde je zo heel gauw kennen."





"Je was wel niet belangrijk, maar je betekende wat"

These quotes of the employees of the Demka tell us that the work in the factory was very hard and not always without risks. The modelmaker had to fill up large boxes with sand and the oven builders had to make dangerous repairs to the ovens. The climate inside the factory was poorly arranged. Some parts were too hot when other parts of the halls were too cold. Also the air inside the factory was very dusty so a lot of people got sick even after the factory was closed. Some of this dust came from the removing of the sands after the models were casted. This was probably one of the most unhealthy jobs in the factory and the health of the employees wasn't something which was taken into account. Despite these bad

working conditions, the employees went to the factory with a smile on their face. A contradiction with the contemporary commuters according to an employee. The employees quickly knew each other and most of them came from Zuilen. The factory was the centre of the community that Zuilen had become.

Most of the employees of the Demka felt connected with the company. The company was for some employees everything. They worked all day for it and came home totally burned up. Others felt different about this. They worked there to make money for their family. But they were also proud on the work they did and felt responsible for it. The products had to be of great quality and delivering a bad product was unthinkable.

They worked in a company where things weren't strictly organized on you were more free in your work. This free feeling in the company was important for its employees. This free feeling and responsibility for the products they made also caused they had to do some overtime or work extra shifts.

The work did not only have an effect on the workers but also on their family. The men came home dirty and tired. Some employees even felt so connected with the factory that they also spent their free time committing themselves to the union. The health of the workers suffered under the workload

but the salary didn't improve for those who committed this much to the factory. The relationship between the workers and management was very poor.

After the second world war, the factory extended rapidly and the number of employees increased. It was a time where it was harder to resign your job at Demka than to get a job. Because it was easy to get a job at the factory some of the children of the workers also got a job there like a family tradition. But a lot of parents also discouraged their children to work in the factory because of the hard and dangerous work. They wanted their children to have a better future.

More on the connection workers had with the factory and the social impact will be discussed in the next chapter in a more theoretical and general overview of the factory and its influences on society and employee.

1.03 Werkspoor factory Zuilen

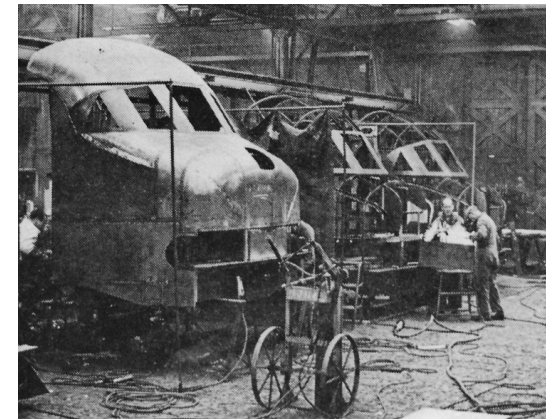
This part will be on the Werkspoor factory in Zuilen that stood next to the Demka. In an interview published in the Oud-Utrechter on June 24 2014, Jacob Post talk about his job at Werkspoor Zuilen.

Since 1972, Werkspoor in Utrecht had officially closed their doors. The production of locomotives stopped after 56 years and 2000 worker became unemployed. In the best years, about 5000 men worked at Werkspoor in Zuilen which made it the largest employer in Utrecht. Everybody had family working at Werkspoor.

Jacob Post started working at an age of 14 at Werkspoor in 1938, following in his father's footsteps who started there in the early years in 1916. Werkspoor was everything in his family. Because of the job security, his father wanted him also to work at Werkspoor. It was after all a time of crisis before World War II and many men were unemployed. During his first years, he enjoyed the education program within Werkspoor to become bankplaatwerker and radarbouwer (processing steel and making blades for the ships propeller).

Werkspoor struggled after the war, but because of a large order from Argentina of 90 locomotives and 400 train carts business was booming again at the factory had to expand to 5000 workers. Because the focus was mostly on this large Argentine order, the relationship with the NS was neglected. The NS started ordering their locomotives in Germany. The hondenkop was one of the trains made by Werkspoor for the NS and is still in use today. After the Argentine order was finished, Werkspoor was about to lose the competition with Germany, but the government intervened. The NS had to order train at Werkspoor. Werkspoor had again sufficient work, but the situation didn't last. In the sixties were still a lot of workers at Werkspoor, but not enough work. The workers sometimes used their time to work for private use. Even a polyester sailboat for one of the bosses or a sledge for one of the employers was made in the bosses time and with material from Werkspoor. They even explored if the NS could take over Werkspoor to prevent the bankruptcy of Werkspoor, but it didn't work. There was a great disbelief amongst the workers that the factory closed on December the first 1970. A lot of knowledge and experience was lost and 2000 workers became unemployed. But Jacob

Post is still looking back with a great feeling about Werkspoor. He had a job he loved and is still proud to see the trains pass by which he had worked on. (interview by Jan Jansen posted in the Oud-Utrechter, 2014)



In a short documentary about Werkspoor Utrecht made by NPO, different people who have worked talk about their work and situation at Werkspoor Amsterdam:

The war had a great impact on the situation at Werkspoor. A lot of locomotives were destroyed and Werkspoor had to repair them. Also a lot of machinery was missing from the factory. The factory had to rebuild itself to be productive again tells Ria van der Kamp(marketing) and Frans Oudenal(head of engineer at Werkspoor). They also talk about the large Argentine order and how thorough the Argentine inspectors checked the products. The workers had to work in three shifts in those busy time. Frans Oudenal even had to work 7 day a week.

Ger Hoogenberg(ondernemingsraad) also mentions the proudness on the product the employees had. The products were made to perfection. This was something that was very important for a factory like Werkspoor. They ensured the quality of the products they made.

Ria van der Kamp: "I have always worked at werkspoor with pleasure. There was also a staff association were I was a member from.

The was a chess club, hockey club, tennis club. The divisions within Werkspoor had their own soccer competition where you went in your spare time. Fathers had worked at Werkspoor, their sons had worked there and also their grandfathers had worked there. It was a family tradition to work at Werkspoor."

Nol de Jong(ondernemingsraad): "When the employees didn't agree with the management, they collectively went to the factory canteen to talk about the problems within the company. This happened multiple times. There was a vast connection with Werkspoor."

After the closure of the factory, people still went to the factory even if Werkspoor wasn't there anymore. Workers couldn't believe that the factory had closed and didn't know what to do according to Ger Hoofenberg. A lot of skilled workers where unemployed.



*abandoned factory
npo*

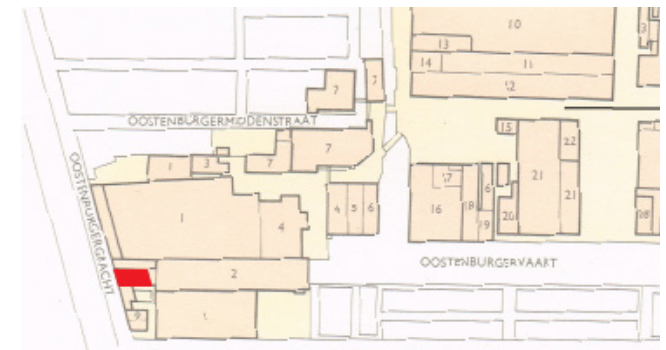
1.04 Werkspoor Amsterdam

There is not much detailed information on the Werkspoor factory in Amsterdam as I found from the factory in Zuilen, but there are clearly traces that the factory in Amsterdam also had a strong community. For example, the factory also had a ontspanningsgebouw (fig. xx) where workers could relax and gather. Another indication that Werkspoor in Amsterdam did a lot to get a bonding with its workers was the Werkspoor factory, the department of personnel affairs, decided to buy a neglected sports park at the Oudekerkerdijk at the river the Amstel.. Workers could play sports here after their working shifts. In 1942, the soccer club P.V.W.A. (Personeels Vereniging Werkspoor Amsterdam) was founded. Just as in Zuilen, different workers from different departments probably played in a competition against each other. Next to a soccer club, also a tennis club was founded. 3 tennis courts were for the workers of Werkspoor.

According to these fact and also the historical photo's found of workers working together and proudly posing before their product, I am convinced that there was also a close community around the Werkspoor factory in Amsterdam just as in Zuilen

<http://www.dealgemene.nl/vereniging/geschiedenis>

<http://www.nederlands-voetbalmuseum.nl/products/p-v-w-a/>



Ontspanningsgebouw Werkspoor

1.05 Conclusion

According to the information found on the Werkspoor factory in Amsterdam and the demka factory in Zuilen, I can say that the van Gendhallen were more than just a place to work. Around the factory in Zuilen was a large community especially built around the factory. People bonded with each other and with the factory. They were proud on the products they made and committed to the factory. The work was unhealthy, hard and dangerous. But still the employees went to work with pleasure. Friendships were built and people had a feeling of freedom in their work. Also the Werkspoor factory tried to bond people to their company by accommodating sports and games in the workers free time and the weekend. There was even a football competition among the employees of Werkspoor. All these things together ensured a close bonding between most of the employees and the between the employees and the factory.



Robotized work and
craftmanship

2. Sociology and the factory

This chapter is about the sociology and the factory during the time of the industrialism and the time of Werkspoor. What ensured that people bonded with their work and the factory? The second part is about the communities that emerged around the factories.

2.01 Alienation and freedin

In the book alienation and freedom, Robert Blauner outlines the situation of the factory worker in different kinds of industry. His book is about the alienation in the work process.

He describes different situation regarding different types of labor. He describes the situation of the printer, textile worker, assembly line worker and the chemical operator in the factory. He finds that the required craftsmanship in the factory is leading for the bonding with the factory and co-workers. The printer for example is an old craft industry which requires special skills. He makes the resemblance with the ship building industry in the united states were craftsmanship was also important.

“The essential feature of a craft technology is the lack of standardization of the product. This inhibits the standardization or rationalization of the work process, which is increasingly developed in machine, assembly-line and automated technologies.”

In comparison with the automobile assembly line, every house a construction worker builds or boat turned out by the shipyard is a unique product. On the automobile assembly line, a worker has to do the same job on the same type of car over and over again.

“The craft worker experience little social alienation in work ,since his identification with his craft gives him a personal identity in an occupational role which carries respect and high status in the work place and community.”

(R. Blauner, 1952)

2.02 Communities around factories

Industrialism has destroyed traditional communities such the town community, churches and guilds. In some places this was sudden and some places more gradually. The early communities that emerged around factories maintain the aspects of the traditional communities. This was due to the smallness of the factory and the similarity in ethnics and religion of their members. These communities were a minority and soon large communities emerged around the factories.

One of the most important results of the industrialism is the rise of communities or rapid growth and change of already existing ones. Even if the factory was placed outside the center of a city, a community was built around the factory. Zuilen is a great example of this as read in chapter one. Why communities rise around factories has various reasons. The first reason is that the industry needed people to work at the factory. The workers had to work each day and should quickle be able to go to the factory when needed. The factory should be central in the workers lives according to the industry. To create or find a supply of workers who met these requirements, the

industry had to enter existing communities or create new communities to attract employees. In the early years of the industrialization, the communities were built in the shadows of the factory but later, when there were more means of transportation, the communities were a few miles from the factory.

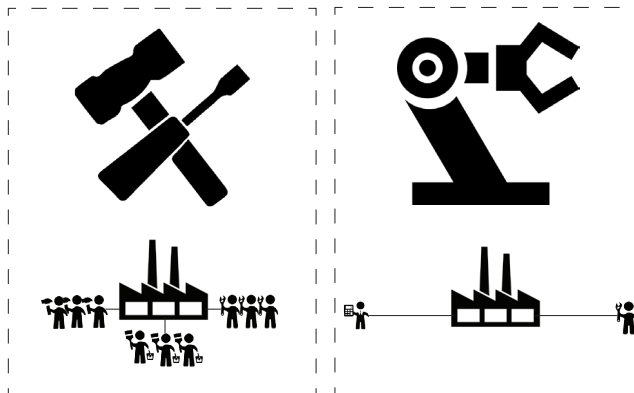
A second reason why some industries and communities existed next to each other is the great market for industrial product that was in these communities. The industry could cut transport costs if they could sell their products in the communities around the factory. If the industry was built in a large metropolitan center it would mean that the factory would save a lot of transport costs.

A third reason is that industrialism needs a community as a source of special services. For example transportation. A given community may be a center of railway and roads suitable for bringing in raw materials and exporting finished products. The community may also be able to supply machinery or skilled workers for the industry. The industry could also share other benefits from the community such as a fire department, police station, water supply, education and other services. Finally

the community as a whole might provide higher standards of living, recreation, good education, closeness to fashion which are necessary to attract and hold a working force at all levels of industry.(Eugene V. Schneider, 1957)

2.03 Conclusion

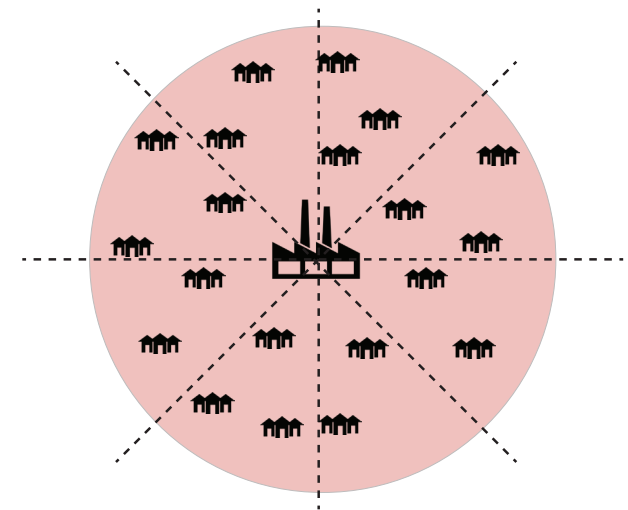
The Werkspoor factory in the van Gendthallen was also a craft industry. This explains why people felt connected to the factory and other employees. People needed skills to do their work and felt therefore important in the production process.



Craftmansship made people feel important in the factory why mechanization ensured more alienation

The traditional communities around the city center or church disappeared during the industrialism. The new communities emerged around the industry. The industry was a new common interest on which the community was built. The factory and the community were also dependent on each other.

To get back to the van Gendthallen, this Werkspoor factory in Amsterdam probably blended into an already existing community. The Oostelijke Eilanden have for many years been a center of labor and industry. Therefore the community around these islands already existed probably and Werkspoor took advantage of this community. The industry today has moved out of the city and work has changed so the community around Werkspoor probably dissolved but I think there was a more close community around the Werkspoor factory that emerged during the VOC time. I did not do enough research about this matter to prove this assumption.



Strong community around the factory



Nowa Huta; A city in Poland built according to socialistic principles

3. The social space

Taking into account the case study of Werkspoor and the analysis results I can conclude that the van Gendhallen was a place of social gathering. People connected with each other because of working in groups, the craftsmanship and time spent together in their spare time. For my redesign of the van Gendhallen I will use this function of the factory as a main focus point. People will be gathering and socializing in the van Gendhallen again.

This part of the research will therefore be on how I can make a new design that also creates the ability to establish and develop social relations. What kind of tools or approach can I find in the literature about this.

3.01 Lefebvre's theory

One of the leading sociologists on the production of space is Henri Lefebvre. Lefebvre sees space as a social product consisting of three elements as he describes in his book 'La production de l'espace:

- the representation of space or conceived space,
- representational space or lived space
- perceived space, the way in which spaces are used

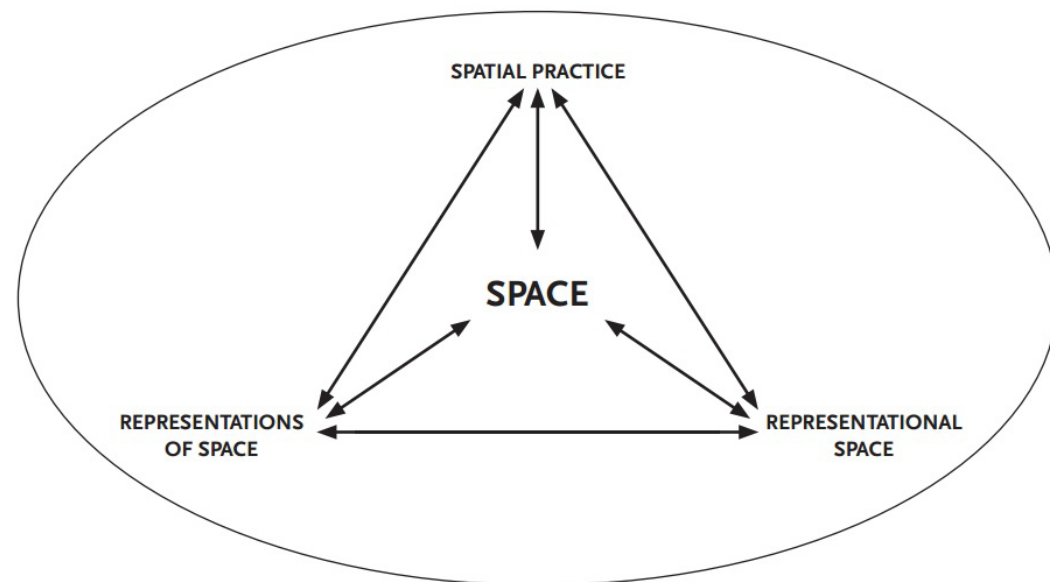
The elements of space he describes are not independent but the interaction between them result in the production of space. He notes that space is a product of and a precondition for social processes. It plays a role in shaping the social processes that determine the representations of space, spatial space and representational space. (fig. xx) (Goonewardena et. al.)

Architects can play a role in designing this kind of spaces. Lefebvre states about this that **“architects seem to have established and dogmatized an ensemble of significations, as such poorly developed and variously labeled as . . . functionalism, formalism, and structuralism. They elaborate them**

not from the significations perceived and lived by those who inhabit, but from their interpretation of inhabiting.”

They should dwell upon the role of the inhabitant of the space and their perception and use of the space. The architect should take in mind for who and what they are designing a space. I personally agree with the position of taking in mind who and what the architect is designing for rather than just creating a functional and beautiful space. The perception of the user defines the space.

This means that space is more than just a physical place. Take for example a public square. The square can also be a meeting place between people and can give a different feeling to people. It can be experienced in different ways. One person can experience the square as cozy while another person can experience it as a busy square. The square and thus space can be seen as a social product. There is an ongoing struggle between different groups of users who experience a space in a different way.(J. van T'rot, 2009)



3.02 The community and public space

Until recently most people grew up and lived their lives within a few kilometers from where they were born. Their communities where their family, neighbors, familiar places and a daily rhythm and places they knew. In the example of the workers of the van Gendhallen, the factory was also their community as happened a lot during the industrial time. Until the 20Th century, cities where full of natural gathering places. Depending on where you lived, life centured around the marketplace, the church, the courthouse, the pub, the post office, the town hall, or village center. People lived on their stoops or porches, watching and talking to their neighbor or people walking by. The communication was face to face so these places to gather where necessary to know what was happening in the community.

Since the coming of TV, radio, internet and smartphones, that all changed. Their was no need for physical communication anymore. As a result, a lot of gathering places disappeared such as the bakery and the butcher which became the nowadays supermarket. The challenge for architects and urban planners is to incorporate natural gathering places, good places for interaction with other people, into their design.

That brings us to the next question: What can be a good gathering place?

Good places for interaction are spaces where people from different area's and/or background want to be. Therefore these kind of spaces need four basic characteristics:

- There has to be a reason for people to go there*
- There has to be a reason for people to want to stay once they have arrived*
- People in the space have to feel safe and comfortable*
- The space has to be welcoming and accessible to everyone*

The reasons to go to a place could be of necessity such as a train station, supermarket or workplaces. The reason to go to a place can also be of preference such as public squares, museums, amusement or café. Some of the features or acivities that might attract people to a place are:

cafes and restaurants; grocery shopping; stores; museums, libraries and public buildings; transportation; festivals; music and theaters.

Once arrived at a place, there has to be a reason to stay at that place. People may want to spend time to look at the view, but if there is no place to sit, chances are people won't stay there for long. That is one of the reasons that many of the (great and famous) squares in European cities are ringed with outdoor tables from cafes or restaurants. If you buy some food or drink, you can spent some time at the square enjoying the view, sun or just watching people and enjoying the day. Some features that invite people to stay longer at a place are:

seating; a mix of sun and shade; food and drinks; pleasant or spectacular views; green space; water; the noise of the city; interesting or pleasant places to walk;

If people don't feel safe in a space or feel threatened by other people using it, they won't use and linger in that space. Also if a place is dirty, dark, cold, vandalized or full of unpleasant noises, people won't stay in that place. Elements that can help people feel safe in a space are:

The presence of a variety of individuals and groups; the presence of women; the presence of some kind of law enforcement depending on the situation; busy places or streets nearby; good lighting; visibility for other people; safe areas for children to play

Elements that can make a place more comfortable are:

cleanliness and visible maintenance; lots of light, preferable sunlight; protection or screening (a barrier) from street traffic; comfortable furniture

People have to feel that the space was intended to use by them before they are going to use that space. Therefore it has to be a place that is easily accessible and people have to feel welcome when they get there. Some indications that a space is accessible and welcomes a wide variety of people are:

visibility and welcomes entrance; handicap accessibility; signs, plaques and statues; the ease in which the place can be reached; ease of entry and passage, it should be clear where to enter the space; rest rooms; all parts of the space should be accessible and usable. (P. Rabinowitz, 2015)

3.04 Case study: The Crystal Palace

A well-known example of a public interior is the Crystal Palace by Joseph Paxton. The building was built for the great exhibition of 1851. The exhibition was meant as a platform where people and companies from all over the world could show their products, industry and innovations. The Crystal palace's interior design makes it seem like it is not an interior but a normal exterior space.(M. Pimlott, 2007)

Queen Victoria made the following entry about the Crystal Palace in her journal: "The glimpse of that transept through the iron gates, waving palm, flowers, statues, myriads of people filling the galleries and seats around, with the flourish of trumpets as we entered, gave us a sensation which I can never forget, and I felt much moved... the sight as we came to the middle, with the beautiful crystal fountain just in front was so magical—so vast, so glorious, so touching—a day to live forever."(John Pile, 2005)

Therefore I chose this project as a case study to see what elements Paxton uses to make a living and working public space in extension to chapter 3.01 and 3.02



The Crystal Palace was a large public interior and which both sides people and the industry could show their products and innovation. It was in fact a large indoor street that formed this public interior.



The use of benches is also visible in this illustration of Paxton's design. This gave people a reason to stay longer at a place and enjoy the building or just watch people moving through the street.



Another element that can be found in the Crystal Palace that was made for the public were the large balconies from which the visitors had an overview what was going on in the street and people could stop for a minute to take everything in.



Paxton used plants and trees to show mankind's power over nature, but it also gives the visitors a feeling of walking in an exterior street rather than the feeling of being inside a building. I can also imagine that it gave people of more safe and natural feeling and that people would gather around this greenery.



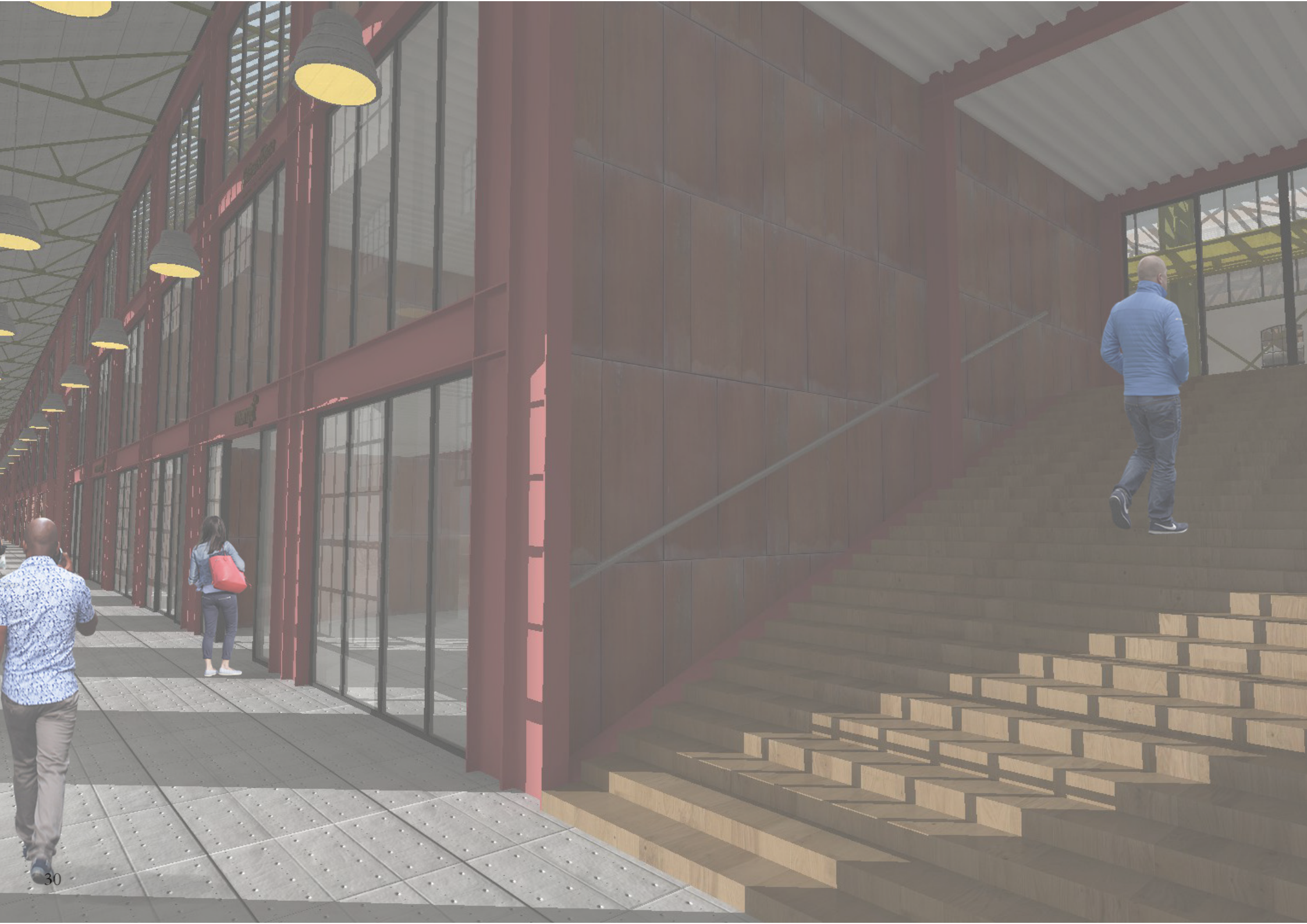
In the center of the building, at an intersection of two interior streets, is a large fountain. Together with the statues found in the building, this was probably done to impress people as we can see in the impression that Queen Victoria gives. These elements draw people towards it and gather people around it.

3.05 Conclusion

According to Lefebvre, the perception of space is an important factor of forming a social space. How do people perceive the space and feel about it? I agree with this and want to make the perception of the van Gendhallen, together with my new function of it an important factor in creating the space. The important factors for a public space to work are:

- 1: There has to be a reason to come to the space*
- 2: There has to be a reason to stay at the space*
- 3: People have to feel safe and comfortable at the space*
- 4: The space has to be accessible and welcoming for everyone.*

In the example of the Crystal palace this reason to come is the great exhibition and the architecture of the building. People stay at this place for shopping, but there are also benches where people can sit, balconies for people to overview the space and statues and fountains to gather around. These statues, the public character of the street and the greenery also provide a safe and welcoming feeling.



4. My design of the van Gendthallen as an case study

4.01 Translation to a (new) design

The focus point of my (re)design of the van Gendthallen is this community that existed in the van Gendthallen during the time of Werkspoor. I want to bring back that community feeling into the van Gendthallen. I will use the toolbox for this that I created with this research report together with my own interpretation and intuition of what a gathering place should be.

To create a community place, there is a need for people to go to that place. I chose to make the re-design of the van Gendthallen into a sport complex. The main reason for this is my personal fascination with sports and a healthy lifestyle. In my own experience I find that sports and sport events have a bonding effect with the people also participating in sports. I did some literature research on this topic but came to a conclusion that there is no connection between sport and social cohesion. Another reason why I chose a sport complex is because of the history that the van Gendthallen and Werkspoor have with sport. Werkspoor also used sport amongst other things to bond employees to their factory. A third reason why I used sports is because its attracts a variety of users. The whole neighborhood and part of the city can use the sport complex. They can use it to sport, to shop, to relax, to see friends or relatives sport or to check on their own wellbeing. This variety of users can create a new community within the van Gendthallen.

1.02 Sport facts Amsterdam

To give an impression of what kind of sports are the most popular sports in Amsterdam and what sports need additional space I did a quick stocktaking on the sport facts of Amsterdam:

67% of the inhabitants of Amsterdam are participating in sport at least once a month. Most of those are young people. Amsterdam inhabitants with a Dutch origin are more participating in sports than inhabitants with a non-western origin. The sport participation in Amsterdam Oost, Amsterdam Centrum and Amsterdam Zuid is the highest.

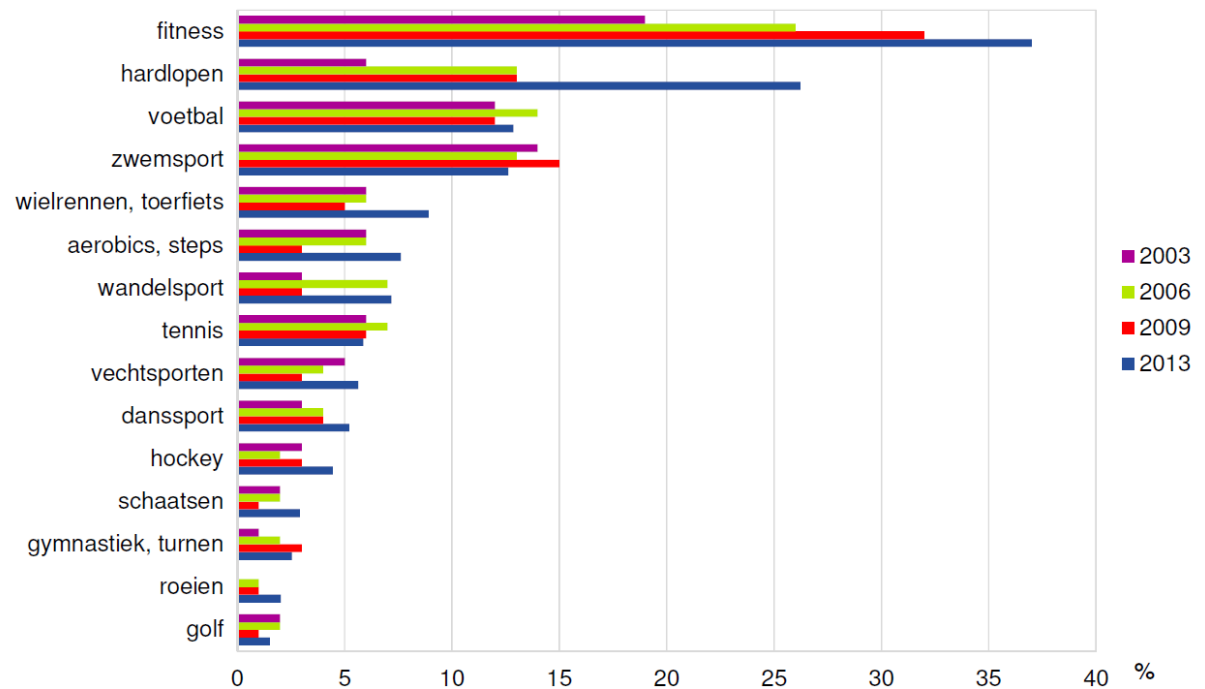
Fitness is the most popular sports amongst the inhabitants of Amsterdam. 37% of Amsterdam sporters participated in fitness. The second most popular sports is running with 26% of Amsterdams inhabitants participating in it. However, there has been a doubling in runners compared to 2009. Other popular sports in Amsterdam are swimming and soccer. Next to swimming and soccer, fightsports is a popular sport under young boys and dancing and gymnastics is popular under girls. (sportonderzoek 2013)

Running is a sport that is getting more and more popular. About four out of ten Dutch

people have a been running at some point in their life. The average distance they run is 6 km. The most important reason to start running is improving their condition, followed by common health and losing weight. 10% of the runners in the Netherlands indicate that waiting for a red traffic light is the most annoying thing during their workout.

motivated to keep on running (Panelwizard, 2015).

Figuur 1.10 Meest beoefende sporten, 2003-2013 (procenten van sportende bevolking)*



Another thing runners struggle with is keeping

The participation of individual sports has increased. People like to sport more individual or with friends. Also the number of members at the gym has increased relative to 2009. Sportspeople who join a sport club has decreased to 26% of Amsterdam inhabitants. Mostly young people still sport in a sport club. Adults until 55 years go more often to the gym and like to practice sports more individual.

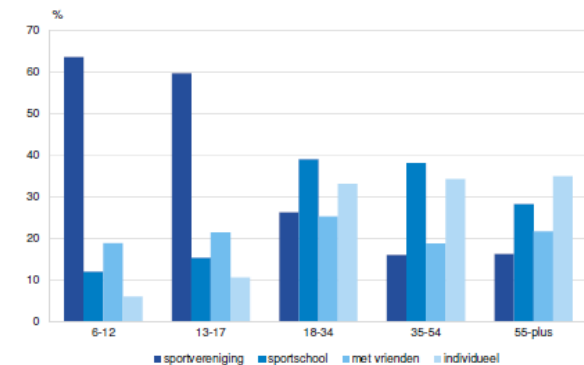
In 2013, 44% of the inhabitants of Amsterdam practiced their sports in their own living neighbourhood. Only 23% goes to another district to practice their sports. Inhabitant of Amsterdam Centrum, West and Zuid, practice sports more often in another district. Also are most of all sportsmen satisfied with the sport facilities in the city. In their own neighbourhood, 57% is satisfied with the facilities available. The facilities in the Center of Amsterdam could improve the most according to them.

The percentage of Amsterdam people that didn't participate in sports in 2013 was 28. The larger part of them have participated in the past. The group who have never participated in sports consists proportionally a lot of women, low-skilled and Turkish and Moroccan people. Reasons why people don't sport are lack of time, physical problems and

lack of interest or meaning to sport(see ill. xx). Most of people who don't mean to go work out are the elderly. The spirit to go participate in sports is the highest amongst the youth. Around half of the people who don't sport are meaning to participate(again).

About one out of ten of all inhabitants of Amsterdam contributes a volunteer is sports. Most of the volunteers are high-educated and of Dutch origin. Popular functions they occupy are referee, canteen staff and functions in the management of sport clubs. (Municipality of Amsterdam, 2013)

Figuur 2.3 Organisatieverband waarin gesport wordt naar leeftijdsgroep (meest beoefende sport), 2013



Tabel 2.23 Gebied, functie of werkzaamheden waarin men als vrijwilliger in de sport actief is, 2013 (procenten van de vrijwilligers van 13 jaar en ouder, meer antwoorden mogelijk)

trainer, coach, leider, lesgeven	42
scheidsrechter, grensrechter, lijnrechter of jury	22
bar- of kantinediensten	19
organisatie van wedstrijden of toernooien	17
organisatie van sociale activiteiten (bv. kamp, bingoavond, disco)	14
vervoer of andere ondersteunende werkzaamheden	13
bestuursfunctie	10
beheer / onderhoud / schoonmaak van materiaal of accommodatie	9
clubblad, nieuwsbrief, website	4
sponsoring	4
medische werkzaamheden (arts, fysiotherapeut, masseur)	2
anders	13
wæ t niet	2
totaal	100

4.03 Application of the tool box

So the tools to create a working social gathering space are:

1: There has to be a reason to come to the space

2: There has to be a reason to stay at the space

3: People have to feel safe and comfortable at the space

4: The space has to be accessible and welcoming for everyone.

What tools did i already use and what can i improve in my design?

(wordt nog aangevuld tijdens het ontwerp de komende weken)

Conclusions

Wordt nog aangevuld

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