

STUDIO
URBAN
ARCHITECTURE
—
EXPLORING
NIJMEGEN

2021-2022

reflection

Imkeliene Boersma _ 5114721

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Building Technology _ Mauro Parravicini
Research Plan _ Leeke Reinders

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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

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

urban living environment of Nijmegen

use of space
existing and new typologies
private-shared-public spaces

experiencing space

everyday - heterotopia

bordering space

public - private - in-between

balancing space

connections - divisions
privacy - safety



scene in Nijmegen center (photo I. Boersma)

research __ design design __ research

PERSPECTIVE

sociology / urban context typology / program / location

QUESTIONS

why / how what / where / for whom

FASCINATION

unknown > exploring > heterotopia > > densification and urbanization >
accelerated environment > resonance unaccessible market > left wing Nijmegen
> using space

RESEARCH

What is a heterotopian space?	What is the balance between private and public space in Dutch cities?
	What influence does densification have on architecture within a city like Nijmegen?
	Can heterotopian spaces and dwelling be combined?
	Can heterotopian spaces influence the densely built urban housing environment?

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REFLECTION



old situation Green Balcony Nijmegen

1 : 2 000 N ▲

relation between research and design.

Starting with only a topic and city required a lot of research from the start of the project. The freedom of choice in design project and research setup was both a blessing and a curse. It pushed the project in all different directions before coming to a clear goal. This caused a delay at start, trying to focus on a new city, a new design and a new research. But it also meant that research and design had to be kept close. While getting my research more to a focus, the setup for my design simultaneously became more clear. Both kept each other up-to-date during the process. By adding case studies, drawings and examples, my design kept growing, while new design ideas kept new research possibilities coming.

relation between graduation project/topic, studio topic, master programme Urban Architecture and the master track Architecture.

My topic focusses on an inextricable connection of different typologies as an urban living combination to see if this can influence the way we use our urban context and space, like the studio Urban Architecture focusses on the connection between individual/ collective buildings within the urban tissue.

The project does a proposition for densification within an urban context that feels suburban and has no urban qualities. It tries to find a balance between densification and the experience of space. How can we use city space not only for constructing every square meter, but also for living and meeting the city. A topic that, within the trends of urbanization and densification is very relevant.



new situation Green Balcony Nijmegen

1 : 2 000 N ▲

The design of this project focusses on the draw up of the renovation of existing social housing in combination with new construction in detail, something that answers to the master program AUBS. In this the sustainability in use and materiality is as important as the social sustainability.

relation between research method/approach and the scientific relevance of the work.

By framing heterotopia as an inspiration for the design, a thorough research of the topic was necessary. Not only by reading about the subject, but also by looking into existing examples of (possible) heterotopias. By comparing these and looking into their architectural relevance, a base was setup for the design. Visiting projects that show qualities I wanted to add to the project gave a perspective of residents to the project. It showed me the difference between intentions and actual use for example. Both literature, visits, interviews, drawings and trial and errors completed the broad base for the design.

relation between graduation project and wider social, professional and scientific framework.

My project uses urbanization, densification, individualism and collectivity together with space scarcity in urban areas as starting point. It tries to look at how we could live in an urban context where we not just use space for being and have to commute to our social life / work life, but where we use space for living as part of the engagement with that space.