

Reflection

Drawing architecture

Urban Architecture Graduation Studio

Ana Olivia Poenariu

Teachers

Eireen Schreurs

Sam Stalker

Anet Meijer

Chiara Pradel

Leeke Reinders

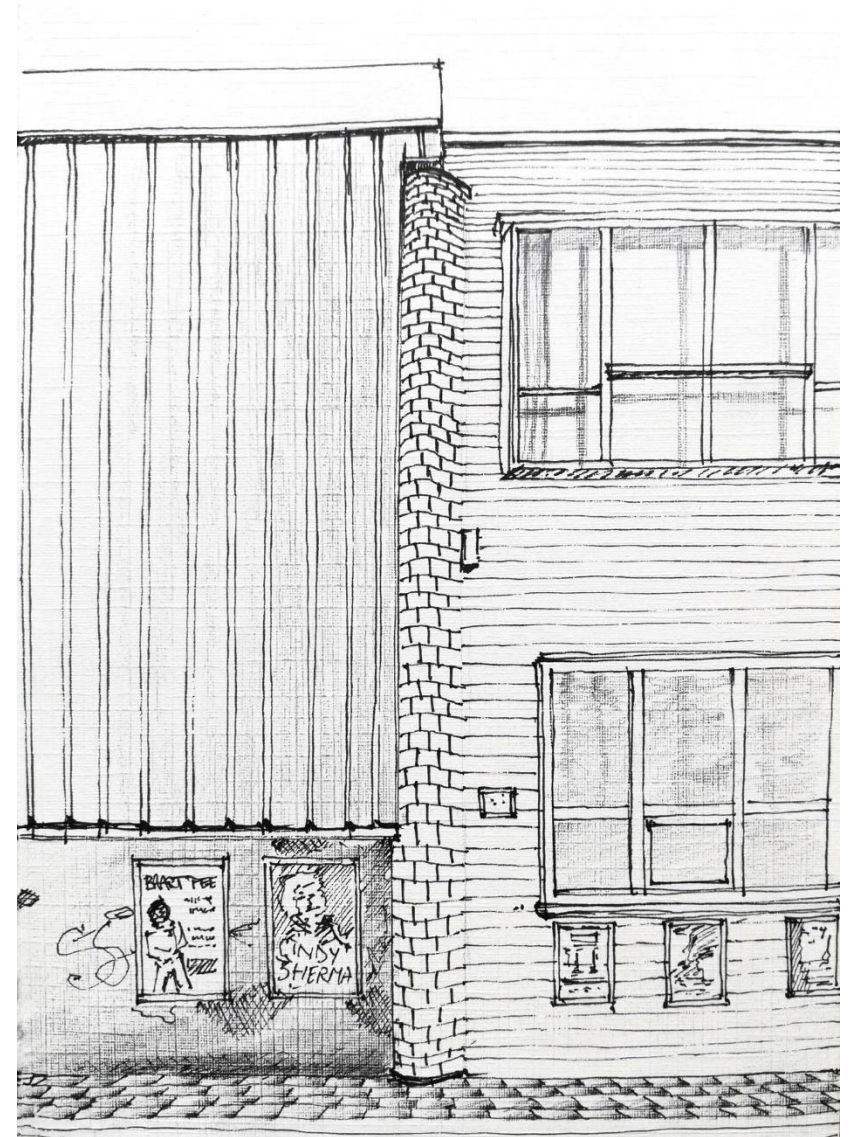
Elsbeth Ronner

Rosie van der Schans

Paul Vermeulen

Delft University of Technology

MSc3/4 Graduation Studio 2024-2025



Drawing of an industrial hall next to a house

INTRODUCTION

Within the Urban Architecture Graduation Studio, my project focuses on drawing architecture and on the transformation of an industrial site into a habitable space.

The site is located in Antwerp and is called 'Blikfabriek'. It used to be a can factory that has been abandoned in 2008. A few years ago, a community of artists took over some of the industrial halls and transformed the place into a vibrant spot. Some of the areas are used as atelier spaces, while others are used for exhibitions, cafes or social spaces.

During the first period of the graduation year, we discovered the stories of the artists through 'making do'. The whole site is an interpretation of how the materials can be reused in a useful way. With almost no means, they have built impressive ateliers that can serve them and their artwork.

I have taken inspiration in this approach and for my own project I took the challenge to reuse the complete existing steel structure. From the masterplan design, we tried to break the barriers between Blikfabriek and the rest of the neighborhood. We focused on three main aspects: urban farming, industrial heritage and water infrastructure.

The location that I chose to develop further in my design is a special place where multiple factors come into play. First, the design of the industrial halls is surprising as it takes over the existing houses of the neighbors. Secondly, it is the main location where the current community of artists has built most of the ateliers. For this reason, I chose to transform the place into a living and working area. By keeping the steel structure, I will create new houses and ateliers to encourage the interaction between the artists and the rest of the neighborhood.

METHOD

The main method that I used to conduct research is drawing.

Drawing architecture started with a desire to understand the physical environment of the project. The physical buildings, how they are made, how they are used and how they can be transformed. While the actual drawing has been incredibly useful and still the easiest medium to access, other mediums such as models and photographs have been used as well.

During the final presentation the explanation will not only be made through drawings, but also through a model that shows the physical representation of how the building changes through my design.

Drawing architecture should not be understood merely as a collection of beautiful drawings. It should be seen how I used drawing as a tool for analysis and design.



Photograph of the ateliers made by the community of artists

RELATION BETWEEN GRADUATION PROJECT AND MASTER TRACK

My graduation project has been very closely related to architecture. It started with an in-depth analysis on the urban scale, studying all the societal, material, and historical layers that influence the place. This study has strongly influenced the form and function of the architecture that I created. There are many aspects from Building Technology integrated into the design that enhance the architectural appearance. Overall, my project has been about studying very well the existing buildings and proposing a solution for reuse that incorporates housing and ateliers.

RESEARCH AND DESIGN

Since my main method is drawing architecture, it has a very direct relation on design. Not only did the research influence the design, but also the design influenced the types of drawings that I needed. The different techniques of drawing tell different stories, and since my project is about reuse, technical drawings have been incredibly useful in understanding the existing.

ACADEMIC AND SOCIETAL VALUE / TRANSFERABILITY OF PROJECT RESULTS

In a sustainable world, reuse of buildings should be more and more common. I think my project addresses an important challenge of how can one design houses using an existing steel structure. Looking back on it, it might have been a lot easier to design a public space that uses the big spans of the steel trusses instead of trying to break down the structure into a human scale neighborhood. However, from a societal perspective, there is an increasing need for housing and a lot of areas that are now abandoned factory halls. In that sense, I think my proposal shows the courage to address this issue.



Photograph of the exhibition space in Blikfabriek