



BETWEEN VIRTUAL AND REAL WORKSPACE 2050

Complex projects
Amsterdam 2050 Studio
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Personal research theme, method and approach in relation to the graduation studio



The Complex Projects studio methodology is different from the other studios. Unlike many this studio focuses on the wider analysis of the social, political, cultural and economic layers of the given context. Such approach helps to arrive at the well-researched conclusion in a logical way that in its turn helps to make a clear socially relevant design program.

Unlike previous years, the CP Spring 2017 studio focused on envisioning the future of Amsterdam in 2050. Such an unusual theme gave a profound ground for interesting speculation about the ways society will live in the future. For the better definitions of these ways the three seminar studios were organized to envision the three most important areas that define the future of society and the city – Energy, Mobility and Health.

The whole graduation studio was divided on the 2 main parts. MSc3 was dedicated to the group work and active research phase. At this level we as a group focused on the in-depth analysis of current conditions and the aspects that will affect the future in the chosen area of mobility, energy and health.

The second quarter of MSc3 was dedicated to the active research in the specific issue that was chosen by a student during the previous stage of general research. After the research and conclusions were drawn the next phase started - MSc4. At this stage the studio focuses on the realization of research through architectural design by translating the conclusions into the spatial dimension.

Relation between research and design



My personal research theme, method and approach were directly derived from the CP studio theme of envisioning future of 2050 and methodical approach. The project interested me the most is dedicated the question of the future of workspace and its role in 2050. It was partially inspired by not only by the futuristic idea of the ways people will work but also by the site Amsterdam Centraal that has is a flourishing ground for this topic.

Due to elaborate studies at the Msc3 I had a chance to explore in-depth the aspects that will affect the programmatic and typological changes of the office in 2050. At first I research the history of typology and which forces affected its change through time from the first appearance of typology to contemporary time. This helped to derive the elements of research that I need to investigate in order to arrive at the conclusions about the future changes. After that I collected information about these elements and draw a parallel to in relation to my typology.

These elements are the future workforce composition, technological changes and leisure orientation of society. Through my research I arrived at the conclusion that there maybe change in workforce towards freelance and remote work style allowing people to flexibly organize their work and leisure time. Moreover, the technologies will change from screens, laptops and phones to the immersive Virtual reality (VR) and Augmented reality (AR) devices that will be enhanced by the Artificial Intelligence (AI) allowing people to work much more productively, focusing on the creative non-repetitive work. In addition to this, people due to the development of Artificial Intelligence will also have more time for themselves and will dedicated equal amount of time for work as for rest.

Parallel to the research in the topic of workspace I research the aspects of workspace in relation to the Health Seminar. During this research I found out that the way workspaces programmatically organized

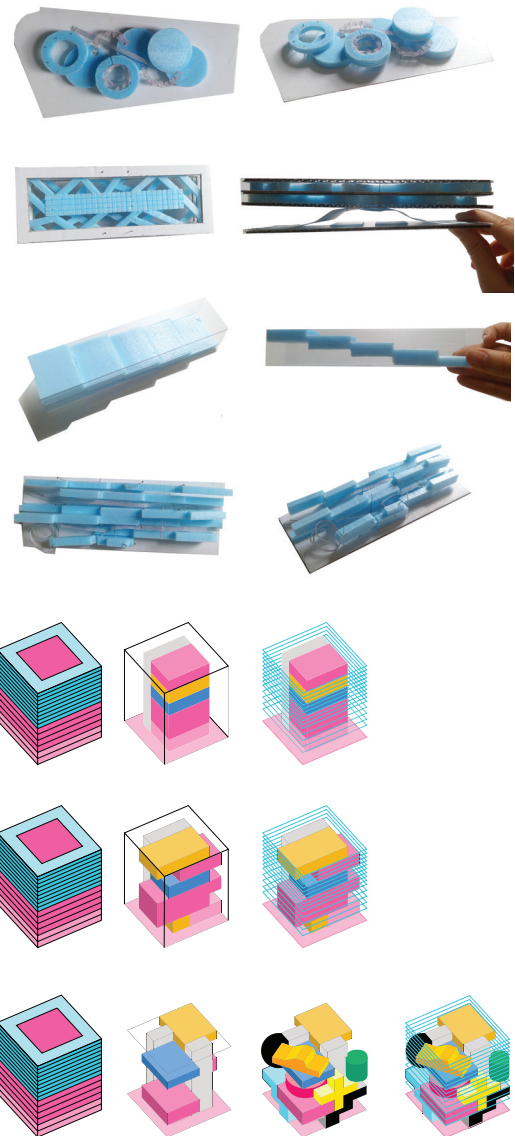
Relation between research and design

nowadays will change in the future due to the demand for more leisure that would promote communication at work and ensure social and psychological health.

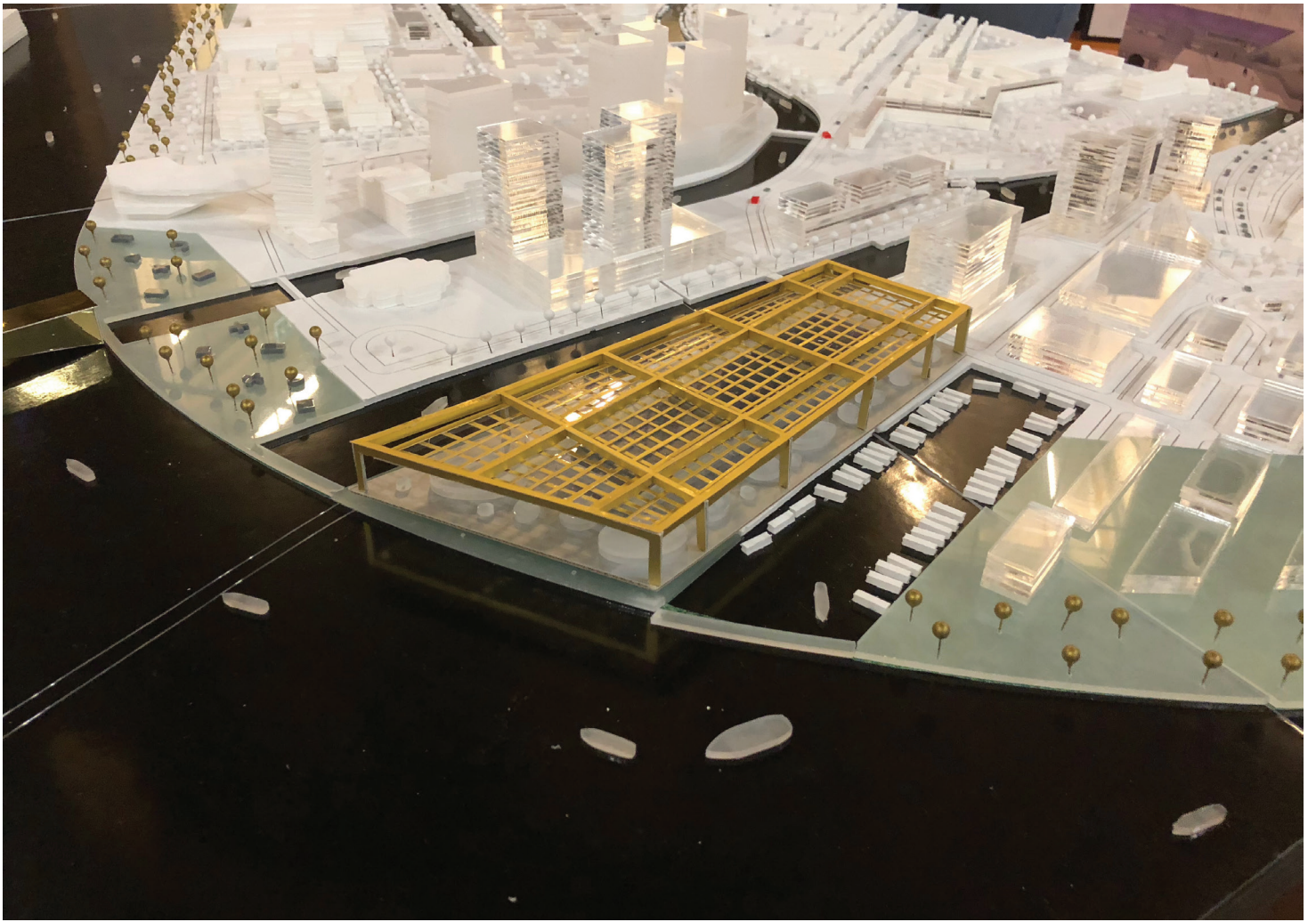
Moreover, not only the typological and programmatic research of the future was made but also the research on the urban and social scale. I found out that due to the current economic situation the offices witness vacancies of about 13% in The Netherlands. However, at the same time there is the huge demand for offices. This paradox interested me a lot and as a result of investigation I found out that the vacancies are mostly in noticed in the floor plans less than 5000 m² and the new huge demand is for the offices with big floor plans of more than 5000 m² and thus big density. This also was taken into consideration let me to conclude the in the future there as well will be a demand for the bigger floor areas taking into account the fact that also communication happens better when the volumes are horizontal rather than vertical.

In such a way I managed to have the conclusions about the program and the typological change of the chosen typology in 2050. Of course, since future is always obscure I had to use the method of speculation, meaning based on the research of the past, current reality and the future I tried to predict what may happen. Obviously, other ways of development of the typology are possible depending on different aspects such as the context, political and social changes.

The next phase was MSc4. After all the conclusions were made they had to found its representation in space. All the three aspects – workforce composition, technological changes and leisure-oriented society, urban scale and future health demands – were translated in the design concept. The workforce composition found its representation in space in the form of the space predominantly dedicated to



freelance and remote solitary working style. The urban scale helped to understand the the future is after horizontal development of typology. The technological changes from laptops to VR and AR defined the new proportions for work units and furniture, as well as the decreasing need for light, causing typological shift from perimeter and atrium organization of space towards its inversion. Moreover, the orientation towards leisure and seminar research on health at work helped me to conclude that leisure should be integral part of workspace to ensure psychological and physical health.





Issues and dilemmas

The opportunity to envision the future of the society and the city in 2050 was an alluring opportunity to engage imagination and critical thinking. However, the most difficult thing for me in research and design was to find the balance between realistic and imaginative aspects of the future, this border between what is probable and what is sci-fi scenario. Moreover, the hardest thing I this relation was to change the way of thinking from predetermined known solutions for the concept development and the spatial design into the new futuristic bold conceptual thinking. Another difficult aspect of the studio for me was the question of how to translate the topic of future into architecture as not only did the typology change but also the organisation of spaces, dimensions and furniture. So it was not possible to use existing determined Neufert schemes, bubble diagrams and dimensions but I also had to develop Neufert 2050 to really represent the future. Despite these difficulties I really enjoyed the process and hope to develop the project in the clearest and harmonic way.

Social and professional relevance

The research that I conducted covers wide range of aspects that affect the future. First and foremost it is positioned in the time and place of the future by speculative approach based in well-researched areas of the relevant to research social and economical changes that may happen in the future. Th research covers not only the future but also the past and contemporary realty. Such attitude helps to find arguments in the past and nowadays and make solid argumentation for the feasible future scenarios. Thus although the project is positioned in the 2050 Amsterdam space and time it will be relevant if the predicted changes come, as it is very scientific approach to be proactive in relation to the future.

Further steps of the project development

In the following development of my project I aim at correcting the project according to the remarks I will have received after P4 presentation. Moreover, I will create refined final representation of my project in the form of physical model and public presentation .