

REFLECTION ON THESIS PROJECT

PROJECT DATA

Studio : Architecture and Dwelling / Dutch Housing studio
P4 presentation : 21st May 2015

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External examiner : Philip Koppels

Title of the graduation project : The permeable residential block
Location : De Groenmarkt, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

DESCRIPTION OF THESIS PROJECT

The graduation project is to design Dutch Housing in the City of Amsterdam. The project site, the Groenmarkt contains a dynamic history and complex environment which I have to consider to design dwellings to enhance quality of private and collective life. In general, many modern city dwellings have clear division between public domain and private residential block. This circumstance which would make dwellers disconnected from community and make dwellers have low sense of belonging. I think my graduation project could enhance the quality of private and collective life in the city of Amsterdam, and could give a sense of community to the dwellers.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THEME OF THE GRADUATION LAB AND THE SUBJECT/ CASE STUDY CHOSEN BY THE STUDENT WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK (LOCATION/OBJECT)

My graduation studio is 'Architecture and Dwelling_Dutch Housing' which focuses on contemporary and future urban architecture on the scale of both the dwelling and the city. Students were asked to develop a research assignment which can support individual's design assignment. The theme of the research was determined by each team and we studied relevant literature and analyzed reference projects.

My theme research group found out from the study that there is a direct confrontation between the public and the private, of black and white distinction. In our contemporary life, the design of collective space is conceived of great importance because it could enhance the contact between dwellers who come from diverse backgrounds living in a more open society. We could see negative collective spaces which do not function at all. Although there is a collective housing with a 'grey' zone between the very public and the very private were being developed. It becomes harder and harder to sense of community between dwellers.

So our theme research group wanted to know as future architects what architectural intervention could help people feel at home in the city and how to improve more contact between dwellers to give sense of belonging.

Therefore our theme research question was

When do spatial elements enhance the contact between dwellers in collective housing in the city of Amsterdam?

and sub questions were

1. What spatial elements are related to contact making activities?
2. What composition of spatial elements make different types of contact according to different activities?

For theory study we choose several literature include Jan Gehl's books 'Cities for people', 'Life between buildings using public space', 'How To Study Public Life' and Susanne Komossa's book 'Atlas of the Dutch urban block'.

And for case study we choose 6 projects in Amsterdam according to the certain criteria

1. AMSTERDAM CASE STUDIES_The city of Amsterdam as study background
2. COLLECTIVE HOUSING_Multi storey housing complex which have collective zone for dwellers
3. SPATIAL ORGANIZATION
Different spatial organization of the dwelling projects so that contact happen in different zones
 - Contact within building
 - Contact between semi-public and private
 - Contact between building blocks
4. ELEMENTS FOR CONTACT
Various elements in the collective zone to enhance contact between dwellers

| Contact within building



Weesperstraat Student Housing (1959)
-Herman Hertzberger

| Contact between semi-public and private



Haarlemmer Houttuinen (1982)
-Herman Hertzberger

| Contact between building blocks



GWL Terrein (1998)
-KCAP,DKV, Neutelings Riedijk, Meyer & Van Schooten Atelier Zeinstra, van der Pol



Lootsbuurt (2007)
-ANA architecten



Pentagon (1983)
-Theo Bosch & Aldo van Eyck



De Stadstuinen (2008)
-Dp6 architectuurstudio

Fig.1 Case study buildings

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE METHODOICAL LINE OF APPROACH OF THE GRADUATION LAB AND THE METHOD CHOSEN BY THE STUDENT IN THIS FRAMEWORK

Spatial organization

We used axonometric drawing to analyse overall building block organization and put our focus on the collective space.

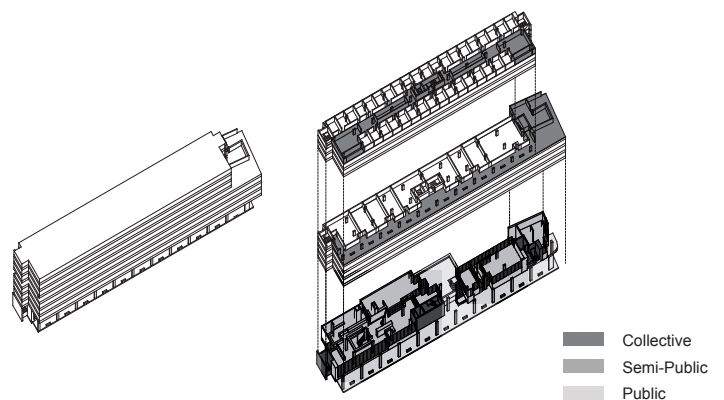


Fig.2 spatial organization
Student Housing _Weesperstraat 7-57, Amsterdam (1966)

Fragment selected

Fragments are selected where rich composition of elements enhance contact, or where there is negative collective space without contact.

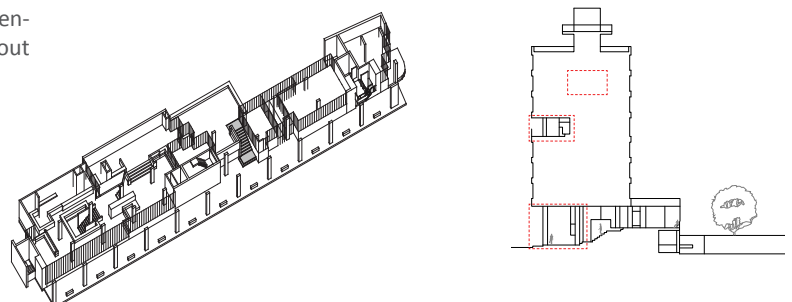


Fig.3 Ground floor axonometric drawing
Student Housing _Weesperstraat 7-57, Amsterdam (1966)

Element | Activity | Contact

We make architectural drawings for the fragments chosen as the background for analysis. First, we analyse elements according to the activity they indicate, which are sitting, standing and walking. Then, we draw different signs to make it clear what type of contact happen in the space.

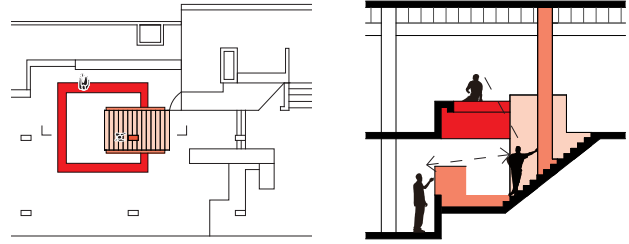
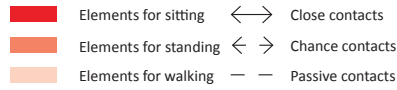


Fig.4 Walkway(section perspective), Stair (plan, section)
Student Housing _Weesperstraat 7-57, Amsterdam (1966)

Composition | Dimension | Material | Atmosphere

Deeper study upon each fragment in terms of composition, dimension, material and atmosphere, which reveals how the space really function due to elements composed together with their architectural qualities.

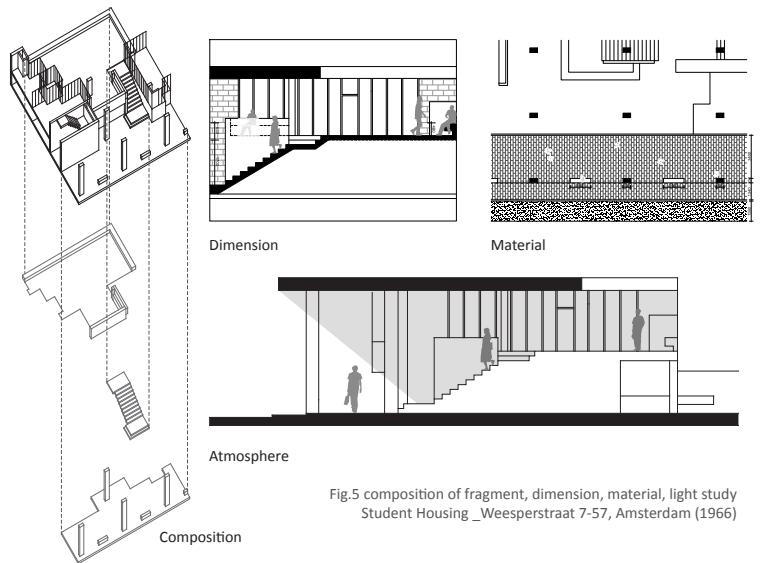


Fig.5 composition of fragment, dimension, material, light study
Student Housing _Weesperstraat 7-57, Amsterdam (1966)

Synthesis

We develop our synthesis for each case study based on the analysis process taken in two steps. We try to summarize from the architectural facts and derive diagrams directly linked to our sub-questions: what are the elements which make certain activity, and what composition of these elements which make different activities enhance contact.

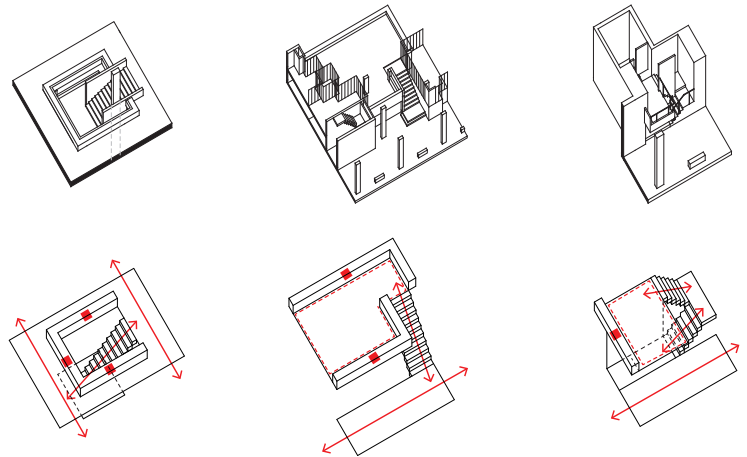
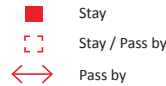


Fig.6 Contact making activities
Student Housing _Weesperstraat 7-57, Amsterdam (1966)

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND DESIGN

From the research our group made a diagram which can be used for individual design assignment. As shown below, spatial elements support different activities, which can be divided to activity of staying and passing by. Different composition of the elements make different composition of these activities, which in turn make different types of contact. When various activity happen because of the rich composition, the contact between dwellers can be enhanced.

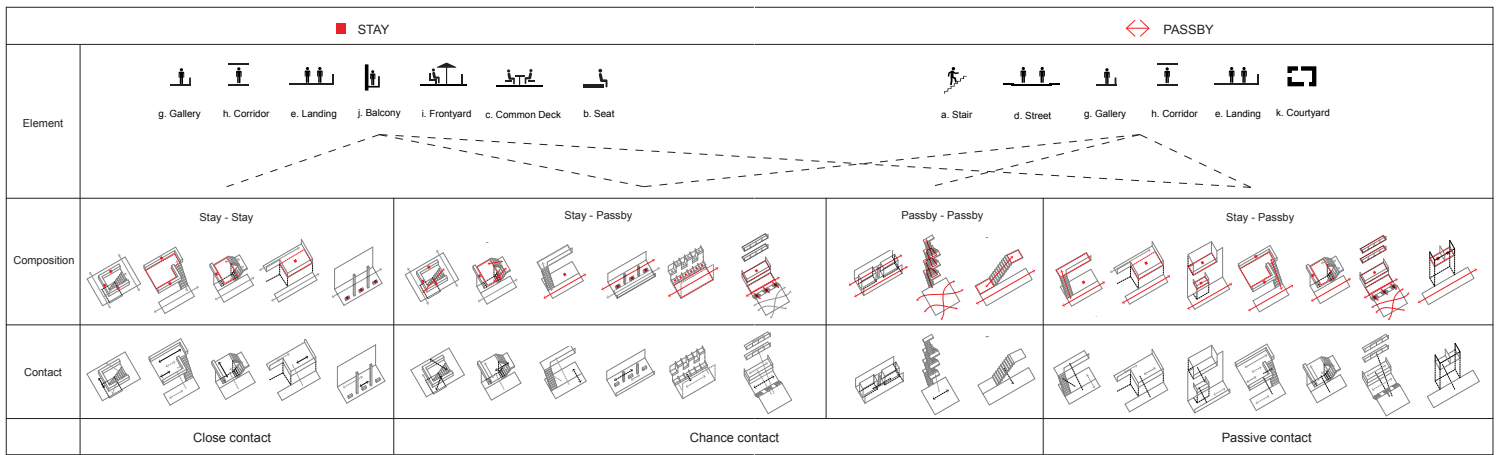


Fig.7 elements, composition, contact diagram

For my individual design assignment I used above diagram to make more contact between dwellers. As our group conclude in composition part, different range of contacts happen between dwellers depends on how the elements are composed. The horizontal composition of elements make close contact but it only happen when people are in a short distance. The vertical composition of elements give more passive contact. It is same as the eye contact which help people aware of each other and can be developed to a chance contact. Therefore the combination of this horizontal and vertical composition of elements can enhance contact.

ELEMENTS, COMPOSITION, ACTIVITY, CONTACT

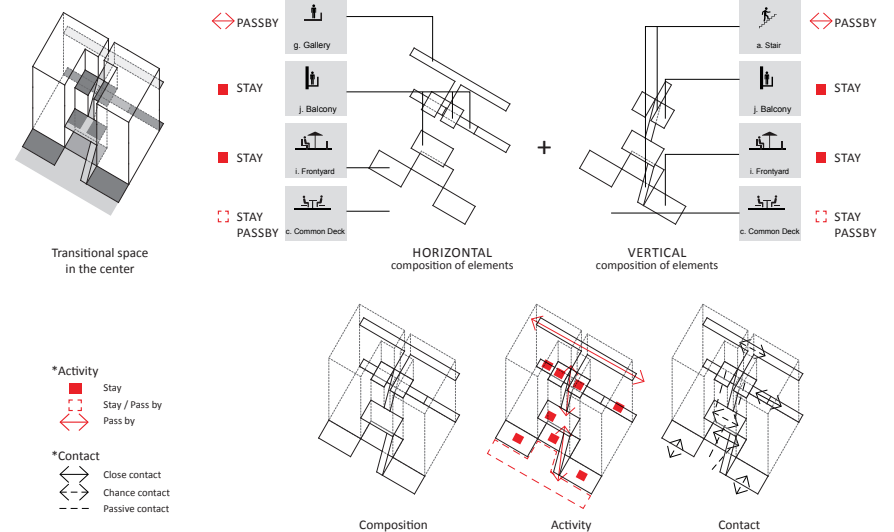


Fig.8 Theme research application, family+elderly dwelling

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROJECT AND THE WIDER SOCIAL CONTEXT

Contemporary urban dwellings show low sense of belonging between dwellers because of the clear division between public domain and private residential block. This situation made it impossible for communication between public and private and made it difficult to communicate between dwellers as well. Because of a higher request for privacy, dwellers do not communicate each other and privatized collective space within a block does not function since no one takes responsibility. Therefore I used combination of horizontal and vertical composition of elements which I found from the theme research to support encounters between dwellers. I think this encounters can make better residential organization which can give sense of community between dwellers. In addition, I used concept of 'transition' not only urban scale but also dwelling scale, to achieve high sense of belonging and high quality of private and collective life. Since Jan Gehl mentioned from his book that communal space and hierarchically organized space, like private, semiprivate, semipublic and public space give sense of belonging and this belonging can give responsibility.

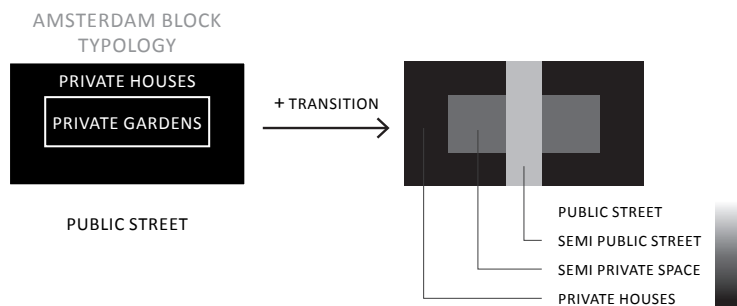


Fig.9 Urban concept_transition

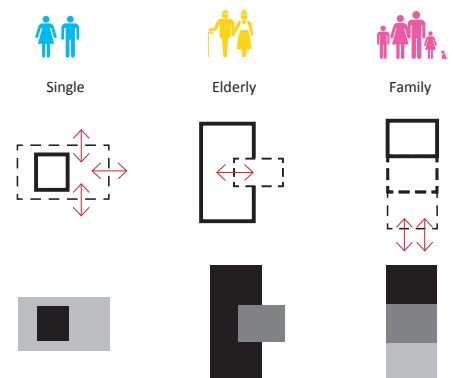


Fig.10 Dwelling concept_transition