



Challenges & opportunities to reuse of tall office buildings

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Overview

- Research foundation
- Theoretical findings literature study
- Methodology
- Empirical findings case studies
 - Lessons learned
 - Comparison
 - Results
- Conclusion, discussion and recommendations

Research proposal

Problem statement

- Vacancy:
 - bad city image
 - waste of space
- Housing shortage:
 - high demand
 - especially in the Randstad
- Adaptive reuse:
 - challenges and possibilities

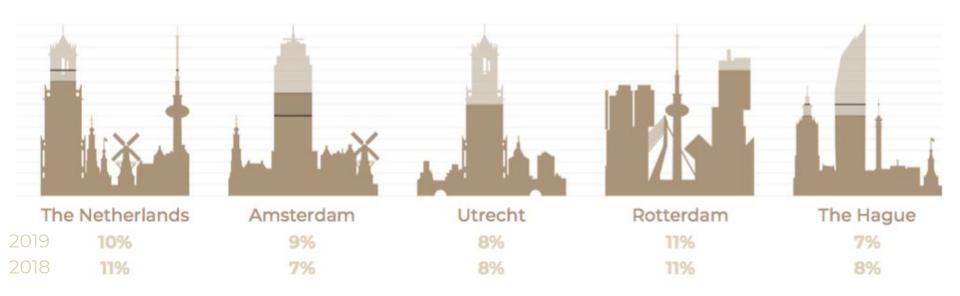
Tall buildings: challenges to conversion



Vacancy definition

- Vacant building
 - = currently no tenant
- Structurally vacant building
 - = no tenant for at least the past three years
 - = no future tenant prospective

Vacancy rates



Numbers - reflection

Amsterdam	Utrecht	Rotterdam	The Hague
Schiphol	Stichtse Vecht	Schiedam	Zoetermeer
Diemen	Houten	Capelle a/d IJssel	Rijswijk
Amstelveen	Nieuwegein	Nieuwegein	Leidschendam / Voorburg

Available dwellings

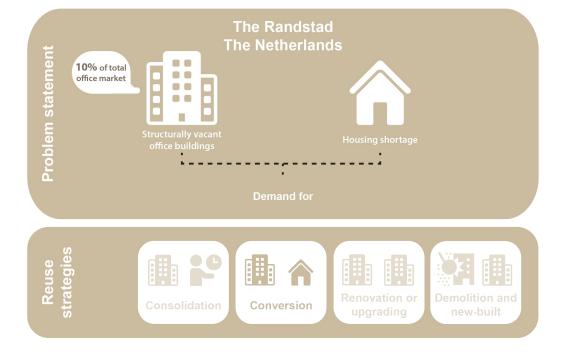
Average	- 8,0 % The Netherlands	- 19,1 % Amsterdam	- 18,2 % Utrecht	- 11,4 % Rotterdam	- 9,7 % The Netherlands
Jan 2016	130.000	2.400	1.100	3.600	2.800
Jul 2016	150.000	2.900	1.400	4.600	3.500
Jan 2015	180.000	3.700	2.300	5.900	4.300
Jul 2015	180.000	4.300	2.400	6.200	4.400
Jan 2014	200.000	5.200	2.900	7.000	5.000
Jul 2014	200.000	7.000	3.200	6.800	4.800
Jan 2015 Jul 2015 Jan 2014	180.000 180.000 200.000	3.700 4.300 5.200	2.300 2.400 2.900	5.900 6.200 7.000	4.300 4.400 5.000

Available dwellings

The Netherlands: (2019)

-35%













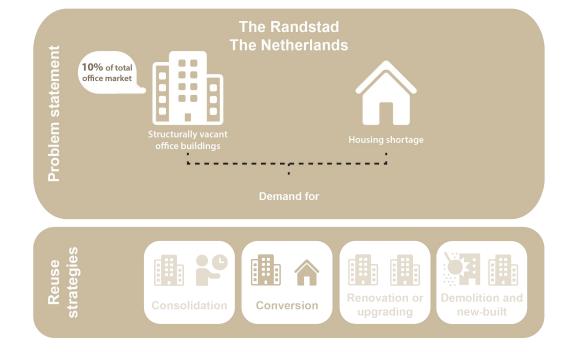


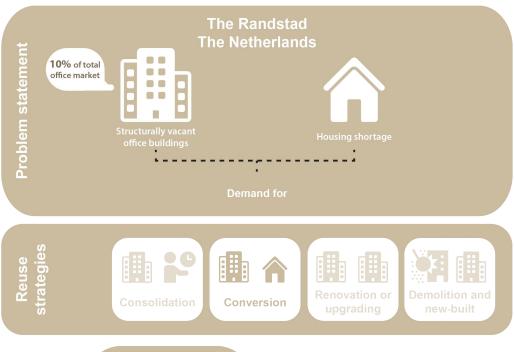




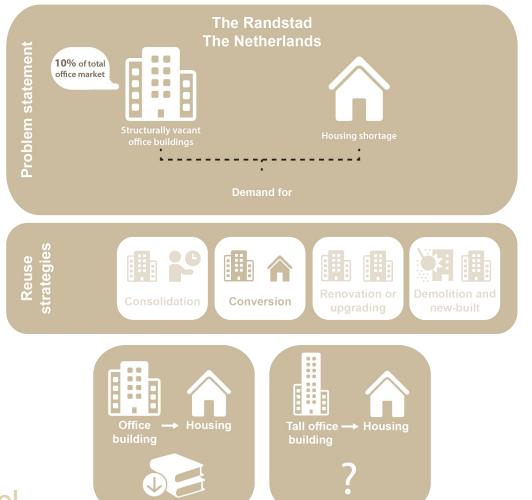












Tall building definition



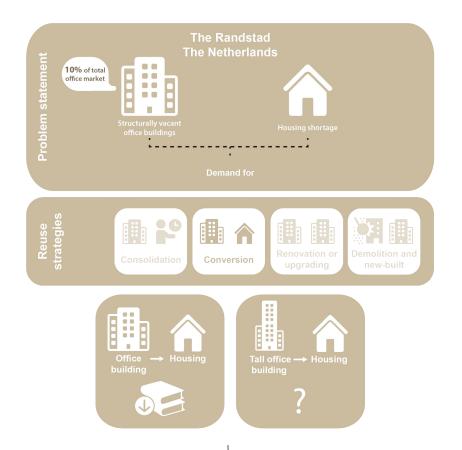
- Scale
- Density
- Surrounding area
- Legal

Top skylines

Top 10 skylines in the world		Top 10 skylines in Europe	
City	Buildings > 90 m	City	Buildings > 90 m
1. Hong Kong	2.939	1. Paris	112
2. New York	849	2. London	49
3. Tokyo	572	3. Frankfurt	38
4. Shanghai	549	4. Benidorm	35
5. Bangkok	382	5. Rotterdam	29
6. Chicago	321	6. Brussels	22
7. Singapore	296	7. Warchau	21
8. Sao Paulo	281	8. Vienna	20
9. Seoul	273	9. Warsaw	17
10. Dubai	268	10. Berlin	15

Tall building definition

Location	Aboslute Height	Contextual height	Limit	Remarks
The Netherlands	> 70m			
Amsterdam	> 30m	2x height	80 -100m / 60 - 80m / 40 - 60m	Limits due to air traffic around Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam is within three different height limit zones.
Utrecht	>30m	1,5x height	112m	Norm: not higher than the Dom, a landmark in Utrecht
Rotterdam	> 70m		200m	Limit can increase as city grows and densifies
The Hague	> 50m			Till 2017 there was a height limit of 140m



Comparison

Main research question

What are the **challenges** and respective **solutions** for the **conversion** of **vacant tall office buildings** into **housing** in the **Netherlands**?

Research questions

Part I

Research - Theory



Research questions - Part I

- 1. What defines an **office** and what are the current **office sub-markets** in Amsterdam, Rotterdam & The Hague?
- 2. What are the causes and effects of **structural vacancy**?
- 3. What are the **challenges** of the conversion of office buildings to housing on **economical**, **legal**, **technical** and **social** level?
- 4. What are **possible solutions** to cope with the challenges of conversion of office buildings to housing?

Research questions

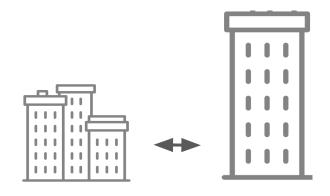
Part I

Research - Theory



Part II

Case study - Cases/Practice



Research questions - Part II

5. What are the differences in challenges and possible solutions of the conversion of tall office buildings to housing on economical, legal, technical and social level?

Relevance

Scientific relevance:

- follows up research regarding conversion from offices to housing
- hypotheses: tall building transformations can have different challenges and possible solutions

Social relevance:

- challenges → more attractive to re-develop
- create more safe and livable environment

Literature study

Literature study

Overview:

- Office buildings and environments
- High-rise and urban setting
- Dutch Building Code
- Structural vacancy
- Conversion

Office buildings

Office Plans Type of lay-out











Office Space
Type of study

Coworking space

Executive suites

Contiguous office

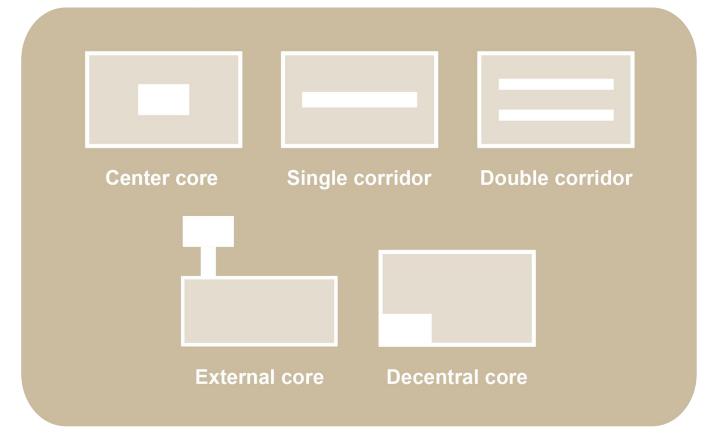
Traditional office space

Traditional office space

Coworking space

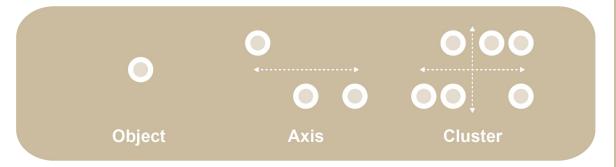
Creative office

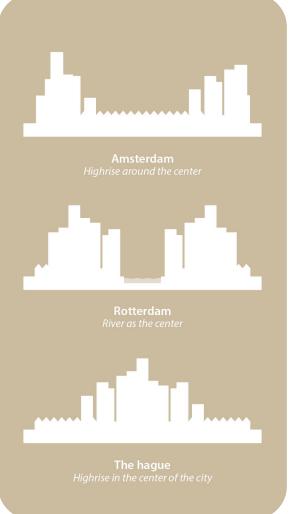
Office buildings



High-rise and urban setting

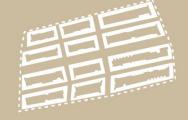
- Different highrise profiles
- Different highrise concentrations

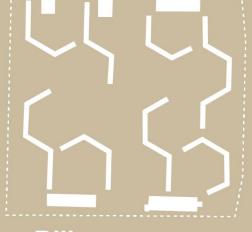




Highrise and urban setting







Zuidas

Footprint - 2,7 ha. Area - 10,0 ha. FSI - 4,0

De Pijp

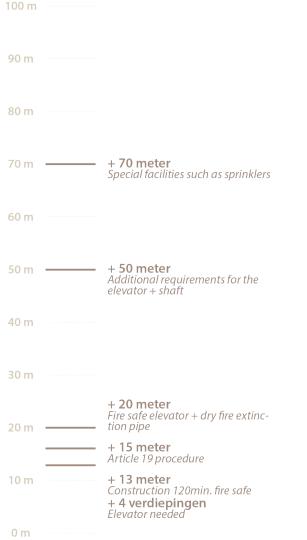
Footprint - 6,0 ha. Area - 15,3 ha. FSI - 1.8

Bijlmermeer

Footprint - 7,8 ha. Area - 67 ha. FSI - 1,1

Dutch Building Code

- Additional requirements
 - Fire safety
 - Escape routes



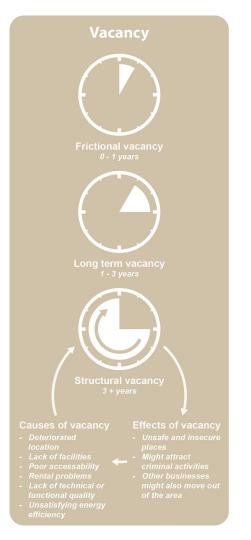
< 1 year vacant



1-3 years vacancy



> 3 years vacancy



Theoretical framework



- Lengthy permit procedures
- Dutch building code:
 - extra safety measures
- Change in zoning plan needed



- Lengthy permit procedures
- Dutch building code:
 - extra safety measures
- Change in zoning plan needed



- Development
- Lack of profit
- Interruption in income stream



- Lengthy permit procedures
- Dutch building code:
 - extra safety measures
- Change in zoning plan needed



- Development
- Lack of profi
- Interruption in income stream



- Poor main structure or foundation
- Insufficient shafts available
- Inadequate thermal and acoustic insulation
- Insufficient daylight for housing



- Lengthy permit procedures
- Change in zoning plan needed



- Development



- Poor main structure or foundation
- Insufficient shafts available



- Owners sometimes need conversion



- Initiative and/or collaboration of/with municipalities
- Dutch building code
 - Existing building measures



- Initiative and/or collaboration of/with municipalities
- Dutch building code.
 - Existing building measures



- Increase profit
- Boost area
 - Transformations
 - Facilities



- Initiative and/or collaboration of/with municipalities
- Dutch building code.
 - Existing building measures



- Increase profit
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- Over-dimensioned existing structure
- Columns structure



- Initiative and/or collaboration of/with municipalities
- Dutch building code.
 - Existing building measures



- Increase profit
- Boost area
 - Transformations
 - Facilities



- Over-dimensioned existing structure
- Columns structure



- Socia
- Area development
- Housing environment
- Sustainability

	Location and Market aspects
Legal	
Financial	
Technical	
Functional / Architectonic	

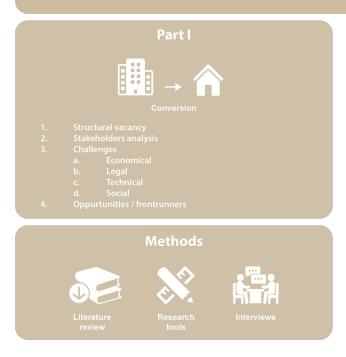
	Building aspects
Legal	- Presence of asbestos - Monumental status - Dutch building decree, including fire regulation - Municipal building act
Financial	
Technical	- Incorrect technical assessment - Inadequate pipes, ducts, electricity system and water supply - Inadequate acoustic insulation of the floors - Inadequate thermal insulation of facade, openings and roof - Damp / condensation in structure - Joints of brick walls in poor condition - Daylight < 10% of the appointed living-space - Sunlight; building is poorly situated - Inadequate / poor state of main structure or foundation
Functional / Architectonic	

	List of possible challenges in transformation projects
Economic	- Acquirement / purchasing costs - Financial feasibility - Housing market and revenues of new function - Initial phase investments
Legal	- Dutch building decree - Land ownership - Monumental status - Municipal building act - Presence of asbestos - Soil pollution - Zoning law
Technical	Building too slender, too high floors Condensation in structure Daylight < 10% of the appointed living space Inadequate acoustic insulations Inadequate pipes, ducts, electricity system and water supply Inadequate technical assessment Inadequate thermal insulations Joints of brick walls in bad condition No balconies or roof terraces No basement Noise pollution Not enough elevators and staircases Poor state of main structure Poor quality of interior walls, few points for attaching interior walls to the facade Stench pollution Sunlight Too loose fit, too high floors Windows not operable
Social	 Accessability by public transport Amount of facilities Amount of parking spaces Bad reputation, unsafe area Low recognisability of the building and entrance Routing of the area

Methodology

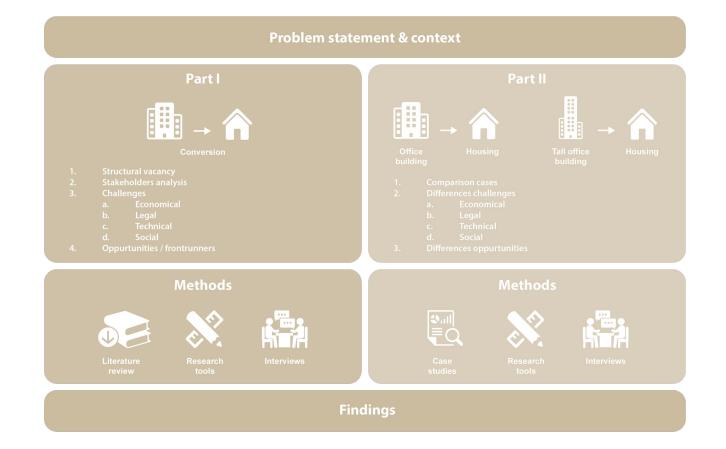
Problem statement & context

Problem statement & context





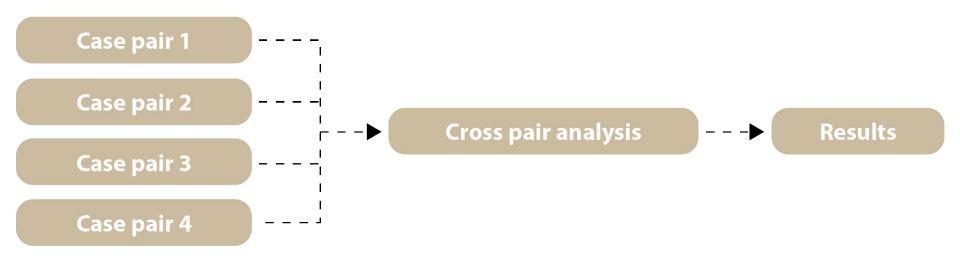








Case study in pairs





Interviews & data

Municipality Contractor Developer Architect

Challenges & opportunities









Case & pair analysis



Comparison
perspectives on
challenges & opportunities

Case study method

Comparing criteria:

- location
- history
- vacancy
- stakeholders & contracts
- construction method
- former office typologies
- challenges (legal, economic, technical, social)
- opportunities & solutions used

Case study selection - Sampling method

Criteria to the pairs of cases are;

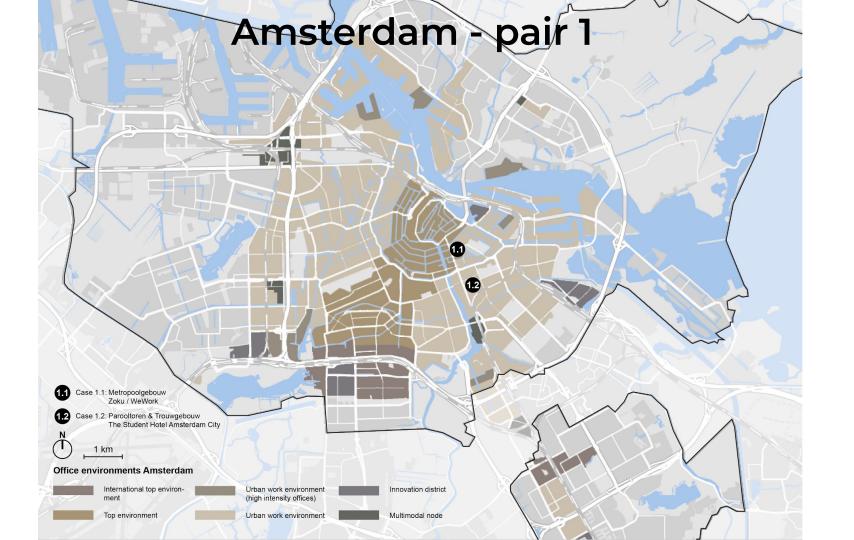
- 1. cases inside the Randstad area;
- situated in the same type of office submarket;
- the same main supportive structure;
- 4. changed from offices to the functions: housing, hotel or a mixed-use that includes either.

Case study selection - Sampling method

Prefered cases:

- that have been built and transformed in the same time span (or same decade);
- 2. that have been structurally vacant.

Case studies



Case 1.1

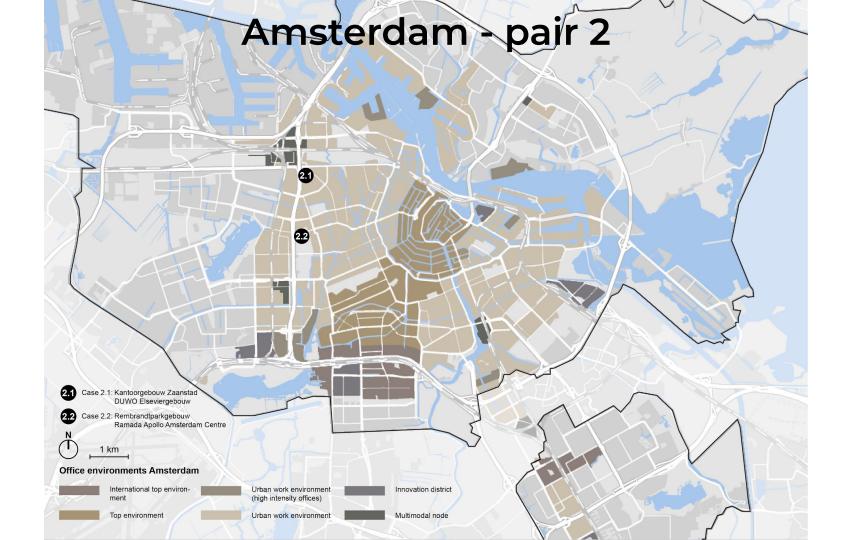
Metropoolgebouw (1964) - Zoku / We Work (2016)



Case 1.2

Parooltoren (1976) & Trouwgebouw (1969) - The Student Hotel Amsterdam City (2015/2016)





Case 2.1

Kantoorgebouw Zaanstad / Elseviergebouw (1964) - DUWO Elseviergebouw (2015)

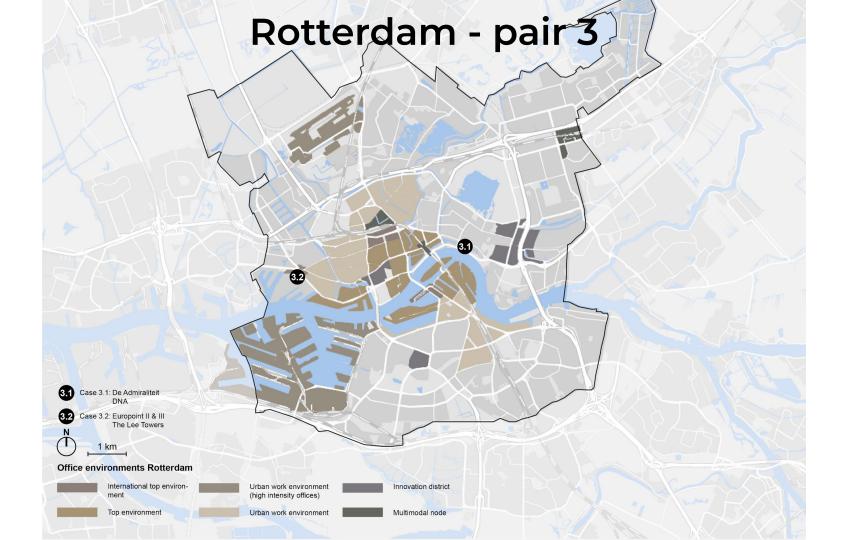


Case 2.2

Rembrandtparkgebouw (1973) - Ramada Apollo Amsterdam Centre / Leonardo Hotel Amsterdam Rembrandtpark (2012)



0/



Case 3.1

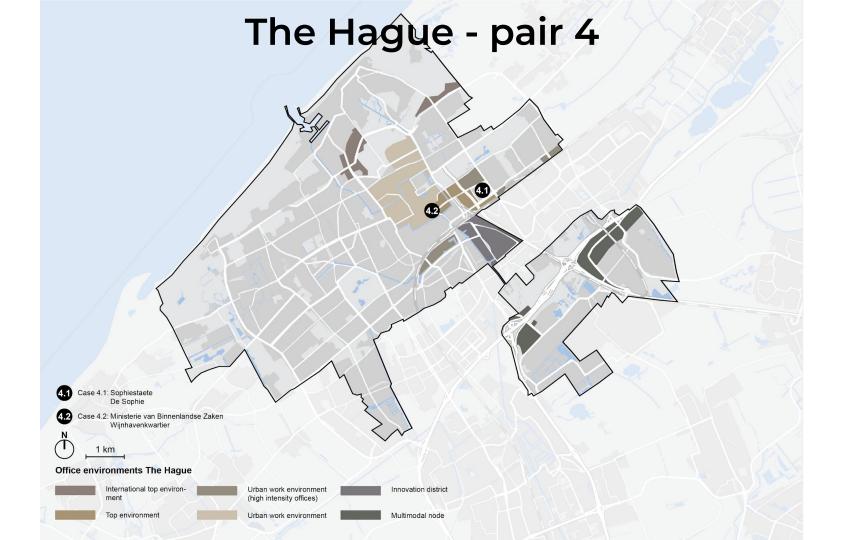
De Admiraliteit (1989) - De Nieuwe Admiraliteit / DNA (2016)



Case 3.2

Europoint complex / De Marconitorens (1975) - The Lee Towers (2019)





Case 4.1

Sophiestaete (1981) - De Sophie (2019)



Case 4.2

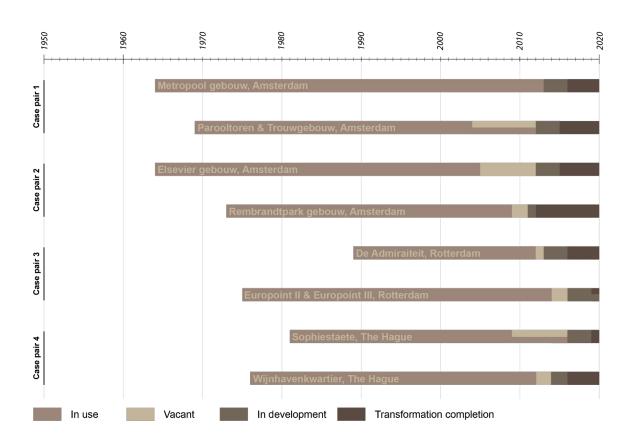
Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken (1975) - Wijnhavenkwartier (2016)



Overview cases

	Case stu	dy pair 1	Case stu	dy pair 2	Case stu	dy pair 3	Case stu	dy pair 4	
Original building name	Metropool gebouw (1964)	Parooltoren (1976) & Trouwgebouw (1969)	Kantoorgebouw Zaanstad / Elsevier gebouw (1964)	Rembrandtpark gebouw (1973)	De Admiraliteit (1989)	Europoint II & III (Marconitorens) (1969)	Sophiestaete 120-130 (1981)	Ministerie Binnen- landse Zaken (1973)	
Vacancy	<1 year		9 year	<1 year / 2 years	1 year	3 years		2 years	
Location	11. De Omval	11. De Omval	1. Teleport / Sloterdijk	1. Teleport / Sloterdijk / 2. Westas	2. Center	4. Marconiplein / M4H	11. Bezuidenhout / Beatrixkwartier	1. CBD / Nieuw Centrum	
Address	Weesperstraat 61-105, Amsterdam	Wibautstraat 129, Amsterdam	Krelis Louwenstraat, Amsterdam	Staalmeesterslaan 410, Amsterdam	Admiraliteitskade 40-60, Rotterdam	Galvanistraat 15, Rotterdam	Koningin Sophi- estraat 120-130, Den Haag	Turfhaven, Den Haag	
Aver. office rent locat. (m2/year)	11.€250-400	11. €250-400	1. €100-210	1. €100-210 / 2. €95-195	2. €120-225	4.€100-125	11.€135-210	1. €145-195	
Cur. office rent Street (m2/year)	Weesperstraat 61: €350 / Weesper- straat 105A: €250		Bos en Lommer- plein 303: €170		Admiraliteitskade 62-73 : €175				
Transformed building	Zoku / WeWork (2016)	The Student Hotel Amsterdam City (2015)	DUWO Elsevier (2015)	Ramada Apollo Amsterdam Centre (2012)	De Nieuwe Admi- raliteit (2016)	The Lee Towers (in development)	De Sophie (2019)	Wijnhavenkwartier (2016)	
New function	Mixed-use	Mixed-use	Housing	Housing	Housing	Mixed-use	Housing	Mixed-use	
Main construction	Concrete columns, beams and thin floors	Concrete	Concrete columns and floors	Concrete	Concrete columns and wide slab floors	Concrete	Concrete	Concrete	
Height			47m	55m & 29m	50m		26m		
Developer	Breevast	Boelens de Gruyter / The Student Hotel	Rochdale Projec- tontwikkeling			Local	Heijmans Vastgoed B.V.		
Contractor	Kondor Wessels Amsterdam	Heijmans Amersfoort	Bouwbedrijf M.J. De Nijs en Zonen	BAM Utiliteitsbouw	ABB Bouwgroep	Konder Wessels Amsterdam Trebb		Heijmans Woning- bouw B.V.	
Architect	Mulderblauw Architecten	Penta Architecten Harlingen	Knevel Architecten	ZZDP Architecten	Klunder Architecten	Dieren Dirrix	Atelier Pro	Geurst & Schulze Architecten	

Timeline cases



Example outcomes (case 2.1 - Elseviergebouw)

	Opportunities			
Economic	Legal			
Design choicesAsbestos	 Monumental status Design choices District heating 	 District heating Deteriorating existing structure 	- Local opposition	 Reuse existing materials Building orientation Lay-out Dimensions Elevator & escape route capacity Lean planning Repetition of floors Informed locals Urban setting benefit

Comparison types of cases

- amount of cases
- similarities & differences
- example: technical challenges + fire safety

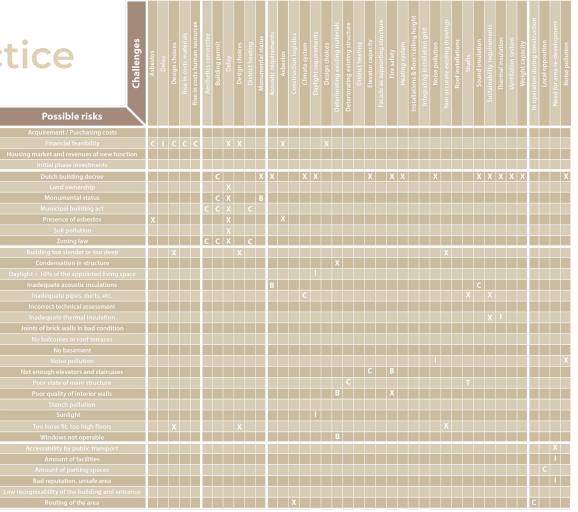
Challenges during the transformation of tall office buildings								
	nr.	Challenge	1.2	2.2	3.2	4.2		
U	01	Asbestos						
Ē								
2	03	Design choices						
Economic	04							
ш	05	Rise in costs human resources						
	06	Aesthetics committee						
	07	Building permit						
<u></u>								
Legal	09							
ت								
	11	Monumental status	Х					
	12	Acoustic requirements	Х					
	13	Asbestos						
	14							
	15	Climate system						
	16							
	17		Х					
	18							
	19							
	20							
<u></u>	21							
Technical	22							
e C	23	Fire safety	Х	X				
F	24							
	25	Installations & floor/ceiling height				Х		
	26							
	27			Х				
	28							
	29	Roof installations				Х		
	30							
	31							
	32							
	33	Thermal insulation	Х					
	34							
	35	Weight capacity			Х	Х		
	36							
<u>.e</u>	37							
Social	38		Х			77		
-01	39	Noise pollution			Х			

Comparison types of cases

- amount of cases
- similarities & differences
- example: fire safety

Challenges during the transformation of office buildings									
	nr.	Challenge	Control case	Case of interest					
U	01	Asbestos	1						
Economic	02								
<u>ē</u>	03	Design choices	1						
8	04								
ш	05	Rise in costs human resources	1						
	06	Aesthetics committee	1						
	07	Building permit	1						
<u></u>	08								
Legal	09	Design choices	1						
ت	10								
	11	Monumental status	1						
	12	Acoustic requirements	1						
	13	Asbestos	1						
	15	Climate system	1						
	17	Design choices							
	19	Deteriorating existing structure	1						
_									
Technica l	21	Elevator capacity	1						
٦									
	23	Fire safety	1						
F									
	25	Installations & floor/ceiling height							
	27	Noise pollution							
	28	Non-accurate existing drawings							
	29	Roof installations							
	30	Shafts							
	31	Sound insulation	1						
			1						
	33	Thermal insulation							
	34	Ventilation system	1						
	35	Weight capacity	1						
	36	In operation during construction	1						
ia	37	Local opposition	2						
Social	38	Need for area re-development		1 78					
v	39	Noise pollution		1					

Comparison theory + practice



Comparison theory + practice

I = case of interest (tall)

C = control case (non-tall)

B = both types

X = not related/ mentioned in case, but could have been related

n-tall) ฮ์				De		Rise in cos	Aesthe	Bui		De	Dis	Monu	,v
nr.	Possible risks												l
А	Acquirement / Purchasing costs												
В	Financial feasibility	C	I	C	C	C			Х	X			
C	Housing market and revenues of new function												
D	Initial phase investments												
E	Dutch building decree							C				X	
F	Land ownership												
G	Monumental status							C	X			В	
Н	Municipal building act						C	C	Х		C		
I.	Presence of asbestos	X							X				
J	Soil pollution								Х				
K	Zoning law						C	C	X		C		
	Building too slender or too deep			X						X			

Conclusion, discussion & recommendations

Conclusion

Main challenges

- not necessarily new or other challenges
- some challenges occurred more/less often in tall cases
- technical level
- higher impact on tall buildings

List of possible challenges						
	nr	Possible challenges				
Economic	01	Acquirement / Purchasing costs				
	02	Financial feasibility				
	03	Housing market and revenues of new function				
	04	Initial phase investment				
	05	Unforeseen aspects causing delay				
	06	Dutch building decree				
	07	Land ownership				
	08	Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management				
_	09	Monumental status				
eg	10	Municipal building act				
	-11	Presence of asbestos				
	12	Soil pollution				
	13	Unforeseen aspects causing delay				
	14	Zoning law				
	15	Building climate system (including heating & ventilation)				
	16	Building too slender or too deep				
	17	Condensation in structure				
	18	Connection to district heating system				
	19	Daylight < 10% of the appointed living space				
	20	Inadequate pipes, ducts, etc.				
	21	Incorrect technical assessment				
	22	Inadequate thermal insulation				
e	23	Joints of brick walls in bad condition				
Ĭ	24	No balconies of roof terraces				
Technical	25	No basement				
ř	26	Noise pollution				
	27	Not enough elevators and staircases				
	28	Poor state of main structure				
	29	Poor quality of interior walls				
	30	Stench pollution				
	31	Sunlight				
	32	Too loose fit, too high floors				
	33	Type of main supporting structure				
	34	Windows not operable				
	35	In operation during construction				
cia	36	Local opposition				
So	37	Need for area re-development				

Conclusion

Main opportunities:

- inter-related
- existing building
- area

List of possible opportunities						
	nr	Possible opportunities				
Ec.	01	Boost area (transformation and facilities)				
Ш	02	Financial feasibility				
_	03	Collaboration stakeholders				
Legal	04	Dutch building code: existing building measures				
Ľ	05	Municipality's initiative				
	06	Design consequences (lay-out, construction)				
Technical	07	Office type (corridor, center core)§				
hn	08	Planning optimalization				
Tec	09	Sustainability				
	10	Technical consequences (construction, facade)				
	11	Area redevelopment				
Social	12	Housing environment				
Š	13	Sustainability				

Discussion

- Possible scenarios
 - Demand changes office space
 - Changes in ways of working
- Limitations to the research the Netherlands
- Similarities and differences between cases
 - Criteria
 - Different cases

Recommendations

For further research:

- Possible scenarios
- Broader area / Specific city or area with a large portfolio of high-rise (transformations)
- Increase amount of cases researched and optimize criteria

For practice:

- Input future transformation projects
- Technical level

Thank you!

Challenges & opportunities to reuse of tall office buildings

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