body language of home

the house as a tool for communication in the urban places of Varallo
room

urban room
All the present items in an urban room are a vocabulary for the language of the city. It tells us about the presence of human life.

“What is it that unsettles and thus terrifies? It shows itself and hides itself in the way in which everything presences, namely, in the fact that despite all conquest of distances the nearness of things remains absent.”

Martin Heidegger, 1971
AIM OF OUR RESEARCH:

By interpreting the contra-space between dwellings as an urban room, we want to understand the differences in the marking of places and to draw conclusions about their character.

“a legible city would be one whose districts or landmarks or pathways are easily identifiable and are easily grouped into an over-all pattern”

Kevin Lynch, 1960
As architects, we should be conscious about what we communicate with the design of urban places.

“Can architects meet society’s plural demand? ... If society has no form—how can architects build the counterform?”

Aldo van Eyck, 1962
In the case of the traditional free-standing family house, we can conclude that we relate architecture to our own bodies and the relation with the outside world.

“Its power, surely, comes from its being the one piece of the world around us which still speaks directly of our bodies as the center and the measure of that world”

Bloomer and Moore, 1977
room

< architecture >

urban room
MARK
the urban interior catalogue

Walls
- Horizontal Room
- Vertical Room
- Curved Room

Contour
- Continuous Row
- Row of Free Standin Blocks
- Row of Mid-stated Blocks
- Row of Saddled Roof Blocks

Openings
- Sequential
- Random

Cladding Wall
- No Plinth
- Regular Plinth
- Irregular Plinth
- Object as Plinth

Cladding Floor
- Continuous
- Random
- Row in Floor
- Accents in Floor
- Stairs on Floor
- Stair on Floor
- Threshold

In-Out Objects
- Mall
- Lirrich
- Lion
- Porch

HOVERING ITEMS
- Fence
- Back
- Stair
- Window

GREEN
- Hedge
- Green on Wall
- Bush on Floor
- Trees

FENCES
- Electric Elements
- Drainage Elements
- Cable Salad

WATER & ELECTRICITY
- Water & Electricity

Compares in terms of character:

Symmetrical – Asymmetrical
Formal – Informal
Transition Zone – Hard Border
Movement – Place
ARCHITECTUUR VERTELT HET VERHAAL VAN DE BEWONER.

typisch voor Varallo: een rijkdom aan ‘items’ die vertellen over het middeleeuws dagelijks leven.

Opgave: een nieuwe taal ontwikkelen die het verhaal van hedendaags dagelijks leven vertelt.
context
Een krimpend inwoner-aantal

Provincia di Vercelli

Varallo

7.000
9.000
content

problem
proposal
urban rooms
rooms
items that mark the urban room
reflection
problem
Aging of the Valsesian population in terms of percentage

Frascotti Lorenza
2000 ‘Orientamenti e sbocchi socio-economico-culturali dell’alta valsesia’, facoltà di economia, università degli studi del piemonte orientale
proposal
CASA DELLA SALUTE
- care and hospitality for elderly and tourists

CASA SERENA
- housing for elderly
do not hide people in a complex for the elderly, make dwellings for elderly an integrated part of the city
Casa della Salute

Events hotel

- INDIVIDUAL HOUSING
- HOTEL APARTMENTS
- HOTEL ROOMS
- FACILITIES
- CARE DWELLINGS
- PROTECTED HOUSING
- INDIVIDUAL HOUSING

CARE CENTRE
urban rooms
rooms
Begane Grond

Eerste Verdieping

kantoren

feestzaal

winkels
winkels en kantoren
begane grond
supermarkt
begane grond
bloemenwinkel
begane grond
receptie en apotheek
Casa della Salute
1e verdieping
behandelkamers
Casa della Salute
1e verdieping
hotel, espressobar en restaurant
begane grond
receptie hotel
begane grond
hotelkamers
2e verdieping
hotelkamers
2e verdieping
appartementen
2e verdieping
a change of direction
“a house constitutes a body of images that give mankind proofs or illusions of stability.”

Gaston Bachelard, 1969
“A roof tells its raison d’être right away: it gives mankind shelter from the rain and sun he fears. [...] Up near the roof all our thoughts are clear. In the attic it is a pleasure to see the bare rafters of the strong framework. Here we participate in the carpenter’s solid geometry.” (Bachelard, 1969).

The cellar, on the contrary, “is first and foremost the dark entity of the house, the one that partakes of subterranean forces. When we dream there, we are in harmony with the irrationality of the depths.” (Bachelard, 1969).
FRONT and BACK
horizontal orientation

ATTIC and CELLAR
vertical orientation
HORIZONTAL ORIENTATION
LOCATION
TYPICAL VARALLO SOLUTION
PROPOSAL
change the direction
zonwering door schuif luiken
toevoer lucht t.p.v. gevelopeningen
afzuiging via sparing in wand
vloerverwarming
items that mark the urban room
Rooftop language
ruwhouten delen
afwerking schaduweind
houten blok
goot zink 80-97mm
dakbedekking zink 0.8mm
stucwerk
binnenwand
isolatie
dampremmende laag
natuursteen metselwerk
natuursteen metselwerk
Italian shutter language
GRAZIE MILLE!
Birgit Jürgenhake, Ype Cuperus,
Dick van Gameren, Mario Fosso

Ferry, Riny, Ton, Emma, Tessa,
Leonie, Elke, Desy, Frederieke, Jasper,
Esther en alle babbelende bouwko’s!