Graduation Presentation

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ENCLOSED SQUARE FOR A CITY CAMPUS
OMSLOTEN PLEIN VOOR EEN STADSCAMPUS

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5 November 2015
Architecture and Heritage Graduation Studio
Overview

Introduction of the location

History

Current situation and problem statement

Challenge

Research questions

Research

Conclusions and design questions

Proposal

Design
Het Binnengasthuisterrein, Amsterdam
Universiteit van Amsterdam
History

Two cloisters
14th c. until 1578

Hospital
1578 - 1980

UvA
1980 - today
History

Two cloisters 14th c. until 1578

Hospital 1578 - 1980

UvA 1980 - today
Current plans:
- 4 campuses
- Condense; move from innercity to Binnengasthuisarea
Problem Statement

Problem statement:
How to turn the Binnengasthuisterrein into an innercity Campus?

What is a campus?

Latin: ‘field’ or ‘open space’

Campus
noun | cam·pus often attributive | /ˈkæm-pəs/  
1: the grounds and buildings of a university, college, or school  
2: a university, college, or school viewed as an academic, social, or spiritual entity  
3: grounds that resemble a campus <a hospital campus> <a landscaped corporate campus>
Challenge

How do you realise a campus in an inner city?
How to implement the new function, users and program of the University Campus into this historic city block?
My fascination
Research Questions

What was the role of the enclosed gardens at the Binnengasthuis area throughout its history? And can it play a role in the future function of a university campus?
Research

1. Typology of the enclosed garden

   GENERAL
   Terminology
   Concept

   SOCIAL
   Use
   History

   PHYSICAL
   Components
   Elements
   Scale
   Atmosphere
   Climate

   FUTURE
   Developments

2. Enclosed gardens at the Binnengasthuisarea

   CLOISTER until 1578
   HOSPICE 1578 - 1980
   UNIVERSITY 1980 until today

3. Conclusion
Research

1. Typology of the enclosed garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL</th>
<th>FINDINGS</th>
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<tbody>
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3. Conclusion
Research

1. Typology of the enclosed garden

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- Terminology
- Concept

**FINDINGS**
- To shield from wilderness
- To capture a piece of landscape

**SOCIAL**
- Use
- History

**People, Ideas, Utility**
- In many cultures (Persian, Islamic, Asian)

**PHYSICAL**
- Components
- Elements
- Scale
- Atmosphere
- Climate
- Enclosed by wall, colonnade or open/solid hedge
- Related to use, culture or climate.
- From small garden to urban park
- Enhanced sensibilities by enclosure
- Can be found in all climatic zones
- Shields from wind, allows sun

**FUTURE**
- Developments
  - As an garden for contemplation and meditation

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2. Enclosed gardens at the Binnengasthuisarea

CLOISTER until 1578

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UNIVERSITY 1981 until today

3. Conclusion
Cloister

- Gardens for production of food around
- Garden for contemplation and ideas in centre
- Gardens separated by buildings

Food production around cloister. In middle contemplation/prayer.
. Colonnade **structuring element**
. Connects buildings, separates the gardens:
. Almost all gardens are for utility.
. Only the Orchard was also used as recreational garden.
Hospital

. Colonnade **structuring element**
. Connects buildings, separates the gardens:
. Almost all gardens are for utility.
. Only the Orchard was also used as recreational garden.
. Gridlike structure
. Terrain is one **entity**: use of gardens and use of buildings strengthen each other
Colonnade **structuring element**  
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. Terrain is one **entity**: use of gardens and use of buildings strengthen each other
Hospital renewed: Pavilion structure

- 1850 Large-scale renewal of the buildings
- Large clinics
- Pavilion-like structure: as separate elements
- Functions of gardens unnecessary
- Cohesion lost
Hospital renewed: Pavilion structure

- Large-scale renewal of the buildings
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1980 New plans

- Hospital moves to border of city
- For the first time the area is open for everyone. Not a closed institutional island anymore.
- Municipality want to open the area
- Social housing block inserted
- Several buildings are taken over by the UvA
Current situation

- Used by multiple users: Museum, inhabitants, kindergarten

- Empty
  Will be the new Library

- University courtyard
  Meet, sit, smoke

Mixed use, not open for public

Open, students

Unused
Current situation

- Used by multiple users:
  - Museum, inhabitants, kindergarten

- Empty
  - Will be the new Library

- University courtyard
  - Meet, sit, smoke

Closed off block

Mixed use, not open for public

Unused

Open, students
Current situation

- Buildings designed; not the space around
- Clear structure is gone
- Lots of ‘rest-spaces’
- Main use; traffic
Conclusions research

What role did the enclosed garden play in the history of the Binnengasthuisterrein?

- had specific uses
- provided inwards centred structure, shielded from city by border
- connected; clear structure
- all space was defined
- made operation of the area as a whole possible (idea of a campus)

And can it play a role in the future function as a campus in the city?

- 3 types of use can help in making outside space more functional
- added value for the university buildings on the campus
- reassert the relationship between the buildings; function as a whole
- chance to make nice usable spaces (shielded from city, no wind, with sun, outside)
Design Question

How to create a campus while re-integrating this cityblock as a whole?

re-integrating cityblock:
1. keep idea of institutional island/superblock
2. re-connect buildings and courtyards

make a campus:
3. redefine restspace; give it purpose
4. define different types of use (ideas/people/utility) for the outside spaces of the area
3. redefine restspace; give it purpose
3. Redefine restspace

Bottle neck: Central square.
3. Redefine restspace
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Poorly permeable facades
3. Redefine restspace
3. Redefine restspace

Uninviting facade
3. Redefine restspace

Cycle path
3. Redefine restspace

Zoning by planters
3. Redefine restspace

Trees cover facades
3. Redefine restspace

No seating areas
3. Redefine restspace

Devided space
3. Redefine restspace
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3. Redefine restspace; solution
4. Define different types of use
4. Define different types of use
1. Keep idea of institutional island/superblock
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2. Re-connect buildings and courtyards
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Re-connect buildings in two ways
- physical
- by function
2. Re-connect buildings and courtyards

Re-connect buildings
- by function
2. Re-connect buildings and courtyards
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Issues at the square
Issues at the square
Issues at the square

Difference in height
Issues at the square

- Difference in height
- Backside of the building facing the square
- However main entrance of the building
Issues at the square

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- Other entrances just off the square.
- Mensa building actual main entrance within
Issues at the square

- Difference in height
- Backside of the building facing the square
- However main entrance of the building

- Other entrances just off the square.
- Mensa building actual main entrance within

- Height difference entrance Paul de Ley building
- Steep stair in northeast corner
- Many more issues
Proposal

3 means

- Colonnade (Gaanderij)
- Facade shops
- Square re-programming
Proposal

Collonade:
- Connect buildings physically
- To emphasize one side of the square
- Bring back sides of the buildings together
Proposal

New facade

- Current uninviting at ground floor
- Provide fitting facade and entrance for shops/ateliers
- Solve height difference
Proposal

New facade
- Provide for shops/ateliers
- Solve height difference
Proposal

**Square**

Re-programming:

- Large open space for several activities
  - Lecture
  - Concert (Grachten festival)
  - Event
  - OWee
  - (Study) Market
  - Christmas tree
- Informal space to sit, meet, drink coffee, eat lunch
- More (secondary) sitting places
Design

3 means elaborated

. Colonnade (Gaanderij)
. Facade shops
. Square

  -> Rythm and Proportion
  -> Use
  -> Materialization
Design

Rhythm and Proportion

. Colonnade
Gaanderij

Columns in rythm of the faculty building. Connects with information building
Gaanderij
Two paths collide with the colonnade
Gaanderij

Colonnade widens; opened up.
Gaanderij

Colonnade widens; opened up. Also in height.
Gaanderij

Two entrances are opened
Gaanderij

Benches are integrated
Gaanderij
Design

Rhythm and Proportion

. Facade shops
Facade Shops
Facade Shops
Design

Rhythm and Proportion

Square
Square
Square
Design

Use and people
Square
Square

Re-programming:
- Large open space for several activities
- Informal space to sit, meet, drink coffee, eat lunch
- More (secondary) sitting places
Square - Lecture
Square - Market
Square - Concert
Square - Christmas tree
Square

Traffic
Materialization
Materialization Colonnade
Materialization Colonnade

Beams  Partitioned  Continious

Double  Plants  Windows

Benches  Even  Step

Straight  Arched  Disproportioned
Materialization Colonnade
Materialization Colonnade
Materialization Colonnade
Materialization Colonnade
Materialization Shopping facade

Materialization

Facade Shops
Materialization Shopping facade
Materialization Shopping facade
Materialization Shopping facade
Materialization Shopping facade
Central Square
Ensemble
City