1 TOPIC
The center of Rotterdam is dealing with different networks (slow, fast, mechanical and intermediate networks) which are colliding at the ABN-location. Each network effects the architecture of the city, like the Lijnbaan is a monofunctional shopping and pedestrian zone, the Coolsingel the city’s economical barometer and the Blaak an institutional axis. This relation between architecture and networks/flows is the main concern of the project. The question is how to intervene with an integrated urban solution responding to the colliding networks.

2 PROBLEM STATEMENT
The main questing of the masterplan is: How can architecture: programme, momentum & situation, respond to these abruptly colliding 20th century networks? Additionally, the question regarding the individual project will be one within the framework of the masterplan. This question will be: How can the museum (as a vessel of circulation, program and spatial relations) respond to the different intersecting flows as a destination within the transistor? (the definitions will be explained within the presentation)

3 GOAL
The final product will be a [drawn] design responding to the harsh juxtaposition of network layers, sub-layers, and flows, with in a cacophony of successive architecture and urban plans whom are al contradicting the previous and following styles. This motivates the fundamentals of our design project. Nodes, spatial and fluent stratification, super-commercial, modern, and momentum are the main criteria to reconstruct connections between the Coolsingel and the Lijnbaan-area generating a more vital city centre.

4 METHODS
The design, as the answer to the problem statement, will be presented in line with the following parts. A specific perspective of the city as an introduction to the presentation. The research in topics, findings, concluding images and an hypothesis. The masterplan, a collective work presented with architectural drawings (sketched, diagrams, conceptual drawings and impressions), technical drawings (plans, sections, facades, details) and a model which physically explaining the solution. Followed by the design, an individual part of the masterplan, presented with the same mentioned presentation tools as for the masterplan.

5 RELEVANCE
Like the vascular-system is directly relative to the placement and logistics of the human’s organ-system and it’s subsidiary network of nerves, muscles & glands, the versatile and vivid city is constantly acting and reacting upon its operational system of transportation network. Not only the economy of a city is heavily depended on the cities ‘artery-system’, in contemporary society the complex and fast urban structure’s vitality of the public domain become inextricably linked to the urban network. In a dysfunctional urban context of the ABN-location were this urban ‘vascular-system’ consists out of a complex congregation of different [sub-] layers, the question how to intervene with an integrated urban solution is significantly depended on the sifting of complex system.

6 SOURCES
- Architecture + Technique [A+T], Hybrids part I and II
- Architecture + Technique [A+T], This is Hybrids
- Lieven de cauter, de capsule en het netwerk, 2004, rotterdam, nai-publishers
- El croquis, 131/32 Rem Koolhaas/OMA
- El croquis, 129/30 Herzog & de Meuron

7 PLANNING
During the first semester the research and strategies has led to an urban masterplan. In the following semester the masterplan is worked out to a final design including an specific design part. The P4 presentation will contain a collection of the work (as the essentials mentioned at 4
Methods) done in these semesters. The period between the P4 and final public p5 presentation will be used to sharpen the products.

8 GOALS
The goal of the project and presentation is to evince the ability to overcome all the necessary steps regarding a design process. In our project specifically this will be to accommodate and relate architecture to the different networks of which the result would be a vital urban environment.

9 GRADING
As part of a collective (Damien, Peter and myself) i would like to be graded for the quality of the masterplan (research, concept and design) as presented in the collective part of the presentation. These parts are developed as a collective consisting mainly out of the ‘plinth’. Together with Peter van Gelder, we’ve drawn the following elements: all the plans and sections of the expansion along the Lijnbaan and Koopgoot, and the central void. Only Peter has been responsible for the managing of the collective drawings regarding these elements. I personally have been responsible for the managing/drawing of all four facades of the masterplan 1:200.

To evolve my individual competence i would like to be graded for the development of the ‘Museum of Modern Fashion’. This will be presented in the individual part of the presentation and the printed drawings denoted as drawings made by myself (being 1:200 plans, sections and 1:50/10 drawings of the MMF). The grading should focus on the quality of the architectural design in terms of spatial quality, program, momentum and situation (as formulated within the problem statement) relating to the different networks/flows. This relation of architecture and flows has been of essential importance within the research and the design of the masterplan and individual project.

30th of January, 2013

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0 PERSONAL DATA
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RELATION RESEARCH - DESIGN
During the research we specifically focussed on the network of the city since it directly influences the vitality and architecture of the city. By analyzing this through different perspectives all focussed on network as perceivability of urban networks and architecture, formal language of building blocks related to network and a programmatic analysis along different networks, we aimed for a comprehensive approach toward the topic. As a result we observed the city (ABN-location) as a complex congregation of different network layers and sublayers, different areas strongly relating to these networks. Within the designphase the relation between architecture and networks/flows was the main concern of the project. The architectural concept and the elaboration of the masterplan and individual design is based on the premisses of the research.

RELATION STUDIO THEME - SUBJECT
The theme of the studio specifically focussed on the changing character of the public realm, on ‘innovative concepts and typologies for public buildings in the Netherlands, which address the search for a new public realm within cities’. The Rotterdam Air raid during the second world war completely destroyed the historical framework of the innercity. Together with upcoming innovations in infrastructure, this resulted in a significant development of the public realm. Here, the relation between network and flows becomes of essential importance to discover models for the public realm and react upon them. The object (design) tends to integrate within the complex situation as well as introducing new public layers to the area.

RELATION APPROACH STUDIO - METHODS PROJECT
The methods of approach of the studio were of a wide scope which all related to topical issues in urban development. Our chosen research topic: Public, private, collective space in relation to condensed and mixed building typologies led us to explore the complex gradations/burring between spaces and new spatial arrangements. But relating that to our added topic ‘network’, gave us a better understanding of the complex appearance of these arrangements.

RELATION PROJECT-WIDER SOCIAL CONTEXT
In short the project is a hybridized urban block aiming at connecting contextual networks as well as introducing new destinations. In regard to Rotterdam, the project is located in a city centre which is far from hybrid, in order to become hybrid the building has to break the monofunctional centre. The city center is only focussed on the shopper and does not offer spaces for other users or opportunities to create spaces where people identify themselves with. A mixture of different programs remains absent in the city centre. Only public spaces which accommodates (intergrates and connects) the different networks and different programs (existing and new) will be able to hybridize the city centre. Therefore the project contributes to the upcoming popularity of the hybrid building which is currently one of the main actors in the continues transformation of public space. The project becomes a model not only for Rotterdam but also for other cities in terms of research and design.

30th of January, 2013

Glenn den Besten