Aspect 1
• the relationship between research and design

The research had a two-folded focus: on Rotterdam as a city of events rather than a city with clear identities and on Rotterdam as a clash of modernism (in the center) and traditional fabric (around the center). The opposition of old traditional houses and modern, often very large, boxes leads to an confusing place where streets end suddenly or change character. At the same time many of Rotterdam’s most happening streets and squares are found at the intersection of old and new, and new developments such as the Koopgoot, Forum Rotterdam, the Markthal, the Stadskantoor etc. are found in such zones of transition. Here an architectural vacuum gives room to large, daring buildings which are located next to traditional and modern buildings. In the Netherlands, where most city centers are very old and well-preserved the possibility to build in such an area is unique. The given site is located at an intersection of old and new buildings and as such has potential to become a knot like the examples mentioned above. Because of the very different streets that intersect a program of wide variety, including events, can be introduced here.

Aspect 2
• the relationship between the theme of the studio and the subject/case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object)

The theme of public realm is understood as looking to the project not as just a building, but a small urban intervention. The site is located within a block, surrounded by a number of large buildings from different era’s (50’s, 60’s, 70’s, 90’s). In order to make a public building the relation with it’s neighbours, and thus the entire block is crucial. The streets, squares and expedition spaces in between are part of the design and the building reacts to all of them.

Aspect 3
• the relationship between the methodical line of approach of the studio and the method chosen by the student in this framework

The methodical line of approach here is to look at the site from a urban and historical point of view at first, then looking into it’s (potential) cultural and architectural meaning. The next step is to formulate an urban strategy rather then an urban plan, which explains how the building can physically and programmaticaly contribute to the whole. Then, a program and and design strategy are developed. At last these are transformed into a building design.

Aspect 4
• the relationship between the project and the wider social context

The centre of Rotterdam is often regarded as cold, sterile and even ugly in comparison to the medieval, organic structure of most Dutch city centers. One of the main problems is the monofunctional buildings which are used mostly during office hours but abandoned during the evening and night. The scale of the buildings contributes to the idea that there is not much going on. However, hidden from the public’s view there is a lot of diversity in small bussinesses, shops, cafés and restaurants and cultural activities. The project tries to make this finer fabric visible by introducing a secondary layer inside a block consisting of very diverse buildings and connect them by public space so they can accesed.