

Reflection public building graduation studio – Daphne Vlak – 4673832

In the beginning of such a large scale project, it is a lot of research, finding out what works in certain contexts, what doesn't, what values one takes from other works to apply to their own situation. One fills their heads with all sorts of ideas, but when it is the moment of the shift to design, that should be let go for a while to express creativity. Then after one can come back and reflect on the design with the principles from early research and adapt. It is a careful balance between the borders set by research and the breaking of them with innovative design and expression.

The graduation topic chosen was hybrid design and the studio topic was public building, a music venue. At first putting emphasis on creating a hybrid building felt like limiting the design or steering to a certain typology, but during the design process, creating a hybrid form with a multiplicity of functions and users comes quite naturally for the typology of the public building. This typology was personally a new form in the architecture track and a good elaborate size to spend a graduation period on. It combines all that has been learnt in both the bachelor as well as the MSc 1 and 2, while still providing the chance to explore and learn.

The used methods, as described in the p2 report, where case study analysis and hypothetical research, setting a hypothesis and generating a possible result to find out whether the hypothesis proves the statement or not. This research set the hypothesis of 'a hybrid design is the optimal typology for this area'. The final outcome to be tested being the design for the music venue presented in p4.

The strength and reliability of both scientific research and design research are the contestability and concensuality. Once a design is specified and/or built, it can be documented and analysed by others to add to the collective exchange and implementation of knowledge. This knowledge can be transferred in the same way in doing the research work before the design, this design implemented values transferred from other music venues. This way every architect does not need to invent the wheel again every time a new design task comes up and others can anticipate a knowledgeable design.

The ethical issues of research came later in the design phase. At first one tries to understand the task at hand and do the best they can, but later might question why do we need another music venue when there are already so many in the city. Is this something we should design when we have a housing crisis going on in the country? Is this something we should spend money on when there are so many refugees coming to our country? These are questions that do not actually play a role now, because the design is a graduation project, but could very well be asked in practice.

A current topic that cannot be avoided is the ethics of sustainability. In one way or another, there is always something wrong. Choosing a local material to keep transportation exhaustions low are maybe not the most sustainably produced, or choosing a sustainable material, only to find out it is produced in Australia. There have been many debates on the topic of sustainable materials, what does it mean, isn't a material that will last for centuries not also sustainable, even if the carbon dioxide exhausted during production is higher? The right answer is still to be found