**CASE-STUDY IN BUILDING BLOCK**

**CASE-STUDY Block De Baarsjes**

**Blue corridor**
Scale 1:19000

**Infrastructure**

**Medium ecological value**

**Urban matrix**
Scale 1:19000

**Greenery**

**Water network**
No specific scale

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"De Baarsjes" is located in part of Amsterdam-West, The neighbourhood where the case-study "vision, research, context & strategy" -

**SOCIAL PROPERTIES 'DE BAARSJES'**

**Social success**

- Inhabitants mention building improvements as one of the most important aspects to change in Amsterdam-West (Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2008)
- There is a combination of rent and sale
- Inhabitants are generally dissatisfied about the green that is available on street side

**ECOLOGICAL PROPERTIES 'DE BAARSJES'**

- There is a lack of green in the area: only 1.24 m² public green/dwelling (Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2008)
- Sparrows, swallows and rock plants
- Species occurring in this area are mainly urban species: bats, butterflies, flowers

**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES 'DE BAARSJES'**

- It has a density of more than 6.000 dwellings/m² (Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2012)
- It almost exclusively consists of pre-war closed building blocks
- Each apartment provides about 50 m² of living space

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**DESIGN FOR LIFE**

My profession starts with myself as a child, imagining my own future life. My vision, intention for something new in this world, is to believe that life is a gift. But life itself is nothing but a process of"..."

**CONTEXT SPECIFIC ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STRATEGY**

1. **physically connecting the building to the ecological structure**
   - Create a gradual transition between habitat types
   - Integrating habitat types for bees, butterflies, swallows, sparrows, swallows and rock plants
   - Creating green in the building block of high quality
   - Improving ecological connectivity
   - Approach interventions on the relevant level the variety of inhabitants and the community
   - Creating a happier environment. At the same time, this creates awareness of the importance of life, which could affect human action in a positive way.

**ECOLOGICAL SUCCESSION**

- 0. Bare rock
- 1. Pioneer stage
- 2. Intermediate stage
- 3. Climax stage - building
- 4. Climax stage - street

**ARCHITECTURAL SUCCESSION**

- 0. Bare rock
- 1. Pioneer stage
- 2. Intermediate stage
- 3. Climax stage - building
- 4. Climax stage - street

**CONCLUSIONS DERIVED FROM CASE-STUDY ANALYSIS**

**ECOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

- Opening up the closed building block for species to enter, therefore softening the urban matrix and increasing biotic connectivity
- Integrating habitat types for bees, butterflies, swallows, sparrows, swallows and rock plants

**SOCIAL POTENTIAL**

- Create green in the building block of high quality
- Improving ecological connectivity
- Approach interventions on the relevant level the variety of inhabitants and the community
- Creating a happier environment. At the same time, this creates awareness of the importance of life, which could affect human action in a positive way.

**ARCHITECTURAL POTENTIAL**

- This house on the street has strong architectural characteristics which can be intensified further
- Aesthetic and thermal aspects should be improved
- The house is improved by creating spatial experience
- Story dwellings lack outdoor areas
- Story dwellings lack outdoor areas
- Story dwellings lack outdoor areas
- Story dwellings lack outdoor areas

**CONTACT SPECIFIC ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STRATEGY**

- Create a gradual transition between habitat types
- Connect the building to the ecological structure
- Integrating habitat types for bees, butterflies, swallows, sparrows, swallows and rock plants

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**GENERIC DESIGN PRINCIPLES DERIVED FROM RESEARCH**

1. **BE INVITE LIFE IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**
   - Designing a new area that is a living environment, contributing to the quality and functioning of life
   - How can architecture contribute to life?

2. **SYMBIOTICALLY CONNECT TO LIFE SYSTEMS**
   - How can architecture contribute to the quality and functioning of life?

3. **INVITE PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE THE VALUE OF LIFE**
   - How can architecture contribute to the quality and functioning of life?

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**PHYSICAL PROPERTIES BUILDING**

- Typical pre-war closed apartment block (Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2008)
- The block consists of 72 dwellings
- Each apartment provides about 50 m² of living space
- Especially located on street side is of architectural value
- Each apartment is worth about €150,000-200,000

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**SOCIAL PROPERTIES BUILDING**

- There is a combination of mixed and sale
- Every 8 apartments from an Association of Owners
- The inhabitants mention building improvements as one of the most important aspects to change in Amsterdam-West (Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2008)
- Inhabitants are generally dissatisfied about the green that is available on street side

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**ECOLOGICAL PROPERTIES BUILDING**

- The present green is of low ecological value and intensively used
- The green is badly connected and separated by a dense urban matrix
- This matrix has a very high mortality rate: species that do enter have nowhere to go because of the closed building block typology
- Specie occurring in this area are mainly urban species: bats, sparrows, swallows and rock plants

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**REFERENCES**

- Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2008
- Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2012
- (Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2012)
- (Gemeente Amsterdam, Jaarboek 2008)
- (Structuur Plan voor Groen in West, 2012)
**Pioneer Stage**
1. Creating useable service element inviting daylight
2. Pushing back partition wall for usable bedroom
3. Increasing service element to other side for usable bathroom
4. Improving thermal and acoustic comfort by indoor insulation

**Intermediate Stage**
1. Creating bay window in line with original accent
2. Re-invoking the by integrated plant border
3. Optimizing daylight entrance by shape
4. Recommit to a-declic factors for building functioning
5. Creating flexible membrane to extend use of space

**Climax Stage - Street**
1. Decreasing size service element inviting daylight
2. Pushing back partition wall for usable bedroom
3. Increasing service element to other side for usable bathroom
4. Improving thermal and acoustic comfort by indoor insulation

**Climax Stage - Building**
1. Creating a physical connection to ecological structure by removing a set of dwellings, forming an exception in composition
2. Further accentuating this relation between rhythm dwellings and composition block by leaving facade and balcony intact

**Climax Stage - District**
1. Creating space for dwelling by lifting landscape
2. Connectivity and service element underneath landscape
3. Creating usable space by extending landscape
4. Creating view and an entrance by transitioning landscape
5. Inviting daylight by increasing height of connectivity element and making borders fade by pushed back flexible membrane

**Climax Stage - Neighbourhood**
1. Creating bay window in line with original accent
2. Re-invoking the by integrated plant border
3. Optimizing daylight entrance by shape
4. Recommit to a-declic factors for building functioning
5. Creating flexible membrane to extend use of space

**Daylight Dwelling**
1a. Decreasing size service element inviting daylight
1b. Pushing back partition wall for usable bedroom
1c. Increasing service element to other side for usable bathroom
1d. Improving thermal and acoustic comfort by indoor insulation

**Plastic Addition**
2a. Creating bay window in line with original accent
2b. Re-invoking the by integrated plant border
2c. Optimizing daylight entrance by shape
2d. Enlarging balcony creating usable outdoor space
2e. Re-inviting life by integrated plant border
2f. Optimizing daylight entrance by shape
2g. Recommit to a-declic factors for building functioning
2h. Creating flexible membrane to extend use of space

**Season Chamber**
3a. Creating a physical connection to ecological structure by removing a set of dwellings, forming an exception in composition
3b. Further accentuating this relation between rhythm dwellings and composition block by leaving facade and balcony intact

**Plinth Dwelling**
3c. Removing part of existing dwelling
3d. Adding a service and connectivity element
3e. Inviting daylight by increasing height
3f. Creating plinth by enlarging service element and making borders fade by pushed back flexible membrane
3g. Inviting life by landscape on top of plinth

**Urban Bungalow**
3h. Creating space for dwelling by lifting landscape
3i. Connectivity and service element underneath landscape
3j. Creating usable space by extending landscape
3k. Creating view and an entrance by transitioning landscape
3l. Inviting daylight by increasing height of connectivity element and making borders fade by pushed back flexible membrane

**Exceptional Passage**
3a. Creating a physical connection to ecological structure by removing a set of dwellings, forming an exception in composition
3b. Further accentuating this relation between rhythm dwellings and composition block by leaving facade and balcony intact

**From built environment to living environment**
- FLOORPLANS ARCHITECTURAL SUCCESSION -

0. Bare Rock
1. Pioneer Stage
2. Intermediate Stage
3. Climax Stage Building

= new situation
= existing situation
- SECTIONS & ELEVATION ARCHITECTURAL SUCCESSION -

- SECTION AA' - pioneer stage
- SECTION BB' - climax stage building
- SECTION CC' - climax stage street

from built environment to living environment

DESIGN FOR LIFE

- Studio:
- Student:
- Date:
- Student number:

- Tutors:
- Commissioner:

- Architectural Engineering
  J. Kruizinga
  Ir. T.C. Homans
  Ir. P. Teeuw
  Ir. E. van der Zaag
  Dr. J.S.C.M Hoekstra

- Bare Rock 1. Pioneer Stage 2. Intermediate Stage 3. Climax Stage Building
DESIGN FOR LIFE
from built environment to living environment

Before
72 dwellings
1550 m² 'green' outdoor space
0 energy production
consuming ca. 20,000 liter drinking water/day
all types of water drained to sewage

After
85 dwellings: increased density
3200 m² green outdoor space: increased quality
ca. 76500 kWh energy production
consuming ca. 20,000 liter drinking water/day
rainwater is buffered, stored and infiltrated
grey water is filtered and reused

BEFORE - AFTER COMPARISON
from damaging life towards contributing to life

1. RE-INVITE LIFE INTO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
reconnect to life in building structure

2. SYMBIOTICALLY CONNECT TO LIFE SYSTEMS
reconnect to life in building functioning

3. MAKE PEOPLE EXPERIENCE THE VALUE OF LIFE
reconnect to life in architecture

Rock
Meadow
Swamp
Grassland
Garden
Ecological connection
Sun for hot water and energy
Rainwater storage
Grey water filtering
Rainwater buffering
Household water
Grain water
Rainwater buffering

Experience street
Experience existing dwellings
Experience urban bungalows
Experience plinth dwellings