I. Research on materiality
II. Concept
III. Design products
IV. Inspiration
This booklet is my graduation project in Heritage&Architecture studio. Here I recorded the process from research to final design. The graduation project aims to transform one of the most iconic Structuralism building in Netherlands, Centraal Beheer, designed by Herman Hertzberger. The building was designed in 1968. Since then there have been alterations and extensions. Now, the building was abandoned, truly isolated in the urban setting by the driveway and the railway on both sides. Centraal Beheer finds itself in the dilemma of being in the urban context and being a city itself.

The title refers to new programme for this vacant Structuralism building. Facing the current global dimension of migration of people around the world, all looking for safe and stable places, we might consider suitability for habitation as a general criteria for all building projects.
I. Research on materiality
Use of Concrete

Concrete blocks
The concrete blocks are cheap materials. Hertzberger created inner streets by using the same concrete blocks both inside and outside. The rough surface erases the borderline between inside and outside. The color of concrete blocks is warm when diffusing the light.

Concrete skeleton
The concrete skeleton of the buildings is visible. The structure of building becomes readable. “It is the fundamental unfinishedness of the building, the greyness the naked concrete...that are meant to stimulate the occupants to add their own color.”

Concrete tiles
Hertzberger left the floor unfurnished to the users. The inner streets are covered with concrete tiles. The concrete tiles became mottled with time goes by which were of outdoors qualities. In this way, the inner streets become a piece of the city with spatial continuity from outside to inside.
Solidity, translucency and transparency

**Solidity:** Solid structure and complete partition
Material: concrete and concrete blocks
Advantages:
Simple and convenient construction
Cheap and fast
Disadvantages:
Not good in insulation
Difficult to be recycled

**Translucency:** Some visual connection with full physical separation.
Material: glass bricks
Advantages:
Simple and convenient construction
Provide visual obscuration while admitting light
Sound proof
Disadvantages:
Not good in insulation

**Transparency:** Clear visual connection
Material: single glazed window
Advantages:
Cheap
Admit enough light
Disadvantages:
Lose energy easily
Materials used by Hertzberger are cheap and easy to get. He concerned more about how materials can be used to support the idea instead of aesthetics of the materials. Thus we can find simple and primitive materials in his building which are tangible and visible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials</th>
<th>Color &amp; Texture</th>
<th>Competence</th>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td></td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>unfinished</td>
<td>Concrete is the main material in this building. The continuity of the materials from outside to inside is a strong performance of inner-street idea. When different types of concrete were put together, the naked, rough space is approachable. People can feel inner-street atmosphere when they enter. However, the acoustics was not that good because of the hard materials. The working areas on “balconies” were also noisy like public space.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete block</td>
<td></td>
<td>Skin &amp; Surface</td>
<td>rough, heavy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete tile</td>
<td></td>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>unfinished, mot-tled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass brick</td>
<td></td>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>transparent</td>
<td>Glass bricks were used in varying levels of translucency, which were enough to keep privacy and translucent enough to let in light. Compared with concrete materials, glass bricks are lighter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood partition</td>
<td></td>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>neutral</td>
<td>Wood was painted in the black and translucent glass was installed in the middle. Different layers of materials give the feeling of actuality and illusion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass window</td>
<td></td>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>transparent</td>
<td>Single glazing windows at the corner offer a wide angle of view and let more light come in. The aluminum frame was painted in purple but turned into pink because of peeling of paint. Meanwhile, large windows lead to insulation problem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber floor</td>
<td></td>
<td>Floor</td>
<td>warm</td>
<td>Oak floor is in warm and bright color. Hertzberger used it mainly in common area like the restaurant. This material is in striking contrast to other unfinished materials.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. Concept
From an office building to an asylum seeker center

Temporary  →  long term

![Temporary Office Building](image1.jpg)

![Asylum Seeker Center](image2.jpg)

![Updated Office Building](image3.jpg)
Building as a village
There are limitations in existing building. It is difficult to bring light into the building and keep privacy because of the housing programme. However, eliminating and sacrificing some ‘towers’ from the centre and thus creating inner courts, could be a considerable improvement. In this way I tried to find the right balance between peripheral and internal space. Meanwhile, creating courtyard is also an idea from the traditional housing typology in Middleeast country like Syria.
Main language: courtyard
Demolition of structure

ground floor

1st floor
III. Design products
- Insulation line
- Interior (winter condition: 25°C)
- Buffer zone (winter condition: 15°C)
- Outside area (winter condition: 0°C)
Perspective section (residential zone)

Material: single glazed window (fixed)
  double glazes window (sliding)
  IPE wood cladding
  ceramic tile (interior)
Horizontal perspective section (residential zone)
Perspective section (public zone)

Material: polycarbonate panel
double glaze
New additions
Ventilation system
In: natural air (convector)
Out: mechanical system
Rain water collection system)
IV. Inspiration
Joanneum Visitors’ Centre in Graz, Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos (Berlin), Fuensanta Nieto, Enrique Sobejano, eep architekten (Graz), Gerhard Eder, Christian Egger, Bernd Priesching
Glazed Atrium in London, by Marks Barfield Architects
Former Millan House, by Leonardo Finotti
Therapeutic Center in Terrassa, 2017, by Estudi0814
House Renovation in Hanoi, by Vo Trong Nghia Architects + Takashi Niwa
Interior of the “Lasalle-Haus” (1968–75) in Bad Schönbrunn, Switzerland, by André M. Studer
References:

