Graduation project of Amara Boon

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The Park District Town Hall

STADSDEEL OSDORP
Assignment:
The design is of a district town hall for Osdorp (Amsterdam West) situated at the edge of Osdorp Park. The district town hall has some kind of presence in the area and addresses certain issues in relation to the location and the program. The issue of representation should be present and dealt with in some specific way.

Theme of graduation laboratory:
Decorated Diagram
Diagrams are used in explanations and designs of buildings
Important aspect are made clear through diagrams
Decoration has to do with the aesthetic appeal of buildings and how important aspects are made visible

Mentors:
Ir. Udo Garritzmann (Head-mentor)
Ir. Mark Linnemann (Architecture mentor)
Dipl. Ing. Tillmann Klein (Engineering/Construction mentor)

Departement: Interior Architecture
Faculty: Architecture
University: TU Delft
City of the 30’s:
The urban structure of Amsterdam West consists mostly of large rectangular residential blocks with large green spaces in between. The original vision for this area is not effective anymore because of a few factors:
- The upkeep of the large public spaces is proving difficult.
- Most of the inhabitants are immigrants and foreigners who have no connection to the place they live in.
- The individualisation of people in society is growing.
- People only feel responsible for their own space.
- There are no “in-between” spaces between the buildings and the street.
- The urban structure creates a hard transition from public to private space.
Amsterdam West is also called Parkstad, making the parks and open areas the most important part of this district. The best public spaces in Amsterdam West are the parks, of which Osdorp Park is a good example.

Everyone knows that the population of Amsterdam West is very diverse. How do you reflect this in a building such as a city hall? Should you reflect the diversity, or find something that unites all of the population? Representation is an important part of a town hall. I want to emphasize that which unites the population of Osdorp; that which they have in common. I do not think that representing every individual and the diversity is realistic or necessary.
1. Great views of the town hall from all directions. The sightlines on the right are the sightlines of the most frequent approach.
2. Continuation of the green space in one strip.
3. Continuation of the shopping street and the built area.

Diagrams for the location of the town hall

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Problem Statement

In this design for a district town hall in Osdorp, Amsterdam I will address the issue of representation by using the park as a special element in the sequences of use in and around the building and thus creating different ceremonial spaces.

As expressed before, I want to emphasize that which unites the population of Osdorp; that which they have in common. I do not think that representing every individual and the diversity is realistic or necessary. The park is that which the people of Amsterdam-West have in common and adds a pleasant and important space which softens the hard transition from private to public space which exists in Amsterdam West.

The district town hall rises out of the ground and is ‘decorated’ with natural stone and grass. This envelopes the diagram of a new state bureaucracy that is created in Osdorp Park. The state and the people should be represented in a city hall. The ‘ground’ of Amsterdam West is special and out of it rises…the city hall. The park enters the building in many different ways, some more literal than others.

There are more than two ceremonial spaces in a town hall. There are not just the Wedding Hall and the Council Hall, but in my opinion the Central (entrance) Hall and circulation spaces are also ceremonial spaces and should be treated as such. There are of course differences between the spaces, but making visitors and civil workers feel important through making spaces special is essential in a good town hall.
Program

special program:
CENTRAL HALL  500 m²
  Exhibition Space  80 m²
  Waiting Space  150 m²
CIVIL SERVICES  500 m²
COUNCIL HALL  450 m²
  Supporting program  250 m²
WEDDING HALL  200 m²
  Supporting program  100 m²
CONFERENCE CENTRE  600 m²
RESTAURANT  300 m²
Total:  2550 m²

generic program:
OFFICES and supporting program  5000 m²

Program distribution
offices (grey)
central hall (orange)
special spaces (green)

Uniting factor = central hall
Increases contact between officials and residents; a new form of city administration
Representation:

The state and the people should be represented in a city hall. Amsterdam West is Parkstad. This is one aspect which the population has in common and can be proud of. The ‘ground’ of Amsterdam West is special and out of it rises…the city hall. The facades are made of natural stone and the park continues on top of building.
Shape:

One wing of the building turns to meet the oncoming visitors.
Volume:

Angles in the building are determined by sightlines to the park. The building opens to embrace the park.

The volume of the building is also determined by the relation to the park.
Decorated diagram:

The town hall is a “decorated diagram”. The diagram is the program in the building and the natural stone façade is the decorated envelope that wraps the building.

Decoration:
- aesthetic appeal of the building
- advertises the functions inside
- natural stone symbolizes soil layers

Diagram:
- visual explanation of the different functions of the building
- the relation of the functions to each other
Sequences and spaces:

- Creating spaces that relate to the park
- Special Sequences
- Moments of rest
- Places to come together
- Diversity in spaces
- More articulated, subtle spaces
- not just the Wedding Hall and the Council Hall are ceremonial spaces
- the Central (entrance) Hall and circulation spaces are also ceremonial spaces and are treated as such

“When in designing each space and each segment [as in a series/sequence], you are aware of the relevant degree of territorial claim and the concomitant forms of ‘accessibility’ with respect to adjoining spaces, then you can express these differences in the articulation of form, material, light and colour, and thereby introduce a certain ordering in the design as a whole.”

Herman Hertzberger
Facade and section

District Town Hall: Osdorp, Amsterdam West
Interior Architecture
Master of Science: Architecture
1. Entrance.
2. The information desk with a view to Civil Services with the offices visible above.
3. Central hall with waiting area, bridges and stairs.
First floor
Facade and section
First floor: wedding hall sequence
Wedding sequence, impressions

1. Entrance.

2. Going up the monumental staircase toward the wedding hall.
3. Going up the monumental staircase toward the wedding hall.
4. Foyer in front of the wedding hall.
5. The wedding hall.

Wedding sequence, impressions
6. The champagne/celebration room.
7. A typical picture of the bride and groom outside the celebration room
Facade and section: office wing
1. Offices.
2. Council hall.
3. View of the bridges in the atrium from the second floor.
The Roof:

The park landscape is continued onto the roof. A special roof ‘package’ is placed on top of the loadbearing construction. A drainage layer is included to keep the grass healthy. Except for the glass atrium roof and the roof of the wedding hall the roof is suitable for walking on. The wedding hall has small flowering plants on its roof.
The facade facing the square:

The vertical sunshading refers to rhythm of trees. This facade facing the square, and beyond that the park, reflects the park and thus brings it into and onto the town hall in another way. Extra sunshading provides the offices a better work-climate.
Front facade construction

CONCEPT DIAGRAM OF GLASS BLOCKS IN FRONT FACADE

- Travertine panel insulation
- Insitu concrete stucco
- Glass block
- Adhesive
The office wing facade:

As with the front and other wing facades, the facade is made to look like layers of rock and soil. The stone façade is made of travertine panels. The climate control consists of natural ventilation and a thermally active construction. Sitting and standing sightlines are primarily directing the viewer toward the street. The windows are lowered for a better view when sitting.
Details of the office wing facade

LEGENDA

1. 4mm Travertine panels, varying in width, 1000mm in length
2. anker for Travertine panel system
3. 120mm insulation
4. 200mm insitu poured reinforced concrete
5. 10mm stucco
6. steel frame, also for drainage
7. wooden window frame, 1330mm in length
8. 20mm wooden window sill with frame
9. sunshading: perforated semi-transparent screen
10. light shelf, mechanically opened with hinge as shown
11. 7mm widespan floor (breedplaatvloer) with 200mm reinforced concrete poured with 500mm construction beam
12. tubing for thermally active construction system, cooling ceiling
13. wiring channel
14. carpet
15. sound insulation
Office wing facade and front facade
The facades of the square and the side facade

model photographs
The central hall with the bridges and waiting area
The atrium in the office wing and the wedding hall

The waiting area in the central hall
The square and the roof

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model photographs