Gratuation PLAN – Architecture P2

PERSONAL INFORMATION
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STUDIO
Theme: MSc3 Studio Architecture & Dwelling [Q3-4 2011-2012]
At Home In The City | Amsterdam | Gentripuncture
Teachers: Paul Kuitenbrouwer, Olv Klijn & Nelson Motta

Argumentation
choice of the studio: The picture underneath shows a very serious and maybe kind of dull architect with an architectural project in his hands. And that there is an direct connection between his ambition and realization of his project. And what you can already see is that the building he realizes is not some kind of frivolous and possibly a piece of unnecessary decoration. But that it emanates in every aspect great seriousness and great necessity. The studio Dwelling makes me think of this architect, I don’t know his name or project, but that is not important. It’s about making the difference. Dwelling is for all times, for all layers of the civilization. Good quality housing is important in terms of health and shelter.

Title: “Garden in the city”
Problem statement: PUBLIC SPACE
Because of the monotone character of the Zuidas the outdoor space in the highly dense area is not functioning as a city center, but there is the ambition to become the second center of Amsterdam. The people that come to the area are mainly coming to work in one of the located firms. The public space in the area is of such that it’s not an attractive public space where people will meet each other and spend their time in the area throughout the day or weekend.

We can relate Zuidas to the developments that are detected by culture philosophers such as Hans Paul Bahrdt, Louis Wirth, Michael Sorkin, Mike Davis and Lieven de Cauter. They reason that an increasing privatization of public space the contemporary "urban culture" is affected. A new architectural and urbanistic paradigm generated by this phenomenon. There is even talk of big introverted ensembles on urban level. These are called "capsules", which stands for location independent and self-sufficient, a term that is used in space. The culture philosopher De Cauter speaks in this context of the emergence of a 'capsular architecture' in a capsular civilization.* The Zuidas as it is now could be regarded as such a development. The plints of the buildings are filled with functions that connect to the employees of the firms located there. The residents of the neighborhoods surrounding the Zuidas hardly connect with the area. According to Jan Gehl “city life does not happen by itself, or develop automatically simply in response to high density.”

LANDSCAPE
THE RELATION BETWEEN NATURE AND BUILDING STRUCTURE IS UNSTABLE. The nature in the area contributes rarely to any structuring of the area. The nature usually following slavishly the infrastructure, or function as residual space, they strengthen the vagueness. The green strip along the station square is used as introduction and filler element that represent the fakeness of the green in the area. Both ditches and the lawns and the trees are represented and form a green carpet without remarkable qualities for the public spaces. The rest of the green qualities are hidden on the tops of the towers or behind the thick walls of a building block and is not publicly accessible. This development strengthens the introvert character of the area. Through this planning strategy the possibility of the involvement of nature in public spaces and thereby increasing the quality of spaces is largely unused. It mostly remains with the potting of green in oversized vases. Rudy Uytenhaak argues that “densification causes the automatic loss of natural quality”.

This research and design will show however, how to create an integrated environment between public green spaces, working and living, where people can gather and meet each other.

Goal
I will research how density affect the natural quality of the public and private outdoor space in Zuidas. After my research I will be able to come up with a building typology that is able to integrate public spaces, natural qualities and

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2UYTENHAAK, R. 2008. Steden vol ruimte: kwaliteiten van dichtheid, Rotterdam, Uitgeverij 010, p. 8
working and housing unit in to an integrated environment, and so try to contribute to a working example for the development of the rest of Zuidas.

**Process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description Method</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I will be conducting in 3 main methods in my research:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• literal information</td>
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<tr>
<td>• comparative analyses;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• research by design;</td>
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The order of research of the different method will be done simultaneously in order to get hold on the different aspects of my design project and process.

The literal theoretical information provides me with input to realize a strong design concept which will function as an coat rack for design ideas. Ideas based on the parameters gained from the theoretical background information.

The comparative analysis of different projects will provide me with particle references regarding the form studies by using the input I gain from the analysis in the design process.

The research by design will be done by mass studies. The different options gained from the form studies are important. “These many options are part of a cyclical iterative process of continual improvement and reflection.”

**Literature and preference**

The main literature references I have used to write my essay and base my design upon regarding density and (public) outdoor spaces are the following:

Books and articles:

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Documentaries:


Reflection

By doing this research I hope to contribute to a knowledge of architecture by creating a working examples of an architecture where nature, public space and highly dense urban landscape is integrated in to one environment. It is a relevant topic as densification of cities is a current issue. Professor of populations at the Rockefeller University Dr. Joel Cohen argues that the population in cities over the whole world will double in the coming 50 years and that the rural environment will stay the same. The densification will have impact on the quality of the public space in the city. Outdoor spaces are often not properly looked at in this context. The left over spaces resulted from the creation of the first half of the 20th century are often undesigned spaces between buildings or parking spaces. The relation between nature and building structure is unstable. The nature in densified areas contributes rarely to any structuring of the areas. The nature usually following slavishly the infrastructure, or function as residual space due to the planning in the early 20th century.

How ‘the home’ can still be created in a city that becomes more denser and denser as a typology is something very beneficial because of the predicted developments that will occur not only in Randstad, but all over the world. Creating healthy housing is therefore very important for the future.

Because of the unstable financial market and thereby trapped real estate market the building needs to be flexible to deal with the changing market conditions. The project should have the possibility to be built in phases to be economical for investors.

The Zuidas has the ambition to be an ‘second’ urban center rather than an introverted, independent and self-sufficient ensemble of buildings. Some people are convinced that for the development of urbanization creating a multifunctional and compact center provides the best guarantee. In his hypothesis about the effect of living in the big city, Louis Wirth characterizes the city as compact and with a diverse population. The specialization of the equipment structure is determined by the size of the compact city. This means that the range of information and meetings with different people in different contexts generates many exchanges of information.

The German sociologist Hans Paul Bahrdt find the highest quality of a city it’s centrality. In 1961 he made a study of the degree of

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4 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vr44C_G0-o&list=PL5A645C9886BB774F&index=19
urbanization of the interaction patterns in relation to the centrality level. That was partly that the frequency of market days affects the urbanity of the interaction profile of an area. With the interaction profile is meant the extent of communication at various scale levels with the visitors. He concludes from his study that a city center offers a wide range of impulses, goods and services for a diverse audience, in which interaction occurs between the participating individuals. The area must be accessible to everyone.\(^6\)

So to contribute to this ambition the design project should be able to deliver these so called impulses by creating a divers program that connects with its environment and attract a diverse audience.

**Planning MSc 3**  
*September 2012 - January 2012*  
**Week 3.1** KICK-OFF | introduction and presentations of study track and individual problem statement, excursion  
**Week 3.2** EXCURSION + POSTER PRESENTATION | Site of your choice, related to design assignment and research theme  
**Week 3.3 - 3.8** DESIGN STUDIO - theory, analyses and design concept development  
**Week 3.9** P1 PRESENTATION  
  - research DUMMY(group)  
  - problem statement (individually)  
  - 1st conceptual model for site (individually)  
**Week 4.1** GROUP’S SITE MODEL  
**Week 4.2** GROUP’S SITE ANALYSIS – GROUP’S INTERPRETATION | PDF + POSTER PRESENTATION  
**Week 4.3** GROUP’S SITE ANALYSIS – INDIVIDUAL INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSION INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM FOR THE SITE – LINKS TO YOUR RESEARCH | POSTER + SKETCH MODEL  
**Week 4.4** ELABORATION OF INDIVIDUAL DESIGN CONCEPT | GRADUATION PLAN / CONTRACT  
**Week 4.5** ELABORATION OF INDIVIDUAL DESIGN CONCEPT  
**Week 4.6** MIDTERM PRESENTATION | DESIGN PROPOSAL WITH LINK TO RESEARCH  
**Week 4.7** ELABORATION OF INDIVIDUAL DESIGN CONCEPT | DEADLINE RESEARCH  
**Week 4.8** optional final consults before P2 presentations  
**Week 4.9** P2 PRESENTATION* | DESIGN CONCEPT

**Planning MSc 4**  
*August 2012 - January 2013*  
**Week 1.1** Evaluation of design and research; definition of additional studies  
**Week 1.2-1.6** Development of design, in relation to:  
- volumetric studies, housing typology and other programmes  
- materialisation, structure and climate design  
- additional research specific to the design: structure, climate design, parking, outdoor space etc.

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Week 1.7-1.8 P3 PRESENTATION | FIRST COMPLETE DESIGN PRESENTATION

Week 1.9-2.3 Focus on elaboration of design, esp. housing typology, interior and facade design with regard to materialisation, structure and climate design

Week 2.4-2.6 P4 PRESENTATION | DEFINITIVE DESIGN PRESENTATION
all aspects of the graduation project need to be finished: drawings and models, plus report if applicable, identification of minor aspects to be elaborated for the ultimate P5 presentations

Week 2.10-2.11 P5 PRESENTATION | CONCLUSIVE PRESENTATION OF GRADUATION PROJECT