1. The relationship between research and design
As a group work before p1, we came up with the research question ‘to what extent did infrastructure influence the transformation of Rotterdam city.’ In order to achieve a comprehensive result, we divided it into four different topics and I choose the Hofplein Square near our site as the research object. Through analyzing and researching the history of Hofplein Square after 1900s, the transition and development of the public space of the square turns out to be clear for me and based on this, the coherence between these changes in different aspects (density, in-between space, transport and small shops) can be got. As a result, I concluded that, the active of public space in nearhofplein square is largely affected by these factors and the problem in urban scale for now in Rotterdam is excessively fragmentized. The conclusion of the research can be related to my design as a guideline and a question for my masterplan ‘how we can optimize the fragmentation of the city center in Rotterdam and figure out a comfort and active public space.’ To answer this question we supposed ‘stiching fragments’ as our masterplan concept and carry on our architectural design based on this general idea.

2. The relationship between the theme of the studio and the subject/case study chosen by the students within this framework (location/object) the theme of public realm studio focus on researching how social, economical, political and cultural factors could influence the architecture and public space. The topic that I choose and the research method totally accord with this theme. As I use different points from social, economical and political aspects to carry on the research about the Hofplein, and use these conclusions to my own design, the masterplan will reflect a consideration based on all these complex factors.(see fig.1)

3. The relationship between the methodical line of approach of the studio and the method chosen by the student in this framework The methodical line of approach in public realm studio quite relies on the research in a broad scale and a relative concept for the masterplan can be got and the architecture will act as one part of the general urban scenario. Specifically, my method is based on this methodical line. The typological research of hofplein square is the foundation of the whole project and the conclusion about the complex coherence between public space and other factors can be got. According to the conclusion, we proposed the masterplan
reply on specific aspects. Since a clear masterplan has been defined, the architecture can be carried out more reasonably.

As a development after p4, render image has already worked out to show the basic atmosphere of the project and more details are added as well. At the same time, we have one 1:500 physical model to show the masterplan proposal, one 1:200 physical model focus on the building scale.

4. The relationship between the project and the wider social context

As in the process of research and proposing the masterplan, all the considerations are related to the social, economical and cultural factors, I would like to change the boring and fragmental public space to an active and comfort one for people in the sint-Jacobstraat. The project can be also seemed as an example that how we can optimize the urban context in the fragmental environments in Rotterdam city.

fig 2.final view of the project