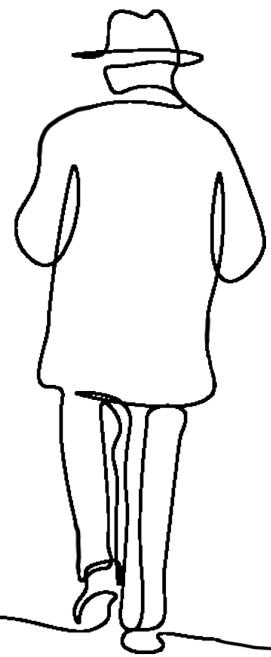


BLEIJBURCHT

WORKING TITLE

REFLECTION REPORT



Aspect 1 - Relation between graduation topic, studio topic, master track, and master programme

The studio assignment of the Advanced Housing Design Graduation Studio Ecology of Inclusion describes the studio as researching and developing how housing design can successfully address the challenge of assuring social inclusion and reducing the ecological footprint of its residents.

While I have taken both subjects with great attention into account, my most important consideration in my design project is social inclusiveness. My project has a big focus on a very vulnerable target group: the lonely solo dweller. For this specific target group, I explored spatial design principles that can contribute positively to a pleasant living environment where social interaction is positive supported.

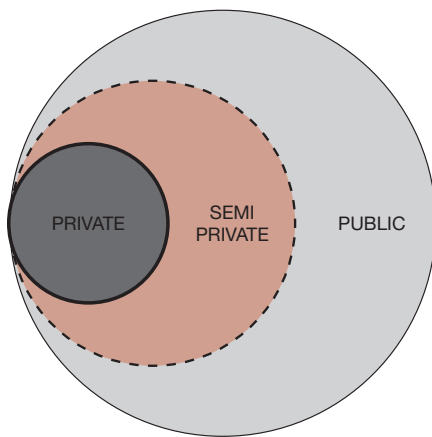
This subject is closely related to the followed graduation studio, but also follows the Architecture track vision in which it is encouraged to develop building projects that use design as means to deal with social and spatial challenges encountered in the built environment.

Aspect 2 - The relationship between research and design

Research for design

The design of my project is strongly intertwined with my research. The design principles I used for my project originated from the results of my research.

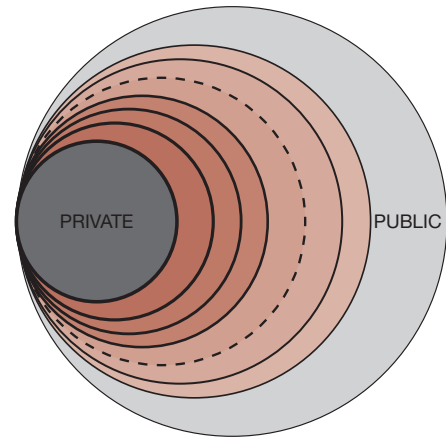
How these research results have affected the design is most clearly illustrated by the following visualizations.



Principle of I. Altman's research conclusion: the existence of the collective area (semi-private) between the intimate realm (private) and the anonymous realm (public). (Graphic by author, 2022)

Starting point

For my research, I came quite promptly to the studies of Irwin Altman and Machiel van Dorst. They both conducted a study on the area between the intimate (private) and the anonymous (public) realm. The study of Van Dorst was an elaboration on the study of Altman. I visualised these studies to gain a better understanding on their deeper meaning:



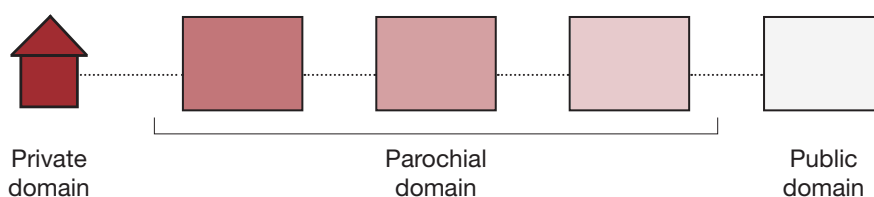
Principle of M. van Dorst's research conclusion: groups consist sub-groups which consist smaller sub-groups. In the architecture field this means an ever-increasing trampling of levels of publicness: *privacy zoning*. (Graphic by author, 2022)

Further elaboration

During more and additional literature research, I read the research of sociologist Lyn Lofland. She also researched this particular space and named it the *parochial domain*. She described the term as follows: 'The parochial domain is characterized

by a sense of commonality among neighbours who are involved in interpersonal networks that are located within 'communities'.'

I combined and translated the studies of Altman, Van Dorst and Lofland into the following diagram:

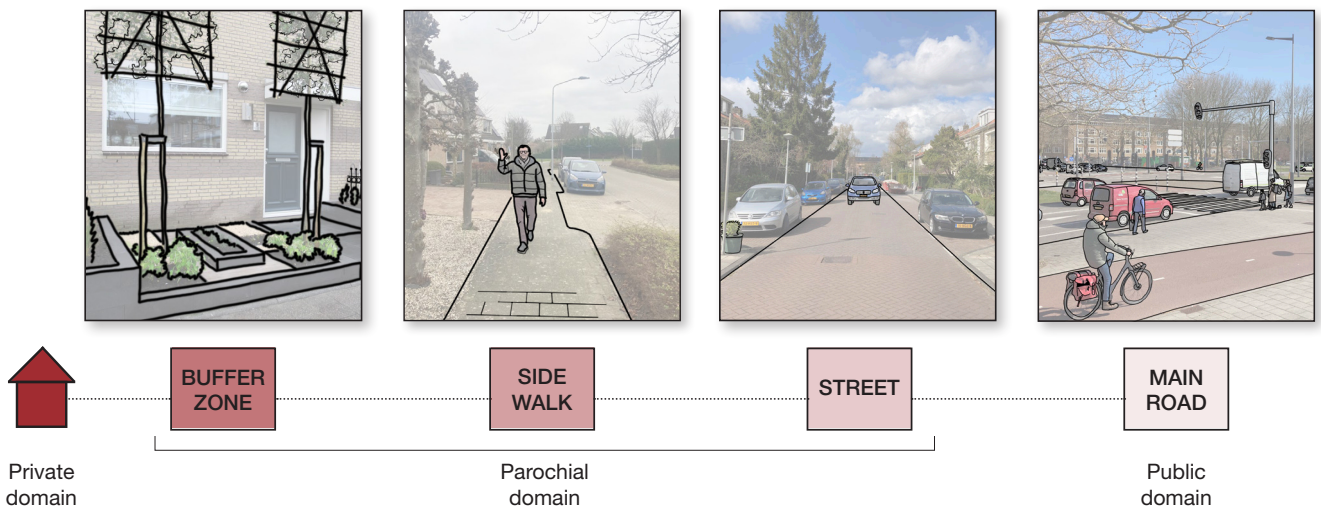


From theory to practice

I elaborated on the investigated knowledge I gained with a translation to areas and buildings in practice.

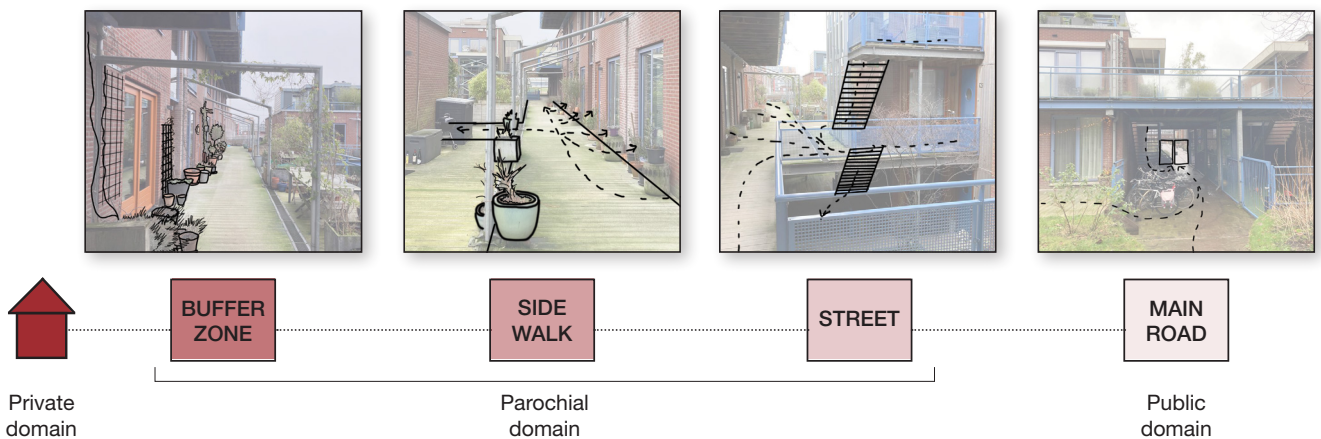
What struck me was that the theory I had read could be reflected very well in a ground bounded

low rise residential neighbourhood. In these specific areas a clear division of different zones of publicness are perfectly readable - exactly what was described in the research of Van Dorst. I did a field study of these distinct zones and visualised this with photos and additions:



I have examined the division of publicness as well on building level. For this purpose, I examined two case studies. Although the perception and scale is different at the level of a building, the principle

of a division in zones of publicness remains comparable. One of the reference projects in which I have reflected on the research can be seen in the photo's:

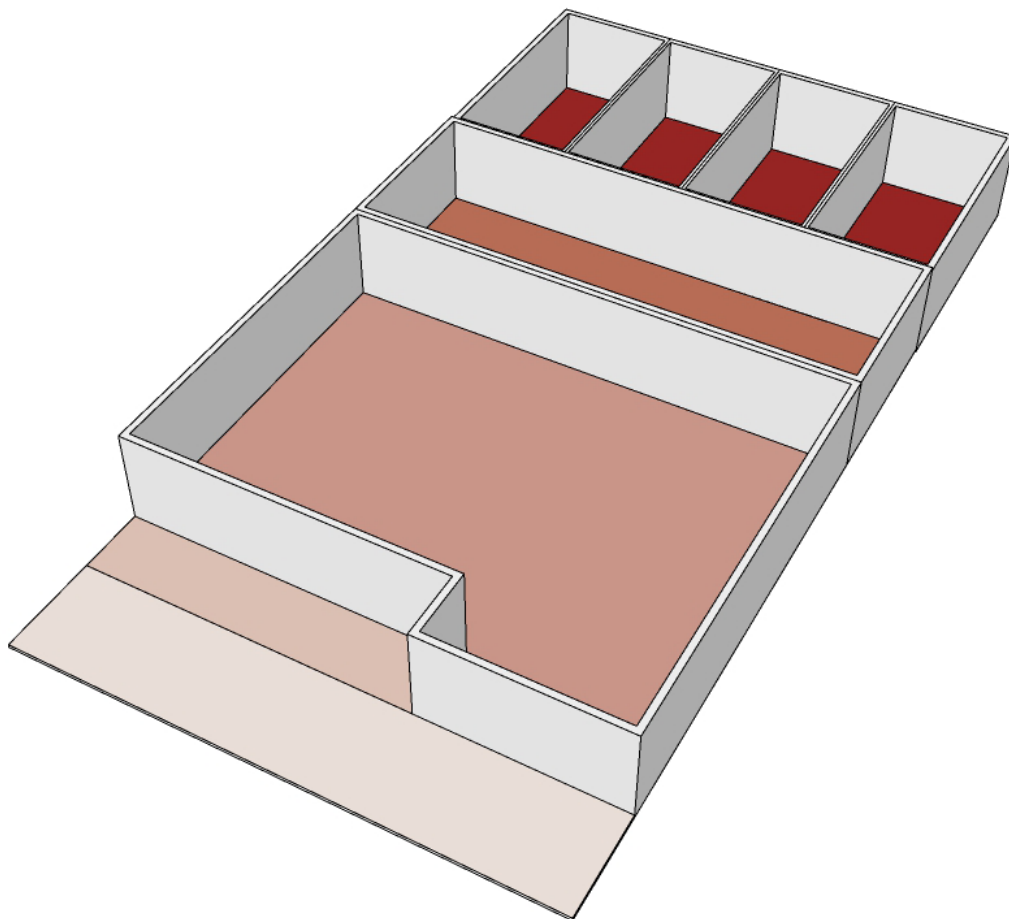


Translating research into design concept

I wanted to elaborate these theoretical and practical research results in my design project on building and cluster level.

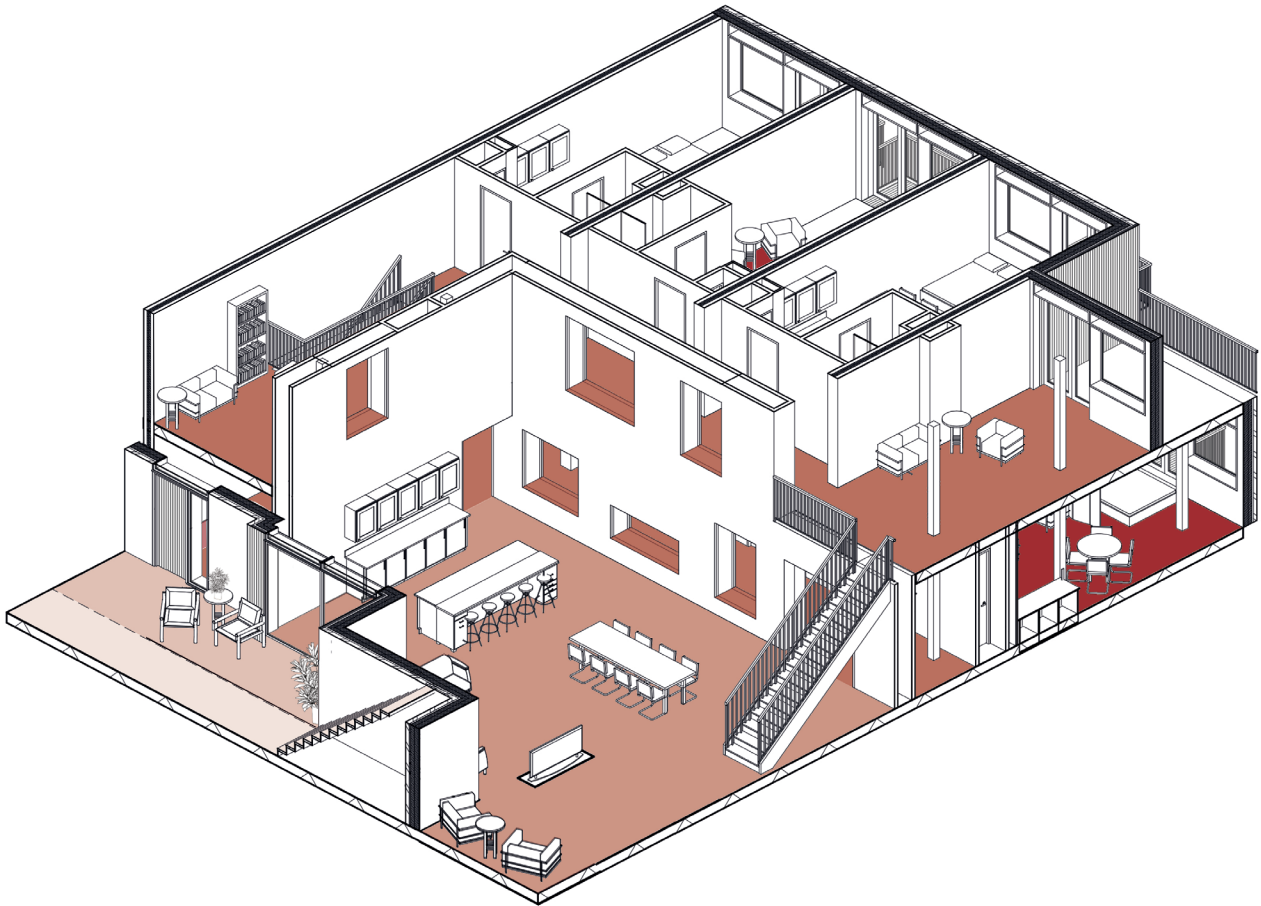
The research showed that this division of zones creates a pleasant living environment that contributes to mutual contact between neighbours and residents.

The conceptual visualisation of this division is as follows:



Translating concept into design

I elaborated this concept into the final design. I have designed a clear division into zones of publicness on both at cluster and building level. The elaboration of the division of these zones on cluster level is shown in the following axonometry of one of the clusters of the design:





Aspect 3 - Elaboration on research method and approach in relation to the graduation studio methodical line of inquiry

For my research, I used various research methods to come to research results and conclusions. Each method independently had its own input and showed me different insights, however the research results frequently also had an overlap. I started with a literature study in order to form a base according to existing literature and research conducted by others so far. This was a good starting point to elaborate on.

To extend my knowledge on the subject and intended target group I conducted a field research on one of the four selected case studies. During my visit to the case study, I learned a lot about how people are living together in a collective residential building. I experienced how they interact with each other and had a conversation with them about how they live comfortably together.

In addition to the field research, I studied four reference projects. I examined the buildings on subjects that were related to my research topic. I examined the projects on:

- The design of the circulation space,
- The available collective spaces and amenities, and
- How the dwellings are clustered to a shared space.

The final research results have been a collaboration between these different methods.

This combination of research methods provides a good representation of my chosen topic.

It could take on a rather subjective angle if only field research were done. And on the other hand, with only literature research, the research results will be mostly objective. This is not desirable with a research into social behaviour and mutual interaction. A combination of objective and subjective research methods has produced very valuable research results.

In addition to these two research methods, the use of case study research has also been of great value. In this way, I have gained a lot of knowledge about a form of living that I did not know before, or hardly knew. Besides new knowledge about this specific housing typology, it is very interesting to investigate how existing projects have handled your own specific research topic.

Aspect 4 - Elaboration on the relationship between the graduation project and the wider social, professional and scientific framework, touching upon the transferability of the project results

In my opinion, the social issue of loneliness is seriously underexposed. It is a social societal problem that has been growing rapidly in recent decades and it is still growing, yet little attention is paid to find actual solutions.

For the person concerned, it is a major personal problem (consciously or unconsciously). Loneliness leads to psychological pressure, tensions, causes conflict situations, and causes health issues, like the increased risk of heart disease.

The treatment to remedy the consequences causes high health care costs and causes unnecessarily high pressure in the care system. Considering the pressure on care in the near and further future, tackling the problem of loneliness is highly desirable. Collective living certainly contributes to this.

In addition, this upcoming form of living together is also beneficial in terms of sustainability. Living together is sustainable in several ways. For example, residents of a residential group share many of their facilities. Which will decrease use and emissions.

Also regarding the housing problematic this collective form of living is interesting. Several residential units are built on a relatively small surface area. In this way, more dwellings per floor area can be realised, which could alleviate the shortage of housing.

Aspect 5 - The ethical issues and dilemmas which I encountered in doing my research, elaborating the design and potential applications of the results in practice.

During my research and design project, I encountered ethical dilemmas which could be arise.

For instance, what are the collective rules around living together with solely solo-dwellers? What if a resident gets into a relationship? A solution could be for the housing association to find replacement accommodation for the person concerned. What if one of the residents falls serious ill? An ill person has a great impact on the immediate living environment.

What also derives questions is about the ratio of involved residents. For example regarding male/female ratio or young/old ratio. On what basis is the composition of a residential living group formed? And, on what basis is it decided who is allowed in once someone leaves the cluster?

Also practical questions arise while thinking about the elaboration in practice. For example, does the responsibility for applying the house rules lies with the individual resident?

House rules should be set up, but advancing insights will influence adaptations for these types of ethical issues.