Introduction

The financial crisis changed the view on the economic systems in the world. Since the crisis hit the market in 2008, many western governments are deep in debt; and the Dutch government is no exception. Experts analysing the economical crisis all have there own theories, but often capitalism is considered the one to blame. Anticapitalistic quotes as 'It is time to look beyond capitalism and toward a new social order that would allow us to live within a system that could be responsible, just & humane.' (David Harvey, 2010) appear in essays and interviews about the financial crisis.

Consensus is found in the need for a system where the influences of the market on the world should be reduced, as well as the government should give more space and power to the civil society. Figure 1, based on the principles of the democratic triangle of Anton Zijderveld shows the intended ‘shift’ in power.

The conceptual form of this was presented in the UK as the ‘Big Society’, in the Netherlands the King did a call for a ‘Participatory Society' in September 2013. Dealing with time in which the welfare state is crumbling, both claim the importance for the civil society to use, and rely more on their own strengths, financially as socially.

*My interests for this graduation process focussed on the search for new spatial and financial forms of the functioning and participating of people in society within the changed global economics.*
**Design as Politics; Follow the Money**

My motivation to join this studio was to learn more about the ‘other sides’ of architecture that have been rarely encountered during education, but are very relevant in practice: politics and money. Aside I will graduate in a world where architects are repositioning their role in the built environment and the public will get their share in how this built environment is functioning and looking like, we are dealing in the Netherlands with an enormous amount of vacant real estate.

Alarming numbers were announced in several publications last year that this amount will only grow in the different estate sectors. Among these objects are a fair amount of monumental buildings. The amount of monumental buildings that will be put on the market will only grow. One of the reasons is that the government as measurement to reduce the public debt, will follow a policy to sell their redundant real estate. I want to use the call for more civic participation in a tool to address the problem of vacant heritages.

As case study to execute my ideas I choose the panoptic dome prison, located in Haarlem. The prison belongs to the group of penitentiaries to which the government will execute her rigid sales policy. The prison with its panoptic concept and located just outside the city centre of Haarlem contains the features of an interesting case study.

The question that rises from the objective and chosen case study is: How can a prison, formerly clearly separated from city and society get a new social and spatial position in the area while keeping its historical and cultural value?
Relationship between research and design

The research conducted during the beginning of the graduation process contains a dive into the financial side of architecture and the correlations with governmental policies. This led to an exploration in the ‘new economics’; citizen participation and the emergence of civic enterprise as bottom-up initiatives, crowd funding projects, CPO projects etc.

At the same time I investigated on the vacancy problems in (monumental) real estate as in the role of the government in this problem. What are the current sales regulations and strategies and which policies and subsides could be beneficial to civic enterprises. The research done in the first half year was summarized in a diagram for the P2 presentation. (figure 2)

The strategy that was subtracted from the research named above set certain guidelines for how I wanted to reflect the concept of community and participation into the design. At the same time case study specific analyses of the city and building gave me some architectural starting points that dealt with site and object.
Methodical line of approach

The studio offered a lot of freedom to the students to fill in their own project and method. To get familiar with the subject of finance and to get inspiration for the development of your personal ideas the studio offered workshops, lectures and an excursion to Madrid. Gaining knowledge in the studio’s theme and the first theoretical research led to picking the location and object of my case study. By doing this I could redefine my objective.

Objective:
The intentions for this project are to achieve a new financial model that makes it convincing that buying monumental real estate is feasible in private collective ownership. This gives the new owners the freedom to organize their way of living and sharing facilities. My goal is to facilitate this form of living by transforming the monumental prison and surroundings into a place where living in a communal form and sharing facilities is supported. I want the ‘new prison’ and its new form of use to be part of the city and society, opposite to the harsh excluded position the traditional prison used to have.

In order to achieve the aim that I had set out at the beginning of the process, my research questions were:

- How could a financial model look like for the purchase of a governmental building with monumental value by a group of people in private collective ownership?
- How can a prison, formerly clearly separated from city and society, get a new social and spatial position in the area while keeping it's historical and cultural value?
- How could the architectural and technical transformation of the prison support the future habitants in their needs and desires to share the care for their families following the ideology of a ‘participatory society’?

Method:
In every architectural research a system of relations between set elements can be found. The nature of these relations locates architecture between different episteme; specific thought frames from which architect operate. My research methodology is based on a synthesis of the episteme of typology that gives insight in the building type of the case study (panopticon), and the episteme praxeology, used as a tool of investigation towards human action and conduct within communities. Here fore, examples of communities have been studied, varying from historical examples, either naturally developed as ‘forced’, as the recent examples that emerged in reaction to the economical crisis. The third(new) episteme is from the framework of policies, finance and money; the ‘new and alternative’ tools for design for the architect.

Social relevance

With the outcome of my project I hope to contribute to a possible part of the solution for the problem of the huge amount of vacant (monumental) real estate in the Netherlands. Since the end of the year 2013 alarming numbers about vacancy are published and those numbers will only increase in the upcoming years. Since we are not talking about private houses, but about monumental buildings that are on a market where the supply is way higher than the demand, a financial construction that makes the public able to enter this market in ‘collectives’ and become an convincing negotiator for the government could take a part of the buildings from the market because they can be exploited by a group of people. Taken as important argument that exploitation is the best maintenance. When monuments are maintained they keep their cultural value that will work beneficial on the area development in the city. Besides that, the project provides a platform for forms of a ‘participatory collective or community’, a way of how Dutch society can be organized and a form that is supported by the government as the citizens; people seem to search for a more personal forms of living and there is a desire to have more control themselves to pull the strings.