I would like to introduce the crafts school to the Amsterdam youngsters and bring back the interest in traditional and new crafts by designing a special crafts school on a suitable location.

The entrance of their own world is strengthened by a change of floor type. The intermediate zone of the technical departments have steel grids on the floors, the cooking and restaurant creating their own boats, their own crops, making them forget the are at school.

I envision a school where the youngsters work at their own projects, running their own boat workshop, new generation crafts.

People should know this school is not a regular school, but a school for people skilled with their hands. The school should breath crafts, in appearance and in organization. The school should be the place where the youngsters get their knowledge. It is stacked on the practical departments, but can be freely classified on a gridsize of 2,4m if changes appear. The shedlike rooflights, central circulation space, voids and the outside view are characteristic for the theory department, creating an industrial atmosphere.

The central hall is the heart of the building. Important is the relation with the courtyards and views and the feeling that you are in-between the practical and theory departments. The space is orientated towards outside. In-between the practical departments are ‘comfortzones’, made by the pupils themselves, offering soft flooring, more light and furniture like lockers, picknick tables.

The rain falls on the roof (150 sqm) and is collected in a gutter. In order to keep the facade maximum transparent, the rainwater is collected and recycled into the inner construction. Sound and thermal insulation ensure the user a smooth drainage system.

This red zone represents the industrial zones on Amsterdam North. The darkred area is the MVM shipyard, an old object which nowadays is a mixture with creative small and big studios like MTV and IDtv. In-between the areas are the gigantic scaled industrial objects like a 200m long boat ramp, and a high tower crane. The desolated areas are taken by all kinds of subcultures like skaters, graffiti artists, homeless people and sometimes during the night, party people. An incredible mixture of different people.

As the pictures show, the site has a very strong relation with the industrial crafts as we know them.