CREATIVE WITH HISTORY
Creative industry in the historic inner city of Delft

Keywords: creative industry, creative economy, historic inner city, Delft, urban structure, TU Delft, urban regeneration.

Problem statement
In Delft is a high demand for living and workspace for the creative industry. Between 2014 and 2020 2,400m² workspace must be realized to meet the demand of the creative industry. This is not achievable without business centres or incubators (Louters Bureau, 2008). According to Florida’s theory is creativity and innovation the strongest in the historic city, this makes it the most attractive type of creative environment for creative businesses (Florida, 2005). In this research the needs of the creative industry should be integrated in the urban structure to respect the city plan of the historic city. The site, named ‘Gasthuisplaats’, is since 1968 in use as a parking area that is situated in the historic city.

Analysis
The relationship between the TU Delft, historic city (society) and creative industry is very weak. People in the historic city do not notice the presence of TU Delft in the city. Through a morphological and typological analysis the structure of the historic city is investigated. (Cities) architectural principles, historic urban architectural characteristics, of the historic city, composition and spatial form of the historic city of Delft are defined. The urban structure that the location surrounds determines the development potential of the site. The needs of the city of Delft and requirement of the creative industry are also included in the analysis to strengthen the support base of the development.

Design
A vision for the historic city reinforces the position of the site in the historic city by involving the 2 strong aspects of the historic city tourism and retail in the development. The vision creates 12,500m² workspaces for the creative industry in the historic city. The design of the Gasthuisplaats got a relationship with the history of the site, more than 700 years a guesthouse was located on this location. Forum Delft is introduced as a new function in the city, situated on the site, to strengthen the relationship between TU Delft, historic city and creative industry. This multifunctional function exposes and sells products of students of TU Delft and creative entrepreneurs in Delft. The development of the site provides also in the needs of the present functions, workspace for the creative industry, housing, relocation of the ‘Tourist Information Point’ and a new square.

Conclusion
By making the historic city more attractive as a creative environment for creative industries this will be a fifth strong pillar for the historic city besides retail, housing, leisure and tourism. The developments improves the spatial quality mainly in the immediate vicinity of the site, create more living and workspace for the creative industry in the historic city, incorporated in the structure of the historic city and it improves the relationship between TU Delft, historic city (society) and creative industry. In addition the quality of life, vibrancy and vitality of the city improves.

Resources

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