the enclave of the binnengasthuis area
GRADUATION REPORT

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Studio Heritage & Architecture
Heritage & Design

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III. INTRODUCTION

Site Selection

Within this studio I had two optional sites to choose between. The Prinsengracht Hospital and the Binnengasthuisterrein. After considering, I picked the Binnengasthuis area to be the subject of my graduation project. The identity of the public space and the buildings within this region differ very much from other parts of the city center. This is what intrigued me, and made me decide that this what I would like to investigate further.

Goal and Problem Statement

Because we are dealing with an ensemble of existing buildings which a rich history, it is important to be aware of the cultural identity and the additional values of the buildings. With my research I would like to get to know how a new chapter on the Binnengasthuisterrein’s lifecycle will look like. In the next few years, the Uva will dispose of several buildings in other parts of the city center. They want to fully concentrate their inner city faculties on the Binnengasthuisterrein, and by the end of 2020 grow with an increase of 33% in the amount of students. The Binnengasthuis will function as a campus (Haaksma & van der Meer, 2015).

On the other hand, the city of Amsterdam attracts more and more tourists every year. Several areas in the city center such as Dam square, Red light district, Leidscheplein and Rembrandtplein form very vibrant regions with accompanied functions such as horeca, leisure and shopping. They tend to determine the city scenery. However, the Binnengasthuisterrein, situated in between these vibrant places, lacks of these functions and therefore forms space in the city center where less tourists and people go. The important connections between the vibrant areas are situated around the UvA terrain.

The Binnengasthuisterrein has, compared to the rest of the medieval city center of Amsterdam, a lot of public open space. But since the buildings that surround this space are very much faced inwards, and the area doesn’t interact with the city center regarding its touristic function, the Binnengasthuis tends to be a closed off fortress, despite its central position.

What I would like to know is, if it’s desirable to connect the UvA area with the rest of the city center. And if (not) so, how this can be established. How should the (absence of) connection be disclosed? Can the Binnengasthuisterrein open up more towards the city center, or are there other opportunities to seize?

The story above is mainly focusing on the ensemble as a whole, in relation to the urban context. Yet, I would also like to focus on the separate buildings. Depending the outcome of my urban research, I would like to investigate which building is most evident to play a role in a design assignment. Which building can play a critical role for the ensemble, whether to open up the ensemble to the city structure, or to emphasize its closeness? What programme is needed along this role for the city, ensemble and university?
Research Question:

The story above brings me to the following research question, with the following sub questions:

What is the most desirable way to relate the Binnengasthuisterrein to the rest of the city center, in order to generate beneficial interaction for the University of Amsterdam?

- What were the different chapters of the area in the past, and how can this be noticed in present day?
- What are the plans for the university? What will the next chapter of the lifecycle be?
- What is public space, how do people use it and how can knowledge be applied for the university?
- What is the urban context, and how is the area related to the city?
- What is the physical appearance of the ensemble towards exterior and interior?
- What is the presence of the interior public space, and what is its use?
- What are the opportunities for an intervention?
Research Methods:

In order to be able to answer the questions above I will have to do thorough research. The analyses we make together with the group will form a good basis of information. But in order to get a clear answer on all questions, a lot of additional information should be acquired by looking into certain issues more deeply. First I will lay a theoretical framework based on history and literature. After this I will critically look into the group analyses to see what I can use for my research, and what needs to be complemented.

Also, for these particular questions, I think it is useful to get additional information acquired from earlier reports, surveys and legal documents, since there are already some statements been done about the ensemble as a whole and its values. Other information can be gained from research on the site, both personal observations concerning the functioning of the ensemble, and observations of current users such as residents and UvA-related people. Furthermore information can be obtained from analyzing city maps on different scales; making reduction drawings and draw conclusions from them.

Chapters 1 and 4 of this research report will define a theoretical background. In the other chapters the findings on the case study of the Binnengasthuis area will be juxtaposed.

In chapters 2 and 3 a description will be presented of respectively the past and the future of the area, derived from documents and other texts.

Chapters 5, 6 and 7 will provide a study of the location of the assignment, measured to the theory on public space, elaborated in chapter 4.

In part V of this report the conclusions of the research will be drawn. The research question will be answered and a programme and starting points for the design will be formulated, so this report can function as a fundament for the design.
IV. RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS
1. A NEW CHAPTER IN THE BUILDING’S LIFECYCLE

“A building is not something you finish. A building is something you start.”

-Stewart Brand, 1994

A building should be considered a piece of art. But, unlike a painting for example, a building is not finished by the time it gets delivered, like Brand states in the quote above. With the commissioning of the building, only the first chapter of the building’s lifecycle is completed. The building has a certain user and a purpose in society. If the conditions change, the building also modifies along. Therefore, institutional buildings continuously change and keep on evolving, even after they are completed (Brand, 1995).

Juhani Palasmaa (2012) states that the identities of buildings and architectural works are because of their purpose in society, attached to a continuum of changing culture and life, and therefore part of past, present and future.

What we can derive from this theory is the way we should handle adaption or change. If a painting gets damaged over time, it can be repaired and restored to its original state. The painting would not lose its meaning, since the painting is merely a snapshot of time. But what happens if a building loses value, because it is no longer fit to its purpose for example? Due to the ever-changing society it should grow, evolve or switch with its user (Meurs, 2004).

According to Brand, this is what makes ‘old’ buildings extra interesting. He claims that people have taste for elements that not only show that they have been through a process of evolution, but which also show they are still part of one (Brand, 1995). This provides the building of cultural identity and historical sense. These aspects link the designer to the continuum of life and culture and provide a consciousness of his own place in time, of his own contemporaneity. “Architectural meaning is always contextual, relational and temporal. Great works achieve their density and depth from the echo of the past, whereas the voice of the products of superficial novelty remains feeble, incomprehensible and meaningless” (Palasmaa, 2012).

It is therefore significant to thoroughly investigate the cultural identity of a building in order to integrate its values into a new design, in case of future chapters for the building’s lifecycle. These values should be made tangible for future users in a spatial sense. In a possible transformation the perfect balance has to be found between existing spatial qualities, cultural-historical values deserving protection, and new functional use (Stroux, 2014).

1.1 Managing Change

So on one hand we see that buildings are continuously subject to change, but on the other hand it is important to maintain the building’s cultural identity, since it gives us the basis of tradition, general sense of cultural history, and also the possibility to understand and specify the locality of culture (Palasmaa, 2012).

As reported by Roders & Veldpaus (2014) the aspects protection and transformation go hand in hand. Along with the rising awareness that buildings aren’t static objects in time, approaches evolved where change is to be managed, instead of being avoided. They compare two documents that both aim to provide common guiding principals on how to protect heritage, to be adapted to local context for implementation; the ICOMOS 1964 Charter of Venice and the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban
Landscape. In this comparison it becomes clear that the definition on what is considered heritage, the general principles on how heritage should be managed, the threats on why it should be managed, and the tools on in what way it should be managed, has clearly shifted. In figure 1.1 the Venice Charter and the HUL recommendation are put next to each other to compare.

Although both documents are established to maintain tangible- and intangible cultural heritage in order to preserve cultural identity, they have a different approach. Briefly, the Venice Charter tends to focus on protecting tangible heritage, since the object is the witness of the past, where intangible heritage is integrated and represented. About 50 years later, the strategies proposed in the UNESCO HUL document are integrated into a wider framework of urban development. The strategies to mitigate the impact of threats to cultural significance provide a more tailor-made solution and a balance of socio-economic benefits. The focus lies more at preserving the intangible heritage. The tolerance for change and respective limits of acceptable change seem to be growing in subjectivity, in order to protect the urban landscape, instead of individual tangible heritage (Roders & Veldpaus, 2014).

Although different, the Venice Charter in a more conservative way and the HUL recommendation in a more progressive way, both documents aspire a continuity of historical sense and its perception, not only of the pastness of the past, but of its presence; the historical sense compels one to design not merely with his own generation in his mind, but ties the architect to the continuum of time and culture and provides the backbone of his/her language and its comprehensibility towards the future (Palasmaa, 2012).

1.2 the Unpredictable Future

As can be seen from the comparative analysis, different principles come with different threats. But, since these threats are already identified, they are well manageable when there is an extensive knowledge of the former building’s lifecycle’s chapters. Both tangible- and intangible heritage have to be mapped in order to lay the foundation for the future. It is hereby important that the ambition and the vision of the building’s user are stated clearly, in order to make assumptions for what is required of a building for the future. However, Architects often use a programme stating what necessities and wishes the potential user needs now. This is oftentimes too specific and short-term. It is necessary to look further ahead, but as Brand (1995) states; “All buildings are predictions. All predictions are wrong”.

I would like to illustrate this with an example. In figure 1.2 we see a postcard, made around the year 1900 by French artist Jean-Marc Côté. The picture shows a prediction of how society would look like, 100 years after the card was made. We see an architect, sitting in some kind of booth. On his desk he has a plan, and while turning and pressing on some switches and knobs, he controls a machine that is building a house out of a stone like material. This shows quite precisely that it is hard to predict the future, based on the facts that we have today. On one hand, the artist was very accurate that technology would develop drastically and that we would be able to make buildings with machines, considering the fact that today designs are made with computers, and even the first houses are being made with 3D printing techniques. On the other hand, it is clear that the picture is just a figment of the imagination of the artist, since processes like this are nowadays are not just carried out by one person controlling a machine. Contrarily, with innovations in technology and processes, a lot more persons and intermediates are involved than there were a hundred years ago. Another example why this picture doesn’t represent today’s reality is that the house is being built from traditional materials, which are being modified on site, after which they are put together stone by stone. In
### Figure 1.1: Comparative analysis between Venice Charter and HUL Recommendation (Roders & Veldpaus, 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venice Charter</th>
<th>HUL Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definitions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cultural heritage is defined as the historic monuments that are the tangible living witnesses of the past. It can be a single, great or modest, architectural work or an urban or rural setting in which the evidence of a particular civilization, a significant development, or a historic event is found.</td>
<td>The Historic Urban Landscape is understood as an urban area that is the result of an historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, including tangible and intangible components, and to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting. It also includes social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General principles</strong>&lt;br&gt;Safeguarding heritage and pass on its authenticity is a common responsibility. Historic monuments are to be safeguarded as works of art and as historic evidence. Aesthetic and historic values should be revealed and preserved, and they are inseparable from their history and the setting in which they occur. When new construction, demolition or transformation is in order, one should be aware: although a (new) use is desirable, change in composition, typology, decoration, and color, or its relation with its surroundings must not be allowed.</td>
<td>Heritage is a key resource in enhancing the livability of urban areas and fosters economic development and social cohesion. The effective planning and management of resources is crucial; conservation is a strategy to achieve a balance between urban growth and quality of life on a sustainable basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Identified threats</strong>&lt;br&gt;Both the lack of maintenance on a permanent basis and the falsification of the artistic or historic evidence are considered problematic. Though, in general, problems facing heritage protection are complex and varied, and there is a lack of knowledge on how to deal with heritage, which therefore is laid out in this charter.</td>
<td>The main threats are rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, social and spatial fragmentation and drastic deterioration of the quality of the (urban) environment, e.g. due to excessive building density, standardized and monotonous buildings, loss of public space and amenities, inadequate infrastructure, debilitating poverty, social isolation, and an increasing risk of climate-related disasters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proposed policy and recommended strategies</strong>&lt;br&gt;The charter recommends national authorities to implement the guiding principles within the framework of its own culture and traditions. One should be producing precise documentation on heritage in the form of analytical and critical reports (1); Such should lead to evaluation of the importance of the elements involved (2). This cannot be an individual decision (3). Sites of monuments must be the object of special care in order to safeguard their integrity (4).</td>
<td>National and local authorities are stimulated to (re) develop instruments and tools sensitive to local values and needs, related to regulatory systems and measures (1); heritage and impact assessment (2); participation processes and capacity building (3) and sustainable socio-economic development (4).</td>
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present times, a manufacturing process like this would be carried out somewhere else, whereafter prefabricated modules of all sorts of materials would be assembled on site, for that matter still by construction workers.

Since we plan for a future we know barely anything about, it is essential that when we add a new chapter to the lifecycle of a building (or even a group of buildings or a city), this chapter should be a logical continuation of the previous chapters. "Working on the ‘old’ has to be done with great care and understanding of the cultural, technical and historical dimension, and looking forward with the right luggage in the awareness of societal relevance. A too one-sided approach in aesthetics, ethics or pragmatics will not help. Being generic and specific at the same time, the position of the architect develops into being a director in a very complex task. It is about attitude, absolutely open in in exchanging knowledge and skills, curious and willing to work in impossible paradoxes with the focus on new value creation" (Roos, 2014).

Figure 1.2: Prediction in the year 1900 of the task of the architect, 100 years later (Hill, 2012).
2. THE PAST

According to the previous chapter, the previous phases of the subject’s lifecycle have to be thoroughly mapped, in order to be able to lay the foundation for the future. The subject of this research report is the Binnengasthuislenterrein, but to be able to compare and explain some of the morphological aspects, we first have to look at a larger scale.

2.1 the City of Amsterdam

The history of the city of Amsterdam begins in the 13th century, when fishermen started with the construction of palisades along the banks of the Amstel River. At what we call today Dam square, the two banks of the river were connected with floodgates. From now on, this place is called ‘Amsteldam’. At the end of the thirteenth century, residents get the privilege of free navigation on the Dutch waters.

This privilege proved to be crucial for the economic development of the city. Free passage and navigation meant that traders could operate in a cheap way, and the trading economy flourished.

By the end of the 15th century the city developed rapidly. After the Spaniards conquered Antwerp, many rich Jews fled to Amsterdam. All the wealth they brought along them was used to organize expeditions to India. The commercial benefits are enormous, and in 1602 the East Indian Trading Company is founded. The city of Amsterdam participates, and owns more than fifty percent of the shares of what later will become the first multinational in the world. This resulted in an era of exceptional growth and prosperity, what in the Netherlands is known as the Golden Age.

In this period, the 17th century, the city was subjected to two massive urban extensions. For the first time, not only attention was paid to the functionality of the extensions, but also beauty was considered important. Around 1630 the Jordaan and the first part of the canalring were constructed. Later in the 17th century the canalring would be finished. By the end of the 17th century, the blooming economy of Amsterdam comes to an end and a period of poverty sets in.

With the construction of the North Sea Canal in 1876 Amsterdam is directly connected to the North Sea. From that moment on, steamships become a big part of the everyday scenery in the port of Amsterdam. It marks a turning point for the city. Because of the connections with the Dutch East Indies, Amsterdam acquired an important position in the global trading of spices. Besides, the diamond trade with South Africa was set up and evolved.

This new period of prosperity is reflected in the construction of monumental architectural masterpieces, such as the Central Station in 1889 and besides several buildings on the Binnengasthuislenterrein.

The twentieth century begins prosperous. The Amsterdam School, an idealistic architecture movement, builds different districts of social housing around the existing city. A lot of effort and special attention is paid to the appearance of the housing blocks. Also Amsterdam is further enhanced with Schiphol Airport, south of the city.

The twentieth century is also a century of war. Although the Netherlands remained neutral during the First World War, there was a serious shortage of food. World War II caused little physical damage in Amsterdam. But starvation during the famine of 1944 and the persecution of Jews resulted in the fact that Amsterdam had lost ten percent of its inhabitants.
After the war, the composition of the Amsterdam population changed rapidly. Many local residents left for the satellite towns like Purmerend, Hoorn and Almere. Alongside this is the flow of Surinamese, Turkish and Moroccan people towards the city. Nowadays, Amsterdam is the host of over 800,000 inhabitants from 175 different countries.

(Source: I AMsterdam)
2.2 The Binnengasthuisterrein

In the ancient city center of Amsterdam, within the canal ring, lies the Binnengasthuis area. This region, which was originally situated at the Amstel River, has had a rich variety of chapters through history within its lifecycle. An historical sense, that leaves its traces of tangible- and intangible heritage up to this day.

2.2.1 Purpose

Cloisters

In 1389 the first monastery appears in the city of Amsterdam. Around 1400 the cloister life is booming in Amsterdam and a lot of cloisters are founded, still outside of the city borders. The cloister of St. Marienveld ten Nyen Lichte, also known as 'Oude Nonnen', originates from 1389. The cloister of St. Dionisos ter Lelie, later known as 'Nieuwe Nonnen' arises in 1402. The 'Oude Nonnen' cloister was situated between Oude Zijds Achterburgwal and what is currently the Kloveniersburgwal. The cloister of St. Dionisos was situated around the Rokin and Grimburgwal. Besides a few comparable cloisters there was also the "Nye Nonnenhof", consisting of twenty eight houses around a big courtyard. This courtyard was accessible from the Oude Turfmarkt through the so called 'Gasthuysganck'. The area, which was engaged in the city in 1340, expanded in 1490 with the construction of a new wall.

From the archives of both cloister hoods it seems these ones were one of the richest in the entire city. Constantly, new uncultivated land was acquired so that the cloisters could expand.

From the 16th century there was a reduced interest in the cloister life and building- and leasing houses became more lucrative. After the alteration in 1578 all the vacant cloister buildings and -terrains got a new function quite quickly. The Oude Nonnenklooster and the Nieuwe Nonnenklooster will become hospitals (gasthuizen).

(Source: Atelier PRO)

Gasthuizen

The gasthuis was one of the oldest institutes of the city. The founding of this typology originates from a time when the care for the poor and weak was taken over from the churches.

After Amsterdam separated itself from Spain in 1578, and along banned the Catholic Church and the cloister life, their ground and buildings became part of the city. The cloisters became the Binnengasthuis, the city hospital for the inner city of Amsterdam. The name Binnengasthuis originates from 1635, when outside of the city walls the Buitengasthuis was built for plague victims.

(Source: Atelier PRO)

Figure 2.1: Urban development of the city of Amsterdam
(source: Urban analysis – Valentina)
From 1730 onwards, the hospital underwent further change and improvement, but it wasn’t until the 19th century that the area changed significantly. Driven by the developments in modern medical science, the hospital was piece by piece replaced by a new complex in the period of 1870-1913. Especially the establishment of the Clinical school as the basis of the faculty of medicine of the Athenaeum Illustre in 1828 has its influence on the renewal of the outdated facilities. Several monumental buildings were developed by architects as Godefroy, de Greef, Springer, Leguyt, Poggenbeek and van der Mey. Meanwhile, the new Gemeente Universiteit, in 1877 the successor to the Athenaeum, acquired the complex. In 1883 the city council decided the Binnengasthuis had to be an academic hospital.

(Source: BMA)

What used to be a chaotic and hard to reach complex full of hospital buildings, was returned to the city structure (so it says) in the ’70s of the 20th century. With the departure of the Binnengasthuis in 1981 the area became a university domain. The University of Amsterdam, the UvA shortly, wanted to concentrate the area with alpha-faculties, central facilities and an aula. The urban plan of F.J. van Gool actually never made it. The university board turned down the large-scale ‘tabula rasa’ plan decided to choose for the importance of the city structure. After a lot of discussions, the board decided to go with a variety of functions. Alongside the functions of the university, also houses had to be created.

Commissioned by the city municipality and housing association Lieven de Key, architect Paul de Ley designed and carried out the new social housing within the university ensemble. Alongside the Kloveniersburgwal the existing buildings are transformed into social housing. At the Chirurgische kliniek, a glass roof was added in order to create an atrium, where the Mensa is situated. The most recent building, a pavilion with several student facilities, was built in 1994 and designed by Theo Bosch.

(Source: BMA, Atelier PRO)

The Binnengasthuis area is situated in the southern part of the medieval city center, and is an exception regarding to its structure, as seen in figure 2.6. It is not sure whether this plot, which used to consist of several small islands, was annexed to the city in one time or that it took various extensions to do this. With the urban expansion around 1420, when what now is the Kloveniersburgwal became the outer canal, the Oude Nonnenklooster came to be concluded within the city walls. Presumably the stone city wall where one had started the construction of in 1481 was the initial cause of the considerable expansion on the south side at the place of the Amstel curve. In this new area, the cloisters could expand and other functions that needed more space could be housed, since the city had become overcrowded.

(Source: (Meischke, 1955))

One of the characteristics of the medieval city is the narrow and deep form of the plots. The first houses, of which the size and location is only known from excavations,
Figure 2.2: Engraving of what the Oude Nonnenklooster had looked like from 1544 (Beeldbank Amsterdam)

Figure 2.3: Engraving of the 'Gasthuizen' from 1675 (Beeldbank Amsterdam)

Figure 2.4: Situation of the Binnengasthuisterrein in 1906, lithograph A.D. Schakel (Atelier PRO)

Figure 2.5: Aerial view on the Binnengasthuisterrein after UvA's extensions, today's appearance (Knudsen)
were situated at some distance from each other on fairly wide lots. In the 14th century the number of buildings became denser alongside the main streets and divided the plots in the typical width of about six meters.

In the 16th century, when the city was imprisoned inside its walls, the building blocks were further condensed by cropping the inner areas with small dwellings on the corridors and alleys. But as mentioned before, the extremely densely built urban fabric only knew open space in the form of courtyards of the monasteries.

The buildings in the Binnengasthuis area were situated around an inner courtyard. The combination of compact building blocks and larger open structures is proven over the centuries to be well suited to cope with changes in functions. The old side, in Dutch the Oude Zijde, is one of the best-preserved late medieval areas of the Netherlands.

(Source: 1012 Monumenten)

It seems that the cloisters are influenced by the urban densification in such a way that it has developed a courtyard-like building structure. Although the alteration and later modifications to the buildings have changed the structures and caused some of the courtyards to be lost, the monastery areas are still characterized by their exceptional urban pattern. The different courts nowadays are publicly open to visit, such as the Oudemanhuispoort.

The radical transformations that beared the Binnengasthuisterrein in the nineteenth century no longer made the courtyard structure to dominate the area. The main reason for this is that the Binnengasthuis in the nineteenth century carried out several demolitions of the seventeenth century hospital buildings. In their place came the typical nineteenth century hospital buildings designed as freestanding pavilions in a park-like setting.

(Source: (Gramsbergen, 2008)

2.2.3 Enclave

Because of the courtyards with the more private character, the buildings around were very much faced inwards, causing the group of buildings to be very closed off from the city.

After the alteration from cloisters to hospital, the ensemble of buildings didn’t open up more towards the city. Contrarily, the area was still isolated from the city and this was even emphasized. The regents of the gasthuizen built eminent houses around the area. For example, Amsterdam building master Philips Vingboons built nine houses on the Old Turfmarkt. Alongside de Kloveniersburgwal and the in 1631 created Nieuwe Doelenstraat also eminent houses appeared, all in possession of the gasthuis. Behind this sightly border the inner world of the gasthuizen was kept hidden.

Also in the 19th century, in the time of the academic hospital, the border of the area was very dominant. During the large-scale renewal the Dutch National Bank had built a new office on the Turfmarkt. Also the Doelenstraat changed. A lot of rich residents had left, and next to the Zusterhuis, renowned hotels started to settle. One of them was Hotel des Pays Bas, established in 1850, which was situated at the location where now is the entrance of the Binnengasthuisstraat.

In the ‘60s of the 20th century, the Dutch National Bank developed plans to create a new bank complex in between the Kloveniersburgwal, the Nieuwe Doelenstraat,
the Oude Turfmarkt and the Grimburgwal. In order to do this, Hotel des Pays Bas was already been demolished, causing a gaping hole to occur in the Nieuwe Doelenstraat.

In the '80s, when the University had taken place in the area, it was the plan to give the terrain ‘back to the city’. Public functions such as the Mensa had been added to the area.

The peaceful enclave in the city had been interfered. The Binnengasthuis area had always been closed off from the city, which has led to a very special building structure.

The diverse range of buildings on the Binnengasthuis area are not to be seen as individual buildings but together form a complex that is unique. Not only in a typological way, but also the coherence between the individual buildings is considered special. The Binnengasthuis, which was for over four centuries the biggest hospital in the city, is in a social-historical and in a typological way, of national significance as a rare example of a 19th century hospital complex. The buildings within the ensemble, which are individually already interesting buildings because of their architectural quality, form together one whole because of their mutual positioning and closed character towards the city.

(Source: BMA)
3. TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Now that the past of the city and the Binnengasthuis area and their development are roughly sketched in the previous chapter, we can start to look at what this means for the present day situation and the future. What preconditions does the rich past of Amsterdam cause for its future development? What measures have to be considered in order to maintain the continuity of the historical sense? What are the consequences of the settling of the University of Amsterdam in the area, and what are their plans for the future?

3.1 a Modern historical city

The medieval city center of Amsterdam, also known as the 1012 area (because of its postal code), is the core of the city in both a spatial/morphological and a functional way. At this moment, we are at the beginning of a new definition of the spatial structure and its functional implementation of the area. Research and analysis on the history of the existing structure are tools to make the readability of the city more explicit. It provides the possibility to calibrate new developments on the aspects of continuity and urban quality.

(Source: 1012 monumenten)

Amsterdam is worldwide considered popular because of its historical appearance. But despite its rich history, we can't seek the future of the city in the past. Of course life changes, and so does the city. The old city of Amsterdam nowadays consists of ultramodern infrastructure and functions as a booming center of economic activity and tourism. Over the past centuries the 1012 area and its surroundings had been transformed continuously. Gently a modern city center emerged, but it always retained its historical character. "Amsterdam’s city center long ago shed the threadbare wrapping around its urban life and became a stage for global events. The city center has become a product that is being sold through branding and marketing"

But what is exactly the contribution of the old center of Amsterdam to the enlarged city as a whole? Some say that the center of Amsterdam acquires most of its wealth primarily from its historical stratification. However, this structures such as the 1012 area and the canal ring emerged over time, featuring a vast diversity of richness, while all the built-in contradictions and contrasts give the city its special nature.

Amsterdam has become a modern city with a past. "The secret of its beauty lies in the combination of substantial innovation, a sustainable city structure, a flexible interpretation and a selective memory." Between these aspects preservation and innovation exists a very dynamic interaction, which makes the city unique and gives it its historical value.

The challenge of preserving harmony in the city landscape is that the concept of harmony has many different interpretations, for example consistency of form, consistency in scale and proportioning of buildings, generation of new spatial composition of the cityscape or the search for 'forthright' contemporary additions.

Although Amsterdam is often loved for its 17th century qualities, the urban landscape of Amsterdam actually remains very much the product of gradual modernization. Typical aspects such as construction heights, typologies, details, materials, functions, traffic routes and the spatial context are hardly reminiscent of the
situation during the Golden Age.

This change though was not a central operation but occurred one step at a time. Historical continuity went along with demolitions and new constructions, while the essence of the spatial quality was preserved. In order to keep the city livable, “the future challenge lies not in preparing the city center as a scenic background but in securing the role of the highly changed urban society as a platform and meeting ground for all the extremes that coexist in the city”.

(Source: (Meurs, 2004)

3.1.1 UNESCO listing

As Meurs describes, not much tangible heritage is left from its original 17th century richness, but the city has changed over time along with the evolving of time. However, in 2010 the Amsterdam canalring became listed as UNESCO world heritage list, because of the realization of the ‘ideal city that was used as a reference urban model for numerous projects for new cities around the world.’

The canal ring is nominated according to numbers I, II and IV out of ten selection criteria which UNESCO uses to determine whether a site has outstanding universal value. In Table 3.1 these criteria are described and explained.

From the selection criteria we can conclude that the formations of the 17th century are of outstanding universal value. A network that consists of canals in a multangular half-circle and along with radial canals and streets creates the basis of the urban layout. This layout has almost entirely survived over time, along with its old embankments and historic façade alignments.

A majority of the houses constructed in the 17th and 18th century are still there in a general good state of conservation. This basic situation is very important for an urban ensemble in order to keep alive and active.

However, some of the streets have been widened over time, and facades of the buildings have been rebuilt. The old civil and hydraulic structure have mainly been replaced or updated. Besides, tall modern buildings are erected and affect some of the landscape perspectives from the UNESCO area, and commercial advertising pollutes some of the visual conditions.

The UNESCO area, but also in the UNESCO buffer zone and other parts of the city center of Amsterdam, are protected by the national or the municipal government. UNESCO states that “a good awareness on the part of those responsible means that the excesses of urban growth that was at times difficult to control in the recent past seem to be increasingly better managed, notably advertising within the property and the visual impact of tall buildings on the urban landscapes of the property. All the management measures form an effective and coherent system, within the responsibility of the Central Borough of Amsterdam and with the guarantee of the Bureau of Monuments. A horizontal management and monitoring body for the property has now been implemented, the Amsterdam World Heritage Bureau”.

(Source: UNESCO)
Table 3.1: UNESCO selection criteria for determination of outstanding universal value for the Amsterdam canal ring (UNESCO)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I:</td>
<td>to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Amsterdam Canal District is the design at the end of the 16th century and the construction in the 17th century of a new and entirely artificial 'port city.' It is a masterpiece of hydraulic engineering, town planning, and a rational programme of construction and bourgeois architecture. It is a unique and innovative, large-scale but homogeneous urban ensemble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II:</td>
<td>to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Amsterdam Canal District bears witness to an exchange of considerable influences over almost two centuries, in terms not only of civil engineering, town planning, and architecture, but also of a series of technical, maritime, and cultural fields. In the 17th century Amsterdam was a crucial centre for international commercial trade and intellectual exchange, for the formation and the dissemination of humanist thought; it was the capital of the world-economy in its day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV:</td>
<td>to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Amsterdam Canal District represents an outstanding example of a built urban ensemble that required and illustrates expertise in hydraulics, civil engineering, town planning, construction and architectural knowhow. In the 17th century, it established the model for the entirely artificial 'port city' as well as the type of Dutch single dwelling with its variety of façades and gables. The city is testimony, at the highest level, to a significant period in the history of the modern world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.2: UNESCO World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone (own image, based on UNESCO)
3.1.2. the Buffer zone

As we can see from figure 3.2 the Amsterdam canal ring is mainly the subject of the UNESCO world heritage site. The adjacent areas, among the 1012 area in which the Binnengasthuis area is situated, embody the so-called buffer zone.

The Buffer zone has been defined as an area surrounding the World Heritage Site, which has the same legal and customary restrictions placed on its use and development to provide an added layer of protection. Important views and other areas that are functionally important as a support to the heritage site are included in this buffer zone.

3.1.3 Dealing with UNESCO

But now what does it actually mean that Amsterdam is enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage and what are the consequences for the Binnengasthuis area to be situated in the buffer zone?

The emphasis seems to be lying on the concept of ‘authenticity’, a term that indicates that in the last two centuries some buildings, that referred back to earlier architectural styles, were not contemporary because they would miss the spirit of their time. With this understanding, all neo-styles are being disqualified and considered a spiritless elaboration.

The management plan seems to comply that the UNESCO forbids to build reconstructions of historical visualizations and that potential replacing buildings should be contemporary. In reality, it is certainly true that historicizing buildings such as the 19th century buildings in neo style also without doubt say something about their time. Their position is defended in a very one-sided interpretation of the UNESCO articles. The writers of the management plan claim that the UNESCO is against ‘pseudo-historical’ contemporary construction. The result of this questionable interpretation is that in the protected site, actually everything is possible except the reconstruction of vanished monuments like Hotel des Pays Bas unless it is built in for example glass and steel. Even restoration or simple recovery wouldn’t be possible unless the replacing elements are built in a ‘contemporary’ style. This disregards the fact that the canalring to a large extent consists of adapted and restored buildings of the 19th and 20th century. The continuous adjustment to the existing environment is for example also the reason for the return of the arched bridges and ensures concrete slab embankments to be clad with brick. Without this historicist tradition the city as we know it and appreciate so much today wouldn’t even have existed anymore.

In reality the UNESCO list of World Heritage is also stocked with objects and sites that are partially- or as a whole have been reconstructed, such as Bruges and Warsaw. This shows that the UNESCO articles should be read differently. UNESCO has no objection to reconstruction, as long as it is documented. Thus, on the list of world heritage, historicizing buildings and reconstructions actually are allowed, as long as it is well described as such. If the recovery is acceptable or not, depends on the content of the story with which the designation is defended.
Historicizing reconstruction in order not to impair the historic townscape has happened in Amsterdam since the 19th century. The historicist trend is actually an important quality of the urban landscape, which is indispensable. If the quality of the city is described as being of outstanding universal value, it should also be protected in accordance with the provisions of UNESCO. The conclusion seems to be that the way the city of Amsterdam now handles its enlisting, has no real significance for the preservation of the city center.

(Source: Schoonenberg & Vermeer)

3.1.4 Protected cityscape

In 1999, over ten years before it became enlisted as UNESCO World Heritage, the city center of Amsterdam already was already appointed as to be ‘protected cityscape’ by the Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel erfgoed (RCE) and the municipality of Amsterdam.

In order to properly handle the historical city, the existing qualities and weaknesses need to be clear: what should be preserved, and what aspects need to be improved or strengthened? The so-called Waarderingskaart beschermd stadsgezicht is an example of a tool that offers a framework for the development and reviewing of building plans. In figure 3.3 this evaluation map is shown. On this map, all buildings built before 1940 are indicated in the extent to which it contributes to the architectural and / or urban quality of the townscape.

(Source: Municipality of Amsterdam)

Amsterdam’s strong tradition of participatory planning and public design reviews is at the core of its long experience in adaptive re-use and contemporary infill design within the city’s historic area. With the UNESCO documents and the regulations of the protected cityscape Amsterdam has developed an approach that is far from the radical urban renewal and out of scale contrasting modern buildings that pollute the cityscape of many other cities. Restrictions from the municipality, which are far from being perceived as unnecessary burdens imposed on individual creativity, should here be seen as a challenge to “develop innovative and sophisticated designs, which are in harmony with the adjacent historic structures, bringing forward a new vocabulary of compatible forms and maintaining a sense of continuity with the city’s past.”

(Source: (Bandarin, 2014)
Figure 3.3: Waarderingskaart beschermd stadsgezicht (municipality of Amsterdam)
3.2 University of Amsterdam

Ever since the hospital fully retreated from the Binnengasthuis area towards the AMC in the Southeast of Amsterdam in 1981, the area is in use of the University of Amsterdam. Along with this, a couple of buildings on the area got demolished, and other buildings are erected, like the service & administration building by Theo Bosch in 1993, the mensa addition to the Klinish Ziekenhuis by P.A.M. Dirks in 1988 and the stretched social housing building on the Binnengasthuisstraat by Paul de Ley in 1987.

Around this era, the UvA is literally a university of the city and makes use of buildings in locations all over Amsterdam. However, the intention of the university is to cluster affiliated scientific disciplines into four open city campuses. The university puts forward four reasons in favor of these plans:

- Clustering fosters the internal and external collaborations
- Clustering offers opportunities to improve the quality of education and research
- Clustering ensures more efficiency and flexibility for accommodation
- Increases the attractiveness and visibility of the UvA.

Since the UvA is a university of the city it wants to be connected to the organizations that play a role in this. The goal is to contribute to the economical, social and cultural development of the metropolitan region Amsterdam.

Concerning the scientific interest of the collaboration, the rector magnificus of the UvA, Dymph van den Boom states The value of (inter) disciplinary and multi-faceted collaboration is widely recognized as being instrumental in increasing global competitiveness, effectively addressing the growing complexity of research questions, leveraging more and better funding, increasing the mobility of researchers and creating exchange opportunities for postdoctoral fellows and (post) graduate students.

Around the turn of the millennium the university started with the construction of a targeted campus infrastructure on which affiliated scientific disciplines will become clustered;

- A campus on the Binnengasthuisterrein for alpha studies
- Beta sciences on the newly built Science Park Amsterdam in the Watergraafsmeeer
- Gamma studies on the Roeterseiland campus
- Medical studies in the Southeast of Amsterdam, associated with the AMC hospital

The clustering of Beta-, Gamma- and medical studies is a process that has been carried out over the last couple of years, and has been a great success according to the university. The Science Park serves as an example where the campus-structure contributes to the improvements of quality in education and research in combination with the collaboration between the business sector, government and societal parties. Through the physical clustering of facilities and people the effectiveness increases, better solutions will be researched and elaborated faster and the university has more opportunities to retain more talented scientists. The campus stimulates the transfer from knowledge to skills and therefor contributes to societal and economic innovation. From here on, the focus will lie on the alpha faculty of humanities and the Binnengasthuis Area.

(Source: UvA; naar vier open stadscampussen)
Figure 3.4: Clustering from several locations into 1)Alpha campus on the Binnengasthuis area; 2)Gamma campus on the Roetersseiland; 3)Besta campus on the Science Park, and 4) Medical studies combined with the AMC hospital (UvA)
3.2.1. Inner city campus

According to the UvA plans, from 2017 on the inner city campus should be fully functional for the faculty of humanities. The campus should be the home base for researchers and students who stand in the middle of cultural life. The UvA states that the campus should be open to the outside world, for everyone who finds oneself accidentally in the maze of gateways, buildings and courtyards. The faculty of humanities even encourages the wandering on- and around the area to the extent of the promotion of alpha science. "The campus should be a gathering- and meeting place for everyone who is looking for reflection and academic debate."

(Source: UvA: Poort naar de toekomst)

In order to establish this inner city campus, the University of Amsterdam has to deal with their property. Not only on the Binnengasthuis area, but also spread over the city center buildings are in use of the university. With the motto 'more quality, less square meters' the university reduces their total functional floor space with 58.660m², which is almost a quarter of the total. For the inner city buildings a reduction from 79.670m² to 43.100m² is planned. With these reductions, the university has fewer square meters to spend their budget on, in the form of depreciation, financing interest or rent, maintenance, commercial expenses and insurances and service fees. Budget that now can be spent on research and education.

For the buildings in the inner city, this means that several buildings will be sold. The result can be seen from figure 3.5 on the next page.

The university also expects a significant growth in the number of students. In between the years 2000 and 2010 the number of student has increased from 22.000 to 30.000. According to the demographic prognoses from CPB and the ministry of OC&W this particular growth will continue up until the year 2020, with a result of a total increase of 33%. After this, a slight decrease of 10% is to be expected. Of course, as seen in chapter 1, this is a prediction for the future, and should be seen as an uncertain assumption. In order to deal with change, an efficient and flexible use of space is to be implemented.

According to the UvA, clustering also offers a solution to moderate growth or shrinkage within the faculty. The university gives an example for this: Suppose the number of students in the history department shrinks a couple of years in a row, while the number of students for media studies increases. If it is the case that these studies are housed in buildings on or around the Binnengasthuis area, it will be easier to interchange functions then if the functions are spread in buildings over the city center. If that would be the case, the situation may arise that it is no longer possible to keep a shrinking department in a certain building.

Clustering also means more efficiency and flexibility for student and researchers, because de facilities are closer to one another.

The growth in the number of students has also the result of the scarcity of study places. The UvA now offers 1 study place for every 12 registered students. In the future this number should be 1 study place for every 10 students, bearing the growth over the next years in mind. Other facts about the clustering on the Binnengasthuis area can be seen in appendix 1.

(Source: UvA, naar vier open stads campussen)
3.2.2 Study center

The new alpha campus has to become a place in the city where everybody with an interest in culture and science must be able to gather. Interaction with the city is an integral part of academic life, especially for the faculty of humanities. Collaboration between the various disciplines of the faculty and society has become a matter of course. In order to provide this place for interaction, the UvA has designated one of the facilities per campus to be the central meeting place. For the inner city campus, the university has planned a new university library to fulfill this role. On the basis of this role as heart of the campus, a program of requirements is composed, which can be seen in appendix 2.

Improving of library facilities on university campuses is an international trend.

“The traditional library with bookcases changes into a wide information- and study center, which provides students and employees of access to knowledge in various ways, but also offers the opportunity to acquire and exchange knowledge.”

Also the demand for more study places is an international trend. “Libraries and university libraries are very popular. More often libraries transform into library learning spaces, where students gather to study, (casually) meet, collaborate and share ideas and knowledge. This fact requires a lot of study places, more differentiated group workplaces and special facilities for master and post-graduate students. These developments in academic education in combination with technical innovation lead to the desire to realize so-called ‘Learning Commons.’

The following definition of learning common is provided:

“A Learning Commons is a dynamic, collaborative environment on campus that provides assistance to students with information and research needs. It combines individual and group study space, in-depth reference service, and instruction from a variety of sources, including librarians and information technology staff. Some of its key concerns are learning, writing, technology use, and research. Its main purpose is to make student learning easier and more successful. Learning Commons are increasingly popular because they integrate services traditionally found in many locations around campus. A Learning Commons works with its partners to create a single location, often one, students go to anyway. They have proved popular at other universities because they offer ‘one-stop shopping’ for students, which is the opportunity to improve their writing skills, research skills, general learning skills, and basic computing skills in one location. They are also popular because they facilitate a high level of collaboration among their partners, enabling them to reach more students, in a more effective manner.”

(Source: UvA; naar vier open stadscampussen)
4. PUBLIC SPACE AND THE CAMPUS

In this chapter again a theme will be introduced. The UvA documents show plans to create an open city campus in the vibrant heart of Amsterdam, where people encounter and interaction with the city has to take place. In order to answer the research question, first aspects such as the social value of public space and its use should be elucidated. What are the connections and how can the knowledge of certain values be applied in practice?

4.1 Social use

“The protagonist of an urban project is public space, the place where the collective reality of the city is produced. The city is essentially its public space, provided that it is a readable space”

-Oriol Bohigas, 2002 (Setti, 2012)

According to Bohigas, the public space of a city is the place where the collective reality is produced. The collective reality in this case can be interpreted as the social life of the community. The public space of the city provides opportunities for social interaction, social mixing and social inclusion, and has the possibility to facilitate development of the community ties (Worpole & Knox, 2007).

In his book ‘Life between buildings’, Gehl (1971) distinguishes three kinds of outdoor activities that take place in the public space:

- Necessary activities: day to day activities that are more or less compulsory, for example going to work or grocery shopping. The activities are more or less independent of the exterior environment.
- Optional activities: Activities that take place if there is a wish to do so, for example taking a walk. These activities only take place under favorable exterior conditions, such as the weather and the physical environment.
- Social activities: These activities include all actions that depend on the presence of others in the public space, from conversations to simply seeing and hearing other people.

The last category of activities could also be described as ‘resultant’ activities. The social activities are in almost every case derived from activities that are primarily categorized as necessary or optional. Social activities are derived from other activities, because people find one another in the same public spaces, meet, pass by, or are simply within view. Because of people moving around in space, social activities occur spontaneously as a direct consequence.

If the public space of a city is of poor quality, fewer activities will take place because people will just move from point A to B, only the necessary activities will take place. If the areas are of high public quality, a wide range of optional activities will also occur, since the physical environment now invites people to stop, sit, eat, play, and so on (Gehl, 1971). Thus we can say, if the quality of the public space is high, the frequency of optional activities increases and therefore the quantity of social activity will enhance.

But how is the quality of urban space to be determined? Worpole & Knox (2007) suggest after studying a wide variety of public spaces throughout the United Kingdom, the following aspects are important for the social functioning of shared spaces:
• Access & Availability: Public space should be provided with good physical access, welcoming spaces and extended opening hours.
• Inviting: In order to encourage the use of shared space, it should be embedded into social networks, so people get invited by peers or others.
• Exchange-based relationships: Areas should have more functions beyond consumerism to participate in the exchange of goods and services.
• Guidance: Public space should provide a discreet management, while also leaving room for self-organization.
• Diversity: Public spaces should move beyond monocultures in order to encourage diverse groups and activities to share universal spaces.
• Avoiding of over-regulation: self-organization and active are leading principles to generate security and well-being.

One of the conclusions Worpole & Knox deduced from their research is that successful public space should build on the self-regulation of social behavior, and therefore base future proposals on a better understanding of people's use of existing spaces and places (Worpole & Knox, 2007). The diverse character of social activities varies along the context in which they occur. "Where there are a limited number of people with common interests or backgrounds, social activities in public spaces can be quite comprehensive: greetings, conversations, discussions, and play arise from common interests and because people 'know' each other, if for no other reason than that they often see one another" (Gehl, 1971).

4.2. Encounter and Interaction

To see or to hear other people is the basic form of human contact, and can be seen as social activity. This basic form is actually very important for more comprehensive forms of social activities to grow. According to Gehl, the more time people spend outdoors, the more frequently they will meet and the more they will talk.

The humble ‘see and hear contacts’ must be considered in relation to other forms of contact and as a part of a whole range of social activities, varying from superficial contacts to abundant interaction. The varying degrees of the intensity of social activities are simply outlined in figure 4.1. According to this picture the life in the public space is symbolized by the low-intensity passive contact in the bottom of the diagram. But low-intensity contact is a situation from which other forms of contact can grow. “It is a medium for the unpredictable, the spontaneous, the unplanned”(Gehl, 1971).

Situations as such cannot be forced, but can be facilitated. Generally, interaction or encounter between people is not arranged. It evolves when people are together; the first prerequisite is for people to be in the same space and meet.

The opportunity to meet with fellow-students or coworkers, in connection with day-to-day necessary and optional activities, implies a good chance of establishing and even maintaining associates in a relaxed and informal way.

Social interaction can evolve spontaneously and is easily allowed to develop and gatherings can be arranged on short notice. It is also easy to ‘drop by’ or ‘look in’ on what is to take place today or later if persons pass by one another often and meet in connection with daily activities around their place of study or work.

In addition to participate in active social activities, seeing, hearing and being around other people can also provide ideas and inspiration. If we see other people engaged in social activities, we get inspired to do the same. Take children for example. When children see other children play, they will get the urge to join them, or get inspired and generate new ideas for games by watching.
Thus, living areas are stimulating because people can interact with one another. They are rich in human activity and therefore in experiences. “Even the modest form of contact of merely seeing and hearing or being near others is apparently more rewarding and more in demand than the majority of other attractions offered in the public spaces of cities and residential areas.

Life in buildings and between buildings seems in nearly all situations to rank as more essential and more relevant than the spaces and buildings themselves” (Gehl, 1971).

Interaction between people in a study- and work related environment is crucial for the development of knowledge and ideas. As can be seen in figure 4.2 there is a correlation between the amount of ideas created, and the degree of (in) formality and accompanied activities in these kind of settings (Milne, 2007). It is therefore important to integrate this when drafting starting points for new designs.

Figure 4.1. Simplified outline of the concept of varying degrees of contact intensity (Gehl)

Figure 4.2: Colleration between the generating of ideas and the (in) formality of social activities. (Milne)
4.3 the Campus

Alexandra den Heijer (2007) claims that also technological innovation, which has caused activities to be less local bounded, is accompanied with the need for more social cohesion. Within the university, on campus, the increased individualism because of the use of Internet and isolated working spots has to be reversed. Physical interaction and meeting other people have to be the center point of the campus.

For the university campus of today the perfect balance has to be found between study and research as an individual activity and as a group process. Den Heijer introduces the concept of community building as a goal of what a campus should be; a place to meet, both intellectual and social. Where before there was more focus on the ‘useful’ space, such as offices, laboratories and lecture rooms, today more focus has to be attended to the ‘in between space’; the circulation area in- and between buildings. This connective space is more and more often transformed into informal useful space to abide in.

The creation of meeting places on the nodes with the most traffic in the university area where people encounter, does not only matter for the campus itself, but also for the connection between the campus and the city. The city and the campus identify more often their interdependency. In order to gain and apply more knowledge, more students and employees have to be drawn to the university, in which the city plays a significant role. The quality of life within the city, the accessibility, diversity, scale and social equality are important preconditions for this. The campus becomes an integral part of the city and more space gets shared with third parties (Den Heijer, De Vries, & Trees, 2006).

For the relation between the campus and the city, Chapman (2006) refers to three different models; Clicks&Mortar, Intellectual Agora and Back to the Future. Although these models are based on the American system, they are also applicable for the Dutch city university. Briefly, Clicks&Mortar describes a small campus with a lot of inspiring space for social and intellectual meeting. Intellectual Agora aims to create an open marketplace for creating and sharing knowledge, whereas the campus functions as an integral part of the city where spaces are shared with third parties. Back to the Future characterizes an institution with a big real estate portfolio, which is mainly exclusively used by the university itself. A more detailed description is shown in table 4.3 on the next page.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements for meeting the minimum requirements for funds for maintaining the minimum requirements for the square meters means a higher amount of space for the same amount of funds for the same amount of space.</th>
<th>Measures for the vast majority of the campus.</th>
<th>Measures mean possibly more quality per square meter.</th>
<th>Same amount of funds available for less square meters</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay a reimbursement</td>
<td>More funds available by shared use external users</td>
<td>More funds available by shared use external users</td>
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<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Users also on campus level</td>
<td>More buildings available</td>
<td>More buildings available</td>
<td>More buildings available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainly exclusive use of buildings by users</td>
<td>Less space, more square meters, with a higher utilization</td>
<td>Less space, more square meters, with a higher utilization</td>
<td>Less space, more square meters, with a higher utilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social exchange</td>
<td>The urban landscape and other uses are welcome. The physical campus becomes more and more part of the community. Engagement and knowledge exchange.</td>
<td>Social exchange</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>The campus functions as a open knowledge exchange.</td>
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<td>Campus exchange. Cities learning and a focus on material and physical campuses the meaning space is the key.</td>
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Table 4.3: Three campus models of Chapman, 2006 (summarized by den Heijer, 2007)
From the matrix we can see that the synergy between the city and the university is most widely exploited from the Intellectual Agora model, possibly combined with Clicks & Mortar. This brings us to the question if we want to tolerate city life to the campus, or do we want it to function as an autonomous entity?

Students nowadays are more and more conscious of the sense of community and sense of place. This concerns both campus and city. There is a wide range of functions that may overlap both city and the university. These functions concern the categories educational, employment, residential, retail and leisure (Den Heijer & de Vries, 2006). An elaborated list is included in appendix 3, since it is relevant for the possible program of the assignment.

Although the positive effects of collaboration seems very evident, there are also threats. There are several developments that can dissociate the development of both the city and the campus. For example, the pressure on the university territory by the city can expand since most Dutch universities are more and more surrounded by urban functions. Expelling of the university out of the city can be a tremendous threat since students are an important user of several functions in the city and the public space.

The city and the university need each other, but tension between the ambitions of the two parties arises. The city wants to contribute to a knowledge-based economy and therefore needs the university and other higher education institutions. For an optimal development of its economy and attractiveness the city needs a campus that is integrated with the city. The campus is referred to here as more than just buildings for education and research. It is also about housing students and (temporary) staff, facilities for culture, horeca and related commercial organizations and the public space in between. In fact, it is the marketplace of education, where connections between the university and the city are established (Den Heijer et al., 2006).

4.4. Public/Private

However, the definition of what we see as public space is constantly shifting. Traditionally, public space is represented by open spaces or squares, high streets, street markets, parks and playgrounds. Beyond these forms of public areas, there are also places that are widely used by the public but may be for example privately owned. These ‘quasi-public spaces’ have also been characterized as ‘everyday spaces’ a term that conveys something of their casual, daily, functional use.

“There has been a tendency to confine notions of public space to traditional outdoor spaces that are in public ownership, but opportunities for association and exchange are not so limited. Gatherings at the school gate, activities in community facilities, shopping malls, cafes and car boot sales are all arenas where people meet and create places of exchange. To members of the public, it is not the ownership of places or their appearance that makes them public, but their shared use for a diverse range of activities by a range of different people. If considered in this way, almost any place regardless of its ownership or appearance offers potential as public space” (Worpole & Knox, 2007).

Patterson (2011) describes the blurring of boundaries between private- and public space as a state of liminality, which makes it hard to understand public space. Therefore, we have to examine the way people understand public space themselves, how space is categorized as ‘ours’ rather than ‘mine’, ‘yours’ or ‘theirs’, and relate it with special significance to collective identity and public life.

Furthermore, it is needed to comprehend the process of this categorization, and how it is made cognitively and enacted in practice. This is a process that Patterson
calls consecration of public space. If we focus on the consecration process, it means we can no longer make the simple distinction between public spaces and other spaces as private by a pre-existing definition (Patterson, 2011). Instead we have to see the space for itself, how and in what way it should be public or private, and which players are involved.

Bringing together the community is in transition from occurring in traditional open spaces, into more introverted forms of public space, of which the campus is a good example. These forms arise from the recovery of, for example the campus, which determines a threshold between a condition of open public space to another different condition of an enclosed public space dedicated to a specialized function. "The interior spaces become the heartbeat of these complexes, that are, externally, completely indifferent to the context. The determination of new types of public spaces defines new relationships between interior and exterior, as well as new identity of the urban fabric" (Setti, 2012).

The above is important if we look more critically to between what persons we want interaction to take place, as a result of the identity of the public space. People from different social groups come together in public space. As described before, the result of encounter and interaction is most profitable if people ‘know’ each other because they come from the same social group. In this way a distinction is made between beneficial encounter and indifferent encounter (Koefoed, Simonsen, & de Neergaard, 2012).

4.5. Wayfinding

In order to influence the identity of the encounter to generate beneficial interaction, we have to ask ourselves if spatial layout influences the pattern of space use and people’s movement. If so, it can be used in order to manipulate people’s movement towards or around the campus. According to Anna Januchta-Szostak (2010) people need a tool of space recognition to get acquainted with the environment they live in.

Cities used to acquire their uniqueness to deep roots in local tradition. The heart of the town was often a central market square. An enclosure of city walls and canals provided shelter and inhabitants could easily recognize and read the city. The easy to read network of streets, connected by nodes of squares, marked formally important places that provided the wayfinding in the urban meanders. The small and easy to read skyline of the city, mostly dominated by churches and the town hall, constituted a characteristic visual code of the urban space (Januchta-Szostak, 2010).

Since cities were really able to expand after the industrial revolution, the overview over the city got lost. Kevin Lynch (1960) introduces the idea of the mental map in town planning as a method of recognition and identification of the spatial context. Lynch states that people who move around the city perceive spatial information in ways that are predictable and quite constant. People create their own mental maps with five elements: Paths, Edges, Districts, Nodes and Landmarks.

Dalton, Hölscher and Turner (2006) use language as a metaphor for wayfinding through the city; “The linguistic analogy is that although it is possible to randomly generate grammatically correct sentences, only a small number of these would make any sense. The conclusion is that configurations of spaces have not only grammar, but also a pattern of relationships”.

Now we know this, we can see if we can apply this knowledge in practice with the aim to manipulate the routes that pedestrians cover in the city. The difference here lies between two groups of people. Inhabitants have a better knowledge of the urban structure and will reach places on purpose, because they know where to go. Strangers in the city have
to rely on reading the spatial layout, in order to move around (Hillier, Burdett, Peponis, & Penn, 1987). By manipulating the ‘strangers’ in the city, we can try to bring them closer to the inhabitants, or lure them away where this is needed. In other words “spatial layout does, in very precise senses, create or eliminate life in the sense that it determines a field of encounter and co-presence which can be made sparse or dense, and predictable or unpredictable, depending on the patterns of integration and the degree of intelligibility of the layout. These relations are systematic, and they are the product of architectural design” (Hillier et al., 1987).

Theory teaches us that there are many architectural tools to manage this. In this report, I would like to limit to two extremes; dry statistics versus visual and emotional perception.

4.5.1. Space Syntax

The urban structure of public space has an effect on people’s behavior. Pedestrian flows and the location of commercial instances have a clear relation with the way the urban pattern of streets and nodes is laid out. Any configuration of space, has a certain hierarchy where some spaces become more strategic and others less so (Dalton et al., 2006). Years of research on this relation has resulted in the space syntax method, which helps us to understand the effects of spatial plans (van Nes, 2005). In this paragraph, I will briefly explain how the space syntax method works, so it can be applied later in this report.

The space syntax method consists of a sequence of steps. The first step is the inventory of the public space in the area that is to examine. By projecting the spaces as lines in a network, an axial network is made, which then can be calculated. Within this network of streets, a street can be considered more accessible if one has less movements and turns to take to get there. The sum of the total movements required from all the other points determines the integration value within the network. The integration value can be calculated for every individual place (van Nes, 2005). The calculation is however more complicated. Other aspects are taken into account:

- **Reach:** The reach measure captures how many surrounding nodes there are in the area within a certain search radius.
- **Gravity:** Whereas the reach measure simply counts the number of destinations, the gravity measure also takes the spatial barrier into account.
- **Betweenness:** A node is considered central if it is surrounded by many other nodes. Sometimes a node lies on the shortest path between to other nodes. The betweenness is used to measure the potential of people randomly passing by because of this.
- **Closeness:** Closeness is defined as the inverse of cumulative distance required to reach from that node to all other nodes in the system along the shortest path.
- **Straightness:** The efficiency of the shortest path, measured in the difference of the deviation of the shortest path to a straight line between two nodes.

(The City Form Research Group, 2014)

These calculations can be made for every scale level; from city scale to small areas, and even of a spatial network within a building. The results can be exported into a graphical model, so that one can see at one glance of an eye, the global integration structure with the more- and less accessible parts of a network (van Nes, 2005).
In figure 4.4 an example of the graphical outcome of a space syntax analysis is shown, on scale level of the city of Amsterdam. The places where the red lines are located show places of high probability, the blue lines represent areas of lower probability.

This method can be used in far more detail, but for the aim of this project this level of complexity will suffice.

Figure 4.4: Space Syntax calculation map of Amsterdam. (Own image)
4.5.2. Experience

The space syntax visualizes the way people wander around the city. Aspects as sightlines and length of a certain route can make it in a way predictable which path people will follow. These (subconscious?) readings and comprehension of urban space and using it in order to determine our way can be described as spatial cognition. Dalton, Hölscher & Turner (2006) describe cognition as a 'higher-level' function in the human brain, which organizes and structures raw sense data, which represents our 'input' about our surroundings. In this paragraph, this input about our surroundings and the way we can use it as designers will be described.

Lynch's elements as described earlier, are supported by Wladyslaw Czarnecki. Czarnecki made an analysis of factors that influence the landscape composition, which were also seen from the observer in motion, such as optical illusion, color, foreground and background, dominants, rhythm, contrast, frames of vantage points, leading lines, dividing and closing surfaces, nodal points and so on. These perceptions of the observer in motion, the series of views, create a chain of mental images (Januchta-Szostak, 2010). Also Cullen's (1961) notations of serial visions led to the conclusion that perception is a dynamic process. Cullen states that the slightest deviation in alignment has disproportionally powerful effect in the third dimension. With combining people's movement through space and typologies of urban public space, he distinguishes closure from enclosure. Cullen also introduces other concepts, as described on the next page in figure 4.5.

Cullen only focuses on the outside public space, since “internal volumes or spaces, such as rooms, are justified in the purely function of construct and shelter” (Cullen, 1961). However, the way people move through buildings can be analyzed in the exact same way. Juhani Pallasmaa (2013) describes the sensual presence of atmosphere. “spaces could be called haptic and ‘dense’ spaces, in the sense of the significant role of textural and material stimuli and varied illumination that enhances the tactile realm.”

Whether people are aware of this fact or not, they sense it and can subconsciously be manipulated by the atmosphere of things they live in or with. The floor, a roof, wall, window, stairway, bath, table, fireplace, are not just objects and architectural elements people see. They are primary images with metaphysical power.

“For instance walking through a doorway has tremendous philosophical and metaphysical power. It embodies the transition from one world to another, from one space to another”.

Atmosphere has to be experienced in an unconscious way. Atmospheric experience is a much more multisensory experience than just visual. This approach makes architecture more embodied and integrated.

“In an embodied experience the haptic experience is so important. The most important sense that we have is our existential sense. That is how we experience architecture, through and as a part of our own sense of existence” (Havik & Tielens, 2013).

Also Zumthor (2006) speaks of atmosphere as one of the primary aspects of architectural quality. Zumthor names nine elements, which according to him are essential for the creation of atmosphere:
• The body of Architecture: The anatomy of the building. The human body is an analogy for the composition of materials and spaces in a building, covered by a skin.

• Material compatibility: The composition and the interrelations of the used material.

• The sound of space: The space; it’s shape, its materials, etcetera, determine the acoustics of the building. It determines the sound when you walk through it, and the sound when people talk.

• The temperature of space: Materials emit warmth or coldness. What we see and feel should meet the body’s comfort level.

• Surrounding objects: Buildings are just empty containers. Objects such as books or instruments create the space.

• Between composure and seduction: The guidance of architecture through space. Designed space can attract and move people through a building.

• Tension between interior and exterior: The building is the transition space between interior and exterior. It generates interaction between private and public, enclosure and sense of an incredible space.

• Levels of intimacy: Size, distance and proximity are examples of elements that let the human body relate to the scale of its context.

• The light on things: The play of light and shadow, how it reflects on material and the preference of natural daylight over artificial light.

When aware of these elements it can be applied in a design in order to navigate the user through the building. However,

“The beauty is in the eye of the beholder” (Zumthor, 2006).

Figure 4.8: Zumthor’s model for the Domino de Pingus Winery, a classic example where several of his 9 points come together. (Zumthor)
Figure 4.5: Enclave/Enclosure: An exterior room with free access to the streets out of the main directional stream with the human scale of a square, quad or courtyard. (Cullen)

Figure 4.6: Playing with sightlines and orientation by using buildings as focus points. Swallowing up the pedestrian’s glance in mystery. (Cullen)

Figure 4.7: Deflection is a variation on the closed vista. By deflecting the focal point from the right angle, an expectation is aroused that there is more at the end of the street which is still unseen. (Cullen)
5. THE CITY OF AMSTERDAM

Now the theoretical background is set out, it is time to subject the analysis to the theory. In this chapter, the conditions of the assignment on the larger scale will be examined; the scale of the city.

5.1. Public space in the city

Morphological aspects:

Water: The medieval city of Amsterdam grew ‘spontaneously’ along the Amstel River, following the morphology of the landscape. The 17th century canal ring is thoroughly designed. The canals here are radially shaped, in the Jordaan the canals flow out parallel.

The canals are a major touristic attraction. There are numerous tour boarding points in the city. One of them is situated next to the Binnengasthuis area, on the Rokin.

Parks: There are limited parks in Amsterdam. The further away from the medieval center the more parks, and the bigger. Especially in the 19th century areas such as de Pijp, Zuid, and Oud West are beautiful parks.

Gardens: Big courtyards in the canal ring show the wealth of the area. The medieval center is densely built, very limited space is left for gardens or courtyards.

(Source: Urban Analysis – Maarten)

Public Squares: Most squares are to be found within the medieval city center. The more we go to the outside of the city center and towards the peripheral areas, the greener the squares. Because of more availability of space, the public areas are more park-like outside the medieval city center.

The squares inside the medieval center are old squares with a purpose in history. The most dominant ones are:

Dam Square: Dam over the Amstel River, origin of the city.

Beursplein: Square in front of the current course exchange and the famous Beurs of Berlage.

Nieuwmarkt: Square around the old weigh house, which was originally part of the old city wall.

Spuimarkt: Former body of water which was the southern border of the city. Nowadays a vibrant squares with bars and bookshops. Also location of the Maagdenhuis and the Oude Lutherse Kerk, which are in use of the University of Amsterdam.

(Source: Urban Analysis – Maarten)
Figure 5.1: Water in Amsterdam (Urban analysis – Maarten)

Figure 5.2: Parks in Amsterdam (Urban analysis – Maarten)

Figure 5.3: Gardens and Courtyards in Amsterdam (Urban analysis – Maarten)

Figure 5.4: Public Squares (Own image, based on Urban Analysis – Maarten)
5.1.1 Functions

Functions on ground floor:

If we divide the ground floor functions of the buildings in the city center into three categories Facilities, Residential and Offices, some conclusions can be drawn from this plan.

The main function of the 1012 Area is the housing of facilities. What kind of facilities these are will be elucidated on the next page. Also the areas around the Waterlooplein and the Stopera, the 'Plantage', and the area around the Leidscheplein are mostly yellow, and therefore facilities.

The canalring is mostly a mixed area of facilities, residential and offices, although a slight densification of residential functions can be found in the Northwest area of the canalring, and the Southeast part, along the Amstel River.

The UvA area is mostly surrounded by facilities.

Figure 5.5: Functional map in three categories: Facilities, Residential & Offices (Own image, based on maps.amsterdam.nl)
**Non-residential functions:**

If the functions are divided further into categories, more evident patterns arise.

A very clear pattern of retail can be converted from this map. From the Central Station towards the Dam Square the street most dominated by shops is the Nieuwendijk, followed by the Damrak. After the Dam Square the shopping street continues in the form of the Kalverstraat, towards the Muntplein. From this main shopping axis, several sidestreets appear, such as, Raadhuisstraat/Rozengracht and Leidsestraat.

Another dominating color in this map is orange, the color of Hotels, Restaurants and Cafes. The horeca buildings are mainly located in the 1012 area, with a higher density around the Dam Square and the Northern part, close to the Central Station.

Outside the medieval center also clusters of Horeca appear, mostly around the squares. Leidscheplein and Rembrandtplein are dictated by orange color, and are also widely known as vibrant nightlife areas.

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**Figure 5.5:** Functional map in three categories: Facilities, Residentail & Offices (Own image, based on maps.amsterdam.nl)
Squares & Functions:

The information of the previous pages can be combined in order to draw a conclusion. As Bohigas states, the public space is the place in the city where the collective reality is produced. The functions enclosing this public space are providing the reason people go there, and therefore defining the identity of these squares.

The character of the Binnengasthuis area is determined by the presence of the University. Especially in a couple of years, when the university carried out their plans to fully withdraw their alpha-faculty, the public space here will be dominated by the UvA. Other public squares in the city; Dam square, Nieuwmarkt, Waterlooplein, Rembrandtplein, Spui, Leidscheplein and the connecting areas in between have a whole other identity. This public space is mainly related to horeca, retail and leisure. Within these places people encounter and interact with one another, but the question is if this typical type of people is the target group the UvA is aiming on to achieve knowledge-generating interaction with.

Figure 5.7: Squares and their most dominant adjacent functions (Own image)
5.1.2: Tourism

The findings from the previous paragraph can also be concluded from the image on this page. Findings from the ‘Human activity tracker’ (software that registers where people go through GPS tracking on their phone) are displayed in a map. If focused on the city center, a dominant trail can be appointed. A lot of activity is measured at- and around the Central Station. From here on, a Southwards trail is shown over the Niewendijk and Damrak to Dam Square, and through Kalverstraat and Rokin to Muntplein. From this trail, several branches flow out to the West.

(Source: cities.humans.co/posts/Amsterdam.html)

The area in between the big nodes Central Station, Dam Square, Rembrandtplein, Leidscheplein and the Western part of the canal ring is the most crowded part of the city. As noted before, this area is dominated by the functions Horeca, retail and leisure. These facts support the presumption that the city center is to a great extent used by tourists. Not only by foreign tourists, but also Dutch daytrippers from outside Amsterdam.

Dutch newspaper NRC Next also did a recent study to tourism in Amsterdam. 30 (groups of) tourists were asked to carry on a GPS tracker while they moved around in the city. The results are shown in the map on the right. Among the participants were tourists from all kinds of categories, from backpackers who travelled on their own, to elderly American couples and British youngsters in groups. In the results there were not many differences between the groups, the same areas were visited and the same routes were used. Only the tourists who stayed in the youth hostels, were more often found in the red light district than others. NRC contacted the tourist through the Hotels and hostels in which they were staying, so it is most likely that only foreign tourists participated in the test.

Their findings more or less match the findings from the previous pages. “The most important touristic axis is situated between Central Station through the Damrak (or one of the parallel streets), Dam Square, Spui, Leidsestraat, towards Leidscheplein and the Museum area”.

(Source: NRC Next)

The map shows that the city center is the domain of the tourist, but only a small part of the city center. In one way this makes the average tourist very predictable. On the other hand this causes a lot of pressure from the tourism on a relatively small area of the city.

According to NBTC, a Dutch marketing company, more than 14 million foreign tourists visited Amsterdam in 2014, compared to 12,8 million in 2013 and 12,2 in 2012. For 2015 already an estimation of 14,5 million is made. As noted that Amsterdam has approximately 800.000 inhabitants, this means about 18 foreign tourists per resident will visit the city this year.

(Source: NBTC)

For some of the inhabitants of Amsterdam it is hard to get used to the hustle in the city center. They complain about the obstruction the tourist mass generates when crossing
the Dam Square, tourists on bikes that don’t know how to ride it, segways, red hop-on hop-off buses and beerbikes. They say this is a tacky kind of entertainment, something that doesn’t belong in the beautiful streets of Amsterdam, which has so much more to offer.

Many people are afraid Amsterdam is turning into an amusement park, just like Venice. The image Amsterdam has abroad also attracts less wanted tourists. Blasting men on beerbikes and British youngsters hanging around in coffeeshops or the red light district. The city prefers to accommodate tourist that have a little more to spend, like the culture tourist.

(Source: NRC Next)

The opening of the renovated Rijksmuseum last year also attracts a lot of people to the city. Today Amsterdam has an incredibly attractive cultural infrastructure, and profits from the worldwide grow of cultural tourism. Not only in Amsterdam, but in cities all over the world tourism increases because of the growth of wealth. Everywhere museums get overwhelmed with each time more visitors than beforehand expected. The most optimistic prognoses are constantly being exceeded. In London the number of museum visitors has doubled in the last ten years, and also Paris surpasses itself each year with new records. The total amount of visitors to the institutions around the Museumplein in Amsterdam has now passed the five million on an annual basis. This is the new reality.

Within the foreseeable future the limits of this growth will be reached. Anyone who lives in- or visits the city everyday will notice the disordered bustle; litter, irritations and waiting lines. Amsterdam becomes filthy, vile and full.

(Source: Wim Pijbes in NRC Next)

Figure 5.10: The typical touristic streetscape of the inner city (NRC Next)
Figure 5.8: Movement map of pedestrians in Amsterdam (cities.humans.co)

Figure 5.9: Movement map of 30 tourists in Amsterdam (NRC Next)
5.1.4. Traffic

In previous paragraphs the most dominant trails of moving pedestrians through the city is treated, but of course there are also other forms of traffic through the city.

A good flow and circulation for bicycles, public transport and cars is essential for the reachability of the city. The different types of transportation all have their own share and complement each other. Bicycles are a real phenomenon in Amsterdam and are considered indispensable for short distance transportation. Public transport in the city and cars are essential for the movement over middle- and long distances.

For a good circulation for every type of transportation choices need to be made. In the past, streets were often simply divided into regions for pedestrians, bicycles, trams and cars, where nobody really had an advantage. The municipality of Amsterdam therefore wants to separate these flows, so the different types of transportation can benefit from their own routes within the city. In several streets space will be made available in order to let bikes or public transport continue their path. On other routes it is important that cars can easily drive in- and out of the city.

(Source: Uitvoeringsagenda mobiliteit)

Cars: The municipality states that the inner city needs to be reachable, but for ongoing traffic it has to be less convenient to cross the heart of the city. In this way, necessary local traffic such as residents, employees, supply, waste collection and emergency vehicles get more space to go where they need to be.

The inner city becomes more and more convenient to live, work and recreate, if the city center becomes less crowded with cars. There will be more space for bicycles and pedestrians, and there will be a decrease of noise and odor nuisance.

Public Transport: In a crowded city as Amsterdam, well functioning public transportation is a must: trams, buses and metro have to be efficient and reliable. But, not all the public transport has to go to- or from the central station. Buses from outside the city can also stop at other stations as Sloterdijk, Amstel, or Zuid. The train to- and from the Central Station, the metro line to Amsterdam Southeast and the North-South metroline will form the basis of the public transportation system. The city center mainly wants to focus on the tram. The tram will keep as much as possible its free track, but will have to temper its speed because of cyclists and pedestrians.

The city center has a dense network of tram tracks. However, there are still a lot of buses driving around. Buses cause more vibrations, noise and exhaust fumes, which brings more nuisance for the local residents. The city wants the buses outside the city center, and only in between the city and surrounding areas. The bus can drive to- and from the public transportation nodes in the periphery, from where people can continue their way by tram, metro or bike.

Bicycle: The rise of the bicycle in Amsterdam is unstoppable. The amount of bicycles is still increasing. This is actually good news, because the bicycle is a clean and cheap type of transportation. The municipality therefore wants to pay more attention to ongoing biking routes and more right of way for cyclists. The success also has a downside; A lack of bike storage, overcrowded biking lanes and traffic accidents are a problem in the city.

The municipality wants a network for bicycles consisting of a combination of East-West routes, North-South routes and rings that are connected to the high-density routes to other parts of the city. Therefore new bike lanes are required.
There is too little space for bicycle parking. The municipality wants to invest in bicycle parking around the most used public attractions and at the bigger public transportation nodes. Also the amount of wrecks, so called ‘orphan bikes’ and wrongly parked bikes should be reduced by more active enforcement of the rules.

*Pedestrians:* Actually the whole inner city is the domain of the pedestrian. The municipality wants to provide the most crowded streets with more space for thoroughfare. Also, crowded pedestrian flows should touch as little as possible with ongoing traffic flows.

The pedestrians are getting more and more important within the city center. Already the municipality wants to make sure that there are no obstacles in the way, so that people with a handicap, wheelchair or baby pushcarts have free passage. Besides, the municipality wants to improve the contiguous pedestrian area from central station all the way to Albert Cuyp market, and make it car free- or low traffic areas in order to generate a flawless flow of pedestrians; the so called Red Carpet Project.

(Source: Nota Bereikbare binnenstad)
Figure 5.11a: Planned dominant car routing (Nota bereikbare binnenstad)

Figure 5.11b: Planned main network of public transport (Nota bereikbare binnenstad)

Figure 5.11c: Planned main bicycle routes (Nota bereikbare binnenstad)

Figure 5.11d: Pedestrian areas all over the city center (Nota bereikbare binnenstad)
**The Red Carpet Project:**

The combination of improvement of the pedestrian areas in the city center, and restoring the damage caused by the construction of the North-South metro line, has caused the municipality to initiate the Red Carpet Project.

The picture on this page shows the main focus of the project, starting with the square in front of the Central Station and the Damrak, which provide the ‘entrance’ of the city, to subsequently Dam Square, Rokin, Muntplein, Vijzelstraat, Vijzelgracht, Weteringplantsoen to the Albert Cuyp market. Besides improvement of the area and more space for pedestrians, one of the starting points is to highlight historic structures. The most important design tools to achieve this are:

- Optimalization of tram stops
- Single color elegant pavement from facade to facade.
- Elegant pendant streetlighting

(Source: Ontwerp Rode Loper)
(Gemeente Amsterdam, 2009)
Figure 5.13a – 5.13f: Impressions of the refurbished streetscapes along the red carpet project; Damrak at the Beurs, Damrak at Dam Square, Rokin at Binnengasthuisterrein, Rokin at Muntplein, Vijzelsgracht and Vijzelgracht (Gemeente Amsterdam)
5.2. Recommendations and starting points

The Binnengasthuisterrein is a very distinctive area, both in morphological way as is its identity. Its function of university is very contradicting with the functions of the public spaces around it, where retail, leisure and Horeca dominate the streetscape. Because of the different identity of the area from its surroundings, it also has a different user.

The plan of the university is to create an open city campus in order to generate encounter and interaction with the people from the city. However, the people from the city are mostly tourists who come to Amsterdam for its entertainment. A critical view on the UvA plans will conclude that the university doesn’t need an open city campus, but should on the contrary be protected from the overcrowded city. Encounter and interaction eventually don’t happen on other overcrowded areas, such as the Kalverstraat. This crowded path of people should be guided past the university area.

Social activities and interaction occur most in places where people have the same background. Therefore, the university should be a place where people can meet other people with the same interests. The Binnengasthuisterrein shouldn’t be opened up to the city, but should be a public enclave in the city, where people who know how to get there, will find oneself, but is harder to reach for people who don’t need to be there. In this way, an oasis can be created in the city where the people of the university and every other interested person, can join a remote but vibrant area with their own identity to share and create knowledge.
6. THE BINNENGASTHUISTERREIN

On a smaller scale, the theory can be related to the analysis of the Binnengasthuis area itself. However, first the starting points of the previous chapter can be linked to an antecedent with the same desired kind of identity. This will be analyzed first, so that there will be clear reference elements to use for the analysis of the Binnengasthuis area.

6.1. Identity Reference:

*Arènes de Lutèce, Paris*

In the French capital Paris, close to City Park ‘Jardin des Plantes’, lies Arènes de Lutèce. As its name already gives away a bit, it is an old Roman amphitheater, built in the 1st century A.D. Only centuries later, around 1860, the arena was found during the construction of one of the surrounding roads.

Nowadays, the arena is surrounded by building blocks and forms a remote but publicly accessible area in the middle of the vibrant city. It is accessible through three different entrances. One is a passageway through a building at the Rue de Monge; a second one is a long open corridor accessible from Rue de Navarre through a gate (figure 6.3) and the last one through the Square Capitan, which lies on the Eastside of the arena and is also ‘hidden’.

(Source: Discover France)

These entrances don’t show anything of the area that lies behind it, and are not very inviting to strangers. Also if one doesn’t know that they are entrances, you will probably walk on by without noticing them. Only people who know of the existence of this place, go through the threshold to meet other people for social activities, or just to escape Paris’ noisy street life and be alone for a while. Especially in the spring and in the summer when the weather is nice, the atmosphere in the arena is pleasant because of the presence of students enjoying their outdoor lunch, children playing football, or elderly men engaged in a game of pétanque.

![Figure 6.1: People playing pétanque in the arena (Discover France)](Image1)

![Figure 6.2: The arena as an oasis in the city scape (Discover France)](Image2)

![Figure 6.3: Unnoticed entrance to the enclosure (Google Streetview)](Image3)
Figure 6.4a-d: Sequence of different perceptions of the moving observer from outside to inside the Arènes des Lutèce (Own images)
6.2. University of Amsterdam

Like mentioned before, the plans of the UvA are to fully withdraw their Alpha-faculties on one campus on the Binnengasthuis area. Several buildings will be restored or updated in order to suffice for its new function.

In the picture on this page can be seen which building is supposed to get which function in the future. The darker colored buildings are already renovated and ready for their new use, the lighter colored buildings are in preparation.

Uncolored buildings are not taken into the plans for the university. The Paul de Ley building and the buildings on the Kloveniersburgwal were never property of the university; the uncolored buildings on the Oude Turfmarkt will be sold.

The purple colored building is a contraction of the ‘Tweede chirurgische kliniek’ and the ‘Zusterhuis’, and will provide housing for the new university library in the UvA plans.

(Source: Uva, Analysis Binnengasthuisterrein)

1 Oudemanhuispoort - Education
2 Nieuwe Chirurgische Kliniek - Education
3 Administratiegebouw - Office & Administration
4 Vrouwenverband - Education
5 Kraamkliniek - Education
6 Allard Pierson museum /bijzonder collecties
7 Mensa - Campus restaurant
8 Tweede Chirurgische Kliniek /Zusterhuis - New Library

Figure 6.5: Future composition of the UvA alpha-campus (Own image, based on UvA and Analysis Binnengasthuisterrein – Steven)
In the document ‘De campusplannen van de UvA en de binnenstad’, Battjes and Deben are giving their critical opinion on the plans of the University to withdraw their alpha faculties fully to the Binnengasthuis area. They mention the ambition of the University to achieve optimal study results, intellectual development for every student, and a higher international ranking for the university. However, the relation between the goals and the clustering are mentioned, but never proved.

Also the fact that the UvA plan doesn’t involve several university buildings elsewhere in the city center is a critical note. Buildings such as the Maagdenhuis or the current university library are located on very attractive and demanded places in the city. What happens if these buildings become vacant? There is no need for office space; the high vacancy rates in the city are already a significant problem, and are only expected to grow in the coming years. Transformation to apartments will only lead to housing in the highest financial section. Transformation to hotels may be possible, but will contribute to a very unilateral cityscape, and is in conflict with the municipality’s hotel policy, which states that the focus on new hotels has to be outside the city center.

The university could also find new purposes for the old buildings, which are related to the university.

Another critical point is the current program of requirements of the UvA for its new library. If the university wants to have a campus in the center of the city, it should adapt to its available structure. When drafting a program of requirements one should reason from the spatial potential of the location, instead of simply stating an amount of required square meters. “The programme should be adapted to the urban context; who wants to do it the other way around in the center of Amsterdam, is by definition on a dead end.

The university contributes to the mixed character of the city center by its exploitation of several buildings of historical value. Groups of young people wander in the streets of Amsterdam after, before and in between the lectures. The city provides a fantastic decor for the university; something that would be of less quality if students wouldn’t have a reason to get of their campus. Despite the technical and financial objections these buildings bring along, they are showpieces of the University that co-realize its identity. If carefully managed, the buildings can contribute to admiration of the university and help with the attraction of more people.

(Source: (Battjes & Deben, 2011))

I think Battjes & Deben have some very valid arguments regarding the clustering to an alpha-campus and pushing off valuable buildings. The plans to fit a university library with a program of requirements that asks for more than 14.000m2 in a building with a total floor space of less than 8.000m2 is illogical and infeasible. Therefore I would like to argue to keep the universal functions, such as the university library of the UvA outside of the ‘alpha’-campus. The library works properly as it is used now, except for the deficiency of study places. This can be solved by designating a special alpha-focused study center on the Binnengasthuis area, which will enforce the concept of the alpha-campus, instead of debilitate it with general UvA functions.

Other functions are also required. From earlier findings we see that the ambition of the university is to score higher on international rankings. A place where foreign students or visiting professors could stay for a certain period of time could be a catalyst for this. If this group of people can be offered a temporary home in the center of
the city, instead of in big soulless towers in Diemen or container houses in the North of Amsterdam, the international attractive force of the university can highly increase.

6.2.1. Program

In order to create an alpha-campus, general university functions such as a university library should be housed in a general location. The location where the common library is right now, on the Singel in the middle of the city center, is therefore convenient. The lack of study places for the future is a problem though. To meet the ambitions of the UvA, a study center specifically aimed at the studies for humanities will be an exquisite outcome. A place where people can get together to work in groups, but also a place where one can come to find a spot to study in peace.

The programs of requirement from the recent past can help to state what is needed for a study center. Although, less space will be needed for the storage and display of books, which takes up a lot of square meters of these preceding programmes.

Another ambition of the UvA is to obtain a higher score for international rankings when it comes to alpha universities. At the moment, this is something the university is working on, but because of the lack of sufficient- or affordable accommodation in the city center, the acquisition of foreign students and professors holds off.

The city of Amsterdam itself has a surplus of hotels and Airbnb’s, but they are just not suitable for the UvA’s target group because these rooms are not affordable for a longer tenancy, or cope with inconvenience of tourists that maintain a completely different daily schedule.

Accordingly, new functional typologies such as ‘long stay’ student hotels where people from abroad can stay for example for two weeks, but also for a whole semester, can be very convenient for the UvA and contribute to the international reckoning of the university.

Although these two main programmes might seem quite different from each other, they are not unthinkable to be combined on campus. The informal spaces of a study center, such as a coffee bar or in an other part of the day a grand café, can be connected with a long stay hotel, and can even be inviting for city residents in the direct neighborhood, just like the Mensa.

The mutual spaces can even bring out the best of the different functions. For example, the study center can profit from the fact that a hotel is a 24-hours a day function; in certain periods in the semester there can be a 24-hour demand for a place to study.

Also both functions can profit from a route that leads from more public to private areas. For the study center, there is a big difference between areas that call for informal places to work, where students can meet each other, and places where people can study or work in peace on their own. The same distinction is can be applied for the residency; some students may stay for a whole semester and want to be able to invite other people for social interaction, while others might just stay for a couple of days and require a place where they can back down from their busy day.

On the organizational scheme on the next page the concept of the way these functions should be combined is displayed. The way the programme is to be fit in the campus is dependable on the structure of the buildings, like stated by Battjes and Deben.

The route from public to private within both functions will be a triggering
connection of spaces, where the user will perceive a chain of mental images like described in the literature, which will lead the user to a more private or a more public room. However, the functions are too large to be always used like this. It will be inconvenient for the user if he has to use the long route over and over again, to arrive at his destination in the building. Therefore sometimes functional- will have to be chosen over interesting routing.

Figure 6.6: Organizational scheme of future function (Own image)
6.3. The Enclave

The area has always been an exception in the urban structure, and has always been an enclave in the city center. One of the morphological reasons for this, is that it is almost fully surrounded by water. The canals around the area provide a physical barrier from the enclave for the user of the city.

Also the buildings around the Binnengasthuisterrein contribute to the closeness of the area. Their architectural- and functional orientation is mainly faced outwards, causing a ring of facades around the area. An exception can be found at the South side of the area, in the Doelenstraat. Because of the demolition of hotel des Pays Bas, a whole has occurred in the street and therefore in the wall of facades, creating an interruption.

The buildings within this enclosing ring differ from other buildings in the inner city. These buildings are pinpointed in the plot and face more directions and are therefore pavilion-like, an aspect that is reminiscent of the typical 19th century hospital typology.

Figure 6.7: The Binnengasthuisterrein as an incomplete enclave (Own image)
6.3.1. Accessibility
The enclave within the city is not only accessible from the interruption in the Doelenstraat, also a series of gateways provide access to the Binnengasthuisinterrein. The gateways descend from different times and therefore all tell their own story of history.

The gateways are very characteristic and provide the area with enclosure. A gate tells passing people it is an entrance to the enclosed world, without being inviting; on the contrary, a gate rather tells people they aren’t welcome. On the next page the different gates are showed, in figure 6.10a-6.10g.

a) Gateway of Letters
b) Gateway of Plenty
c) Gateway of Regeneration
d) Gateway of Openness
e) Gateway of Assembly
f) Gateway of Broadening
g) Gateway of Diversity

(Source: Poort naar de Toekomst)
Figure 6.9 & 6.10a-g the different gateways to the area and their locations (Poort naar de Toekomst)
6.4. *Space Syntax*

Besides The opening towards the Binnengasthuis area on the Doelenstraat and the entrances through the gateways, there is also in-between space between the Administratiegebouw and the Vrouwenverband in the North of the enclave, which is used to enter the Binnengasthuisterrein. In order to emphasize the enclave identity of the area, a location for an intervention has to be selected. The gap in the Doelenstraat is an evident location for this, since it hits two birds with one stone; not only does it make the area less accessible for strangers, also the streetscape can be restored.

In order to prove the hypothesis that closing the Binnengasthuisterrein off on the side of the Doelenstraat will be most effective, the space syntax method can be used. In order to get a good comparison, the current situation will be calculated, and thereafter the two different scenarios. The result can be seen in figure 6.11.

The red lines show the high probability of encounter, against blue for low probability. In the original situation we can see that the inside area of the Binnengasthuis enclave is mostly green. The space syntax calculation for closing the area off from the North side doesn't show many differences. However, closing the area from the Doelenstraat shows a lot more effect. The central area is now colored light blue to blue which means strangers are not likely to end up there. The pressure of non-familiar people will however increase on the Oude Turfmarkt, which should not be seen as a negative. The Oude turfmarkt is directly connected to the Rokin, which both will be part of the Red Carpet Project. These streets are designed for high-density pedestrian traffic. Besides, the museums and the canal boat tour operators can profit from the growth of people in their street.
Figure 6.11: Space Syntax analysis of the current situation and two different scenarios (Own image)
6.5. The Heart of the ensemble

The pavilion-like buildings on the inner side of the Binnengasthuis area are situated in between the surrounded buildings and are more faced inwards. Leastways, their entrances are mostly situated from the inside of the area.

6.5.1. Encounter and Interaction

Here lies the major opportunity for the formation of a campus heart where people of the university can encounter and interact with each other. However, the current situation leaves much to be desired. The fact that the buildings are facing multiple sides, causes them not to have a real connection with their surrounding public space. The fact that the facades of these buildings are particularly closed on the ground floor, emphasize the lack of relation, leaving a shattered ‘heart’ of public space.

Leaving the public space unused is a real weakness, because having the opportunity to make use of such an open space in the really dense city center is scarce.

In order to make the heart of the ensemble attractive for people, so social activities will take place, the in-between space, which now is shattered, has to become a central square and will have to be redesigned.

With ‘locking out’ the tourist of the area and providing a comfortable place with relevant facilities and surrounding functions, the heart of the ensemble can be the central place of the campus where social activity is facilitated as described in chapter 4.

A central heart will also contribute to the value of the buildings. The buildings will no longer operate on their own, but will be part of a bigger whole; not only because of its history or because it is property of the same institution, but also because they cooperate and therefore contribute to a dynamic campus.

Figure 6.13: In-between space and the shattered heart on the ensemble (Own image)
The poor relation between the buildings and the ensemble's heart can be illustrated by the pictures on these pages.

The new annex for the administration building is cladded with glass and wooden panels. However, the ‘transparent’ building has almost never a connection with the square, because sunscreens are down when the weather is good; and if the weather is less enjoyable, the activity on the square is less.

The Paul de Ley building is less involved in the university, but not only because of its different function. The Binnengasthuisstraat is cutting the square in two and both permanent and temporarily objects are placed alongside it, which emphasizes the division. Also, the entrances to the building are small and elevated from the street level. This causes the building to be non-participating and non-providing in the public social activity.

The Tweede Chirurgische Kliniek has a souterrain, which causes a difference of height between the ground floor of the building and the street level. Here too the connection is unutilized and the possibility for interaction is zero. This is underlined by the closeness of the windows and the lack of activity behind it.

On the side of the square at the Vrouwenverband there is an annex with a very closed character. Here too the inner level is slightly different from the outside street level, and the uncomfortable height causes a lack of ‘life’ showing behind the windows. Also the closeness of the windows effect little or no connection and interaction.

Figure 6.14: Theo Bosch’ annex for the administration building (Google Streetview)

Figure 6.15: Paul de Ley’s social housing block (Google Streetview)

Figure 6.16: Tweede chirurgische kliniek (Google Streetview)

Figure 6.17: Vrouwenverband and annex on the ground floor (Google Streetview)
Concise SWOT analysis

Strengths:
• The square is the central public space and therefore the heart of the ensemble
• Interesting sightlines, looking through the buildings in and out of the enclosure

Weaknesses:
• The Binnengasthuisstraat crosses- and splits up the heart
• The facades of the surrounding buildings have no or little relation with the square and vice versa

Opportunities:
• Opening up facades towards the square can create relations between the buildings

Threats:
• The square is used for parking of bicycles and scooters, and give it a chaotic appearance
• Permanent and temporary barriers divide the square

Figure 6.18: Summarizing diagram of the SWOT analysis of the central square (Own image)
6.6. The Courtyards

Besides the central square in the area, the Binnengasthuisterrein is characterized by several semi-public courtyards. The courtyards are connected to each other through alleys and gates, although some of these passages are closed now.

The courtyard in between the Allard Pierson museum is only accessible from the Oude Turfmarkt and has a semi-public, green character. The surrounding buildings are of a variable character and height.

The Tweede chirurgische kliniek and the Zusterhuis together enclose a courtyard. This courtyard used to have three entrances, but nowadays only the entrance on the Vendelstraat is open. The building has a strong connection with the courtyard, which gives it a closed character.

The public space that is part of the Vendelstraat connects it to the Oudemanhuispoort. This green space consists of private gardens, a playground and street furniture. This semipublic space also has a green character and enclosed by buildings, and is therefore counted as a courtyard.

At last there is the courtyard of the Oudemanhuispoort. The courtyard is accessible from the Boekensteeg and is the main entrance of the Oudemanhuispoort building. The semipublic garden has a monumental character. The building surrounding the courtyard is straightforward and built in one architectural style.

(Source: Analysis BiermanHenket)
Figure 6.20: Courtyard in between Paul de Ley building and Allard Pierson museum (Binnengasthuis Analysis)

Figure 6.21: Courtyard in between Tweede chirurgische kliniek and Zusterhuis (Binnengasthuis Analysis)

Figure 6.22: Courtyard next to the Nieuwe Kliniek (Own image)

Figure 6.23: Courtyard at the Oudemanhuispoort and its entrance (Own image)
6.7. Recommendations and starting points

As we learned from Arène de Lutèce, it is not always necessary to be inviting in order to create an enjoyable or comfortable public space. The hidden oasis in the city uses discrete and unnoted entrances to keep unwanted strangers out. People who are familiar with the place, know how to find it anyway. This fact ensures the public space stays an oasis where people with the same interests can meet and enjoy social activities.

The binnengasthuisterrein also has the identity of an enclave in the city. However, the enclave seems unfinished. After the demolition of Hotel des Pays Bas a gaping whole has appeared in the Doelenstraat, which opens the area from the South side.

Other ways to enter the university campus are through several gates around the area. Each one of them shows an entrance to the perimeter, without being inviting and so creating a sort of mystery.

The starting point here is to create the ‘8th gate’ to the campus from the South side. In this way, two birds can be hit with one stone; not only does it restore the enclave so that it will be less inviting for strangers, also the streetscape can be recovered.

The space syntax calculation enhances the hypothesis that the south side of the Binnengasthuisterrein is to be the most convenient location for an intervention.

The current morphology of the area can contribute to a play of areas with a public or a more private identity. Making a dominant orientation of the buildings towards the heart of the campus will constitute to a vibrant and socially active core, while parts of the buildings that require a more peaceful identity can be faced towards the serene courtyards.

In this way an interplay occurs; A more dynamic and vivid heart of the campus will procreate more cohesion between the individual buildings, while more cohesion will strengthen the space in between.
7. RELEVANT BUILDINGS

With the decision the ensemble should be closed off from the South side we have a location for the intervention. In this chapter, the buildings that are relevant will be assessed according to the literature and the previous chapters.

The buildings will only be analyzed on the way they cope with relevant aspects for this research report, such as orientation and circulation. For the complete analysis I would like to refer to the group analysis.

7.1. Tweede chirurgische kliniek & Zusterhuis

By the RCE the two buildings are assessed as being of common interest because of the cultural historic value, architectural historic value and its typological value. Besides the Zusterhuis building is valued for creating a wall for the Doelenstraat and both buildings for being part of the Binnengasthuis ensemble.

(Source: RCE)

The two buildings together form a triangle-shaped building that encloses a courtyard. From the typological meaning, the courtyard was used as a private serene area that could contribute to the wellbeing of the patients. Around the courtyard, different kinds of rooms are situated that have a very strong connection to the private space. These rooms are accessed by a corridor, that in most cases creates a border between spaces on the ‘inside’ of the building, and spaces that are orientated more to the ‘outside’, in this case the street side (for the Zusterhuis), or to the heart of the ensemble. Sometimes the corridor itself finds itself on the courtyard, or at the central square, which makes it an interesting route. In general, the corridor can make a clear distinction between public- and private-oriented spaces.

Because of the shape of the building, the main route makes a lot of deflections, which is a great opportunity to create an interesting and triggering route, compared
to the literature. By forcing the user to take turns, an interplay between light, shadow, interrupting or continuation of sightlines, or steering the user towards a more public-of private area can be created.

At the heart of the ensemble the main entrance of the building is situated. Here lies a big opportunity to involve the building to the vivid square, and the other way around. The main entrance is directly connected to the corridor and the main staircase, which can be used as central area for the building

Figure 7.2: Concise conceptual analysis for routing and orientation, regarding Tweede chirurgische kliniek and Zusterhuis (Own image, based on Beeldbank Amsterdam)
7.2. Paul de Ley Building

The other building on the Binnengasthuis area that affects the Doelenstraat is the in 1986 built social housing block by Paul de Ley. The building is not considered part of the Binnengasthuis ensemble, and has therefore no protected status. However, the building is most certainly present. It separates one of the courtyards from the campus, and is on the other side situated on the central square in a very prominent place. Regarding the interplay between public and private orientations, the same qualities as in the Tweede chirurgische kliniek and the Zusterhuis can be achieved. But, the circulation is set up completely different. The houses are accessible through vertical ascents, and there is no existence of a corridor. In the current situation, there is no possibility to create a triggering route. This would be a weakness if the building were to be involved in the project and therefore a challenge for a possible transformation. The shape of the building does provide playful deflections, which can be a quality if well used.

The lack of a corridor also reflects in the building’s structure. On the one hand, this can make it difficult to create an axis; on the other hand it provides a perfect structure for the ‘longstay-hotel’ part of the desired programme, since the building is already divided into apartments.

Figure 7.4: Concise conceptual analysis for routing and orientation, regarding Paul de Ley building (Binnengasthuis analyse – Elise)
7.3. Recommendations and starting points

If the intervention is to be situated on the Southside of the Binnengasthuisterrein, in order to create an 8th gateway where people can enter the perimeter but forms an unnoted passage for strangers, the Tweede chirurgische kliniek and Zusterhuis and/or the social housing block by Paul de Ley seem to be convenient subjects. The buildings compose a transition between outside and inside the Binnengasthuis area, but also inside the area they form a transition between public space and spaces with a more private identity. Because the buildings themselves can serve as this transitional space, a great opportunity arises to generate a triggering route that plays with interrupting and continuation of sightlines, light and shadow, in order to carry people to a more private- or public space.

With a transformation, the Paul de Ley building can be adapted in a more rigorously way, since it is of less cultural-, historical- or architectural value. However, with a good technical analysis of both structures, as much as benefit can be derived from the current situation in order to minimize the structural interventions for a desired result.

Regarding the programme, every space included in the program of requirements should be evaluated whether it requires a more public or a more private identity. In this way, the spaces can be orientated and be intertwined within the route.

Figure 7.5: Conceptual drawing of the recommendations and starting points for the relevant buildings for an intervention. (Own image)
V. CONCLUSIONS

1. RESEARCH QUESTION

A number of preconditions to this project, such as the closed appearance of the Binnengasthuisterrein within the city and the UvA plans for the area for the future triggered me to find the answer to my research question:

Is it desirable to connect the UvA area with the rest of the city center by opening up the Binnengasthuisterrein, or can the university benefit from the closeness of the Binnengasthuisterrein and should it be emphasized?

The statements that the UvA makes about what it wants for the inner city campus, are contrary to what it needs.

Theory describes that ideas are generated in, mostly informal, social activities. In order for the university to make social interaction beneficial, one has to be aware of the degree of contact intensity, the higher the level of interaction will be, the more likely it will be beneficial.

People with the same interest, such as studying/working on a university or special interest in a certain field, will be more acquainted with each other than people who just happen to be in the same public space at the same time. Bringing people with the same background together will increase the intensity level of social contacts, and thus boost the probability of beneficial interaction. In addition, it is important to be aware that social interaction is not something that can be imposed with a spatial design, but only can be facilitated.

The tourists and daytrippers, which form the majority of the user of the Amsterdam city center, generally have other interests and no direct relation to the people on the UvA campus, which will result in low intensity contacts. Opening up the campus will therefore probably arise a high amount of superficial contacts, which will not advance any beneficial interaction. If the UvA area can be more restrained from its surroundings, the relative percentage of people on campus with the same interest will increase, and therefore the likeliness of knowledge and information being generated and shared, will too.

This research states that the fact the campus is an enclave within the city is actually beneficial for the University of Amsterdam, and should therefore be emphasized. The identity of the area should be like an oasis within the city, where people with the same interest come together in the public space and relish their social activities.

A location to retract from the crowded city in this historical place is also fully in accordance to the historical and cultural identity of the Binnengasthuisterrein, and thus a perfect continuation of the local spirit.
2. DESIGN STARTING POINTS

- Build landmarks on each corner of the site.
- Establish clear access to the surrounding public spaces.
- Create a link between the public space and the heart of the campus.
- Designate clear access for visitors and staff.
- Establish clear transitions between the site and the surrounding public spaces.
- Ensure the design is accessible to all users.
3. PROGRAM OF REQUIREMENTS

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VI. REFERENCES

Literature


Sources


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Other images


For the original appendices i would like to refer to my original research report, as delivered before P2.
VII. THE DESIGN ESSENCE
VIII. FINAL PRODUCTS

Drawings and diagrams on the following pages are all made by the author and are because of layout purposes not in their original scale.
ground floor plan
section B-B'
diagram X
diagram X
diagram X
diagram X
diagram X
interior render 'entrance'
interior render 'hotel hinge'
interior render 'enfilade'
interior render 'restaurant'
exterior render 'anticipation'
exterior render 'punctuation'
exterior render ‘vista’
exterior render 'deflection'
facade fragment 'existing'
facade fragment 'perpetuation'
facade fragment 'adjustment'
facades fragment 'new'
facade fragment 'overpath' and cross section
model picture
model picture
model picture
model picture
model picture
model picture
IX. REFLECTION

The spider in the web
1. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDIO

"A building is not something you finish. A building is something you start."
-Steward Brand, 1994

If a building has a certain amount of functional, aesthetic, cultural or contextual value, it should be considered a piece of art. However, by the time it gets put into use, the building is not yet finished, unlike a painting for example. Actually, according to Brand, a building is never finished. Because it has a certain user and a stated purpose in society, the building’s lifecycle will only just start at the moment it is taken into use. Hereafter, if the context changes, the building will also change along in order to adapt. Therefore institutional buildings are continuously subject to change and keep on ‘learning’, even after the last brick is placed (Brand, 1995). According to Pallasmaa (2012), the building’s purpose in society causes its identity to be attached to a continuum of evolving culture and life, and therefore, of time; Its past echoes through present day and future.

Since society is always changing, so are the buildings in it. It is therefore important that one is aware of this fact, so that change and development can be managed. Whenever another piece of art, like a painting, suffers from damage, it is very common to repair it and restore it in its original state. In this case the painting will not lose its values, since it was merely a snapshot of its time. Now when a building is for example no longer fit to its purpose, it can’t go back to an earlier state of being. The building has to adapt and evolve with its ever-changing context (Meurs, 2004).

The introduction above shows that buildings are not singular objects, but part of a larger whole. The material of the buildings breathes the underlying story and somehow shows layer by layer the evolution of culture and life. When these layers are thoroughly analyzed, they provide us an extensive knowledge, which is the source we need in order to create the new.

In my opinion it is impossible to create something out of nothing. The historical context; the genius loci and its value in our life and culture are, and always should be, the foundation of the design project.

The subject of my graduation project, the Binnengasthuisterrein in Amsterdam, is located in the oldest part of the city. The ensemble of buildings, varying from being built in the early 17th century to the late 20th century, is nowadays in use for the University of Amsterdam. The different functions the buildings used to have; cloisters, hospitals, still reflect through today’s presence. The goal for my graduation project was to design something new, dealing with this rich history. Not out of nostalgia, but to create a new layer on the existing in order to prolong the building’s existence and emphasize its depth.

Reuse of buildings is also very relevant from two different points of view. On the one hand there is a large inventory of vacant buildings in our country. Creating new buildings is unnecessary if we find a way to continuously adapt our current building stock to our present-day needs. It is about time we realize our resources are limited, and looking for already existing options is a far more sustainable and durable way to treat the built environment, than unthinkingly building the new.

On the other hand, this is a way to maintain our heritage. By adding new layers to the existing buildings, we get far more interesting objects. Not only is this convenient for the building itself, also the tangible can represent the intangible stories of history, so
that our collective memory will be preserved and perpetuated. The collective memory is in the end what defines our culture, which puts the studio, but also my project specifically in a wider social context.

2. METHODICAL LINE OF APPROACH

The triangle below shows there is a relation between the aspects design, cultural heritage and technology. This triangle shows that cultural value and technology are the foundation for design and is specific for the approach of the Heritage & Architecture studio.

Figure 9.1: The fundamental triangle of the Heritage & Architecture studio; interrelation between design, technology and cultural value. (own image, based on H&A Studio Manual)

I agree with the fact that there is an existing interplay between the three aspects, with the top focus on design. However, this triangle is too schematic when I reflect it upon my own graduation process. Not only cultural value and technology form the base of the pyramid that should lead to the design, but also aspects such as thematic research and program were of a big influence, and on its turn, were composed by, and influenced by each other directly. If you would state this into a diagram, assuming there is no hierarchy between the other aspects than design, it would look like this:
In a graduation project like this, as a concluding assignment for the master track Architecture, this scheme will more or less suffice, since the stake is aimed on the design; the final product. However, in my opinion, in practice the design shouldn’t be the final goal. If this would be the case, we would live in a world where architects would build in order to be recognized by their peers. Instead, the final goal should be the architecture in its full context of culture and life; keeping in mind there is an often laic end user, in order to avoid the situation on the illustration below, where not much of the initial quality is remained.

Figure 9.2: Adapted Heritage & Architecture triangle, supplemented with the aspects program and thematic research. (own image)

Figure 9.3: The difference between the final design of the architect and the functional interpretation of a laic end user illustration by Louis Hellman (www.architectsjournal.co.uk)
Therefore, I think the final diagram should display the design, or in this case the more comprehensive ‘architecture’ in the middle, since it is not a final product, but a continuously evolving central entity as earlier stated by both Meurs, Pallasmaa and Brand.

3. INTERRELATION: THE SPIDER IN THE WEB

The final diagram in the previous paragraph shows the position where a graduate student needs to place himself in the process in order to get to an integral and complete final design; as a spider in its web. Where in the past I would sometimes work in a sequence of steps, (first determine the project, then analyze and research, then start designing, and so on) this time I really tried to be aware of the fact that I am the overall manager of my own graduation project.

This diagram as mentioned before shows the ultimate form of research by design. By solving problems or creating ideas in one section, all others get influenced, leaving new issues to solve on another area. By narrowing down this process along the way the end product should continuously improve.

Figure 9.4: Centering of the more comprehensive aspect architecture in the middle of the scheme, stating the architect spider in the web. (own image)

Figure 9.5: desirable spiral of the design process. (own image)
As good as one can be aware of the 'spider in the web' fact, the lessons learned for future projects lie in the sketch of the spiral above. Contrary to what is stated before in this paper, this graduation project does have a clear ending with a design as a final product. Because the continuous interplay of research by design wasn't considered in the overall planning as it occurred in the actual process, there was a certain moment where the planning was let go and I got lost in the spiral of research by design. This has led to the fact that I got stuck in the spiral of solving issues in several areas, without narrowing down the total scope of the project. Ever since this is my graduation project, I tried to do too much and wanted to be too original at some points, causing my project to be focused on a wide scope, without going into depth.

With fixed moments such as P3 and P4 in prospect actual design decisions had to be made anyway and the amount of decisions had to be narrowed down. These moments helped me yet to get to a fulfilling final result. Eventually, the wide scope of my project is in harmony with the depth of my elaboration. However I'm completely satisfied with my final product, I think for the future it is convenient to consider the existence of the spiral of illustration 5 from the beginning. In this way, it is easier to determine what the final product should be, and is it possible to regulate the diminution of the spiral myself. The process I encountered now, I may have ended up with other design results than initially intended due to 'rushed' resolutions.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY


X. PERORATION

"Layering is used as a device of esthetic expression - the visible accumulation of overlapping traces from successive periods, each trace modifying and being modified by new additions, to produce something like a collage of time"

- Kevin Lynch, 1972