introduction

former Prinsengracht hospital vacant since 2014
inner city of amsterdam
unesco world heritage

introduction

de Gracht
research | a role for architectural elements in the well-being of patients

programme

design

contents of the presentation
introduction  |  de Gracht

contents of the presentation

research

programme  |  treatment and living spaces for psychiatric patients

design
research

programme

design | a safe place in the inner city fabric of amsterdam
How did the hospital come into being?
- school for 'proper' nursing
- luxury rooms for the rich
• shift from care to cure
• focus on technology
• welfare state
• rapid expansion of city
research | programme | overview | experience | de Gracht

new surgery department

11 | 1923
• modern expansion
• ambition: new building
vacant recognised qualities
Experiencing architecture in the Prinsengracht Hospital
To which extent did architectural aspects contribute to the positive experiences and user-friendly atmosphere of the Prinsengracht Hospital, and how can they be of use in the redevelopment of the complex?
factors that influence experience
interaction between patients and staff
fascination 1  story of care  free, personal, not institutional
PGZ:
7,800 m²
100 beds
PGZ:
7,800 m²
100 beds

AMC:
520,000 m²
1003 beds
effects of the built environment
existing situation
fascination 2  the two faces of the hospital
fascination 2  the two faces of the hospital
living green beneficial for mental state
several secluded spaces to regulate privacy
no visual connection to city life
quiet and peaceful
fascination 3  attention to detail and ornament
diversity in building parts

- recognisable: provides sense of place
- mysterious: encourages to explore
fascination 5  an organisational nightmare
unclear routing

- many corners: makes orientation difficult
- no daylight or views: reduced stimulation
- institutional lighting implies large scale
many steps and slopes

• not accessible for disabled
• reduces coherence of the complex
levels of privacy

shared rooms for social interaction

adjust level of privacy & intimacy:
autonomy

autonomy and control

windows and views
levels of privacy

autonomy and control

bring personal belongings:
make it your room

close control of windows and heating:
be in charge

windows and views
levels of privacy

autonomy and control

windows and views

large windows, bright rooms: relation outside

lowered window sills: suitable for bedridden patients
view from former patient room into the garden
view from former patient room into the run-down bicycle storage
Maintain the garden as a world of its own
Emphasize the diversity in building parts
Solve organisational problems
Take intangible aspects into account
Pay attention to detail and ornament
Continue the story of care
De Gracht | Assisted Living

safely re-entering society from a judicial context
target group

- police
- detention
- municipality
- probation
- judicial

- youth care
- GGZ / mental healthcare
- debt counseling
- rehabilitation
- care

ex-detainees, homeless, addicts, evictees
GGZ capacity to be reduced
offer three basic needs
offer three basic needs

- accommodation
- income from employment
- appropriate care
offer three basic needs

accommodation

income from employment

appropriate care
medical
mental health
addiction

addiction
accommodation  income from employment  appropriate care
medical
mental health
addiction

proposal to address these needs in one complex
proposed functions | types of therapy
'De Gracht' as a society of its own
Maintain the garden as a world of its own
Emphasize the diversity in building parts
Solve organisational problems
Take intangible aspects into account
Pay attention to detail and ornament
Continue the story of care
Make use of the **existing qualities** on the site

Aim of the interventions is to **enhance the experience** of those qualities
existing situation
room for interventions
55 | building parts to be demolished
new construction in the north corner
new complex in its urban context
transferium jeugdzorg | dJGA | heerhugowaard | 2011
the buildings protect you from the streets
ground floor: safe spaces to work on your recovery
upper floors: a place to live for the time being
How is the complex organised?
prinsengracht facade

bicycle storage
(residents + staff)

patients
residents
staff
visitors
entering the complex
you can see into the garden
entering the gardens
garden overview  calmer as you progress
garden overview  
calmer as you progress

research  |  programme  |  overview  |  experience  |  de Gracht
shared spaces
entrances around the square and gardens
paved square    many shared spaces
quiet garden     fewer shared spaces     less impulses
private spaces
entrances in quiet garden or on the street
How is the complex experienced?
midas dekkers  plea for a more tactile architecture
existing facade     white plaster     false joints
materials of the outside space

- lingering
- border
- movement

- square
- active garden
- quiet garden
- roof and terrace
- facade

more public ——— more private
paved square, concrete, brick, gravel, trees
active garden    grass, gravel, vegetation
some roofs are accessible for residents
white brick  white mortar  light and shadow
plasterboard 12.5mm

damp proof layer

rockwool 2x50mm

C-profiles every 400mm

air space >20 mm

new masonry 210mm

leveling floorboards

existing floorboards

existing beams

existing masonry and plaster

outside

inside

facade section  shadow in masonry joints  retention walls

research  programme  overview  experience  de Gracht
windows  perforations in the white plane  copper cladding
Shared spaces: from white plane to ornament
variety of entrances  square keeps distance from facades
jan schoonhoven 'de kunstenaar die van putdeksels hield' (nrc)
detail of R71-20 relief by jan schoonhoven 1971
We wilden een kunst die iedereen kon begrijpen. Zonder hiërarchie maar met ordening. We wilden ze alleen maar laten kijken.
entrance to common kitchen
view from outside  play of light and shadow
% | view from inside | play of light and shadow
entrances common room, music studio and art studio
decorative reliefs
brick elements in the gardens
brick elements  elevation
The individual dwelling
local ventilation: ClimaRad elements

mechanical extraction
(bathroom and kitchen)
turn something functional into an ornament
Patient rooms

Corridor zone

Retreat

Safe side

Inbetween

Social side

Living

Social interaction

Cooking
eating
individual space    inbetween space    shared space
transitions also within the same space
House in new part: mechanical ventilation
individual patient room  zoning  ceiling heights
individual patient room  detail lighting and ventilation

cosy window seat
higher living area
lower entry
individual patient room  detail lighting and ventilation
the inner world...
...hidden behind the street facades
accommodation

individual apartments
12x

communal living
4x, 6-8 persons each
own toilet & shower
shared kitchen & living

clinical living
3x, 6-8 persons each
own toilet & shower
shared kitchen & living
limited access

shared outside spaces

total ca. 64 residents
daytime activities

work for income
jobcoaching

occupational therapy

greenhouse
vegetable garden

cooking studio
music studio
art studio
psychomotor therapy

work, learn, relax

appropriate care

ambulatory
c.a. 200 patients
agression control
social training
rehabilitation
process offense/past
medication

clinical
separate therapy rooms

medical
dentist
general practitioner

unique per patient
Facade 2 - Garden façade & section
Section KK including Northwest Elevation of the Kitchen and Cafe
Section LL' including South Elevations of the Kerkstraat Buildings
existing brickwork

12mm rockwool

C-profile (h.o.h. 400mm)

existing doorframe

existing floor construction

thermokussens

existing foundations

existing doorframe

lighting in ceiling

lintel

new doorframe in existing opening

prefab concrete slab

existing floor construction

gravel

rain water drain
Detail A
Roofing, roof insulation, new gutter

Detail B
Window frame, retention wall
Detail C
Window frame, retention wall

Detail D
Connection existing and new masonry,
connection existing floor
aldo van eyck  playgrounds in amsterdam
historic pictures of the Prinsengracht Hospital:
transferium jeugdzorg (design and picture):
superkubus (design and pictures):
picture Midas Dekkers:
picture Jan Schoonhoven:
ClimaRad element:
playground Aldo van Eyck:

Beeldbank Amsterdam
de Jong Gortemaker Algra
Personal Architecture
de Volkskrant
YouTube
ClimaRad Decentrale Ventilatie
ArchiNed