The counter fortress
A reflection on a 70’s philosophy
Collaboration

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“Robin is consistent in his work and handles a scientific approach. He likes to work with precedents and literature/theoretical approaches.”

Reason and rational

“Youngho is experienced and combines intuition and sense to formulate design.”

Sensitive, creative, adventurous
How can architecture activate and contribute to the continuous process of urban transformation?
How can interventions on architectural level activate and contribute to the process of urban transformation?
Rotterdams city center is intriguing.
However it is quite different compared to other cities in the Randstad.
Growth of city centers in the Randstad
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Diversity in architecture
Diversity in architecture (reacting on each other)
1. Due to the bombing, Rotterdam had the opportunity to start from a ‘tabula rasa’.
2. Modern architects took chance to experiment with new ideas.
3. The city of Rotterdam is full of counterreactions instead of cohesion
Context and thesis statement
1. Infrastructural elements form spatial isolation and disconnection with other urban areas.
2. Undefined space leaves visitors uninterested.
3. Neighbourhood buildings face their back or are disconnected from the tissue.
**Statement**

If the railway infrastructure will be integrated as a part of the urban block with appropriate spatial condition, the St. Jacobsplaats can be activated as an urban area and be occupied by city-dwellers.

Solving three major issues,
- Disconnection among urban blocks and spaces,
- Non-cognitive areas as the Pompenburg and the St. Jacobsplaats
- Bring back balance and symbiosis on the site.
Masterplan
1. Break Boundaries by creating connection
2. Integrating infrastructural elements
3. Bring balance within built and unbuilt
Current section St.Jacobsplaats
New section St. Jacobsplaats
Continuity by breaking freeway border.
Goals

Create new Block that integrates infrastructural element.
Create counterreaction on context
Bring back relation on site
Solve disconnection.
1. How to counter react, incorporating the infrastructural element?

By having a closer look at the context
Densify the city center!
The Fortress (Casbah)

Parking on ground floor
Sollitair, disconnected from tissue
Subemerged dwellings
1 Appreciation of internal spatial quality by changing section
2 Criticism against monofunctionality and disconnection
1. Make use of the qualities the Fortress block already has.
2. Create solutions for critics on block, with contemporary twist.
3. Integrate infrastructure
Basic composition

1. Embracing streets adjacent to infrastructure
Basic composition
2. adding squares connecting the streets
Basic composition

3. compose units within hierarchy size and rhythm
Aim for diverse public
Diverse cultural functions + housing
Green continuity
Connecting Fortresses
Facades relate to surroundings
Block defines 3 new public spaces
Fortress vs Counter-Fortress
# Fortress vs Counter-Fortress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Fortress (parking lot building)</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>method</td>
<td>Combination of units</td>
<td>Optimise the existing (what is already there) to find a solution → re-creation process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relation with the surrounding</td>
<td>Peep hole</td>
<td>Symbiosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>atmosphere</td>
<td>Disconnected by floating</td>
<td>Interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axis</td>
<td>Orthogonal within the site boundary</td>
<td>Connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Span (Grid)</td>
<td>5.1m span suitable for residence old parking bay 6.5m / 5.2m by unit design / car</td>
<td>Span(8m) suit for diverse function Match with the existing element in the deck 3m distance considering intimacy / comfort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>function</td>
<td>Parking lot / Residence</td>
<td>Hybrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matrix</td>
<td>equally distributed</td>
<td>lined and weaved along with axis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human behavior</td>
<td>Highly controlled</td>
<td>A (free of choice) B (semi) C (specific)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness</td>
<td>Closure confined within the building envelope</td>
<td>Porosity open structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relation to infrastructure</td>
<td>Ignoring it</td>
<td>Embracing it</td>
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</table>
The counterfortress adapts spatial qualities of the old block but distinguishes itself in extroversion materialisation and typology.
Experience of new stages
Experience of new stages
Experience of new street(s)
Experience side connection
Dwelling typologies)
Model of bridges
Model of lifted ground floor
Experience of bridge-connection
Experience flexible exhibition space
Experience of gallery
Experience of expressionbox
Experience of sportbox
Experience of flexible theater
Experience of office space
The new counter-framework
- Provides flexible space
- Is experienced as diverse due to materialization and opennes.
Engineering
Floor heating and cooling

Green roof

Mechanical ventilation

Heat recovery

Second flexible screen facade
By this plan we implement the following

Curing the infrastructural scar by adding cultural program

Create a mediator that connects different areas and provides continuation. (underneath freeway)

Bring relation between the void and the solid.

Additional parking space and a new configuration of the green identity

Upgrade of the tools already provided by the St. Jacobsplaats itself

Densification of the city centre by a new hybrid building

Restore Balance of public flows towards the district

Create a flexible framework adaptable to future use
Questions?