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Reflection

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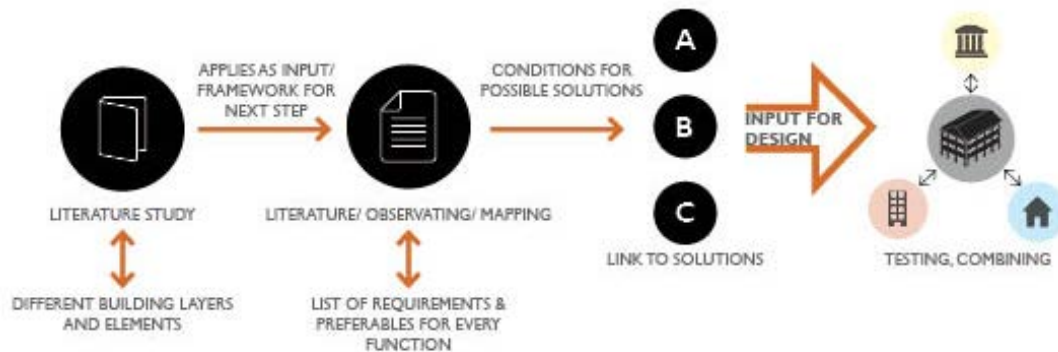
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## I INTRODUCTION

The figure below explains how research and design should come together during mine graduation. Because mine project is about retrofitting an existing building for multiple functions, it seemed eligible for me to focus in the research period mainly on how a building can be decomposed in the first place and which requirements different functions have, with the priority to find out where they conflict and where they are compatible. An compatibility scheme as result contributed a lot in the first weeks during the design process. It functioned as an large program of requirements on building level and it structured mine first design ideas. The danger side of this way of designing was for me that all those (compatible) requirements made me getting stuck on a few main ideas. This was mainly caused by the intention to take during the sketch design process already almost all the requirements into account, instead of switching, zooming in and out. During the guiding moments, mine mentors kept asking for alternatives and that helped me to figure out more possibilities then just the few I hold on to. For every building layer I designed several possibilities and tried to mix and combine these. The several building layers can strengthen each other when they reach certain design goals in the same way and by sharing essential elements. What could work for me the next time is just to try to forget the requirements for a while during the design process and do it the other way around. Testing the designs on the requirements instead of designing within the boundaries created by the requirements.



## II RESEARCH AND DESIGN

Although the designer is not always aware of it, research is often applied during the design process. During the initial phase, mostly empirical research is used to clarify for example problems, program and context. These are project-related studies whereby the focus is on gathering knowledge as input for the design. When the approach is to develop knowledge for a broader purpose, the emphasis will be more on the research itself, instead of on the design. This kind of research is necessary to achieve innovation within the build environment. It is remarkable that designers often unconsciously do research during a design process, without being able to demonstrate which steps have been taken. During mine design process, I recognized a lot of project related studies, because for me the emphasis was more on the design, rather than on the research. I think design is a powerful tool to demonstrate if some innovating ideas in theory also work practically.

## III RELATION GRADUATION TOPIC, STUDIO TOPIC, MASTERTRACK

Mine graduation topic, retrofitting existing buildings in a future proof way, has as far as I believe everything to do with creating a more sustainable way of architecture. For me the focus is on the use of the existing. In a lot of the cases, buildings are technically designed for a lot longer period compared with the functional lifespan. For new buildings, the focus should be on a more temporary way of creating a building or make it usable for multiple functions. In mine perception, architecture is a tool to meet the needs of different users and people in general. As architects, we basically have influence on how people behave in and around a building, and where boundaries and limits are created within this behavior. Within the master track building technology, focusing on different target groups or main subjects to improve the quality of life are possible. From shelters for refugees to upgrading the existing building stock.

## IV RESEARCH METHOD

To arrive at a certain classification of what a multipurpose building should be able to accommodate and which spatial and form characteristics this entails, I used type and typology as research method. The essence of this method is to find corresponding elements as form, structure, techniques or conceptions within divergent contexts. By doing so, certain elements can be considered as basic characteristics of an type, independent from a context. Analyzing buildings which are suitable for multiple different functions, could lead to a set of recognizable characteristics and become a new type in the end. These characteristics could be used then as starting point or framework to apply these in an existing structure. Related to typological research is explorative research. This is a combination of descriptive and empirical research. Data need to be processed as input to form a hypotheses. This data can contain the results of a typological research, the characteristics. Other possibilities to gather data is a theory bounded research or the use of case studies. The aim is to explain for every finding the effects and impact on decisions, and making connections between several findings or characteristics, which will lead in the end to a hypotheses. In the second part of this method, the more empirical part, this hypotheses have to be tested. Hereby the findings will serve as the experimental conditions.

## V RELATION SOCIAL, PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC FRAMEWORK

Within mine graduation project, I think the way of dealing with a certain design assignment, can be used more as a guideline, rather than using the resulted design and try to implement this in another context. The intention was already from the beginning that the first part, the approach of the retrofit project, should contribute to the method of how to deal with certain projects. Of course the design as end result can be used as case study for future projects. The thing is that the end design has always elements which are context dependent. For example the functions which are desirable, are mainly given by the surroundings and the future plans of the plot. Also the building demands the possibilities. The existing load bearing structure and its dimensions influence the possible solutions. This subject will however occur more and more in the future, due to the increasing vacant building stock. The consideration of using the building or demolish it should be made. Simply said not all buildings are suitable for a retrofit and mine research can contribute to this consideration.

## VI ISSUES ENCOUNTERED

As is mentioned before, an architect has a certain responsibility in shaping a part of the world. And by shaping this, you change something in the way of the use, the look and feeling of an place. An building what seems to be old and useless for person one, can mentioned something to person two, for example due to personal memories made nearby or in the building. The architect gets basically the control over all these emotions and makes decisions, which almost can't be in the favor of everyone. In mine case, the decision to make use of the existing building and even try to transform it in a way, it contributes to the original use and ideas, I try to keep a part of the history of the marine establishment in the Netherlands. For me, this vibe should always be around in the surroundings, because that's the whole area was supposed for in the first place. Of course this should not obstruct changes, because change is the new contemporary constant. Innovation and development of the way we live and want to live are going so fast nowadays, this should always be taken into account. This does not take away the fact that respect for the history of buildings and surroundings in general can contribute to a higher value of identification with the site. By approaching the existing this way, I try create an environment where people who are familiar with the surroundings and people who don't, both can use the place in a new way which fits by the contemporary standards, combined with the sense of the history in the background.

All the considerations as mentioned in the text, has contributed to the fact that this process made me interpret architecture in general and our contribution to it in new ways.