SOFT ENCLAVE:
RECONCILING THE EXPERIENCES OF HOME AND CITY
THE ARCHIPELAGO METAPHOR:
Enclaves at the architectural scale establish rigid borders between public and privately owned space. What possibilities might there be to open up the enclave without compromising its privacy?
KREUZBERG
- Highest population density
- Highest cultural diversity
- Popular with youth/creative class/low income group
- Lowest owner occupancy in the city
What architectural elements are present in the connection between the public domain and the dwelling that connect or separate the spaces encountered?
Furthermore, subjects of various scales have been chosen as scale is strongly associated with access in a building.

- The capacity for public and private use.
- An assembly of buildings, mostly private program, that define an urban situation through massing and scale.
- Exist within an urban context except when they establish their own exterior space separate from that of the street.
- An exterior space free of physical barriers at all times.

The process begins with the selection of appropriate case study subjects. A suitable architectural case study is deemed to possess the following characteristics:
The routing is arranged in order to facilitate the connection, visually and physically, to shops and open garden space. The shop entrances being present in the first spaces along the route. However, even these spaces are elevated from the street level and interconnected by many small corridors, ramps and stairs, making the overall spatial configuration of the route a series of disconnecting elements ringing small spaces for occupation.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of elements</th>
<th># of connections</th>
<th># of separations</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
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CONCLUSIONS:
- A gradient of public to private space developed by architectural hard and soft elements which serve to connect or distance the public
- Hard elements - discontinuities - physical barriers
- Soft elements - physically continuous, visual hinderances, distances etc.
Flexibility
Local identity
Common use
Local resources
URBAN SCALE:
REINFORCING THE URBAN ENCLAVE BY MAINTAINING THE PUBLIC NATURE OF THE SITE WHILE REORIENTING THE ARCHITECTURAL ENCLAVE OUTWARDS.
URBAN ELEMENT 1
THE COMMON YARD
ARCHITECTURAL FORM:
AS THE COLLECTIVE SPACES DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM THE PUBLIC STREET THE BUILDING GRADUALLY BECOMES MORE PRIVATE, LESS DENSE.
SITE BORDER
MAKING THE RIVER A PUBLIC DOMAIN
SITE BORDER
MAKING THE RIVER A PUBLIC DOMAIN
ENCLAVE BORDER
CREATE SOFT EDGES WITH THE SURROUNDING CITY
YARD BORDER
UNCLAIMED SURFACES
YARD BORDER
ATELIERS + OFFICE SPACE
ENCLAVE BORDER
ATELIERS + OFFICE SPACE
Mapping the Route

To make visual the route between the street and the dwelling the research will be based on a binary scheme reflective of Jan Gehl's criteria. To accurately portray this it is first important to explain how this scheme is illustrated. In the most basic of scenarios, the private entrance directly off the street, there are two components (fig 1). One is the public space of the street which is inherently a connected scenario. Ideally there is little hindrance to communication, vision and movement along the standard sidewalk. The next and final step is the front door which delineates the edge of the public and private realm. This is a clearly defined border to a space forbidden to the general public and thus a separated condition. The two scenarios are herein depicted as an open circle for connection, and closed circle for disconnection.

When this binary mapping is applied to an increasingly complex scenario a greater number of components are encountered in between the open origin and closed destination. For the moment we should consider the elements that have been identified in figure 2 as hypothetical. However, explaining one of these scenarios will help to explain generally how these components are identified. #4 is indicated as a separation. From this point to #5 there is a stair case. Jan Gehl states that public space is hindered by significant changes in level. Thus, by separating the upper deck from the continuous ground level it is implied that the deck above is a less public space than the ground floor. The component representative of this separation is the stair. It connects the dweller to his or her dwelling, but from the perspective of the public it is a cessation of physical and visual continuity. It is thus associated with a disconnection. This separation is reinforced through the use of materiality. The stair in this case marks a change in material. As the material is continuous from there until the front door it is clear the stair is associated more so with the increasingly private space rather than trying to encourage material continuity with the public realm.

After having established this scenario a further embellishment is made to help make explicit the nature of each element. This consists of small images which highlight the various aspects in the architectural composition site planning which establish connecting or separating aspects.
SHAPING COLLECTIVE SPACE

SOFTEN THE BORDER BETWEEN COLLECTIVE SPACE AND THE PRIVATE ENCLAVE
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THE DWELLING:
A continuity of the withdrawal from public life. The bedroom is the ultimate private domain.
DWELLING CRITERIA:
Diversity of sizes and typologies/outdoor space/inexpensive adjustable infill/continuous social spaces
MAKING PRIVACY:
Soft edges are encountered as a person moves through the home, creating a gradual transition from social (public) spaces in the home to the most private.
STONE VENEER, 20MM
Z ALUMINUM PROFILES, 40MM
WOOD BASED PANEL, 13MM
ROCK WOOL INSULATION, 100MM
BLACK STEEL BOX FRAME
THERMAL GASKET, 10MM
PREFABRICATED CONCRETE PANEL, 150MM
VARNISHED OSB CLADDING, 30MM
PREFABRICATED CONCRETE PANEL, 150MM
WOOD BASED PANEL, 13MM
Z ALUMINUM PROFILES, 40MM
STONE VENEER, 20MM
STRUCTURAL PRINCIPLE:
EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL STACKS ARE REINFORCED BY ONE ANOTHER THROUGH THE LINKAGE OF THE CIRCULATION.
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Public/Private space:

- helped to inform design decisions from the orientation of the dwellings, materialization and circulation to name a few.
- As the intention was to create a gradual distancing from public space the characteristics identified through the research were helpful in accomplishing this.

Sustainability:

- biased towards specifically social sustainability due to intentions to connect the building and its dwellers with the surrounding community.
- Though sufficient example of social sustainability in architecture it lacked the overall system thinking that could make a balanced sustainable project.
- If done differently, criteria for all three aspects of holistic sustainable design, namely social, ecological and economic sustainability, would be established at the outset of the project.

Mass housing:

- approach to the design of this project was undertaken without considering the kinds of dwellings that would be incorporated into them
- dwelling form was limited by the form given to the building
- Considering the scale of the project and the intention for it to be low cost the design could have benefitted from the establishment of some form of standardized units earlier on

Emptiness:

- No emptiness?
- I cannot assess whether such an approach is successful or not. However, in the instance of the site in question enough of the qualities of the site were maintained that I expect it would continue to function as it has up until now.

REFLECTIONS: