The Encounter at the Binnengasthuis

GitavanVeen
Introduction
Location
History
Studio

Research
Site specific

Design
Strategy
Specific design

Reflection
Conclusions
Recommendations
The Location
The Location
The Location
History

Nunnery 1230-1578
Hospice 1578 - 1880
Academic Hospital 1880 - 1981
Current situation
Studio

- 19th century institutional architecture
- Eighties architecture
- Renovated, transformed and re-used buildings

- Urban situation of the Binnengasthuis
Research

Problem Statement:
‘The location is in the heart of the historic inner city of Amsterdam, but some public spaces are empty of people’
Research Question:
‘What are the spatial conditions within the public space in the encounters between the different users of the Binnengasthuis terrain?’
Definition:

‘Very freely interpreted, a social activity takes place every time two people are together in the same place. To see and hear each other, to meet, is in itself a form of contact, a social activity, the actual meeting, merely being present, is furthermore the seed for other, more comprehensive forms of social activity.’ (Gehl, 2011)
Site specific
Site specific

Location 1 : Grimburgwal
Site specific
Entrance BG is at the end of canals

The overview over the canal
Site specific

Location 2 : Binnengasthuisstraat
Infrastructure separates the space

Lack of amenities
1. Opportunities for sitting
   - Primary
   - Secondary
   - Tertiary
2. Opportunities for stopping and standing
3. Good Access & Urban connections
4. Things to see, things to do
5. Public Program
6. Entrances
7. Insolation

‘People like to sit with their back protected’ (Alexander, Ishikawa, Silverstein, & Jacobson, 1977, p. 521)

Gehl (2011) When the activity takes place at the borders and edges, it is likely to happen that the activities grow inward the public space, towards the middle or centre. Therefore, to make a public space lively of full of human activity, the edge of buildings should offer elements to linger in order to attract people to stay. ‘If the edge fails, then the space never becomes lively.’ (Alexander et al., 1977, p. 600)
´It’s all in the mix, according to urban sociologists, living, working and recreation should not be separated but mixed.´

´A distinctive and recognizable look, so that the identity and visibility of the university in the city can be strengthened to function as a meeting place for those engaged in science and culture.´

´The ´open city campus´. It takes advantage of the best of both worlds. On campus, students and staff benefit from academic formation in direct relation to the high quality of art and culture that Amsterdam has to offer. Beyond that take advantage of the many cultural and social facilities and initiatives that the city is rich.´

Future plans of the UVA

A New Library
Design Ambition
Design

Strategy
Design

Strategy
Design

Strategy
3 types of intervention

Pulling Out The Function > Library

A New Entrance > Information Center

The Transition Zone > Housing
The Library
Design of J. van Stigt BV for the library
Floor plan (ground floor)
Facade - Main entrance
Old and new
Information Center
Facade - Main entrance
Floor plan (ground floor)
Section Fragment
Old and new
Housing
Floor plan (ground floor)
Old and new
The square
Furniture
Reflection

The design is not the solution for all poor functioning public spaces...
But I recommend to do an elaborated research to the use of the public space

And start designing from that point on!
Thank you