The Social Identity of a Three-Hundred-Meter Long Building

Graduation Studio: New Heritage
Adapting 20th Century Heritage

Interventions to the mid-rise building on the Hoptille street
Amsterdam Zuid-Oost

Stefan Lichtenveldt
Student nr. 4791185

Examiners P5:
Nicholas Clarke
Ger Warries
Lidwine Spoormans
Remon Rooij

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Housing corporation

- Higher liveability for the residents
- Managable buildings
- Trust from the inhabitants
Street interviews

- Technical issues
- Unappealing staircases
- Low quality greenery
- Garbage nuisance
Interview Sjoerd Soeters

• The building has not become the humanistic building that he would have wanted it to be

• The building is highly idealistic
• “There is a lot of poverty and a lot of loneliness. In a building like this you can disappear completely into solitude. People have little contact with their neighbours.”

• “Some people are even too afraid to take the elevator at night.”

• “People are not proficient in the language, so they are not able to read announcements properly. Not knowing what’s going on around you. That is very big issue here.”
Problem statement

The mid-rise building of Hoptille lacks an integrated designed housing access. Because of this, the inhabitants are experiencing social issues like loneliness and feeling of isolation.
Ambition

Forming strong communities in the long building of Hoptille and making them more managable for the housing corporation so that any new social issues can be addressed easily.
Research question

How can **strong communities** be formed within the long building of Hoptille? And how can these be made more **managable** for the housing corporation so that any **new social issues** can be addressed easily?
Historical values

- Volume of the building block
- Reaction to the neighbouring high-rise
- Humanistic approach
• The unique concrete pre-fab construction can be re-used
• The brickwork can remain in its current state
Architectural values

• Concrete slabs with rounded elements and circular perforations
• Rounded balconies
• Rhythm
Rarity values

• One of the first projects Sjoerd Soeters worked on
• Three-hundred-meter long building
Six interventions
Impact assessment of the interventions
Overall impact assessment

- Change to north-east facade
- Rearrange the public space
- Connecting east to west with passages
- Reintroducing a corridor
- Addition of glasshouse on the roof
- Change to south-west facade

Overall impact assessment
Figure 3. Circular kitchen. From “TheNewMakers,” 2019 (https://www.thenewmakers.com/2019/09/24/circulaire-keuken-ymere/)
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<th>Dwelling types S-W</th>
<th>Dwelling types N-E</th>
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<td>56,8m²</td>
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Section of the new corridor
Climate Design
Summer - day situation

Sun enters at a 61.5 degrees angle. Integrated solar cells block some direct sunlight to enter the inner street.

Greenery in the inner street help cooling down the public space.
Climate Design
Summer - Day Situation

The open staircase area allows for natural ventilation from the cooler side of the building to flow up through the inner street.
TWO OPERAL PARTS OF THE GREENHOUSE OPEN IN WINTER TO ALLOW NATURAL VENTILATION WHICH CREATES A SECOND VENTILATION TO PRESERVE AS MUCH HEAT AS POSSIBLE IN THE INNER STREET.

RECYCLED CONCRETE WITH DARK PIGMENTATION WILL BE USED IN THE FACADE OF THIS WALL SO IT CAN COLLECT HEAT DURING THE DAY AND RADIATE HEAT DURING THE NIGHT.
CLIMATE DESIGN
RAINWATER SYSTEMS

Most rainwater that lands on the greenhouse will be stored on the highest floor. This water will be used to irrigate the greenery.

Other rainwater will be stored under the ground floor in a system known as 'JustNimbus'. This water can be used to flush toilets.
Research question

How can strong communities be formed within the long building of Hoptille? And how can these be made more manageable for the housing corporation so that any new social issues can be addressed easily?

Answer

By dividing the 300-meter-long building in 11 connected blocks in which communities can be formed. The forming of communities will be stimulated by having lots of visibility on the new corridor.
I have learned that it is important to look at the initial intent of the design carefully before judging the aesthetics.

How to approach 80’s architecture?