Research Rapport
Elise Houdijk
1329294
Teachers: Lidy Meijers,
Frank Koopman
1. Introduction

Preface

This is the research report for the graduation studio Heritage and Architecture, with the focus on Tolerance for change. In this assignment a small area of the city centre of Amsterdam will be dealt with. This area is called the ‘Binnengasthuisterrein’. This location was first developed as a convent for nuns, until 1578 when the alteration took place. After that it became a hospital and stayed that way until 1982. Now the site is occupied by the University of Amsterdam. This location has a long history with several functions during the ages, so the cultural identity is found in several time layers. Although the University of Amsterdam moved into the buildings almost thirty years ago, they have not find the optimal use for the area. The interiors look dated and are lacking maintenance. The assignment for this studio is to find a suitable function for the area and develop one of the buildings with the new program, so that it will be a functional building again and fits in its surroundings.

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1. Introduction

Problem Statement

The Binnengasthuisterrein was the location of the Binnengasthuis-hospital. In 1982 the hospital left the area for a new location. The University of Amsterdam was given the vacant buildings to use for different functions of the university. The configuration of the area is based on the hospital-pavilion system and most of the buildings are monuments.

In the current situation the University has a large number of buildings located all over Amsterdam. These scattered buildings are costing a lot of money and prohibit the employees to cooperate between disciplines. For some time the University of Amsterdam has been making plans to relocate their functions into clusters, based on subject of the different disciplines. The university has devised four clusters: an alpha-cluster, a beta-cluster, a gamma-cluster and a medicine-cluster.

The grouping of several monumental buildings on the Binnengasthuisterrein has shown to the university to have potential to house one of the clusters, the alpha-cluster.

The University of Amsterdam has stated a couple of ambitions for the location:

- Create a place that acts as a base for students and employees.
- Create a place where it is easy for students, teachers and researchers to meet each other.
- Create a place that is inviting for the public, so the academic world and society can encounter and mingle.
- Have a residence that contributes to high esteem of the university national and international.
- Have buildings that are flexible enough to house the rising and falling numbers of students of the different faculties each year.

Although the University of Amsterdam created those ambitions, they have not created a vision about how to achieve those goals and what the consequences are for the Binnengasthuisterrein and the city.

Research question

With the problems of the current situation and the interesting ambitions of the University of Amsterdam, the research question is formulated:

What is the spatial impact of the plans of the University of Amsterdam, to create an open city campus, on the Binnengasthuisterrein and the surrounding neighbourhoods in the city centre of Amsterdam?

With the sub questions:

- What are the goals and plans for the Binnengasthuisterrein exactly and which terms are used?
- How are those terms defined in the literature?
- How does the Binnengasthuisterrein relate to the goals and to the terms that are used?

Design assignment

The research should result in some recommendations and guidelines for the design of the ‘cluster’ on the Binnengasthuisterrein. The design assignment will be about if or how these recommendations and guidelines can be applied to transform the area into a well-functioning university environment.

Process Method description

Research method

Method:

1. Research what the goals and needs are exactly of the UvA for city campuses.
2. Research the terms found in first part of research in an architectural method, for example:
   - What is a ‘campus’?
   - What are ‘meeting places’?
   - What is ‘inviting to the public’?

This part of the research consists of literature studies and typology analysis.

3. Research if the current situation and former uses relate in positive or negative way to the found aspects in former part of research.
Introduction

Before going deeper into the plans of the UvA and the architectural theory behind it, it is important to know some of the specifics of the area. To get an idea of the whole picture this chapter starts with the place of the Binnengasthuisterrein in history and the place of the Binnengasthuisterrein in the city. After that the different components will be discussed, first the different buildings that are on the area and then the different open spaces that are between the buildings.
2. Binnengasthuis area

Place in History

History of Amsterdam

Amsterdam started as a small settlement alongside the Amstel in the late middle ages. The town grew quite rapidly to one of the wealthiest cities of the world in the seventeenth century. From the start of the second golden age in ± 1850 until the present time Amsterdam has grown enormously. From a population of around 250,000 in 1850 to 821,702 in 2014. In this time period the city also grew more than triple the size it was.

± 1200: settlement
Around this time the first people settled on the banks of the Amstel and build a dam to prevent flooding.

± 1300: city
Amsterdam has grown into a town and gets city rights

± 1400 – 1500: start economic growth
Amsterdam has become the most important trade town in Holland

1578: Alteration
Amsterdam joins other Dutch cities with their rise against Spain and Catholicism, led by Willem van Oranje. With the change to Protestantism of Amsterdam all the convents, monasteries and Catholic churches are evicted.

± 1600 – 1700: The Golden age
The inhabitants of Amsterdam make a lot of money by trading with countries on other continents. The Grachtengordel with the Jordaan is constructed to accommodate the rising numbers of inhabitants.

± 1850 – 1920: Second Golden age
With the emerging industrialisation and the constructing railways and channels like the Noordzeekanaal the economy rises again after a decrease of the economy in the 18th century.

± 1900: Start expansion plans
The population is rising so much and the inhabitants live in small, dilapidated houses. Plans like Plan Zuid, Plan West and AUP are made.

Figure 2.2
A few periods in the history of Amsterdam are especially important for the development of the Binnengasthuisterrein. The emergence of the cloisters in the fourteenth century, the Alteration, the Golden age of the seventeenth century and the second Golden age of the late nineteenth and beginning of twentieth century.

Emergence of the Cloisters

The foundation of charitable institutions in the middle ages is based upon the religious ideas that charity is a holy duty. This holy duty consisted of ‘the seven deeds of mercy’: feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, providing shelter to the stranger, taking care of the ill, visiting the prisoners and bury the death.

The appearances of cloisters came relatively late to Holland. In Amsterdam the first Cloister where founded around the 1390s, but within the next century the number of cloisters expanded to twenty-two. Gysbrecht Douwe was a priest in Amsterdam and the founder of the first two cloisters in the city. The ‘Reguliersklooster’ for men and the ‘Oude Nonnenklooster’ for women. Almost all the cloisters are placed in the South-east corner of the city. The reason for this lies with Gysbrecht Douwe, he and his family lived in that part of Amsterdam, that’s why he built his two cloisters in the same area. The custom developed that when a religious group owned land or property they would support new religious groups by offering room to stay until a group could acquire their own space.

The nuns of the ‘Nieuwe nonnenklooster’ started in one of the houses of the ‘Oude Nonnenklooster’.

The Alteration

During the 16th century The Netherlands were a part of the Spanish empire. When the Protestant believe started to spread through the Netherlands, cities started to revolt against their Catholic ruler. The revolt was led by Willem van Oranje. Amsterdam was one of the last major cities to join the revolution. On May 26th the Catholic city council was deposed to make way for a protestant council. All the Catholic properties, like churches, convents and monasteries, including the oude nonnenklooster and the Nieuwe nonnenklooster, were taken over by the city or the protestant church.

There were more reasons than religion for the Alteration, Amsterdam was one of the last cities to join the revolution it had become quit isolated from the rest of the country. This was not good for the trading position of Amsterdam, which was, starting from ± 1400, becoming an important trading town in Holland. The decision to join the revolution was an important step to improve trading with other cities. A few decades later the Golden ages of Amsterdam started.
2. Binnengasthuis area

The Golden age

In the second half of the 16th century the number of inhabitants starts to rise immensely. This is partly caused by the arrival of refugees of the war with Spain. A lot of the new inhabitants came from Antwerp and Lisbon. Another result of the war is the blockade of the port of Antwerp from the Schelde and consequently making Amsterdam the most important port of the area. Goods from over the whole world are transported to Amsterdam to be traded. Because of the increased wealth and the rising numbers of inhabitants the city council decides to expand the city. The canal rings and the Jordaan are constructed around the old city. In this environment of prosperity the first stock exchange of the world is founded and the art and sciences are thriving. In 1632 the Athenaeum Illustre, the predecessor of the UvA, is founded.

The second golden age

In the centuries after the Golden age the economy of Amsterdam was not as great as it used to be, but in the second half of the nineteenth century some changes occurred that improved the situation of Amsterdam immense. The industrialisation was starting to emerge. Also some new infrastructure for a better connection of Amsterdam to the rest of the country and the world were being built. The most important connections were the Noordzeekanaal and the new train tracks. This era has been very important to the image of the city. The most famous examples are the Central station, the Rijksmuseum, Beurs van Berlage and the Concertgebouw. On the Binnengasthuis a lot of buildings were replaced with new ones and a large number of those are still on the location.
History of the Binnengasthuisterrein

Foundation of the Cloister on the area.  
The foundation of charitable institutions in the middle ages is based upon the religious ideas that charity is a holy duty. This holy duty consisted of ‘the seven deeds of mercy’: feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, providing shelter to the stranger, taking care of the ill, visiting the prisoners and burying the dead. The appearances of cloisters came relatively late to Holland. In Amsterdam the first Cloister where founded around the 1390s, but within the next century the number of cloisters expanded to twenty-two. Gysbrecht Douwe was a priest in Amsterdam and the founder of the first two cloisters in the city. The ‘Reguliersklooster’ for men and the ‘Oude Nonnenklooster’ for women. Almost all the cloisters are placed in the South-east corner of the city. The reason for this lies with Gysbrecht Douwe, he and his family lived in that part of Amsterdam, that’s why he built his two cloisters in the same area. The custom developed that when a religious group owned land or property they would support new religious groups by offering room to stay until a group could acquire their own space.

The nuns of the ‘Nieuwe nonnenklooster’ started in one of the houses of the ‘Oude Nonnenklooster’. In the beginning, when the cloisters just started to emerge, they were quite popular, they got gifts donations from rich citizens and the cloisters got a lot of tax benefits. A lot of people, mostly women wanted to join a religious order. Within 50 years around 20 cloisters had been built in the city and the cloisters took over a large part of the city. Some decades before the alteration the cloisters had already become less popular, because they took up so much space in the crowded city. The city council started to abolish the tax benefits and tried to stop the expansions of the cloisters. In 1389 Gysbrecht Douwe and two women asked permission from the pope to start the ‘Kloosterorde van de Heilige Augustinus’ and this was granted. It was constructed outside of the city walls. The cloister was called ‘Klooster Sint Marienveld’. The name changed to ‘Oude Nonnenklooster’ when the ‘Nieuwe nonnenklooster’, originally named ‘Klooster van Sint Dionisius of Ter Lelie, was build right next to it.

The Alteration

1578 was the year of the ‘Alteratie’. The ‘Alteratie’ was a political revolution in which the rulers of the city decided to take the side of revolutionaries of the reformatory church. It was a rebellion against the Spanish occupiers and the related catholic oppression. This revolution was led by Willem van Oranje.

The consequence of the ‘Alteratie’ was that the city council became the owner of all the catholic property in the city. The combined property was almost 25 percent of the city surface. The ‘Statengeneraal’ enforced the city councils of Holland to use the newly gained property and its revenues to keep up charity work of the Catholic Church and to keep up the maintenance of the buildings.

Start of the hospital

In 1578 the ‘Onze lieve Vrouwegasthuis’ took residence in the ‘Oude Nonnenklooster’ and the ‘Sint Pietersgasthuis’ took residence in the ‘Nieuwe nonnenklooster’. Soon after that it was decided that the two hospitals would merge together. The ‘Onze lieve Vrouwegasthuis’ became the women’s department and the ‘Sint Pietersgasthuis’ became the men’s department.

The mission of hospitals was to give shelter to poor, elderly, sick and strange people. To be able to pay for this, the hospitals had to make money with the new property and land they were given after the alteration. These two tasks of giving shelter and of making money resulted in two types of building activities. The first was to make hospital buildings in the old nunneries, the second was to build houses to rent out for money.

The old chapels were useful to function as infirmaries,
between the old buildings also new buildings were built
to function as residences for the personnel and other
services. A network of buildings and courtyards was
created, connected with corridors. The courtyards were
used as herbalgardens, bleach fields, a cemetery and a
formal garden.

Buildings to generate revenue

The first building activities to make money were the
transformation of the old living quarters of the nuns into
small houses. Also the inside area of the northern part of
the area was sold to the ‘Oude mannenhuis’. The edges
were kept by the hospital to build houses along the canals.
This approach, of houses along the edges and care
functions in the middle, was carried through to the
rest of the area. In 1603 houses were built along the
cloveniersburgwal, these houses were the first houses in
Amsterdam with house numbers and were consequently
named ‘de nummerhuizen’. In 1643 houses are built along
the Oude turfmarkt, designed by Vingboons.

Because of the scheme of two simultaneous types of
building activities a new typology for the city is created,
called the ‘Dutch superblok’. Along the borders it looks
like the typical Amsterdam rows of narrow houses, but
inside there is a hidden world of infirmaries, courtyards
and corridors.

Evolution of the Binnengasthuis

In 1635 the ‘Buitengasthuis’ was built outside the city
walls to house the mentally ill and infectious patients. This
is when the ‘Sint Pieters Gasthuis’ and the ‘Onze Lieve
Vrouwe Gasthuis’ got the name ‘Binnengasthuis’.
During the next century the hospital evolved and started
to expand, because of this the two separate worlds started
to blend. At the end of the nineteenth century the hospital
had become chaotic and outdated and was in desperate
need of a thorough change. The decision was made to
demolish all the buildings and built new ones in pavilion style
in a green surroundings.

In the second half of the twentieth century it became clear
the hospital on the Binnengasthuisreterrein was not able to
keep up with the innovations of medical sector. The hospital
left in 1982 to a new building in Amsterdam zuidoost.

Education of the Binnengasthuisreterrein

In 1828 the Binnengasthuis became a clinical school, this was
done in close contact with the Atheneum Illustre.
In 1877 the UvA took residence in the Oude Mannenhuispoort.
When the hospital left the Binnengasthuisreterrein in 1982,
the UvA took over all the buildings of the area. Some
interventions were made like a new atrium in the Klinisch
ziekenhuis and a new addition to the Administratie gebouw.
Also a few buildings were demolished to make place for a
new apartment building designed by Paul de Ley and two
new bike routes. These additions were made to make the
area more public.

Oudemanhuispoort

The Oudemanhuispoort was a separated from the hospital
from the construction until 1982, when the UvA moved into
the whole area. The building started as a place for care of
erly people. In 1830 it became a poveniershuis, a home
where people would trade all their possessions in exchange
for a place to live and food for the rest of their live. Around
1840 the building became an academy for visual arts and
in 1854 also a museum was added. This lasted until 1880
when the university moved from the Agnieten kapel into the
building.
Place in History

Typology of the area in different time periods

The Cloisters

In the time of the cloisters, the area was separated in two parts. Both cloisters were closed off by walls or inward facing buildings. There was one main entrance for each cloister and no other ways to enter the area.

The Hospital

In the time of the hospital, the border were made of houses facing outward to the city, while in the middle part the hospital was located. This made a clear distinction between the busy city life and the quiet hospital life.

New Hospital

When the hospital was rebuild from 1870 until 1912 the hospital was built in pavilion style with separate buildings in a green area. To make room for the larger hospital, part of the houses along the border were demolished. The clear distinction between an inside world and an outside world was made less recognisable.
2. Binnengasthuis area

Place in the city

The location of the Binnengasthuisterrein is almost directly in the centre of the centre of Amsterdam. Users of the city centre range from people who live in the centre, people who live in Amsterdam, people who work or study in the centre to tourists from the Netherlands and from all over the world.
2. Binnengasthuisarea

Place in the city

The area around the Binnengasthuisterrein

The Binnengasthuisterrein is surrounded by different kind of Atmospheres. The most frequent attribute are the different canals. Some are quieter and others are busier. The Rokin has a lot of shops, cars and trams. The Oude zijds Achterburgwal contains mostly dwellings and isn’t a main route for cars. The Muntplein is the most busy part near the Binnengasthuisterrein.
Most of the buildings on the area are former hospital buildings built in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Around that time the hospital was in a great need for better accommodation. Although the buildings come were built for the same reason, innovation of hospital buildings, they are built in different styles and with different typologies.
2. Binnengasthuisarea

The buildings

1. 
Name: Het Kraamkliniek  
Architect: A.N. Godefroy  
Year: 1870  
Style: Eclectism  
Function: maternity hospital - University department  
Surface area: 4148 m²

2. 
Name: Het vrouwenverband  
Architect: A.N. Godefroy  
Year: 1877  
Style: Eclectism  
Function: Womens hospital - Cultural centre  
Surface area: 3052 m²

9. 
Name: Zusterhuis  
Architect: F.W.M. Poggenbeek  
Year: 1900-1913  
Style: Transitional architecture  
Function: Nurses dwellings - University department  
Surface area: 2481 m²

10. 
Name: De tweede chirurgische kliniek  
Architect: F.W.M. Poggenbeek  
Year: 1889  
Style: Transitional architecture  
Function: Mens hospital - Cultural centre  
Surface area: 4940 m²
2. Binnengasthuis area

The buildings

Name: Administratie gebouw
Architect: J.M. van der Mey
Year: 1913
Style: Amsterdamse school
Function: Hospital administration - University services and info
Surface area: 2528 m²

Name: Chirurgische Kliniek
Architect: H. Leguyt
Year: 1889
Style: Neo renaissance
Function: Surgical hospital - University department - Mensa
Surface area: 8764 m²

Name: Oude Manhuispoort
Architect: G. Maybaum
Year: 1754
Style: Rococo
Function: Elderly care - University department
Surface area: 18103 m²
One of the special characteristics of the Binnengasthuis area is the different atmospheres in open spaces. Closed off and green behind the Allard Pierson museum, formal at the courtyard of the Oudemanhuispoort and more urban at the square in the centre. The spaces will be further analysed in the fourth chapter of the report.
The UvA has been a part of Amsterdam for almost 400 years. When it was founded as the Atheneum Illustre in 1632 it had only 250 students and only a few professors. Now the UvA has over 31000 students and more than 5000 employees. From all over the Netherlands and all over the world students come to Amsterdam to study.

The UvA is a classical broad university which offers programs in the Alpha, Beta and Gamma disciplines and has also a medical school. In total it has 62 bachelor programs and 243 master programs spread over seven faculties: Humanities, social sciences, economy and business, law, natural sciences, medicine and dentistry. The UvA is not the only higher education institute found in Amsterdam, there is also another university, the Vrije Universiteit. And there are also a number of different hbo’s and mbo’s like the HvA, the ROC and different art schools. For this research the focus will lie on the UvA and especially on the faculty of Humanities.

The faculty of Humanities has 27 bachelor programs and 43 master programs spread over 6 tracks: History, Archaeology and Area studies, Art, religion and Cultural sciences, Media studies, Dutch studies, Language and Literature, and Philosophy. The faculty has around 7000 students and around 700 employees.
The Athenaeum Illustre was founded in 1632 in the Agnietenkapel on the Oudezijds voorburgwal. Casper Barlaeus and Gerard Vossius gave the first two lectures to indicate the opening of the new school. The Athenaeum Illustre was not a real university at the beginning, because at that time there was only one university allowed in the Netherlands and there was already one in Leiden. This means the students could not get official degrees.

The Agnietenkapel had an auditorium on the ground floor and a library in the attic. Most of the lectures were given at the homes of the professors, which was common at that time and was done even before the founding the Athenaeum Illustre.

The Athenaeum Illustre was given the official status as an institute of higher education in 1815. In 1877 the Athenaeum Illustre became the Gemeente Universiteit van Amsterdam and in the same year the Gemeente Universiteit took residence in the Oudemanhuispoort. Being the university of the city meant that the mayor was in charge, the city paid for a large part the costs of the university and the employees were employed by the city.

From the start of the twentieth century the number of students started to rise. While making grand plans for reorganisation, they also had to make a lot of ad hoc decisions to create more space, a lot of buildings were acquired over the last half of the twentieth century. Around 2000 the University took residence in over 60 buildings.

In 1961 the central government of the Netherlands took over all the financing of the universities in the country, this is when the Gemeente Universiteit became the Universiteit van Amsterdam – UvA.
**Users**

Students need a place for getting education, like class rooms and lecture halls. A place for getting information, like a library with books and magazines, but also access to the internet with a university computer or his or hers own computer. A place to study, preferably quiet and with few distractions present. A place to work together, with larger tables to sit together. Places to do practicums, every type of subject has its own type of practicum room. Language and social studies need places to interview or practice with a foreign language. So a soundproof room is needed with recording equipment. History and archaeological studies need laboratories to research old artefacts and papers. And between and after study activities students need a place for place for social gatherings. Eating lunch together or taking a coffee break, but also organized events.

People from the academic staff do not all have the same type of job. Some are focused on educating and others are focused on research. They also use the classrooms, lecture halls and the laboratories and other practicum spaces even more than the students do. They all need a work place at a desk and rooms to have meetings with their co-workers in. They also need a place for social gatherings, some can be the same as the students use, but other spaces can be only accessed by the staff.

People from the support staff also have different kind of jobs, some take place between the rest of the users and others are more back stage. Some need offices or a desk where people walk by others need storage space for their equipment and supplies.

Visitors have different kind of needs. The most important is that they know where they have to go and won’t get lost. At the entrance they need a place to get information about building with a clear routing and signage.

There are things that every user needs. Toilets are the most important. But also place where drinks and food can be bought will be used by all type of users.
Past plans of the UvA

Since the 1950s the UvA has made all kinds of different plans for the housing of their different functions. Most of the plans contained some kind of clustering of functions. In 1955 the UvA came with a 3-cluster plan: One Alpha (which included also Gamma disciplines at that time) cluster in the Oudemanhuispoort, one Beta cluster on Roetersseiland and one medical cluster in the Wilhelmina gasthuis. This plan proofed too tight, especially the Alpha cluster became too big for the Oudemanhuispoort, and the Binnengasthuis was still occupied by the hospital.

In the 1960s the UvA started to make new plans including moving the whole university to a place outside the city borders. In 1973 the UvA presented the 7-cluster plan, which consisted of 4 clusters inside the city and 4 clusters outside the city.

In 1982 the hospital left the Binnengasthuis and the buildings were offered to the UvA. The ‘werkgroep BG-areaal’, which included Aldo van Eyck and later also Theo Bosch, made a plan to develop the area. Their principal was to open-up and give back the area to the city. A pedestrian and a bicycle route were made through the area and a new housing project was realised to create a mix of functions on the area.

In the 1990s the UvA started with making new plans for a 4-cluster organisation.

Current plans of the UvA

The current plans are the plans the UvA started to make in the 1990s. The plans concentrate the functions of the UvA on 4-clusters. The plan is to develop these four clusters into open city campuses. The four campuses are: The Alpha campus on the Binnengasthuisterrein and Oudemanhuispoort, the Gamma campus on Roetersseiland, the Beta campus in Watergraafsmeer and a medical campus at the AMC. The idea for the campuses is that it will be a combinations of different faculties and other functions of the UvA, but also include functions that are not part of the UvA organisation, but are used by the students and employees of the UvA. This ‘supporting’ functions include housing, cafés, shops and other leisure, sport and cultural activities. Which functions will be present at the different campuses will differ, depending on the need and available space. The fact that the campuses are called ‘open city campuses’ means also that the users of the campus use the functions of the surrounding neighbourhood and that inhabitants of the neighbourhood use the functions on the campus.

All the campuses will have building with a selected function that will act as the centre of the campus, it will be the heart of the area where people come for social interaction. On the Alpha campus the centre will be the library, on the Gamma campus the cultural centre will act as the heart and the Beta campus has the sports centre that is the centre of the campus.

Next to creating one central point for the whole campus, the UvA also wants to provide space for the different study disciplines to display their own identity in a part of the campus, they call this scheme: small within large. For the medical campus the plans are not clearly developed other than calling it a campus, it is probably called a campus because the hospital could not be moved to the location of one of the other campuses, but they still wanted to fit it in the overall plan of creating campuses. At this point in time, the beta campus is mostly ready and in operation. The move to the Gamma campus is being made, although not all of the construction work is done. The next step in the process is to develop the
3. The University of Amsterdam

Goals and ambitions of the UvA

Alpha campus.

The UvA has made a list of goals they want to reach with creating the open city campuses and the UvA made a list of ambitions they want to pursue in general.

The goals they listed are:
• Having a characteristic and recognisable appearance, to enhance the identity and visibility of the university.
• As the city university to keep and make available the history and culture of the city.
• To be a meeting place for all people who are involved with science or culture.
• To be an inspiring local centre with global access to information.

The Ambitions they listed are:
• Optimal study success and intellectual development for students
• Best research partner in the Randstad
• More integration between the university and the arts and culture sector
• Higher national and international ranking

The benefits of clustering according to the UvA

The UvA gives a number of reasons for clustering of their functions. These reasons can be divided into three categories: Financial, collaboration/interaction and representation. They do not prioritise one reason above the others in their statements.

Financial

Over the course of the twentieth century the UvA has come to own over 60 buildings, spread over the city. All these buildings needed their own utilities and services, like heating, toilets, security, a doorman, stairs and elevators. All these separate objects were taking too much space and energy. With the clustering of the functions in to larger buildings and buildings close together, the utilities and services can be shared. This way the use of energy and space can be decreased and will therefore be more cost efficient.

The clustering of functions will also create more opportunities for flexible use of space used for education and offices. The number of students applying to certain bachelor or master tracks differs per year. When more disciplines are housed in one location this fluctuation can be buffered. When spaces are designed for flexibility it can be used by different disciplines and for different purposes. This type of use of spaces will require less space in total and therefore the UvA can spend less money on buildings.

Collaboration and interaction

The UvA has stated two types of collaboration they want to increase: Collaboration within the UvA and collaboration of the UvA with outside parties. The UvA is of the opinion that it is beneficial for the quality of education and research that more collaboration between different disciplines takes place. Collaboration can create more innovative research, also mixed bachelor programmes and a wider variety of selective courses can be offered to the students. The UvA thinks that by placing the different disciplines together the collaboration will increase.

The collaboration of the UvA with outside parties ranges
from single inhabitants of the city to larger cooperation’s and the government of the Netherlands, but also other countries, and everything in between. This aspect of collaboration is the reason the UvA made plans for ‘open city’ campuses, so that the campuses will be accessible and even welcoming to visitors.

The goal of the clustering is also to stimulate the informal interaction between the users of the campus. Meetings between students, but also opportunities for students to meet teachers and researchers. If there is more human interaction students will have a stronger bond with the university and are less likely to quit their studies.

Representative

The Uva wants to be recognised in the city and profile themselves as an important institution. By making campuses, instead of spreading all the different disciplines over the city in separate buildings, the university is much more visible if the campuses can campuses are made attractive by representative architectural interventions on building scale and urban scale. If the campus is perceived as an attractive part of the city the status of the university and also the city will increase. Students and researchers will be more proud that they can study and work there and are less likely to leave.

Arguments against clustering

As a reaction to the real estate plans of the UvA, there are some people who do not agree with the plans and have come up with some arguments against the creation of the campuses. The intention of the open city campuses are that they become part of the city, but some are of the opinion that, when the UvA is spread over multiple buildings that are located all over the city, the university is more integrated in the city.

Another argument that questions the integration in the city is that when assembling all those functions on one location a complex is created that does not match with the small scale typology of the rest of the centre of Amsterdam. A reason against placing a campus on the Binnengasthuisterrein is that there is hardly any space to expand without damaging heritage. The area will quickly become too tight for all the functions that are planned on it and then separate buildings on other locations will be acquired again.

On collaboration arises the question if it is enough, just to place people of different disciplines on one location, to stimulate them to work together or even talk to each other.

Some people think the plans will cost more than gain in the end and the spending of money on large building projects by educational institutes is getting more precarious. Another reason people are against the plans is that they like the building and room where they are working and studying now and they do not have faith that the new plans ensure the same quality of space an facilities.
Vision of the municipalities of Amsterdam on the campuses of the UvA.

The position of the city council is best described by a quote of wethouder Lodewijk Asscher: “The campus that is built by the UvA on and around the Binnengasthuis is an enrichment for Amsterdam. The campus of the UvA brings culture, students, economic activity and sociability together. It is not for no reason that it is one of the key projects of the inner city. We will attract a lot of international companies with it. Add a large number of extra tourists and international students and in conclusion it will be beneficial for Amsterdam and for the UvA. The presence of highly educated people is an important factor for companies and institutes to settle in the metropolitan area of Amsterdam. Amsterdam and the UvA need each other to strengthen their international positions. The inner city campus can contribute much to the liveability of the 1012 area and the location in the city centre is of great value to the UvA.”

The UvA needs Amsterdam and the other way around. The UvA knows it is needed in the city and the city council is willing to make sacrifices in order to keep the university in the city, like giving permission to demolish monuments. The term of ‘open city campus’ is very important to appease the city, if the campus would be closed off like for example a campus in Oxford or Cambridge, the city would be a lot less lenient when it comes to interventions made in the area.

The vision of the inhabitants of Amsterdam on the plans of the UvA.

Although the city council thinks the university is very important for the city and for the city centre, there are also people who live in and around the area. Since the UvA has start making plans for the area there have been protests. People do not want to leave their houses and like the quiet atmosphere in this part of the city. Over the years there have been a number of lawsuits of which some were won by the inhabitants of Amsterdam against the plans of the UvA. The UvA had to change their plans a number of times, especially the plans to create a large library on the area had to change a lot. First there were plans for a very large library and the social-housing block designed by Paul de ley had to be demolished completely, than the people protested and in the end the block had to stay. After that the UvA made plans to demolish the Tweede Chirurgische Kliniek, to make place for a new library, but the inhabitants of the area protested again and the case went to court and the Tweede Chirurgische kliniek could not be demolished. Now there are plans to create a library within the Tweede Chirurgische kliniek and the Zusterhuis with a covered courtyard inbetween the buildings. Some of the inhabitants are thinking of protesting against this plans, but there are no updates on what their plans are on how to proceed.
3. The University of Amsterdam

Campuses of UvA summary

**Binnengasthuisterrein**
- Alpha
  - 1 faculty
  - 27 bachelors
  - 43 masters
  - 6 tracks
  - 6980 students
  - 694 employees
  - Meetingpoint: Library

**Roeterseiland**
- Gamma
  - 3 faculties
  - 6 tracks
  - 16190 students
  - 1586 employees
  - Meetingpoint: Crea cultural centre

**Sciencepark Watergraafsmeer**
- Beta
  - 1 faculties
  - 5 tracks
  - 4976 Studenten
  - 1015 medewerkers
  - Meetingpoint: Sportcentre

**AMC**

**Figure 3.10**
**Figure 3.11**
**Figure 3.12**
**Figure 3.13**

**Figure 3.14**
**Figure 3.15**
**Figure 3.16**
It is hard to make conclusion about if this plans will be succesfull in the future or not, because there is one thing obviously missing in these plans the UvA made. How are all the goals the UvA described in the plans achieved? Without a vision about how the areas of the campuses will work it is hard to tell if they are likely to fail or likely to succeed. All the goals and ambitions sound very reasonable. And because a large number of their plans have been cancelled it is understandable that they are cautious. Still there are questions that arise, will people start collaborating between study fields just because their offices are closer together and they occasionally see each other in the hall or at the coffee bar? How will UvA present itself as a prestigious institute to the city through the campuses? All the plans they propose require a lot more planning and designing to see if it will fit in the area and the city and if it will work efficiently. They make a number of statements that need to be researched in an architectural way to see if can be applied in the situation of the campuses.

In the next chapter of this report a selection of those terms will be researched in a theoretical way and in an analytical way that projects the terms onto the area.
In the plans of the UvA a number of architectural terms are mentioned without a clear explanation how they plan to imply it to the campuses. In this chapter the different terms will be researched. First the architectural theory found in literature will be explained. Than it will be applied to the Binnengasthuisterrein.

The terms that will be discussed in this report are:
- Campus
- Ensemble/Cluster/Complex
- Places to meet
- Open/welcoming
- Representative
- Community
- Flexible
4. The spatial impact of the plans

The first time the word campus was used in context of education was in the 18th century in the United States. For a long time the word campus was only used for the American typology of universities. But the last decades the term has become more widespread and more abstract, it is used for every type of clustering of buildings for higher education, but also on occasion clustering of buildings that hold other types of institutions with a common public space.

Campus and the city

It is an important goal of the city to attract and keep educated people. Educated people are beneficial for the economy of the city. On average they earn more money and therefore spend more money. The number of educated people in a city is a reason for companies to settle in the city. An important requirement for a city to attract educated people is the presence of a university. A large number of students wants to keep living in the city they have studied in. And a university attracts researchers and lecturers. Also a number of research and technology companies like to settle around the university, sometimes even to share facilities. Also students and former students set up companies in the city they have studied. In conclusion a university is a great contribution to the city, it attracts more high earning people and more companies which will both improve the economy of the city and create more jobs for all levels of education.

For the university it is also important that the city has a good image. The university likes to attract the best employees and students, and if people have a choice between several universities the image of the city also plays a part in the decision. For educated people an attractive city contains art, culture and leisure. Important facilities are museums, theatres, bars and restaurants, but also good shops, green spaces and an historic centre are important.

So the city and the university are in a symbiosis, a respected university is good for the city and a city with a good image is good for the university.

Universities can have different connections with the city. Den Heijer divides the connections in three categories: A campus outside the border of the city, a gated community inside the city or a university integrated in the city.

A campus outside the city has a lot of facilities that are not part of the core facilities of a university, this type of campus has housing, shops, a theatre, bars, restaurants, sport facilities and a lot of green space. The campus has become a city on its own. This type of university is not very beneficial for the city it located.

A gated community inside the city is not open to the public, it has some extra facilities, but people also use facilities in the city for example theatre, restaurants and parks. This campus is beneficial for the city in economic terms, because the people spent money in the city and companies are still settling in the city because of the university.

University integrated in the city, has little extra facilities and depends on the city for those facilities. The buildings of the university are placed along public spaces of the city and facilities like libraries or lecture rooms are occasionally open for public use. This type is the most beneficial for the city and its inhabitants. There is more use of public functions like theatres and museums, so they are more likely to stay open. Inhabitants are also able to use the library or go to open lectures. With joined use of facilities like this, the city and the university can save money.

Figure 4.9

Campus outside of city
Gated campus inside of city
Clusters in city
Separate buildings
Amsterdam - Combination of all
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Campus Functions

Because Amsterdam is the Capitol and the largest city of the Netherlands there is a wide range of people who visit/use the city centre. For the different kind of users there are different kind of function networks. Tourists visit museums, go shopping, go walking along the canals and eat and drink at restaurants and cafes. People who live in the city also need healthcare, schools and places to play sport and students need universities and libraries.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Infrastructure

There are five types of transport through the city: Walking, cycling, car, public transport and over water. From the time the first people settled along the Amstel until the time of the first trains and cars, water was one of the main ways of transportation. The large number of canals are mementos of those times. Nowadays the canals are mainly used for leisure, but still remain an important part of the cityscape.

In the city centre the use of a car is not very efficient, some streets are closed off for cars and parking is expensive. Only one in three people who live in Amsterdam own a car, most inhabitants prefer walking, cycling or public transport. But to be able to supply businesses with goods and to transport handicapped and elderly people, access roads that are suitable for cars and trucks are needed in the centre.

The location of the Binnengasthuis is easily accessible by public transport and with the new Noord-zuid metro line the location will have an even better connection. Some of the main bicycle routes of the city run through or along the location. The main shopping areas are within walking distance and even the central station is doable on foot. The location is well connected with the rest of the city with public transport and bicycle routes. It is placed between a number of areas of interest for tourist and inhabitants. This means that the location is very suitable for a number of public functions, suitable for inhabitants or tourists.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Figure 4.17

Public transport

Figure 4.18

Trains

Figure 4.19

Trams

Figure 4.20

Busses
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Use of the campus

Chapman divides campuses into 3 categories based on the use of the campus. The three categories he created are Clicks and Mortar, Intellectual Agora and Back to the future.

- Clicks and Mortar consists of a small campus with mostly flexible workspaces and places to meet. Research and education is partly digital which creates opportunities to work at home or in a café. The campus main function is that of a meeting place. Clicks stands for the digital part and mortar for the physical part that keeps the community together.

- Intellectual agora is a campus where space and facilities, for example lecture rooms and laboratories, are shared with external parties. A large network of companies and institutes is created around the campus. The campus is interwoven into the city.

- Back to the future is the traditional campus where the university owns a lot of real estate. The buildings are closed to the public and there is not much interaction between different departments.

In this categories there is an opinion noticeable that finds the last category not suitable anymore for present day use of university buildings.

Modern universities have a broadening range of users. There are different types of employees, researchers, educators, support staff and other functions. There are different types of students, eighteen year old students that just left their hometown, students from abroad and also working people who take part time courses. If the campus is like the Intellectual agora it has also many visitors, from companies that make use of laboratories, people who come to use the library or attending a lecture or gathering in a lecture hall that is rented out. The goal of the campus is to make employees and students feel at home and to make visitors feel welcome.
Master plan of the campus
If you view the concept of campus as any type of grouping of university buildings then there are quite a few ways that those campuses are created. In this part the most common types of campuses are discussed.

Universities as part of the city
The Universities are part of city life.

One building:
Some universities consist of just one building they fit into the city like any other building, they do not have their own public space.

Centre
A university centre consist of just a few buildings which are connected by bridges, the public space between the buildings is part of the city. The common area is usually placed in the most central located building. There is a lot of interaction between the buildings.

Courtyard
In a courtyard campus all the buildings are connected and build around private open spaces. The connection between buildings is very good, the connection with the city is poor.
Quarter
In a university quarter the buildings of the university are spread over a part of the city with other buildings between them. The public space between them is part of the city. Sometimes one of the buildings is a central place for the university. The interaction between buildings is very low.

City campus
The buildings of the city campus are build next to each other, but the public space is part of the city. Although the public space used a lot by employees and students of the university, the public space is still part of the city and anyone is welcome. The common area can be placed in any of the buildings. The interaction between buildings is medium.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Campus

Universities on a separate area
The area can still be located in the city, but also outside of the city.

Route
The buildings of the university are placed along a route. The route is the central part of the campus. The public space is part of the campus mainly used by university users in some cases visitors are welcome. Interactions between buildings is medium.

Route inside
The route is going through the different buildings of the university. The route is inside and also the common space of the campus. The public space outside can be part of the city or part of the campus, but not used for circulation between buildings. It is harder for outside visitors to be part of this public space, because it is inside. Interaction between buildings is very good.

Around square/green
The buildings of the university are placed around a public space, when the public space is made of grass it is called a green. The public space is the common area of the university. Interaction between the buildings is medium.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Central building
The different buildings of the university are built around a central building. This building houses one or more shared functions for the campus, like a library, a food hall or great lecture hall. The public space is used mainly by the university users but is only a secondary meeting place. The interaction between buildings is medium to good.

Combination of central building and central square
The central point of this campus is split between a square and a building, which can cater for different types of weather.
Campus in a park
The buildings are spread over a green public space sometime with and sometimes without a clear composition. The public space belongs to the campus and hardly any visitors use it. The connection between buildings is low.

Science park
Can be any of the campuses on a separate area composition, but with buildings added that house companies that relate to the university.

District
Like a science park, but on a larger scale.

Conclusion
A campus in the city can be beneficial for the city and for the university, if they share facilities. The city brings leisure, culture and transport options. The university brings a library and open lectures, debates and other educational happenings. It also attracts high educated people and knowledge based companies to the city. An open campus would be preferable to a closed off campus.

Campus is a broad term. Every type of university buildings in close proximity is considered a campus. In some cases a campus is a whole village, in other cases it is a few buildings in a neighbourhood of the city. Many of the typologies can work for different situations and different types of universities. There are multiple types that can be applied in the case of the Binnengasthuis area. Which to choose also depends on what guidelines are made in the other parts of the research.
The ensemble is a cluster or complex of several buildings and the public space in between. When designed tight the ensemble as a whole is more than the sum of its parts.

The creation of an ensemble can happen in different ways. It can start with one building where new buildings are placed next to it in the course of time, with this type the first building will be the example on which the whole ensemble will be based on. An ensemble can also be built as one project where all the buildings are designed together.

There are different ways to look at the design and planning of an ensemble:
- From an aesthetical point of view. How do buildings fit together, without looking exactly the same and still form a whole.
- From a planning point of view. How do people move through the ensemble? How are all the parts connected?
- From a public space point of view. What is the role of the space between the buildings? How are the buildings connected to the public space?

In his essay ‘Designing the ensemble’ Sik states that an ensemble is neither contrast nor holistic form. The method for the design is a dialogue-based design. "Neighbouring buildings enter into a dialogue when they relate to one another by ways of their colour schemes, details or volumes, but at the same time display features that are different." Sik mainly focusses on the building aspects.

Coherence of buildings

This part of the literature study will expand on the dialogue-based design that Sik mentioned in his essay. In 'Elements of Architecture – from form to place' written by Pierre von Meiss, one chapter goes in to detail about in what ways coherence can be created between buildings.

When trying to create coherence between different buildings or between different building parts there are a number of methods that can be applied in the design.

- Corresponding façade and detailing – The façade and detailing are very important aspects for the appearance of buildings. To create coherence between two buildings designers can use similar materials, window composition, window size scale and corresponding detailing or ornaments.
- Corresponding shape and scale - Buildings with the same shape and/or scale can give the perception they belong together.
- Placing along a street, route or square.
- Placing in close proximity compared to surroundings.
- Placing within enclosure – Enclosure can be created by a wall or a moat. Different kind of flooring can also give the impressing of enclosure. For example a transition can be made with different kind of pavement or the use of grass.
Within these methods there are certain types of coherence to create a dialogue-based design:

- Homogeneity – All buildings are equal within the ensemble. The similarities and differences do not stand out in one of the buildings.

- Graduation - The differences occur in a gradual manner. For example from light to dark or from small to large.

- Hierarchy – One or some buildings stand out. For example two larger buildings at the entrance of a route to attract attention to the route.

- Contrast – One or two aspects van be in total contrast to emphasize the rest of the common aspects. For example a building of brick and a building of glass with all other aspects, like composition and shape, the same. When too much aspects are in contrast the coherence will fade.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

The Ensemble / Cluster

Klinisch ziekenhuis

Tweede chirurgische kliniek

Zusterhuis

Oudemanhuispoort

Figure 5.4
4. The spatial impact of the plans
The Ensemble / Cluster

Figure 5.5
Administratie gebouw

Social housing block

Vrouwenverband

Kraamkliniek
4. The spatial impact of the plans
The Ensemble / Cluster

Difference in scale

In this drawings it shows that the Binnengasthuisterrein has more large scale buildings than the surrounding area.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

The Ensemble / Cluster

Placing along street or square

Some buildings are placed along the same street or the same square, but the streets and squares do not form a whole and therefore the buildings do not fit together in this aspect.

Borders

The borders of the area are strong. It consists of water or continuous row of buildings. The area consists of a lot of separate placed buildings which contrasts with the edges. This aspect makes the area belong together.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

The planning of an ensemble

When designing a master plan for an ensemble, one of the most important features is the routing. The routing is used to tie all the components of the ensemble together. Important to know, when designing the route, are the location of entrance points to the ensemble and the most important public/common features in the ensemble. Main features can be the cafeteria, the central square or a large auditorium.

There are a number of circulation types, all types consist of a main part and secondary and sometimes tertiary divestitures. The distinction lies in the shape of the main part of the route, it can be a central point to which all paths lead, a main street that connects the most important parts with side paths or a round route that leads back to its starting point. Other shapes are possible, but are mostly derived from this three types. Which type to choose depends on the function or multiple functions of the ensemble, the buildings on site and other location characteristics.

People like an environment better if they don’t lose their orientation. In larger circulation systems people are more likely to lose their orientation. To avoid people losing their orientation, realms can be made that are nested in the larger whole. It works best when the different realms are distinguishable from the others, but still are based on the same type of circulation. The separate identities can be created with clear entrances to the realms, use of different colours and use of different materials. Placing the vertical parts of the circulation is also important, it is best if they are clearly visible and placed in the main part of the circulation. It is also better if the entrances to the vertical parts are at the same side. The best way to give people their orientation back is a clear outside view to a street or a courtyard.

Figure 5.11
There are several routing systems in the area, they are all of a different type and lack consistency. A better routing system will improve the ensemble.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

The Ensemble / Cluster

Use of public space

Jo Coenen also involves the public space as a crucial aspect of the ensemble. He states that in an ensemble the outside space is as important as the interior space of the buildings. The most interesting ensembles are at a pivot point of different kind of urban structures and preferably in combination with some public functions.

Jo Coenen gives some aspects to create a well-functioning ensemble:

- Design buildings with creating public space in mind.
- Create meeting places in the public space.
- Accentuate the transition between public/private or exterior/interior.
- Preferably have a mix of functions within the ensemble.
- Be careful not to design the separate units to similar to avoid creating an enclave.

According to Jo Coenen public space is as important to the ensemble as the buildings are. The public space of an ensemble should have places to stay, recreate and meet other people.

In ‘Life between buildings’ gives Jan Gehl three types of outdoor activities:

- Necessary activities – mostly walking to and from destinations
- Optional activities – sitting, eating, sports
- Social activities – meeting people, joining activities

When the public space is perceived as unpleasant or unsafe only necessary activities will take place. A place can be unpleasant when it is too windy, too loud, for example next to a busy road, or too quite. The presence of people will enhance the quality if the public space. Certain functions will attract people to an area. This functions are mostly public leisure functions like exhibition space, libraries, shops and eating and drinking facilities. With these functions people will not rush to and from there, because they use them in their free time, thus they are more likely to spend more time in the public space around it.

Creating places to sit and stay is also an important aspect in order to make people spend their time there. Unofficial places to sit like a wall, stairs or a more abstract object are more like to lead to social interaction than an official place, like a bench or a table. (Herzberger)

The shape and size of the public space is also of influence for creating a pleasant and usable public space. A space with more articulation will create more meeting places along the border of a space.

A space like the right one has small corners to meet, that are connection with the larger public space in the middle. Open connections like these are beneficial for both the small corners as the larger space in the middle.

Connections

There are multiple types of connections within an ensemble. The buildings of the ensemble are connected to the public space of the ensemble, the public space of the ensemble is connected to the public space of the city and different types of public spaces within the ensemble are connected to each other. When creating
an ensemble the division between the public space of the ensemble and public space needs to be made stronger and the separation between the buildings and the public space of the ensemble needs to be made softer.

Exterior and interior are relative. When you walk from a large open field into a courtyard type of place it feels more interior, even though you are still outside. Change in light, height, width, floor height and material are all aspects that change the exterior/interior feeling. Objects like a threshold or a gate are also of influence to emphasise transitioning from one area to another.

A way to connect buildings to the public space is to soften the entrances. This can be done by adding a porch, loggia, terrace, steps or a border. Visual lines can also be useful for creating a connection.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

The Ensemble / Cluster

Shape

entrances and disruptions

Figure 5.17

entrance types

Oudemanhuispoort

Oudemanhuissteeg

Binnengasthuisstraat

Figure 5.18
The only public spaces that work well are the courtyard of the Oudemanhuispoort and the alley. The courtyard has several entrances they are visible from the centre of the space and it is not disrupted by a bicycle path. The alley is a good example where a route meets a function. The central square is disrupted by several bicycle routes and the main entrances are all in the corners and not all are clearly visible from the centre. Almost all the entrances are abrupt, they are doors without any preludes, like stairs, a gate, or a roof.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Meeting places

Places to meet

The most important rule for interaction in architecture is: “You don't design interaction you design the context for interaction.” (Akkoum)

There are different types of interaction between people:
- An organised event
- A spontaneous encounter between people who already know each other.
- Interaction between people who do not know each other.

For the first type, organised events, the context is clear, but has a wide range. The smallest a two-person table at a coffee bar and the largest is a concert hall or sport stadium for tens of thousands of people. There are a lot of types of spaces in between, but the important thing is that an organiser choose it for a certain event with known specifics. When designing spaces for a specific type of meeting place, the designer has to know what type of interactions take place. A meeting between co-workers is an interaction between equals and everybody has to be able to see each other's face, in a lecture it is most important that all the attendees can see the lecturer, but seeing all the other people is less important.
Creating the context for spontaneous encounters is very different than for organised encounters. There is not one place to point out where it has to happen, spontaneous encounters happen on chance. But the context can make the chance of it happening larger and make the encounter of better quality. If a building is very high with a high number of floors, people will hardly get the chance to see each other, people don't go to another floor if they have no reason for it. Less floors in a building makes the chance for encounters higher. If a building has long narrow hallways, people will see each other and say hi, but walk on after that. In a wider hallway, people will stay to talk. But in a hallway people will only meet if they are both going somewhere at the same time. When a route goes by a place where people sit, for example a coffee break area or an open plan office space, people walk by other people who are staying at a place. This way there is more chance of encounters happening. A public function along a main route gives the highest chance for spontaneous encounters, also because people who are having a coffee break are more approachable than people who are working on their computer. When looking at encounters in public spaces outside, people will only have interaction when they are walking, standing or sitting. Cycling and driving won't cause any interaction, it goes to fast. The best place for encounters are on a square or a street with a wide sidewalk and very little traffic. Too much traffic makes it uncomfortable for people to stay long in that place. On a square people like to sit or stand along the edges, if the edges are not fit for sitting or staying people will not stay on a square. Creating pockets of activity along the edges of the square will also create more reasons to stay in the space. People who do not know each other will not talk to each other if they have an encounter, unless it is an organised event. But still people like a space better if there are other people present, even if they do not know them. This feeling is the strongest in public spaces, outside as well as inside. Presence of people is really important for the atmosphere of a public space, the larger the space, the more people are needed. It is also important that a part of the people are there to stay.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Meeting places

routes combined with places to stay

green combined with places to stay
An ensemble is more than buildings and spaces that fit together. The experience of the user is also of importance. The user has to experience it has a whole, he needs to have the feeling that there not only one building he belongs, but that he belongs to the whole ensemble. The way to achieve this is to create the feeling of a community. In his essay ‘Communities of purpose’ from the book ‘Campus & community’ Ruble gives a number of design solutions to help create the feeling of a community on a campus.

Microcosm
A campus can be created as a microcosm that has all kind of different functions for different types of activities, a mix of educational facilities, eating facilities, shops and recreation facilities.

Foundation
Give the history a special place in the design of the campus. This can relate to the founding of the university, the history of the city or location.

Form and hierarchy
A campus with a clear spatial diagram or composition is more perceived as a whole. An important building at the centre of such composition creates a heart for the campus.

Social
Placing buildings at a communal public space will help create the community. Creating places for people to meet casually will enhance their feeling of belonging to the community.

Identity
Giving the campus a recognizable appearance in the city, will people give people a good feeling about the place they study or work and makes them feel more connected to the space.

Rhetorical fabric
Architectural style can reference to certain statements. A more classical style can indication of the history of the location and its important status it has in the city. Modern style can point to the freedom and independence an academic institute has of the government. Small scale campuses work well with a single style or type. Large campuses benefit more from a variation.

The place of ritual
Academic communities often have a lot of traditions, clubs and societies that grew over time. To enhance the feeling of community clubs, traditions and other rituals need a significant place within the campus.

Comfortable public space makes that people won't immediately go home after they worked or studies in the area. Giving the area an obvious and visual identity, recognizable in the city, makes people proud that they belong to the place. All these aspects set in place with historic connections to the university for several centuries will be a good base to create a community. But it is most important not to forget that a community is made of people, the physical structure is only the context.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

Recognizable

Giving the campus a recognizable appearance in the city, will people give people a good feeling about the place they study or work and makes them feel more connected to the space. In chapter 4.2 The Ensemble it is explained that the area of the Binnengasthuis stands out in the city in a number of aspects. It has larger scale buildings, more public space and a border of water. There are number of aspect that can make a building or an area clearly recognizable in the city. A well visible and welcoming entrance, iconic architecture, a clear edge of the area, green area within a high density urban setting or high density urban setting within lower density area, different materialization, and a clear sign with the name of the company or institute can also help.
Den Heijer states that there are three types of flexibility that are applicable when dealing with a university: Technical flexibility, financial flexibility and organizational flexibility.

Technical flexibility can be developed in different ways for different timescales. The quickest timescale is in the order of minutes. This type of flexible architecture is mostly used for small houses, it consists of moving objects that change the function of a space in a few moves. The Rietveld Schröderhuis is a good example of this kind of flexibility. The setting will change every few hours or days.

A somewhat larger timescale is in the order of a day until a week. Flexibility in this timescale usually consists of a system where there is the possibility to move interior walls. This kind of system is sometimes used in offices educational buildings. The support staff of the building can usually move the interior walls themselves. This setting will change every few weeks to once or twice a year.

The largest timescale is in the order of months. When designing the building the architect has already thought of how the building can expand when more space is needed or how a building can adjust when the function changes. This can be a system of construction that is prepared for expansion or a system of construction without loadbearing walls or facades. This kind of adjustments are made by construction workers and an architect is also needed to make up the plans for the extension or transformation. This kind of flexibility is applied when the owner expects a growing need for space in the future or wants to prepare the building for future change in function. The setting will probably change once every decade or less.

Financial flexibility is achieved with management of the real estate holdings. There are three types of space use looking from a financial point of view.

- The space is owned and used by the university
- The space is owned and rented out, because the university does not need so much space as it owns at that point in time, but might need it later.
- The space is leased because the university does not own enough space.

A mix of owning, renting out and leasing space can be a solution for the fluctuating number of students each year.

Organizational flexibility is applied in buildings where many different activities take place, for example universities. In multifunctional spaces a number of different activities can be planned, a space can be used for education, meeting of co-workers, as an open office space or for study places for students. The building needs multifunctional spaces in different sizes with movable furniture, enough electricity points and equipment for presentations.

Akkaoui proposes a different kind of flexibility. A building adaptable by the user that will form to his type of use. The architect has to make a design that is incomplete, impermanent and imperfect. When the users move into the building they can adjust their surroundings to their liking. For example with an office, there will be no interior walls, no designated common area and movable furniture. After some time the users will have created their own work space and own break area. The benefits are that people feel more included in their company and more in control of their surroundings and feel there for more comfortable and work better. But there are risks that people are not motivated to do anything to their surroundings and the space will stay unfinished and people will feel less comfortable because the space is empty and bare and there are no common areas to meet people. Guidance from the architect in the first period after moving in might be useful.
5. Architectural analysis

"Complexomschrijving:

Inleiding

"Waardering

Voormalig Binnengasthuiscomplex van algemeen belang vanwege cultuur- en medisch-historische waarde als uiting van de ontwikkeling van de schaal vergroting en modernisering van de in oorsprong oude ziekenhuizen aan het eind van de 19de eeuw. Tevens van belang als in de binnenstad inmiddels uniek en enig overgebleven groot ziekenhuis. Het complex vertegenwoordigt voorts een stedebouwkundige waarde als zuidelijke afsluiting van de Oude Zijde."
Monumenten register - Building

“Omschrijving:


Alle vensteropeningen voorzien van hardstenen onderdorpels en een omlijsting van roodkleurige geglaauwde steen. Het onderhuis is voorzien van uitkragend bandwerk van gepleisterde steen. Rechthoekige vensteropeningen met verdiept geplaatste vensters. Aan de lange zijden wordt de overgang naar eerste verdieping gemaakt door een fries van tegelwerk; aan de korte zijden door een afwaterende cordonlijst. Vensters op de verdiepingen verdiept aangebracht, op de eerste verdieping voorzien van rondboogvormige nissen; op de tweede van segmentvormige nissen. Aan de binnenzijde van de vleugels zijn de boognissen van de eerste verdieping voorzien van een versieringsmotief. Eveneens aan de binnenzijde van de vleugels zijn de entrees voorzien van een aedicula waarin vermeld MANNENKLINIEK (westvleugel) en VROUWENKLINIEK (oostvleugel).

Waardering

Voormalige Klinisch Ziekenhuis van algemeen belang vanwege cultuurhistorisch en architectuurhistorisch waarde en als onderdeel van het Binnengasthuiscomplex.”
Pavilion typology

Designed for fresh air and daylight
Original and current situation

Open spaces and open courtyard

Small rooms and covered courtyard
Composition

Simple shapes

Long rectangles with centres
Symmetry
Layering of facades
Introduction.

People seem to experience historic cities more as a pleasant environment, than they do with modern city centres. With this given, a few frightful questions come to mind: Are we becoming incapable of designing a good city? And if we forgot how to make a good city, are we capable to keep the quality of the nice cities we still have? There are those who say that there has not been a well-designed square constructed in decades. (De Botton, 2007) In this Position paper different points of view concerning the city planning of the historic city centres will be discussed. In the first paragraph we look at the different perspectives that created the so called ‘modern cities’ and ‘modern interventions’ that are despised nowadays. After that different points of view on how to deal with a historic city will be discussed. Starting with some points of view that are quite conservative in the second paragraph to some that are quite progressive in the third paragraph. In the fourth paragraph some points of view will be discussed that see the changes made as a storyline for the city. The last paragraph will discuss some courses of action about how to make changes to the city. In the conclusion a position will be taken by the author of this paper.

The modern interventions in perspective.

Although the mistakes made when creating new additions to the cities or the interventions made to the historic centres seem quite apparent now, we have to put it in some perspective. At the end of the nineteenth century, the cities where getting more crowded and denser. The charming little alleys and small houses of the historic cities where overflowing, they were dark, smelly and dirty. All kinds of industries with their coal engines and other workshops were placed right next to the houses. The citizens where literally gasping for air. Thus it seems like reasonable step that the garden cities, created by Ebenezer Howard, and modern architecture for light and air were created. (Mak, 2007)

Until the 1960s and 1970s the circumstances were not that great in the inner city of Amsterdam, there were problems with criminality, drugs, vacancy and squatters. People that moved to the suburbs after the war, where really satisfied with their new homes, even in the high-rises. They had more space a good kitchen and well-functioning sanitary. It was a real improvement compared to the cramped old neighbourhoods in the inner city. In the 1980s the city council began to improve the city centre, by restoring or replacing dilapidated buildings. Also young people were delaying to start a family, and while they were still young and free they liked to live in the city centre close all the bars and culture. So the city centre became in demand again for people to live and consequently became livelier and saver, and the image of the city centre became better and better. (Abrahamse, 2013)

Restoring to the original status

In ‘Without reconstruction, no inner city’ (Schoonenberg, 2004) Schoonenberg explains what is important for the monuments of the city. Amsterdam was a merchant city, this means that no nobleman or religious leader ruled the city, but a group of civilians. Consequently that means than Amsterdam has no important palaces of cathedrals. The important monuments are the residences of the merchants, especially the residences of the golden age in the seventeenth century. Schoonenberg
states that on their own these houses do not all have a monumental value, but that they are important together as an ensemble. Instead of preserving the monuments as individual objects, the cityscape has to be taken into account, because that is the most important monumental value of Amsterdam. “After all, monuments look their best in their original urban development.” Schoonenberg says. To keep the monumental value intact there is no place for modern gestures. When a building needs renovation, it is the best course of action to restore it to its precise former appearance, most preferably the appearance it had in seventeenth century. “Adapting the inner city to the needs of the moment would comprise the beauty of the city.”

Not every old building is important

In the era when the modernist movement started architects were mostly looking forward to the future and not looking back to the past. They imagined utopic cities and worlds with high towers and lots of space in between them. An example of this type of plans is ‘Plan Voisin’ by Le Corbusier. The separation of functions became the norm in city planning. But since a few decades the focus has shifted to look back again. Maybe because the city planning of the modernists did not feel like the right solution anymore. Or maybe because of images seen in movies of idyllic scenes depicting medieval or renaissance times. The dirt and the smells are forgotten and a nostalgic image is what is left of the historic city. Not many people in the Netherlands still believe that we should demolish all of the old cities to make way for a high rise utopia. But in ‘Open but segregated’ (Meurs, 2004) Meurs suggest that the number of monuments in the Netherlands should become more limited, by having stricter selection criteria for appointing monuments. In the current situation almost all the buildings and city quarters that are old enough become automatically monuments. This way the national heritage does not represent the collective memory of the country. When more selective choices are made, when appointing monuments, possibilities arise to add new substance to the collective memory of the Netherlands.

Stories of the city.

“A city is, for those who notices, full of messages. A cathedral forces humility upon those who look at it. A palace reminds of the antiquity and might of the dynasty. A town hall shouts out civilian power and wealth. A new housing district recounts the caring and controlling of the social democrats and communism. A present day tram painted all over with advertisement, screams only one thing: ‘Everything is for sale.’ The spirit, the mentality of a certain period, turned to stone in the city. And the other way around influences the city the minds of those who work and live there.”(Mak, 2004)

For some the ideal city centre of Amsterdam was formed in the middle ages and was perfected with the construction of the canal ring. Everything changed and added after that is only a downgrade from the perfect situation and has come to be because of bad city planning. Looking back, not all changes have been proven to be useful interventions, but now the changes are made, they are part of the story of the city. After the Golden age was over, Amsterdam still had some interesting periods. In the Central station and the Rijksmuseum, but also in the broadened streets like the Vijzelgracht you can recognise
the second golden age of Amsterdam that started in the nineteenth century. (Meurs, 2004)

Changing the fabric of the historic city.

A vacant building can dilapidate quite fast, if a building is an important monument a user for it must be found to make sure it will keep in a well maintained state. A new user will, most of the time, want to use the building for a different function than the building was built for original. And in some of this cases changes need to be made to the building, not only changes to cater the new function, but also for safety reasons and to make the building more energy efficient.

In the Venice charter it was decided that all interventions should be reversible and compatible. Reversibility means that the interventions can be undone and the building can be brought back to the state it had before the start of the intervention. Compatibility means that the new material used in the intervention has to conform to the original material in case of colour, texture and physical aspects. In the last years compatibility has become less important, architects are choosing to make the design of the intervention stand apart from the original to show what is old and what is new. This way the time layers will become visible and the story of the building will become clear to people who use the building. (Kuipers, Quist, 2013)

Cities put a lot of effort in creating a great image to profile themselves to the world. This is not only done to attract tourists, but also to attract more businesses and well educated people. An attractive city centre is a great part of this image. A historic centre can contribute to the image, but also icons, historical and modern, will put a city on the map. Great examples of modern icons are the Sidney opera house and the Gugenheim museum in Bilboa. An icon can be really important to the city, but it takes planning to be able to decide where and how many icons are placed. If every company or private home owner hires a famous architect and wants to make their residence into an icons it will become chaos in the city. The wholeness of cityscape will be lost and the whole city will be like the Zuid-as of Amsterdam. It is better to keep the buildings that stand out limited to a few select functions, like a town hall, a museum, or a university. For the other functions it is better to let them fit more into the context and create a dialogue with there surroundings. (Macdonald, 2014)

In his essay ‘Designing the ensemble!!!’ (Šik, 2012) Šik states that an ensemble is neither contrast nor holistic form. The method for the design is a dialogue-based design. ”Neighbouring buildings enter into a dialogue when they relate to one another by ways of their colour schemes, details or volumes, but at the same time display features that are different.”

When trying to create coherence between different buildings or between different building parts there are a number of methods that can be applied in the design (Meiss, 1990). The first method describes here is corresponding façade and detailing. The façade and detailing are very important aspects for the appearance of buildings. To create coherence between two buildings designers can use similar materials, window composition, window size scale and corresponding detailing or ornaments.

Another method is corresponding shape and scale. Buildings with the same shape and/or scale can give the
perception they belong together. What also makes buildings in to an ensemble is placing along a street, route or square. If you look at the canals of Amsterdam, all the buildings are built along the property line, have the same orientation and are built next to each other without gaps. When placing buildings in close proximity compared to surroundings the buildings will belong to the same group. Another method is placing within enclosure. Enclosure can be created by a wall or a moat. Different kind of flooring can also give the impressing of enclosure. For example a transition can be made with different kind of pavement or the use of grass. Within these methods there are certain types of coherence to create a dialogue-based design: Homogeneity, all buildings are equal within the ensemble. The similarities and differences do not stand out in one of the buildings. Graduation, the differences occur in a gradual manner. For example from light to dark or from small to large. Hierarchy, one or some buildings stand out. For example two larger buildings at the entrance of a route to attract attention to the route. Contrast, one or two aspects can be in total contrast to emphasize the rest of the common aspects. For example a building of brick and a building of glass with all other aspects, like composition and shape, the same. When too much aspects are in contrast the coherence will fade.

Conclusion.

Nowadays, some look back with almost a nostalgic gaze and think of the image of the medieval centre, with the canal rings of the golden age as the perfect picture and everything that was constructed after it has ruined the picture. Schoonenberg makes a good argument that Amsterdam gets its value from its cityscape, and because of that the city scape has to be maintained. But when saying that every building and every street has to be restored to its precise original, he is creating unrealistic ideals that cannot cater to the needs of modern life. This can result into vacant buildings or a city that is only used by tourists. Also the lines between old and new, authentic and reconstruction will fade. A new house will look the same as a three hundred year old house. The true historic monuments will nog get the appreciation they deserve, because nobody will know the difference anymore. Meurs suggests to only keep a few monuments that serve the collective memory of the country, but with this suggestion he skips over a lot of local traditions and memories and also does not account for the atmospheres of the city that will be lost with this way of heritage management. In “Amsterdam: a modern historical city.” (Meurs, 2004) Meurs makes a better point. By focusing on the different layers of time, you can see the story of the city. More than one period in time are important, together they form the identity of the city. The dialogue based approach discussed in paragraph five can be a good solution, to keep the identity of the city and to also keep on telling the story of the city. Important is that a thorough research is done on the context. If most buildings in the city fit well into their context then there is place in the city for a few architectural pieces that stand apart of the rest.
7. Conclusion

The Binnengasthuis area has an extensive and well documented history. With the Nunneries and the typology had been very clear, courtyards with inward facing buildings around it. With the appearance of the hospital a financial side to building activities was brought to the area, which created a separation between the borders and the inner area, but the courtyard typology was still used. When the new hospital buildings were built between 1850 and 1930, the hospital buildings also appeared on the edge and the clear separation was gone. Still the hospital area was a closed off green part of the city. When the hospital left, the new plans were based on the principal ‘giving the area back to the city’. That is why there are now dwellings and bike routes on the area. The clear distinction between the area and the rest of the city is diluted in the process.

The plans of the UvA for the area suggest high expectations of the Binnengasthuis area. It is hard to make conclusion about if this plans will be successful in the future or not, because there is one thing obviously missing in these plans the UvA made. How are all the goals the UvA described in the plans achieved? Without a vision about how the areas of the campuses will work it is hard to tell if they are likely to fail or likely to succeed. All the goals and ambitions sound very reasonable. And because a large number of their plans have been cancelled it is understandable that they are cautious. Still there are questions that arise, will people start collaborating between study fields just because their offices are closer together and they occasionally see each other in the hall or at the coffee bar? How will UvA present itself as a prestigious institute to the city through the campuses? All the plans they propose require a lot more planning and designing to see if it will fit in the area and the city and if it will work efficiently. They make a number of statements that need to be researched in an architectural way to see if can be applied in the situation of the campuses.

A campus in the city can be beneficial for the city and for the university, if they share facilities. The city brings leisure, culture and transport options. The university brings a library and open lectures, debates and other educational happenings. It also attracts high educated people and knowledge based companies to the city. An open campus would be preferable to a closed off campus. Campus is a broad term. Every type of university buildings in close proximity is considered a campus. In some cases a campus is a whole village, in other cases it is a few buildings in a neighbourhood of the city. There are multiple types that can be applied in the case of the Binnengasthuis area. Which to choose also depends on what guidelines are made in the other parts of the research.

When designing an ensemble there are three important aspects to keep in mind. The perception as a whole, the routing and connections to the routing, and the open spaces in between. The Binnengasthuis meets some of the specifics of these aspects, it has strong borders, the buildings have a scale difference with the surrounding area and there are different kinds of public space that people can use. But also a lot of aspects are missing, there is no routing that connects all components, the public space is not well furnished, the entrances are abrupt and in illogical places, and some of the building materialisation does not fit in the ensemble, especially the materialisation of the dwelling block build in the 1980s.
4. The spatial impact of the plans

The most important rule for interaction in architecture is: “You don’t design interaction you design the context for interaction.” (akkaoui)

It is important to keep all type of interactions in mind when designing. A university needs different types of meeting spaces, from a small meeting room to large lecture rooms, all with their own specific needs. Room for spontaneous encounters are important for the atmosphere of the building, people need to feel free to have social contacts when they want it. A main route encountering a public function gives the most opportunities for encounters, but also in the more quiet places of the building spaces for encounters are required.

Having a public function in the area will attract people, but a pleasant surroundings will make people want to stay. Green, light, places in the sun, places to sit are important aspects to make an outside space pleasant. A space open to the public does not mean it has to be packed with people all the time, a quieter place in the middle of a busy city can also be an attractive public space. It depends on what kind of function it contains or is connected to. A park or the space next to a library can be relatively quiet and still feel pleasant. But a square with café’s and terraces with only a few people feels very empty and desolate.

Giving the campus a recognizable appearance in the city, will people give people a good feeling about the place they study or work and makes them feel more connected to the space. There are number of aspect that can make a building or an area clearly recognizable in the city. A well visible and welcoming entrance, iconic architecture, a clear edge of the area, green area within a high density urban setting or high density urban setting within lower density area, different materialization, and a clear sign with the name of the company or institute can also help.

An ensemble is more than buildings and spaces that fit together. The experience of the user is also of importance. The user has to experience it has a whole, he needs to have the feeling that there not only one building he belongs, but that he belongs to the whole ensemble. The way to achieve this is to create the feeling of a community. In the research it became clear that all the different components that were researched, campus, ensemble, meeting places, open and recognizable, concluded in different aspects on how to make people feel comfortable and feel they belong there. A campus is essentially a university community. Designing an ensemble is to make people feel they belong in the whole area and not just their building or workroom. Meeting places give people a social connection to the area. Comfortable public space makes that people won’t immediately go home after they worked or studies in the area. Giving the area an obvious and visual identity, recognizable in the city, makes people proud that they belong to the place. All these aspects set in place with historic connections to the university for several centuries will be a good base to create a community. But it is most important not to forget that a community is made of people, the physical structure is only the context.

7. Conclusion
2. Binnengasthuisarea

Publications of the UvA
• Meerjaren Huisvestingsplan Universiteit van Amsterdam (2010)
• UvA: naar vier open stadscampussen (2011)
• Onderzoek naar alternatieve locaties voor UB-BG (2011)
• Presentatie camusontwikkeling UvA (2014)

Publications about the plans of the UvA by other parties
• Advies Bureau Monumenten & Archeologie Inzake de nieuwe Faculteitsbibliotheek op Binnengasthuisterrein (2012)
• Advies m.b.t. de herontwikkeling van het monumentale Binnengasthuisterrein ten behoeve van de vestiging van de Faculteit van de Geesteswetenschappen en de UB-BG (2011)
• Advies BGterrein RACM (2008)
• De campusplannen van de UvA en de binnenstad, door: Studiecommissie PvdA afd. Binnenstad Amsterdam (2011)
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Theory of used terms
• Sik, M. (2012), And now the Ensemble.
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• Kohn, W., O’Connor, J.M., Riera Ojeda, O. Campus and Community
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