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LIVING STATIONS

The Design of Metro Stations in the (east flank) metropolitan areas of Rotterdam

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FOREWORD



Foreword

Kees Kaan

In the elective *City of Innovations*, at the Chair of Complex Projects, we worked in close collaboration with the Municipality of Rotterdam on an education and research project that is studying the Rotterdam Circle Metro Line (a city proposal) as a living laboratory. In our education program, as illustrated in this publication, we use the design of strategic urban interventions as a didactic research tool. The objective is to encourage students to develop an open and curious attitude about design questions and develop simple and clear narratives to arrive at design solutions and products of communication. Notably on the subject of large-scale projects such as the development of rail-metro stations, the interplay between multiple actors and the complex interventions introduce another dimension. Here the notions of ‘learning through doing’ and ‘thinking through design’ are important¹. Architect and engineers start simultaneously and work concurrently on many aspects of the design of a complex project. This continues all the way to construction, and beyond that to operation and lifetime cycle of the building. Design tools, drawings, renders, models, infographics, not only serve as design tools to present models of a possible future but they are also the tools for this communication itself. Simple narratives supported by clear design are becoming the language in this process. Simple as opposed to complex is used here to emphasize importance of clarity in the narrative to allow minds to join and contribute in an effective way to manage the complexity.

City of Innovations positions itself as a negotiation between architecture, network infrastructure, public realm, policy and governance in the metropolitan territory. It applies **design research** to unravel concrete socio-spatial issues by operating on different design scales. The very ambitious and exploratory architectural proposals of the students arose in workshop settings which combined individual work with group design research. Students were invited to analyse and reflect on the importance of transport networks within- and extending from the city through designing narratives. They were urged to (re)consider the way these networks have shaped the city, weaving the urbanities of the city centre(s) and suburban areas and explore how they will further shape the territory.

The initiative presented in this book is a follow up of previous experiences of Complex Projects on working with external stakeholders and using design research as a didactic approach to understand mobility and other urban challenges in contemporary metropolitan contexts. The results of those experiences have been published in *Stations as Nodes* (2018)² and *Amsterdam 2050 Complex Projects* (2019)³ outputs.

¹ Kaan, K., Triggianese, M. Mobility as a driver of urban change, in Triggianese, M., Cavallo, R., Baron, N., Kuijper, J. *Stations as nodes*, TU Open, 2018 (pp25-29)

² Triggianese, M., Cavallo, R., Baron, N., Kuijper, J. *Stations as Nodes - exploring the role of stations in future metropolitan areas from a French and Dutch perspective*, TU Open, 2018

³ Kaan, K., Stancic, I., Triggianese, M., Smidihen, H., van Zalingen, J. *Amsterdam 2050: Complex Projects*, TU Open, 2019.