

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Personal information	
Name	Sawa Wadi
Student number	4479432

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3UA100 Urban Architecture – Exploring Nijmegen	
Main mentor	Mechthild Stuhlmacher	Architecture
Second mentor	Mauro Parravicini	Building Technology
Third mentor	Leeke Reinders	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The Urban Chair asked its students, to roam a city, adopt a building site and develop an urban architectural project. The project is located in the city of Nijmegen, a city that is known for its architecture ranging from Medieval ages, Pre-war, Post-war to present-day architecture. The site offers architects the opportunity to engage with different architectural themes: encounters, adoptions, conversations, and characters. Whoever interacts with a city of so much complexity, for a long time, will become captivated by it, which should sooner or later lead to a personal architectural position.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	<p>Binnen en Buiten / Innen und Außen</p> <p><i>A continuation of the original design by the architects P. Dijkema and A. Croonen.</i></p>

Goal	
Location:	Broerstraat 25 – Korte Nieuwstraat 6, Nijmegen
The posed problem,	<p>The specific site within the inner-city of Nijmegen that intrigued me at the beginning was the slightly hidden City Hall. The civic building has functioned throughout history as the core of the inner-city and underwent several architectural developments. The site is known for its various architectural expressions due to its reconstruction over time. The reconstruction period with no doubt led to a new typology of the urban ensemble. The current City Hall is positioned in the second layer of the urban pattern, this is in stark contrast to other City halls which are normally positioned in the prominent first layer. The expansion of the City Hall was a design by the architects P. Dijkema and A. Croonen. These architects were mostly inspired by recreating the urban Medieval tissue that disappeared right after the Second World War. The original city pattern was gravely damaged by the bombardment. The ambition of the architects was to redesign and recreate the urban pattern of Medieval cities. The original design was to engineer a city within a city. The used method, by the architects, throughout this design, was to understand the architectural meaning of inside and outside. Separate volumes were connected by an inner tissue that functioned as the public hall. These separate elements, the so-called pseudo-masses, functioned individually. However, these elements with their individuality were part of a bigger ensemble the building itself, The City Hall.</p> <p>The City Hall, by P.Dijkema and A.Croonen, has caught with its sensitivities my interest. Due to the reconstruction over time the</p>

	original building lost its original architectural value. The original design of the City Hall, which was based on the Medieval urban pattern, lost its overall allure and the whole ensemble became an inaccessible labyrinth. The little urbanity is in great need of recovery, reorganization and clarity.
research questions and	How can a building of remarkable significance for the city of Nijmegen reinvent its original architectural value?
design assignment in which these results.	<p>The design assignment could be separated into three dimensions, one concerning the architecture dimension, the urban dimension and the last one concerning the social/political dimension.</p> <p>Firstly, on behalf of the architectural field, the design exercise is a refurbishment and an expansion of the building Broerstraat 25, Nijmegen. This enormous building was a Van Der Borg warehouse and was built right after the war. By refurbishing and reorganizing this building, the political center of Nijmegen will be positioned on the first layer of the urban pattern. The refurbishment also provides an opportunity to reconnect the building by Dijkema&Croonen with the city through this new building. By refurbishing the building, the ensemble will become more open and accessible and the original design by Dijkema&Croonen will be restored to its original status.</p> <p>Secondly, on behalf of the urban field, to rethink and redefine the interior spaces of the ensemble in such a way that the interior of the ensemble becomes part of the public domain. The aim is to create a design where the public is truly served. The assignment on behalf of the urban field is to separate the public interior into three different public spaces: Broerenklooster garden, Courtyard and a Children's playground. The third ambition is derived from the social/political dimension, which is to design a building that offers tight incorporation between the municipality and the residents of the city. The residents of Nijmegen with their charming outspokenness need a political center where they could debate work, interact, meet, gather and share. The aim is to create a political center that can be seen "Literally and figuratively" by rethinking transparency in democracy as a conceptual design assignment. Therefore, an addition will be created on top of the Broerstraat 25 building that expresses the transparency of the political center of Nijmegen which is visible to everyone.</p> <p>To conclude, the design exercise is to recreate the original pattern in the ensemble by reconstructing a public urbanity with the refurbishment of an additional building to restore the City Hall to its original status as the traditional inner core of the city.</p>

Process

Method description

In order to achieve my aspirations, both buildings (Broerstraat 25 and The City Hall) have been unpacked in such a way that one naturally gets acquainted with their complexity. The used method was to unpack the buildings by collecting various data on the three different dimensions that have been mentioned previously: architectural, urban, social/political. The collected data also consists of various case studies (both references as scientific readings). This approach could be implemented for historical and contemporary case studies. The knowledge provided a suitable foundation throughout the design process. These significant findings also helped to confirm many design decisions. The collected data consists of elaborated research on the original design and the architectural position of the architects Dijkema&Croonen.

In brief, the data provided the knowledge that was needed to form a personal position within the realm of the reconstructed city of Nijmegen.

Literature and general practical preference

Publications

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Reflection

The project encompasses the traditional and political center of Nijmegen that consists of the architectural themes which stand in relation to Post-war architecture and the reconstructed city, the semester's overarching theme of the Urban Chair. The Urban Chair studies medium-sized urban sites where the urban design can be fulfilled by an architectural solution. Both the topic of the master track Urban Architecture stands in relation to the master track Architecture while the ambitions for this project could only be achieved by a combined engagement of architectural and urban solutions.

The project discusses important topics on how to design within inner cities where there is an enormous lack of building ground. Cities must densify throughout the years. To successfully achieve this, architects could expand on top of existing buildings. By building stories on top of existing buildings architects could extend the lifespan of buildings with a non-destructive approach. The relevance of the project is also of great importance while the urban ensemble must be redefined to serve the public domain. The project could offer a good foundation for how to interpret neglected urban ensembles. Due to reconstruction over time various sites within inner cities have become harsh, neglected and unused public spaces. It is therefore of importance to learn how to engineer these fragmented spaces.