

Reflection paper

Architectural Engineering studio 2016/2017

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The graduation year of Architectural Engineering is divided in two semesters. The first semester is focused on research and the second semester is focused on design. Hereby the research is the founder of the design. The year starts with the research, but also during the design phase the two are closely intertwined.

When I started with the Seismic studio in the province of Groningen I focused mainly on researching how to build earthquake resistant. When I learned more about the location, I started to also focus on the identity of Groningen. There are several things that influence the identity, but most of all masonry stood out. I found several interesting reference projects that were earthquake resistant, but none of them worked with masonry. This is where my interest arose in working with brickwork in a seismic area.

The research question was as follows: 'How to bring back value to damaged buildings and make sure the new design will be earthquake-resistant as well? Hereby different sub questions arose about the identity, what kind of earthquakes we deal with in the seismic area of Groningen, what the damages are and how to build earthquake-resistant. With these questions the following design assignment arose: 'How to fit a new design into the identity of Groningen.'

In order to answer to those questions I chose to work with a case-study. The case-study is a farm located in Bedum, a village close to Groningen city. The building has a rich history and is therefore a monument because it was built on the foundation of a 'borg'.

I started working to reinterpret the existing building, but I found out that everything detracted the identity of the building. This is why I chose to build a new building next to the farm in order to fortify the identity of the building and its location. Obviously, the new design will focus on being earthquake resistance and the use brickwork in the façades.

In my project the heart lays in the identity of Groningen. As I already told, masonry stands for this identity. But next to this, agriculture also plays an important role in identity. This is why I this has been the guide to the function of the buildings. The 'borg' area will be restored and will function as a place where the identity of Groningen can be experienced. The building will show not only the identity of Groningen in the building itself, but also in function. With this I hope to attract more people to the shrinking area of Groningen.

I am pleased with my research report. However, at the moment the research was done and I started with the design I made decisions in the wrong direction. This is why I took a few steps back in order to oversee my project and start over again with a big part of my design. This has been a conscious choice because I would like to finish the project with as much pleasure as I started it. It took a long time before I was satisfied with the design. This resulted in a shorter time to work on the elaboration than I initially wanted. Overall, I am satisfied with the design and also with the translation to the details of the building.