

## **REFLECTION**

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### **Aspect 1 • the relationship between research and design**

The literature research done on analysing existing micro apartments was sufficiently connected to the design. The quantitative study and comparable literature research done on three case studies and their amenities was immediately inspiration for the design. The different amenities in the case studies are listed, the drawings of the levels are drawn and the dimensions of the plans of the dwellings are precisely lined out. This gave a good view on the buildings. Next to this, several literature about the residents in these buildings are compared. This information gave me a more critical view on the case studies and was the start for my own design.

The approach I had in the beginning worked out for me, but more research could be done to make some decisions more substantiated. Sometimes decisions were built on one source. The research on the target group and the small apartments is done next to the design, this was productive way for me. As a commend, I did not research more as needed, so maybe I missed information which was giving the project and extra layer.

### **Aspect 2 • the relationship between the theme of the graduation lab and the subject/case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object)**

The studio is called Dutch Housing studio. The design made for the graduation project are small dwellings with amenities in the centre of Amsterdam. This is a convincing relationship between the theme of the graduation lab and the subject of the project. Besides this, the extra question in the studio was to combine living with working. This is visible in the first floor of the building. There are several places to work private or public for the residence and for the people of Amsterdam.

The search for the theme of the studio started with the fascination for sharing amenities. Next to this, the housing market in Amsterdam is boiling and together with the growing group of New Urbanites, these topics made the theme for the project. It took some time before finding this combination of subjects.

### **Aspect 3 • the relationship between the methodical line of approach of the graduation lab and the method chosen by the student in this framework**

The graduation period started with an analysing phase. In several groups we researched the past, present and future of the area and the city of Amsterdam. The research gave some ideas for the theme of the project and how the building could fit in its surrounding. This group research was not very thorough, so after this I did more detailed research on the chosen theme of affordable housing, micro apartments and the target group of New Urbanites.

Next to the graduation project, two courses were given. The first one, the Research Seminar, gave a better view on different dwellings. Several case studies were researched and later combined by a group of students. Before this graduation studio, I did not follow other dwelling studios, so this course was meaningful for me. The second course was called the Tutorial. We followed a workshop about redesigning an existing dwelling. This was, just like the previous course, very useful to get more knowledge about the design of dwellings. Both courses where not part of the research for my final project, but just extra knowledge and inspiration.

After this, I mostly used the methods 'design by research' and 'research by design'. The literature research about micro apartments and the target group was mostly done without writing something

down. At the end of the project I had to explain the most important information I used for the design. This I could have done earlier and more precise. Next to these comparative literature research, I researched and designed by making sketches. The form of the building I researched by making several models from clay, foam, paper or wood. Later during the process I also researched the dwellings with models. This gave me a good insight in the building in its surrounding and the size and design of the dwellings.

To get inspiration for the project, I went to Amsterdam to visit several case studies connected to the theme of my project. The most interesting project was the Zoku Hotel. This is a long stay hotel where the small rooms are designed as small apartments. Besides this there is a shared floor to eat, drink or work. This was a very relevant case study for me. I also organised a trip to Amsterdam for my fellow students to have a look at this hotel, after they were interested by my story.

During the total process, the design was going pretty linear, not drastic changes were made. There was one point during the process I was stuck. This was after the P2 presentation. The form of the building was not totally defined and this had to be solved before going on. It took me two weeks before I get it. At the P3 I was on schedule again.

#### **Aspect 4 • the relationship between the project and the wider social context**

The news on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of May shows us the relevance of the graduation project in the wider social context.

#### **Betaalbare huurwoningen voor middeninkomens: hardnekkig probleem**

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*An article from NOS on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of May about affordable housing for the group of people with a middle income is a persistent problem (source <http://nos.nl/artikel/2172307-betaalbare-huurwoningen-voor-middeninkomens-hardnekkig-probleem.html>)*

The main subject of the project is affordable housing, this is an important topic in several cities at the moment and also in Amsterdam. It is very important that cities remain affordable, it keeps the city diverse, vibrant and social and economic in a good balance.

There is a growing group of people in Amsterdam which are called the New Urbanites. This group has a certain lifestyle; they see the city as there living room, they have a flexible work- and living environment, they see sharing as the new way of owning and sustainability is part of their lifestyle. The building is a response to this lifestyle. The place in the city, the shared amenities and the public ground floor with places to work are important for them and are a good connection to their requirements.

The location of the project is in the city centre of Amsterdam, but has an abounded appearance at the moment. For the people of Amsterdam, the new design is giving the place a new function and atmosphere. It will be a place for Amsterdam, where people can meet, eat, drink, work and life.