

The Netherlands

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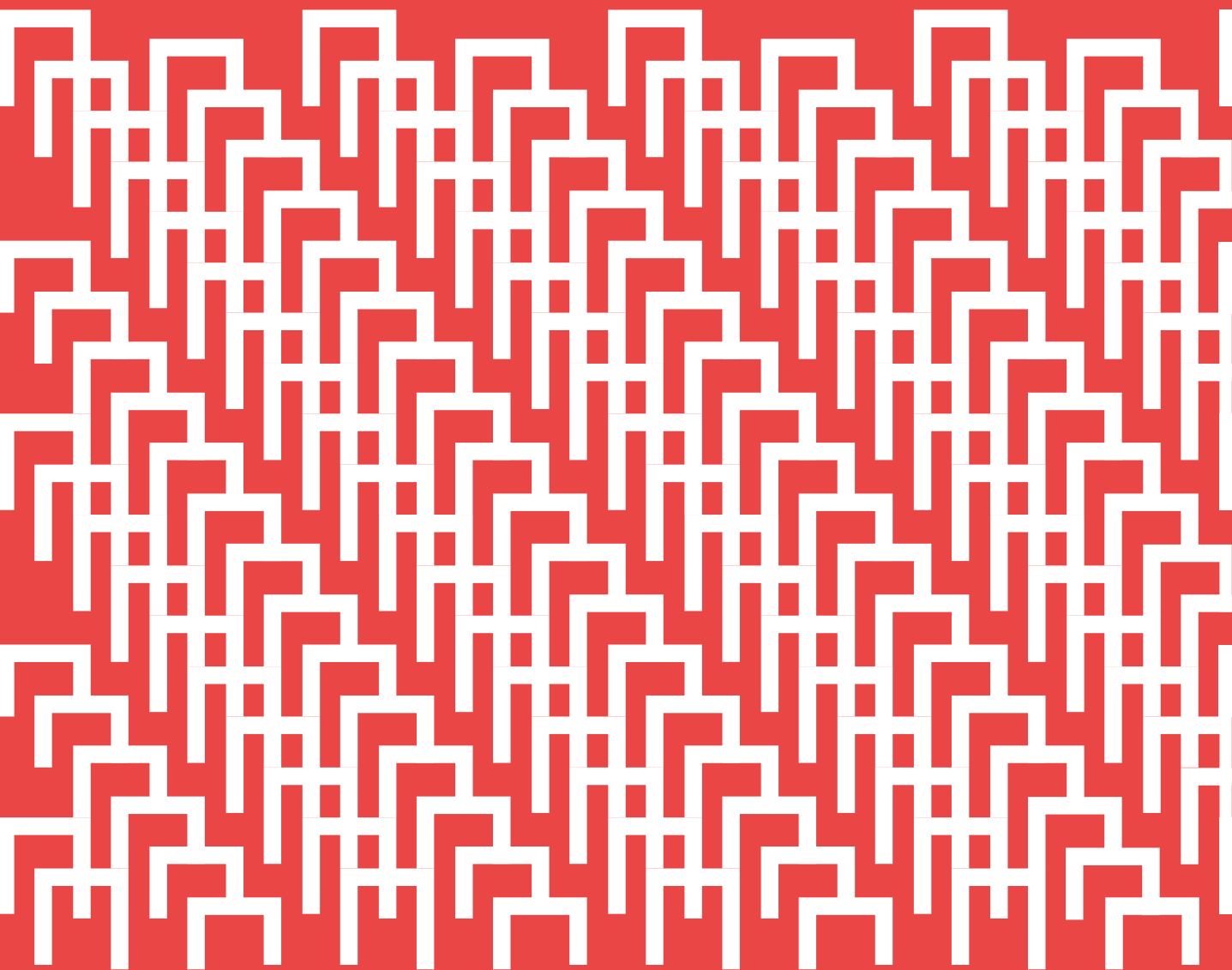
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Working Group 2
MCMH ATLAS

European Middle-Class Mass Housing LEXICON



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The Netherlands

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Image of middle class mass housing: Bijlmermeer, Amsterdam (© photo: Hans Peters via Wikimedia Commons, 1974)

The suburban low-rise neighbourhood is the 'ideal' of the Dutch middle class. After WWII, a series of planning concepts were implemented on a national level: post-war expansion districts (1945-1965), Groeikernen (1965-1985), and Vinex districts (1995-2005). Middle-class families of successive generations moved into these (once) new neighbourhoods, leaving the city for "huisje, boompje, beestje" (house, tree, animal), a Dutch saying meaning the bourgeois life in a house with a garden, children and pets.

Although the majority of the Dutch population (64%) lives in a single-family home, 'mass housing' in Dutch refers to multifamily homes, in mid-rise or high-rise blocks in repetitive urban 'stamp' patterns. Especially in the post-WWII period, high numbers of repetitive high-rise flats were developed in city expansion areas.



Image of middle class housing: Almere-Haven, Almere (© photo: stadsarchief Almere, 1980)

Portiek Walk-up access and apartment

The word **portiek** can be used for the access typology (central staircase providing access to six or eight apartments), the physical space ('let's meet in the **portiek**') or the people living in the apartments around the **portiek** ('a barbecue for our **portiek**'). So, it can refer to a concept, a space or a community.



Portiek entrance, Rotterdam (© Lidwine Spoomans, 2021)

Boerderette Size

The word first appeared on 24 November 1980 in a newspaper article of the **Volkscrant** by journalist B. Hn -probably Bert Haveman, and was later used in comic texts and sketches by writer and artist Wim T. Schippers. Since the late 1990's 'boerderette' appeared in texts and policies on urban planning and architecture. For estate agents, the term describes a commercial style type that has visual similarities to a farmhouse ('boerderij' in Dutch). However, in the architectural discourse the term refers to a distasteful 'tacky' type of catalog house. The archetypal appearance of the 'boerderette' is described by historian Ileen Montijn (**Naar buiten!**, 2002, p 175) as follows: 'a small villa of white brick with wolf ends to the gray, glazed tiled roof, and underneath a slightly protruding window that extends from the first floor to the second floor. In several places, the house has arches (a window, an entryway) that should perhaps recall stall doors.' However, it can have also a pink, red or yellow façade. All sorts of attributes that people associate with farm life, like a wagon wheel as a fence or ceiling light or a milk can as an umbrella stand or mailbox, make the 'boerderette' recognisable.

Doorzonwoning Sun-through house

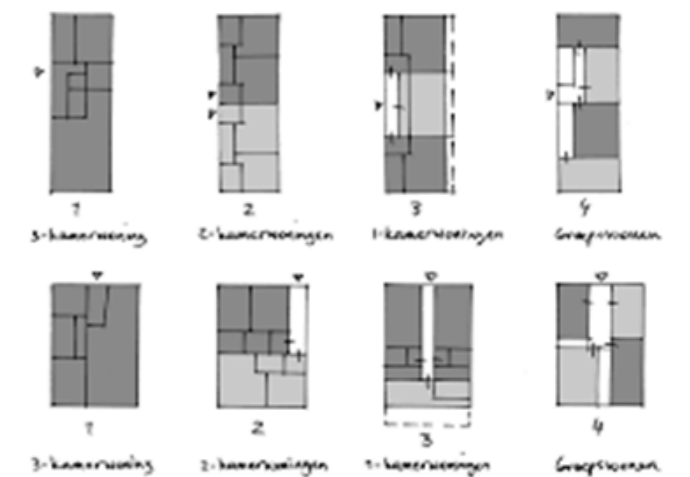
In this house type, the living room on the ground floor extends from front to back. Both the street facade and the garden facade have a large window through which the sun shines in abundantly (**doorzon**). This house type is so common in the Netherlands that it also refers to the average family, 'de familie Doorzon', which is also the name of a Dutch comic strip.

Beukmaat Nave size

The **beukmaat** is an all-important measure in Dutch housing because it determines the house type, access typology, car parking grid, construction method, possible number of rooms and living quality. Especially for terraced houses, the optimization in Dutch house building has led to a standardized (4.8/5.1/5.4/6.0 m), but minimal, **beukmaat**.

Volkshuisvesting Housing the population

In the Netherlands, the national government plays a leading role in spatial planning through a series of ministerial policy documents. Although in recent years more is 'left to the market', the government has significant influence on housing policy (compared to other Western European countries) due to subsidy programmes and active land policy. These planning policies include housing for the entire population (not just public housing).



Study by Martin Liebrechts and Sandra Arts, mapping 'beukmaat' and plan possibilities

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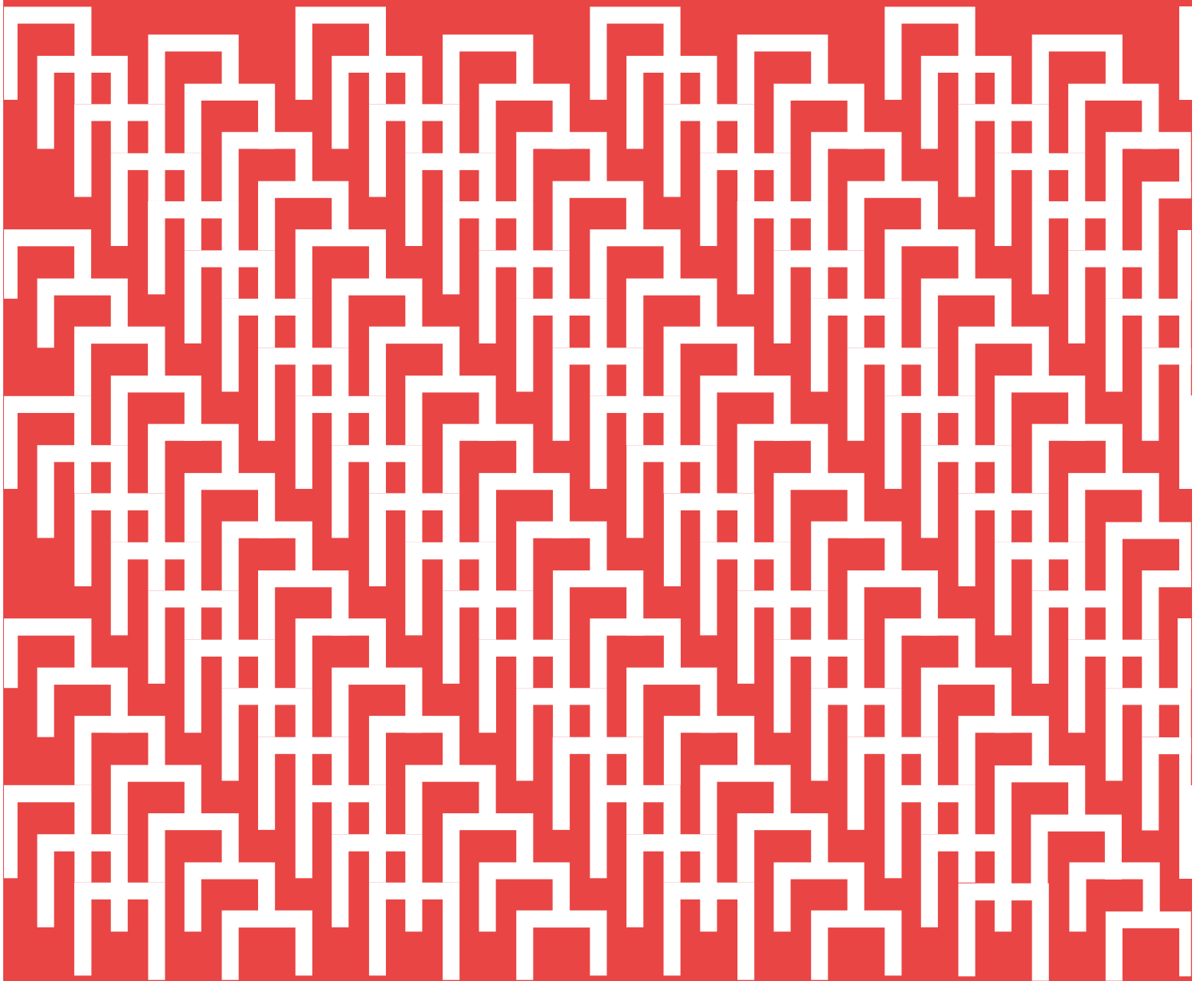
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