

Research Plan P1

Linda Hammerschlag 4552644 5 November 2021

01 introduction

On Wednesday 29 September this year the Dutch public broadcaster NOS posted an article showing that women in Dutch society are 'champion part-time work' which is correlated to the wage and pension gap and between men and women. The article mentions how women have to choose part-time work in order to balance work with domestic responsibilities. On top of that women mostly work in sectors like health where the income and pensions are lower than the sectors like construction where mostly men work with a higher income and pension. The inequality of income and domestic labour and its relation with architecture has been documented by Dolores Hayden in *The grand domestic revolution: a history of feminist designs for American homes, neighborhoods and cities* (1982). She explains how in the 19th century material feminist were concerned with advocating for gender equality through spatial interventions in architecture and urbanism. Material feminism can be described as a combination of Marxism and early feminism theories of the 19th century. Where Marxism lack the incorporation of the sexual division of labour, feminism was by some described as problematic because of its idealistic concept of women. Material feminism then emerged by challenging the economic exploitation of women based on gender roles.

In her book Hayden (1982) speaks of domestic labour and wage labour and in this research the terms production and reproduction will be used. Fraser and Jaeggi (2018) describe production as the wage labour done by workers and reproduction as the social labour of housework, child-raising, schooling, affective care and other activities that produce new generations and maintain social bonds and shared understanding. Before the rise of capitalism production and reproduction used to take place inside the home and foster the social bonds between people and after the rise production and reproduction were split (Giudici, 2018). This split has led to reproduction taking place in a private sphere where its importance for society is obscured and where both working women and housewives suffer the consequences (Hayden, 1982). This split is an important core element of a capitalistic economy and society (Fraser & Jaeggi, 2018) and is therefore an important topic to focus on in order to create gender equality within dwellings.

Although the emancipation of women in Dutch society has led to men and women having the same rights, gender roles and the exploitation of women still are a problem as stated at the start of the introduction. This problem of having to choose between production and reproduction affects different kinds of low income households such as nuclear families, a single-parent households or people acting as informal caregivers for family members. The split between production and reproduction keeps these household in a lower economic status and the traditional dwelling typologies in the Netherlands do not help these household in finding a healthy balance between production and reproduction. This research focuses on these three user groups and their needs in housing and facilities related to both production and reproduction.

Another problem that stems for capitalism is the speculation of housing prices and in the Netherlands that has led to making the housing market inaccessible to people who earn too much for social housing and not enough for the high prices that the private market is asking of buyers and renters (Stojiljkovic, 2021). This is were co-operative housing becomes interesting to introduce into the Netherlands. In cities such as Zurich co-operative housing has been a long tradition and has resulted in stable and affordable prices for housing and keeps the housing market accessible for low income households (Boudet, 2017). There are a few co-operatives in Amsterdam that have succeeded in realising their project, but none yet exist in Rotterdam. Therefore it would be interesting to research the possibilities and advantages of co-operative housing for Rotterdam and her inhabitants.

Besides housing in the private sector and the social sector, also the facilities and housing projects created and/or supported by the government play a role in gender discrimination. On 2 July 2014 the Second Chamber of the Dutch government published a parliamentary paper about how our society is transitioning from a welfare state into a participation society. This change has an impact on our means of reproduction by limiting and stopping certain care facilities for people who need assisted living housing. With this change the responsibilities of care fall onto the hands of family members, organisations and municipalities. It means that the group that is currently already struggling with the responsibility for production labour will experience more difficulties in balancing this responsibility with production labour. The fact that our society is becoming a participation society is not the problem, the problem is that our housing and living arrangements are not built for this support and a new dwelling typology needs to be realised that makes informal and formal care for others possible. Here co-operative housing could also be a solution to find a typology that would make the change into a functioning participation society possible.

Research question

Based on historical, current and possible future problems with dwelling typologies the following research question has been developed:

How could architects create an ecology in a co-operative housing in Rotterdam with a dwelling typology that gives users the room to find a balance between production and reproduction?

In order to answer this question the following sub-questions need to be explored:

1. What changes did material feminist architecture make to dwelling typologies to address the problem of gender roles and reproduction within the home?
2. How has production and reproduction been integrated into co-operative housing?
3. What are key points to change at the scale of dwelling typologies and what key changes are necessary at the scale of the building?

02 Research framework

Material feminism

As explained in the introduction the theory of material feminism is an important part of this research and the bibliography currently has three pieces of literature revolving around the theory, experiments and achievements. There is the perspective of the material feminist movement from America, the United Kingdom and a look at some recent global examples that support the material feminist movement. For this research the book *The grand domestic revolution* by Dolores Hayden forms the base for this literature. Her book is an important part of feminist and architecture literature because it explains in depth the relation between feminist architecture and the different aspects of society such as social change, culture, gender roles, power structures and capitalism. Her definition of material feminism will be used as the perspective with which the case studies will be analysed. With this literature I hope to answer the first sub-question and formulate architectural design elements.

Production and reproduction

The introduction mentions the definition of production and reproduction as defined by Fraser and Jaeggi in their book *Capitalism: a conversation in critical theory*. Because material feminism includes the relation between capitalism and gender discrimination, the literature from Fraser and Jaeggi works well with it by defining the relation between capitalism and the zones that make up a society. The split between production and reproduction and how it is a core element of capitalism and together with the spirit of profit are important aspects

mentioned in the book and relate back to the literature of Hayden (1982) and the problem of speculation in housing. For this research this definition will be used to answer the sub-questions and analyse the typology of the case studies.

Ecology and ecosophy

In the research question the term ecology is mentioned and throughout this research the definition used for this term is based on Gaunttari's definition used in *The three ecologies* (2000). He extends the definition of ecology beyond the focus on environmental concerns by including human subjectivity and social relations. With this definition he states that there are three kinds of ecosophies; mental ecosophy, social ecosophy and environmental ecosophy. Gaunttari's definition of ecology and the introduction of three ecosophies are relevant to use for this research because he also relates these ecosophies to what he calls Integrated World Capitalism (IWC) and how the ecosophies can influence each other in order to address environmental and societal problems such as the those mentioned in the introduction. This research will use this perspective on ecology when analysing the case studies and exploring how these case studies pushed for social change.

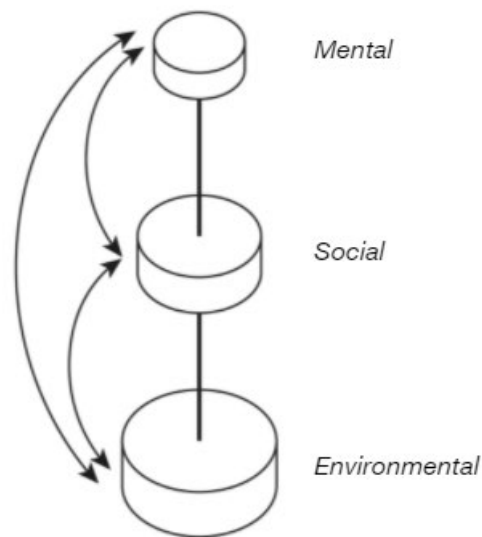
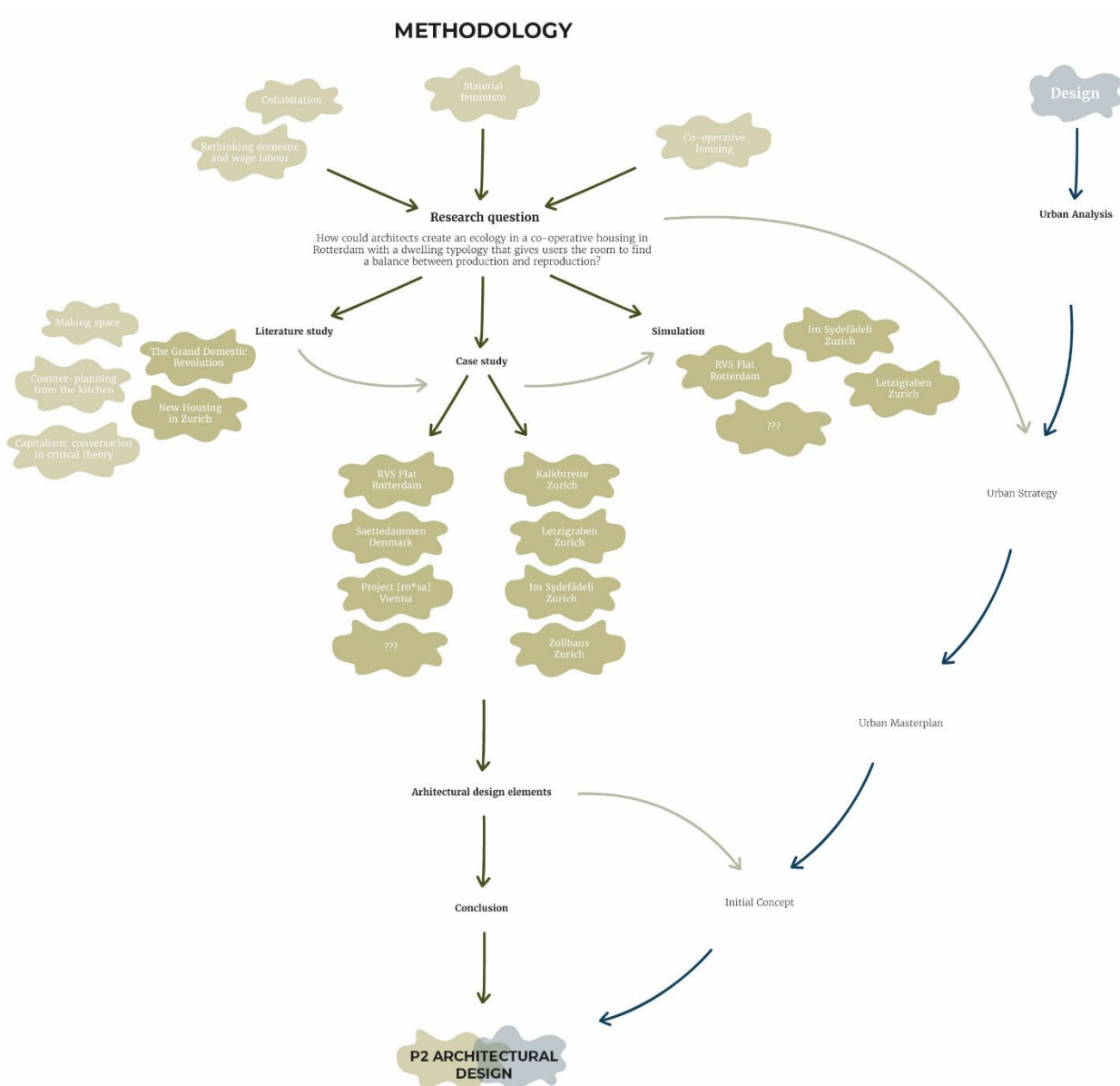


Figure 1 Diagram of the three ecologies made by Midas, Tim and Kelly from the Advanced Housing studio 2021

Research methods

In order to answer the sub-questions this research will make use of literature research together with use of case studies by analysing the program, construction and the typology of the dwellings and the buildings. The research question and sub-questions are focused on learning from existing architecture in order to find new architectural design elements and typology, therefore the use of existing literature and case studies is necessary. The case studies are projects with a tenure of co-operative housing with four projects of historic value for sub-question 1 and four recent projects from Zurich for sub-question 2. The case studies will be analysed using floorplans, sections and any literature provided by the architect, articles and books such as *New housing in Zurich typologies for a changing society* by D. Boudet (2017) which will be used for sub-question 2. To better understand the user experience of the dwelling typologies it would also be interesting to use simulation research with either digital or physical models. This can be used for two case studies of each sub-question to explore them more in depth.



Case studies

For this research the following case studies will be used to analyse and make simulations of:

Chapter 1

- RVS Flat in Rotterdam by W.C.M. Jansen, 1958
- *Project [ro*sa] in Vienna* by Sabine Pollak, 2009 (not sure about)
- Saettedammen in Hillered Denmark by Jan Gudmand-Høyer, 1970

Chapter 2

- Kalkbreite in Zurich by Müller Sigrist Architekten, 2014
- Letzigraben in Zurich by von Ballmoos Krucker Architekten, 2020
- Im Sydefädeli in Zurich by pool Architekten, 2017
- Zollhaus in Zurich by Enzmann Fischer Partner, 2021

03 Preliminary conclusion and relation to design

1 What changes did material feminist architecture make to dwelling typologies to address the problem of gender roles and reproduction within the home?

This chapter uses four historical case studies to research the changes made to the typology of the dwelling and building. For all four case studies the aim of the architect is explained and the typologies are explored using floorplans and sections. For two of the case studies the research is more in depth with a simulation of the spaces and show the user experience. From this research can be concluded which changes to the dwelling and building typology can impact gender discrimination.

2 How has production and reproduction been integrated into co-operative housing?

This chapter uses four recent case studies from Zurich to research the integration of production and reproduction within the building and how it relates to the typology of the dwelling and building. For all four case studies the idea behind combining production and reproduction is explained and the program of the building are explored through floorplans and sections. For two case studies the research is more in depth with a simulation of the connection between production and reproduction spaces. From this research can be concluded how production and reproduction spaces can work within a typology used for co-operative housing.

3 What are key points to change at the scale of dwelling typologies and what key changes are necessary at the scale of the building?

This chapter concludes the findings from the previous two chapters into architectural design elements related to the typology of the dwelling and the building. It shows changes possible from the smallest scale at the private dwelling to shared spaces and finally to the scale of the building. This part of the research will help in decision making in the design research.

Relevance of your research

This research aims to find out how co-operative housing could function in a city like Rotterdam in the Netherlands, since the use of co-operative housing is not common in the Netherlands like it is in Switzerland. Existing literature is focused on the history of material feminist architecture which often used co-operative housing and the long tradition of co-operative housing in Zurich. What is missing is research on which innovative changes to the typology of these projects can we learn from and how to incorporate it into new typologies suited for a Dutch society. This research is relevant because it aims to summarise important architectural design elements and explicitly aims to explore how to use them to create an ecology within the building that could support low income user groups to balance their time for production and reproduction specific to their needs.

04 Annex

Schedule

- Week 2.1 Sub-question 1
- Week 2.2 Finish sub-question 1
- Week 2.3 Sub-question 2
- Week 2.4 Finish sub-question 2
- Week 2.5 Sub-question 3
- Week 2.6 Conclusion
- Week 2.7 Finish draft
- Week 2.8 Deadline research report

Bibliography

Boudet, D. (2017). *New housing in Zurich : typologies for a changing society*. Park Books.

Fraser, N., Jaeggi, R., & Milstein, B. (2018). *Capitalism : a conversation in critical theory*. Cambridge Polity.

Guattari, F. (2000). *The Three Ecologies*. The Anthlone Press. (Original work published 1989)

Giudici, M. S. (2018). Counter-planning from the kitchen: for a feminist critique of type. *The Journal of Architecture*, 23(7-8), 1203-1229. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602365.2018.1513417>

Hayden, D. (1982). *The Grand Domestic Revolution : a history of feminist designs for american homes, neighborhoods and cities*. Mit Press.

Hildner, C. (2013). *Future living : collective housing in Japan*. Birkhauser.

Matrix Book Group. (1984). *Making space : Women and the man-made environment*. Pluto Press.

NOS. (2021, September 29). *Vrouwen krijgen gemiddeld 40 procent minder pensioen*. <https://nos.nl/artikel/2399643-vrouwen-krijgen-gemiddeld-40-procent-minder-pensioen>

Rendell, J., Penner, B., & Border, I. (2000). *Gender space architecture : an interdisciplinary introduction*. Routledge.

Stevanović, T. (2013). The Grand Domestic Revolution GOES ON. *Architectural Research Quarterly*, 17(1), 15-18. <https://doi.org/10.1017/s1359135513000328>

Stojiljkovic, N. (2021, June 7). *Waarom de woningmarkt voor een starter ontoegankelijk is*. De nieuwe starters. <https://denieuwestarters.nl/wonen/waarom-de-woningmarkt-voor-een-starter-ontoegankelijk-is/>

Tweede Kamer. (2014, July 2). *Van verzorgingsstaat naar participatiesamenleving*. Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal. https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/plenaire_verslagen/kamer_in_het_kort/verzorgingsstaat