



A working life

Subtitle

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project type MSc1

location IJmuiden

organisation TU Delft

date Autumn 2016

Our project seeks to realise, through the adaptive reuse of existing building stock, a space for the labour of living in IJmuiden, Netherlands. It rewrites the relationship between self and labour integral to the welfarestate project.

It is a building intimately linked to its users, its surroundings and its temporal context – suggesting tangible togetherness and placemaking as an imperative for understanding the process of social reproduction: habits, cultures and relationships. Its representation is equally tangible: an exhibition of ‘floor’ and ‘rug’ intended to communicate the spatial syntax and symbolism of our design.

INDUSTRY AND IDEOLOGY

The town centre of IJmuiden is a good example of post-war welfare state architecture. It is also a good example of a disjunction between original design and contemporary use.

Given an almost blank slate – courtesy of the German occupation – W.H. Dudok was free to devise a new plan, based on the predicted development of the steel works and the harbour, but primarily on modernist ideals such as separation of labour and recreation, a civic-cultural-commercial town centre, and rational housing for middle class nuclear families. Come the 1960's, the main features of Dudok's plan were realized and occupied by the 30 000 inhabitants of this small but thriving blue-collar town.

Today, the Hoogovens have merged and outsourced its diminishing business, the trainline is disused, unemployment is rising, the population is aging, and the pull factor of adjacent cities affects commerce negatively. IJmuiden's dependent position has caused the town to stagnate both mor-

phologically and socially.
The town appears to be in retirement.

SENSE OF SELF

The apparatus of the industrial welfare state depended on separated functions and the predictability of every node of the system – the worker, the work place, the home, the market place, the social system... Struggling to adjust to contemporary conditions such as economic scarcity and political volatility, computerized and internationalized labour markets, increased mobility, new family constellations and shifting attitudes towards government, IJmuiden's sense of self appears to be confused and somewhat stuck in times past.

We seek to reinterpret, and perhaps reinvigorate, the identity of IJmuiden by means of a conceptual intervention into its post-war housing stock – tapping into a heritage of labour, community and interdependency, considering the 'home' as part of a larger society and allowing for greater flexibility, plurality and individual agency.

SENSE OF PLACE

In the welfare state system, socialization as well as individuation was largely linked to remunerated work: the factory floor, the worker's clubs, the unions, the idea of 'being' a worker/professional. The separation of, and movement between, the home and the workplace constituted a tangible spatial relationship; a sense of place.

For the 'homeworker', this is not the case. What ties the stay-at-home wife, the retiree and the laptop freelancer together are the blurred boundaries between living and labour, as well as the disjunction from community. We seek to design a building intimately linked to its users, its surroundings and its temporal context – suggesting tangible togetherness and placemaking as an imperative for understanding the process of social reproduction: habits, cultures and relationships.

SELF THROUGH PLACE

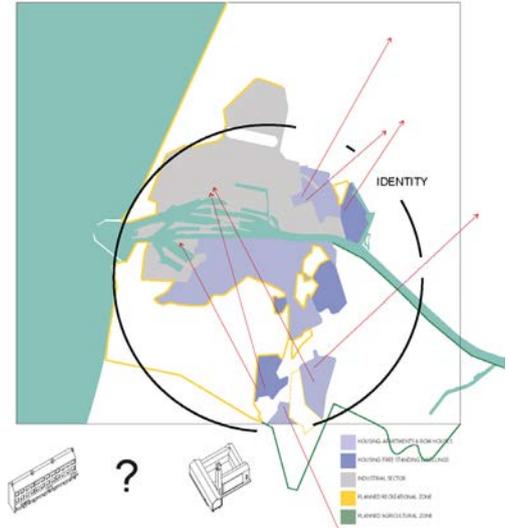
The selected building, delineating the western edge of Plein 1945, can be considered as both typical – almost a typology in itself – and peculiar to a social ecology that is no longer existent. It was structured by, and sought to structure, a particular set of values and way of life. Thus, when intervening into its rational brick frame, the reinterpretation needs to occur along two lines – its spatial organization and its relationship within Dudok's plan for New IJmuiden, as well as three scales:

1. Precinct: Articulating the relationship with the town square; exposing and celebrating living and working as a communal, performative act.
2. Building: Exploring the functions of labour and living, and how they intersect, throughout the building.
3. Floor: Exploding the conventional apartment in favour of a fluid shared 'living room' spanning entire floors; externalizing functions and encouraging interaction.

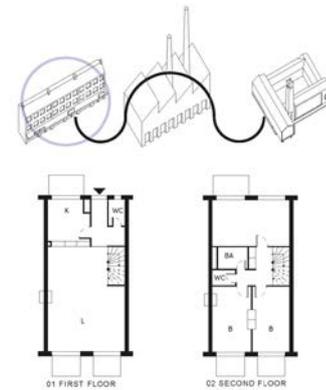
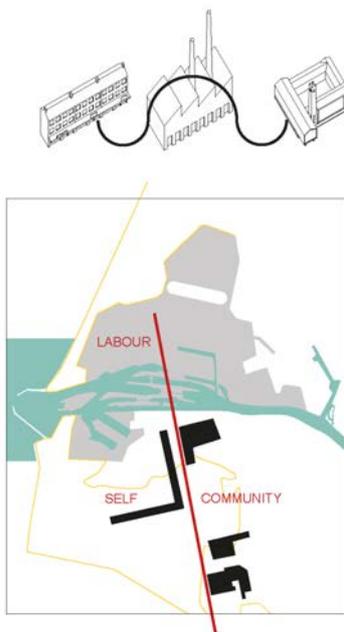
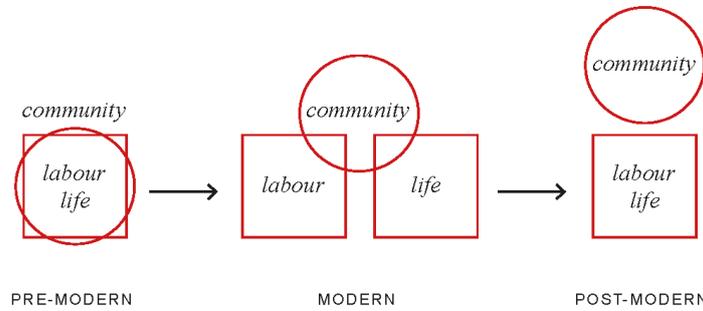




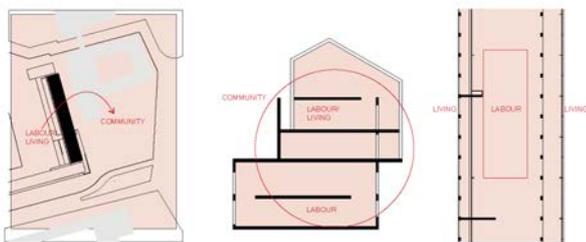
THE WELFARE STATE



THE CURRENT STATE



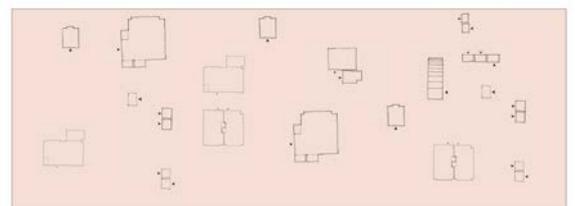
"LIVING ROOM" 22.3 m ² (1*3 m ² hallway) sofa, read, talk, entertain, exercise, table, clean, decorate, microwave, fire, coffee...	"KITCHEN" 6 m ² stov, cut, food, fry, press, grate, chop, wash, clean, bins, dish, oven, table...	"BEDROOM" 9.5 m ² reproduce, relax, sleep, dress, table, read, desk, modern, wardrobe, cover, table...	"BATHROOM" 4.5 m ² bathtub, mirror, wash, clean, toilet, shower, make up, shave, comb, read, mirror...	"COMMUNICATION" 9.7 m ² wall, one, document, wall, rest...	"STORAGE" 8.8 m ² bag, stack, collect, additional, remove, replace, forget, remember...



PRECINCT

BUILDING

FLOOR



'LIVING ROOM'



CURTAIN
how the building works for you
and how you work for the building

STRIPS
The building is made of strips of concrete, brick and steel. These strips are joined together to form a strong structure. The strips are also used to create a fire-resistant barrier between floors.

FLOORS
The building has several floors. Each floor is supported by a concrete slab. The floors are also insulated to keep the building warm. The floors are also used to create a fire-resistant barrier between floors.

HEARTHES
The building has several hearths. These hearths are used to create a fire-resistant barrier between floors. The hearths are also used to create a fire-resistant barrier between the building and the ground.

ISLANDS
The building has several islands. These islands are used to create a fire-resistant barrier between floors. The islands are also used to create a fire-resistant barrier between the building and the ground.

INNER WORKINGS
HOW THE BUILDING WORKS FOR YOU
HOW YOU WORK FOR THE BUILDING





HELLO. WELCOME TO YOUR 8 000 M² APARTMENT.

Das Projekt ist ein Modell für ein neues Wohnkonzept in der Stadt. Es zeigt die Grundrissgestaltung, die Raumverteilung und die möglichen Einrichtungsvarianten. Die Zeichnung ist ein Entwurf und nicht ein verbindliches Angebot. Die Ausführung ist dem Bauherrn überlassen. Die Zeichnung ist ein Entwurf und nicht ein verbindliches Angebot. Die Ausführung ist dem Bauherrn überlassen.

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