



Urban redevelopment in relation to the public realm

NEW PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES

Within the theme of context and modernity in the 21st century we will focus on 'public building' in the Netherlands. The research and design studio of Public Realm Rotterdam will explore the meaning of public realm in architecture. The site, the area of the so-called Kaas of Koolhaas - is part of an after war reconstruction area in the city centre and will be facing urban redevelopment in the near future. New programs and strategies have to be developed to meet the city's social, political and economic problems and needs in the 21st century. Innovative concepts and typologies, that address the search for a new public realm and accommodate these new programs, are also important. They can only be reached by understanding the crucial moments in urban and architectural practice, such as sustainability, stacking of functions, public safety, accessibility et cetera. Theory and practice together form the ground on which architectural discourse and the discourse of studio Public Realm is founded.

Studies and design proposals for the site can provide new programs in relation to the cities' future development, for example the reinforcement of the creative infrastructure. On the one hand, these sites can accommodate social, cultural and educational institutions that function on the level of the city region as a whole. On the other hand, solutions can be generated for local problems, such as the lack of cultural and spatial exchange. Thus the studio public realm is apt to result in projects and visions on a larger urban scale, as well as in site-specific interventions.

The literature study is directed at notions of modernity, identity, public realm, public domain, junk space, place and 'non place'. Through the analysis of precedents and more on-site experimental workshops we will develop tools in order to judge designs in relation to the research theme. The analysis of the site not only shows the location of the design assignment in its historical, contemporary and future context but also includes spatial, social and economic aspects, like migration, distribution of income, et cetera.

In fall spring term 2012, the research and design studio of Public Realm will explore the meaning of public realm in the light of current urban redevelopments. Students will be invited to develop different programs based on thorough research and own insights. Basically, the site can house offices, dwellings and shops but also social-cultural facilities. Mixed programs and new strategies have to be developed to meet the social, cultural, political and economic problems and needs of the city centre in the 21st century. Such strategies can involve themes such as a public realm for a diversity of city inhabitants and visitors, densification, stacking of programs offering facilities for specific groups, integrating production and consumption, working and dwelling, verdure within compact cities and so forth. Innovative concepts and typologies, like the urban hybrid building that address the search for a new public realm and accommodate these new programs are thus important. Through the analysis of precedents and on-site fieldwork we will develop tools in order to understand and address the issue of public realm in relation to actual urban spaces.

Theory and practice together form the ground on which the discourse of studio Public Realm is founded. The newly released book *Architectural Positions: Architecture, Modernity and the Public Sphere* will be used to discuss the position architects have taken towards their responsibility towards the public sphere. Next to this, theories from a more sociological and cultural-political background, as for example works of Richard Sennett, Henri Lefebvre, Jane Jacobs, Edward Glaeser, René Boomkens, Susanne Komossa and Arnold Reijndorp will offer a more in-depth understanding of the public realm.

Practical info

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| → Program code | AR3Ap130-1 / AR4Ap100 |
| → Capacity | 8 students |
| → Credits | 15 ECTS / 20 ECTS |
| → Period | Week 1.1 - 4.10 |
| → Tutors | ir. Nicola Marzot |
| → Coordination | dr. ir. Susanne Komossa S.Komossa@tudelft.nl |
| → Website | http://www.tudelft-architecture.nl/chairs/public-building |