CONFORMITY and INDIVIDUALITY in the BUILT FIELD

A report on a graduate workshop:
Architecture 501

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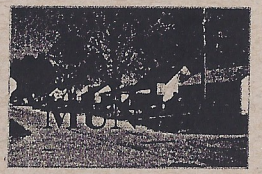

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Contents of the Report

Part 1: Introduction

The report begins with an introduction to the idea of the study and the organization of the exercises. These notes include discussion of theory, methods and pedagogical aims.

Part 2: Seven studies

Seven students took part in the study. Each examined the dominant characteristics of a certain city - in most cases, the one in which they grew up. These examinations resulted in "Tissue Models" for each neighborhood. In the second part of the workshop, each tissue model was used by a classmate, to "fill-in" an empty site in the original city, making an urban design. In the third part of the workshop, each student then designed a "residential open building" in the urban design proposed in the second phase by a classmate.

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Part 3: SAR73

In this section of the report, the documentation method used to record the characteristics of each neighborhood is provided as background. It constitutes the methodological core for the tissue analysis and urban design work we did. SAR 73 is "The methodological formulation of agreements concerning the direct dwelling environment". This chapter gives the complete text and drawings of the original report written in 1973 at the SAR (Stichting Architecten Research) in the Netherlands, on the permission of its principle author. This method was used in the first two phases of the workshop.

Part 4: Residential Open Building

Residential open building is a way of designing and constructing multi-family residential buildings. In this process, a base building is distinguished from the building's fit-out, thus reclaiming in large buildings the autonomy of the individual dwelling so familiar in the detached house. The base building is the part of a whole building that is shared or common to all the individual occupants, and normally includes the structure, the enclosure (or most of it), and the main public circulation, stairs and elevators as well as the main service systems. The fit-out constitutes all the spaces and technical systems decided independently for each dwelling unit. Fit-out normally includes everything needed to make an empty dwelling ready for habitation - everything "behind the front door". This includes partitions, doors, cabinets, fixtures and mechanical systems (cabling, piping and ducts) specific to the individual dwellings. Part of the facade may also be in the "fit-out" decision bundle. By means of this distinction, customization of each dwelling is less difficult and future adjustment to either the base building or the fit-out levels - due to changing technical and market conditions - is less costly and time consuming and causes less conflict than in normal entangled buildings where this distinction is not made. Residential open building can be applied to both new construction and building renovation.