



Intro

Historical fluctuations in the landscape of housing highlights its political character rather than purely a private domain; the living environment inevitably reflects the conflicts among different societal groups and classes. Various authors have emphasized the persistent conflict regarding housing, which lies in its dual role - a lived space and a financial asset.

Consequently, it is imperative to revisit the role of a dwelling, expanding beyond its conventional definition as a private space. The recent architectural research on living typologies and systems does not seem to address the primary issue: the dissociation of living and working, a consequence of industrial revolution and modernism.

By eradicating the demarcation between public and private, between working and living, housing spaces can potentially empower residents to reconfigure their living arrangements in a way that is both beneficial and self-valorizing.

The robust economic landscape of Tilburg, its reservoir of intellectual capital, coupled with the ambitious planning objectives of the Kenniskwartier, constitute a fertile ground for developing prototypes for collaborative living and working environments.

Urban Hub

Green blue axis

The architectural proposal takes aim at the intersection of urban development and natural ecosystems. It is conceived as a response to the pressing environmental challenges of our time, while also offering a new blueprint for the cityscape of Tilburg. The project emphasizes the green-blue network of Tilburg, subtly incorporating it beneath the city's existing railway infrastructure. This initiative seeks to redefine the identity of Kenniskwartier, intertwining the built environment with nature, creating a harmonious and uninterrupted coexistence of the two.

Regeneration of existing building

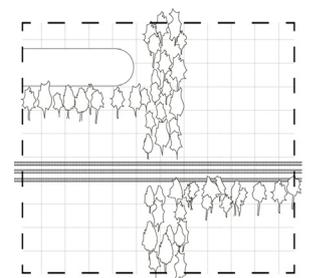
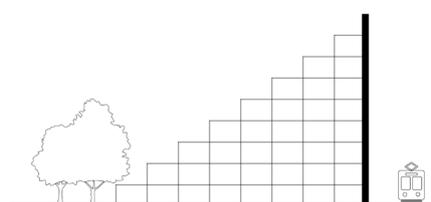
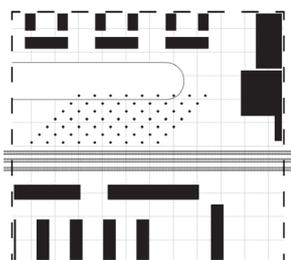
The strategy regarding the industrial buildings is rooted in a respectful transformation rather than complete overhaul, retaining the original essence of these structures while adapting them to meet contemporary needs.

The rehabilitation strategy seeks to infuse new vitality into these structures by converting them into points of attraction. One building will be reconceived as a public haven, a vibrant venue for events and activities designed to foster community engagement and civic life. It's conceived as a generous shelter with porous facades, allowing a seamless dialogue between the indoor and outdoor spaces.

The second building, on the other hand, will be rehabilitated to serve as a hub for small scale businesses. Spaces are adapted to the evolving dynamics of work in today's world. The introduction of patios will inject elements of nature into the workspace, while the implementation of porous facades will create a sense of openness and connectivity.

Urban morphology

In confronting the context, the project boldly embodies the dual character of the site. Established between the pulsing rhythm of railway tracks and the tranquil embrace of nature, it manifests itself in a striking triangular form.



To the South, the edifice presents a protective facade against the noise intrusion of nearby transport. It stands as a shield, safeguarding the users from the urban cacophony. In striking contrast, the Northern aspect subscribes to a radically divergent design philosophy. The building here cascades downwards, its porous form engages in intimate discourse with the natural realm.

Thus, the building emerges not as an imposition, but as a sensitive response to its dualistic context – a symphony in architecture, eloquently harmonizing the urban and the natural.

Two plazas

The design vision has given birth to two vastly contrasting plazas flanking each side of the building. On the east side, the plaza harmonizes with the blue-green axis of Tilburg, conceived as a verdant collage. This tranquil area contributes to the ecological continuity, nurturing a serene haven amidst the urban landscape.

Conversely, the plaza on the west side has a deep connection to the pond. Embracing a more mineral texture in its design, with a café perfectly positioned to enjoy the canal's views. This distinctive duality in design enriches the architectural project, offering a balanced, captivating ambience.

Link with the City

The ground floor acts as an attractive and inviting space that showcases the creativity, innovation, and productivity of the building's users. Here, the products, ideas, and innovations of the building's occupants are showcased, turning the area into a dynamic, evolving museum of the current local creative landscape. Open and fluid, it encourages interactions, knowledge exchange, meeting, and dialogue between users and citizens of all social groups.

The ground floor is more than just a display or a walk-through area; it's a place of sharing and collaboration. Areas for casual discussions, networking, and brainstorming sessions are available, providing a conducive environment for sparking innovative ideas.

Prototype for Cooperative Housing and Working

Cooperate living and Working

The 2018 qualitative housing research report by KWDO indicates a stark lack of variation and expression in Tilburg's housing market. Combined with the robust local economy and the significant accumulation of knowledge at universities and other educational institutions, there are opportunities for designing spaces for cooperative living and working. The proposal creates a dynamic ecosystem that promotes cooperative housing and working environments, injecting much-needed diversity and vitality into the residential landscape.

Envisioning a model of cooperative living and working, the concept plunges deep into the essence of the relationship between work and habitation, the nascency of human social organization. The program intricately weaves elements of interaction, community stimulation, shared ideas and resources. It brings to the forefront a novel design where architecture serves as an enabler of human interactions. It fosters an environment wherein the inhabitants form one expansive community.

Shared to Private

A distinguishing characteristic of this communal environment is the fluid duality of privacy and collective spaces. This setting allows residents the flexibility to modulate the extent of sharing and privacy in accordance with their individual needs and aspirations. Shared kitchens, living rooms, outdoor spaces, working spaces, meeting rooms are available for the community with various degrees of privacy.

Following the urban strategy, the most private entities are laid out on the south side while the most collective activities are located on the north of the building benefiting from the relation to nature and large connected outdoor spaces. In reaction to the typical generic office spaces, each floor of the project is connected as a vertical landscape emphasizing social interactions.

The Grid System

The simple grid system imposes order and coherence, yet it inhibits infinite possibilities. It serves as a framework for imagination and diversity to flourish, enabling the creation of spaces that are both flexible and functional. The design doesn't dictate, it suggests; it does not impose, it accommodates.

The simplicity of the space arrangement framed by the grid system allows a wide diversity of typologies to be implemented and rearranged in the building. Each

square of the grid, unit, can be shaped, reshaped, combined, and divided in countless ways. The same building can contain both collective arrangements or more traditional self-contained apartments. This marriage of uniformity and uniqueness creates a vibrant, dynamic environment.

Time

Finally, time takes on a unique role within the project. The approach not only acknowledges that the rhythm of human existence varies from individual to individual, but also appreciates it as a complex symphony of diverse tempos and melodies, rather than a uniform, monotonous beat. The essential principle is that the design should be able to adapt to the needs of evolving households, rather than forcing occupants to adapt to a rigid, unchanging design. This flexible design ensures that the building remains functional and relevant, accommodating the fluid dynamics of life.

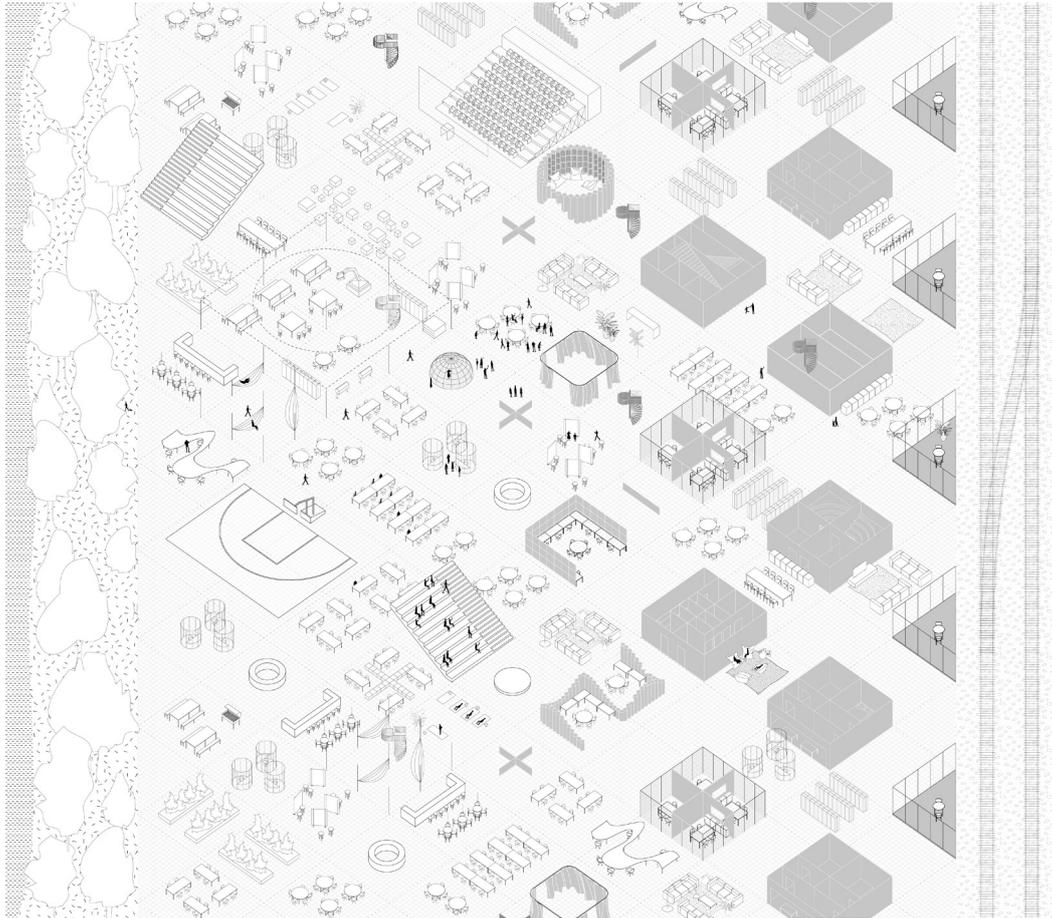
This ecosystem strategy nurtures business growth throughout all its stages - from ideation to maturation. Within a supportive ecosystem, companies can constantly evolve within a trusted, familiar context. Startups can access resources, mentorship, and capital to translate their ideas into reality. The collaborative nature of such ecosystems fosters knowledge sharing and symbiotic relationships, providing stability amidst uncertainty. Students, part of this ecosystem, can gain invaluable practical experience, apply theoretical knowledge, and network with industry professionals.

Ownership

Should the city decide to endorse the strategy, a novel system of ownership could be established. In this framework, ownership is reinvented - there are no exclusive proprietors. Instead, the model recasts ownership as a collective interest. Every individual does not possess rights to a distinct physical region, but rather a fraction of the collective community. This system reinforces the ability of the project to evolve, the sharing of the functions, and eases and supports changes of lifestyle.

Circular Economy

The project embraces a circular economic strategy, demonstrated by its modular design that adapts to changing needs, reducing renovation waste. Shared spaces and equipment further emphasize waste reduction by minimizing resource consumption, eliminating redundant ownership. Finally, the communal ownership model cultivates sustainable behavior, fostering a cooperative environment that encourages shared resource use and minimized consumption.



Conclusion

The project redefines the urban landscape of Tilburg, harmonizing built environments with nature, and fostering a symbiotic ecosystem for cooperative living and working. By interweaving elements of interaction, community engagement, shared resources, and respect for individual rhythms, the design promotes an adaptable and vibrant environment. It reimagines ownership, urging collective interests over exclusive rights. With a fluid interplay of shared and private spaces, a simple grid system facilitating diverse typologies, and an innovative approach to existing edifices, the project serves as a potential prototype for future urban developments, championing inclusivity, sustainability, and flexible adaptability to life's dynamic changes.