

TEST SITE THINK TANK



Over the past two years, the issues and challenges presented by Test Site Rotterdam were the subject of studies conducted at different universities in Europe and America. Attention focused on a number of questions. How do we make city in times of crisis? How do we deal with vacant buildings? How can we put ideas about permanent temporariness into practice? How can these new spatial models be implemented? Which business models are needed to enable a gradual transformation to take place? The studies and proposals are pure speculations on the realization of the ambitions of the stakeholders in the area. The starting point each time is the current urban reality and the economic and spatial status quo.

The École Supérieure d'Architecture Versailles examined three sites in Rotterdam affected by vacancy or future vacancy: Rotterdam Central District, Brainpark Rivium, and the Marconi Towers. The iconic Marconi Towers, currently home to the municipal departments, were also the subject of a study carried out by the design practice, N H D M titled (NO) STOP MARCONI. The designers researched the potential to convert the towers for residential use. Students from INSIDE, the master course in Urban Interior at the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague, developed proposals to enliven Delftseplein on the basis of how it is experienced at eye level.

Behind it all, there is the economic reality of the city. This consists of, on the one hand, major interests concerned with maximizing turnover from property and, on the other, the reality of declining demand,

an economic crisis, and the new requirements for the working landscape of the 21st century. In order to illuminate precisely this aspect of city making, students from the master course in City Development at the Erasmus University spent two years elaborating an alternative business case for the Schiekadeblok. This is no longer based on development in one or three phases, but on a gradual development in a minimum of ten phases. Further, students of Fresh conducted a short workshop to come up with alternatives that offer a new perspective on the development of the Rotterdam Central District.

École Supérieure d'Architecture Versailles, Paris

Tutors: Djamel Klouche, Joachim DeClerck, David van Severen

Students: Alexandra Claraz, Guillaume Buton, Gregoire Deberdt, Caroline Geffriaud, Martin Jaubert, Jean Sébastien Lebreton, Flavien Menu, Charles Mariambourg, Antoine Maitre

Locations: Marconi Towers, Rotterdam Central District, Rivium

Subject: alternative models for vacant areas and buildings

Master City Developer, Erasmus University, Rotterdam

Tutors: Dr. Peter Pol, Ir. Erwin Heurkens, bc. Nabila Bouabbouz

Students: ings. Barry Hol, ir. Jeroen Koops, Ciska Toering-de Jong, Drs. ing. Osman Kombe MRE, Gert-Pter Vos, bc. Hans Teunissen

Location: Schiekadeblok

Fresh Students

Committee: Maryse Nagtegaal, Sanne Borst, Bram Djajaniningrat, Gijs Kant, Jantiene de Ruijter, Thibaud Swagemakers, Valentin de Graaf

Participants: Rik van Kijk, Marco van der Spank, Yannick Beterams, Yannick Ausma, Christiaan Kusters, Meng Li, Oisin Devlin, Tim Schelle, Sascha Jansz, Tony Bethlehem, Daan Huiskes, Ivana Radakovic, Alma van Ruler, Aat van Wijngaarden, Sjuul Baltussen, David Struik, Roland Reen, Ruben Peeters, Wouter Dijkman, Stefan van Uffelen, Tim Hendriks, Thijs Koolmees, Jelle Hogertoorn, Olle Overbosch, Jeffrey Boerebach, Michiel Degen, Marianne Davidson, Judith Wintraecken, Arnold Bosch, Jeddo Heida

Location: Rotterdam Central District

Subject: alternative business case and development strategy for the RCD

INSIDE, master Urban Interior,

Royal Academy of Art The Hague

Tutors: Elma van Boxel, Kristian Koreman

Students: Misun Kim, Dasha Martynova, Michaela Au, Kyong Kim

Location: Delftsestraat

Subject: proposals for making an attractive street

The University of Michigan

The A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Tutor: David Eugin Moon

Students: Jason Marcel Andre, Amy Atzman, Allison Burrell, Jacqueline Colaiani, Owen Maher, Rachel Mulder, Chong Ying Pai, Sheena Shah, Wotong Shen, John Walter, Gordon Warwick, Sabrina Yeung

Location: Rotterdam Central District

Subject: proposals for occupying vacant space

Rotterdam Collaborator: Klaas Kresse

The project receives support from the International Institute's Experiential Learning fund and the Taubman College.

N H D M

Office: N H D M / Nahyun Hwang + David Eugin Moon

Location: Marconi Towers

Subject: conversion of the Marconi Towers into residential buildings

With special thanks to: Komplot Reproservicebedrijf Rotterdam

curators Test Site Rotterdam

Elma van Boxel, Kristian Koreman (co-curators 5th IABR: *Making City* and founders of ZUS)

parties involved

Stakeholders in the area (Rotterdam Central District Association, the City Department of Urban Development, Hofbogen Project Office), cultural institutions (Motel Mozaïque, Rotterdam Climate Initiative, Rotterdam Festivals), educational institutions (Delft University of Technology, Rotterdam University, Willem de Kooning Academy, University of Michigan), and design offices (N H D M).

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