

Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally

1. Paper / Proposal Title:

Retrofit for continuity! Heritage, user preferences and gentrification-

about refurbishment and sustainability of three to five storey apartment blocks of the interbellum and the post war period in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Haag and Utrecht.

2. Format:

- Written paper
- Conference presentation

3. Author(s) Name:

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4. University or Company Affiliation:

- Delft University of Technology
- Faculty: Architecture and Built Environment
Department: Architectural Engineering and Technology
Section: Heritage & Architecture
&
Department: Management in the Built Environment
Section: Housing Management

5. Abstract (300 words):

Retrofit for continuity! Heritage, user preferences and gentrification-

about refurbishment and sustainability of three to five storey apartment blocks of the interbellum and the post war period in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Haag and Utrecht.

Increasing the energy efficiency of the housing stock is one of the largest challenges in the built environment. However, in current practice and research, the emphasis is on creating design solutions for energy efficient housing through (deep) renovation approaches for row-housing. Moreover, current design solutions are mainly supply-driven, being developed by contractors for professional clients and have a focus on technological aspects. Aesthetic, cultural heritage aspects and user preferences are not explicitly addressed in the design process and choice of design alternatives. Particularly in the larger cities, there is a major challenge to create attractive and feasible design solutions for other parts of the housing stock e.g. three to five storey apartment blocks of the interbellum and post war period, often dwellings with specific cultural heritage qualities. The current housing stock in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Haag, Utrecht is estimated on 480.000 apartments.

Research through design is proposed to develop attractive and feasible design models for this more complicated part of the housing stock. In response to gaps in current practice, energy efficient renovation is not viewed as a mainly technological challenge, but as an architectural as well as a social challenge.

The article Retrofit for continuity describes four examples of the retrofit of multi storey apartment blocks, the result and the impact on the neighborhood.

- Robijnhof Utrecht,
- 't Schip Amsterdam,
- Justus van Effencomplex Rotterdam,
- Valtheblock Den Haag.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Leo Oorschot is an architect, urbanist and researcher from The Hague, The Netherlands. He studied architecture and urbanism at Delft University of Technology, Architecture and Built Environment. His Ph.D. *Conflicts about the City Images of The Hague - from Willemspark to Spuiforum 1860-2010* (www.amazon.com) deals about the growth and transformations of the modern city The Hague, and the conflicts between stakeholders about the image of the city. Currently he works at atelier PRO architecten and Delft University of Technology, Architecture and Built Environment, Heritage and Architecture.