THE FORMATION OF A RAND’S’TAD’ METROPOLIS:
transit infrastructures, railway locations and architecture

Keywords: TOD (Transit Oriented Development), Contemporary Urban Landscape, Urban Morphology, Mapping, Railway Station Area.

Architecture Department/ Complex Projects

Area of Research: Architecture

Research Summary: Post Second World War urban territory in Western Europe has changed drastically; cities have spread over much bigger territories. This expansion is caused by increased accessibility to mobility and has had major spatial implications. By studying the development in urban territory and typology of its parts between 1940 and 2010 it comes to the fore that cities nowadays consist of different parts than before and that those parts function differently. This has had an impact on cities, buildings and architecture and needs to be studied.

For the case of the ‘Randstad’ a particular formation of a Metropolis has taken place. This formation is not merely centred on a core but spread out over the territory and it is strongly related to its transit infrastructures. Currently the railway infrastructure in the area is taking the role of a metropolitan line and under the heading of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) the concentration of spatial developments around nodes of public transport is pursued.

The main questions of the research are: What is the character of the architectural assignments? What are the role and the potential of these railway locations in the territory? What is the architectural status quo on the sites? How does this relate to the practice and the design strategies architecture has to offer?

Research Methodology: The research departs from the spatial point of view by mapping out the territory spatially with information about the characteristics of the buildings and spaces and supplementing this line of research with statistical data on the fields of population, facilities, employment and mobility in the territory. Thus the functional, spatial and physical relationships are studied. The developments on the sites are analysed in depth and placed in its context, the architectural questions and problematic are defined. The current developments in theory, the practice and its outcomes are studied and compared to the possible architectural strategies on this type of locations.


Deliverables: Insight in the character and the critical aspects of the assignment of ‘TOD’ in the northern Randstad.

Link(s): www.tudelft-architecture.nl/chairs/complex-projects/staff

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