The (Temporary) Transformation of Vacant Buildings from a User-Perspective

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Research Summary: The need for quality housing in the Netherlands is high, especially for starters, including students and permit holders, on the (rental) housing market. At the same time, there is an excess of vacant buildings, mostly offices but also schools, churches, etc.

There seems to be a knowledge gap on what people need from a home, where asking them about their housing wants and needs is not sufficient. Additionally there is the difference in experience and meaning for house owners and renters. Lastly, there is currently no method available for the contractors and initiators to find and use this information when making plans to transform vacant buildings into homes.

This research focusses on 1) how to incorporate the meanings of home with the traditional programme of requirements into a method to find out what future users need, and 2) how to apply this to vacant buildings with changing user groups without overlooking the characteristics of the buildings and the stakeholders involved.

Research Methodology: Case-study analyses on both existing projects as well as on to be developed plans should result in recommendations on how to include varying user needs in the transformation design trajectory. When necessary, surveys are set out to inquire on user needs from both the user-end and the builder or developer. Existing literature will be consulted throughout the process.

Key Publications: -