Structuring the coexistence of living and working for a liveable city: Case Amsterdam

Keywords: coexistence, urban morphology, urban block, micro businesses, pattern

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Area of Research: Urbanism

Research Summary: The mixed-use city is one of the leading urban planning and design paradigms at present. Therefore, the aim of this research is to develop design patterns that facilitate the coexistence of living and working. The study focuses on micro-businesses (MBs) as they represent more than 2/3 of all businesses in Amsterdam and are more likely to be integrated with residential use. The research combines therefore analyses of the morphological as well as the socio-economic structure of the city. Moreover the influence of planning instruments on these conditions is investigated. Urban form is more long lasting than the urban program it is hosting, be it changing business types or changing spatial requirements of businesses. It is thus important to understand, which conditions of urban form can facilitate a diversity of program, therefore are more likely to adapt to changing program. The developed patterns are a tool to allow users of the city to negotiate space to achieve a liveable coexistence of living and working.

Research Methodology: Quantification of the relation between urban morphological properties and the location of individual MBs. Diachronic study of the planned and actual location of MBs in Amsterdam. Definition of conditions for different types of MBs through a triangulation of GIS mapping, spatial statistics and policy analyses. Development of design patterns for the integration of MBs into residential or mixed-use areas.

Key Publications:

Main Question: Which patterns of coexistence of living and working enable a liveable city?

Deliverables: Design pattern of living and working; A framework to describe the relation of the urban structure and the program of the city

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