

Re-Arch

Workshop GRA Architectural Design

11-14 april 2011, year 1 and 2

Dorine van Hoogstraten, Oene Dijk, Henri Snel

Reuse of existing buildings is one of the most important architectural tasks of the near future. Not just protected monuments have to be redesigned when the original function has left the building, but also post war apartment blocks, offices and industrial buildings.

In this workshop we will study a complex of five 17th-century based houses at Herengracht which in the 20th century have transformed into a complex office building behind an older facade.

There are some interesting conditions to be dealt with:

- The Grachtengordel (Ring of Canals) of Amsterdam is a listed UNESCO monument since 2010.
- Each building (exterior and interior) is protected as National Monument.

The facades are world famous, but what is behind the facades and what is the potential of these buildings?

Should monuments be 'frozen' in the current state, inside and outside, or is re-arch possible behind the old façade? How important are the facades?

Subject

Herengracht 448-456, currently used by the Deutsche Bank. They will leave the buildings by January 2012

Fit in this program:

- 6.800 m2 office space
- office space is used independently by a minimum of 8 different small companies
- 540 m2 restaurant/private dining/lounge and kitchen
- semi-public use of the outdoor space at the back

Product

Model of a design for re-arch of these buildings. Scale 1:50

Lectures

- Jaap Evert Abrahamse: the historical background of the 17th century urban structure of Amsterdam
- Dorine van Hoogstraten: the practice of monumental care in the Netherlands; theory on dealing with historical buildings and structures
- Dick de Gunst (Hans van Heeswijk architecten). How to deal with a monument; the Hermitage as an example

Reader with historical material and plans will be available as a PDF file