

ABSTRACT AND PROGRAM

a house in a neighbourhood

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This project is a house for 12- 14 dwellers in a diverse neighbourhood at Grønland, on the east side of Oslo. A house in a neighbourhood is a home that is developed for the collective. The idea is that "the whole house is mine". The project intends to investigate on how we live together and how two books can generate architecture.

Typological question:

Beyond the family house and the hotel types, what are the new typology which can emerge through the collectivisation of household aspects and the programmatic enrichment of domesticity? How the shared spaces can be reconsidered and reconceptualised as the medium between the units, in order to create multiple centralities and layers of collective activities, rather than a single and detached space?

Method

Moved and inspired by the books, I have made translations or connections with the text to generate structure and spatial motivation and theme. Further I have developed a house for the collective where these are implied.

Life a Users Manual, by Georges Perec

Perec invented a Parisian apartment block, 11 Rue Simon-Crubellier, to describe lives that might have been lived in every one of its hundred rooms. The interiors give a glimpse of the ethos of those who live there, their habits, their rituals, their role in transforming these given spaces into their own space. The objects contain stories, memories, feelings and dreams. The building itself appears almost as mutable as those characters that dwell in it, and it is barely solid enough to contain them as their stories range across time and space. Indeed, what begins as firmly entrenched between the walls and a particular apartment and room soon becomes a story which transgresses these boundaries.

The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge, by Rainer Maria Rilke

A young man sits alone in his cheap room in Paris, listening to the sounds of the street outside, and is scared - scared of life, and his own dreams. The notes consist of the lonely life in Paris, childhood memories on Danish manors and introspective reflections on life, love and death. Malte struggles to achieve or recover a sense of organic coherence, in narrative and in personal identity, against the hostile incursions of the modern city, which have overwhelmed him.

Cohabitation and collective

Collective forms of housing, housing associations, rarely come up as a realistic alternative in discussions about housing quality and housing development in Norway. It is surprising, all the while the societal backdrop- sky-high housing prices, declining quality, more and more small households, an ever-increasing proportion of older people in the population and widespread loneliness and insecurity, both among older and younger - make it attractive to rethink how we live.

Common fields of habitation, interaction and responsibility, concerning a new type of domestic space based on common needs. Cohabitation give the potential for a typological transformation of domestic space. Cohabitation, cooperative and collective living are perceived as the major poles which can reflect modes of habitation and domesticity outside of the family model and beyond the distinction of generations, and their intersection can be found in the matter of activities regarding household. Cohabitation is seen as a mode of socialisation and interaction, especially between people who experience loneliness or have newly been established themselves in the metropolis. Therefore cohabitation can be seen both as economic and social response to the metropolitan condition: first as an aggregation of single households accommodated in a shared space and second as a possibility of socialisation.

In collective living, the inhabitants have as intention- or as prerequisite- the existence of a collective, a coherent grouping that constitutes a higher synthesis than the individual persons, rather than an aggregation of people living together. Trust is one of the prerequisites. The persons who constitute the collective, do not only share spaces, but most importantly activities and daily routines. Sharing a space does not create, neither indicate nor presuppose any strong connections between the inhabitants per se. Therefore, the existence of a collective as the distinctive factor between cohabitation and collective living appertains not to the sharing of spaces but to the collective activities which regard primary aspects of the domestic life. The notion of commons in habitation emerges exactly in that point when the inhabitants share activities and routines. The aggregation of private domestic lives existing in the cases of cohabitation give in the collective living their place to a constant interaction between numerous private lives and - potentially- one collective domestic life.

Across age and culture

The potential differences in age, culture, gender are able to create both fields of interaction and conflict and the harmonic symbiosis will always be under consideration and in a constant oscillation. Since these differences are apparent in the social structure of the domestic subject, the question of their translation to specific roles and hierarchies inside the domestic space is crucial. It can be a instrument of conflict, but under specific circumstances, this multigenerational living can be a deliberate factor of emancipation. The domestic space which can synthesise these characteristics, assumes a character of collective edification and leads on to the creation of new subjectivities.

Location

The house is located in Oslo, in a neighbourhood at Grønland where the diversity is unique. The neighbourhood has a strong multicultural character and exist of people in all ages, with high income and education who live side by side with groups with challenges in living conditions. There is a large selection of shops and restaurants, a diversity of sounds and smells and great variety in social groups. The plot is situated in the end of a T junction where Tøyenbekken street meets Norbygata street.

Placement

Because of good sunconditions on the site most of the day, the house is withdrawn from the street to give a public square to the neighbourhood. The neighbourhood park facilitate meetings between the neighbourhood and the house. This give the opportunity to do something with others, or observe what others are doing. This is a place for the collective memory and contact with people.

-bench (placed to catch an early spring sun and late autumn sun, summer shade)

-drinking fountain

-two trees

size: 220 sqm

The House

Staircase, lift and toilets,bathrooms is inserted in a tower, two separate volume outside of the house. The bath-tower is placed in the south, to get sunlight in the bathroom. The circulation tower is placed in the north, the neutral space. On the groundfloor is the entrance, with mail boxes, room to set the shoes and hang the jackets. Facing the park is the workshop. There is visual contact to the park, and the inhabitants can invite the neighbourhood in on their own terms. Everyone that come and goes must enter and leave through the main entrance. Cooking, eating, playing, working are ment to be collective activites taking place in common

space. The fact that the common room is the physically and conceptually the core of the building constitutes an important typological transformation beyond the hotel typology and the historical forms of collective living. The proximity of private and collective spaces and the usage of the shared space as a connective space, adopts characteristics which are related to the family houses and opens the way for a new genealogy of collective living.

Activities in the home

cooking, meals and stay

sleep and rest

personal washing and hygiene

necessary practical work such as washing and repairing

belongings

storage of clothing and other utensils

concentration work

play and socializing

Size

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| basement | 190 sqm |
| ground floor | 190 sqm |
| 1 floor | 160 sqm |
| 2 floor | 105 sqm |
| 3 floor | 50 sqm |
| bath tower | 60 sqm |
| circulation tower | 100 sqm |
| total | 855 sqm |

Materiality

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| basement | concrete |
| ground floor | brick |
| 1 floor | timer frame construction |
| 2 floor | timer frame construction |
| 3 floor | timer frame construction |
| bath tower | brick |
| circulation tower | brick. |