



I chose the project Stad in de maak, in English; City in the making.

This is because I live within this project and think it's a great example for a project that's a initiative about making a neighbourhood even more valuable than it is. The project is started from two questions:

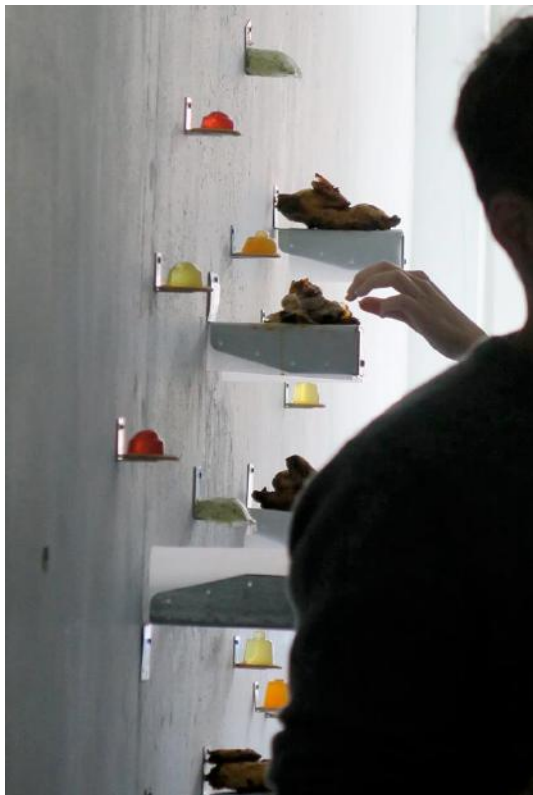
- ***How is it possible to re-use old buildings that are 'stuck' in vacancy by giving them a more social function.***
- ***And how do you make sure that you give the residents in the neighborhood more to say about what happens and what not. Also by given their opinion about what is necessary.***

Stad in de maak is a project started by Eric Jutten, Piet Vollaard and Ana Džokić + Marc Neelen. Together wit Daan den Houter they coordinate the growing network of Stad in de maak. The project started off with two buildings in the Pieter de Raadstraat, in the north of Rotterdam. This was meant to be as a test case for Havensteder, the property owner. The building was not quite in good condition and it was the work for Stad in de maak to do something about it and also mix this activities with the neighbors.

On the ground floor of the Pieter de Raadtstraat there are now multiple artists working on their projects. For example The brewery started by Niels Buwalda en Chris Onsman. Two former students of the WDKA who wanted to start a brewery, and they are becoming super good in it! Another example is Guido Marsille who started a project about living necessities, he started with nothing in an apartment with a goal to find out what you actually need when you are living in a house. In the meantime the apartment is become a real house. Also Guido thought of sharing his washing machines so that the neighbour can to their laundry there. But to wash of course you need soap, Guido started a corporation with Alexander to make soap out of only natural ingredients. A few students that live upstairs pay a low rent to bring money in the running (this is the same in the building where I live). They started a cinema in the basement. Almost every Monday they play a movie, most of the time those are documentaries. And there is a large working space also available ones you have contact.



The building where I live now at the Bloklandstraat is also seen as a social experiment, it is also a building in the north of Rotterdam. The ground floor is meant to be a atelier/ open work space but because of we are all students and have loads of stuff to make art with it became a quiet, not so intensive used space. At first there was a class from WDKA cultural diversity active there for half a year afterwards it started to become less used. Maria a girl from Spain came to live there so the room was used as a house. From the start of February she will be back in Spain and there is an artist in décor building coming to use the room to build her fantasy. That's all I know for now but I would love to step in and help her with the work she does. It's a project that has to do with plants. Since I build myself a jungle room I'm very interested.



There is, as well in the north, a building at the Banierstraat. This location isn't a place to live but brings home three artists that have their atelier on the three top floors. Daan den Houter, Floris Visser and Marcel Brink are active here. They build De Schout which is probably the smallest garden community ever. It consist one box and a fence around the small garden. This box is for rent for people that don't have the space themselves to realize the projects they want. At this location there is also the headquarter of the Bcademie, an initiative from amongst others Daan den Houter. This initiative is for students that just graduated or artists who don't know how to continue live as an artist. A place were stories about these situations are shared. I have been to three dinner parties there but one of the most memorable was the 'vertical dinner'. The question behind this was, why do we eat horizontally all the time?

I also wanted to talk about this project because of the economic value they reach. The way buildings are used like they weren't before in this sense that the ground floors of every building they own, for a fixed period, are used as common space for the residences and the neighbourhood. It is meant to be a working space in a community-organized form. The rest of the building is used for living spaces for a doable renting price for example for students like me. The thing about keeping the ground floor open is to start interaction with ultimately everybody who is interested. The only concern for the future is how to keep this project running. The buildings are for the use of Stad in de maak during a period around 3 till 10 years. But as long as the project is running there will be a flow of buildings constantly.



The way Stad in de maak is building their projects is to see everybody as a possible force for and with the organisation, at least that's what I notice the most. When I see a conversation between a stad in de maker and a new possible colleague I see the way people get enthusiastic. Everybody is super welcome with a mind that everybody has their abilities to help. A lot of artists are invited to do a short-term project with us but also artist for long term are connected. The way we keep the neighbourhood informed is by producing a newspaper, the whole hood gets one and are directly invited to all the lectures, party's and come together moments.

Used sources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vh9zsqj37Ec>
<http://www.stadindemaak.nl/over-sidm/>

And my own knowledge