

inter[VENSTER]

abstract for the

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Paper subject: The extension in modern 'style' of a cinemaroom 't VENSTER ('the window') in 1947 by young architect J.B. Bakema on the 'art-nouveau' building Ons Huis, which was build in 1909 for cultural development for kids. The perfect integration didn't cause any physical or emotional conflict. In contrary, the building still exist and got more timebased interventions. Up till now it have a great influence on the urban and cultural development of the city Rotterdam.

Abstract in 500 words:

Inter[venster]

Re-re-use early modern intervention: winning awareness for rehabilitation.

Rotterdam grew mainly because of its increasing harbor around 1900. Serving the basic needs for the inhabitants, it became the most industrial and modern city in the Netherlands. 1940 the city centre located more than 20 cinemas, which basically had the function to amuse people, instead of having a cultural purpose.

In only one day in May 1940, German bombs destroyed 28.000 houses, 24 churches, 13 hospitals, 60 schools, 12 cinema's and 2 theatres. During the 5 years of the German occupation the Rotterdam cultural protagonists invest money and ideas to resolve the lack of a cultural centre in the city. Soon after the ending of the war a multidisciplinary arthouse was realized with a cinema, a theatre, an art-gallery and a public bar. It was the place where artist, artlovers, intellectuals and politicians could meet.

For many reasons this postwar cultural centre became the building *Ons Huis* (*Our House*), a cultural building in classical style that was financed by a rich harbor company owner. It was built in the beginning of the 20th century to educate children of harbor workers in craftsmanship, art and culture. Ons Huis became since the 30's already an alternative place for theatre and cultural film screenings.

With the extension of cinema 't *Venster*, *Ons Huis* became a multidisciplinary arthouse that played an important role in postwar exhibitions, debates and presentations on a higher cultural lever. Mainly through a playful and modern design by young architect *Bakema* in 1947, the 15 year older architect *VandenBroek* asked him to become his partner in his office, the follow-up of the world famous office *Brinkman&vdVlugt*. Working as a complementary team they designed postwar architectural and urban icons in the new centre of the abandoned city.

Now in 2014, 65 years after the architectural intervention, we can conclude that the modern intervention on the building was not only a first trail of a young and insolent architect. With breaking away parts of a classical building to win the aesthetics for its own contemporary design, he added the new program and complements also the aesthetics of the existing building. His contrast was a legal action and in his re-use policy the intervention became an invitation for the new progressive users.

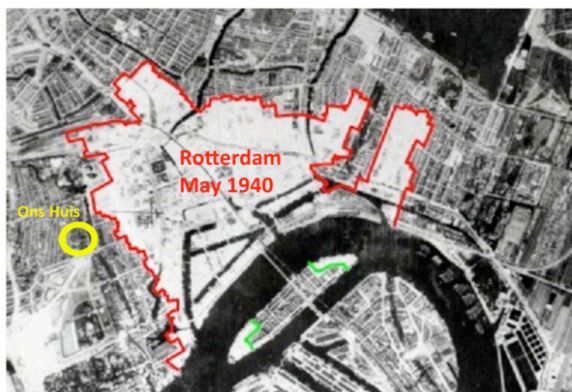
With the cinema extension and new multidisciplinary function of the building it played an important role in physical and social city development. In the 70s *Lantaren Venster* give birth to the first edition of *Film International*, which soon after became the *International Film Festival Rotterdam*, the biggest international and cultural event in the Netherlands.

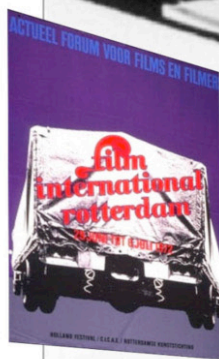
Although the arthouse function with its historical name *Lantaren Venster* is moved to a new contemporary building, the existing building *Ons Huis* with *Bakema's* and later extensions still is an alternative and multidisciplinary platform for artist in the city centre. A smaller part of *Bakema's* interventions is physically still present and some are still in use.

For the rehabilitation of his design and making visible the contrast of his and later interventions the building needs a good research to make visitors aware of the value of the layered heritage. At least the documentation of the first modern intervention can be used for education about early modern interventions and winning public awareness to sustain the exchange of opinion.

Short CV Lucas van Zuijlen:

finished his study as re-use heritage engineer-architect in Delft in 2000. worked in several architectural offices on urban, architectural and social heritage. besides his recent occupation as a teacher he started his own office on social and sustainable urban planning and 20th century architectural and material research with mission in restoring 20th century buildings.





Broek&Bakema



Broek&Bakema + Zadkine (groepR)



Bals (IFFR)



1947 - 1978 in Lantaren Venster



recent urban development: De Kop van Zuid

A. Siza (2010): residential tower and cinema

Broek&Bakema building + recent extension



INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM

LANTAREN VENSTER

