

Sensation of everyday life

Coming from the busy centre of Amsterdam biking through the Cruquius (an industrial area planned to be transformed into 'living, working and culture') I see only dull sheds lining the street. All of a sudden a view of silos are revealed. Intrigued by the appearance I go further and discover a sensation of space: light, water, the cloudy sky and endless sights! Here the [nothingness] makes me experience a feeling of relief. I'm taking a break from all the impulses of a Big City. For a moment my head is empty and I [fall into myself]. Having all senses alert again I aim to the silos. Remains that makes me wonder what used to happen in the past. I see traces of piers, a railroad track and sense a [forgotten network].

I discover a doorway and opening the heavy door I understand why children wants to play at forbidden places! Inside a new sensation is waiting: beautiful rays of light coming from a small opening in the top of the silo. Getting outside the exploring goes on. The silo is to be entered in more ways; I climb up the fragile stairs and walk on top of the silos from one to the other. Here I get a view of the typical new build Amsterdam housing at the opposite waterfront. I'm getting in touch with the everyday life again but the [magic] stays.

I do hope that the future developer of the Cruquius will value this place. A Quiet Place that, without even wanting to, contains the 'sensation of everyday life'.

Post script

A Glossary as Glue

I think that a Glossary based on the output of our workshops (see [words] above) could be a useful instrument in urban plan processes. The register of such glossary can give inspiration for a new way of thinking for both strategic plans and for accurate design for the urban space. Going through the Glossary, questions will be asked about the aimed quality of an urban plan – qualities that will be both material and immaterial. The questions can lead to a common set of recommendations for the plan and the process. That would be regardless of cultural background or discipline and regardless the type of scale of the project. Especially for international projects a Glossary could be an helpful instrument to gain an understanding of different values.

I expect that a discussion about values of urban life will unfold easily inspired by a Glossary, similar to the one we started in our workshops. The priorities to be made will follow as a logic consequence of the awareness of both material and immaterial qualities. The future urban plans and designs can be made based on a new perspective. The future questions for the urban space could be what one wants to gain in atmosphere, energy, flow, connection, 'anchoring' and manner of incompleteness.

The glossary can be a remedy to bring different cultures, disciplines and scales within the urban planning together: A Glossary as Glue.