

Els Bet



Els Bet Stedebouwkundige Den Haag, Teacher Urban Design at AvBR Rotterdam and Technical University Delft

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Heide Hinterthür: Architect and Color Expert, owner Topaz Architecten Amsterdam, Teacher Urban Design at AvBR Rotterdam.

Together they investigate the spatial and material aspects of urban space. They are developing designing methods to be used in the maintenance and upkeep of streets and neighbourhoods.

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The colours in the garden village of De Geitenkamp, the Netherlands: proposal for a phased renewal of the built environment and outdoor space

In garden villages, the greater whole is made up of repetitions of smaller elements. It is precisely this repetition of small elements that characterises the overall appearance in terms of space and colour. But years of maintenance have gradually disrupted these elements. The rhythm and coherence in the street walls have been lost.

There is little prospect of large-scale structural renewal at this point in time. In the future, renewal must come from regular maintenance.

Repainting operations are immensely important in this respect. Painting can help to create a new sense of equilibrium in the colours of a street. But given the resistance that needs to be overcome in each phase of maintenance, and the numerous owners involved, there is little guarantee of any historical colour research, or of anyone devising a systematic plan of the colours to be used.

In our lecture, we show that we nonetheless succeeded in doing so, we show the historical colours that we discovered, and how we translated them into the current situation.

This account is part of our project 'Garden village in detail', a study that takes the garden village of Geitenkamp as an example.

For 18 months, we collaborated with the municipal authorities, housing associations, and residents of Geitenkamp to raise the overall standard of maintenance, in respects of the outdoor spaces as well as the buildings. The practical experience gained here, together with archival research, historical colour research on the buildings, and design research, resulted in a maintenance workbook and a selection of colour schemes for garden villages.