

The first issue of the journal *O* was published in the spring of 1981. During this period, both the educational and the professional sectors were critical of the outcome of the urban renewal efforts in Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

Education at the Faculty of Architecture in Delft drew on morphological analyses to develop alternative design strategies for housing in old neighbourhoods. At the same time, it explored housing typologies. The education provided by Max Risselada, in particular, was dedicated to analysing plans and developing a theoretical apparatus and set of design instruments. Plan analysis looked at topics such as the access systems and concepts of space in apartment buildings by the Russian constructivists and villas by Le Corbusier and Adolf Loos. Meanwhile, the department of architecture history run by Kees Vollemans studied the concepts of type and model in the development of private homes in Amsterdam designed by the seventeenth-century architects Philip Vingboons and Hendrick de Keyser. Parallel to all of these studies, design studios were examining the typological and morphological structure of the urban fabric by analogy with Saverio Muratori's studies of Venice.

Whereas the practice of urban renewal introduced suburban dwelling types such as the walk-up flat as fremdkörper, or foreign objects, into nineteenth-century neighbourhoods, the analyses conducted at the Faculty of Architecture offered starting points for new creativity. In combination with the typical hierarchy of the street pattern, the typological and architectural features of the nineteenth-century residential home were translated into new dwelling types that became part of the urban fabric. This method was brought to the practice of urban renewal by the graduates who took up posts as designers at the urban development departments in Rotterdam and The Hague. So it happened that the transformation of the city on the basis of its typological and morphological features was applied to nineteenth-century residential

neighbourhoods in Rotterdam which were regenerated through demolition and new developments.

The above interaction between plan analysis, morphological and typological research and design, both in education and urban renewal, prompted the theme of the first issue: 'plan analysis and typology'. In his article 'plan analysis and design legitimation', Miel Karthaus outlines the various approaches to and relationship with the design. He argues that plan analysis does not automatically produce a design, but can only serve as a tool for the architect-designer. Alongside this article, we included a translation of a Philippe Panerai article on typologies. The latter initiated a series of articles on the same subject in subsequent issues of *O*.

Roy Bijhouwer  
Member of the editorial board  
from *OASE* 1 to 7

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