

How Heritage Learns

Dutch Public Housing Heritage Evolution in Ecosystemic Perspective

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Propositions

These propositions are regarded as opposable and defensible, and have been approved as such by the promoters Prof.dr. M.C. Kuipers and Dr.ir. H. Zijlstra.

1. A think-first approach (Reflective Observation) is essential for the long-term success of Dutch public housing renovations. (This proposition pertains to this dissertation.)
2. The Cultural Imperative in public housing heritage in the Netherlands is structurally disadvantaged. (This proposition pertains to this dissertation.)
3. Scarcity is a crucial driver in both the genesis and the evolution of the public housing heritage. (This proposition pertains to this dissertation.)
4. What is critical for the survival of public housing heritage is not *how* it learns, but *that* it learns. (This proposition pertains to this dissertation.)
5. The canonised historiography of Dutch twentieth century architecture needs to be reappraised through a close and unbiased study of a broad type of primary sources, because it is hitherto heavily coloured by the assumed “triumph of modernity”.
6. The education of the architect needs to include matters of heritage ethics and that of architectural historians, matters of technology.
7. Demolition is a crime. (*cf.* Adolf Loos, 1910, *Ornament und Verbrechen*).
8. The notions of ‘old’ and ‘new’ in the built environment is a false binary and a danger for conservation.
9. “In practice all prediction is simply extrapolation, modified by known ‘plans’... As a matter of fact there are no rules; it is just a matter of feel or judgement...” (Fritz Schumacher, 1973, *Small is beautiful : a study of economics as if people mattered.*)
10. The migrant never reaches their home.