Twentieth-century Dutch Housing Design

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or

What are the characteristics of Dutch Housing design?
What are the characteristics of Dutch Housing design?

Not possible to answer in general; depends on period and location

Period: overview from 1900 – till this day

Location: Simplified dual perspective: rural housing versus urban housing
Period: 1900 – till this day

Location: Simplified dual perspective: rural housing versus urban housing

FOCUS in this lecture:
what factors define the architecture of housing?
Some pictures of rural housing ...

Rural housing in the North of the Nederlands is and was defined for instance by

- the daily life and work of farmers (animal breeding and/or farming)

- the daily life of fishing (industry)
Oldambster farmhouse: barn directly related to dwelling place
head-neck-body farmhouse (name inspired by a lying cow: barn via neck related to dwelling place)
Wierum: village in Friesland: where traditional fishermen lived
Wierum: village behind the dike
what factors define the architecture of rural housing?

- private persons who built their houses
- traditional craft shapes housing design
Back to the ‘right’ FOCUS in this lecture:

what factors define the architecture of URBAN housing?
From the beginnings up to 1920s:

- private persons who built their houses

BUT

- traditional craft had changed into standardized, mechanized and finally industrialized way of fabrication
Amsterdam ca. 1853 Goudsbloemgracht before drainage, today: Willemstraat
Amsterdam ca. 1889 known as old Jewish neighbourhood nearby Stopera, town hall
Amsterdam ca. 1895 Suikerbakkersgang, Jordan neighbourhood; had been broken doen completely
Amsterdam ca. 1900: apartment where man, woman and their 6 children lived (underneath the table the bucket they had used as a toilet)
Amsterdam ca. 1900: appartment with alcove
To give you an idea of housing design around 1900 .. 'Revolution Housing'
Ground floors
Typen met voor- en achterwoningen met blinde alkoven
Hoog 4 of 5 verdiepingen

Woningen met 1 alkooft

Woningen met 2 alkooftjes

De 7 laatste
van dit type
zijn voltooid
in 1906

MET 1 AL
EN UITGEBOUWD

KEUKEN

WOONKAMER

BEDSTEDEN

TRAPPORTEAL

PRIJST

KEUKEN

WOONKAMER

BEDSTEDEN

ALKOOF

BEDSTEDEN

ALKOOF

BEDSTEDEN

STIJVE TRAPPORTEAL

HAST

ALKOOF

BEDSTEDEN

ALKOOF

BEDSTEDEN

ALKOOF

BEDSTEDEN

ALKOOF

STIJVE

HAST

HAST

HAST

HAST

HAST
Answers:

to overcrowded apartments in inner city districts and to the diseases like cholera, enteric fever and malaria

1. Housing Act 1901
2. Suburbanisation (Garden City ‘movement’)
3. Drainage and urban redevelopment
Housing Act 1901

- set of regulations about:

1. existing apartment blocks:

   number of inhabitants; clearance of bugs, separation of rooms, etc. and important: declaration when an apartment is uninhabitable
Housing Act 1901

- set of regulations about:

2. extension of houses or new or housing schemes:

Position of the house to the street, height of the building, dimension of the rooms, separate toilets, fresh water, precautions against fire and dampness and supply of fresh air and day light.
Housing Act 1901

- to solve the very basic dwelling problems of inhabitants of inner city districts

- on behalf of dimension and size of spaces no design rules

.. the Garden City Movement and the Modern Movement went further...
One example of drainage and urban redevelopment in Amsterdam: Warmoesgracht has changed into Raadhuisstraat
Suburbanisation: English Garden City as an example

Lecture of Daniel de Clerqu in 1905 in The Hague:

“Away with big cities! Open the rural ground! Toward the Garden City!”

Plea to adopt the ideas of Ebenezer Howard
The ideas of Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928)
The synthesis of inner city (town) and country: the town-country
The design rules of Raymond Unwin (1863-1947)
Different adoptions: workmen’s dwellings
Agneta Park, Delft
Different adoptions: communal dwellings: Rotterdam Vreewijk
Photo of Rotterdam Vreewijk
Different adoptions: communal dwellings: Tuindorp Oostzaan (Amsterdam North)
The Modern Movement in the 1920s

- towards another aesthetics in housing design (austerity, whiteness): Kiefhoek Rotterdam

- towards standardization and industrial production
Ground floor of de Kiefhoek
standardization of ground floors
free ground floors: through room (light, air, space)

Ground floor of de Kiefhoek
Modern ideas have shaped the Dutch housing schemes in new urban areas till this day

- ground floor: through room (doorzontype)

Ground floor of MDRDV 1985
Het doorzontype
Het doorzontype

Het tuinkamertype
the dissolution of the housing block

Castex
Early post-war housing: modernistic design rules
Early post-war housing: Amsterdam New West
Early post-war housing: light and air; building apartments for the nuclear family
Amsterdam city plan: red: land under lease-hold; yellow: owned by city; inner city (white) owed by private persons
Through the 1960s:

- short period of fascination for the large scale housing
- emergence of superstructure and high-buildings
Criticism:

- high scale: anonym

- monotonous: no distinctive living environment

Answer: search for new urban forms that meet the human scale
Experiments throughout the 1970s and 1980s:
Example: Boomwoningen in Helmond (architect Piet Blom)
Experiments throughout the 1970s and 1980s:
Example: Buitendijken, Muiderberg (architect Ben Loerakker)
Experiments throughout the 1970s and 1980s:
Example: Parkstad in Leusden (architect Henk Klunder)
Throughout the 1990s:

Planning of new suburbs at the edge of existing cities known as VINEX planning

As regards housing design:

- many rowhouses with gardens

- medium size urban scale

455,000 new housing units over 1995-2005
As regards changes in housing policy from 1990s onwards:

i) more market-orientated production (housing associations became hybrid organizations: half public/half private)

ii) hence: more owner-occupied housing, reduction of social housing stock

iii) attitude of planners themselves

iv) residents’ preferences
Conclusion:

What are the main characteristics of Dutch Housing design of the twentieth century?

1. relative small-scaled housing schemes
2. relative compacted villages AND cities
3. close relationship between dwelling and public street
4. except in a relatively short period: search for small-scaled housing, for the human scale and distinction of one housing unit
Our trip to Rotterdam

- Kubus houses (Piet Blom)

- trip to a newly built gated community called Le Medi
Theme: Arabian ambience
Trip to Rotterdam:

Next Tuesday (17 July)

Departure: 9:00 PM by bus

from Prins Hendrikkade 189