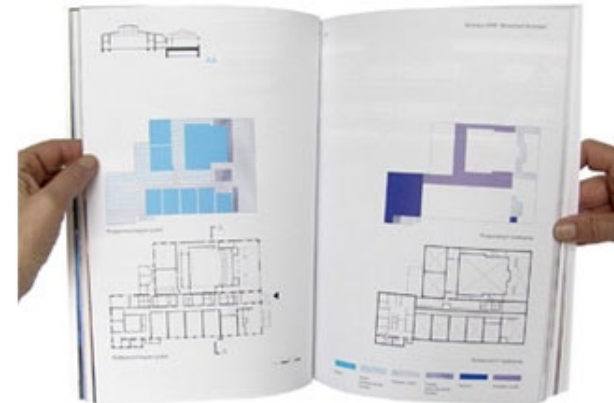


feasibility study IJ Dans • Amsterdam



Developing a dance house in an old factory building on the IJ is a feasible project

For almost 20 years, initiators from the Amsterdam professional dance field have tried to establish a house for the dance sector. A number of different locations and scenarios have been explored, but until now, none have come to fruition. A Dance House should provide the physical infrastructure needed to maintain the leading position of the Amsterdam (and Dutch) contemporary dance scene, and in these

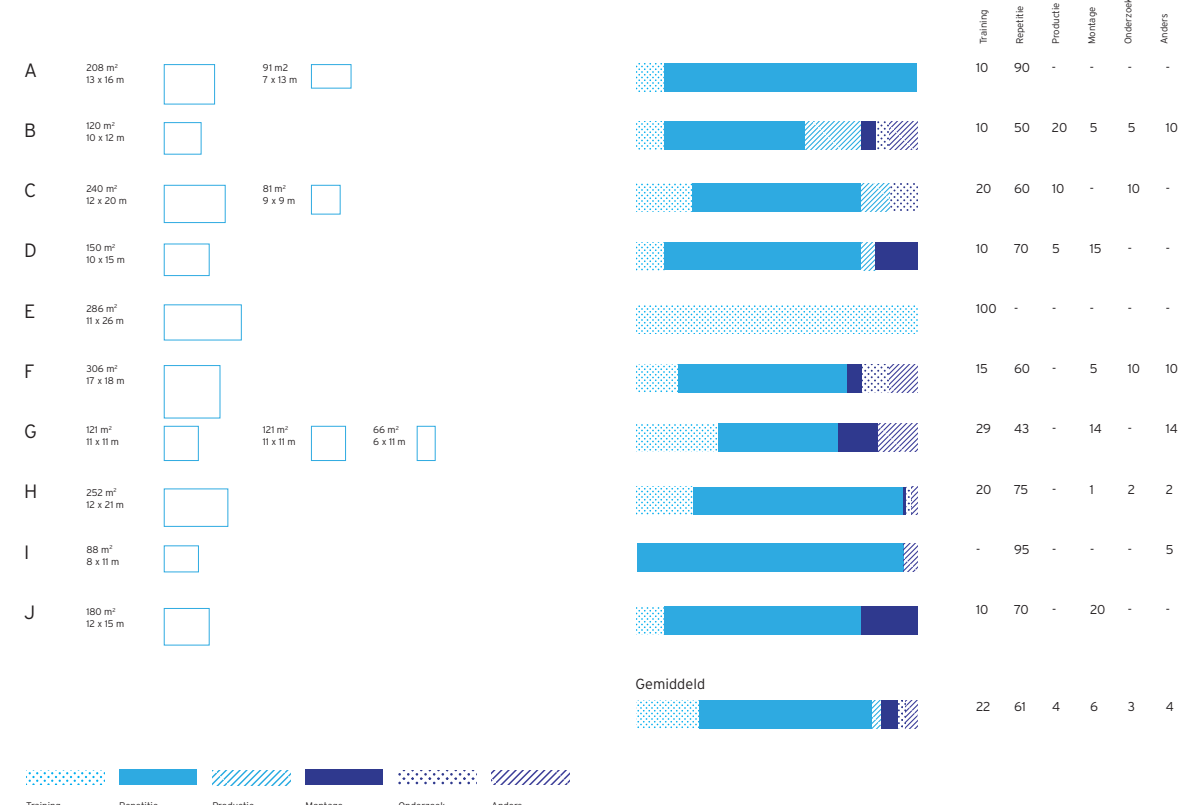
days of funding cuts for the arts, also be affordable. At the end of 2010 the possibility of a new 'state of the art' building in the east of Amsterdam fell through because of economic uncertainties. A new option of establishing a house in the former STORK factory on the bank of the river IJ offers a realistic and exciting alternative.

Recent political and financial developments in the Netherlands have led to drastic cuts in arts funding, and have increased the urgency of creating a more centralized physical space in the Amsterdam dance scene where costs and facilities can be shared.

Against this backdrop, the municipality of Amsterdam commissioned the Dance House Foundation (*Stichting Beheer Danshuis Amsterdam*) to do a feasibility study for a possible dance house in an old and empty factory building on the bank of the central body of water in the city called the IJ. LÖHMANN'S Architecture · Urban + Industrial Design was called upon to carry out the study together with the Foundation.



Analysis • use of the existing studios in Amsterdam



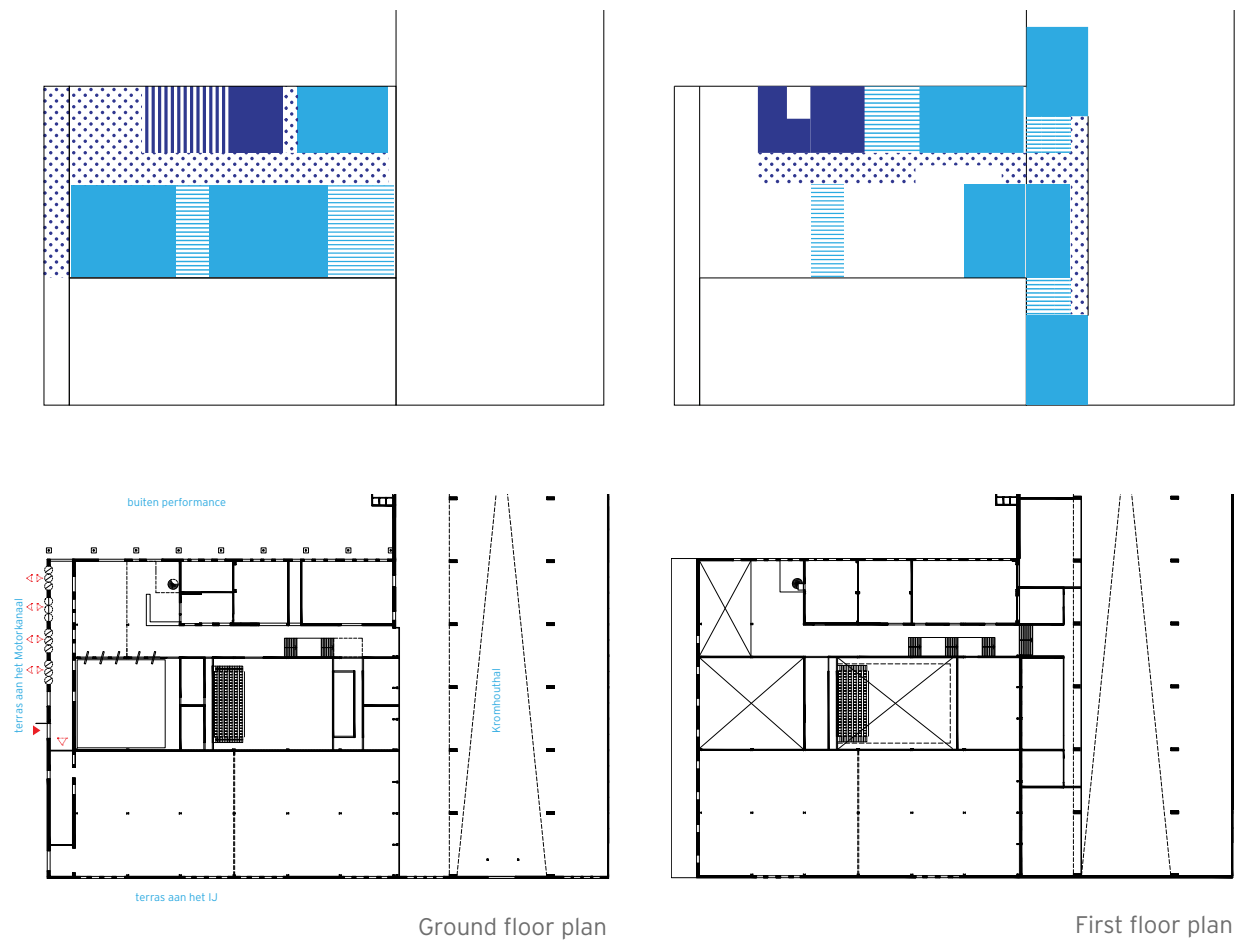


The research is comprised of three parts. The first part gives insight into the actual spatial situation of the different dance institutions in Amsterdam, including companies, production houses, and training centres. The collection of questionnaires handed out to the institutions are translated in diagrams which visualize the range of studio sizes but also the use of these spaces throughout the year, and what type of activities are carried out at what times of the day.

The second part is a comparative analysis of five existing European dance houses. It is the first time that this type of research about dance houses is done. Because the typology of dance houses is a very young phenomenon, there is almost no existing literature and certainly no comprehensive research had been done about the architectural aspect of it.

Interviews with the directors, users, and staff members, together with the analysis of the spaces and functions of these dance houses, as well as their sizes, spatial organisation, dealing with daylight, acoustics and the materialisation of the spaces, provided the knowledge needed in order to build up the functional and spatial requirements for a well-functioning dance house.

The third part of the research organises the spatial functions such as rehearsal, training and montage studio's, changing rooms, offices, and a public foyer into two possible scenarios within the existing space of the factory building. Preserving the special qualities of the building and arranging the needed spaces in a 'spatial choreography' are the conditions that form the architectural basis for these concepts.



Organising the Dance house in the Stork factory · scenario 1 (of 2)



Credits

<i>Client</i>	Dienst Maatschappelijke Ontwikkeling, Afdeling Kunst en Cultuur van de Gemeente Amsterdam Stichting Beheer Danshuis Amsterdam (SBDA)
<i>Size</i>	2.973 m ²
<i>Project architect</i>	Heike Löhmann
<i>Contributors</i>	Egle Suminskaite · Trine Kobbeldt · Sander Janssen · Algimantas Neniskis
<i>Graphic design</i>	Klaartje van Eijk
<i>Text editing</i>	Arjan Reinders