



masterbook

msc interior architecture  
knowledge and experience of space





Irene Cieraad (1952) is a cultural anthropologist trained at the University of Amsterdam, with majors in European ethnology, and popular and material culture. She is an internationally publishing author on the topic of domestic space, ranging from a historic analysis of a typical Dutch relation between women and windows, to cultural analyses of vernacular styles of interior decoration, and of technology and consumption related to the home. As a freelance researcher she contributed to several major exhibitions on housing. In 2001 she was the curator of the on-site exhibition in Amsterdam Nieuw-West portraying its residential history. Her commitment to Delft and the Faculty of Architecture dates back to 1997 when she became guest lecturer and tutor on the women's studies program *Ruimtelijke Rituelen. Het huis als plaats der gewoonte*. Being an appointed researcher at the Department of Interior Architecture and Design she hopes to contribute to the Department's research projects, notably the Amsterdam Nieuw-West project.

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## Peter Lüthi

*statement: within architecture the extraordinary should be the camouflage of the ordinary.*

Peter Lüthi (1941) founded his office Lüthi Niclaes in 1978 in Rotterdam. The office deals with research and design of buildings and environments. Since 1978 he also teaches at the Faculty of Architecture University of Technology Delft.

## Winifred Arends-Smit

Ir. Winifred Arends-Smit graduated in Architecture at the Delft Technical University. After working for several years on housing projects, she became active as a designer in the field of public health care. There she intensified her interest in the quality of the architectural environment of people. She attended different study groups concerning this subject. For several years she was a member of the "Stimuleringsfonds voor de Architectuur". The last ten years she is teaching at the department of Architecture-Interior.

## Heike Löhmann

*statement: I believe the primary educational concern to be the creation of space which allows individual development, within which personal strengths can be recognized and cultivated. It is important to me that my courses help increase the awareness of space and deepen the appreciation of its influence. The provision of the possibility of incorporating interdisciplinary fields in the study process should stimulate the desire to recognize new perspectives and ability to scientifically justify decisions.*

After graduating at the Faculty of Architecture at the Technical University of Darmstadt (Germany) Heike Löhmann worked as a designer at OMA in Rotterdam where, among other projects, she was responsible for the competition design of the Art and Media center in Karlsruhe and the Grande Bibliotheque in Paris. Then, for almost six years, she was project architect at Benthem Crowell Architecten in Amsterdam, where one of her first projects was the De Pont Museum in Tilburg. Heike Löhmann founded Löhmann's in Amsterdam in 1996 after receiving a work grant of the Netherlands Foundation for Visual Arts, Design and Architecture. Next to her work in the office she always also works as a design teacher. From 1997 to 2001 she taught construction and design at the Faculty of Architecture of the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) and since 2001 she has been a staff member of the Department of Architectural Design / Interior. Here, among others, she was one of those responsible for setting up the programme for the master course of the department in general and the integration of technical teaching in that programme in particular.

## Johanna Günther

Johanna Günther is partner at Lehner & Günther Architects. Next to this, she is attached as architect/PR coordinator at Hans van Heeswijk Architecten in Amsterdam. Since the very beginning she is one of the coordinators of the master interior program. She graduated at Delft University of Technology in 2001, taught design classes on the subject of Retail Design in the bachelor program, was a teacher in the workshop "Image for Sale" and the architecture workshop for children "Bouwen in de Beurs". Having worked at several Architecture firms she realised her first project, the renovation of a monumental town house in Schiedamschen, in 2003 for Vis Restauratie Architecten.

# The position of technical teaching in the master course of interior architecture

Heike Löhmann

New demands on space, a better understanding of the needs of public and private interiors also requires different technical solutions for constructions and climate control. On the other hand new functions or different use of space does not automatically mean that everything has to be found new. Which materials are suitable to archive a certain atmosphere in a space? What form should the space have? What should the conditions in climate and acoustics be like? We ask students to explore specific solutions for their design. Our aim is also that students learn to be competent partners in the discussions during the building process. How often does it happen that a beautiful design solution is not realised because of technical, financial and planning problems. Most of the time this is the consequence of the absence of a creative dialogue between the different disciplines and involving each other in the design process at a too late stage. It is important to know as an architect that profound knowledge about (building) techniques and their consequences for the result is and remains part of his/her profession.

We break with the way how - also here at school - architects look to the work of the engineer and engineers distance themselves of the ideas of architects. Better understanding of the other discipline will be important to be able to realise concepts and architectural developments. To include thoughts and studies about integration of structure and installation already in an early stage during the process of design, will not result in a poor and pragmatic design but will inspire to more and better solutions and a better translation of the concept idea into an architectural language. But of course that demands a change in attitude of both architects as engineers. For the architect this means that he has to look at technical issues as a challenge to realise his vision until the level of detailing and as a chance to find even better translations for the ideas he has even thought before. The engineer should not behave only

as a pragmatist but should open his eyes to the visionary ideas of architects and deal with them as a chance to invent different and maybe new solutions for structural problems. By doing this he might widen his knowledge too.

As Cecil Balmond stated ' we need imagination and realism in both disciplines. Based on solid knowledge and experience we are able to invent and speculate; experts and theoreticians as well are vital in both disciplines. Than engineering will become a supporting and liberating discipline, a catalyst for good architecture.

The pivotal role of the ingenious will be more persuading than putting all ambition into developments of building services and structural engineering. Technology should not be used for its own purpose...if creatively used, technology can be a form of art.

In our masterprogramme we demand our students to look for the integration of both disciplines as written above. We also force you to take the responsibility to get the information and help you need, by teaching in the school and maybe outside the school as well. However the pivotal point of this survey will be your own research.

## notes

<sup>1</sup> translated text from ARCH +, nr 117, June 1993: 'Informelles Konstruieren'; see also: *Architectuur & Bouwen*, nr 2, 1995: Piet Vollaard, "Waar techniek eindigt en architectuur begint"