

ENVISIONING THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PROCESS

How to create a graphical scheme that will act as a framework to be filled with raw material and information produced during the design process in order to facilitate a reflection according to Schön on the architectural design process?

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ABSTRACT

The architectural design process is a complicated matter, making it difficult to use fixed expressions to describe it. Additionally, the design process is rarely well documented, contrary to the finished result that gets most of the attention. However, it is useful to reflect on the design process itself since it can give us more insight in the way architectural design takes place than a finished project. As architects are very visual oriented, the proposed framework tries to facilitate this in a graphical way. The framework could then also be used to clarify the architectural design process for people standing outside such as beginning students, clients or stakeholders.

The “scope of a (design) model” as presented by Lawson in *How Designers Think* (2006, 290) offers a good epistemology and serves as a basis to create a graphic scheme around the actions of moving, representing, formulating, evaluating, reflecting and combining, supported by the skills and values of the designer. All these actions and factors are intertwined.

The scheme is built up as a broad timeline on which all design material is represented: concept generation, research, time, collaborators and background, showing interactions and synchronicity as well as external influences. The graphic representation itself reveals a lot of what is going on during the design process, but there is also a protocol analysis in the margin, which gives a textual clarification to the scheme and should be read simultaneously. Reading the scheme one can follow the journey of the design process from the viewpoint of the designer.

The framework will facilitate a reflection according to Schön (1983) on the architectural design process, making processes comparable and enabling evaluation. Purpose is to generate a deeper understanding of the processes going on while designing, and the factors and actions coming into play. The framework has been tested in a case study where the processes of four teams of architects taking part in a closed competition have been envisioned. This paper extends on the process of developing the graphical scheme as well as on some early insights and results from the case study.

THE NEED FOR A VISUAL FRAMEWORK

Many factors and actions come into play when designing an architectural project. Nigel Cross (1990) describes it more generally as „Produce novel unexpected solutions, tolerate uncertainty, work with incomplete information, apply imagination and constructive forethought to practical problems and use drawings and other modeling media as a means of problem solving.”

There has been a wide range of inroads to study the design process, but the common intellectual culture about the design process has not been well defined yet, as described clearly in designerly ways of knowing. (Cross, 2001). This is certainly true for the field of architecture where the lack of a culture

of process communication is in great contrast to the elaborate culture of project documentation. There is a whole library of knowledge mainly showing finished projects and plans in books and magazines but without showing the processes behind these. Therefore it is difficult for architects as a group of professionals to reflect about the process. An exception may be lectures where processes sometimes are clarified in an individual way, but discussion afterwards is only rarely documented or published.

It would be welcome to have a tool to research and teach design strategies, not from finished results but starting from the rough unpolished processes. The sketch can be seen as essential for architectural design (Bilda et al, 2006), therefore a visual framework seems natural to reflect on the design process. The work of Edward Tufte (1990,1997) on the envisioning of information and visual explanations proved to be very valuable for creating a visual framework trying to enable this reflection and discussion.



ILLUSTRATION I: DESIGN MATERIAL VERSUS FINISHED PROJECT (AMSTERDAM CITY LIBRARY, © JO COENEN, 2001-2007)

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In “The Reflective Practitioner”, Donald Schön introduced that „we are bound to an epistemology of practice which leaves us to a loss to explain, or even describe, the competences to which we now give overriding importance.” As a possible answer Schön concludes that „a kind of frame-analysis would be very useful for professional practitioners who wish to engage in frame reflection, and that it would convey the experience of problem setting and solving, the self definitions and the definitions of success and failure, that would be inherent in a practical choice of role-frame. It would not furnish criteria for choice among approaches of the profession, but it would help the practitioner to “try on” a way of framing the practice role, getting a feeling for it and the consequences and implications of its adoption. It would help the practitioner to understand the competences he would need, and the kind of person he would become, if he framed his role in a particular way; and it would thereby support the practitioner’s efforts at frame reflection.”

This conclusion was taken as a basis for the methodology to be followed for the research and supported the idea of envisioning the architectural design process „as is”, in order to facilitate the externalization of tacit knowledge from the profession of architecture.

“Since architectural design is an action which tries to solve what a future reality could look like it is not a purely analytic but a also constructive activity” (Cross, 2001). This leads us to why there is not a singular solution for design problems and the fact that there are

many possible ways to come to a good design solution. An architect will know, develop and deepen from experience a proprietary design process. Therefore the goal is not to develop a specific design methodology but to provide a model in which a wide array of design methodologies can be embedded.

The “scope of a (design) model” as presented as conclusion by Lawson in *How Designers Think* (2006, 290-304) offers a good epistemology and serves as a conceptual frame for the terminology of the proposed framework. Lawson names and elaborates on five actions that will all happen more or less while designing: formulating, representing, moving, evaluating and reflecting. Next to these actions two other factors are mentioned: combining and skills and values. In practice all these actions and factors are intertwined, but they are discernible in the bigger scheme of the design process. This terminology can be used in the framework in two ways, firstly to determine the kind of design action and secondly as a filter to compare schemes in a matrix or otherwise.

The advantage of Lawson’s scope of a design model is that it is a very open model, providing a loose but well-defined framework of actions, skills and values which are all used during the design process. It offers a very realistic view inside the actions of designing and the requirements of a design team and its required competencies.

For the visual framework the design model of Lawson will be incorporated into a graphic scheme

envisioning the design process in order to facilitate a reflection according to Schön.

At about the same time this research started, our university college was organizing an open tender^[1], a closed contest regarding the transformation of existing buildings of the arts department. This offered a good opportunity as a case study. Given were four offices in a closed design contest, working in a fixed period of time of seventeen weeks. There would be four results of the same brief making it easier to compare and reflect. Moreover a closed contest is comparable to classic studio work in architectural education, where the project is presented as a plan only, but has not been realized yet.

The participating architects were asked to document their processes by dating all design documents and providing them for analysis after the contest. A little booklet was presented in which remarks or a diary of the design process could be written. Eventually, only one booklet had been filled, produced by an architect who had already the tradition of keeping a design diary and who simply used the provided booklet.

Through an interview the design process would be reconstructed on the basis of the produced material and an initial reflection according to Schön could be made upon the individual processes. The next step was to create the framework utilizing all design documents to envision the processes to make them comparable.

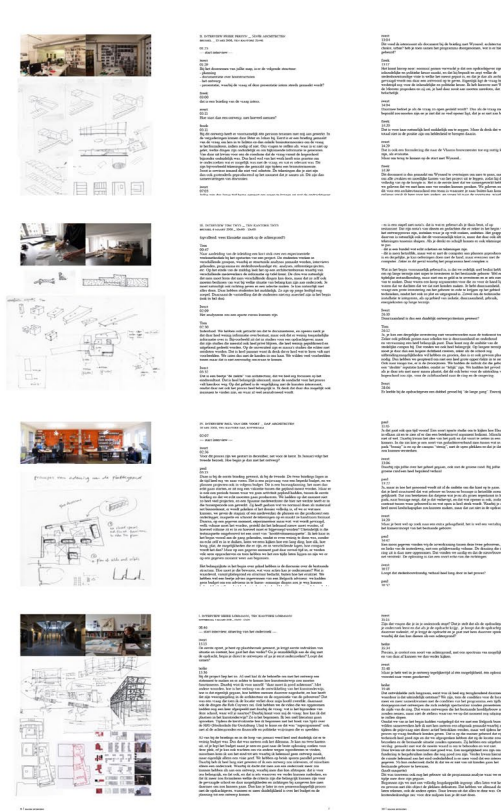


ILLUSTRATION 2: THE RAW DESIGN MATERIAL AND INTERVIEWS



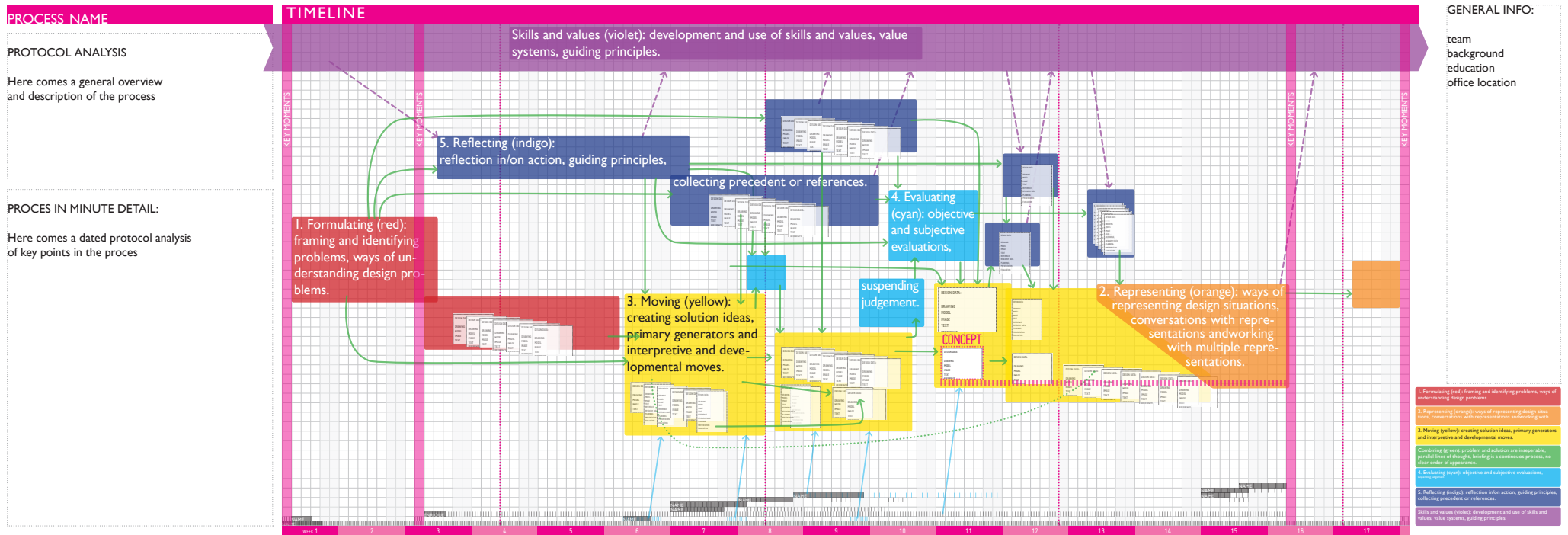
ILLUSTRATION 3: THE FIRST INTUITIVE STEPS TOWARDS A SCHEME

CREATING A FRAMEWORK: ENVISIONING THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN PROCESS

The framework was created with a twofold purpose in mind, firstly to give the experienced reader a frame of reference to start reflecting upon his own practice and secondly to bring the inexperienced reader in closer contact with the architectural profession and to have a look inside the architect's mind.

So the question arose how to show and clarify the architectural design process? For this a number of design requirements for the framework as a conceptual scheme were chosen:

- the graphic scheme should depict the process in time.
- it should show the wide range of design documents produced during design activities.
- it should show a unique image of each different process.
- the scheme should envision the complexity of the architectural design process.
- it should clarify what kind of action takes place when.
- the scheme should show the different participants
- the scheme should show the background or experience of the designers.
- the scheme should be large enough to be readable (like a large scale urban plan, but with the possibility to zoom in on details).
- the scheme should be unified and clear enough to enable reflection and to be used in a wide array of situations.



A design process tackled all this where step-by-step the framework was generated from the provided design material and interviews from the participants of the case study. This led to the following structure/ outcome:

The basis of the framework is a broad timeline on which all design material is represented. The frame is divided into three main parts. In the left margin a protocol analysis is placed which can be read together with the central graphic scheme clarifying this in detail. In the right margin basic information about the architect or office is given as a background. These data could be a curriculum, illustrations of the physical work environment of the of-

fice or even a compact presentation of the partners and their respective backgrounds in education or the useful experience. This may introduce a subjective factor into the framework, but it also provides good background and framing of the design process in a bigger reality.

The main graphic scheme is divided into a horizontal and vertical grid. The top is framed with a dateline, showing the start date of month and day on which the material originated. The bottom is framed with a line showing the progression of weeks towards the end date of the project. That way comparison through time is made possible.

In the vertical grid key moments can be defined throughout the process: briefings, deadlines and external presentations that are common for all design participants.

The scheme is filled with frames containing scanned or digitized design documents, being design brief, texts, drawings, models, imagery or other design material. In an ideal situation we could make these interactive and provide insight into every design document through a hyperlink. The framing of the activities is done according to the design model of Lawson and colour coded: red for formulating, orange for representing, yellow for moving, cyan for evaluating, indigo for reflecting.

Where Lawson speaks about „bringing problems and solutions together” (2006, 296-298), we introduce the action of combining, represented by green arrows, showing the relationship between different activities.

In the central scheme the frames are organized loosely around the central axis. Here the red formulating frames are organized around the centre, as they mostly take place at the start of the design process and provide neutral, given information from where the design starts.

The activity of reflecting is placed mainly in the upper part, the moving (yellow) and representing (orange) are organized in the bottom part of the scheme. Reflecting (cyan) is placed again more central in the scheme, as it happens mostly later on in the process, after the formulating.

On top, beneath the dateline, a wide purple band is situated that represents the skills and values of the architect or the office. This is the only connection to past and future in the scheme and could be seen as a subliminal or active cloud of knowledge and skills the designer has built up through life, and that influences design decisions. In this zone also actions are situated that are not directly connected to the design process, but which happen during the given timeframe of the project and influence the process in a certain way. There are purple dotted arrows connecting this band with other process-frames il-

lustrating incoming information. There are also arrows pointing from the action frames towards the band of skills and values where advancing insights and knowledge generated throughout the design process have been added to the base of knowledge of the designer or office.

Framed in fuchsia is the main generating concept of the final design solution. It is connected to the project deadline with a wide striped line giving a visual reference of the elaboration time.

Furthermore there are extra layers of information visible in the main scheme. All frames carry compact enlightening captions inside. This can also be interpreted as the reason why this type of action has been chosen. The frame size is determined from the design material and the amount of time taken for a certain design action. This is not an exact measure, but a relational one.

At the bottom of the scheme, over the week-line, there are several coded lines. These represent the individuals participating in the process at the time. The lines are black for the design team directly involved with the project and cyan for external advisors and all others involved in the process.

So presented here is a framework envisioning time-use, research, concept generation, external influences, collaborators and background as well as showing interactions and synchronicity. The graphic

representation by itself reveals already a wide spectrum of specifics of what is going on during the design process. However, there is also a protocol analysis in the margin clarifying the scheme textually and which should be read simultaneously. This way one can travel from inside the minds of the architects working on the project, as a journey towards the end of the project.

Important as well is that through the action of producing the schemes themselves attention is drawn to the architectural design process and a reflection will be necessary to create a valid scheme. This alone will already force focus on the architectural design process, next to making processes comparable for further evaluation. This way a deep understanding of the design process and the actions and factors coming into play can be generated.

In the architectural design studio the schemes can be used to evaluate separate processes in a similar way as presented in the research. It also creates the possibility to compare design processes of different groups for instance in design competitions.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CASE STUDY OF OPEN TENDER 1217:

The case study has been useful in two ways. It served as a basis for creating the framework from practice rather than theory. On the other hand it was used to explore, test and evaluate the framework.

The different project files immediately showed the individual approach of the competing offices. After inserting the material into the framework the graphic representations also clearly differed and showed a unique image of the respective processes in time. Visible is a common structure of analyzing, researching, designing, reflecting and representing used by all participants. However the schemes show as well that the design character of the offices in this contest differs:

5In4E starts with a very intense and concentrated brainstorm phase after the initial formulation, resulting in a very clear concept that is highly recognizable in the end result. Due to cost planning there is an incubation period of several weeks, except for one appointment with a structural engineer with whom the office would form a team. After a re-evaluation the project is elaborated in the last seven weeks, progressing gradually from design to presentation, where there is constant reflection and evaluation. This process shows a very pragmatic view towards designing and towards the assignment and a good use of planning.

Tom Thys' office investigates the broad context through analysis and starts immediately with the design. At the time of the contest the office is in a transition period and the design team is reshuffled after a few weeks. A concept is generated by the end of week five and will be elaborated progressively and in minute detail until the final deadline. The office plans external evaluation by advisors in advance (week 8 and 12) and the outcomes are implemented in the design. Interesting to see is that a lecture about the plastic number of Hans van der Laan results in a reflection about the design and is clearly visible in the final presentation. Following an informal presentation amongst friends, the final presentation for the jury is reworked.

Löhmann's design has been strongly influenced by the reading of a book about the backgrounds of the Hochschule Fur Gestaltung Ulm just before the brief was presented. This book serves as a catalyst for the whole design process, in research and execution. Till week 10 the design is carried out as a high profile architectural project. After a cost evaluation, however, there is a design crisis. The final concept is only generated week 11, lit by a comment of the cost analyst. The built up knowledge is implemented into a low cost industrial approach and elaborated thoroughly, resulting in a large scale model and a book as presentation for project and research as a whole.

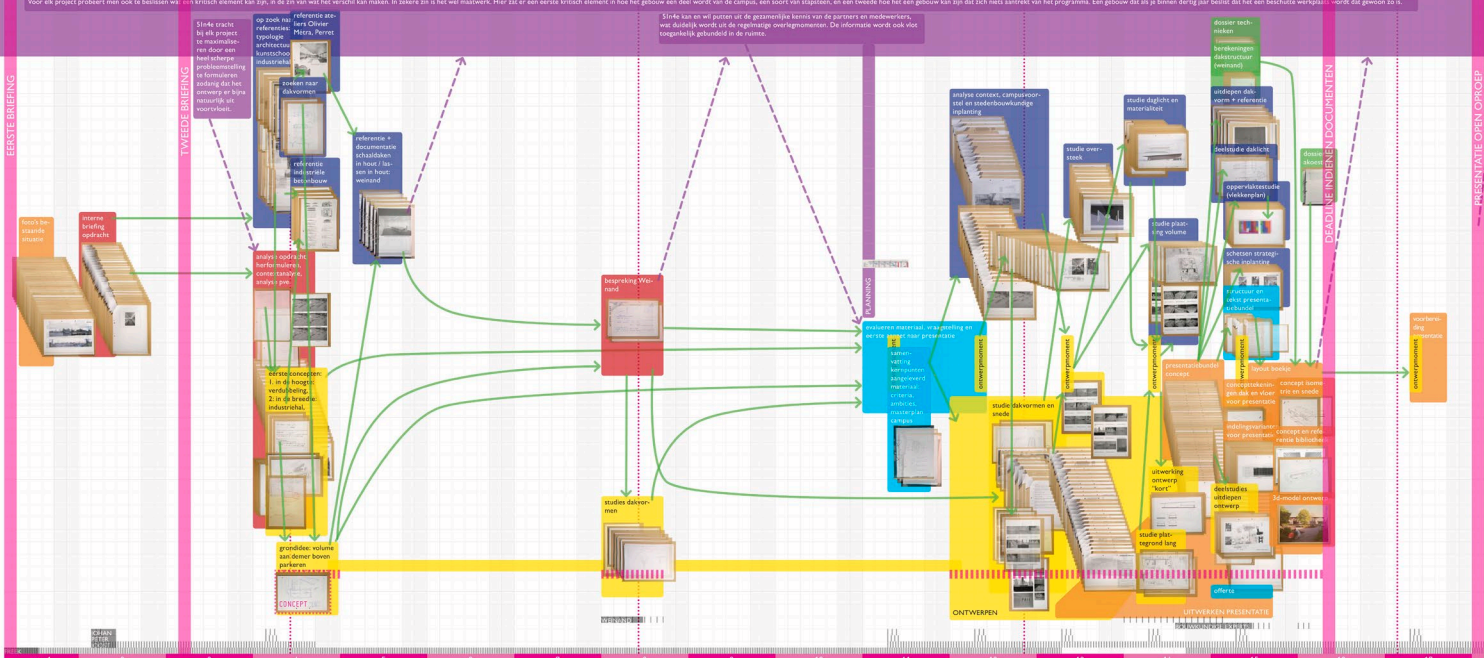
With Daf Architects there is, due to time constraints, a very long phase of reformulating the brief without any other design action. After a brief period of very intense design in week 10 with generation of multiple alternative solutions, the concept of an "en suite" theme (filtered from the existing built situation) is chosen as a powerful generator in week 11. In four weeks the project is elaborated for presentation, but this is hampered by a one-week gap where the lead architect cannot be present. The final phase proves to be a bit short for elaborating the design thoroughly.

001217B 5IN4E

Gebouw als concreet oppervlak met uitbouw voor en groen en water maken en als oplossing van het probleem.

Studeer de lokale en regionale context van de bestaande situatie en de omgeving. Het is belangrijk om te weten wat er al is en wat er nog moet komen. Het is belangrijk om te weten wat er al is en wat er nog moet komen. Het is belangrijk om te weten wat er al is en wat er nog moet komen.

JANUARI 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 FEBRUARI 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 MAART 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 APRIL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 MEI 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



1. Formuleren problemen identificeren en kaderen (geen en ontwerpproblemen te begrip)

2. Bestuderen van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

3. Stapplan: concept (primaire generatie) / interpretatie van ontwerpproblemen (opdrachtgever)

4. Eerste studie van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

5. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

6. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

7. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

8. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

9. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

10. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

11. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

12. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

13. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

14. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

15. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

16. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

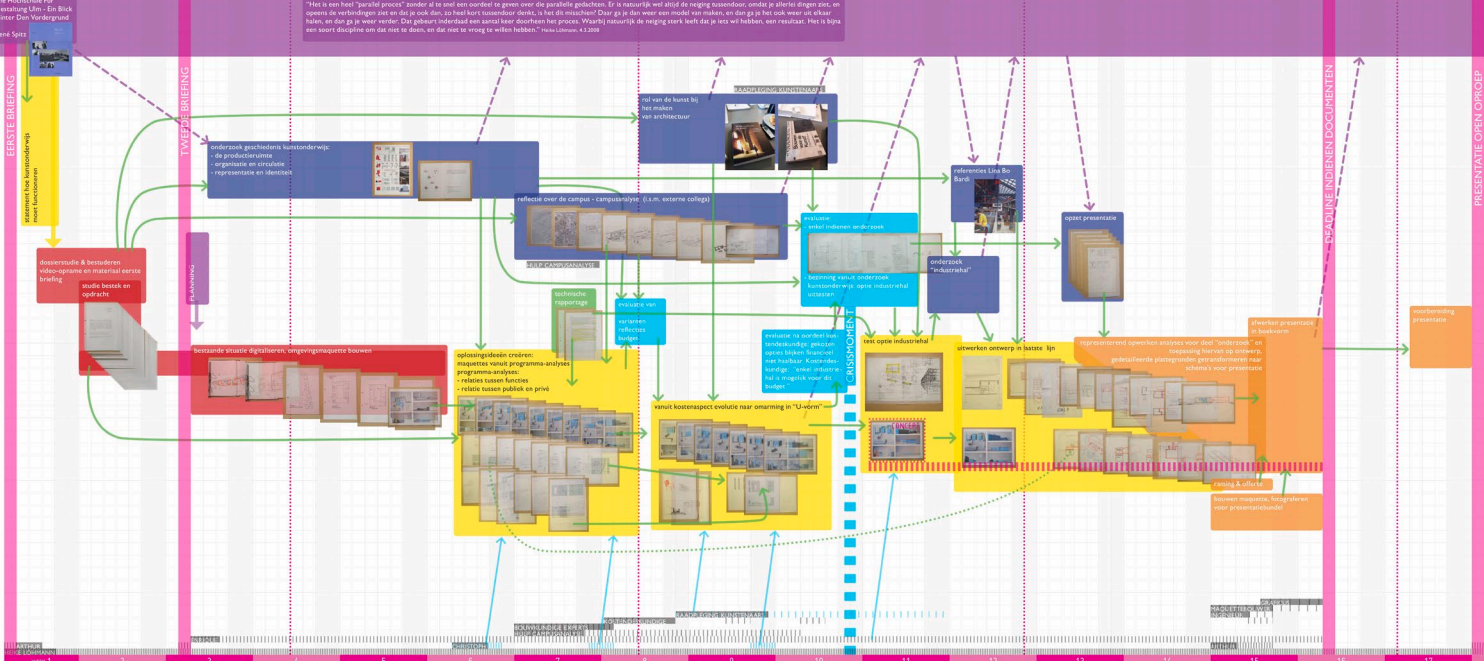
17. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

ILLUSTRATION 5: 5IN4E DESIGN PROCESS scale: 1:4

001217E IÖHMANN

Envisioning the architectural design process

JANUARI 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 FEBRUARI 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 MAART 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 APRIL 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 MEI 1 2 3 4 5 6 7



1. Formuleren problemen identificeren en kaderen (geen en ontwerpproblemen te begrip)

2. Bestuderen van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

3. Stapplan: concept (primaire generatie) / interpretatie van ontwerpproblemen (opdrachtgever)

4. Eerste studie van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

5. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

6. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

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12. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

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14. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

15. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

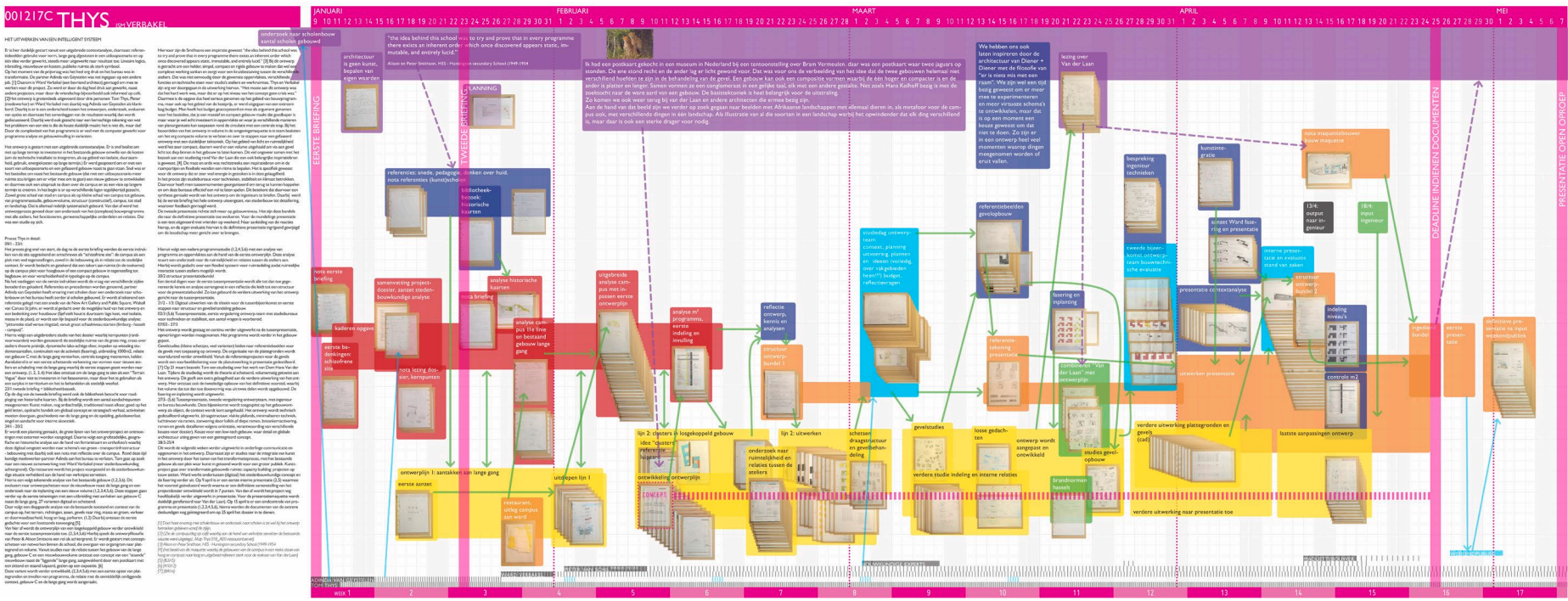
16. Vertaling van de situatie (1:4) (voor haalbaarheid van het project)

17. Reflectie op de proces (over processen, middelen, overtuigingen, referenties en presentatie (interdisciplinair)

ILLUSTRATION 7: IÖHMANN DESIGN PROCESS scale: 1:4

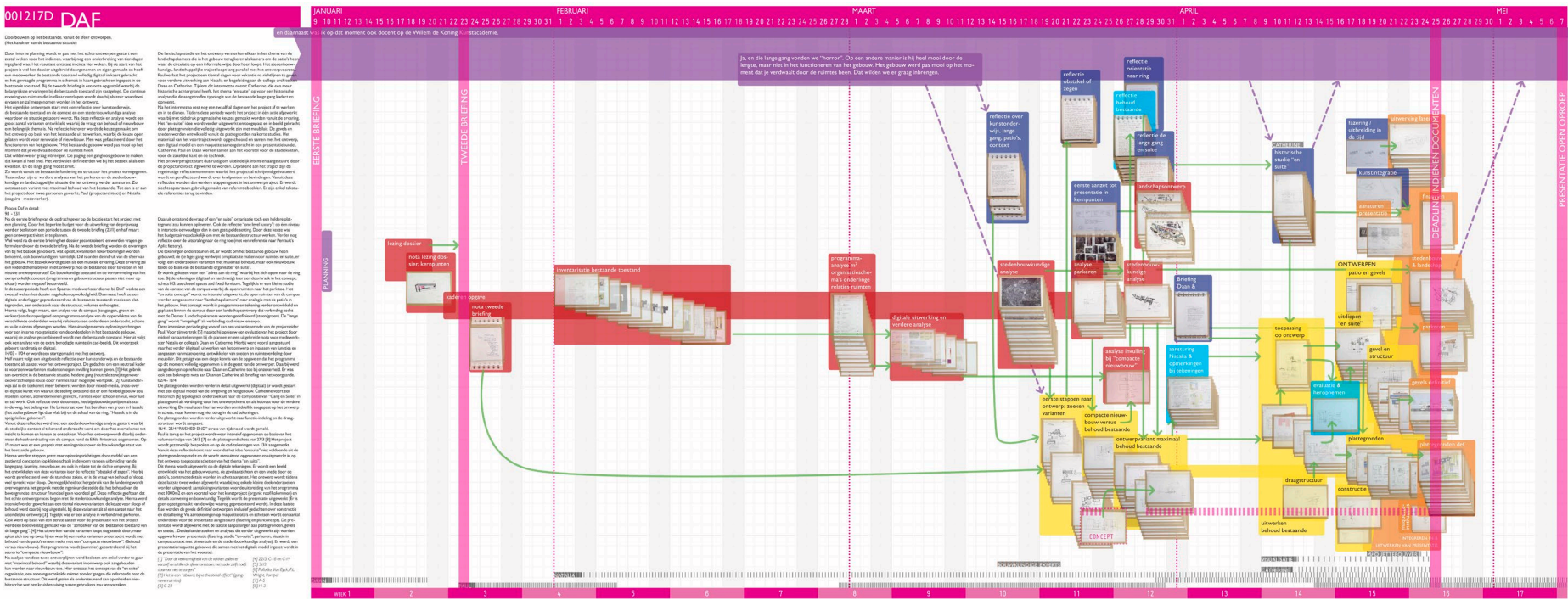
10/15 envisioning the architectural design process

ILLUSTRATION 6: THYS DESIGN PROCESS scale: 1:4



- 1. Formuleren: problemen identificeren en kaderen met een ontwerp-probleem en begrippen
- 2. Representeren: uitwerken (conceptueel en/of visueel) en reflectie (5H) (komt voort met inhoud op het project)
- 3. Stapelen: ontwerpen (primaire generatoren) / herspreiden en omkaderen (stapelen) (bijvoorbeeld: creëren)
- 4. Ontwerpen: afmaken en afsluiten (met eigen, uitgewerkte en/of detailaanpak, -realisatie) met en/of constructieve
- 5. Reflectie: reflectie proces / over processen (afhankelijk van de context) / reflecteren en presenteren (conceptueel/visueel) (waak)
- Maakt gebruik van waarden (5H) (523) (543) (544) / onderstrepen het proces en screen de visuele reflectie (6)

ILLUSTRATION 8: DAF DESIGN PROCESS scale: 1:4



- 1. Formuleren: problemen identificeren en kaderen met een ontwerp-probleem en begrippen
- 2. Representeren: uitwerken (conceptueel en/of visueel) en reflectie (5H) (komt voort met inhoud op het project)
- 3. Stapelen: ontwerpen (primaire generatoren) / herspreiden en omkaderen (stapelen) (bijvoorbeeld: creëren)
- 4. Ontwerpen: afmaken en afsluiten (met eigen, uitgewerkte en/of detailaanpak, -realisatie) met en/of constructieve
- 5. Reflectie: reflectie proces / over processen (afhankelijk van de context) / reflecteren en presenteren (conceptueel/visueel) (waak)
- Maakt gebruik van waarden (5H) (523) (543) (544) / onderstrepen het proces en screen de visuele reflectie (6)

SPECIFIC FINDINGS:

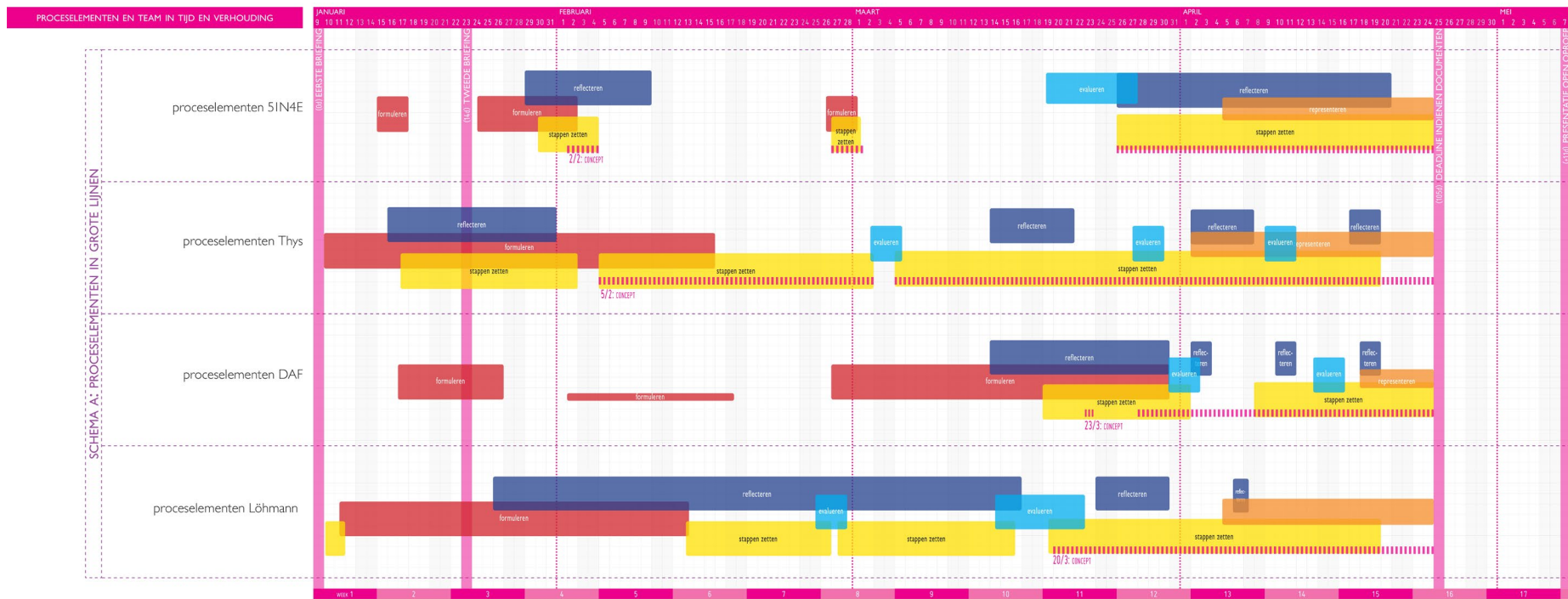
The case study shows that team, time and planning are important factors next to the classic design actions. The proposed design model of Lawson is applicable in the framework and towards the processes of the four competitors. The different actions and values can be pinpointed and the theory of the framework supports a reflection according to Schön on details as well as the general processes.

The visual framework generates a deeper understanding of the architectural design process in two ways. Firstly, by representing the four processes in schemes where design material is organized in a congruent way. Secondly, creating the schemes already enforces reflection upon the design process. The schemes illustrate possible problems and quali-

ties in the respective processes and are process oriented, not result oriented. Therefore there is no qualitative statement in regard to the end result of the finished design proposals.

GENERAL FINDINGS:

After creating the four schemes it becomes clear that the processes are more comprehensible now than compared to the collection of raw design material. The schemes enable a structured debate and reflection. Besides that they are comparable amongst each other at different scale levels, for example by using the framework of Lawson as a filter within a matrix, as well as in time, team and methodology. The case study clearly shows that envisioning the architectural design process is possible and enables reflection to deepen knowledge.



- Lawson aanzet voor een ontwerpproces:
1. Formuleren
 - 1.1 Hier gaat het om wegen en ontwerpproblemen in baggijn
 - 1.2 Identificeren herformuleren en structuur geven aan ontwerpproblemen of het algemeenere probleemomgeving
 - 1.3 Kaderen de ontwerpactie binnen de vooraf bepaalde randvoorwaarden en een specifiek kaderpunt voor de periode of tijdens een fase van het ontwerpproces (een van de meest kritische en centrale vaardigheden in het ontwerpproces).
 2. Representeren (vaak heeft een invloed op het proces)
 - 2.1 Hier gaat het om wegen en ontwerpproblemen in materiaaliseren, vertalen, modelleren. Vertaalgang van geschetste oplossingen.
 - 2.2 Communicatie met representatie: ontwerpers raken met de representatie op een "lyrische" wijze (als in een conversatie). (Communicatie met de representatie)
 - 2.3 Werken met meerdere representatievormen: de vaardigheid om de representatievormen te selecteren om de problemen die de actieve ontwerpplooiing begrijpbaar te maken en deze te communiceren aan de opdrachtgever en het team van een veel ontwerpers. (Sommige bureaus) hebben een aantal vormen gekozen (bijv. KGDV's) (representatie is another central and crucial skill in the design)
 3. Stappen zetten
 - 3.1 Ontwerpproblemen creëren: een stap kan groot worden die nog niet eerder binnen de ontwerpproces gezien was. Een stap kan de bestaande oplossingsomgeving veranderen of verder ontwikkelen.
 - 3.2 Problemen genereren (concept): 'Vraag' het proces ontwikkelde ideeën voor de ontwerper het probleem te begreep. Het probleem kan later gezien worden als een vorm op de probleemstelling, kan het concept gezien worden als een bijlage op de oplossingsrichting.
 - 3.3 Interactieve en ontwikkelende stappen: niet alle stappen zijn volledig eigen aan 'het proces'. Dit zijn vier mogelijkheden:
 1. Het is een volledig nieuw idee in de geschiedenis.
 2. Het is een nieuw idee voor het ontwerp van de ontwerper.
 3. Het is een idee dat specifiek ontwerpprobleem oplost.
 4. Het is een afgeleid idee van een ander idee in het ontwerpproces.
 - 3.4 Interactieve stappen en transformatie van een bestaand idee in een verschilderde vorm: ideeën worden meestal niet aan elkaar toegevoegd, maar worden omgevoerd.
 - 3.5 Chevalierische stappen: een idee wordt niet meer behouden, maar wordt overgenomen in een andere vorm.
 4. Oplossen en problemen samenbrengen (combineren) (zijn in diagram)
 - 4.1 Problemen en oplossingen zijn symbiotisch en onlosmakelijk met elkaar verbonden. Naast de combinatie van problemen met de kaders en concepten (formuleren en stappen zetten) zijn als een onderhandeling tussen probleem en oplossing.
 - 4.2 Het is geen duidelijke volgorde (leer je er niets bij of het bij het ontwerppen is er natuurlijk wel in eerste instantie de basisverpakking, maar dan het proces is er geen duidelijke volgorde voor problemen en oplossingen. Oplossingen worden problemen en vice versa door de vele factoren die meespelen. Het denken over problemen en het denken over oplossingen is diep verweven tijdens het proces. Denken gaat naar rechts in beide en duurt door een beter begrip van de opgave, wat ons brengt tot:
 - 4.3 Kritische en een creatieve proces: door ontwerpproblemen te maken en beter begrip van het programma van eisen en de randvoorwaarden wordt de interpretatie van het PR (probleemstelling) steeds duidelijker. Het ontwerpproces. Dit staat in contrast tot een mogelijke visie dat de briefing een creatieve proces is (probleemstelling wordt steeds meer wordt). (Dafid's Löhmann)
 - 4.4 Paradijs geschiedverhaal: Dit is de mogelijkheid om tegenwoordig paradijs te maken in de realiteit, waarbij noodzaak een gevoel van ontvankelijkheid en openstelling is naar gebouwen wordt en waarde meer niet de basis is, al het met specifieke ideeën versterkende oplossing te vinden. Dit is een schijnbaar essentiële ontwerpprocedure.

ILLUSTRATION 9: GENERAL OVERVIEW

Matrix	SIN4E	THYS	DAF	LOHMANN
formuleren	Kaderen vastleggen. Hoe de team aan de slag.	Kaderen vastleggen. Hoe de team aan de slag.	Kaderen vast / Parallel. Hoe de team aan de slag.	Kaderen vastleggen. Hoe de team aan de slag.
stappen zetten	Aankomst van ontwerpproces (Week 2-3). Concept wordt ontwikkeld. Concept wordt ontwikkeld. Concept wordt ontwikkeld. Concept wordt ontwikkeld.	1. Welke zijn de ontwerpproblemen? 2. Concept wordt ontwikkeld. Concept wordt ontwikkeld. Concept wordt ontwikkeld. Concept wordt ontwikkeld.	Kaderen vastleggen. Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag.	Kaderen vastleggen. Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag.
reflecteren	Als start van het proces een gemeenschappelijke reflectie over het programma. In aanwezigheid van de opdrachtgever en de opdrachtgever.	Reflectie op de situatie van de opdrachtgever en de opdrachtgever. Reflectie op de situatie van de opdrachtgever en de opdrachtgever.	Regelmatig gesprekken reflectie en oplossingen van het project toe. Dit is een belangrijk onderdeel van het proces.	Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag. Hoe de team aan de slag.
evalueren	Evaluatie bij de start van de ontwerpproces. Evaluatie bij de start van de ontwerpproces. Evaluatie bij de start van de ontwerpproces. Evaluatie bij de start van de ontwerpproces.	Evaluatie bij de start van de ontwerpproces. Evaluatie bij de start van de ontwerpproces. Evaluatie bij de start van de ontwerpproces. Evaluatie bij de start van de ontwerpproces.	Bespreken evaluatie van het proces, maar vooral ook de kwaliteit van de oplossingen. Dit is een belangrijk onderdeel van het proces.	Bespreken evaluatie van het proces, maar vooral ook de kwaliteit van de oplossingen. Dit is een belangrijk onderdeel van het proces.
representeren	Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd.	Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd.	1. week. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd.	2. week. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd. Hier wordt de start van het proces vastgelegd.
voortgang	Duidelijke voortgang van het ontwerpproces. Duidelijke voortgang van het ontwerpproces. Duidelijke voortgang van het ontwerpproces. Duidelijke voortgang van het ontwerpproces.	Duidelijke voortgang van het ontwerpproces. Duidelijke voortgang van het ontwerpproces. Duidelijke voortgang van het ontwerpproces. Duidelijke voortgang van het ontwerpproces.	Planning van het proces. Planning van het proces. Planning van het proces. Planning van het proces.	Planning van het proces. Planning van het proces. Planning van het proces. Planning van het proces.
combineren	Aankomst van ontwerpproces. Aankomst van ontwerpproces. Aankomst van ontwerpproces. Aankomst van ontwerpproces.	Aankomst van ontwerpproces. Aankomst van ontwerpproces. Aankomst van ontwerpproces. Aankomst van ontwerpproces.	Combineren van de verschillende aspecten van het ontwerp. Combineren van de verschillende aspecten van het ontwerp.	Combineren van de verschillende aspecten van het ontwerp. Combineren van de verschillende aspecten van het ontwerp.

ILLUSTRATION 13: MATRIX ACCORDING TO THE SCOPE OF A DESIGN MODEL OF LAWSON

ILLUSTRATION 10: STACKED PROCESS FACTORS

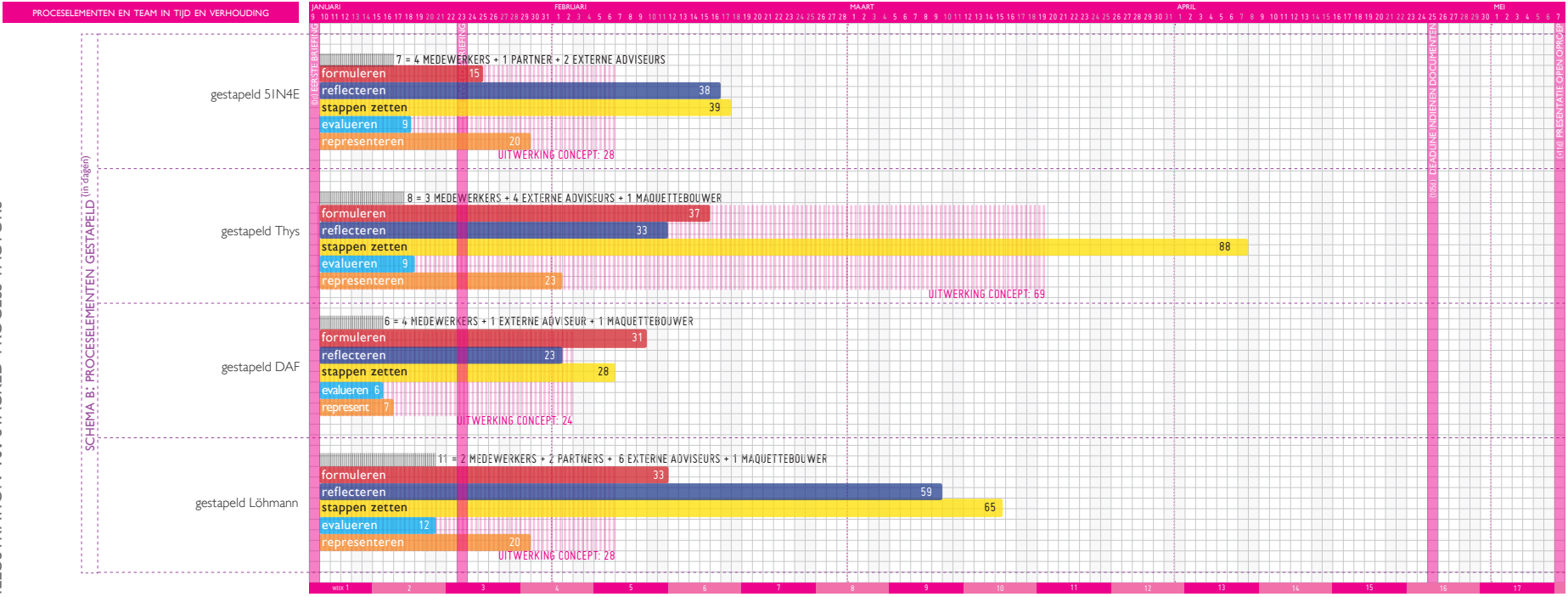
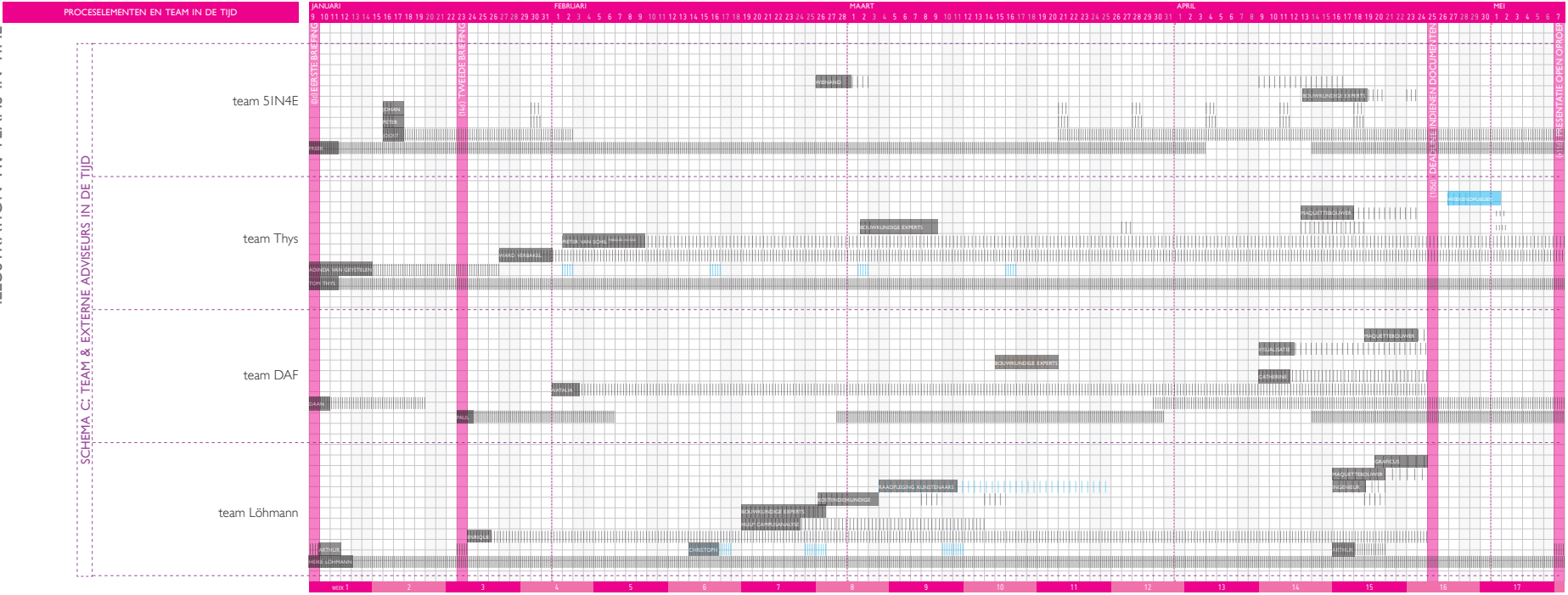


ILLUSTRATION 11: TEAMS IN TIME



CONCLUSIONS AND REMAINING QUESTIONS:

The framework gives insight in the complexity of the architectural design process and the individual design methods executed by the four offices participating in the case study. Producing the schemes from outside the minds of the respective architects proved to be rather difficult, but feasible. When filling the framework as an architect it should not be very difficult. Being the generator of the material the architect would possibly understand which decisions were made and for what reason. However, filling the framework might prove to be more difficult for students. This could be an interesting theme for further study.

Another remaining question is objectivity. When composing the schemes, decisions will be arbitrary towards the main actions taking place during the design process. This means subtleties can be lost and one has to be careful not to project his own values onto the processes and to keep distance. When comparing processes the risk exists one will value some processes more than others. However, the case study clearly showed that through reflection and evaluation much could be learned from all four processes. There is no discrepancy in their value for input into knowledge about the architectural design process.

In architectural education the schemes could be used in or next to the design studio to evaluate separate processes in a similar way as presented in the research. It also creates the possibility to compare design processes of different groups, for instance in design competitions.

For future research it would be interesting to test this graphic interface and method of reflection in a wider range of situations. In architectural education, for example, there could be two moments of reflection: one in the middle of the bachelor studies, to learn what actions and factors influence the design process and a second moment during the master studies where the student could „master” his own process.

Another research path could be a reflection upon different design projects within one architectural office, as an instrument to research qualities and shortcomings of the process, but also to reflect upon management, specific design skills and values.

The final conclusion is that the proposed research method of a visual framework enhanced with a protocol analysis can be meaningful for both professionals and education, as a tool for insight, evaluation and reflection, on an individual basis or as a group. In that way, the visual reflection framework proposed here could thus generate a deeper understanding of the design process as a contribution towards more „designerly ways of knowing, thinking and acting” (Cross, 2001) from within the field of architecture.

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[1] <http://english.vlaamsbouwmeester.be/opentender/introduction.aspx>

The Open Tender is one of the tools the Flemish Government Architect uses when he is looking for architectural quality for projects for the Flemish Government and local authorities. The Open Tender is a selection procedure based on the principal of an architectural competition and the procedure is in accordance with the regulations covering governmental commissions and European competition rules. The Open Tender comprises a selection and shortlist of architects and architectural teams for different tasks in the areas of architecture, town planning and landscape architecture.

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