

1700 - AMSTERDAM



Day 1-2: Beginnings

Study early development of city, with typological analysis of canal houses in Amsterdam Centrum as a comparative baseline



Day 3: A City in Crisis

Visit Jordaan and the Jewish Quarter, neighborhoods affected by massive, unregulated expansion in the 19th c.



Day 4: The Turning Point

Attend the conference for the 100-year anniversary of the Plan Zuid, H.P. Berlage's revolutionary urban plan for the city, and document and evaluate the housing projects of the plan

1900S - AMSTERDAM

“ J U S T ” H O U S I N G

DUTCH SOCIAL HOUSING FROM 1915-1930

Just beyond Amsterdam's picturesque ring of canals lies the true masterpiece of Dutch architecture: the housing block. Though renown for the narrow 17th century canal houses, the Netherlands has some of Europe's most successful and delightful social housing blocks.

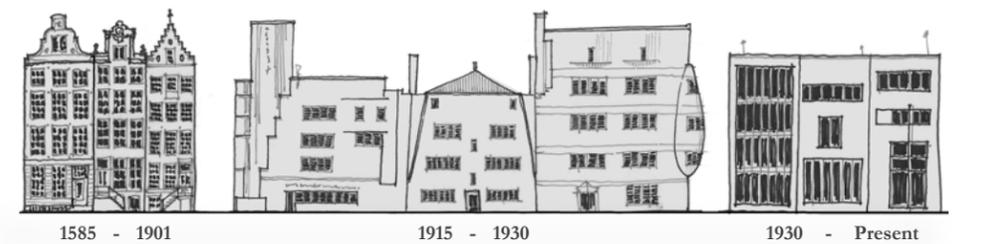
As necessity is the mother of invention, these developments were a direct response to the housing crisis confronting the Netherlands in the early 1900s. The rise of industry coupled with an agricultural depression led to a great migration to the cities in the second half of the nineteenth century. As with many cities of that era, Amsterdam and Rotterdam were faced with a rapid influx of inhabitants. To combat the increasing overpopulation and deterioration of the city, the government issued the National Housing Act of 1902. This national policy would promote the planning, funding, and standardization of Dutch housing for decades.

Politicians, planners, and architects alike realized that meeting the immense need for residential developments required a new scale of urban planning and residential typologies. Urban planning would be required at the city scale, and architecture would be required at the block scale. Taking precedent from the Baroque planning principles of Haussmann's Paris and 19th century German planning manuals, the Dutch created rich urban fabrics with just social housing. Despite lacking grand civic buildings and the benefit of incremental growth, the new neighborhoods espoused a clear hierarchy of forms, a rich network of public spaces, and a degree of picturesque monumentality.

In order to bring these master plans to life, the architects were challenged to give each block a sense of place. The Amsterdam School was instrumental to the success of each design. This architectural movement, championed by Michel de Klerk, Piet Kramer, J.J.P. Oud, and H.P. Berlage, created revolutionary forms using traditional materials and harnessed a rich history of craftsmanship to create simple, economical details. Though social housing, the buildings were imbued with a sense of dignity that instilled pride in the occupants. While the architectural expressions were unique to each housing block, the neighborhoods formed a cohesive fabric that is resolutely Dutch.

Our travel will focus on a typological analysis of the Dutch social housing from 1915-1930. We will seek to identify the elements in the planning and design that made these neighborhoods so successful. In order to give context to our research, we will study the historic Dutch housing of the 17th century as well as the modern housing developments of the current housing boom. Regarding urban forms, we will produce diagrams and drawings that illustrate massing techniques, public spaces, street sections, and use diagrams. Our architectural analysis will study the kit of parts of the Amsterdam School's housing blocks (vertical entryway system, brick patterns, sculptural forms, etc.). On-site documentation will include measured drawings, sketches, watercolors, photography, film, and resident interviews.

This research is particularly relevant to our work at RAMSA in how massing is the origin of the master plans, and how traditional architecture is reinterpreted in new contexts and time periods (the Amsterdam School). We hope this study would interest other urban planners, and we intend to share our research through a presentation at CNU 26 in Savannah.



1900S - ROTTERDAM



Day 11-12: Straight to the Source

Access Amsterdam School Master's drawings and models in the National Archives; visit Spangen of 1921 by J.J.P. Oud and M. Brinkman



Day 13-14: History Reinvented

Appraise the contemporary work of Amsterdam that uses the past as precedent, including the modern housing in the Eastern Docklands and Borneo Sporenburg



Day 15+: Dissemination

Prepare material for RAMSA presentation, explore avenues for publication and share research at the CNU 26 in Savannah, GA

2000S - AMSTERDAM

Budget				
Flights:	\$500 ea.	\$1,000	Museums:	\$150 ea. \$ 300
Lodgings:	\$150/night	\$2,000	Food:	\$40/day/pp \$1,120
Total		\$4,920	Local Transport	\$200
			Drawing Supplies/Books	\$300