

TOWARDS A HEALTHY CITY

#resilience&sustainability #climatechange
#naturalresources #righttothecity #mobility
#interdisciplinarity #behaviour #planninginstruments

A Collaborative Project examining a new approach to health in the
urban context

2019 - 2020

with ANCB Partner
UNStudio, Amsterdam

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

This interdisciplinary lab talk series will look at the built environment as a whole as factor for health production and optimisation. The project aims to find out how to enable a healthier living environment, while taking into account implications and challenges of connecting communities, spaces, policies and technology to improve the living conditions and health of the cities' citizens. Much as the discourse around construction, engineering, the urban fabric and the building envelope is focused on a scientifically quantifiable notion of performance, the parameters by which we tend to measure health are limited by such a 'rational' approach. Thus, multidisciplinary strategies are used in this series to negotiate what is needed for human comfort and health.

New angles of collaboration for a future development of healthy cities mean to combine approaches to generate collective (thinking) systems. Developers, city planners, architects and industry need to create new partnerships, and identify what constitutes the 'appropriate effort' they should contribute to support healthy cities. Designers also need to ask themselves how their designs can incentivise healthier lifestyles. At the same time, it will be important to investigate the ethics of collecting data on user behaviour and the use of IOT when designing and monitoring these healthy, human-centric environments. The ANCB lab talk series will therefore invite experts, researchers and protagonists from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds to allow an interdisciplinary approach to find out what actors can initiate to implement the change for a healthier living environment.

Without using the word 'holistic' or imagining what 'healthy' cities look like, can we design for how they might feel? What they might do? What are the outcomes a healthy space produces, rather than the aesthetic that they reflect? Ultimately, we are interested in exploring research into healthy cities, possibilities of new design and business models,

EVENTS

Lab Talk #1: **The Urban Approach**

20 September 2019

The kick-off event examined the built environment as a holistic factor for health production and optimisation. The lab talk aimed to take into account implications and challenges of connecting communities, spaces, policies and technology to improve the living conditions and health of citizens and the city.

Lab Talk #2: **The Building Scale**

28 February 2020

This second lab talk looked into concepts of health and wellbeing at the building scale. It was discussed how environments can be shaped, while also taking into account the needs of minorities, the 'unhealthy' and disadvantaged. The debate included a look at all building types, with a particular focus on learning- and workspaces and new 'campus' models.

DOCUMENTATION

- Video recordings documenting the events

Part of the ANCB Theme

RESPONSIVE CITY: Combining Local Knowledge with Digital Systems

The climate emergency, rapid population fluctuations and the increasing social segregation require a behaviour-changing responsiveness based on awareness and responsibility rather than on convenience. We need to reduce the impact of everyday urban life on resources, from the scale of the individual home to the global network of connectivity.

If the use of space, services and resources are to be modified, value sets need to change. Human behaviour and knowledge need to inform digital tools to achieve an integrated approach.

How can digital tools support the design of new living and working typologies that limit material wastage and are more affordable? What role can prototyping play in digitally fabricating efficient building components? How can traditional materials and knowledge be transformed into the digital age?

PARTICIPANTS

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