

There is no Place like Home



“All the rooms are in one room”

Habitation is an act of production. As a result of capitalist trends a division has formed separating domestic and production spaces. There are however many jobs which can be carried out within the home or in close proximity to it. What binds communities together and creates a vibrant neighbourhood is in fact small scale urban production. Manufacturing, maintenance and repair jobs are actually parts of city life and sustain its existence.

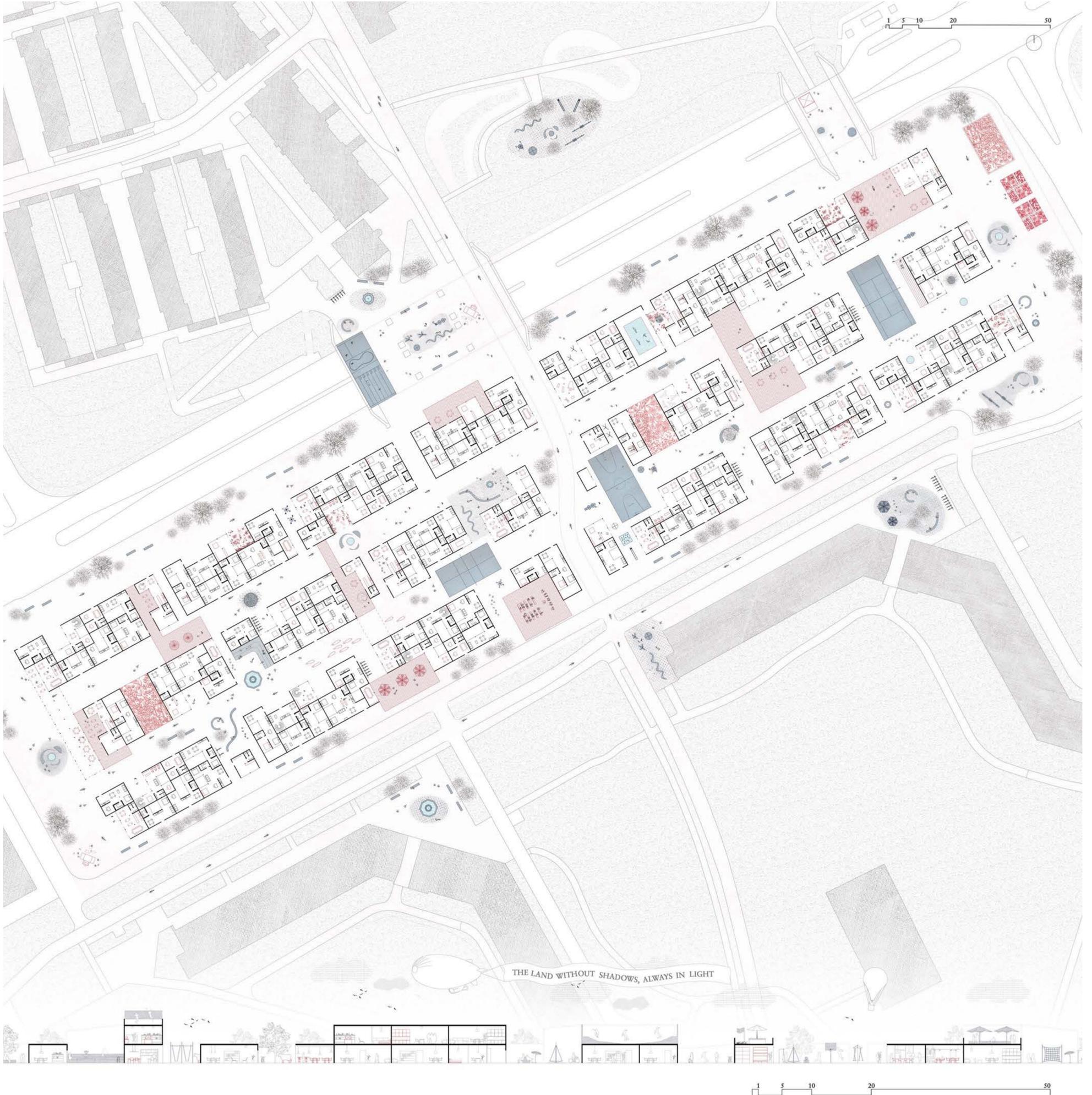
The exchange of knowledge brings to life new economic relationships. A necessary element in this process is a new form of coexistence which considers labour as a part of life, therefore a space becomes multifunctional. A kitchen can become a common area for cooking classes, a carport can be used to host a car boot sale, a backyard can be a communal vegetable garden. An empty room can be let to a lodger for cash or in exchange of a service.

We are suggesting a revival of the domestic workshop tailored to the demands of contemporary life. Today production is possible from our personal computer or mobile phone, and can be as simple as posting a picture online. The working condition is in constant transformation, everything is potentially productive and thus beneficial to multiple parties. At the same time, despite technological development, there is still a strong need for manual labour, for someone able to fix our bicycle, or look after our children while we're working. Each room could fit in a system of shared spaces, time, knowledge, so that work won't be kept hidden, but instead brought to the forefront of communal co-existence in an accessible and transparent way.

Through an investigation of the current forms of living and working conditions we propose an approach which combines close circular economies, alternatives to co-production and eco-sharing.
 “There is no place like home” is a lively and productive neighbourhood. If our home is the place where we feel most comfortable, then there is no better place to produce.

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Let's spend the Life Together



Bijlmermeer is an area known as a planning blunder from the CIAM-inspired post war period. Before attracting investors the aim is to propose an approach capable of visualising a scenario of possibilities for a community to be sustainable. This project aims to investigate the spatial consequences of breaking the barrier between inhabiting and working, deconstructing the traditional formal housing unit and unlocking its productive potential.

Another aim of the project is to transform the monofunctional district into a "land without shadows, always in light" – the introduction of mixed activities and functions to promote the livability public space.

In this way we want to introduce small interventions in selected areas next to the existing dwellings. INNESTI are playgrounds, pieces of public furniture, highlights, fountains, landmarks that affect the city and trigger the revitalization within it.

The places of production grew apart from the residential areas, why not make them part of the system instead highlighting what is produced and how to do it? Since we spend most of our time within the workplace how would our lives look if it was instead our home or a localised extension of our domestic environment?

We are suggesting a system that considers these questions offering spaces that can be more domestic or more productive according to the community's needs. Each individual can choose how involved they want to be in this system. For example, the presence of an extra door to access a room allows it to be shared with other people - to rent it so that it can generate a revenue. Being part of this system is a free choice, there are spaces there are going to stay private and protected.

This project wants to be a replicable research, an alternative able to rejuvenate a context characterized by monofunctional blocks that don't take into consideration the needs of each inhabitant. The proposal is not an insurmountable wall, but a porous settlement, not an isolated element but a growing entity able to expand to other areas.

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