Amsterdam orphanage [Aldo van Eyck] 1955-1960

modular system

“All systems should be familiarized one with the other in such a way that their combined impact and interaction can be appreciated as a single complex system - polyphonal, multirhythmic, kaleidoscopic and yet perpetually and everywhere comprehensible.”

Van Eyck tried to articulate the transition between different spaces by defining views or moments that allow for individuals to see the destination ahead of them as well as the place from which they came, while at the same time not making any one location seem more important than the other.

“Home” The orphanage is organized in accordance to those who live there, the orphans. It was meant as a home for them. Van Eyck meant for home to act almost like its own city, with distinct, different areas connected by streets.

“Community” The corridors represents a community feeling. Circulation and interaction is encouraged between different dormitories of different age groups, inviting children to mix and enjoy each others company. Van Eyck avoids creating a central point within the Orphanage by allowing for such fluid connections between all spaces.

“Organic growth” This decentralized growth model was thought by Aldo van Eyck as a growth model for the city. The internal street aims to be a urban scale element inside the building.

“Independence” Focuses on giving an individual identity to orphan children.

Orientation. The open spaces are projected to receive sun light from south.

The limits of the site. There are two streets bounding the building.

The system allows some activities, such as adding more modules of residence. However, the space is limited by two streets.

To replace the project somewhere else must be aware that the open spaces must receive sun light.