

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

a contemporary perspective

CLARE LORENZ



Holland

Magreet Duinker

Biography

Born in Holland in 1953. Educated at the Technical University, Delft, 1971-80. Magreet Duinker is a partner of Duinker, van der Torre, Samenwerkende Architecten, started in Amsterdam in 1984. The practice employs eight people. From 1982-4 she worked with three others in a practice known as D.T.B.B. on the rehabilitation of a nineteenth century housing complex in Amsterdam, and for two years prior to this for S.W.S., Rotterdam, 1980-2. Teaching at the Architecture faculty of the Amsterdam Art School, 1988-.

Selected Work:

32 apartments in the Jordaan, Amsterdam, 1987. 49 apartments in the Dapperbuurt, Amsterdam, 1988. 97 apartments in Von Zesenstraat, Dapperbuurt Amsterdam, 1989-. 236 apartments on a new housing estate in West Amsterdam, 1990-. In preparation; 64 apartments in Kinkerbuurt, Amsterdam; 210 apartments in The Hague.

Awards:

City Council of Amsterdam prize for 49 dwellings in the Dapperbuurt, Amsterdam, 1988. Magreet Duinker's work has been published in *Bouw*, 1987 and 1989, *de Architect*, 1989, and *Architecture in the Netherlands Yearbook*, 1988-9.

Magreet Duinker and her partner, Machiel van der Torre, run an Amsterdam practice devoted solely to social housing. Their prize winning scheme for forty nine dwellings on three small infill sites in the nineteenth century, red brick Dapperbuurt quarter of Amsterdam, is greatly admired by tenants and passers-by.

It pulls no punches, as Magreet Duinker is the first to admit; 'The design is not meant to adapt itself to the historic street facades or to people's historic or nostalgic preferences. The buildings have a transparent, clear and colourful presence as independent structures in an existing street.'

'In the Dapperbuurt buildings the stairs are parallel to the front elevation - an alternative to the traditional Dutch stairwell. The idea was to create access that is not only used as an entrance to the dwellings but that also has a quality as an outdoor communal zone shared by two or three households.'

'For the neighbours opposite the building, and passers-by, the spectacle of residents and their visitors coming and going is a lively theatre'.

She continues, 'Qualities that are lacking in recent dwelling designs are spaciousness and flexibility. Criticism does

not concern the overall size, but the way the dwelling is rigidly divided into small rooms, only fit for restricted activities.'

'Apart from spaciousness, the need for good daylight and a view out into the street or inner courtyard is even more important in a tightly knit city structure. From one's home one should be able to see the sky and trees, and experience the seasons and the weather changes. Large windows and diagonal views are important to attain these qualities.'

'We have developed two types of floor plans that meet these requirements; the 'sliding wall' dwelling, and the 'suite of rooms' dwelling.'

'The sliding wall dwelling is used in Wagenaar Straat. The bathroom and kitchen is organised in a small central unit, and around this lies a large free space which can be divided up with sliding walls. The width of the building reinforces the spatial effect. Daylight and sunlight penetrate deep into the apartments, and inhabitants use the plan in very different ways. Each individual dwelling has its own character and identity.'

Balconies at the rear of 30-36, Wagenaarstraat, Amsterdam, 1988.





Entrance stairwell, van Swindenstraat, Amsterdam, 1988.

