

Proposal for a 'Contribution to a Practitioners' Lab' on the XVI Biennial IASC conference

'Field and volume'

A design method for new urban typologies

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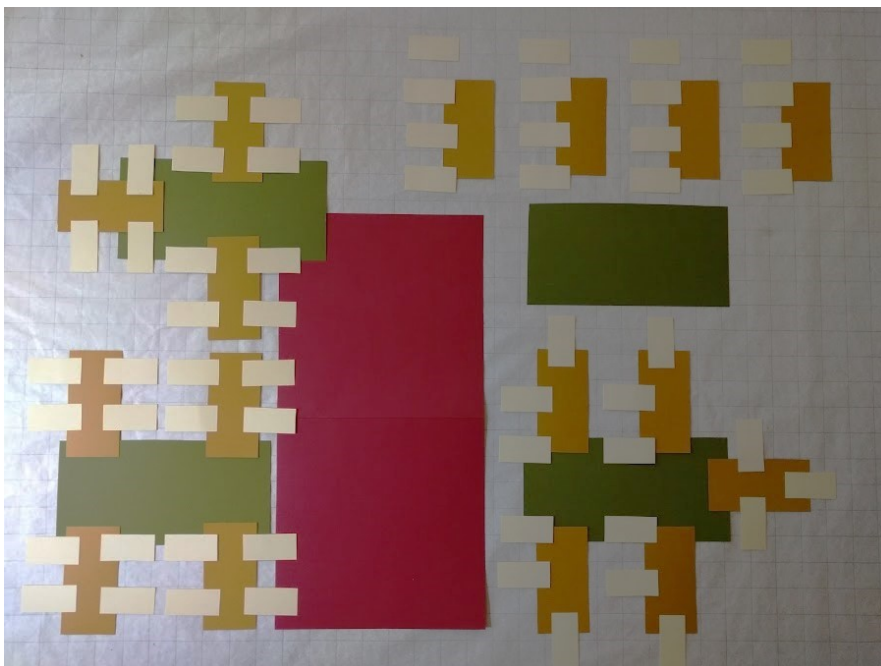
As I explained in my paper, an urban environment should consist of a series of scale levels between private and public, a tree structure, that provides residents with a spatial and social context. A tree structure that, moreover, does justice to the needs of (future) residents.

Participants of the workshop as future residents

To achieve this I developed a design method, 'Field and Volume', in which a few steps can lead to different tree structures. I will demonstrate this method by asking the participants of the workshop to play the role of future residents

Tree of Fields

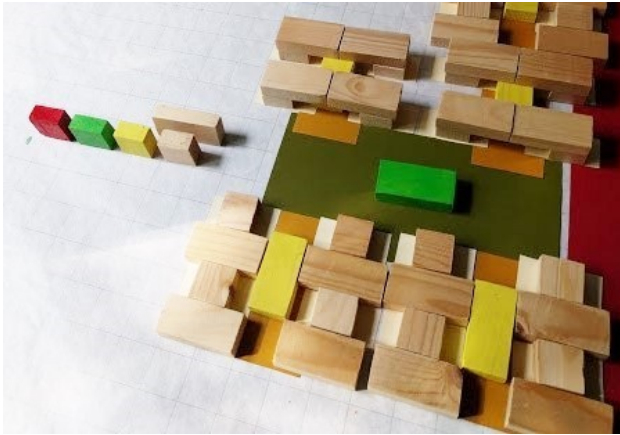
The first step is to establish the numbers that are requested on the different scale levels, like group, court, street and neighborhood/common. On the basis of these choices we can form a 'Tree of Fields'. See illustration below.



Tree of Fields: Household (white) Group (yellow) Court (green) and Street (red)

Volumes and 'stack instructions'

Now the 'future residents' that take part in the workshop will be asked to decide on the facilities, needed on each of the levels. Private households (white) may need a living room and two sleeping rooms. Groups (yellow) may need a common room for children to play, or a hobby facility or a common kitchen. The court (green) may need a garden and a workshop. For all of these facilities we can determine the square meters and the volumes needed. See illustration below.



Added volumes, stacked in the background

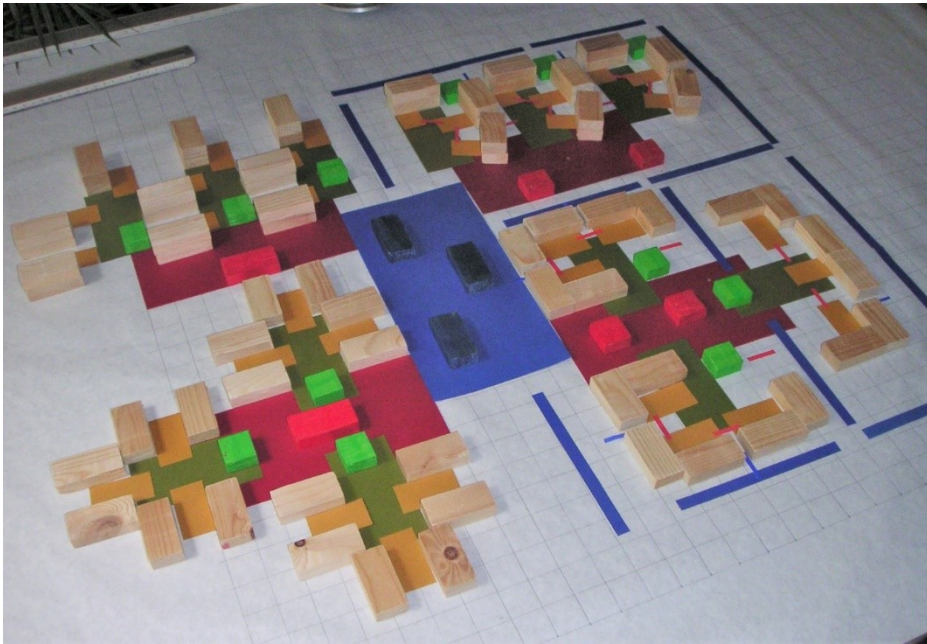
In the foreground these volumes are all bluntly put on top of the 'Tree of Fields'. Now participants can decide about the way facilities/volumes should be stacked, and formulate the 'stack instructions' that are visualized with the cubes on the left. Following these instructions we arrive at the structure in the background. If we follow this procedure for the whole of the tree of fields, we may obtain a basic structure of 'Fields and Volumes' like in the illustration below.



Basic structure of Fields and Volumes

Central and peripheral access

Now the participants can decide on the access of the different levels. Apart from the 'central access' that follows the inside of the tree structure they can decide on a 'peripheral access' that gives access to the area from outside, represented by the blue stripes in the illustration below. This way the 'central access' can be reserved for pedestrians while the 'peripheral access' takes care of cars and services.



Peripheral access for cars and services

Basis structure and typology

This procedure can offer us different 'Basic Structures' ready to be developed. These structures are flexible and we can move around the fields and the cubes, in order to achieve a good orientation with respect to the sun, we can add playgrounds and meeting places, gardens and parking places, while always maintaining the tree structure. So we can invent and develop many, often new, typologies.

Design session and Freedom

To conclude the workshop participants will be invited to transform 'their' own 'Basic Structure' into a personal design. Now it will be interesting to see how the different results illustrate, not only the handhold but also the Freedom that the design method 'Fields and Volumes' has to offer. To residents and designers alike.