

YOUR PERSONAL VIEW

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TECHNISCHE
UNIVERSITÄT
DARMSTADT

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Digital Design Unit — Digitales Gestalten

20% sea

30% trees

...to explore further flip page



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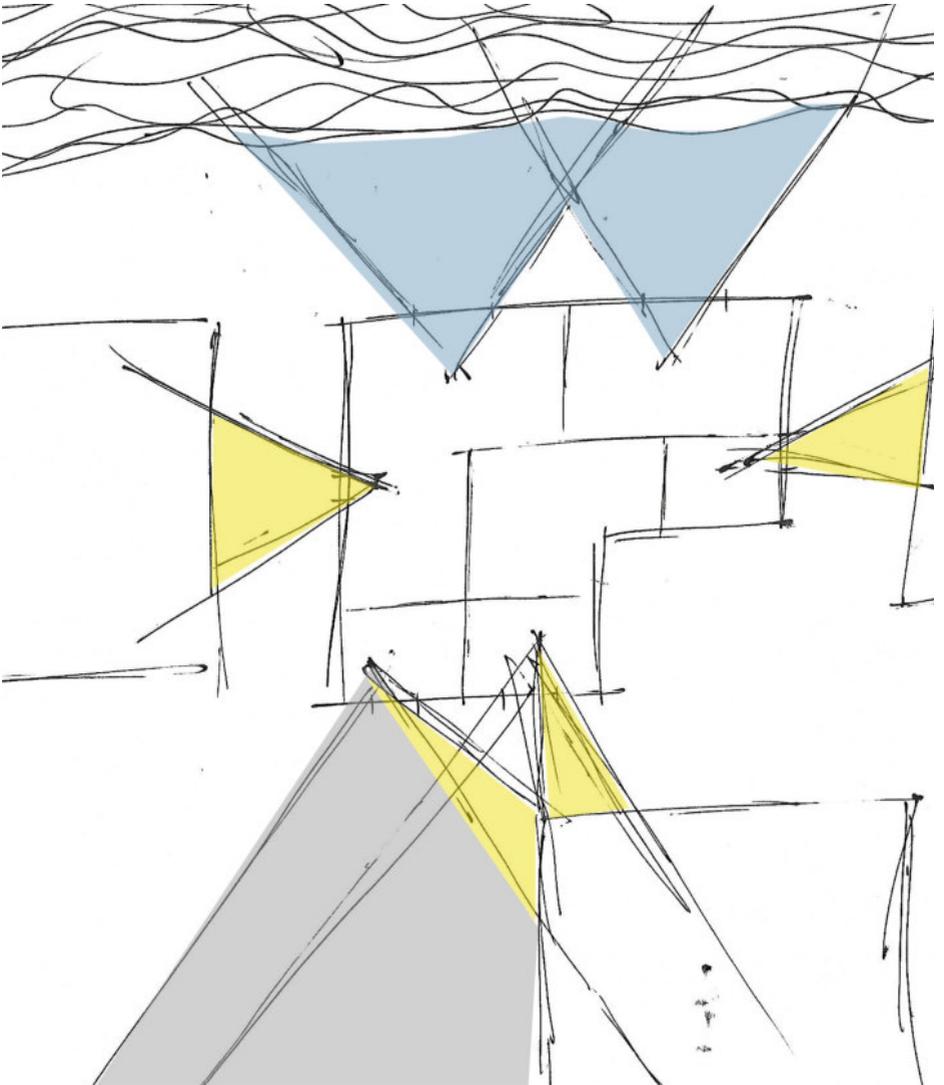
Digital Design Unit — Digitales Gestalten

**YOUR PERSONAL VIEW
BY DINA EL GINDI &
NATASCHA DAMASKE**

**FORSCHUNGSMODUL
SUMMER TERM 2017**

**DIGITAL DESIGN UNIT
PROF. OLIVER TESSMANN**

ANTON SAVOV



In the last semester we developed an app concept *Your Personal View* in the seminar *1000 Floor Plans*. In this semester we took a step backwards to find out what the general conditions for this app concept are.

Research of the view in general in connection with residents, different types of windows, the location and architecture helped us to determine the importance of the view. The analysis of the view itself, concerning what you see, from which angle you can see it and how many layers you see through a window, built a connection to the app itself und showed us how to understand the view. Many surveys with potential users and architects helped us to improve the app concept and to expand it. This lead us to a redevelopment of our app, which is now enlarged with the addition of a platform of floor plans for architects. In this way not only the potential user is considered but the architect as well and the communication between these user groups is encouraged.





RESEARCH ON VIEWS

1.OPINIONS IN FORUM CHATS

THE INFLUENCE A VIEW CAN HAVE

2.STUDIES

THE INFLUENCE A VIEW CAN HAVE

3.PROJECTS AND DESIGNS

HOW ARCHITECTS WORK WITH THE VIEW

4.LITERATURE

A THEORETICAL APPROACH ON VIEWS



RESEARCH

THE INFLUENCE A VIEW CAN HAVE

The concept for the app idea YOUR PERSONAL VIEW is based on the importance of the views you have from inside the house ? Are these really as relevant as we think ?

If you ask Google this question, several forum chats come up, where people discuss this question, for example one in StreetEasy “HOW IMPORTANT IS VIEW ? VS SPACE” or another one in Houzz “How important is a view?”¹

Here are some results:

**Kansas City NARI**
PRO **A view is what can make or break a home.**
 10 Likes  Bookmark June 23, 2014 at 11:51AM

**Red Berm**
PRO I've actually done landscape design for trailer homes in Malibu that have a view and the cost of the trailer home is way more than the cost of a normal home of more than double the size. It's the view that counts in the price of the home.


**Dyitecture**
PRO **A view would be great if given a choice and money isn't an object.**
 3 Likes  Bookmark June 24, 2014 at 9:40AM

**Anne Vigneault**
The view from my balcony! Every night, In Sept-Iles, Québec, Canada

To sum up for most people the view is very important. Some consider space more important, especially if you have a family and children. But if you have the opportunity and the money for it, a view is always important. Also the price of a house with a nice view is higher than the price for one without.

Riversider
almost 7 years ago
Posts: 13420
Member since: Apr 2009

If you cramp yourself into an apartment with insufficient space, you will be far more miserable than living in an apartment with a bad view. Especially if you are a family with kids.

lad
almost 7 years ago

I'd say space over view, provided the apartment has light.

ephraim2
almost 7 years ago
Posts: 67
Member since: Jun 2009

anotherguy --

Speaking as somebody who works long hours, I can say that when I am NOT in the office, I most certainly like seeing the sun. I don't want to go home only to feel that I'm in a dungeon, regardless of how beautifully the dungeon is renovated.

stakan
almost 7 years ago
Posts: 319
Member since: Apr 2008

The space can be reconfigured, designed, etc., while the view is forever. Protected view commands a big premium. Just check the listings. But protected is the key word.

Riversider
almost 7 years ago
Posts: 13420
Member since: Apr 2009

A view makes a space more valuable, but the best view cannot compensate for bad space.

gcondo
almost 7 years ago
Posts: 1110
Member since: Feb 2009

I dont need a view and value space more. That said, selling an apartment without a view is more difficult, because most people think they need a view. Good light is very important though.



RESEARCH

THE INFLUENCE A VIEW CAN HAVE

SINGAPORE



COSTA RICA

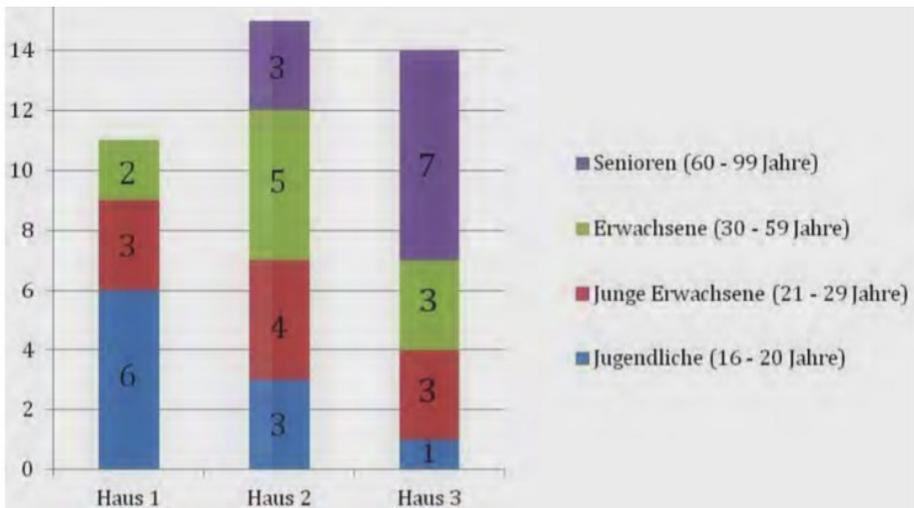


MUNICH



Maxi Oehlke did a research on how forms and colours in a building influence the way we feel there. In the last part of his work, he did an experiment where he let people choose between three houses. They were supposed to choose the one house they would feel most comfortable in.

The results show, that the house in Costa Rica was chosen most, especially because of its view.²

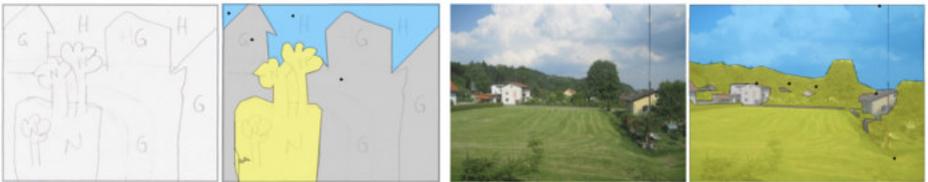




RESEARCH

THE INFLUENCE A VIEW CAN HAVE

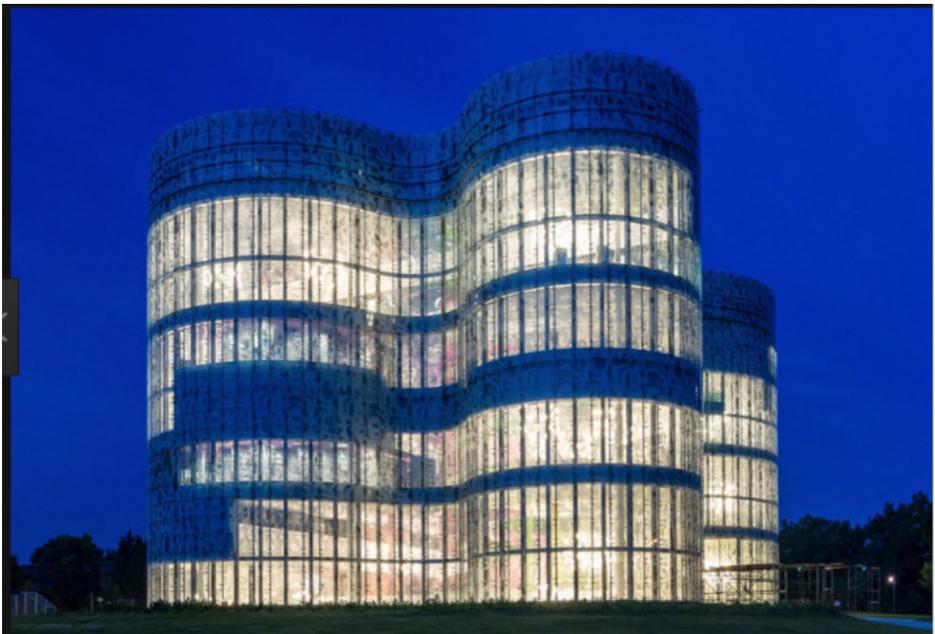
In another study by gesund-bauen.at the influence on the health of children was examined. The children were asked to draw the view from the room they use most in their house. Based on these drawings it was found out how much of the nature the children could see from inside. The results show, that the children who saw a lot of the nature from their window have much better blood pressure- and heart rates. So it gets clear that the view can have a positive effect on ones health.³



In the study “Symbolische Raumwirkung von Architektur, Ästhetische Urteilsbildung in Abhängigkeit von Personenmerkmalen” the relation between the design of a reading area in a library and feeling of the library users was examined.

The SLUB of the TU Dresden and the IKMZ of the BTU Cottbus were used as examples.

The reading areas in Cottbus are oriented toward the outdoors. This gives the users the opportunity to enjoy the view and has a relaxing effect, since they can take a break from what they are doing.⁴





RESEARCH

HOW ARCHITECTS WORK WITH THE VIEW

“The impressive view on the ‘Noorderplassen’ and the ‘IJsselmeer’ has inspired to create windows that frame different parts of the landscape. In the search for the right proportions of the windowframes, eleven 17th-century Dutch landscape-paintings served as a direct example. By showing the similarity between the landscape paintings and the view on the Noorderplassen, the specific qualities of the landscape such as the Dutch light are emphasized.

Because extra insulation and gypsum board was added to the innerside of the steelframe, the windowsills are extra deep. This offers the inhabitants the experience of sitting inside the view.”⁵

HOUSE WITH 11 VIEWS

Marc Koehler Architects, Netherlands, 2017





RESEARCH

HOW ARCHITECTS WORK WITH THE VIEW

4 VIEWS

AR Design Studio, Winchester, 2013

“A connection to nature has long been believed as good for one’s body and soul. This house connects with nature through three stunning, far reaching views of the South Downs. The long views inspiring the couple to look forward to the future, the courtyard giving space for inward private and reflective times. Subsequently, the house has become known as 4 Views.”⁶





RESEARCH

A THEORETICAL APPROACH ON VIEWS

Christopher Alexander's "A Pattern Language" deals with architecture, urban design and community livability. In the following we filtered the parts of his work that have to do with the view and how to work with that in design:

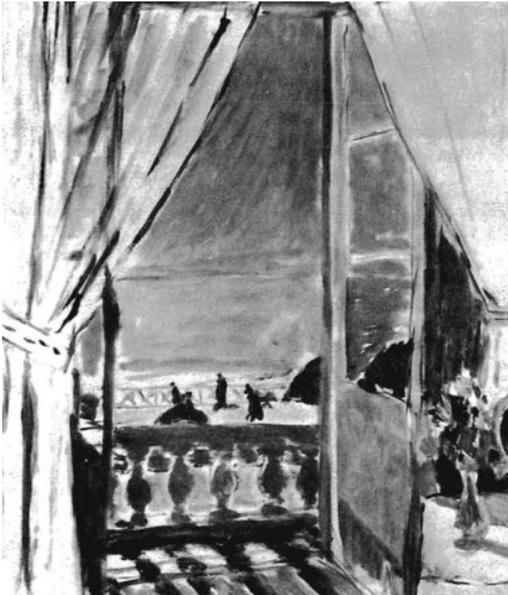
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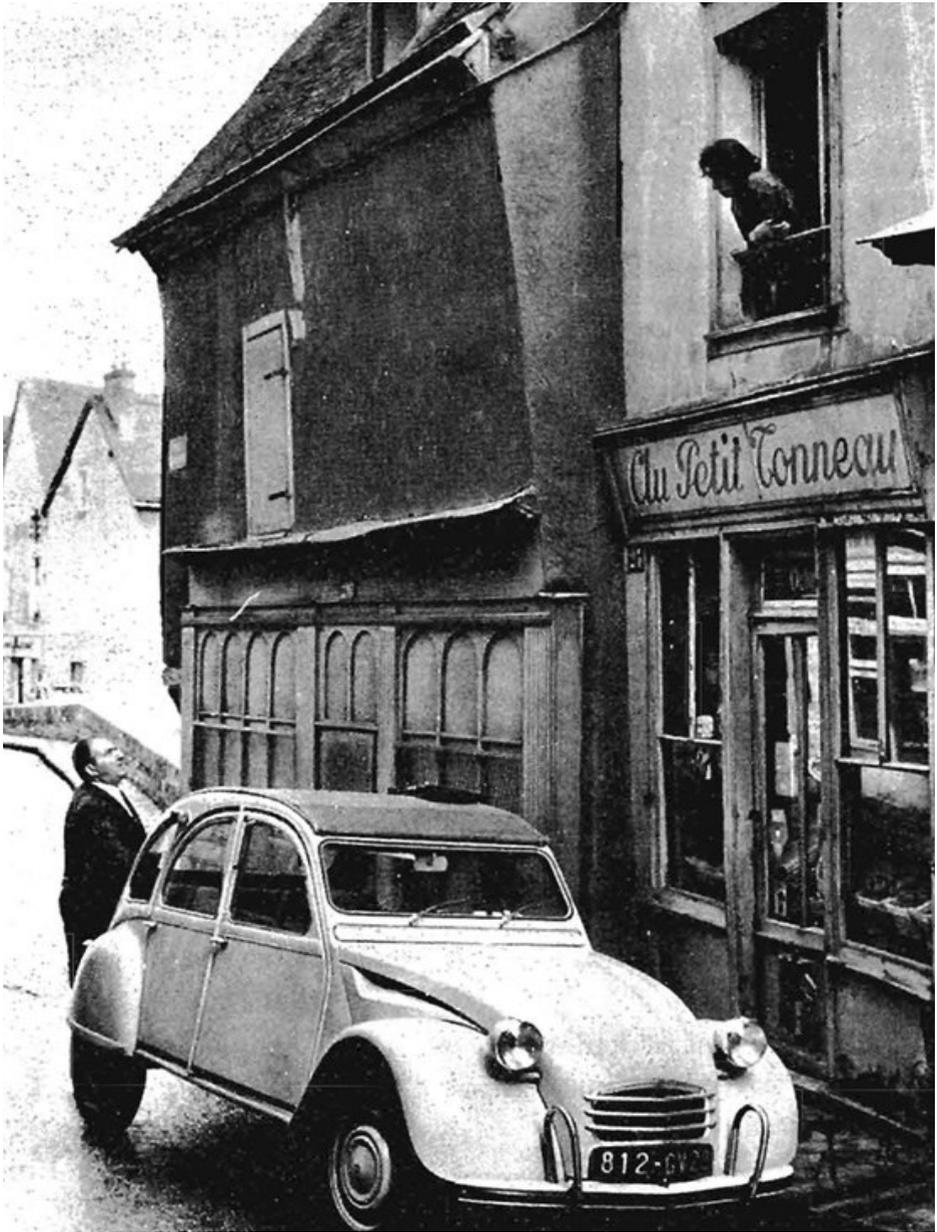
WINDOWS

Locate Street Windows on the second or third floor, lower or higher floors are either too close to the street or too far away from it. Choose a position that the inhabitants pass often, like a stairway, kitchen or living room. If possible make space for a window place so one can enjoy the view.⁷

2

If people are in place for a long time, at home for example, they need to be able to refresh and relax by looking at a world different from where they are. That's why you need a window that gives the best possible views out over life, like streets, gardens, parks and so on.⁷







RESEARCH

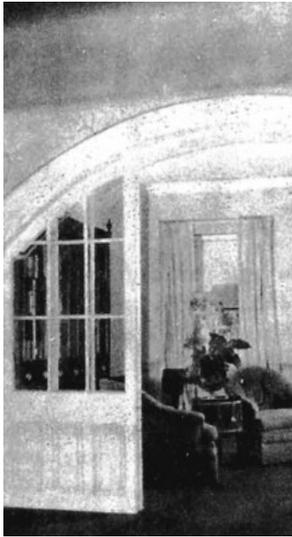
A THEORETICAL APPROACH ON VIEWS

3

A window place can be a window seat, a bay window, a big window with low sills or a glazed alcove. Window places are very important because this is where people can relax, because on the one hand you can sit down and on the other hand you have daylight, which human beings are mostly drawn to. Give every room that is used frequently a window place.⁸ Interior windows are source for extra light and more life in rooms. You can place them for example between passages, between rooms or living rooms or workrooms.⁹

4

If people live in the roof there has to be some kind of window, skylights are not satisfactory because there is no connection between the inside and the outside. So therefore use dormer windows.¹⁰





RESEARCH

A THEORETICAL APPROACH ON VIEWS

5

The size of a window always depends on the size of the room. Windows that open wide are an important source of fresh air. So don't only rely on the air conditioner and use windows that don't open. Fresh air is very important, thus windows that open wide are, too. ¹¹

6

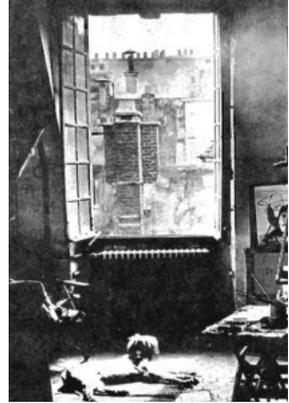
POSITIVE OUTDOOR SPACE

People feel comfortable in positive spaces and uncomfortable in negative spaces. The reasons are that people always look for something for example to lean on, a tree; a person would not sit in the middle of an open space. A person wants a certain amount of enclosure around him therefore it would be helpful to transform negative spaces into positive ones. This could be done by surrounding buildings with hedges, fences, arcades or trellised walks.¹²

7

ZEN VIEW

Windows must be placed carefully to get the best result of a view. A view can be easily spoiled by building huge windows in often used rooms. This will make the view become normal, part of the building. Windows should be placed in places of transition: paths, hallways, stairs or between rooms. That way people will see a bit of the distant view when passing but the view is never visible from the places where people stay.¹³





RESEARCH

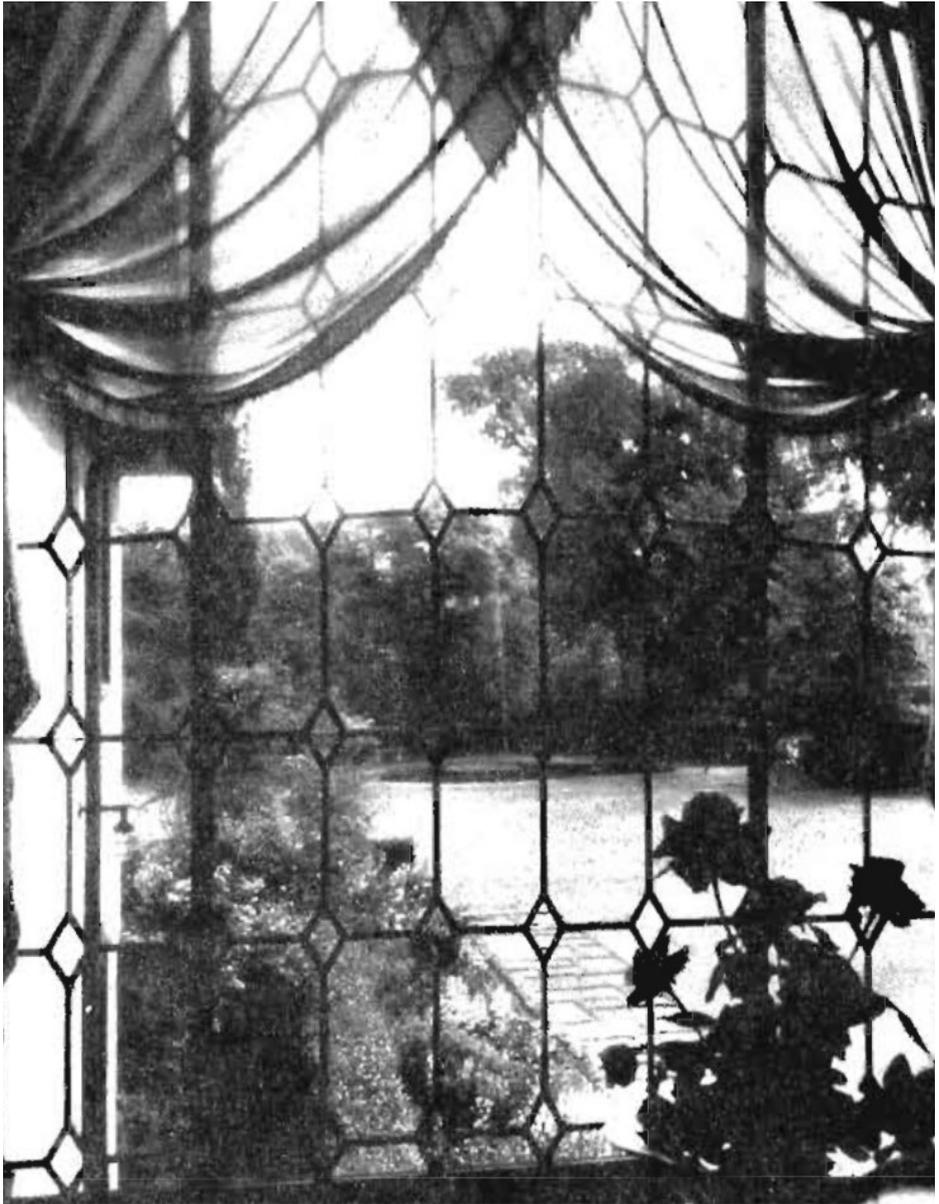
A THEORETICAL APPROACH ON VIEWS

8

SMALL PANES

In contrary to what one would think, the smaller a window is, the more it connects us to the outside. To have a view, there must be a frame and this what the window works as. So the smaller the frame the more view one has. Windows that are filled with tiny panes create a multitude of views, which can be more interesting than one big view.

esides, window frames give you a sense of security that you want to have when you're inside. You do not want to feel that you're outside when you are inside, which happens if you don't have enough frames. ¹⁴







RESEARCH ON VIEWS

CONCLUSION

Views, which are defined by the surroundings, play a big role in architecture. Often prominent items, e.g. statues or trees are orchestrated by architecture. Everything is orientated or aligned to get the best view of this item.

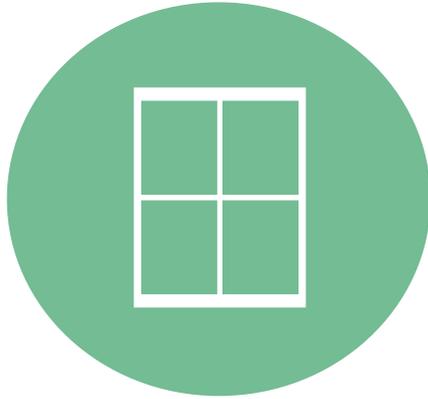
Not only prominent surroundings influence architecture but also nature, streets and other buildings. If an architect designs a house, he would consider the surroundings to arrange rooms, doors and windows. The side towards a street would probably have smaller and less windows than the opposite side, which might be orientated towards a garden or other natural surroundings.

Also wide views of a city or landscape are important for designs. In a loft or a high rise building rooms with a potential wide view would get large windows to increase the experience.

In conclusion one can say that the views in houses or buildings are in fact very important and that they can have a positive effect on architecture and design and on the well being of the people who use the building.

Surroundings of a building play a big role in the design. An App with the focus on views of ground floor plans would be a helpful extension for a first idea of a design or even the final design.





ANALYSIS OF VIEWS

WHAT INFLUENCES A VIEW ?



ANALYSIS

WHAT INFLUENCES A VIEW?

What do you see?



40% trees and green
25% floor
25% objects
10% sky

2



2

80% trees and green
10% neighbouring houses
10% floor



2

65% trees and green
25% neighbouring houses
10% objects



2

90% trees and green
10% floor



ANALYSIS

WHAT INFLUENCES A VIEW?



45% trees and green
30% sky
25% floor

2



100% trees and green

2



50% sky
40% water
10% floor

2



100% neighbouring houses

2



ANALYSIS

WHAT INFLUENCES A VIEW?

What kind of window is it ?



5



Does the window have a rail or grid?



8



Does the window have ornaments or is it minimalist?



8

How many layers do you see?





ANALYSIS

WHAT INFLUENCES A VIEW?

In which floor is the window?

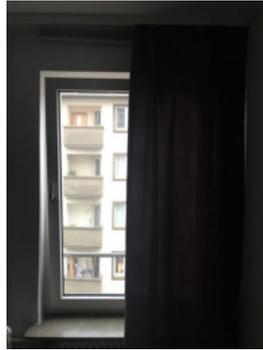


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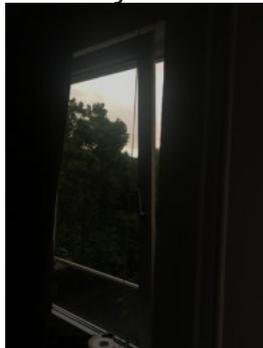
Does the window have curtains or shades?



Which colours does the view show?



Is it daytime or nighttime?

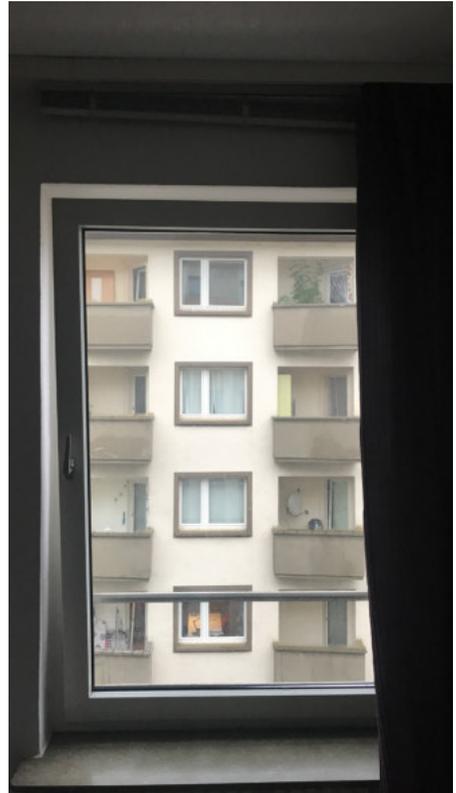




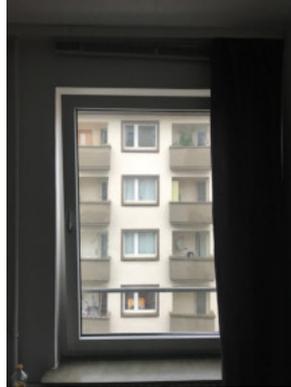
ANALYSIS

WHAT INFLUENCES A VIEW?

What are the distances to other buildings?



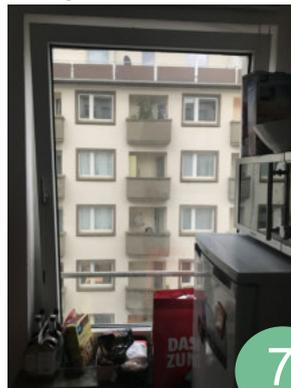
Is something in front of the window?



How's the weather (rainy, sunny,..)?



Is the view looked at or passed?



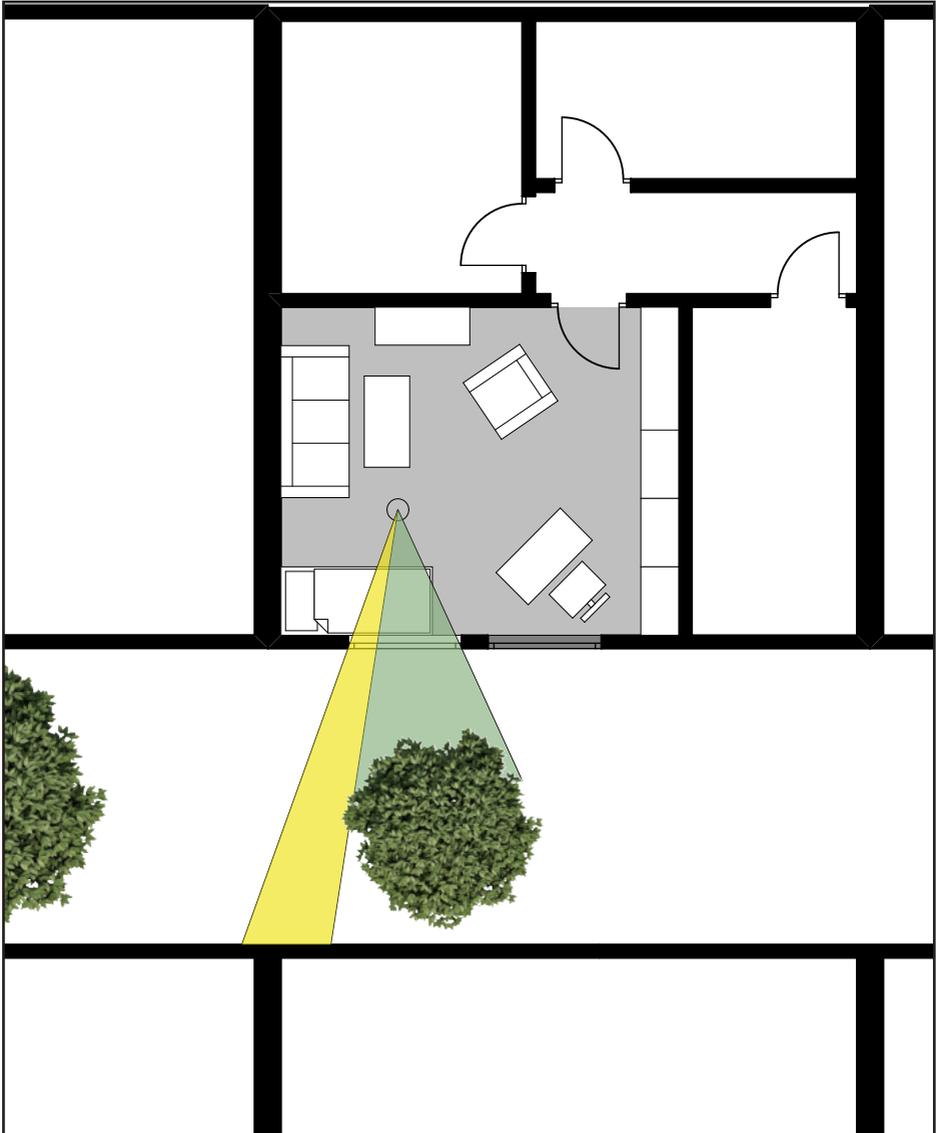
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ANALYSIS

WHAT INFLUENCES A VIEW?

View from point 1



The view from different angles



Room



Window



1 - View from the Couch



2 - View from the chair



3 - View from the floor



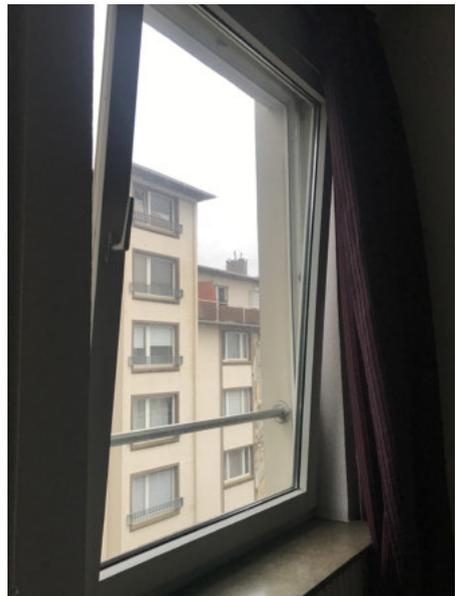
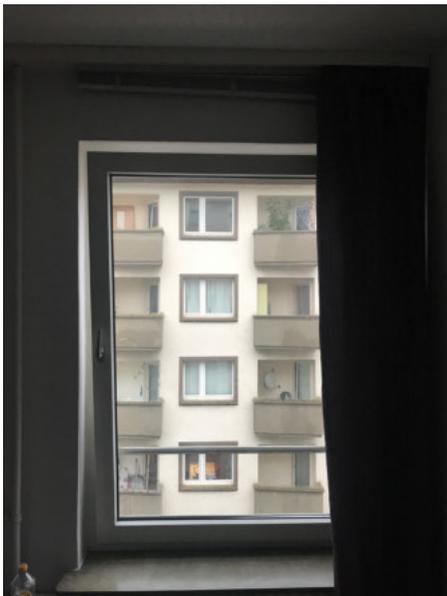
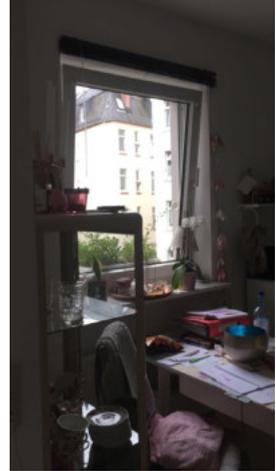
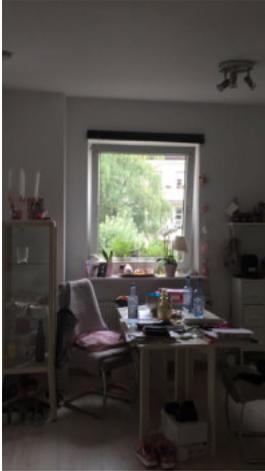
4 - View from the desk



ANALYSIS

WHAT INFLUENCES A VIEW?









ANALYSIS

CONCLUSION

A view is something very abstract and hard to define. So to get closer to a definition it is helpful to answer questions about the view, e.g.: What do you see?, How many layers do you see?, From where do you see what you see?,...

In the analysis above we tried to find as many questions as possible that help define a view. We found out that it is not only important to ask about what you see but also about the window, because the window is the eye to the view and also gives the view a frame.





APP & PLATFORM

1.CONCEPT APP & PLATFORM

2.CONCEPT APP

3.USERS

4.COMPETITION PLATFORM

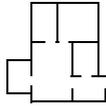
5.COMPETITION APP

6.FEEDBACK
SURVEYS



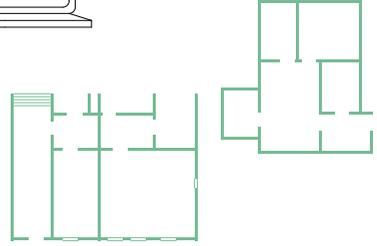
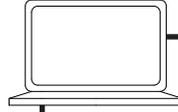
APP & PLATFORM

CONCEPT APP & PLATFORM



→

- DWG format
- LPH 3
- black walls
- floor plan must be approved



ARCHITECTS

- member of the architectural association

PLATFORM

- collection of ground floor plans
- ideas from architects for users and
- floor plans for the research of view

EXCHANGE



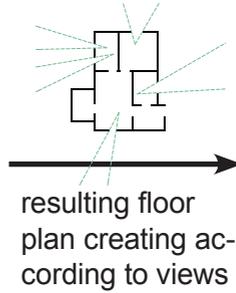
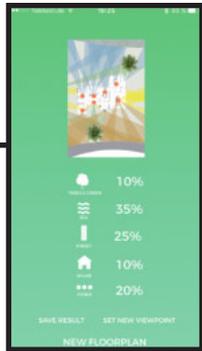
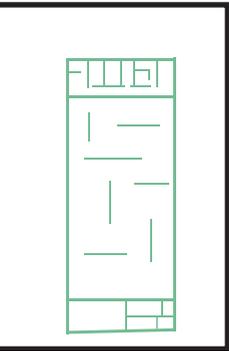
Design / Idea



←

Clients
Feedback





APP

USERS

and other architects
services

FINANCE



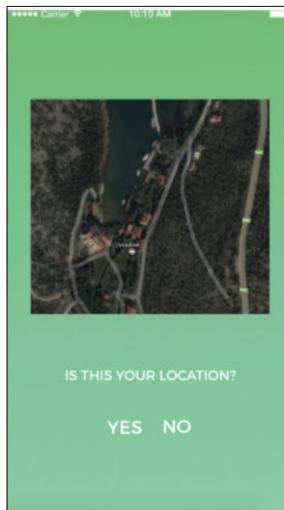
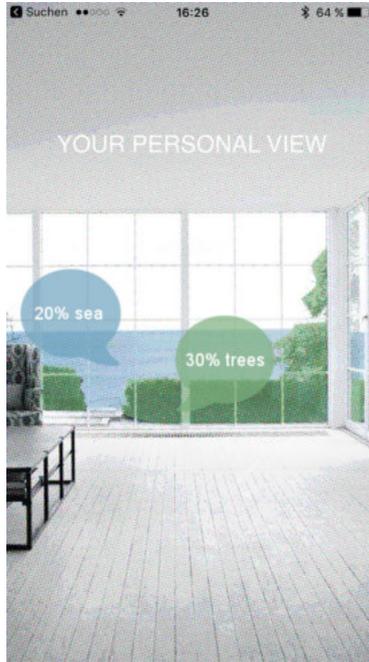
Adverts





APP & PLATFORM

CONCEPT APP



INPUT

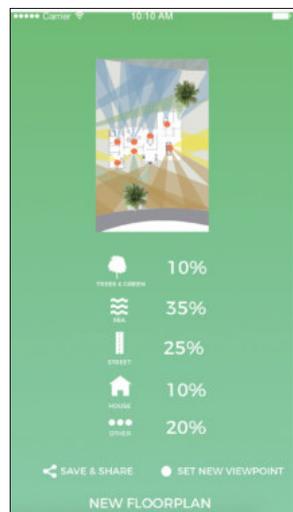
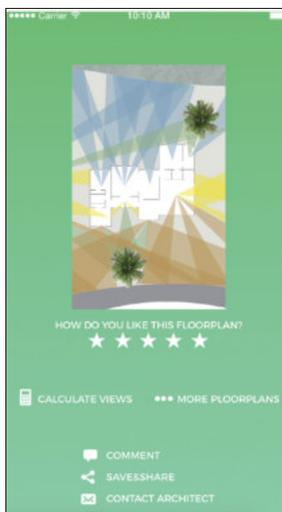
1. After entering address, find location in google maps.
2. Take a screenshot of location.
3. Rescale the location in the scale of the ground floor plans.

SORTING

4. Sort ground floor plans according to typology and number of people.
5. After defining amount of surroundings (trees, street, neighbouring houses, other) choose ground floor plan according to these amounts. Consider all requirements.
6. Show the resulting ground floor plan with the views, differentiating between different surroundings. Show the percentages of the seen surroundings.
7. After choosing view point in a specific room, show the views of that specific area with percentages of seen surroundings.

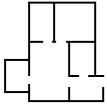
RESULT

8. Present ground floor plan as a pdf to download it or send it to an e-mail address.





APP & PLATFORM USERS



PLATFORM (& APP)

ARCHITECTS & INTERIOR ARCHITECTS



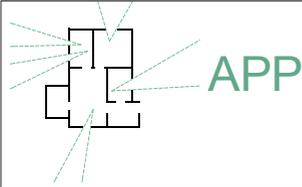
ARCHITECTS

As a user I would like to use the platform for **ideas for a design for my clients**. If I need some inspiration I would have a look at a few floor plans and compare these to each other. The platform in connection with the app would help me to get a quick start for the design itself and would let me **consider the surroundings from the beginning** as an essential part for the final result.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTS

As a user I would like to use the platform and the app to improve the **arrangement of furniture** in houses and apartments. With the help of the app the furniture would be placed according to the view, which is often an important aspect to the clients. I would not have to be physically in the rooms to consider the views because the app allows me to do this also with a large distance. The platform allows me to compare the interior of buildings of various architects to each other and get some inspiration.

Other users: site / property owners



GENERAL USERS



PEOPLE WHO OWN A SITE AND LOOK FOR A SUITABLE FLOOR PLAN

As a user I would like to get a floor plan with **specified views** of the surroundings for my purchased site. I have specific **parameters**, which should be considered in the process. These are the typology and size of the house, as well as an exact amount of rooms. With the app I could easily find a floor plan with the **consideration of my preferences**.

MARKET



REAL ESTATE AGENTS & INVESTORS

As a real estate agent I would use the app to give my clients an **idea of how their future home** could be designed and placed on the site. In this way they have the ability to visualize their intention and can make a decision easily on which site they would like to own. This would **increase my success** as well.

As an investor I would use the app to **weigh the views of different properties**. This would give me the opportunity to consider the views in my decision of purchase.

Other users: architects, interior architects



APP & PLATFORM

COMPETITION PLATFORM

PRACTICING
ARCHITECTS

floor  planner

-draw your own floor plan in
this program

PLATFORM

 houzz

-platform shows realised
projects as examples of
architecture companies
-contact architects



APP

Thingiverse

-reaction to items on platform: like, collect, comment, I made one, share



APP & PLATFORM

COMPETITION APP

FLOOR PLAN APPS



ArchiTouch 3D



Home Design 3D



MagicPlan



STANLEY Floor Plan



INARD Floor Plan



Master-Design Furnish



Floor Plan Creator



Floorplans Pro

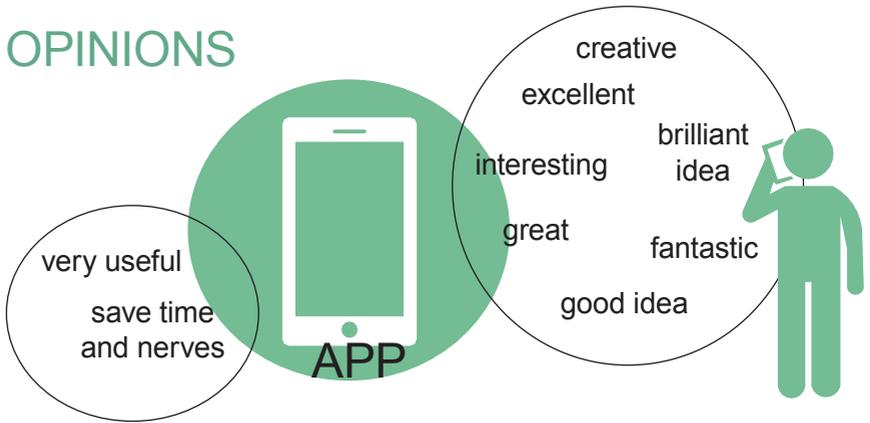


Room Planner Home Design

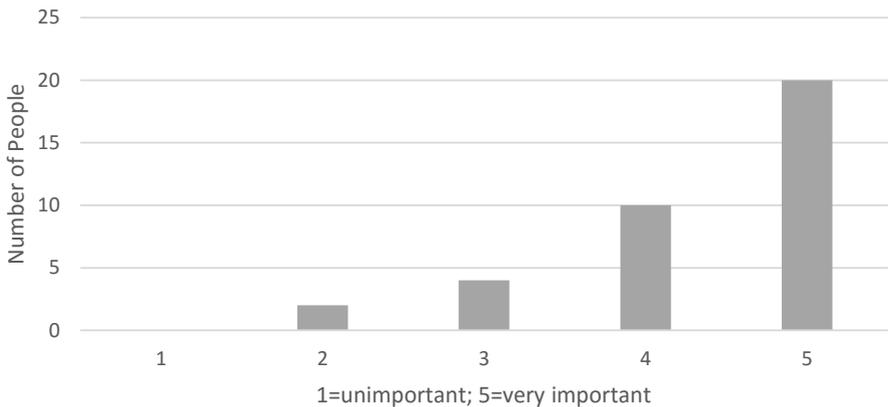


APP & PLATFORM FEEDBACK SURVEYS

OPINIONS



IMPORTANCE OF VIEWS FROM WITHIN A HOUSE



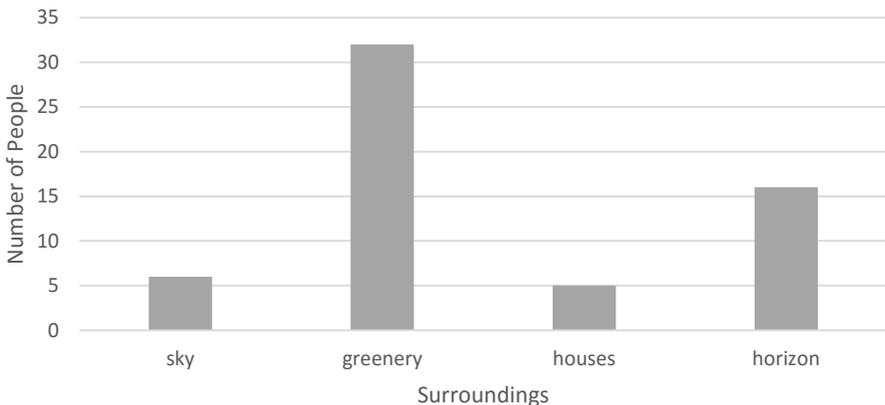
FEEDBACK - APP CONCEPT

- individuals were interested in the app and liked the concept idea
- most people would use the app, when thinking about a **design for a new home**
- too technical for some practical people
- usage of the app for a **basic idea** for a floor plan or before going to an architect
- usage would probably not exceed one or two phases in a life time, would be used more often at the begin of a design process
- users would be **young families**, builders, architecture firms and others who are interesting in building an own house

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- **more results** of floor plans to choose from ✓
- **a three dimensional outcome** to visualise the final product
- indication of more **parameters** about the site and the floor plan (property line, neighbourhood, rooms, costs, natural light, energy, sunrise and sunset) ✓
- usage of the app for **existing buildings** would help with the placing of furniture ✓
- share the outcome with friends ✓

MOST IMPORTANT SEEN SURROUNDINGS

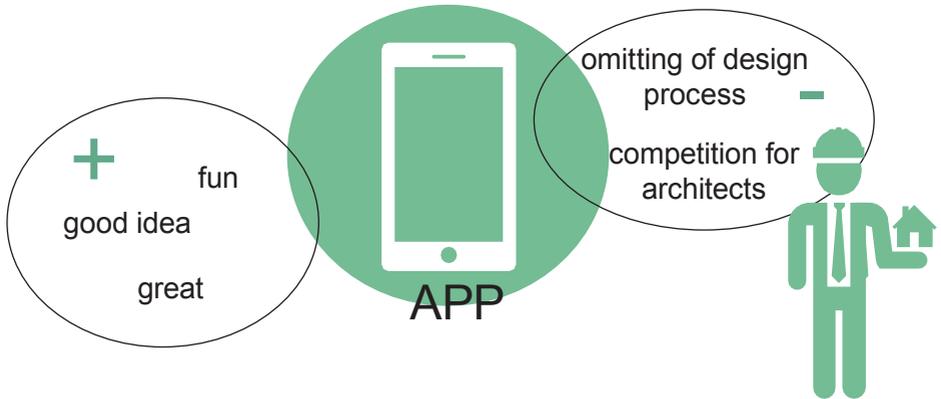




APP & PLATFORM

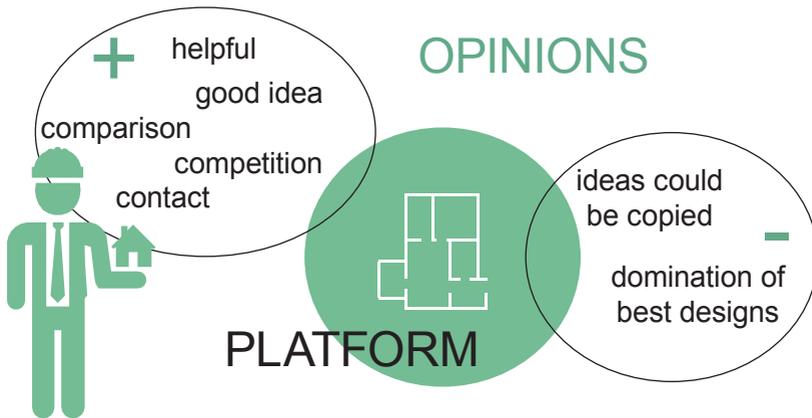
FEEDBACK SURVEYS

OPINIONS



FEEDBACK - APP CONCEPT

- architects showed **interest** in the app idea and would use it aswell
- app could be seen as **competition** to architects
- result can be seen as an **idea** or basis for a design
- an architect should have a look at the final floor plan
- users could be people with a **limited knowledge** of architecture and architects could use the app for **inspiration**



FEEDBACK - PLATFORM

- all interviewed persons would **use the platform**
- good opportunity for **publicity** and **contact** to clients/architects
- platform can be used for **inspiration**, new **ideas** from other/famous architects, comparison of designs

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- separation of design und realised projects
- a variety of **categories** (e.g. typology, costs)
- **protection** of own work
- possibility to search for specific **famous architects**





APP & PLATFORM

CONCLUSION

We proved that the view is very important in a design and for people in general, so we wanted to find a way to bring it closer to non-architects. Besides we wanted to find an easy way for architects to integrate the view in a design.

App and platform would be a successful way to do that. The feedback we got is very good and people made clear that they would like to use the app and/or platform. Furthermore no similar app or website exist at the moment.

YOUR PERSONAL VIEW would be a helpful tool for architects, real estate agents and everyone else who is interested in design and architecture.

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