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DUNE STUDIO

THE NATURE BASED ARTIST HIDEOUT

NOURISHING NATURE INSPIRED ART COLLABORATIONS

For centuries artists have come to the island, although there never was a place to work there. Even though the artist feels right at home, there is no home to be found. With dune Studio I propose a design which provides artists their own place, right in the middle of the natural environment that inspires them so much. The design is more than simply a place to stay, wear more that simply a building. True, Dune Studio includes all elements of a building and has all the characteristics of a building: safety, warmth and comfort. But Dune Studio goes beyond that. The generic elements that make up a building are deconstructed, tweaked and rearranged to form a adaptive facility modified by its users, the artists, so he can create the ideal and unique conditions that help him create his art. In a way, Dune Studio is an extension of his creative process, it is part of his toolkit.

What is/who is Dune Studio?

A place of our society, set within a natural environment, designed for supporting an artist in his creative endeavor. Equipping them with illustrated spaces for work, inspiration and residence. The workspace, living and theatre setup provide for a broad variety of artforms. The open plan houses multi-purpose workspaces, open to the influence of the artists among themselves, like the landscape has its influence on their art.

The purpose of this artist in-residence facility is to provide artist from around the world a filtration that allows them to create their work in an environment that is 100% functional and unique because of its setting in nature. Residency is designed to support those artist ranging from ones who are starting their career to those who are established artist.

Dune Studio is also intended to attract the local and tourist community. Local and visiting artists will be able to host workshops within the facility sharing their knowledge with other artists along with tools and techniques to expand their artwork.

Who is it for?

The place is made for and by artists of various disciplines. There is a distinction between the advanced artist who come to Ameland to get inspired and want to work on a serious commision, they are able to start immediately. The novice artist is welcome as well. Workshops will be given under the supervision of an established artist.
Besides the artist there are the admirers, divided into two types. The art-lover who solo comes to Studio Ameland to admire art and even to experience how this particular art is created, take a look behind the scenes of the art process. Then there is the casual visitor. This type of visitor walks the Ameland Strol and arrives wandering through the landscape at the Artists Hideout. Whether or not stimulated by the environment or driven by art, he or she takes a look at the ateliers and thus visits the exhibition.

The Path to Architecture

Art, the golden ages

Wandering through Ameland's landscape it soon becomes clear that the island holds a special place in her visitors' hearts. As you slowly approach through the channel you are taken out of your state of daily rushed grind. Your busy and stressed-out self is left behind on the main land as you emerge yourself in the oasis of peace, quiet and natural beauty. It is a modern and often heard motivation to visit Ameland.

Before the emergence of mass-tourism, Ameland was only visited by merchants, fishers and artists. The latter were not looking for money, services or products. Artists visited Ameland for the island itself. Looking back they were the pioneers who passed the waters to enjoy the unique nature the island has to offer. Drawn by the natural beauty, the artists' eye soon noticed the light, the gorgeous unique light that would draw more artists for many centuries to come.

Nowadays Ameland had to sacrifice part of its exceptional beauty in exchange for guaranteed safety in the form of view obstructing dykes and dunes. Of the frequently visiting artists in the days of old only the annual Art Month is left as a silent witness. The only connection left to this group of unequalled visitors. Artists and art lovers still visit the island - solely for its unique light and its relics that remind of a glorious artistic past. However there is no room to create new art, nor room for expositions. During Art Month recreational rooms in generic holiday parks. A stronger disconnect to the inspiring landscape can hardly be imagined.

Nature at its best

Nature and rest. It's what Ameland is known for. This notion of nature is held upright merely by the minimal building density, although this is increasingly endangered by the proliferation of vacation settlements that simply do not belong. The westside of the island has every right to call itself natural. In this part there's still a pristine area where nature reigns freely. During our graduation research at the beginning of this year, we discovered that this 'natural' island in actuality has been artificially preserved for years. To ensure safety, a dike has been created and with great regularity beach replenishments are carried out. Costs to elevate water dams increase, while the hinterland steadily subsides. The continuous fight against nature is not maintainable in the end. The search for ways to use the forces of nature for our own benefit brought us to the revolutionary strategy called 'Dynamic Coastal Management. An experimental method that, against intuition, breaks the water dams in strategic spots to allow water in to the hinterland. The tidal forces allow for sediment to settle, naturally heightening and strengthening the land.

Together with Rijkswaterstaat we determined a testzone. With this testzone we can show how Ameland, the other Waddeneilands and coastal areas worldwide can defend themselves against the rising water in a natural way. We use this graduation workshop to research which architecture matches this strategy. What is necessary to make this dynamic space livable and useable? How can we convince the inhabitants of Ameland and other endangered coastal areas of a different relationship with the landscape? A new way of living and residing.

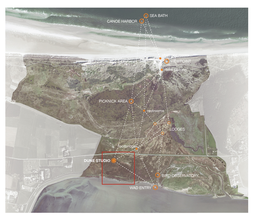
Architecture versus with Nature

Ambiguous as it seems, the delicate landscape is formed and constantly battered by the ongoing forces of nature. The wide open planes provide no cover from the persistent gale-force winds. The only given protection can be found by the two dunes that stand firm as a natural beacon in these salt marches, a haven if you will. Instinct to search for calmer grounds will take you there. Not to escape nature but to work with nature, exploiting the local topography to experience the scenery at its best, in comfort.

Operating in such a vulnerable yet hostile environment creates an urge for efficiency and toughness. Efficiency that can be derived from simplicity and utilization of modularity and standardization. Simplicity in form, a recognizable shape and organization avoiding competition with the organically shaped dunes that stand alongside as nature's superior architecture. The harsh corrosive sea winds call for a robust and tough structure. For rough materials that can withstand these winds and provide a rigid base, a framework of opportunity for the embedment of an inspiring workplace amidst its source of inspiration.

Carefully devised design solutions will differentiate between the opportunity to create a unique space to work and live and the possibility of an insensitively placed object which disturbs this unique site. Taking into account the use of rough materials and a standardized method to organize them can for example ultimately lead to a direction of generic solutions. It would create an architecture that merely serves a narrow part of the total design challenge. To avoid this, the design proposes a deconstruction of the building into its parts, tweaked and rearrange-ble. From far away Dune Studio seems to be a solid structure, a heavy-box shaped object nestled against the dune. But during your approach a degree of transparency starts to show. Once you're near it becomes apparent that the porous skin gives a feeling of lightness, of delicacy. Inspired by nature itself. Ambiguous observations that are caused by a change in scale, a change in perspective as you come nearer.

Furthermore, the architecture can be more than an ordinary building. More than a shelter from the elements. The artists come to Ameland to get inspired by the landscape and they come to Dune Studio to work in, from and with the landscape. Their workplace should therefore not be secluded from this landscape; it has to become a part of it. I found the solution in technical inventiveness to allows for a dynamic façade system, fully controlled by its users. The unique daylight has for centuries been the most appealing quality for artists to come to the island. Hence daylighting plays a crucial role in this artist residence and workplace. The shutters and folding doors give full control over daylight entrance and the level of connection with the landscape in the hands of its users, the artists.



← In search of the perfect facade

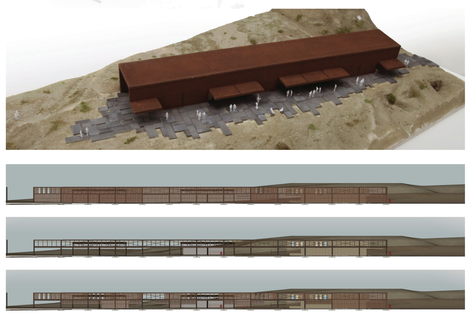
A scale model of my study in dynamic facade systems. From simple concepts like a barn-door to more modern versions like the bi-fold option. For practical use the ground floor should not be obstructed and for the top part its main purpose is to control daylight in the building.

← Facade model

Detailed scale model of the facade system. Filtering of daylight can be seen on the shadow the scens cast. They let through a little light but block direct blinding sunlight from the work area.

Dynamic facade →

Artist have come to Ameland for centuries because of the unique natural light that can be found there. Therefore, natural lighting must play a major role for the areas in Dune Studio. The workspace needs to bathe in daylight. But in order to satisfy the wide variety of artists these lightconditions need to be controllable. Each façade will be equipped with two levels of control. On the inside a fabric can be lowered and tensioned to block direct light, to eliminate harsh shadows. Adding to that an outside system of sliding panels can be placed in front of the glass so daylight can be blocked almost entirely.

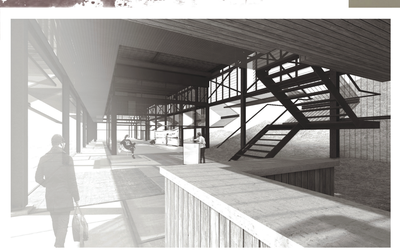


← The Ameland Strol

Wander, stroll and roam across the diverse landscape, discovering the natural beauty of Ameland, following your own interest, at your own pace. Intriguing architectural elements can be found scattered throughout the landscape. Each designed to enhance the natural experience of that particular area. The designs are dictated by the landscape and provide a space to take in the ever changing nature of Ameland. Accessibility is determined by nature, not all follies can be accessed with high water for there are no beaten tracks leading to them. Chosen materials are robust in order to withstand the aggressive sea environment, but at the same time in hold an natural quality, suiting the landscape

← Situated between the dunes looking over the saltmarch

As part of the "Ameland Strolt" the building is situated between two dunes, shielding it from the main windirection of the island. The valley between the dunes lays above sealevel even at storm tide.



← Approach from the saltmarch

Dune Studio is located in the new wetlands of Ameland. A very dynamic area where the elements dictate the landscape. Exposed to the tides, parts of the land flood on a regular basis and the surroundings change over time. In this mostly flat area two dunes provide a natural landmark, a point of interest that attracts wanderers and hikers. The facility will be placed between these dunes, facing the sea in the middle of and even part of this dynamic landscape. At the foot of the west dune a small slightly elevated area is sheltered from the ongoing west-southwest wind, thus creating the perfect conditions for a small settlement in these wetlands.

Dune Studio can be reached by foot, strolling through the wetlands and by bike, coming from the north. The two characteristic dunes provide a natural landmark that is visible from a large distance. From the north-side a first glance of the Studio can be caught between the dunes. As you get closer the roof of the building can be seen peeking above the dune behind the side of one of the dunes. For logistic purposes a semi-paved road coming from the west connects Dune Studio to the main infrastructure of Ameland. This road plays a big part for the transport of building materials and later on the regular supply of art materials.

Programming →

The gallery

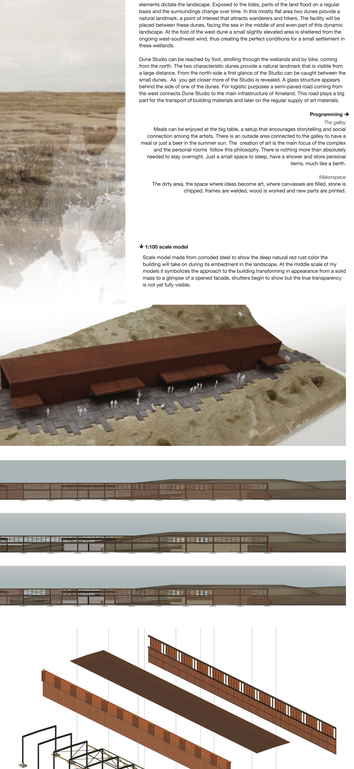
Meals can be enjoyed at the big table, a setup that encourages storytelling and social connection among the artists. There is an outside area connected to the galley to have a meal or just a beer in the summer sun. The creation of art is the main focus of the complex and the personal rooms follow this philosophy. There is nothing more than absolutely needed to stay overnight. Just a small space to sleep, have a shower and store personal items, much like a berth.

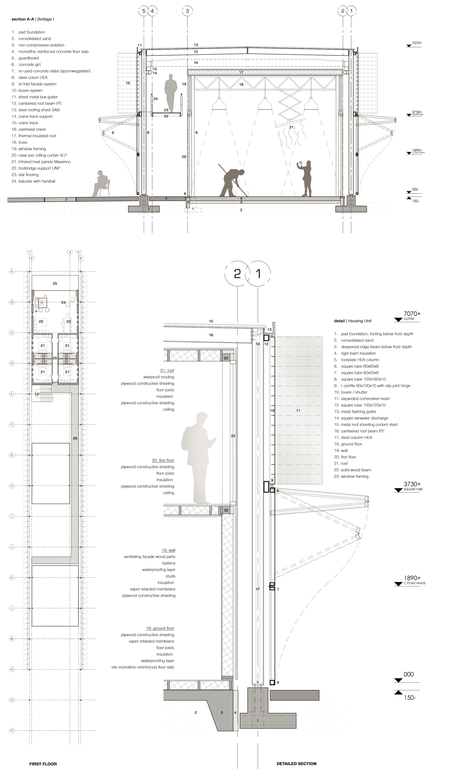
Materiaspace

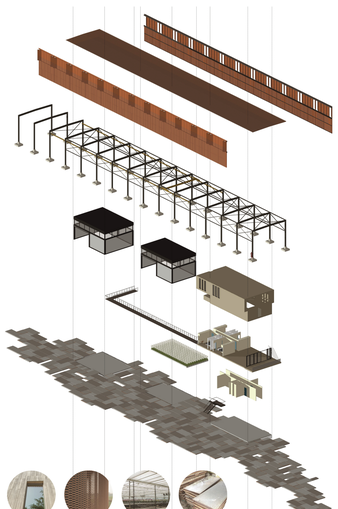
The dirty area, the space where ideas become art, where canvasses are filled, stone is chipped, frames are welded, wood is worked and new parts are printed.

← 1:100 scale model

Scale model made from corroded steel to show the deep natural red rust color the building will take on during its embedment in the landscape. At the middle scale of my models it symbolizes the approach to the building transforming in appearance from a solid mass to a glimpse of a opened facade, shutters begin to show but the true transparency is not yet fully visible.







facade | *adaptive outer shell*

The driving force behind the façade's design is Ameland's unique light. Adaptability of the structure provides a façade that can be opened or closed. The free entrance at ground's level combined with the adjustable incidence of light on a higher level leads to a combination of these two concepts. Corten expanded metal is used to accommodate the aggressive sea climate. Meanwhile the natural look of the material, in combination with the diffuse qualities of the narrow openings, does not hinder the view from within. It does however protect lodgers against direct sunlight and partly intercepts the continuous wind...

construction | *rigid exoskeleton*

Ameland is unique due to its landscape. Therefore, construction aims for quick and easy assembly and minimized impact on the surrounding nature. All elements of the building should be innovable entirely in the long run to diminish any lasting changes to Ameland's beauty.

thermal envelope | *adaptive outer shell*

For the design of the work places, transparency is key. All walls within the structure need to be mobile, to be opened and closed as the inhabitants see fit. The application of clear transparent PVC roll-up walls as used in greenhouses is an economic and simple solution. Thermal resistance is similar to the comfort provided by double glazed windows due to the use of IR heating panels.

For the service and living areas are timberframed to be able to create an independent environment the second layer of the building, that adheres to constructive and thermal requirements. Similar to the rest of the structure, this unit is also quickly built, detachable and easily transported.

interior | *rigid exoskeleton*

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installations| *hybrid*

Infrared panels are used to heat spaces locally, which is energy-saving and efficient considering the moderately isolating roll-up walls. An important part of the water supply is collecting rainwater, which is purified by a helofyten filter. Power will be supplied by the newly installed solar panels.

terrace | *interwoven with nature*

The transition from building to landscape and therefor an important part of the project. Just as with the construction these groundcovers need to be quick, easy and with minimal impact on the landscape. By mixing and laying re-used concrete floor slabs a playful pattern can be made that creates a soft transition to the green surroundings. The building bewomes interwoven with its surroundings in stead of conflicting.

← Special event: Kunstmaand

Once a year the Kunstmaand (Month of Art) is organized. This event takes place in October at the beginning of the touristic low-season. During this month a lot of art enthousiasts and artists will visit the island to experience art on various locations. Because there is no decent art-minded location on the island, these gathering points are currently set up in holiday parks, in a completely generic event-space. The Hideout, with its unique focus on art and the natural beauty of Ameland, will become this new gathering point.

← Versitile like a Swiss army knife

Due to the seasons and the artists who can adapt the facility to create their ideal conditions, the appearance will change over time. An open structure one moment can becompletely closed the next, from transparent to chaos, from rooms to cozy. It all depends on the users of the space and the natural conditions.

The Makerspace acts like a Swiss knife. Several features allow the artists to open parts of the façade to let the wind rush trough or close parts to partially block incoming sunlight. They may divide the workspace in separate areas or instead open up to become part of the collective workarea.