

## Architects' Methodology in Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Buildings

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# As Found

## International colloquium on adaptive reuse

5-7 September 2023

📍 Hasselt & Antwerp, Belgium

Hasselt University &  
Flanders Architecture Institute

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



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IMAGE: Castelvecchio Museum Verona by architect Carlo Scarpa (cc) presso Archivio Paolo Monti

**AS FOUND INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON ADAPTIVE REUSE**  
-  
**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

Organized by the Faculty of Architecture and Arts of Hasselt University and  
Flanders Architecture Institute

5-7 September 2023 in Antwerp & Hasselt

*Conference Chairs and editors: Bie Plevoets, Hülya Ertas, Sofie De Caigny*

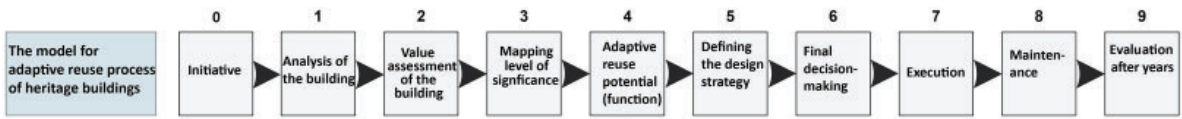


Fig.1 Theoretical model for adaptive reuse of heritage buildings (Arfa et al. 2022)



Fig.2 LocHal in Tilburg; the photo shows the interior space of the building as well as end-users within it (Arfa, 2020).



Fig.3 Energiehuis in Dordrecht; the photo shows the interior space of the building as well as end-users within it (Arfa, 2022).

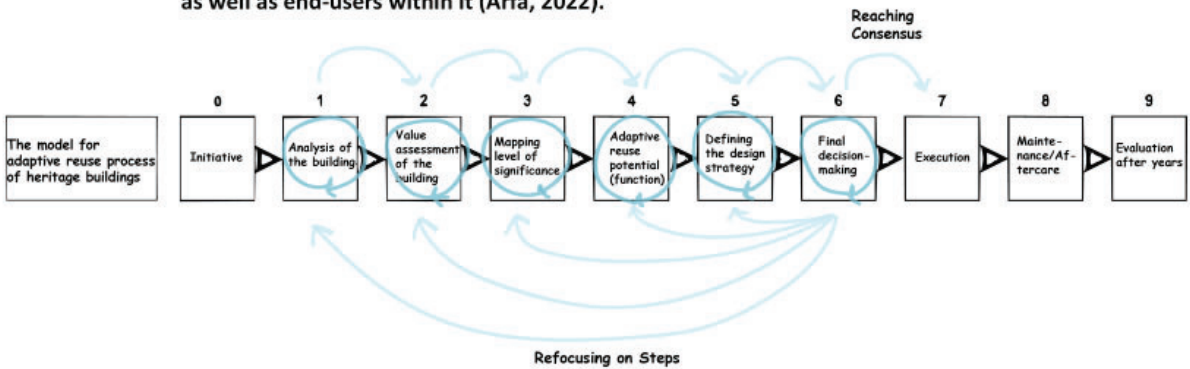


Fig.4 Preliminary sketches for refining the theoretical model in Fig. 1; adapted from Arfa et al. (2022)



## ARCHITECTS' METHODOLOGY IN ADAPTIVE REUSE OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS

*Fatemeh Hedieh Arfa, Wido Quist, Barbara Lubelli, Hielkje Zijlstra*  
TU Delft, The Netherlands

Adaptive reuse (AR) of heritage buildings is common practice in The Netherlands and is becoming more and more common at the International level. While AR projects are generally considered positive actions towards preserving the qualities of heritage buildings, not all projects have similar (positive) impact. To propose a methodology for dealing with the AR of heritage buildings aiming for positive impact, the AR process has been studied. After a comprehensive systematic literature review, a theoretical model representing the steps of the AR process has been sketched (fig.1). This model depicts the ideal steps of architects in dealing with heritage buildings. To check whether these steps are actually followed, two effective AR projects, winners of the NRP golden phoenix prize, were studied namely 'LocHal' in Tilburg (fig.2) and 'Energiehuis' in Dordrecht (fig.3). During the research, the cases were visited, the published literature on the cases was reviewed, and architects and other stakeholders involved were interviewed. The interviews were based on the steps of the theoretical model but the model was not shown to the architects till the end of the interview. Finally feedback was asked from the architects if the model represented their actual steps and where they diverged. The analysis of the collected data confirmed that architects followed the steps reported in figure 1. However, the process was reported to be not linear, as suggested in the model, but to include several loops between some of the steps, mainly between steps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (fig.4). Next to refining of the AR model, investigation of the case studies led to the identification of tools and methods used by architects, which have possibly positively influenced the effectiveness (positive impact) of the final result. Both case studies distinguished themselves, according to the NRP jury reports, because of their high 'social value creation'. Involving end-users, other producers, and original users in different steps of the AR process has been identified as the main method used by the architects contributing to this positive impact.

*Fatemeh Hedieh Arfa is a PhD researcher at TU Delft. She investigates the adaptive reuse process of heritage buildings with the aim of developing a methodology for effective dealing with them. Before starting her PhD research, she was a lecturer at Shahrood University of Technology. Her research and teaching experiences include adaptive reuse, redesign, and restoration of heritage buildings.*

*Wido Quist is Associate Professor in Heritage & Technology and leading the section Heritage & Architecture at TU Delft (The Netherlands). He is Secretary General of Docomomo International, Chair of Docomomo Netherlands and board-member of WTA NL-VL. Since 2022 he is – together with Uta Pottgiesser - editor in chief of the Docomomo Journal. His research and teaching centres around the preservation and adaptive re-use of the built legacy of the 20th century, connecting the specialist disciplines. Intertwining Values, Design and Technology, he is an expert on the crossing between historical knowledge of modern building materials and strategies for conservation and re-use.*

*Barbara Lubelli is Associate Professor at TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment. Her research and teaching activities focus on the durability of materials and structures and the development and assessment of conservation materials and techniques for heritage buildings. She (co)-authored numerous articles in international peer-reviewed journals and books as well as contributions to (inter)national conferences.*

*Hielkje Zijlstra is Associate Professor in the Heritage & Design group at TU Delft. She holds a PhD in Architecture and Building Technology (2006): Building in the Netherlands 1940–1970. Her research field includes analyses of buildings, reuse, and policymaking for the sustainable conservation of built heritage. She is involved in numerous graduate and undergraduate education projects and supervision of PhD researchers.*

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This colloquium is organized as an extension of the exhibition *As Found: Experiments in Preservation* by the Flanders Architecture Institute. Curated by Sofie De Caigny, Hülya Ertas and Bie Plevoets, the exhibition is on show at De Singel, Antwerp, from 6 September 2023 to 17 March 2024. The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue, available in English (ISBN: 9789492567321) and Dutch (ISBN: 9789492567338).

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