

# BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL

-the facade as a medium for interaction -

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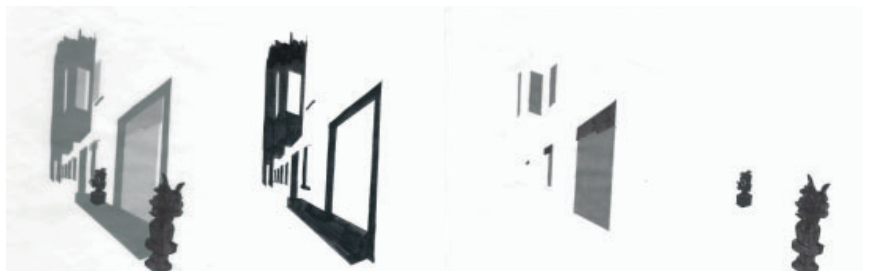
In a social context where population density grows, the rise of digitalization (e.g., social media, ...) and time constraints there is an estrangement from surroundings. For the mental well-being interaction with the surroundings is important. Due to privacy protection the façade is often a hard closed boundary between indoor and outdoor environments, between the individual and collective space. Physically the distances between exterior and interior environments are also increasing, creating a hard thick boundary, a pure functional “transition” space of the life outside and inside.

Inspired by nomadic thinking, this research deals with the ‘changeable’ place, the spatial transition between individuality and collectivity at the façade and suggestions are developed to create more open architecture, to break this wall. During research in the field, tracing, crossing and staging borders, hard and soft boundaries at the façade are experienced and explored. Research is done to characterize the façade elements in different types (fixed, variable and props). It is explored how these boundaries can blur and the role of the façade as a medium for interaction is discussed.

For many daily functions designs are created from elements that can be built within the wall. To examine these designs, architectural models are made and suggestions of daily scenes in those blurred boundaries of the facade are shown in drawings and a movie. For this movie the epic theater method is used, a technique that not only tells a story but also triggers interaction with the spectator, by ‘breaking the fourth wall’ in order to experience open architecture. By focusing in my research on the façade as a medium for interaction, life outside and inside can merge, even behind glass. The ‘transition space’ becomes a more utilized space and life arises along or within the wall.

FULL REFLECTION MANUAL ‘Doorbreek de vierde wand’ - at the department of architecture, KULEUVEN  
FILM ( version without interview) [https://www.youtube.com/martinavanschoote/breaking the fourth wall](https://www.youtube.com/martinavanschoote/breaking%20the%20fourth%20wall)

From left to right:  
Facade as a setting  
Fixed elements  
Variable elements  
Props





Intro movie  
"Breaking the fourth wall"

FILMSTILLS  
-inside/outside-

Reflection alone  
Diner with...  
Welcome - Goodbye  
Back office  
Fading out...



