

Heritage & Architecture

MSc 1 - Revitalising Heritage: Westvest 9



Wouter Willers, 2023

Tutors

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Code	AR1AH010
Credits	10 ECTS
Location	Delft
Excursion	Yes
Costs	-

The building Westvest 9 from 1865 was located at the far western border of medieval Delft. It was built as a Learning Villa for the Polytechnic School, one of the predecessors of Delft University of Technology. In 1875 the twin building Westvest 5 was built next to it. In 1877 an extension at the backside of Westvest 9 was created for a chemistry laboratory. The faculty of chemistry continued using the building until 1946. After accommodating different functions and related renovations and various extensions, the building became vacant in 2018.

Westvest 9, located between the city centre and the station, is not only a perfect spot for housing, but also to activate the Westvest and extending the centre of Delft towards the station.

The design assignment is to bring new life into the building by developing it into a small residential community with different types of residents and lively public activities, and to re-connect the building

with the urban tissue. This will require adapting the building to make the homes comply with current regulations and make it sustainable

The significance of both buildings Westvest 9 and Westvest 5 for TU Delft is obvious. For Delft it marks the dismantling of the fortifications and the arrival of the railway station. The front facade has remained largely untouched, but due to the different users over time, the interior has changed a lot.

What are the valuable features of the building? How can this building adapt to new functions and where can parts of the building be modified and where not? How can we create new life in the building and its surroundings by utilizing the qualities of the building