



stichting humanitas

Versatile living in 'age-proof' dwellings



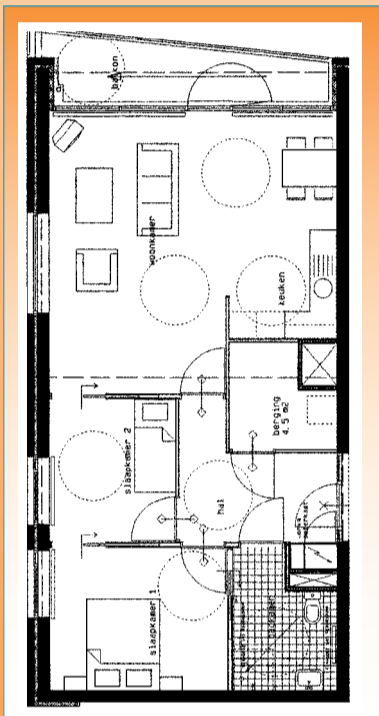
Humanitas-Bergweg



Schiebroekse Parkflat



Gerard Goosenflat



The Inside

The apartment is not only accessible for wheelchairs, but also for stretchers. This calls for an accurate specification of the relation between the rooms. Wide doors and the absence of thresholds are obvious. But also standard features are: lever taps, smoke detectors, adjustable sink units, means of communication, easy to use door and window fastenings, computerised door keys, a large bathroom, meter-reading from the wheelchair, easy accessibility of the balcony, etc.

The possibilities of individual made to measure, rather than standard, features are taken into account in the best possible way.

The Apartment for Life requires a minimum floor-space of 70 m². When developing new projects, we of course tune the plans to the latest technological developments, also in the field of communication, with a view to optimise the independence of our clients.

Humanitas' 'Apartments for Life'

Some years ago the Humanitas Foundation was looking for a new type of housing for the elderly on the borderland between 'living' and 'care'. This type of housing was found in the 'age-proof apartment'. Such a dwelling is fitted up in such a way that anybody can live in it, irrespective of the nature or extent of his or her needs. No more forced moving. The occupant can keep on living with his or her partner or relative. The dwelling is not only advantageous for the user, but also for the authorities, because this concept produces a substantial cost reduction.

'Use it or lose it' is a key notion in the Humanitas care concept. It amounts to stimulating people as much as possible to do their daily things themselves.

Only if this is no longer possible, the notion of care will appear. We take the line that too much care is worse than too little care. Patronisation and 'killing with kindness' are disastrous for a person's functioning and consequently for his or her human dignity. When you systematically unlearn the elderly to use their still intact muscle and brain functions, these functions will eventually indeed be lost.

These Apartments for Life offer maximum starting points for the best possible independence. Housing and care are totally separated. The occupants are therefore master in their own home, but can receive care according to their wishes and needs — up to and including 100% nursing care.

We think that the traditional provisions, such as residential and nursing homes, should no longer be built. Basically, every home should be 'for life'. It is financially attractive, but of course it is the people that count. And they, our existing projects prove it, are much the better for it.



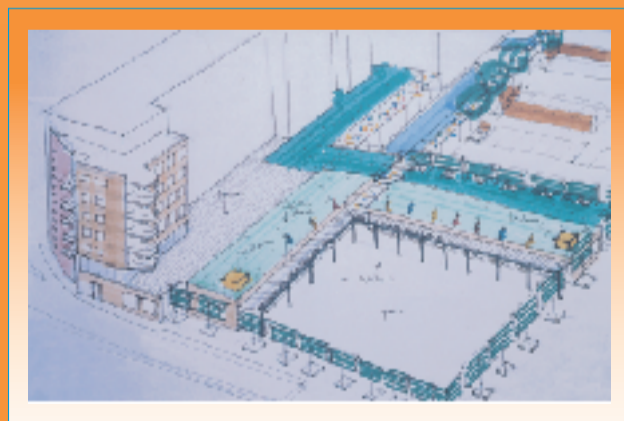
The atrium as an indoor meeting-place



A bathroom big enough to accommodate a shower-stretcher



The sink-unit can be dismantled and adjusted



An age-proof shopping-centre

Differentiation

Our buildings can include rented as well as owner-occupied apartments. 'Humanitas-Bergweg' consists of 195 subsidised rented apartments. The 'Schiebroekse Parkflat' will have these too, but also owner-occupied dwellings. The 'Gerard Goosenflat' (254 flats) also consists of a mixture.

The type of dwelling and the buying prices and levels of rent are tuned to the wishes and needs of the neighbourhood as a whole.

In close cooperation with occupational groups and organisations in the neighbourhood, facilities are created that can be used by occupants of the building and neighbours alike. In consequence of this the building will have a significance for the neighbourhood and becomes a meeting-place for many audiences. Efficient coordination ensures an efficient use of the capacity.

The Outside

Besides the dwellings, Humanitas pays special attention to and makes high demands on the outside surroundings.

For instance the setting must be in tune with the interests of the target groups, including the neighbours.

Important are, among other things: wide, accessible pavements, sufficient lighting, suitable green belts, ample parking space and safe pedestrian crossings. There must also be sufficient facilities for shopping and recreation in the direct neighbourhood, as well as public transport.

In the complex itself (i.e. for the occupant: 'outside') there are also all sorts of facilities that are at the service of the neighbourhood, such as day nurseries, general practitioners, pharmacies and rooms for day and evening classes. But Humanitas is also known for the great importance it attaches to recreational facilities. Therefore, in the projects 'Humanitas-Akropolis' and 'Humanitas-Bergweg' one can find facilities like a pleasant 'grand café' in a plaza atmosphere, restaurants, a sculpture park and a unique 52 metres long indoor pond with Japanese koi.

With this we deliberately emphasise the every day things and recreation instead of the possible personal limitations.



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That's Humanitas!