

Scenario 2 (2035-2045), Maria

In 2035 Maria is 32 years old. She lives in Borken with her partner Kim and their two children. Since the birth of their second daughter their three-room apartment has become too small for them. Having grown up in a single-family home with a big garden, Maria convinces Kim to start searching for a single-family home in proximity to the city. She knows that Kim has conflicted feelings about moving into such a house because of environmental issues and the huge debt that they would load themselves with.

A few months later a friend and her family approach them, looking for motivated partners to join in becoming members of a cooperative in Gemen. Their plan is to buy two adjacent buildings in the neighborhood. As them joining the co-op would mean a relief of their financial load and both feel that the common values and principles of the co-op align with their own, Maria and Kim decide to join them. Two befriended families quickly follow their example, completing the number of inhabitants.

Together with experienced members of the co-op and their architect the group begins to identify what is most important to them and plan the layout and the necessary features of the two houses. One of their friends' children is dependent on a wheelchair which makes a barrier-free layout of the ground floor and garden imperative. In future, after their children move out, the friends can also imagine founding shared apartments to support each other while aging. Thus, they fit the sizes of the rooms and bathrooms to allow future transformations.

To fit all 18 of them, the existing houses are extended to create enough rooms for the respective families. They choose to unbuilt the poorly insulated existing brick façade, leaving the layer of load-bearing sand-lime brick, and add a new straw insulation which is plastered over. To reduce the use of space per person and to facilitate the sharing of domestic tasks, an extension that bridges the two homes is built. The old bricks which had been stored in a garage of the co-op are reused for the facade of the extension which houses a common living room and kitchen for each floor.

To allow each family to have enough room for privacy all apartments are fitted with a den that corresponds to each family's needs and connects the individual rooms, common spaces and exterior. Maria and Kim's den finds its end in a transparent and light-flooded home office. In the garden, the group of friends creates a vegetable patch and a water play, plants trees, builds a terrace and sets up play equipment for the children.