

Dolf Broekhuizen

Independent researcher | info@dolfbroekhuizen.nl

KEYWORDS

children's holiday camps; convalescent home; public healthcare

ABSTRACT

Existing literature on the first four decades of children's holiday camps in the Netherlands (1880–1920) emphasizes that organizations had a dual goal with the care in the buildings; they focused on improving the physical health of children as well as child rearing. This article shows that the architecture of a holiday camp from the early years also focused on both goals. Both strengthening health and imparting upbringing played a role in the design of holiday camps of the Centraal genootschap voor Kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies that took a coordinating role for this new form of care for children. The Society divided the children into relatively small groups and implemented a group-system in the activities during the day. Both the social and medical goals were also implemented into the design of the building by architects. The first building in which this was given explicit effect was the Kerdijk holiday camp, which opened in 1907 in Egmond aan Zee. In this article, the author will analyze for the first time from an architectural-historical perspective holiday camp Kerdijk from the underlying ideas about the dual purpose of upbringing and health care. This purpose characterized the main organization for children's holiday houses of the Central Society in the Netherlands between 1907–1920. From around 1920, the situation changed and the emphasis of life in the camps would increasingly be on health improvement.

Italian metadata at the end of the file

Repairing the Bodies, Restoring the Souls: Kerdijk, The First Model Holiday Camp in The Netherlands (1907)



KOLONIE VAN HET CENTRAAL GENOOTSCHAP TE EGMOND A. ZEE. OP DEN ACHTERGROND DE VOORGEVEL VAN HET KOLONIEHUIS „KERDIJK”.

1

The history of the architecture of children's holiday camps (*vakantiekolonie* or *koloniehuis*) in the Netherlands has hardly been studied.¹ There are sporadic publications about some local associations for children's holiday camps, in which architecture is also discussed. Most at length in this regard is local historian Cootje Bronner who discusses the many holiday camps that were built in the Dutch coastal village of Egmond aan Zee.² In these studies, the history of the institution forms an important starting point. The social history of the Dutch holiday camps, based on interviews afterwards with former colony children, is the main theme of publicists Marianne Swankhuisen and her co-authors.³ Educational historian Nelleke Bakker and pedagogue Fedor De Beer analyzed the children's holiday camps in more detail from the perspective of the history of education and pedagogy and of paediatrics.⁴ But those researchers made no analyses of the architecture. The design of a holiday camp as part of the individual oeuvre of an architect is briefly discussed in a few monographic studies about architects.⁵ In 2007, architectural historian Dolf Broekhuizen was the first to write a historical introduction to the architecture of early children's holiday camps in the Netherlands from

the period 1880–1940.⁶ One of the few other exceptions is the 2012 study by architectural historian Marieke Kuipers, which examines the architecture of several Dutch holiday camps built in the first half of the twentieth century.⁷ Kuipers analyzed the social backgrounds of some of the early philanthropic organizations that set up these houses in the context of the architectural style. This study highlights a main theme, the architectural design of a pioneering and specially designed holiday camp in the Netherlands: Kerdijk in Egmond aan Zee. **Fig. 1** In this model children's holiday camp, built in 1907, the client's views on pedagogy and health care were expressed in the architecture of the house. The promoter of the building was the Central Society for Children's Convalescent Homes and Holiday Camps ("Centraal genootschap voor Kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies" in Dutch). Bakker analyzed the interaction of pedagogy and health as a main theme in the medical-pedagogical development of children's healthcare structures in the Netherlands. She argues that due to the increasing medicalization, the health motive became more prominent, at the expense of the upbringing ideal. From the 1920s onwards, medical care became more important

1

A group of children and supervisors, in the dunes in front of the Kerdijk Holiday Camp in Egmond aan Zee, opened in 1907 (Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vacantiëkolonien in Nederland*, 1908).

2

Groups of children in the outdoor space of the Kerdijk Holiday Camp, undated postcard. Publisher: L. Frankenberg, Alkmaar (author's private collection).

3

Interior view of the Kerdijk Holiday Camp: the bedroom with two groups of children, undated postcard. Publisher: L. Frankenberg, Alkmaar (author's private collection).

4

P.N. Leguit, design drawing for a children's Holiday Camp in Egmond aan Zee, Kerdijk, small variant (not executed), 1905 (Amsterdam, Municipal Archives, beeldbank).

and would be characteristic of the Dutch situation. In this article, these findings as to the history of the medical-pedagogical goals of the Dutch children's holiday camps will be confronted for the first time with the analyses of their architecture. In this way it will shed new light on the Dutch position in children's holiday camps around 1900–20: the emphasis on the dual goal of hygiene and upbringing by presenting a model building.⁸

THE INTERACTION BETWEEN PRIVATE INITIATIVE AND GOVERNMENT

In the historical studies of the medical-pedagogical developments of holiday camps in the Netherlands, the emergence of children's camps as a new institution is linked to private initiative.⁹ At the turn of the century, between 1880 and 1920, the care for so-called 'weak' Dutch children was largely the result of private organizations and philanthropic associations recognizing the importance of the preventive effect of these holiday or health-related summer camps, that were initially named "health colonies" (*gezondheidskolonies*). They were part of what has been called a hygienic offensive focusing on the working class. Holiday camps arose in the context of other facilities for medical care and education for children, which in the Netherlands largely took shape in pillarized organizations and buildings. Next to provinces and municipalities, the

government only acted in a supportive way, from 1920 by means of subsidies and inspection and regulation.¹⁰ Municipal health services left the initiative to the private initiative. The initiators were private, charitable organizations.¹¹ In practice, many associations arose that would deal with the organization of summer camps for children. After the initial phase, all kinds of organizations set up holiday camps of their own, such as neutral and liberal organizations, societies for poor relief, vegetarian groups and religious institutions.¹² The variety of backgrounds of the organizations matched the purpose of the buildings: not only did they focus on the health of the child, but also on social education. A report in the organ of the Association of Dutch Educators (1900) explicitly formulated this double aim: the "promotion of the physical and moral well-being of the youth."¹³ Both goals could be interpreted as preventive healthcare. Strengthening physically weak children could prevent them from getting sick, especially from tuberculosis. And teaching order and tidiness also influenced behavior in later years. At the same time, the variety of backgrounds of the buildings met a demand of many families. Parents wanted their child to be nursed with the moral values of their own denomination. That meant sending them to a summer camp with characteristics of a specific religious or non-religious group was an important condition for the parents.¹⁴

Inlichtingen over verpleging en het oprichten van afdelingen
geeft A. C. Bos, Egmond aan Zee.

Koloniehuis „Kerdijk” —
EGMOND AAN ZEE.



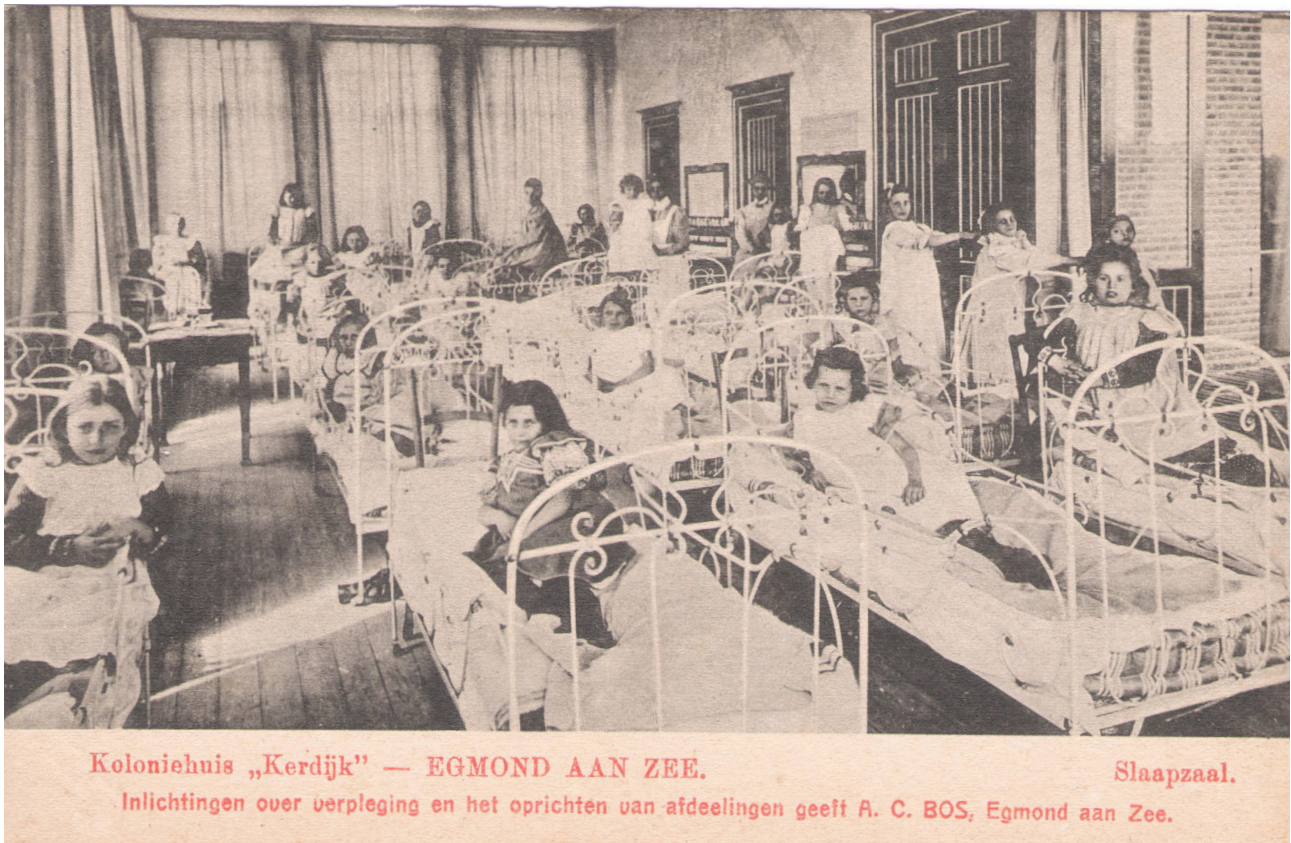
1

To unify initiatives and support local efforts, a group of concerned individuals initiated the formation of a central association in 1901.¹⁵ The Central Society for Child Convalescent Homes and Holiday Colonies (hereinafter referred to as the Central Society) was a neutral association, whose aim was to promote children's holiday camps in the Netherlands.¹⁶ The association did this by providing information and propaganda to other local associations. In the early days of the 1880s and 1890s already existing buildings were used for this purpose; which were slightly modified for this specific function, by means of renovation. In addition, the Central Society, as a private organization, stimulated and coordinated the construction of holiday camps as a new facility for children. The founding board in 1901 included representatives of associations for education and childcare, such as the Society for the Promotion of Medicine, the Dutch Educators Society, the Union of Dutch Educators, and the Groningen Association for Health and Holiday Colonies.¹⁷ The society also took the initiative to build its own buildings. In fact, the Central Society became the largest organization of children's holiday camps in the Netherlands. By the end of the 1930s, it managed eleven of about fifty holiday camps in the country and was responsible for about one-third of the total number of children sent to homes by the sea or in the woods.¹⁸

TO A HOLIDAY CAMP OR FAMILY NURSING?

When it came to sending children out from their own families, sending them to a summer camp was not the only possibility. There were mainly two lodging options: a holiday camp or staying with a family. The latter form has not become popular in the Netherlands. The medical and pedagogical supervision of this form of nursing, in which children were sent on an individual basis to families in rural areas, was much more complex. Experiences with family nursing in the Netherlands were not positive.¹⁹ The disadvantage of family nursing, according to an author about the summer camp system in the Netherlands in 1908, was that the educational aspect of the hosting families left much to be desired.²⁰ Historian of education Bakker (2007) has convincingly demonstrated that in the related public debate, proponents of family nursing brought forward, among other things, the lower costs. According to the protagonists staying in a peasant family, for example, could also lead to a natural respect for parental authority. They argued that this experience could instill better morals in the child.

Opponents of the family care model were mainly doctors and specialized medics; they argued that medical supervision of children in that case was much more difficult and that the receiving parents did not have professional medical training to supervise the children. Moreover, one of the



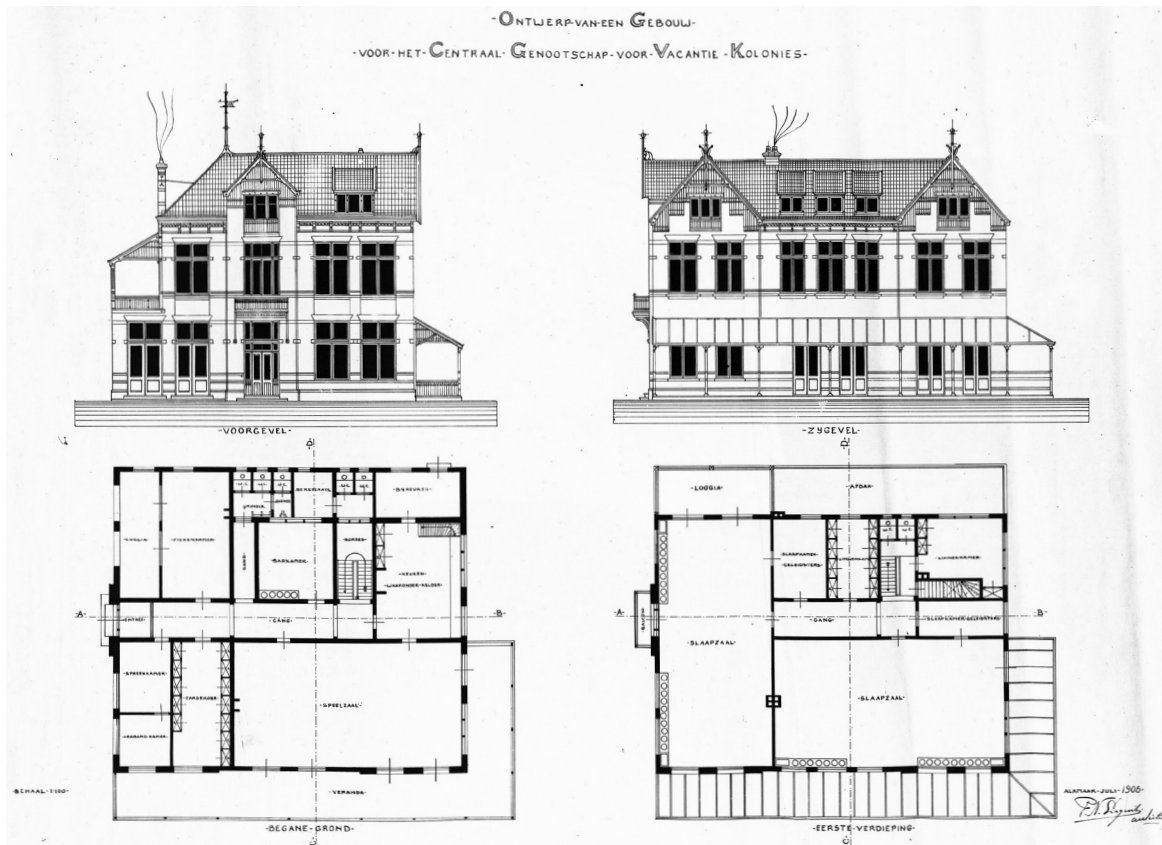
3

main reasons for sending an urban child to the countryside was not necessarily achieved: hygiene conditions in rural areas were often poor, which could even endanger the child's health. There was not always clean drinking water, bedrooms were inadequately ventilated and sleeping habits were not always hygienic, such as sleeping with several children in the same bed.²¹ As a result of the increasing importance of medical ideas and knowledge around the structures of holiday camps, family nursing faded into the background. In practice in the Netherlands, the number of children sent to rural families fell steadily between 1920 and 1940.²²

THE GROUP SYSTEM

In holiday camps, where a professional staff could be assigned, medical and moral guidance was more evident than in family nursing. But there was also a risk associated with this method. The disadvantage of group nursing in a holiday camp was its institutional character. Arie Cornelis Bos, one of the founders of the Kerkdijk holiday camp, argued that the buildings that were too large had many disadvantages: "don't build large houses, because they get an impersonal character."²³ In large buildings the danger was lurking from the lack of individual help and care, which was considered to be desirable for children at such a young age (ca 7-12 years old). That is why the professional medical advisers involved in the Central Society preferred

the so-called "group system."²⁴ In 1907 the Central Society as an association was able to realize its first completely newly built holiday camp of Kerdijk at the seaside in Egmond aan Zee, in which that group system was applied. The colony was led by a former teacher, Arie Cornelis Bos. The Society regarded this building as a model holiday camp that served as an example for other associations. Especially regarding the functional requirements for such buildings. And in regards to the arrangement of dormitories and the cleaning practices of the body. These activities were based on pedagogical and hygienic views. In holiday camp Kerdijk, the group system was implemented throughout the entire day and night program for the children. From the moment they arrived in the building, the children stayed within the same group of 10 to 12 children as much as possible. **Fig. 2** All activities, such as eating, playing, and hiking were always supervised by the same leadership, so a family feeling could be created, so to speak.²⁵ The beds in the dormitories were also grouped into zones. **Fig. 3** A year after construction, in 1908 the feminist journalist Henriette van der Meij stated in a publication about holiday camps in the Netherlands that the small group of children always had the same supervisor, with whom the children could build a personal bond.²⁶ During the activities, the leaders taught the children order and cleanliness, and transmitted norms and values. The idea was that the children were not sufficiently



4

offered these attitudes at home in their own families. The new behavior was expected to make a positive contribution for the rest of the children's lives.²⁷

In 1909 Bos, the director of the Kerdijk holiday camp, compared the "group system" to living in a family: "As soon as the children arrive, they are divided into sections, which we could also call families. Usually they [the children] are divided into older boys, older girls, younger boys, etc." Bos then described the method in more detail, with a woman at the head of the ward:

Each group of 10 to 12 inmates has its own leader and strict supervision is taken to ensure that each group goes out separately. The supervisors must give themselves wholly to the children, and they do this best when they have no company other than the little ones assigned to them. The special abilities of the ladies come into their own best in the group system.²⁸

Bos seems to be referring here to the care of (unmarried) women. The counselors in these years were often trained as teachers and used to caring for the children in this way. At Kerdijk's opening, the journalist stated in a newspaper: in the holiday camp "weak children will find restoration of their strength and young women will do their utmost to devote themselves to the care of children with loving devotion."²⁹

THE SIZE OF THE HOLIDAY CAMPS

Besides to a social view of desirable family life, the Kerdijk building in Egmond aan Zee also expresses the vision of seeking a balance between cost and size of summer houses. There was also an economic argument behind it. For Bos, the Kerdijk camp was a model facility that struck a balance between economy and efficiency. Bos put it this way in the pages of *Tijdschrift voor armenzorg en kindbeschermting* ("Magazine for poor relief and child protection"):

Already in the first year that the holiday camp Kerdijk was taken into use, efforts were made to maximize the advantages of small and large houses, i.e. intimate family life and an economical household, to combine. Those experiments were so successful that the group system that was used then [at Kerdijk in 1907] was introduced in all other structures [of the Central Society].³⁰

The association's building consultant, Haarlem architect Pieter Nicolaas Leguit, translated the group system into a spatial layout for a holiday camp. As a consultant, he designed several buildings for the association, the first being this Kerdijk holiday camp.³¹ During the design process, Leguit made several – and still preserved – variants for the Kerdijk holiday camp, from which a typological picture of the

5

P.N. Leguit, presentation drawing for a children's Holiday Camp in Egmond aan Zee, Kerdijk, bigger variant (executed), 1906 (Scheltema, *Gezondheidskolonien voor kinderen*, 1906).

6

P.N. Leguit, children's Holiday Camp Zwartendijk, in Egmond aan Zee, could house 120 children at the start, undated postcard, [ca. 1910]. Publisher: Wed. H.J. Belleman (author's private collection).

7

P.N. Leguit, design drawing for children's holiday camp Zwartendijk, in Egmond aan Zee, 1910 (Amsterdam, Municipal Archives, archive 907, inv.nr. 625).

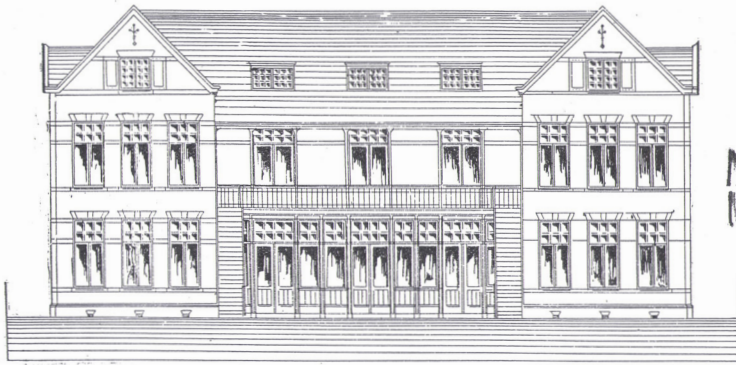
building type can be derived. Because the budget was still uncertain at first, the architect made two proposals in 1905, varying in size. The smaller design, drawn with 35 sinks in the two dormitories, was set up asymmetrically and evokes the image of a house. **Fig. 4** Although a smaller building appears more homely, the Central Society preferred larger buildings, with more accommodation capacity because they were financially more favorable to exploit. The larger variant, drawn with 48 washing places grouped as 4 by 12, was set up symmetrically. **Fig. 5** This floor plan has an H-shape as a basis, with a central corridor and staircase that enhances the orientation within the house.³² As the budget became clearer in the following months, the budget increased, the larger design with the H-shape was realized. When it opened, the building was ready to house 60 children, indicating that the sinks were used by multiple children.³³ The H-shape for a holiday camp for children was not a novelty. The practical and economic design had already been published in an architectural magazine in 1903. This project was submitted to a design competition, organized by the Rotterdam association for architecture.³⁴ At the time the use of pavilions with an H-shaped floor plan was not uncommon in medical care. It was also used in the pavilion system in hospital construction.³⁵ The H-shape also fitted in well with the well-arranged nursing of groups that were

divided according to sex: boys and girls in their own wing and the staff and facilities in the connecting section in between.³⁶

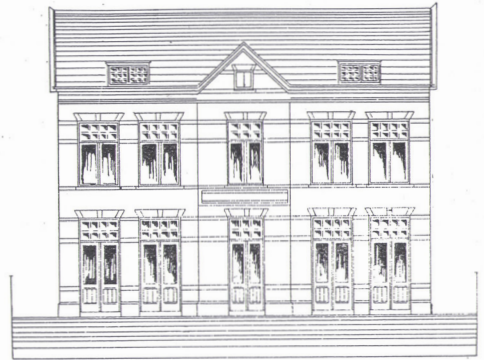
KERDIJK AS A MODEL BUILDING

From the beginning, the Kerdijk holiday camp functioned as a model building and was featured in several publications.³⁷ In order to acquaint the public with the new type of building, Kerdijk was exhibited at the "Upbringing of the child" exhibition ("Opvoeding van het kind") held in 1908 in The Hague.³⁸ A design for a second holiday camp was also shown, which had not yet been built at that time. The Holiday camp Zwartendijk, of which a (non-executed) design variant in Old Dutch style was shown at the same exhibition. The gable with corbie-steps were in line with the aim to create a homely atmosphere because of the visual link to ordinary houses. The articles referring to the project always emphasized the division into small groups of 10 to 12 children. A small model was even made of Zwartendijk that toured the Netherlands as propaganda for the Central Society.³⁹ That the information was not superfluous is evidenced by other homes that sometimes had dormitories for fifty children. There were clearly initiators who did not care about the views of the central society.⁴⁰ Since the construction of Kerdijk in 1907, holiday camps with

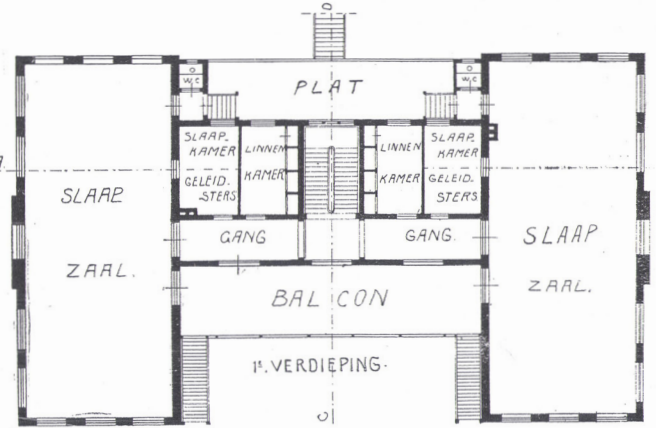
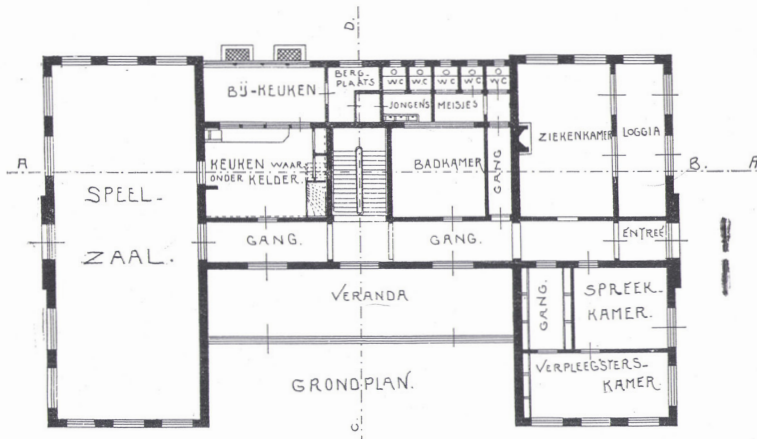
KOLONIEHUIS VAN HET CENTRAAL-GENOOTSCHAP TE EGMOND AAN ZEE.



Voorgevel.



Zijgevel.

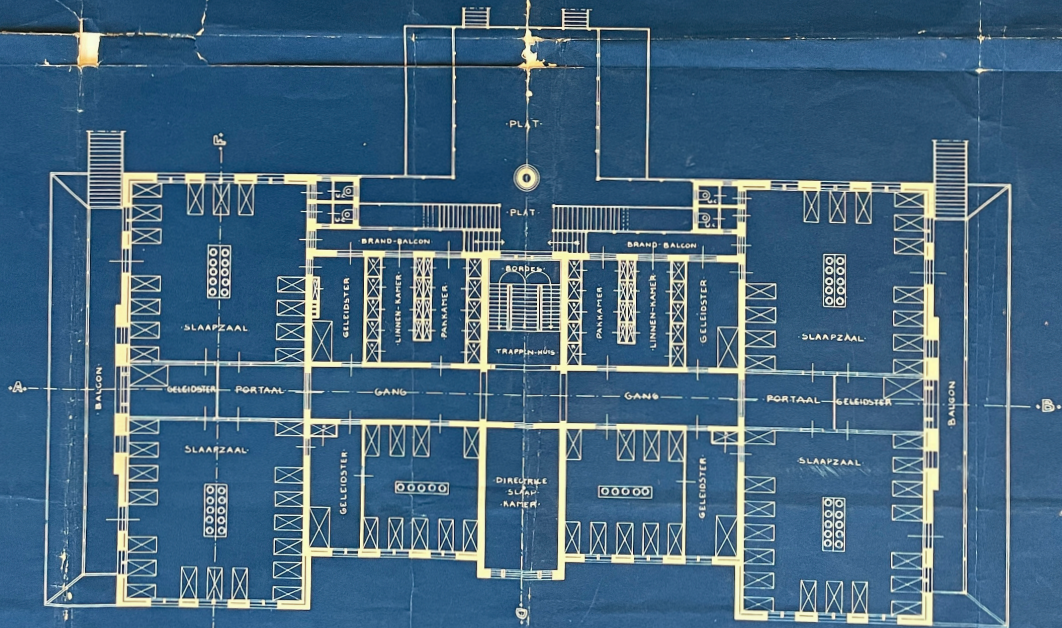
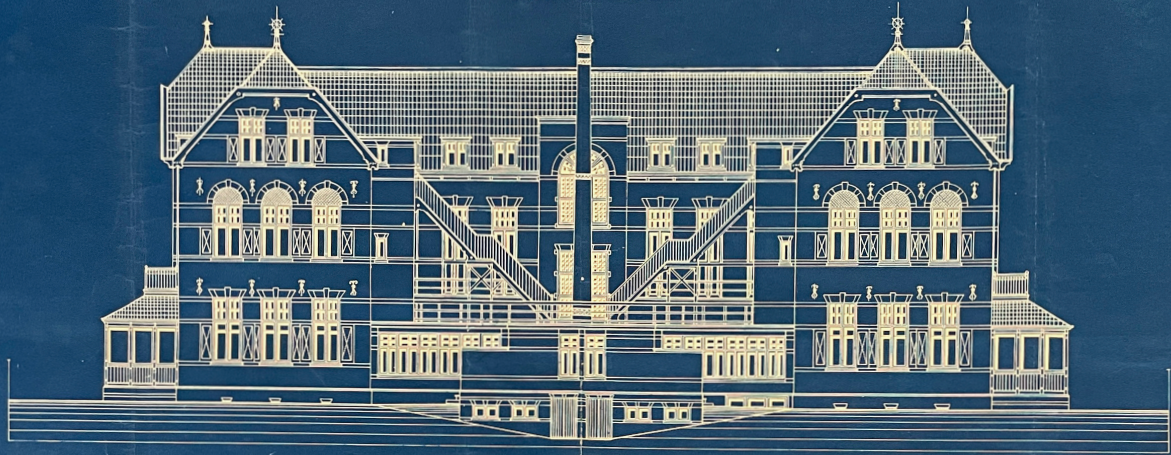


5

6



·ACHTER-GEVEL·



·PLAN II VERDIEPING·

·ALKMAAR JANUARI 1910·

H. B. ...

Interior view of the dining room in the Kerdijk Holiday Camp, opened in 1907 (Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonien in Nederland*, 1908).

Sick children in the nursing room in the Kerdijk Holiday Camp in Egmond aan Zee (Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonien in Nederland*, 1908).

P.N. Leguit, the Boschhuis Holiday Camp, Nunspeet, 1925 (The Hague, National Archive, Fotocollectie Elsevier, photographer N.V. Vereenigde Fotobureaux 028-0243).

an H-shape floor-plan would be preferred by the Central Society, and dormitories could be compartmentalized into smaller units.⁴¹ This is even more apparent at the holiday camp Zwartendijk, which was built a few years after Kerdijk in its neighbourhood, a few meters next to it. **Fig. 6** That was the second new purpose-built building of the society. With the capacity of 120 children Zwartendijk Holiday camp was the biggest house of the society. In the newspaper reports that appeared at the time of the opening in 1910, the writers mentioned that in this building the group system had been applied even more clearly. In Zwartendijk there were several dormitories with room for 10 to 12 children. **Fig. 7** In this second house there were no large dormitories, which Kerdijk still had, was stated in the article that was published in several newspapers: Zwartendijk was

furnished in the same style as the adjacent Kerdijk building, but the so-called 'group system' is successfully implemented here. The system of large dormitories has also been broken, as it has been found in practice that smaller dormitories are more satisfactory.⁴²

The group system had also been achieved in other elements of nursing and upbringing, such as in the playroom and dining room, where children sat in small groups at tables.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL BUILDING FACILITIES

In addition to the layout of the sleeping areas, other parts of the building also show why the Central Society regarded Kerdijk as the first model holiday camp. The building functioned as an example for other associations because it had the essential parts that were considered necessary for children's care at that time. For example, the veranda and balconies that allowed the open-air cure to be effective under different weather conditions. In bad weather, the veranda, whether glazed or as a balcony, could be used as a room for playing. In very bad weather conditions, children could go to the playroom. The playroom in Kerdijk was also separate from the dining room. **Fig. 8** All these areas were not only well ventilated and provided with daylight. They were also clean and spacious, and there were adequate hygiene facilities, such as sinks, sanitary facilities and showers. In addition, there were facilities for the household such as a linen room and kitchen. From the boardroom, the headmistress could manage the house and receive guests. Living and sleeping areas for the nurses were spread over the floors. The location of the building by the sea made it possible to make use of the sea air and dune environment: "In total, 60 children can enjoy the fresh sea breeze for several weeks and the pleasures of staying in the dunes," stated an author of a newspaper report at the opening.⁴³ For bathing and other use of water the holiday camp was



8



9



10

equipped with its own water system. A private well in the garden (Nortonwell) and a tank for water storage in the attic ensured that clean and safe drinking water was available. For the cleaning of clothes the staff used rainwater.⁴⁴ Architect Leguit had included a room in the building specifically for treating and isolating sick children. **Fig. 9** Sick children could be nursed here by specialized staff and under the supervision of a doctor who visited the house weekly. But the children were also more or less separated because infections were lurking. In those years (1907), a room for isolation was missing in many holiday camps. From 1910 onwards, preliminary inspections improved and infectious diseases were successfully prevented. That made the presence of a room for sick children less necessary.⁴⁵

LONGER NURSING AND EDUCATION

Medical and educational care was able to improve shortly afterwards (after 1907) due to two trends. The addition of winter nursing to the use of the holiday camp and the implementation of educational facilities. The introduction of summer and winter nursing was of great importance. Initially, Kerdijk only functioned in the summer. Between 1900 and 1915 it was customary for the holiday camp to receive groups of children only in the summer months, including Kerdijk. But that was unfavorable from a financial point of view because the building would then be empty for a long time. That is why, from around 1915, a switch was made to the model of summer and winter nursing, so that many more children could be hosted all year round. At the same time the educational value was pushed into the background: teaching tidiness, good behavior, being polite and eating properly, respecting order. In 2011, historical researcher Bakker stated that the medical argument was now given more emphasis.⁴⁶ Because children had to stay in a holiday camp for longer than the usual five to six weeks for medical reasons, buildings with educational facilities were created. In addition to upbringing and medical care, these children also needed professional education. This variant with educational facilities was created in 1924, but was an exception in the Netherlands. Commissioned by the Central Society, Leguit designed the Boschhuis holiday camp in 1924 with a teaching room in the woods of the municipality of Nunspeet. **Fig. 10** The H-shape turned out to be flexible enough to also include a classroom.⁴⁷

HOMELY ATMOSPHERE

Historians have linked the design of Dutch holiday camps to the nursing goals.⁴⁸ The design of the buildings, including the furnishing, the interior decoration and adapted sizes, had to match the child's perception of the world.⁴⁹ The underlying idea was that a child who feels at home and comfortable can undergo the treatment better, with more positive effects. Very few holiday camps in the Netherlands were designed with that strong emphasis, as Kuipers has shown. An example was the holiday camp (1905–06) designed by Jop van Epen for the Weezenkas Society in Nunspeet. That building with the cozy, homely atmosphere of an English cottage was built some years before the

Kerdijk building.⁵⁰ Architect Leguit opted for a traditional design for the architecture of the Kerdijk holiday camp, a style in which he regularly worked.⁵¹ It was geared to good hygiene (spacious and light) on the one hand and aimed at a homely atmosphere on the other. Decorations in constructive wooden elements were contemporary, in an art-deco style and strengthened the friendly character. At the opening, the building was characterized as "a friendly house in the middle of the beautiful dune."⁵² It seems that the ordinary and traditional architecture was a goal of client, the Central Society, which also corresponded to the social goals of the treatment.⁵³

CONCLUSION

The history of the Kerdijk holiday camp offers essential insight into the typological discussion of this building type, at a moment in the early stages of the emergence of children's holiday homes in the Netherlands (1880–1920). It highlights the social and hygienic views of the most important governing body in this field in the Netherlands, and how these views could be architecturally translated. Moreover, as a model design, the Kerdijk building was important for the further development of the type in the Netherlands, as shown by Zwartendijk Holiday camp (1910) and the Boschhuis Holiday camp (1924).

Very underexposed in existing studies to date is that the Kerdijk building and also Zwartendijk functioned as exemplary examples of the group system (group nursing) as the underlying central element of both the architecture and the organization of activities. This essay showed that the topic of the dual purpose of the holiday camp treatment was very important in the early years around 1905–10 and received exemplary expressions within a main group of buildings purpose build for the children's holiday camps movement.

¹ Thanks to Nelleke Bakker and Sofia Nannini for their comments on the text. All quotations from Dutch to English are translated by the author.

² Cootje Bronner, *Koloniehuizen in Egmond* (Alkmaar: Rene de Milliano publisher, 2004).

³ Marianne Swankhuisen, Klaartje Schweizer, and Addy Stoel, *Bleekneusjes. Vakantie-kolonies in Nederland 1883-1970* (Bussum: Thoth publisher, 2003).

⁴ Nelleke Bakker, "Sunshine as Medicine: Health Colonies and the Medicalization of Childhood in the Netherlands, c. 1900-1960," *History of Education* 36, no. 6 (November 2007): 659–79; Nelleke Bakker, "Kweekplaatsen van gezondheid. Vakantie-kolonies en de medicalisering van het kinderwelzijn," *Bijdragen en mededelingen betreffende de geschiedenis der Nederlanden* 126, no. 4 (2011): 29–53; Fedor de Beer, *Witte jassen in de school. De schoolarts in Nederland, ca. 1895-1965* (Assen: Van Gorcum, 2008).

⁵ Han Timmer, *De Roos en Overijnder, een Rotterdams architectenbureau, 1895-1942* (Hilversum: Verloren and Rotterdam: Bonas Publishers, 2022).

⁶ Dolf Broekhuizen, "Holiday camps in The Netherlands. History and examples of Bergen aan Zee and Egmond aan Zee," in *Architecture and Society of the Holiday Camps. History and perspectives*, eds. Valter Balducci and Smaranda Bica (Timisoara: Editura Orizonturi Universitare, 2007), 76–82.

⁷ Marieke Kuipers, "Colonizing Fresh Air. Community and Reform in Dutch Vacation Colonies and De Vonk," in *Making a New World. Architecture and Communities in Interwar Europe*, eds. Rajesh Heynickx and Tom Averaete (Leuven: University Press, 2012), 167–79.

⁸ See for the dual goal in an international context for example: Laura Lee Downs, *Childhood in the Promised Land: Working-Class Movements and the Colonies de Vacances in France, 1880-1960* (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2002);

Luca Andrea Alessandro Comerio, "Holiday Colonies in the First Half of the Twentieth Century: A Comparison between Italian and French Experiences," *Rivista di Storia dell'Educazione* 2 (2018): 269–88.

⁹ Bakker, "Kweekplaatsen," 46; De Beer, *Witte Jassen*, 235–39.

¹⁰ De Beer, *Witte Jassen*, 236; Kuipers, "Colonizing Fresh Air," 51.

¹¹ Bakker "Kweekplaatsen," 37.

¹² Swankhuisen, Schweizer and Stoel, *Bleekneusjes*, 172–73.

¹³ "De organisatie van een centraal comite voor kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies," *De Bode. Orgaan van den Bond van Nederlandse Onderwijzers*, October 26, 1900; See also Bakker, "Sunshine," 668.

¹⁴ De Beer, *Witte jassen*, 237.

¹⁵ Kuipers, "Colonizing Fresh Air," 168.

¹⁶ The Central Society also strived for more social equality with its holiday camp work, as with the Toynbee work. See the interesting analysis by Kuipers, "Colonizing Fresh Air," 167–68.

¹⁷ Van der Meij mentions representatives from: "Maatschappij tot Bevordering van Geneeskunst, van het Nederlands Onderwijzers-Genootschap, van de Bond van Nederlandse Onderwijzers, en de Groninger Vereniging voor Gezondheids-Vakantiekolonies." Henriette van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonies in Nederland* (Centraal Bureau voor Sociale Adviezen, 1908), 15.

¹⁸ De Beer, *Witte Jassen*, 236.

¹⁹ Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonies*, 39–42.

²⁰ Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonies*, 40.

²¹ Bakker "Sunshine as Medicine," 675.

²² Bakker, "Kweekplaatsen," 47.

²³ A.C. Bos, "Het Centraal Genootschap voor Kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies," *Tijdschrift voor armenzorg en kinderbescherming*, December 4, 1909, 279.

²⁴ Bos, "Centraal Genootschap," 279.

²⁵ L. van der Wilk, "Een kindergezondheidskoloniehuis," *de 8 en Opbouw*, April 15, 1939, 84–6.

²⁶ Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonies*, 48.

²⁷ For the central role of women in association boards, see: Bakker "Kweekplaatsen," 37.

²⁸ Bos, "Centraal Genootschap," 279.

²⁹ "Koloniehuis Kerdijk," *Algemeen Handelsblad*, May 19, 1907.

³⁰ Bos, "Centraal Genootschap," 279.

³¹ Pieter Nicolaas Leguit was the permanent architect and technical consultant of the Centraal Genootschap for almost forty years: from around 1905 to 1941. "P.N. Leguit overleden. Architect in Alkmaar," *Algemeen Handelsblad*, March 26, 1941.

³² Amsterdam, Amsterdam City Archives, archive 907.

³³ J.M. Fuchs and W.J. Simons. *Ter wille van het kind. 75 jaar centraal genootschap voor kinderherstellingssoorten* (Egmond/Amsterdam: Centraal genootschap voor Kinderherstellingssoorten, 1978), 37–8.

³⁴ Michiel Kruidenier, *Joan Melchior van der Meij Architect* (Rotterdam: nai010 publishers, 2014), 17.

³⁵ Noor Mens, Gerrie Andela and Dolf Broekhuizen a.o., *De architectuur van het psychiatrisch ziekenhuis* (Wormer: Inmerc, 2003), 110.

³⁶ Andries Auke Koopal, *Het gezondheidskoloniewezen voor kinderen in Nederland. Een sociaal-pediatrische bijdrage* (Groningen-Den Haag-Batavia, 1934), 22.

³⁷ The design was published in 1906, Kerdijk still had to be built. Gabbe Scheltema, *Gezondheidskolonien voor kinderen* (Doetinchem: Centraal genootschap voor kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies, 1906); See also Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonies*, 16–7, 19.

³⁸ "Berichten," *Amersfoortsch Dagblad*, July 23, 1908, 3.

³⁹ C.N.G., "Ter wille van het kind," *Hollandsche Revue*, November 23, 1909, 830–35.

⁴⁰ Swankhuisen, Schweizer and Stoel, *Bleekneusjes*, 36–40.

⁴¹ Bos, "Centraal Genootschap," 279.

⁴² "De opening van het koloniehuis Zwartendijk te Egmond aan Zee," *De Graafschapbode*, July 30, 1910.

⁴³ "Koloniehuis Kerdijk," *Algemeen Handelsblad*, May 19, 1907.

⁴⁴ Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonies*, 37; Rachel Mein, "The predecessors of tap water at the 20 th century" (thesis, MSc of Architecture, Delft University of Technology, 2020).

⁴⁵ Van der Meij, *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonies*, 38.

⁴⁶ Bakker, "Kweekplaatsen," 39–41.

⁴⁷ Amsterdam, Amsterdam City Archives, archive 907.

⁴⁸ Broekhuizen, "Holiday camps," 77; Kuipers, "Colonizing Fresh Air." For the theme of ordinary architectural style for colonies see also: Tom Avermaete, "Building Internal Colonies. Play, Form and Youth Environments in Interwar France," in *Making a New World. Architecture and Communities in Interwar Europe*, eds. Rajesh Heynickx and Tom Avermaete (Leuven: University Press, 2012), 145–53.

⁴⁹ Kuipers, "Colonizing Fresh Air," 170–71.

⁵⁰ Kuipers, "Colonizing Fresh Air," 171.

⁵¹ "P.N. Leguit."

⁵² "Koloniehuis Kerdijk."

⁵³ Kerdijk functioned as a children's facility until the early 1980s. Around that time, almost all holiday camps were given a different function or were demolished. Kerdijk was converted into an apartment building. Hilde de Haan and Ids Haagsma, *Tauber architecten. Bouwen naar opdracht* (Haarlem: Architect, 1990), 22–3.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Berichten." *Amersfoortsch Dagblad*, July 23, 1908, 3.

"De opening van het koloniehuis Zwartendijk te Egmond aan Zee." *De Graafschapbode*, July 30, 1910.

"De organisatie van een centraal comite voor kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies." *De Bode. Orgaan van den Bond van Nederlandse Onderwijzers*, October 26, 1900.

"Koloniehuis Kerdijk." *Algemeen Handelsblad*, May 19, 1907.

"P.N. Leguit overleden. Architect te Alkmaar." *Algemeen Handelsblad*, March 26, 1941.

VERMAETE, TOM. "Building Internal Colonies. Play, Form and Youth Environments in Interwar France." In *Making a New World. Architecture and Communities in Interwar Europe*, edited by Rajesh Heynickx and Tom Avermaete, 145–53. Leuven: University Press, 2012.

BAKKER, NELLEKE. "Sunshine as Medicine: Health Colonies and the Medicalization of Childhood in the Netherlands, c. 1900-1960." *History of Education* 36, no. 6 (November 2007): 659–79.

BAKKER, NELLEKE. "Kweekplaatsen van gezondheid. Vakantiekolonies en de medicalisering van het kind." *Bijdragen en mededelingen betreffende de geschiedenis der Nederlanden* 126, no. 4 (2011): 29–53.

BAKKER, NELLEKE. "Gezonde buitenlucht en krachtige voeding. Kinderen en de anti-tuberculosecampagne in Nederland ca 1910-1940." *Studium. Tijdschrift voor Wetenschaps- en Universiteitsgeschiedenis* 6, n. 1 (2013): 1–18.

Bos, A.C.. "Het Centraal Genootschap voor Kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies." *Tijdschrift voor armenzorg en kinderbescherming*, December 4, 1909, 278–80.

BROEKHUIZEN, DOLF. "Holiday camps in The Netherlands. History and examples of Bergen aan Zee and Egmond aan Zee." In *Architecture and Society of the Holiday Camps. History and perspectives*, edited by Valter Balducci and Smaranda Bica, 76–82. Timisoara: Editura Orizonturi Universitare, 2007.

BRONNER, COOTJE. *Koloniehuizen in Egmond*. Alkmaar: Rene de Milliano publisher, 2004.

C.N.G.. "Ter wille van het kind." *Hollandsche Revue* November 23, 1909, 830–35.

COMERIO, LUCA ANDREA ALESSANDRO. "Holiday Colonies in the First Half of the Twentieth Century: A Comparison between Italian and French Experiences." *Rivista di Storia dell'Educazione* 2 (2018): 269–88.

DE BEER, FEDOR. *Witte jassen in de school. De schoolarts in Nederland 1895-1965*. Assen: Van Gorcum, 2008.

DE HAAN, HILDE, AND IDS HAAGSMA. *Tauber architecten. Bouwen naar opdracht*. Haarlem: Architect, 1990.

DOWNS, LAURA LEE. *Childhood in the Promised Land: Working-Class Movements and the Colonies de Vacances in France, 1880-1960*. Durham N.C.: Duke University Press, 2002.

FERINGA, J.J., AND OTHERS. *Rapport Commissie Feringa*. Amsterdam [1955].

FUCHS, J.M., AND W.J. SIMONS. *Ter wille van het kind. 75 jaar centraal genootschap voor kinderherstellingssoorten*. Egmond/Amsterdam: Centraal genootschap voor Kinderherstellingssoorten, 1978.

KOOPAL, ANDRIES AUKE. *Het gezondheidskoloniewezen voor kinderen in Nederland. Een sociaal-pediatrische bijdrage*. Groningen-Den Haag-Batavia, 1934.

KRUIDENIER, MICHEL. *Joan Melchior van der Meij Architect*. Rotterdam: nai010 publishers, 2014.

KUIPERS, MARIEKE. "Colonizing Fresh Air. Community and Reform in Dutch Vacation Colonies and De Vonk." In *Making a New World. Architecture and Communities in Interwar Europe*, edited by Rajesh Heynicks and Tom Avermaete, 167–79. Leuven: University Press, 2012.

MEIN, RACHEL. "The predecessors of tap water at the 20th century." Thesis, MSc of Architecture, Delft University of Technology, 2020.

MENS, NOOR, GERRIE ANDELA, DOLF BROEKHUIZEN, AND OTHERS. *De architectuur van het psychiatrisch ziekenhuis*. Wormer: Inmerc, 2003.

SHELTEMA, GABBE. *Gezondheidskolonien voor kinderen*. Doetinchem: Centraal genootschap voor kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies, 1906.

SWANKHUISEN, MARIANNE, KLAARTJE SCHWEIZER, AND ADDY STOEL. *Bleekneusjes. Vakantiekolonies in Nederland 1883-1970*. Bussum: Uitgeverij Thoth, 2003.

TIMMER, HAN. *De Roos en Overijnder, een Rotterdams architectenbureau, 1895-1942*. Hilversum Verloren: Bonas publishers, 2022.

VAN DER MEIJ, HENRIETTE. *Gezondheids- en vakantiekolonien in Nederland*. Centraal Bureau voor Sociale Adviezen VIII, 1908.

VAN DER WILK, L.. "Een kindergezondheidskoloniehuis." *de 8 en Opbouw*, April 15, 1939, 84–6.

VERMANDERE, MARTINE. *We zijn goed aangekomen! Vakantiekolonies aan de Belgische kust 1887-1980*. Brussel: Amsab ISG Uitgeverij ASP, 2010.

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES

Alkmaar, Regionaal Archief Alkmaar, images.

Amsterdam, Stadsarchief Amsterdam (Municipal Archive), archief Centraal Genootschap voor Kinderherstellingssoorden, Archive 907.

The Hague, National Archive, images.

Curare i corpi, ristorare le anime: Kerdijk, il primo modello di colonia per l'infanzia nei Paesi Bassi (1907)

Dolf Broekhuizen

KEYWORDS

colonia per l'infanzia; casa di convalescenza; sanità pubblica

ABSTRACT

La letteratura esistente sulle colonie di vacanza per bambini nei Paesi Bassi tra il 1880 e il 1920 sottolinea che tali istituzioni avevano un duplice obiettivo: il miglioramento della salute fisica dei bambini e la loro educazione. Questo articolo mostra che anche l'architettura di una delle prime colonie di vacanza si concentrava su entrambi questi obiettivi. Sia il rafforzamento della salute che l'educazione hanno avuto un ruolo nella progettazione delle colonie da parte della Centraal genootschap voor Kinderherstellings- en vakantiekolonies, che ha assunto un ruolo di coordinamento per questa nuova forma di assistenza all'infanzia. La società ha diviso i bambini in gruppi relativamente piccoli e ha implementato un sistema di gruppi nelle attività durante il giorno. Gli obiettivi sociali e medici sono stati implementati anche nella progettazione architettonica. Il primo edificio in cui questi principi furono esplicitamente realizzati fu la colonia di vacanza di Kerdijk, aperta nel 1907 a Egmond aan Zee. Questo articolo analizza, per la prima volta da una prospettiva storico-architettonica, la colonia di Kerdijk a partire dal suo duplice scopo legato all'educazione e all'assistenza sanitaria, un fil rouge nelle attività della Società tra il 1907 e il 1920. A partire dal 1920 circa, la situazione cambiò e l'enfasi della vita nelle colonie si concentrò sempre più sul miglioramento della salute.

Dolf Broekhuizen

Ricercatore indipendente

info@dolfbroekhuizen.nl

Dolf Broekhuizen, PhD, è un ricercatore indipendente con sede a Rotterdam. Ha studiato storia dell'architettura e della pianificazione urbana all'Università di Groningen, dove nel 2000 ha ricevuto un dottorato di ricerca con una tesi sull'architettura olandese nel secondo Novecento. È docente a contratto presso la facoltà di Architettura della TU Delft.

Dr. Dolf Broekhuizen (b. 1965), Rotterdam, is an independent architectural historian. He studied architectural and urban planning history at the University of Groningen. He received his doctorate from this university in 2000 for a dissertation on Dutch post-war architecture. He is a lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture at Delft University of Technology.