

## **Topp & Dubio - Half of Nieuwstraat**

First, choose 'even' or 'uneven'.

Now start at one end of Nieuwstraat.

If you chose uneven, you can start with Nieuwstraat 1 (or 135).

Observe the facade of the house in detail, the nameplate at the door, objects on the windowsill, colors, signs of life, etc. Picture yourself an image of who might live in this house.

Continue your investigation at the chosen side by observing Nieuwstraat 3, 5, 7 and so forth.

When you are being noticed by people inside a house, wave at them like you know them.

Ignore the 'other' side of the street completely. Make sure you don't see anything that could distract

you or make an impression. Continue your walk to the end of the street.

You have now familiarised yourself with half of the Nieuwstraat.

## **Reports:**

### **Petra:**

Walking down one side of Nieuwstraat and stopping in front of each house and trying to imagine what it's like to live there and so on.

I saw many details of the facades. Sometimes I imagined what it would look like inside, what was in the cupboards. Occasionally I felt uncomfortable when people were sitting on a terrace and I was looking at a house. There were a few houses I really liked. At an attic window, I had to think how cosy it would be if you were lying there in bed and it was raining. Of some houses, I thought it would be nice to have a studio there. You try to imagine how many people lived there, what happened between the walls, who was born or died there. also how the houses have changed inside over the years.

### **Mario:**

I started at number 2 so on the even side of the street.

General impression: in the beginning uninhabitable or non-residential properties. Then, near the fruit market, more shops and restaurants. Then, from number 60 onwards, more inhabited houses. Only houses with a nameplate. Standing in the middle of a busy street and looking at every single façade was a particularly nice experience. Once, someone from a shop greeted me verbally, after which I waved back. I lost focus (imagining who lives there) quite quickly at first, as the houses were either uninhabitable or not built for habitation and used for businesses and/or hospitality. Only after more inhabited houses came up did I start wondering more again what kind of people live there. At the same time, I must honestly admit that those thoughts did not stick. the differences and variation in architecture did. I did find the front door with a tree and plants growing in front of it special. It was a very calming performance and there was a pleasant discrepancy between my own focus and that of the people around me.