SYMBIOTIC URBANS URBANS VARESILIENT ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR ROTHERDAM THROUGH ITS URBAN VOIDS /

GRADUATION PRESENTATION

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ACADEMIC THESIS

RESEARCH & DESIGN LAB URBAN ECOLOGY AND ECOCITIES

A novel cross domain lab (TU Delft Urbanism + Landscape Architecture) which uses the lens of urban ecology to improve quality of life and environmental performance in cities through planning, especially design and engineering.











The Iconic Windmills and Tulips

Source: goway.com

Raised Road	Farms and Crops on a Polder	Windmills Pump water from one level to another	Dike	Settlement on a Polder	Settlement	Heavy S through Ca
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Shipping h a Large Dike North sea anal

Dutch Polder System



Rotterdam



Source: Author, 2021

Rotterdam Urban Core



A View of the Harbour, Rotterdam 1890

Source: Photoglob AG



Rotterdam Port, 2021

Source: Port of Rotterdam

World Renowned Port



Rotterdam centre after the 1940 bombing of Rotterdam.

Source: U.S. Defense Visual Information Center

World War Bombing



The Urban Center along the Nieuwe Maas River





Cube House

Erasmus Bridge

Markthal-MVRDV

Source: U.S. Defense Visual Information Center

Every Landscape Has a Story



Europoort, Maasvlakte and a Service Oriented Society (1950-2020)

The city grew outward as the inner core became congested and there was no more space to build.

Rapid Urbanization (1500-1700)

Rotterdam stars to grow as an important port in 16th century. Many tradesmen lived and worked in Rotterdam. The harbors were an essential part of the city and its prosperity.

Man makes the Landscape (1500 AD)

Dutch made more and more progress in the fight against water. The windmills had began to play an important role in water drainage.

The Human Landscape (1300-1500 AD)

Around 1300 A dam was built along Rotte river giving rise to the name Rotterdam. This is where the first inhabitants settled. Peat was drained with ditches to make the land suitable for farming. And peat itself was also used as a fuel.

Rhine-Muse Estuary & Peat Growth (3000 BC)

Sea flows into peat area of Midden Delfland area during high tide. Sea clay polders on south side was also influenced by these dynamics. Creating a channel-plate landscape condition. some of which silted up high and covered with peat.

The Climate is heating up. (5000 BC)

River plains and valleys created along the course of water bodies (Meuse and Rhine). Sediments deposited along the ways, creating landmasses.

The Beginning (9000 BC)

The Rotterdam region of today was covered by water between -24 and -12m below sea.

Landscape Evolution





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10 km

Source: Author, 2020

The Historic Landscape



Urban Area

- Wadden and Mudplains > Urban Areas
- Beach Walls & Low Dunes
 - Peat Area
 - Salt Marshes & River Plains > Reclaimed Land

Green Heritage	(Estates/Forestry	Commission /	Areas etc)
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- National level Geological Value
- Provincial Level Geological Value



Special Value

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Source: Author, 2020

Green Gems



Urban Area

- Wadden and Mudplains > Urban Areas
- Beach Walls & Low Dunes
 - Peat Area
 - Salt Marshes & River Plains > Reclaimed Land

Green Heritage (Estates/Forestry Commission Area	s etc)
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- River and stream accompanying forest





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Source: Author, 2020

Habitat Types





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Urbanization



Urban Area

- Wadden and Mudplains > Urban Areas
- Beach Walls & Low Dunes
- Peat Area

Salt Marshes & River Plains > Reclaimed Land

Green Heritage (Estates/Forestry Commission Areas etc)



River and stream accompanying forest





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Source: Author, 2020

The Landscape Now











Map of green cover in the Rotterdam area. (Source: GIS mapping by Author)



Green per neighbourhood in Rotterdam (Source: ArcGIS Klimaateffectatlas)

So much green, yet so little.



Green edges along the Rotte river outside the urban periphery. (Source: Google Maps)



Hard and stoney edges along the Rotte river in the urban core. (Source: Google Maps)



Monoculture of trees that do not offer much space to accommodate biodiversity along the urban roads. (Source: Google Maps)

CLIMATE CHANGE



Flood-prone Areas: flood depth in gray, build area in red and industrial areas in blue (Source: Dutchdikes.net)





Rotterdam flooding and water stagnation. (Source: Rotterdam Climate Change Adaptation Strategy)

Urban Flooding



Map of Urban Heat Island Effect in Rotterdam (Source: ArcGIS Klimaateffectatlas)











Map of hard Paved areas in Rotterdam (Source: ArcGIS Klimaateffectatlas)



Urban Heat Islands 2021

Urban Heat Islands Scenario 2050

Urban Heat Islands



Map of Urban Heat Island Effect in Rotterdam (Source: ArcGIS Klimaateffectatlas)



Heaviliy paved area in Waalhaven, Rotterdam (Source: Fundainbusiness.nl)



The Urban 'Unbuilt'

BIODIVERSITY IN THE CITIES



Source: Making Urban Nature (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. de Zwarte)



Source: Making Urban Nature (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. de Zwarte)





Graph showing biodiversity trend in urban areas.

Source:

Implementation agenda Biodiversity-Rotterdam Municipality, 2020

Number of meadow birds in Polder Schieveen 2000-2019

Source: Netwerk Ecologische Monitoring



Biodiversity spread in the Rotterdam Area.

Source: Naturemap Rotterdam 2014



Biodiversity spread in the Rotterdam Area.

Source: Naturemap Rotterdam 2014

Impact on Biodiversity

National monitor sustainable municipalities 2020 - Municipality of Rotterdam



Municipality of Rotterdam

Average Dutch municipalities

Rotterdam's economic, socio-cultural and ecological capital.

Trend sinds start Soort Gebieds- Functie Aantal Start 13/14 14/15 15/16 16/17 17/18 18/19 trend Trend sinds in trend 07/08 Aalscholver 131 155 142 136 120 147 grafiek 1991 seiz. gem. Brandgans seiz. gem. 2052 2231 2404 1595 1383 1558 grafiek 1989 ++ Goudplevier 271 147 grafiek 1980 seiz. gem. 160 216 2 138 Grauwe Gans 1327 1811 1810 1744 1503 1995 grafiek 1980 seiz. gem. ++ 82 60 28 58 45 74 1991 Grutto seiz. gem. grafiek grafiek Kievit seiz. gem. 1266 1921 1928 1130 1810 1193 1987 0 Kleine Rietgans seiz. gem. 65 91 53 104 30 23 grafiek 1980 ++ Kleine Zwaan grafiek 1990 seiz. gem. 2 3 2 2 1 3 Knobbelzwaan seiz. gem. 215 224 230 236 289 282 grafiek 1980 ++ 808 826 grafiek 1991 Kokmeeuw seiz. gem. 1166 1221 1201 600 grafiek 3932 4351 4938 2751 3260 2641 1980 ++ Kolgans seiz. gem. Lepelaar seiz. gem. 3 3 3 4 7 2 grafiek 1991 Meerkoet 1056 1085 1134 1176 1466 1166 grafiek 1989 seiz. gem. Slobeend seiz. gem. 70 119 131 93 126 161 grafiek 1989 592 617 332 378 386 1980 Wulp 540 grafiek seiz. gem. Zilvermeeuw 301 232 186 146 262 grafiek 1991 seiz. gem 98

Winter migratory birds statistics 2013-2019

Source: Netwerk Ecologische Monitoring

Source: https://www.clo.nl

Rotterdam scores are extremely low in nature and landscape category in the nation's ecological capital criteria graph. The statistics indicate that number of migratory birds has also declined considerably. This is also directly related to the decline in urban fauna and other dependent breeding birds and insect populations n the city.

Fauna van stedelijk gebied



Source: https://www.clo.nl

Broedvogels in de stad



Source: https://www.clo.nl



Dagvlinders van stedelijk gebied



Fauna of urban areas, 1990-2018

Breeding Birds of urban areas, 1990-2018



Long Tailed Tit



Crested lark

Butterflies of urban areas, 1990-2018

EXISTING VISION FOR THE REGION



Legenda

Hoofdgroenstructuur

Regionaal landschap binnen gemeentegrens Rivier Maas, Rotte en Schie

🚧 Dijk en Buitendijks: programma rivie

Tuinsteden

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Recreatieve hoofdstructuur (fiets)



5 km

10 km

Source: Natuurkaart Rotterdam

Rotterdam Vision Map

. **PROBLEM FIELD &** RESEARCH QUESTION

Problem Statement

The Rotterdam urban fabric is built in an area of amalgamation of very interesting landscape conditions surrounding it. These are home to different habitats for a variety of flora and fauna. The urban core however, disconnects these areas due to lack of ecology supporting green and blue networks. The urban core of Rotterdam is abundant with characterless and unused spaces, that can be termed as urban voids. The paved and stony surfaces in these spaces heat up the unbuilt (or are they really 'unbuilt') spaces and creates hotter environments. This, with the changing climate also poses a risk of disasters like flooding, heat islands and habitat loss. These Urban voids are not designed for ecology and resilience to the changing climate.

The urban fabric of Rotterdam disconnects the ecological network around it by creating identity-less and unused voids that are not welcome for biodiversity. Such spaces also pose a threat of disasters like flooding and heat islands.


Research Question

How to create an ecological spatial design framework for biodiversity through landscape architectural principles for the urban fabric of Rotterdam by making use of the urban voids, thereby also making it resilient to climate change?

- 1. What are the theories on urban voids, biodiversity and ecological resilience?
- 2. What is the existing habitat typologies in the Rotterdam Urban core?
- 3. What are the urban voids that can be used to create a new network of ecological patches and corridors?
- 4. What ecosystem services can be combined through spatial design for ecology and resilience?











Source: City Nature Policy Note For a liveable and biodiverse The Hague



Source: Making Urban Nature- Jacques Vink, Piet Vollaard, Niels de Zwarte

Urban Ecology: The city as an Ecosystem 41





Source: Tillie, N. (2020) Lecture

Source: Working together on rich Rotterdam urban nature Implementation agenda Biodiversity



Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

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FINDING LOST SPACE



THEORIES OF URBAN DESIGN ROGER TRANCIK

Undesirable urban area that makes no positive contribution to the surroundings and which is illdefined, without measurable boundaries and fail to connect elements in a coherent way, by calling them 'lost space'.

Finding Lost Space, Trancik (1986)



Waste spaces are described as neglected, unused, dead spaces. These spaces are created because of fixed functions spaces which leftover spaces usually are located next to the spaces with fixed function such as (highway, railway, under bridges...etc.).

all time's need.

Good City Form, Kevin Lynch (1981)

Greenberg and other scholars have defined those abandoned lands as Temporarily Obsolete Abandoned Derelict Sites (TOADS).

Greenberg et al., 1990; Perera & Amin, 1996; Greenberg et al., 2000

On the other hand in declining industrial cities, due to suburbanization and decrease in population various 'vacant land' has emerged.

According & Johnson, 2000

Vacant land refers to many different types of unutilized and underutilized parcels with abandoned buildings and structures.

Pagano & Bowman, 2000

He argues that these spaces have potential for reuse and relief by increasing flexibility of spaces to appropriate

Urban Voids







Edge/Buffer Voids

Setbacks between spaces, marginal and residual spaces. Urban Edges. Indefinite spaces caused by action/expansion.



Transportation Voids

Oversized streets/oversupplied streets. Improper distribution of space. No regard for ecology. Same specie of trees in row.



Infrastructural Voids

Dead spaces in and around public infrastructure. Waste of useable space. Runs through the larger landscape connecting them. Creates contextual gap.



Large Scale Plots

Parking Lots create heat islands, unused lands, abandoned areas like industries. Not for people or ecology.





Urban Void Typologies

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Pattern based Landscape Models **Recognizing patterns of Landscape Change**



Patch-Matrix-Corridor Theory

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The probability of survival of a species decreases as network connections decreases.



Landscape with high patch connectivity. Landscape Fragmented by Road.



. CASE STUDIES & PATTERN LANGUAGE

DESIGN TOOLBOX

Infrastructural

New Chouteau Greenway Plan Knits Together Diverse Neighborhoods In St. Louis Source: Stoss Landscape Urbanism



Derelict Rotterdam train tracks being made over into a luscious green park. Source: De Urbanisten, Lanschapsarchitecten



Slits on bridges for bats.

Using gradient water edges.



Gradients along roads.

Design Pattern Language



Greening Tram/Train lines.



Using the Flyover bottoms.



Power line green corridors.

Industrial/Brownfield

<image>

Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord Source: Making Urban Nature, (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. Zwarte)



Tall structures for birds.



Dry Sand for insects.



Flowery meadow under the pylons at the port of Rotterdam Source: Making Urban Nature, (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. Zwarte)



Small ponds for frogs/toads.

Design Pattern Language



Riparian zones.



Truss/Metal structure for green.



Pioneer Species surprises

City District/ Garden Cities



Urban Farming in Princess gardens, Berlin Source: Making Urban Nature, (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. Zwarte)



Water Square Rotterdam, De Urbanisten Source: Making Urban Nature, (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. Zwarte)



Eco Cathedral-Louis Le Roy Source: Making Urban Nature, (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. Zwarte)



EVA-Lanxmeer neighbourhood Orchards Source: Making Urban Nature, (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. Zwarte)



Rooftop Gardens



Community Orchards



Eco Cathedrals



Forest Gardens

Regional Level

Groene Singel, Antwerpen. Green Singel, Antwerp (BE). Design: MAHK. Source: Making Urban Nature, (J. Vink, P. Vollaard, N. Zwarte)





Utrecht Ringpark Source: Provincie Utrecht

Crown State Masterplan, London



Creating Patch-Corridor system



Functional Voids/ Natural Voids



Adapted to context.

Design Pattern Language



Follow/ Guide Landscape and Development Patterns



Designing through scales



Forest Gardens



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Water squares



Community Orchards



Urban Forests



Truss/Metal structure for green.



Forest Gardens



Eco Cathedrals







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The Design Toolbox



Dune Landscape

Polder Landscape (Grasslands)

Urban Core

Tidal Landscape (Port activities Outside Dike)



5 km



Peat Landscape (Agriculture/Pasture)



Source: Louisa van den Brink, 2020

Regional level Void Patterns

Polder Landscape (Grasslands)

Urban Core

Tidal Landscape (Port activities Outside Dike)

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Construction sites																								
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Forests																								
Green urban areas																								
Isolated structures																								
Land without current	use																							
Mineral extraction and	l du	'np	si	ė	5																			
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Dune Landscape



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X

10 km

Peat Landscape (Agriculture/Pasture)

Source: Author, 2020

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Urban Scale Voids









Void-Habitat Network

Dune Landscape

Polder Landscape (Grasslands)

Urban Core

Tidal Landscape (Port activities Outside Dike)



10 km



Peat Landscape (Agriculture/Pasture)

Source: Author, 2021

The Urban Ecological Gradient





Patch-Matrix-Corridor Scheme for Rotterdam





10 km

5 km

This new network makes use of the regional level patterns mapped and the local level voids. A new green fabric of these voids is envisioned.





Proposed Network vs Rotterdam Vision 63





Urban Gradients & Test Sites



Design Framework











Peat Landscape (Agriculture/Pasture)

Source: Author, 2021

Selecting Test Sites





Dike Layout (Satellite)

Dike Vulnerability



Dike Layout (Satellite)

Dike Vulnerability





Heat Island Map

Source: Rotterdam Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Flood Damage and Heat Islands


The A4 Highway runs adjacent to the Pernis.

Built structures mainly consist of neighbourhoods of houses and warehouses for port functions.

Paved surface dominates the area. Result of the Industrial/Port Use.

Water in the Nieuwe Maas affected • by tidal water from the North Sea

> The green structure is primarily flat grass lawns.

Composite Site at Pernis •--

Source: Author, 2021



Site Structure-Pernis

The RijnHaven/Maashaven Stations, S122 Road go adjacent. The Erasmus bridge is a landmark.

Built structures mainly consist of neighbourhoods of houses, industries, commercial areas and warehouses for port functions.

Paved surface dominates the area. Result of the Industrial/Port Use.

Water in the Nieuwe Maas affected •----- by tidal water from the North Sea

> The presence of green is very scarse. Dominated by port activities.

•----- Composite Site at Kop Van Zuid

Site Structure-Kop van Zuid



Pernis in 1900

Source: CultGIS



Pernis in 2021

Source: CultGIS



Pernis in 1959



Pernis in 2021



Source: Anneke Krak (Pinterest)

Source: Siebe Swart

Development over Time: Pernis



Kop van Zuid in 1900

Source: CultGIS



Kop van Zuid in 2021

Source: CultGIS



Maashaven (Kop van Zuid) in 1920's



Maashaven (Kop van Zuid) in 2021

Development over Time: Kop van Zuid

Source: https://architizer.com/projects/maashaven/

Source: Frans Blok 3develop.nl



Source: Author, 2021

Sturgeon	Beavers	Oyster Catcher	Bumblebees	Lizard
Salmon	Barnacle Goose	Arctic Vole	Reeds	Moths
Otters	Sandwich Tern	Blue Throat	Spider Flower	Cattails





The site as an ecological hotspot.

Source: Author, 2021



The site as an agent of climate change resilience.

Source: Author, 2021



The site as a destination for recreation.



Design Goals

Test Site 01
Pernis



Spatial Combination 1

Low Tide Condition:

Spatial Combination 2

Low Tide Condition:





Spatial Combination 3



Spatial Combination 4

Low Tide Condition:







Source: Author, 2021







Test Site 01 **Kop van Zuid**









2021 Scenario





2030 Scenario: Sedimentation, Introduction of new Groynes



2050 Scenario: Creation of Wetland











Source: Author, 2021

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Source: Author, 2021





No fillingEqual DistributionFilling Sand + ClayUnequal DistributionFilling Rock StablizationImage: ConcreteRockImage: Concrete	No fillingEqual DistributionFilling Sand + ClayUnequal DistributionFilling Rock StablizationImage: ConcreteRock ConcreteImage: Concrete	Ground Setup	Vegetation
Filling Sand + Clay Unequal Distribution Filling Rock Stablization Rock Concrete	Filling Sand + ClayUnequal DistributionFilling RockStablizationRockConcrete	No filling	Equal Distribution
Filling Rock Stablization Rock Concrete	Filling Rock Stablization Rock Concrete	Filling Sand + Clay	Unequal Distribution
Rock Concrete	Rock Concrete	Filling Rock Stablization	
Concrete	Concrete	Rock	
		Concrete	

Source: Redrawn by Author from Design guidelines for tidal parks (Brink, LV.D et al.)

Land Formation

Creek Formation

Creek Creation

Civil Works

Deck

Obstacle

Path

Viewpoint

Terraces

Foreshore

Composition Strategies















Obstacles

Edge Articulation







PROJECT REFLECTION



UNDERSTANDING THE UNDERLYING LANDSCAPE







FINDING LOST SPACE



THEORIES OF URBAN DESIGN R O G E R T R A N CIK

THEORIES ON RELEVANT THEMES

	Patch		→ ".
	Corridor		→ \
	Network	-	→ Ч
5	Matrix	-	→
	Mosaic	-	→



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DESIGN TOOLBOX OF LANDCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PRINCIPLES



Dry Sand for insects.



Riparian zones.



S



Pioneer Species surprises



URBAN VOID PATTERNS



NEW FRAMEWORK FOR ECOLOGY



CONTEXT SPECIFIC ECOLOGY



APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES ON SITE
APPLICABLE TO OTHER CITIES





Flooded Urban Housing areas in Kochi



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PERSPECTIVES

PERCEPTION

New identities for abandoned/over urbanized areas as nature-based catalysts for a new green network.

PALIMPSEST

Using the underlying natural and cultural landscape to create a new urban ecological gradient.

PROCESS

Letting nature take over as the sites undergo transformations, reflecting s fine-tuned ecological structure for the urban system.

SCALE CONTINUUM

Site-level patterns, along with multi-scalar design interventions help in creating a stronger ecological gradient for the region.

