

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners ([Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl](mailto:Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl)), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information		
Name	Joris van Driel	
Student number	4651693	

  

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture, Last green in town	
Main mentor	Elsbeth Ronner	Design tutor
Second mentor	Leeke Reinders	Research tutor
Argumentation of choice of the studio	My primary reason to choose the urban architecture graduation studio was the study culture and methodology of the studio; a realistic, down to earth approach towards medium sized urban sites, taking into deep consideration the urban context. Moreover, this year's disputed location, La Friche Josaphat, I found especially interesting	

  

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Transition spaces to contemplative heterotopia

  

Goal	
Location:	La Friche Josaphat, Brussels
The posed problem,	<p>My problem statement is twofold;</p> <p>On the one hand I'm fascinated by the vicious circle of disappearing urban green sites, such as La Friche, and the metropolitan resident's estrangement with nature.</p> <p>On the other hand, as a volunteer working with refugees, I've seen the need for places that facilitate in the peaceful processing of the psychological impact that comes with fleeing your home.</p>

research questions and	How can the design of transition spaces to La Friche illuminate the extraordinary character of La Friche, ultimately leading to the protection of this green site, and how may La Friche then contribute to the processing of the psychological impact that comes with fleeing your home?
design assignment in which these result.	The designing of a sequence of spaces which give access to La Friche and simultaneously accommodate a peaceful temporary home for refugees, including functions psychological support, relief and contemplation.

## Process

### Method description

First of all, I'll study the peaceful, contemplative character of heterotopian space, as this is how I perceived La Friche during my visits to the site; what gives such spaces this extraordinary sensation? What then are its border conditions? How may these inform the design of the transition to La Friche? And how may the extraordinary sensations contribute to the mental processing of the psychological impact that comes with fleeing your home?

Secondly I intend to visit case studies – heterotopian, architectural spaces situated in nature, which accommodate sensations of relief and contemplation – documenting the spatial qualities through photo's, drawing, schematizing and writing.

Through design research (modeling and drawing) I will then test how these studies may inform the design principles for my own design.

## Literature and general practical references

Literature on the peaceful and contemplative qualities of heterotopian space:

- Writings by Michel Foucault
- ...

Literature on the sequences, navigation and readability of urban spaces:

- A Pattern Language, by Christopher Alexander and Murray Silverstein;
- The Concise Townscape, by Gordon Cullen;
- Imaginability, as discussed in, The Image of the City by Kevin Lynch

## Background knowledge:

Literature on city-dwellers' estrangement with nature, and its consequences:

- the concept of 'Environmental (generational) amnesia', coined by Peter Kahn
- ...

Literature on the blurring boundaries between the (urban) metropolis and its (natural) hinterland. Amongst other consulted readings:

- De Mist over de Nevelstad klaar langzaam op, by Michiel Deheane;
- Rural-Urban Blurring and the Subjectivity Within, by Mirek Dymitrow and Marie Stenseke;
- 'The countryside starts here': How the urban-rural divide continues to matter in post-urban Flanders, by Clemens de Olde and Stijn Oosterlynck

## Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

My work on the border conditions of contemplative heterotopian space throughout this graduation year, is an attempt to contribute to the renewed appreciation and conservation of urban green spaces within the context of complex metropolitan regions such as Brussels. In my research and design I'm testing the implications of small scale intervention on the larger build environment, hopefully working towards becoming a critical academic who's able to see, understand, explain and dissect (urban) complexities and work towards creative solutions, funded with technical, social, environmental and political knowledge.

2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

With regards to the social framework, my research and design could be a small step in counteracting the estrangement of the contemporary city resident with nature, and providing space for peaceful refuge, which are of significant influence on the local, regional and global society.

In professional terms, I hope to further expand the scope of the architect by researching and working with knowledge from various other disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, anthropology and ecology.

Considering the two scales I'm addressing in my project – that of the metropolitan landscape and the medium sized 'town-like' urban spaces – within the scientific framework I'm hoping to build upon classic methodologies (such as the serial vision analysis coined by Gordon Cullen) in contemporary, complex urban contexts.