

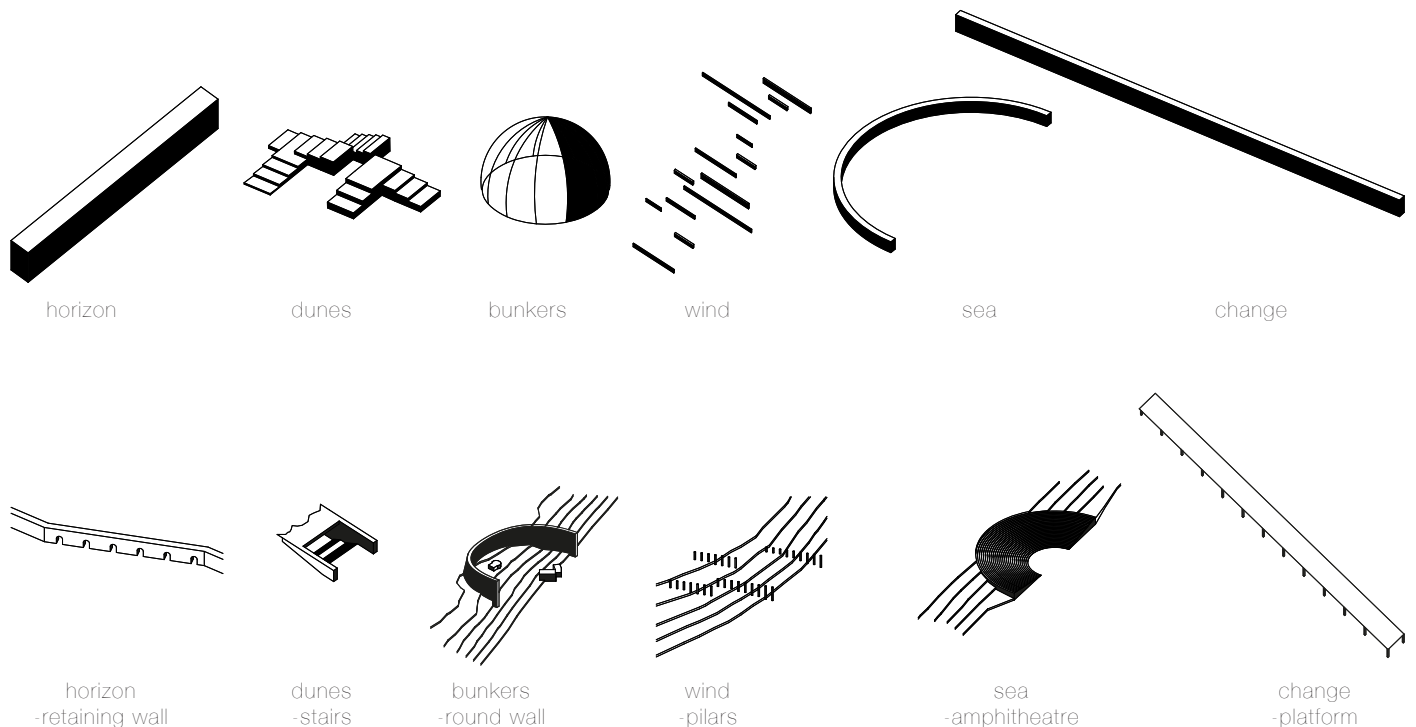
# Graduation Project Reflection Delta Interventions

Joanna Kosowicz  
Delft University of Technology  
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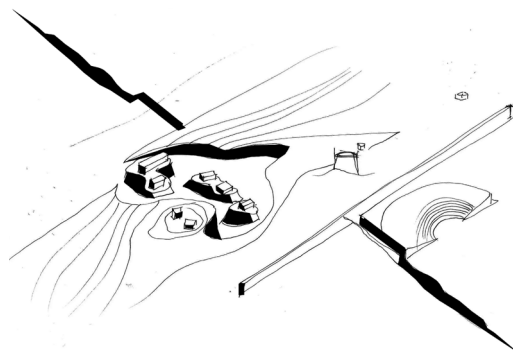
## the relationship between research and design

The research started from the history and facts about the Atlantic Wall and typology of a bunker. It has build a base for understanding of the project, about the fascinating conflicts and many unresolved problems around the still delicate topic. From that research questions about both territorial scale of the whole line of defence and smaller scale of a singular bunkers emerged. Investigation lead to the discovery that Atlantic Wall conflict is a story with the need for closure, some kind of answer to the many years of neglecting the issue. The mystical and obscure atmosphere visible on the pictures was linking to more and more artistic inspirations- photography, poetry about the conflict of human-made structures and the nature were a big source of first ideas about the project.

Another part of the research regarding the location has shown how important the role of nature and dynamic forces are to the essence of the design. The Wadden Sea is a unique preserved area with a lot of biodiversity, so any intervention should take that into consideration and take advantage of the possibility to detach from the 'outside' world. From that point the idea of a 'theatre' with forces as actors, nature as a stage possibly directed by architectural intervention came to be. Deeper analysis of singular forces like wind, water and the sand resulted in first architectural propositions of the designed complex- see the diagrams.



Research in my project has always been in a direct relationship with the design. Investigation was a base for experiments with forms and linking them together in a coherent composition. Context and history were the guidelines for making the decisions.



## the relationship between the graduation topic and the studio topic

The Delta Intervention main theme is in continuous relationship with the project from the very beginning. Basing on group analysis, the North Sea is understood as an area of conflicts, where human powers clashed with the natural forces since a very long time. The uncertainty of the future of the sea, with its dynamics and rapidly changing climate are kept as a guiding topics, influencing thinking about the design.

The concept of multidisciplinary studio joining different areas of design is also present in my project. The reasoning behind it touches upon territorial scale of the Atlantic wall, which created a border between land and a sea, metaphorical, urban wall of single bunkers stretched along the coast. Designing in the dunes with nature connects the project to landscape architecture. Vast terrain of grass-grown hills is a starting point of the intervention; in the same time it is a block and transition between land and the sea. The scales come down to architecture- by investigating the human size of the bunkers, their structure, materiality and the meaning of the past the project reaches its smallest dimensions.

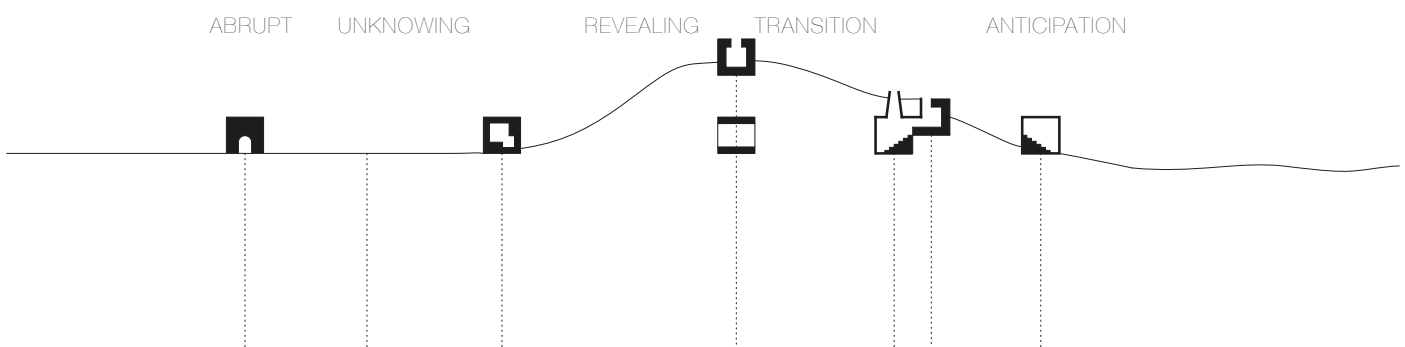
## elaboration on research method and the chosen approach

One of the research methods- case study examination was directly connected to the course of Aspects of Water Related Design. Exercise of discovering similarities and translating the core elements of design to the new location has thought me a lot about the nature of the dunes. It was important to understand the key elements required to build in the dune landscape and about the indirect, but still crucial relationship with the water.

The pre-design phase was for me a too fast push just after P2 to draw sections and plans, which resulted in generic proposal of a labyrinth. Lacking strong conceptual qualities both in the territorial and architectural scale, this step was too fast and not developed enough, so focusing on the solid base of the research and a fresh start was needed.

Short episode of the Micro Movie Festival was an interesting experience. The artistic approach and step back from the design helped to gain some perspective. Focusing on flows of nature and the forces that are present and clashing in the Wadden Sea area, creating a dynamic, constantly changing surrounding had to be the core of the movie and should be the core of the design as well. The movie helped also in the terms of representation- harsh contrasting black and white colours and dynamic charcoal set the tone of the aesthetic of the project.

The main method of working in the studio however, is research by design. Weekly tutoring focusing on experimenting with forms and configuration, starting from abstract sketches and drawings, then translating the ideas into more architectural propositions, testing functions helped to crystallize the design. Choosing strong design over pragmatic concerns about law and structure was important to focus on at the beginning. It all leads to the experience of the path leading visitors through the ritual of memory, feelings and nature.



elaboration on the relationship between the graduation project and the wider social, professional and scientific framework, touching upon the transferability of the project results

The narrative is a base to work out also the details, so that the whole composition is a coherent piece. The design benefited from the continuity of the decisions made. The outlook of the elements responds with the main way of thought for the whole idea. It seemed hard to combine questions about water safety, structure and the poetic impression of the project, but choosing simple solutions showed that the even the details can tell a story. Using injections of bacterial micro-organisms to react with the sand particles and turn them into organic dunes of stable sandstone was one of those solutions. Interventions into the natural landscape stays minimal and organic, yet the technique combines foreign disciplines like chemistry and biology. To emphasize monolithic look of the bunkers I have proposed ultra light concrete- another modern material that has strong insulation and structural properties. Re-thinking construction of the joints and considering ground water level has lead to many smaller adaptations and improvements.

What is worth mentioning is the fact that the project program is rooted in the locations. It should serve for the annual Oerol art festival and I believe it could support and help to develop the ideas of the organizers to another level of artistic experience.

## conclusions

To sum up, the long process of experimenting with different media and forms resulted in a satisfying products. Not without some moments of doubt and chaotic hurry to deliver requested drawings, but all in all the development of the design has a structure and is going in the right direction. The approach of research by design: testing and experimenting with forms along the investigation and taking inspirations from various sources- art, photography, poetry and history proved to be suitable and developed to some unexpected, unconventional but logical and coherent outcomes.

The feedback given by mentors was very helpful, broadening my horizons with many, not only architectural references. Even thought sometimes unusual connections to the world of constructivist art, Greek theatre and mining sites were made, it all stimulated my process to be something more than just a regular design. It surprised me how far can the architectural project be rooted in theory and conceptual thinking and how aesthetic can influence the design decisions.

The final part of finding answers to more down to earth questions regarding climate, structure and materialisation was successful to combine it with the qualities present in the concept. Research and consults with professionals in many fields allowed for choosing modern experimental emerging techniques that made the concept even stronger.

The whole one year long process of developing the project has taught me a lot of new skills, which are relevant not only in the academic field but also could be transferred into professional practice. The focus on consistency and strong relation between research and design are adding to the value of any architectonic design and the effort and organisation they require is definitely beneficial in the long run. Communication of the project through the narrative and different kinds of presentation of the ideas as well as taking from various areas of knowledge and art is a lesson to be remembered and adopt in the future. Finally, the significance of discussion and exchange of ideas between students and tutors confirmed to be the most valuable experience n the whole process and lesson.