

Graduation Plan



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (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	Ying Han
Student number	5541069

Studio		
Name / Theme	Place and Memory lab	
Main mentor	Saskia de Wit	landscape architecture
Second mentor	Oscar Rommens	borders and territories
Argumentation of choice of the studio	After Q1 in the first semester, I liked Saskia's tutor very much; I'm interested in city-scale and small-scale research; I am curious about the memory and space environment of Den Helder and hope to further explore it.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The hidden boundary
Goal	
Location:	Den Helder, North Holland, Netherlands
The posed problem,	<p>As a spatial component, the boundary is sometimes overlooked. And, when people first came to explore the city as a visitor, these boundary zones provided a safe place for them to feel the urban spatial environment. In fact, the city of Den Helder has all kinds of boundaries. But now some of its features are fading away. These boundary areas have great possibilities and opportunities.</p> <p>The 'Stelling of Den Helder', as one of the oldest still present military defensive lines in the Netherlands, can be used as a very important urban structural feature of Den Helder. However, as Den Helder develops, the defense line is no longer directly connected. People almost only walk, bike, or drive through, hardly anyone stays.</p> <p>This green linear space acts as a corridor and lacks recreational function and vitality. This gives Den Helder a great opportunity to enhance its city's structural characteristics, and improve the environmental quality of green living spaces as well as the quality of animal habitats. At the same time, the residents need to raise</p>

	<p>their awareness of protecting species diversity and preserving historical heritage.</p> <p>To sum up, the problem of boundary areas in Den Helder can mainly be studied and analyzed in these 3 dimensions (ecology, socio-culture, and space) with the 3 following posed aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecological perspective: 3 different seas' boundaries at Den Helder's edge have multi-ecosystems on different landscape types (topographic/ ecological/ basic information) 2. Socio-cultural perspective: Den Helder is facing the loss of historical memory. Traces of war are 'scattered' around the city (heritage/ social/ cultural information) 3. Spatial perspective: The disconnected linear green space acts as a corridor between 'fragmented' urban living spaces. It serves almost exclusively for the transport function. (spatial living environment quality and spatial continuity information)
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>research question: How to reactivate and develop a multi-functional boundary area and surrounding landscapes based on the exploration of spatial and temporal continuity?</p> <p>research scale: across scales--- (from regional scale, city scale to green linear boundary scale)</p> <p>Sub questions: lead to/related to these 3 posed problems</p> <p>Q1: (theoretical field) what is the 'boundary'? what is the value of boundary? How to make good use of it/ get benefits from it?</p> <p>Q2: (site analysis) Explore different types of boundary areas in Den Helder.</p> <p>Q3: (site analysis) What are the boundary & meaningful 'places' around the boundary area in Den Helder (what kind of places from different topics can be connected for better spatial continuity)</p> <p>Q4: (case study) How to reactivate useless/boundary spaces (The spaces can have what kinds of multifunctional functions/ programs/ human practices?)</p> <p>Q5: (case study) principles/ approaches for the spatial continuity of the boundary landscape connecting the meaningful 'places'?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>design focus on the city boundary area, especially the green linear space across the city from east to west connecting the two coasts and the four special fortresses</p>

	<p>design scale: across scales--- (from city scale to small spatial scale)</p> <p>Research and design goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (re)evaluate the potential of the multi-functional boundaries and surrounding landscapes • propose approaches for improving the spatial experience and ecosystem continuity • find a balance: cherish the heritage(past) + retain existing urban character(now) + new elements(future)
<p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]</p>	
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>Through the 'design research and research-by-design' process, the proposed research question could be answered gradually and sub-questions would be divided into different steps.</p> <p>1. research process:</p> <p>a. theoretical study and literature research:(Here, the sub-Q1 could be answered)</p> <p>theoretical research questions: understand the term boundary(what is the 'boundary?') explore the values/characteristics of boundaries (how does boundary work?) How will boundaries benefit the urban environment? How to make good use of it/ get benefits from it?</p> <p>Den Helder's specific different types of boundary areas will be analyzed according to the research results of the study of these theoretical aspects of the problem.</p> <p>b. site analysis:(Here, the sub-Q2 and sub-Q3 could be answered)</p> <p>What are the different kinds of boundaries in Den Helder? How did the boundary area develop throughout history in Den Helder? what is connected/divided at the boundary into different perspectives?</p> <p>In the book 'the image of the city', Kevin Lynch described an environmental image's 3 components: identity, structure, and meaning which provides me with an idea about analyzing boundaries in these 3 different layers. The analysis will be done through different scales. After the city-scale study, the study area will be narrowed down. The area for further research and design in the next phase will be defined. Search for historical background information and old photographs of the boundary areas, and organize and interpret them in timelines.</p>	

The spatial continuity and environmental quality of boundaries would be analyzed through field trips in Den Helder. This boundary area will be analyzed from three aspects (at the edge of it, external and internal) and visualized by some mappings. Field trip analysis: observe people's behavior and feel the spatial quality through sensorial experience and collect recordings or images in different areas (recording sound, walking scores, photographs, mental maps...); Different green spaces combined with different users are classified. Then, summarize and propose improvement ideas to organize them into a more organized system.

c. case study (precedents): (Here, the sub-Q4 and sub-Q5 could be answered)

how to reactivate useless/boundary spaces --- give what kinds of multifunctional uses (programs) (human practice)?
principles/ approaches for the spatial continuity of the boundary landscape connecting the meaningful 'places'?

Search for appropriate case studies on different topics during the preliminary design experiment stage and come up with approaches for improving the spatial experience and ecosystem continuity

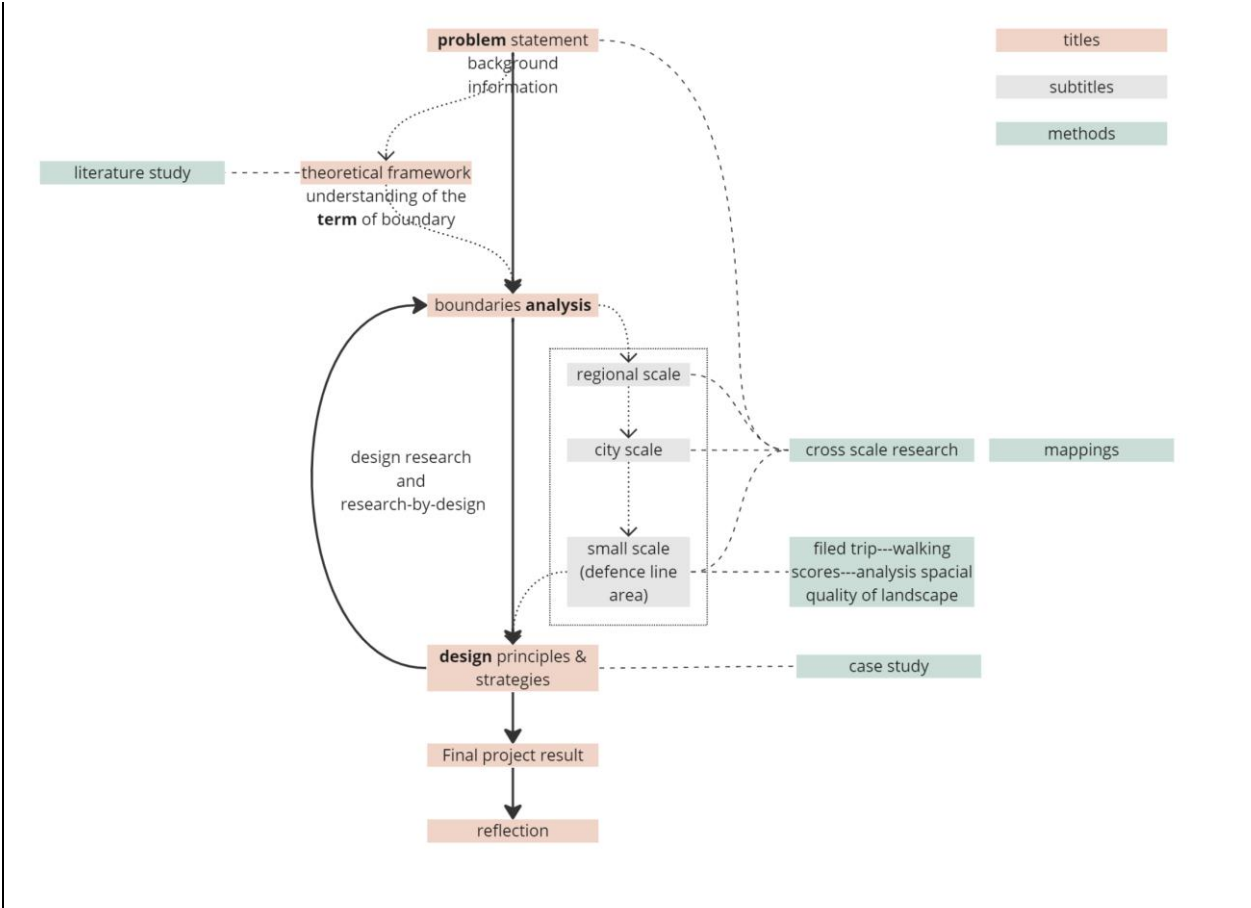
topics related to boundary (searching field): linear spaces, linear parks, green corridors, overhead/ bridge connection, community bridge

2. design process:

brian storm and make imaginary design sketches in different dimensions' circumstances (ecology, path, extreme...).

explore the boundary area's opportunities through different sketches and create new ideas.

search for suitable precedents and find future proposals/strategies for Den Helder's boundary area



Literature and general practical preference

[The literature (theories or research data) and general practical experience/precedent you intend to consult.]

- how to perceive, feel the environment, and analyze landscape:

In the article '*De/Re/In[form]ing Landscape (1991)*', Peter Jacobs proposed an "expanded field" of landscape architecture, interrelated with society, environment, and artifact, which told me to explore meaningful landscape forms from multiple perspectives;

'*Landscape Analysis Investigating the Potentials of Space and Place*' lists a variety of ways to look at the landscape and analyze spaces;

Liu, M., & Nijhuis, S.' *talking about landscape spaces towards a spatial-visual landscape design vocabulary*' provides me with a systematic method to understand, design, and communicate about landscape spaces. '*Digital methods for mapping landscape spaces in landscape design*' provide an overview of some useful applications of digital mapping methods to understand spatial-visual characteristics of the landscape and their transformations in a hypothetical landscape design process.

- theoretical field:

The analysis of the landscape can be carried out within a variety of landscape scales, spatial patterns, and levels of organization (Wu, 2006). Catherine Dee talked about some definitions and typologies of edges and spaces in the book '*Form and Fabric in Landscape Architecture*'; The journal, '*A Terrestrial Landscape Ecology Approach to the Critical Zone*', described what landscape ecology is. Some concepts and relationships in landscape ecology guide my thinking when studying the ecology of the boundary. The research book '*Border Ecologies Hong Kong's Mainland Frontier*' uses the border area between Hong Kong and Shenzhen as an example to provide me with some methods and strategies to look at the relationship between boundary space and ecology, etc. In the book '*the image of the city*', Kevin Lynch described an environmental image's 3 components: identity, structure, and meaning which provides me with an idea about analyzing boundaries in these different layers.

Reading all those works of literature enabled me to preliminarily establish a theoretical framework for academic and design research on the term boundary and the continuity of ecology and space. These also allow me the opportunity to continue to do more in-depth research.

- case study(precedent):

Repairing the Rift: Ricardo Lara Linear Park (Lynwood, California, United States): reconnect the city divided by freeway

Putuo Caoyang Centennial Park (Shanghai, China): reactivate corridor linear space

Minhang Riverfront Regeneration (Shanghai, China): water bank public space and bridge connection

Córrego Grande Linear Park (Florianópolis, Brazil): bridge connection, connectivity public space

Drift, a timber-and-steel pedestrian bridge (Fort Worth, Texas, United States): community bridge connection

Space Installation at CONCÉNTRICO Festival (Logroño, Spain): linear space and slow down the passage of those who pass through
Siempre Fiesta (or Always Party) (Madrid, Spain): linear space
Entre les lignes Landmark (Québec, Canada): transitional space between the urban and the linear park
Bunker 599 (Amsterdam, the Netherlands): a new form of memorial bunker space
Máximapark (Utrecht, the Netherlands): permeable 'wall' structure
Singelpark (Leiden, the Netherlands): green corridor space

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)?

This 'the hidden boundary' graduation project will explore the 'memories and places' of the naval city of Den Helder. The terms boundary, spatial continuity, and ecological continuity will be studied in the field of landscape. The boundaries of Den Helder are mainly studied from three perspectives: ecological, socio-cultural, and spatial.

The intention of the project is to bring attention to the boundary area and to find a balance between the preservation and renewal of the historic site.

The boundary area has these posed problems now, but it can also act as a problem solution. Boundaries are usually porous, transparent, and ambiguous. They can not only separate spaces but also can interlock spaces. By reconnecting the broken historical defense line and improving the quality of green spaces, the city's history traces will be reinforced and the continuity of biological habitats will be strengthened.

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

I will study the concept of boundaries in the landscape architectural field and demonstrate how to analyze the characteristics of various boundaries in a city from large to small scales. Readers will know what kind of programs can be set in the urban public space, and what kind of methods can be used to effectively improve the continuity of space and ecology in the city so that the city becomes adaptive and sustainable development.

In order to clarify the design and research and make the project easier for readers to understand, a glossary related to the design site and the boundary topic will be completed.