

Graduation Plan

Master of Science in Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

MSc Landscape Architecture 2024 - 2025

ChiChing Chang



Graduation Plan

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), your mentors and delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before the P2 date at the latest.

I Personal information

Full name	ChiChing Chang
Student number	6010636

II Studio / Lab information

Name / Theme	Landscape as Palimpsest Lab (LAP)	
Main mentor	Eric Luiten	Landscape
Second mentor	Marc Schoonderbeek	Border and territory
Argumentation of choice of the LA graduation lab	I would like to work on spaces with social issues through the lens of historical layers.	

III Graduation project

Title of the project	BEYOND TERRITORY - Transforming the frontlines, defensive structures and battlefields of the Russo-Ukrainian War into a border zone of peace and freedom.
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Context and aim of the project

Location (region / area / site)	Ukraine
Problem statement	<p>The Russia-Ukraine war, which began in February 2022, has left huge and deep wounds on the landscape, extending from the north to the south of Ukraine. It has transformed frontlines defensive structures and battlefields into "traumascape," where physical destruction intertwines with the psychological scars of its people.</p> <p>As the conflict unfolds, it unearths centuries of border instability woven into Ukrainian history, casting shadows of uncertainty over the future and evoking a sense of loss in the bond to the land.</p>

Research question(s)	How can the frontline areas, including defensive structures and battlefields of the Russo-Ukraine War, transform from scarred land into territories that reflect the palimpsest of the borderscape and convey a message of peace?
Design assignment	The project aims to redefine the war-torn areas of Ukraine within the broader context of the borderland between Asia and Europe. It seeks to go beyond merely healing these spaces through historical representation, focusing instead on creating new borderscapes that restore the environment, mend social fragmentation, and provide comfort to the soul.

IV Graduation process

Method description

Position on this thesis as a Landscape Architect:

1. Confronting the realities of war, the historical context, current suffering and future possibilities, rather than simply dealing with war landscapes in time of peace.
2. The intervention of landscape architects is beyond mere restoring damaged land; it is also about the preservation of history, memory, emotional resonance, as well as fostering hope and reflection.

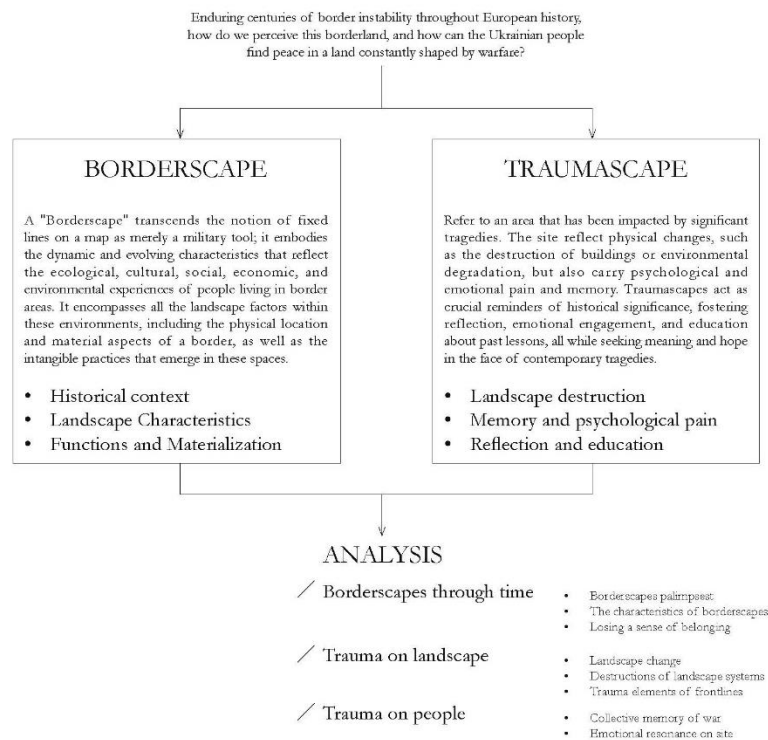
Process:

This study focuses on two core concepts: "Borderscapes" and "Traumascape." The entire frontline system and battlefields are considered as a neutral border zone, establishing its internal coherence, historical context, characteristics, and functionality. This zone should not be viewed as a no-man's land; rather, it should be seen as everyone's land, characterized by a relative sense of peace due to its neutrality. By considering landscape characteristics as sites for intervention and integration—such as social cohesion, cultural representation, and ecological connectivity—the border zone is perceived not as areas of differentiation or division.

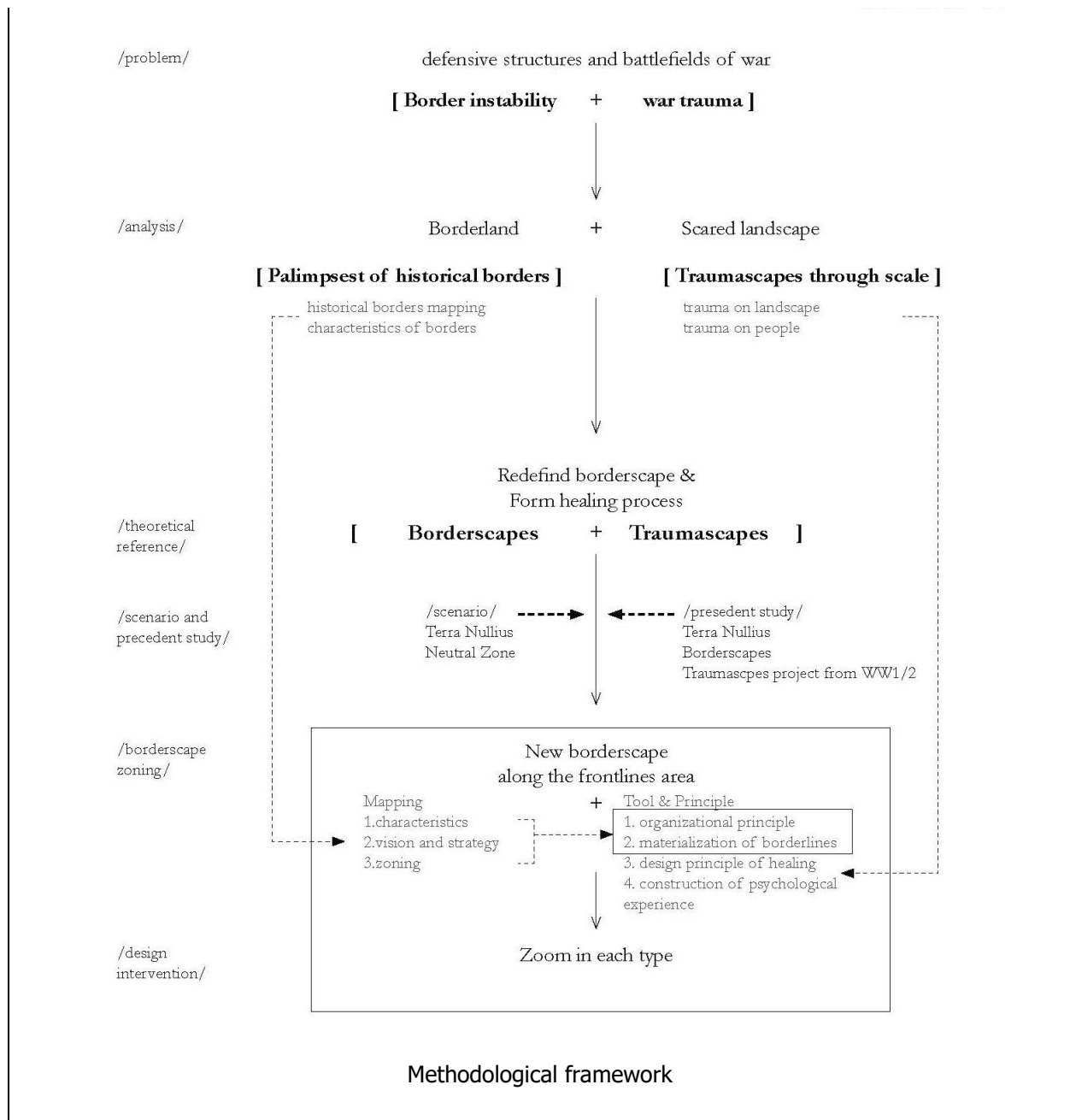
In this context, a human-scale perspective will be adopted to categorize the war's traumascape, illustrate physical destruction within the landscape, analyze trauma elements, and connect emotional memories, all in search of potential pathways to healing.

Methods:

1. The research and design process will involve mapping historical borders and cataloging typologies to identify different characteristics.
2. Collages of the current war landscape, supported by precise mapping using QGIS, will depict physical destruction in the landscape.
3. Visualize collective memory and emotional trauma, uncovering spatial and sensory patterns in conflict-affected areas through sketching.
4. Precedent projects will provide insights into the application of terra nullius and borderscapes, as well as potential design approaches for defensive structures.



Theoretical framework



Literature and more applied references

Literature:

1. Borderscapes

A "Borderscape" transcends the notion of fixed lines on a map as merely a military tool; it embodies the dynamic and evolving characteristics that reflect the ecological, cultural, social, economic, and environmental experiences of people living in border areas. It encompasses all the landscape factors within these environments, including the physical location and material aspects of a border, as well as the intangible practices that emerge in these spaces.

C. Brambilla, Exploring the critical potential of the borderscapes concept, "Geopolitics", 20/1 (2015)

C. Brambilla, J. Laine, J.W. Scott, G. Bocchi (eds.), Borderscaping: imaginations and practices of border making, Aldershot, Ashgate, 2015

Marc Schoonderbeek, Architecture of resistance, The border complex, mapping spaces of simultaneity, 2021

2. Traumascpaes

Refer to an area that has been impacted by significant tragedies. The site reflects physical changes, such as the destruction of buildings or environmental degradation, but also carry psychological and emotional pain and memory. Traumascpaes act as crucial reminders of historical significance, fostering reflection, emotional engagement, and education about past lessons, all while seeking meaning and hope in the face of contemporary tragedies.

Tumarkin Maria, Traumascpaes: The Power and Fate of Places Transformed by Tragedy, 2005
Mazzucchelli, F., van der Laarse, R., & Reijnen, C. Intro - duction: Traces of Terror, Signs of Trauma, 2014

3. Terra nullius

A Latin phrase meaning 'land belonging to no one', which was enshrined as a principle in European law from the 18th century onwards. It is a term used in public international law to describe a space that can be inhabited but that does not belong to a state , meaning the land is not owned by anyone.

Castree, N., Kitchin, R., & Rogers, A. (2013). A Dictionary of Human Geography. In Oxford University Press eBooks. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acref/9780199599868.001.0001>

terra nullius. (n.d.). LII / Legal Information Institute.

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/terra_nullius

Practical Precedent

1. Precedent of "Terra nullius":

Gornja Siga and other pockets at the border of Croatia and Serbia

2. Precedent of "Borderscape":

- 1.1 Crombach river at the border of Parkstad, Netherland and Aachen, Germany
- 1.2 "Jungle" refugee camp in Calais, France

3. Precedent of design approaches of "Traumascpaes" from WW1/WW2:

- 1.1 The Vimy Memorial and National Commemorative Park in France
- 1.2 Memorial Trees Frontline in Belgium

V Reflection on the project proposal

1. What is the relation between your graduation topic, the lab topic, and your master track?

My lab, "Landscape as Palimpsest," focuses on the layers of history and memory within landscapes, which aligns with my project of redefining war-torn areas in Ukraine as borderscapes that acknowledge both the past and the future. My master track in landscape architecture provides the tools and methodologies to engage with these historical, spatial, and sensory elements in a way that not only restores the environment but also addresses social and psychological healing.

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

My graduation work offers insight into how battlefield and fortification landscapes can be addressed, particularly in the context of Ukraine. It invites me to reimagine post-war territories, borderlands, and landscapes, confront the realities of traumatic landscapes, and engage in the processes of restoration and healing. Through this exploration, I reaffirm my connection to the land of my birth and believe that landscape architects can contribute to global peace.