

## **concept reflection**

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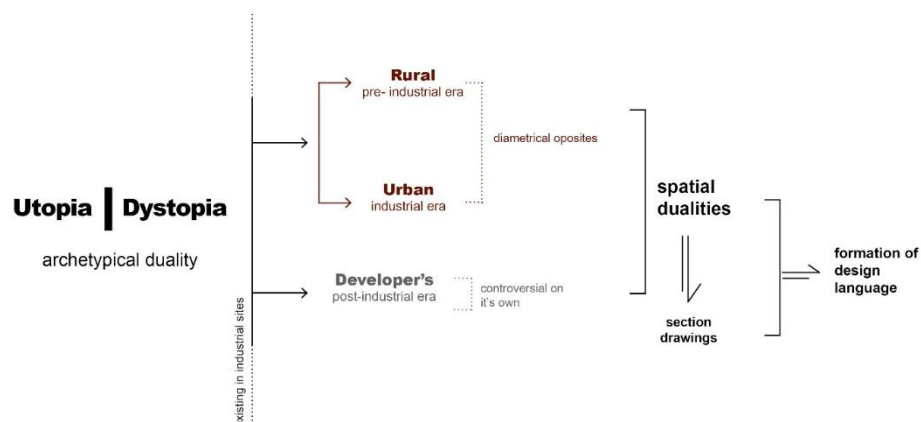
# 1. What is the relation between your graduation project topic, your master track (A, U, BT, LA, MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

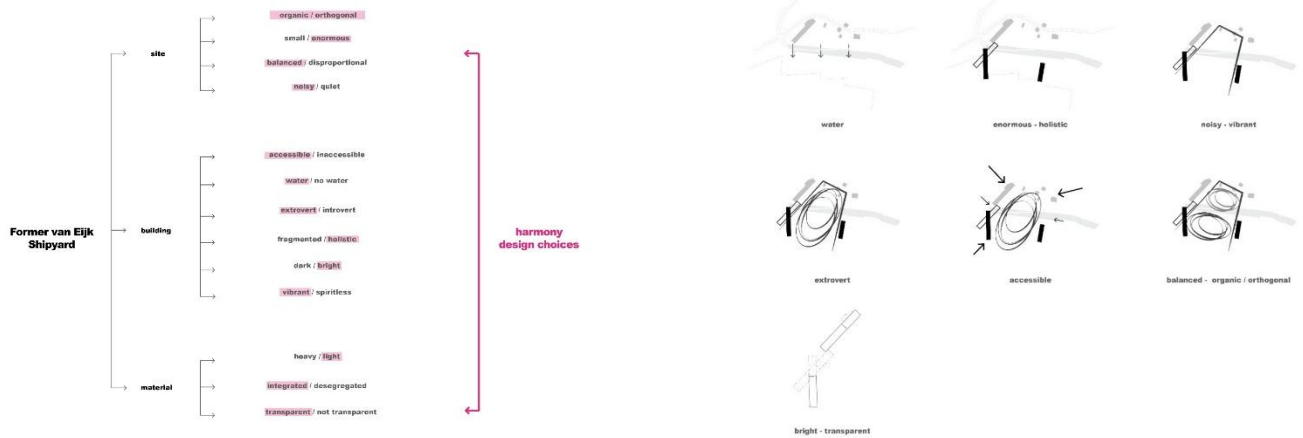
The master programme and my master's track both address the overarching approach to architecture and the built environment. Naturally, when discussing architecture, it is essential to recognize the diversity of its constituent fields. The objective of the heritage studio is to facilitate a profound comprehension and appreciation of the built environment by architects, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the spatial identity of each space through our endeavors. The theme of my graduation projects this year is maritime architecture and its heritage significance. The research site is situated in an area recently recognized for its maritime significance, with the objective of emphasizing the value of repurposing abandoned and neglected maritime industrial spaces.

# 2. How did your research influence your design/recommendations and how did the design/recommendations influence your research?

I would like to answer this question from the end. The choice of the design and the recommendation, as well as the choice of the specific studio in the field of heritage and architecture, also played a crucial role in my research. When I first visited the area, I was looking for traces of the past in the present appearance of the place. I was biased by the past glorious atmosphere that a maritime heritage site can embody and I wanted to sense it. That is why I felt all these contradictory feelings and came up with the idea of applying the archetypal duality of utopia/dystopia to my research. Of course, because it can be a very eternal theme to explore the maritime past of the area and the connection to industry made it more precise where I should look for answers. So, my research was more of a new value assessment method to justify and support my design choices. Moreover, it is a very practical tool for me to understand the area of intervention and to have a clear argumentation why I recommend the specified design choices from the bigger to the smaller scale.

The first method diagram made by the author to explain the steps that will follow to the research process and the design process





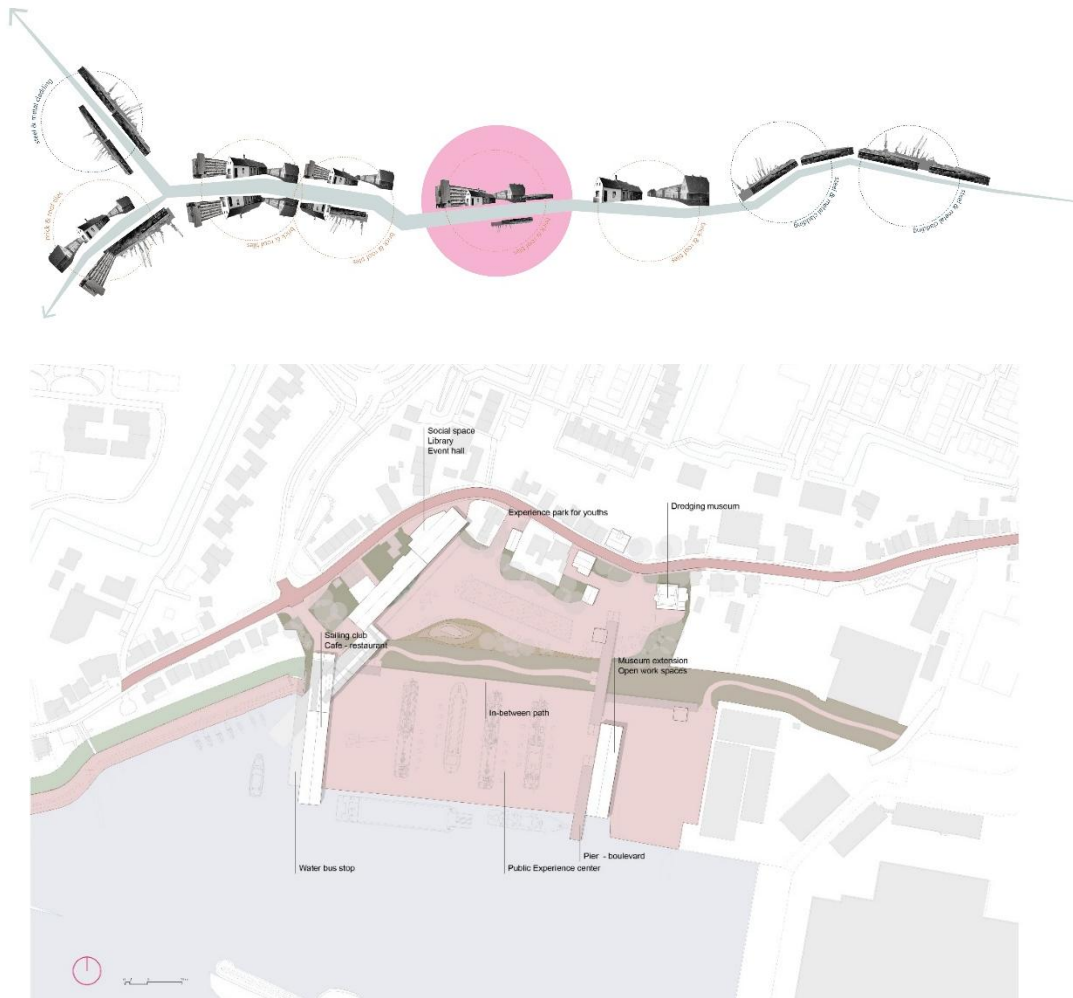
The new value assessment tool and the translation of the selected values from the dualities into architectural design choices.

### 3. How do you assess the value of your way of working (your approach, your used methods, used methodology)?

Having both academic and practical experience in the field of architecture, I have to admit that in recent years I have developed a way of approaching my projects. I am always looking for the needs of society and the perspective of the user. I want to justify my design choices and have a rationale for what I am proposing. So, for me, the research along with the value assessment is a very valuable part of the project. I also like the theoretical field of architecture and it comes naturally to me to apply this to my design. Although this proved to be particularly challenging, as it was with this project, and added an extra level of difficulty in trying to make everything work together. From the design I want to implement many scales into my design and most of the time I like to work on different scales at the same time, leaving room for adaptation and getting to know the bigger picture. On the other hand, this can be very tricky as it is easy to overdesign an area and leave the whole process behind, and to avoid this you need a very good programme.

#### 4. How do you assess the academic and societal value, scope and implication of your graduation project, including ethical aspects?

I think that my proposal has a great positive impact on the society to which it refers. The core of the proposal is to strengthen the social connection between the industrial remnants and the people who live around them, and to create a place where everyone can get in touch with the heritage of the maritime industrial sites of Sliedrecht. By promoting the re-use of the space, the active connection with the National Dredging Museum and the creation of a sailing club, the main values of the research will be revived and actively integrated into everyday life, giving the site more tangible and intangible importance. In addition, public use seems more appropriate to me as the site is in an outer dike area and the surrounding area is full of residential buildings. I am very aware of the housing crisis in the Netherlands, but I think that this area needs to create a social collector, not just more houses. All in all, the shipyard sites were vibrant social collectors in their heyday.



Conclusion diagram prepared at the analysis stage, showing the current situation of uses and materials in the area of interest and the proposed master plan for the selected site.

## **5. How do you assess the value of the transferability of your project results?**

This project is closely linked to the site and its heritage. This means that it is not a universal project, but is designed to highlight the specific features of the area. Although the general approach linked to the research result can be extended to other heritage sites and act as a method of acting with places of great importance. Some adjustments should be made and of course there is always the risk that this method may not be suitable for all types of heritage sites. However, this is something that only testing can show whether it will be a negative effect.

## **6. How did the historical, cultural, and architectural context of your site influence the design decisions in your graduation project, and how did you balance innovation with preservation?**

The project is located in a former shipyard, to which the design responds with a respectful and contextual strategy. A new volume mirrors the scale and orientation of the existing structure, reinforcing the landmark character of the site while introducing internal divisions to accommodate specific functions. Timber plays a key connective role - notably through a wooden platform that extends towards the water, reconnecting the site's historic relationship with the river. The new addition is wrapped in frosted glass, as the existing volume is introduced by the extended facades. On top of the existing structure, a lightweight steel mesh walkway introduces another layer of accessibility and visual permeability, while framing and preserving the original architectural language. This layered approach is intended to foster a quiet dialogue between old and new, permanence and lightness, memory and transformation.

## **7. In what ways does your project contribute to contemporary discourse on architectural heritage — such as adaptive reuse, memory, identity, or authenticity — and how did you address potential tensions between conservation and development?**

My project explores the role of memory and identity in post-industrial landscapes. Rather than restoring the site to a past state, I have allowed layers of history to coexist with new architectural insertions. This challenges conventional restoration practices and supports an evolving narrative of place. I addressed the tensions between development pressures and conservation by proposing a phased, community-led reuse strategy that balances economic viability with cultural sensitivity. Rather than simply forgetting the past, I choose to highlight it and make it a very valuable core of my decision, so that the community can actively engage with it.