

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), 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		
Student number		

Studio		
Name / Theme	Revitalizing Maritime Heritage Graduation Studio/ Heritage & Architecture	
Main mentor	Nol Hermkens	Design
Second mentor	Ivan Nevzgodin	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	My architectural passion is deeply rooted in working with existing structures, and this year's focus on maritime industrial sites made this studio the ideal choice for my final project. The Waterdriehoek area, with its rich history of active and abandoned maritime industrial sites, presents a unique challenge. These remnants, once symbols of industrial vitality, are now seen as neglected structures, raising questions about their relevance in today's post-industrial context. The increasing demand for adaptive reuse in urban environments is more pressing than ever as cities evolve to meet changing societal needs. This studio provides a platform to explore how these sites can be reimagined and transformed to meet contemporary urban demands, while preserving their historical significance. It provides the ideal environment to address the urgent need to re-use and adapt these spaces for the future.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	[Re]formation of maritime dystopias
Goal	
Location:	Former van Eijk Shipyard, Baanhoek 22, 3361 GK Sliedrecht
The posed problem,	Industrial spaces were once seen as utopian, embodying progress and prosperity for surrounding communities. However, it's worth questioning if these spaces truly lived up to those ideals and

	<p>what defined them as utopian in the first place. Today, former shipyards are perceived more as dystopian sites, starkly contrasting their original vision. Additionally, maritime heritage conservation in the Waterdriehoek region has only recently gained attention, with few listed monuments connected to the maritime industry. This makes them vulnerable to gentrification. Despite existing literature on maritime heritage, there's limited research on Waterdriehoek's southeastern area. This study aims to explore the unique characteristics of these sites to support a balanced adaptation for the future.</p>
research questions and	<p>What are the "utopian / dystopian" features of the past of the maritime industrial site of former Van Eijk Shipyard in Sliedrecht, that a designer can use to reshape its future?</p> <p>[big scale] Were the industrial sites utopias or dystopias, or both?</p> <p>[medium scale] What were/are the main spatial characteristics (or dualities) of these spaces and who were the lead characters?</p> <p>How can we describe / depict the connection of those sites to the society in the past and in the present?</p> <p>[small scale] How those sites altered the area near them? Was that a beneficial impact or maybe not?</p> <p>Why it is important to re-form the maritime sites? How we will achieve this?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The design assignment, the focus of this graduate studio, concerns the redesign, preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings and areas. Specifically, the area of interest is the maritime industrial heritage sites in the south area of the Water Triangle, and the relationship between water and land as they are perceived today, and how this</p>

	can be shifted towards a proper cultural strengthening.
<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>	
Process	
Method description	
<p>[A description of the methods and techniques of research and design, which are going to be utilized.]</p> <p>This research begins with a comprehensive examination of the various utopian and dystopian spatial characteristics that exist (or existed) within the specified area of interest. The principal method that will be employed is the identification of spatial dualities based on the archetypal dual of utopia/dystopia, with the main design tool being section drawings of the site. This research builds on a synthesis of literature and site analysis, starting with a matrix of spatial dualities (e.g., massive-light, open-closed) to examine the former Van Eijk Shipyard. The process includes archival and photographic research to trace changes over time and identify key forces behind them. A timeline will contextualize the site's evolution, while sectional drawings will illustrate its utopian/dystopian contrasts. Additionally, case studies of similar European industrial sites, ideally near water and designed by renowned firms like Herzog & de Meuron, will inform design strategies. The final aim is to balance utopian and dystopian elements, creating a revitalization framework that respects the maritime heritage and enhances its future relevance. The study's outcome will guide the development of an effective, context-sensitive design strategy, enhancing both the site and its surrounding community.</p>	

Literature and general practical references

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

The theoretical framework for the theme of utopia/dystopia in this research is grounded in key literature that examines the spatial, societal, and economic dimensions of these concepts. **Le Corbusier's "The Athens Charter"** (1973) will be used to define the spatial characteristics of utopian and dystopian spaces, focusing on modernist ideals of order and functionality. **Henri Lefebvre's "The Production of Space"** (2009) explores the relationship between buildings and society, probing whether architecture reflects human aspirations or shapes societal behavior. **MacLeod and Ward's "Spaces of Utopia and Dystopia"** (2002) further investigates these spatial characteristics within contemporary urban landscapes. **Tafari's "Architecture and Utopia"** (1976) questions the viability of utopian ideals in a capitalist context, examining whether utopian visions can coexist with market-driven environments. Lastly, **Zimmermann's "Industrial Cities: History and Future"** (2013) will provide insights into the spatial characteristics of industrial utopias and dystopias, focusing on relevant chapters. Together, these sources will form a comprehensive framework for analyzing the case study site.

For the Sliedrecht case study, I will utilize various resources for a comprehensive historical and spatial analysis. **Wagenaar's "Town Planning in the Netherlands"** (2015) will provide insights into Dutch urban policy and its relation to utopian and dystopian themes. Archival sources from the **Regional Archives of Dordrecht** and **municipal archives** will be consulted for maps, photos, and historical documents relevant to the site. The **Sliedrecht municipality website** offers specific information about local monuments, while the **Historische Vereniging Sliedrecht** and historical video documentation (YouTube) will help trace the evolution of the former Van Eijk shipyard. Additionally, the **Topotijdreis** platform will be used to analyze 200 years of topographic maps, offering insights into spatial changes over time. These combined sources will provide a robust foundation for understanding the historical development and transformation of the area, informing the analysis of its utopian and dystopian characteristics.

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)?

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 recognise 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 endeavours. The theme of my graduation project this year is maritime architecture and its heritage significance. The research site is situated in an area recently recognised for its maritime significance, with the objective of emphasising the value of repurposing abandoned and neglected maritime industrial spaces.

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

The central objective of this graduation project is to facilitate active engagement with the local community, thereby strengthening their connection to their history. A significant aspect of their heritage pertains to their maritime legacy, which, due to contemporary circumstances, has been overlooked by many. However, this oversight is not a deliberate choice but rather an outcome of the prevailing conditions. The project aims to rectify this by reconfiguring the spatial dynamics that have contributed to the loss of connection. In the professional realm, the proposal seeks to integrate my indigenous methodologies for engaging with heritage sites with the Dutch approach, thereby generating a novel perspective that could broaden the scope of cultural exchange. Finally, the project seeks to establish a methodology for engaging with heritage sites that will encourage future researchers to draw upon a diverse array of examples by employing a consistent approach.