

- Final Reflection -

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The research started with my fascination for sacred geometry. Since this topic explains the universe in numbers, shapes, and ratios, I wanted to relate it to our materialistic and superficial society. The aim was to make people realise the bigger picture of life and that everything is connected, and to show how incredible all this actually is, which gives me an enlightening and spiritual feeling. Unfortunately the ambition and the topic itself was way to big to comprehend and to make it a feasible graduation project. I have to say that it was a bit of a let down because of my excitement for the topic. However, it was understandable, and now looking back also necessary, or else I would probably still be busy with the research and not the design.

Slowly this topic got narrowed down into a sub topic, which is about ancient Greek philosophers and classical architecture. I wanted to find out the philosophy behind their architecture and translate it to our time. For this I wanted to have an example and I found that in Mies van der Rohe. The diagram below shows the approach of my research.

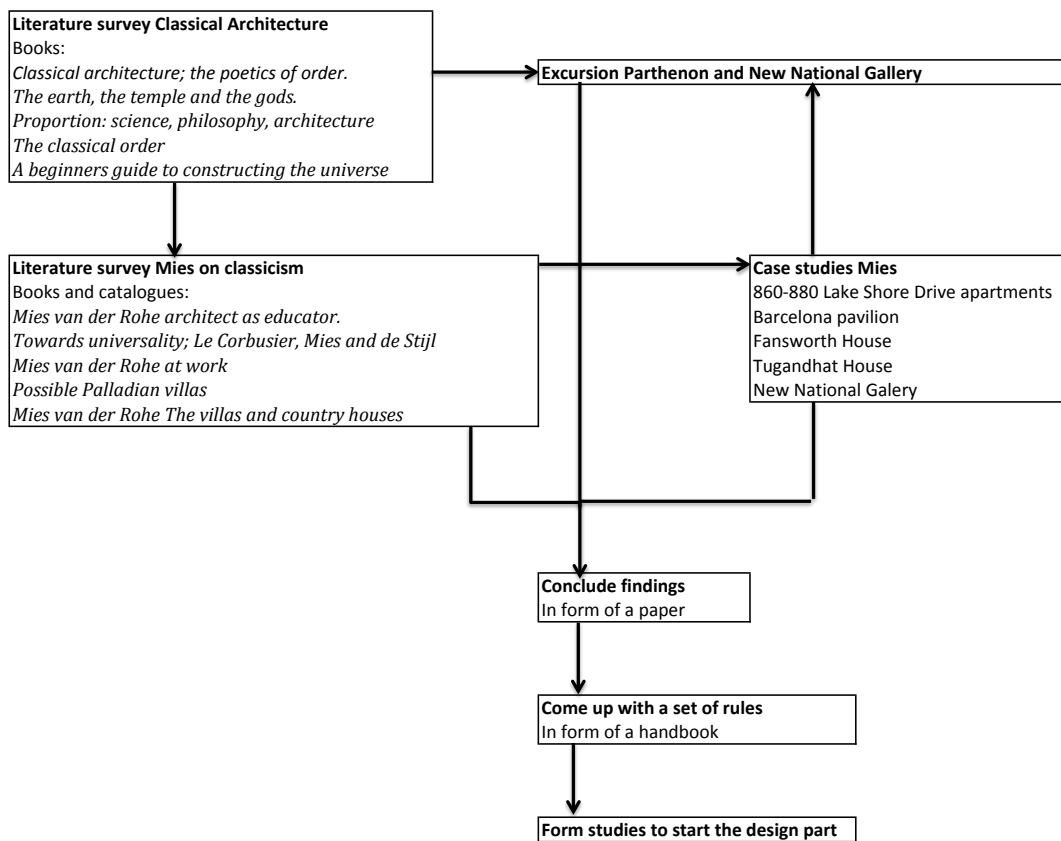


Fig. 1. Research methodology. (own image)

Up until the last stage (form studies), this approach was straightforward and I am glad about the results I obtained. The main conclusions about the importance of the structure, nature and design schemes helped me a lot with my design. Especially structure became eventually the most important aspect of the design, which took a lot of time during the process of form studies. I would also have liked to put the same amount of time and energy in nature and design schemes. However, the process I was making during the form studies was too interesting

to quit. This eventually led me to a framework that works as ceiling integrated with lighting and ventilation, which is interesting knowing that it all started from studies on the structure.

I have to say though, that after concluding my paper, I had no idea of what to design or what to aim for, in terms of what kind of a building would reflect a sense of spirituality that I wanted to achieve with my research.

That is why I wanted to design something from my personal interest and experience, which is dancing. This is one of the very few things that gives me a sense of spiritual feeling, since when you dance you let everything go and enjoy the moment. So the design eventually became a ballroom pavilion. The relationship between the research and design then got established by the question; how can I make the ballroom dance? Since my research covered the ways of Mies van der Rohe translating classical architecture into his era, it became clear that the relation between my research and design was to be found in the structure. In other words; designing a dancing structure so that the ballroom could dance. This was also the reason why I focused more on the structure after the paper, than on nature and design schemes.

From this point on, I started with form studies. These were meant to find the right combination of the structure; the columns and the transition from these into the roof. Like I mentioned earlier, until this point it was a straightforward approach. The form studies however, made me look at the design phase more open-mindedly and gave me a wide range of possibilities, which eventually made the structure transform into a fancy armature hanging above the ballroom. I would have never come up with that idea if it wasn't for the form studies, therefore I am glad about the process of it and the possibilities it presented me.

In conclusion, I am glad about the results I obtained from the methods I chose. Especially the discovering aspect from the form studies were liberating and enriching for my design. The results from the research, in general, were not always easily relatable to my design, since the reason for the design was not specifically related to the research. However, with time some aspects of the research, like the structure, nature, and design schemes fell into its place and made it work.