

REFLECTION PAPER

MASTER OF SCIENCE ARCHITECTURE, URBANISM & BUILDING SCIENCES

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DISCLOSING THE MILITARY CITY LISBON

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INTROCUTION

This reflection paper is an integral part of the graduation studio of Heritage & Architecture. The reflection on the personal graduation process is an important part, because this makes it easier to adjust and look at aspects at a different angle and learn from this. This reflection report illustrates how the project developed during the graduation process.

The reflection is discussed by answering several aspects. I will describe how (method used) and why (argumentation) which is discussed in the graduation plan. The flection is the second part answered per aspect to see how the method and argumentation ended up.

The following aspects will be discussed. Aspect 1: the relationship between research and design. Aspect 2: the relationship between the theme of the graduation lab and the case study chosen by the student within this framework or location. Aspect 3: the relationship between the methodical line of approach of the graduation lab and the method chosen by the student in this framework. Aspect 4: the relationship between the project and the wider social context.

THE GRADUATION PROJECT

My project involves a former military site located in the edge of Lisbon. The project is located in the district Beato located near the harbor north of the center of the city. This project is closely related to the studio of Heritage & architecture as it is not only worth keeping, but can and needs to be used to improve the quality of the neighborhood. With this project we find a new use and purpose for the unused site and near urban surroundings. We analyze the area and use this knowledge to create a funded design that shows the quality of the existing and the future. This project is a socially relevant project as it is being redeveloped at this moment by the municipality of Lisbon.



Location project in relation to the active areas in the city Lisbon



Military site located near the harbour in district Beato



Edge of military site

PERSONAL INTEREST

I started this graduation project in September 2016. I chose this studio due to my longtime interest in adaptive re-use of older buildings. What I like the most is the search for looking at a building and find opportunities where others only see a decayed building. Most of these buildings contain lots of stories, have a high cultural value that wait to be exploited.

As a designer and future architect I like the possibilities given by existing projects that need a new boost in order to become relevant once more. I am convinced that in the future Heritage will play an important role for society and it will become more popular to invest in old buildings. Therefore this graduation project is suited to my personal interest in the field of architecture.

What fascinated me from the beginning is the social aspect that is part of the site. We have this large military site, a local community and a south European culture that offer high value to social connection. This became clear when I visited the city for the first time as I experienced myself how different this is from the Netherlands. Since then this has been a theme and focus point during my design process.

Jochem Hols

June 2017



Former military terrain called MMC located in Beato



small restaurant with local & tourists dining close to each other



main shopping street in Lisbon

THE GRADUATION DESIGN

The graduation project has resulted in a contemporary design. This design has a complexity level that is in need for elaboration. As a summary of the project it includes the Masterplan scale, an ensemble that has the focus point and a building that is worked out into detail.

THE MANUFACTURING COMPLEX

The manufacturing complex is the name for the new purpose of the project. The complex consists out of an upper floor zone with semi-private functions like creative workspaces, schools, conference rooms, hotel, craft brewery and winery. The ground floor is a public area with public spaces, craft shops and a museum.

The area can be used by local inhabitants, young skilled entrepreneurs and eventually tourists. The site has zones where the different target groups can conduct their daily activities. The upper part will offer contemporary housing for new users.

THE MEETING SPOT

The focus of the design is in and around the old warehouse. This area is a meeting spot where all users and target groups can come together and enjoy and experience the qualities of the complex. This area is focused on recreational and cultural activities like a market square, exposition spaces, a food hall, tasting rooms, sport center and activity center. This area is the main entrance of the enclosed complex. This results in a design that is the mediator between the outside world and the manufacturing complex.

MATCH

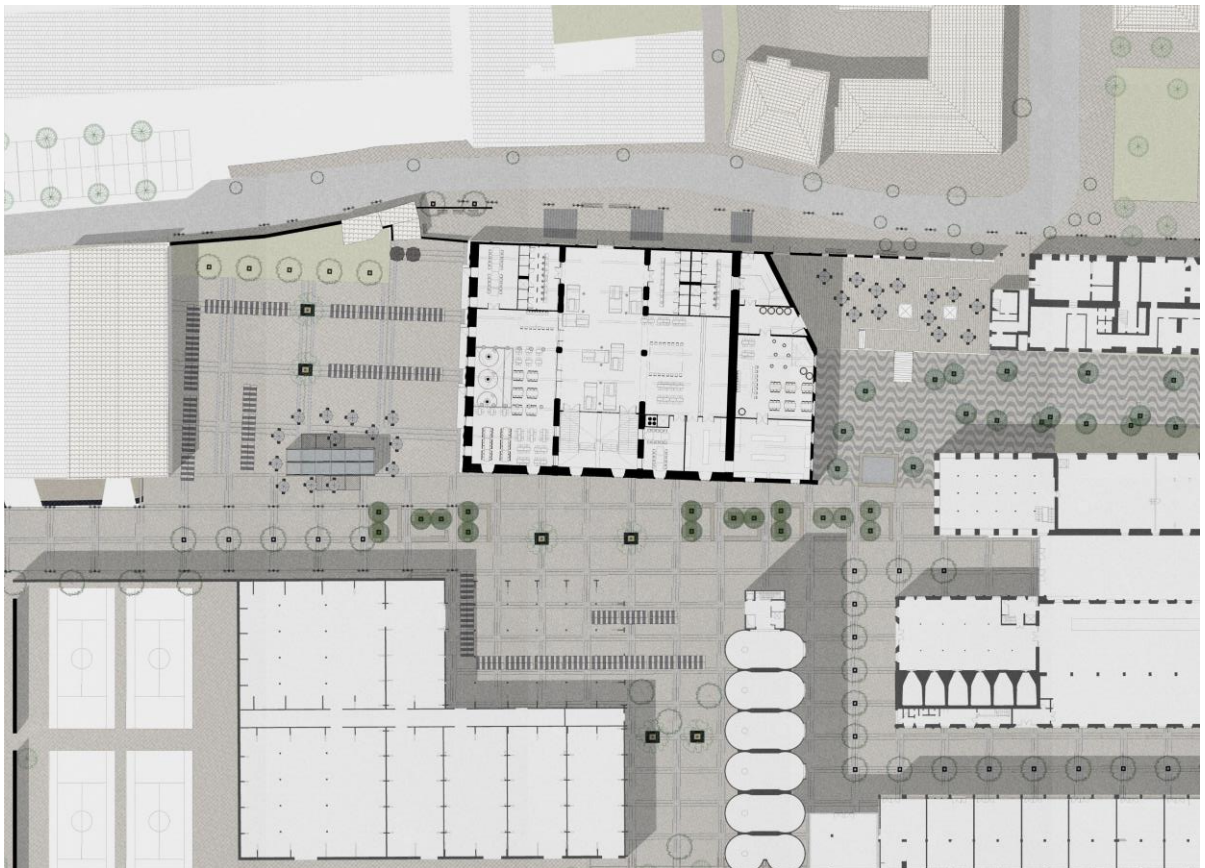
The old warehouse has a new public use. This building located in the meeting spot is an old building with a new purpose where the old can be seen, touched and experienced. The focus of the building design is on the relation with the surroundings, the strength of the building characteristics and the relation between old and new.



Brewery tasting room in the building complex



Masterplan roof



Ensemble Ground floor plan

DISCUSSING THE ASPECTS

ASPECT 1: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH & DESIGN

INTRODUCTION

Research, research & design, research by design and design by research is a method that can be used to make architectural conceptual thinking more professional. It also provides input for the design and can guide designers in the process.

During the graduation research is done from the beginning until the last drawing that is made. You start with analyzing to provide input and gain knowledge about the project. During the design process new information is always needed that has not been analyzed. This is because you find new input during the design or want to check the possibilities for certain design decisions. This makes the process circular that makes it discernible for the designer. This is helpful for making it more clearly towards others how your process developed.

The heritage and architecture studio it starts with a site analysis which resulted in a collection of data to be used for the design. In my opinion this part should be done as objective as possible to prevent design thoughts that are not founded by facts, but fiction. This process already shows how this circular process starts from the beginning. This has been illustrated by Job Roos in 'the ontdekking van de opgave' and is very helpful for understand the circular design process.

Until the last presentation of the studio, the analysis is an integral part of the design process that returns as a circular process. Every process is different, but is see it as a process that narrows down towards the end as shown in the illustration.

THE ASSIGNMENT

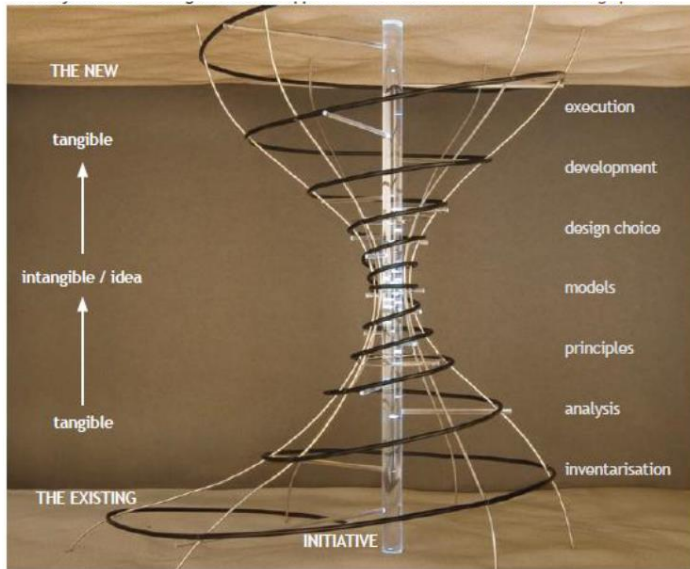
The main research question has been the delimitation for the research field. My research question addresses the problem statement of the site and in which way the site needs to develop. *How can an **enclosed industrial area work together with the urban surroundings as a tool to become **reconnected** that will serve as an **incubator for future developments?*****

The main question might be hard to answer and it is even possible that there is no answer. By using sub questions this is made easier. Together they are the input for finding an answer to this bigger question. The main research question is not static, but can change after gaining input from the research and design. The answer of the research question will be explained with a design solution of a building and its direct surroundings.

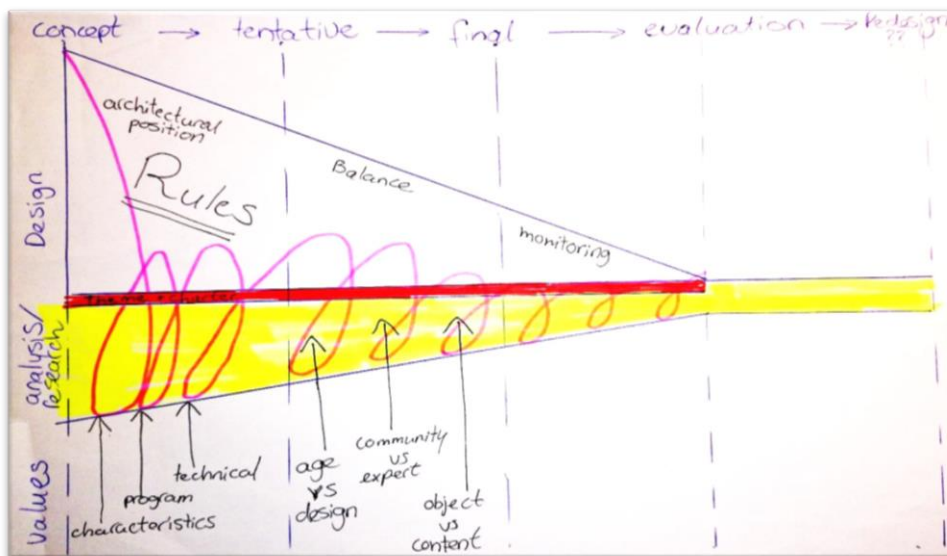
As mentioned before my personal interest was focused towards a social theme coming forth out of a personal fascination. My personal design task has been to include the aspects of people, the use and their experience in the design process. This has been done by introducing a theme that will be discussed in the next aspect.

During the design process I switched between research and design. During the different stages the relation between the research and the design changed its role. I will discuss them per presentation moment. This contains the analysis & research, the sketch, preliminary, tentative and contemporary design.

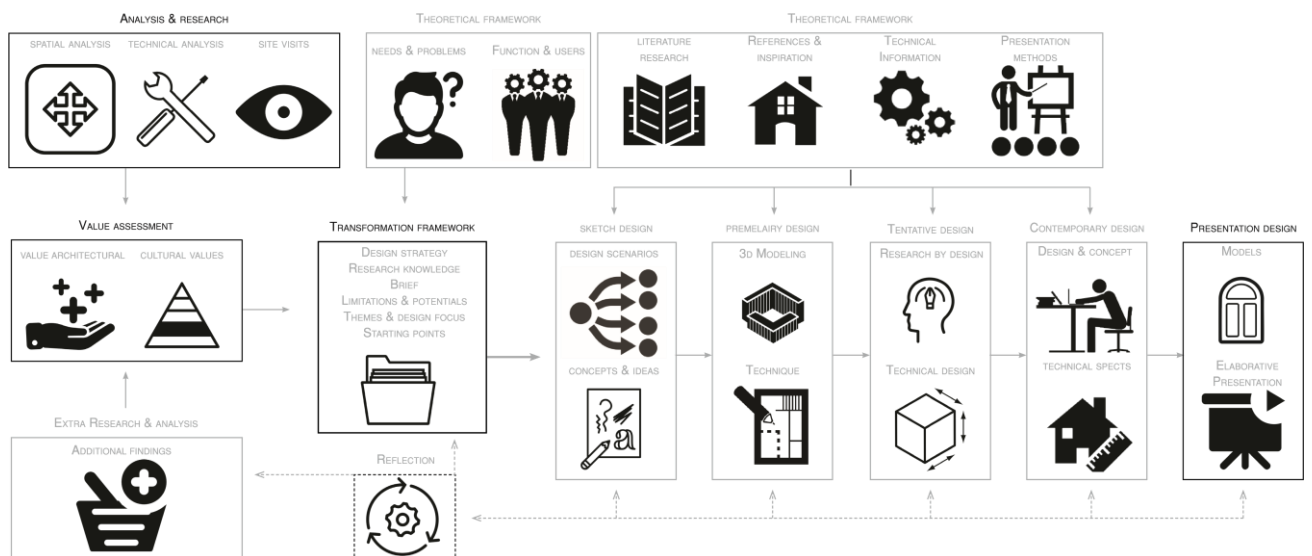
Cultural value is an integral part of the heritage studio. From the beginning until the end this is part of the design process. The relation between the research of the existing versus the design the new illustrates the relation between the two. The relation between research & design fluctuates during the process and will be discussed.



Circular process of the value assessment during the design process (Job Roos, ontdekking van de opgave)



Circular design process per stage (own material)



Research (black) & design (grey) relation

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

A shown in my methodical approach used the theoretical framework and the outcomes from the analysis to create a collection of data. The group's analysis was mainly focused on the research part. This is because in my opinion it is necessary to be objective during this moment.

During the research I have assessed what the main question will need to look at with sub questions. The research was started by finding out as much as possible about the site. What makes this site so isolated and is this something that can be used as an advantage. Also the relation between the new use of the complex and the direct surroundings have been researched. These two aspects are an important part of answering the main question. The different scales make this a complex research suited for a graduation project.

SKETCH DESIGN (UNTIL P1)

After the groups analysis I started on the sketch design. This was the first step towards the design aspect. I looked at the demographical challenges and possible functions for the site. The research I did on this was combined with the knowledge of the research & analysis. This input with the research focus was the first step taken in a focus point of the design.

During the sketch design I looked at my fascination and how this might take its place in the design. By researching on the social (cultural) aspects and I gained input used for the design function. In this stage the influence was mainly on the Masterplan scale. The theme of 'uniting' was established that has been part of the design process since. The theme of uniting was first mainly focused on the culture of Lisbon, but this shifted more the social aspect instead as this was a better way to implement this in the design.

During the research and analysis the analysis has been used for making a value assessment. In heritage & architecture studio we used the cultural values in order to create restrains and possibilities. Until the P1 the values of the site scale were used for making themes used in the design.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN (UNTIL P2)

After the P2 I continued researching on the main theme of uniting. After reading about the cultural aspects I found that it was very difficult to include the cultural aspects into the design. It ended up in a strategy for a new purpose rather an architectural concept. The cultural knowledge has been implemented, but is no longer the main focus point.

I did research on public spaces and domain. The knowledge was used for creating a use for the public spaces on the site. This resulted in a design concept related to the public domain and was presented as such during the P2 presentation.

Working towards the P2 the focus of cultural value shifted towards the building scale. The assessed values were used to make clear how the tangible and intangible should be preserved, in other words constrains. The values were also input for a function for the design that fits in with the existing. By introducing three dilemma's it became possible to make the relation between the research more realistic and integrated with the design

TENTATIVE DESIGN (UNTIL P3)

After the P2 the focus was mainly on the building and its surroundings. The research done in this period was focused on how to implement the theme of uniting into the design. By looking at theory on for example aspects that can improve the social interaction I could implement this in the design. This was very important for making it possible to make a connection between research and design.

I did research with the method of research by design for making a design that fits with the theoretical framework. For the interior I focused on the atmosphere and historical layering. Instead of using literature I researched by creating the space and reflecting on this. This ended up in a P3 design.

For the cultural value I focused on the dilemma's by looking at precedents. The knowledge of these projects was used for a concept of the buildings new architectural design.

CONTEMPORARY DESIGN (UNTIL P4)

After the P3 the research is less prominent and the focus lays more on the designing. Building technology is the other important of the studio. I used examples of theoretical information to fine-tune the building. The concept for the building needs to be realized which means that it needs to be made. By looking at examples of replacing existing fabric the design was altered and fine-tuned.

The research that is less connected to the design is presentation method. I looked at methods of how this can be done that cope with the concept of the building and the characteristics of the studio project, a Heritage related project. This will end up in a P4 presentation.

PRESENTATION DESIGN (UNTIL P5)

With the P4 go the design enters its final stage. This did not mean that everything is finished. This is the period where the project would be solved in front of a committee. I was thinking of methods on how models, images, presentation and verbal presenting can be combined. This led me to the public presentation. The biggest challenge is how to reduce all this interesting information into a 'short' and elaborative presentation. Less is more is a fact, but there needs to be a balance between the amount of products and the message that is send to the audience.

What I learned is that it is very hard for me to have the complete message in your head and transform this into a beautiful and simple presentation. I know now it is important to visualize this and then fine tune this by discussing it with teachers and colleges. Also it is important to know your audience and think about how they would receive the presentation. They do not know the project which makes it a challenge to create depth in the presentation, but also keep it understandable.

CONCLUSION

What I Learned from looking back at this is that it really depends on the design focus where the balance lies between research and design. During the different stages this shifts which is normal. What I Learned from this particular studio is that it is really important to keep clear what research is needed and how much. By delimitating this can be made easier, but not predicted. It is a flexible process, but what I do know is that a bigger project does not need more research aspects, but rather less as this only makes the project more complex and the design less convincing.

ASPECT 2: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRADUATION THEME & CASE STUDY

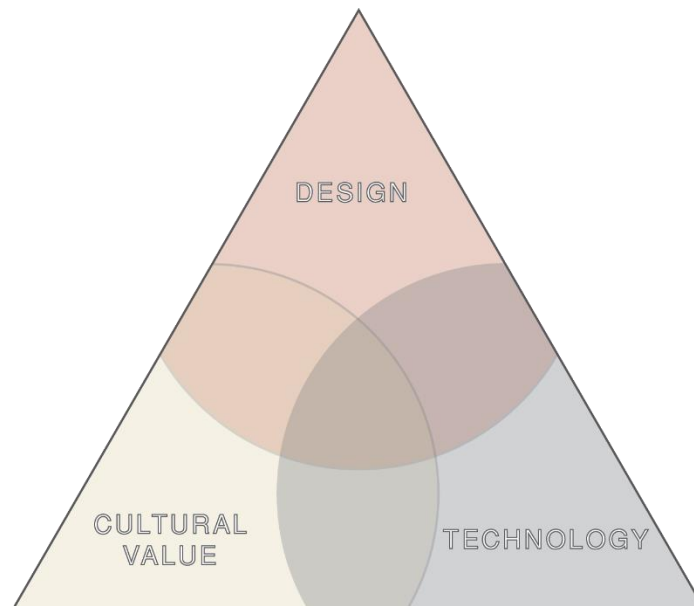
The theme of the heritage and architecture studio is a focus on three aspects: Heritage, design and technology. Heritage meaning the past and the present and how this is handled. Design is the main theme as it is part of the architecture master. Technology focusing on the execution of the redesign.

In my particular studio project the focus is on the MMC site. For this site we need to find a new purpose. This terrain is owned by the municipality of Lisbon. This former military site is seen as highly valued, because the army was and is very important for Portugal. This indicates that the relation between the case study is connected to the theme of the graduation theme of Heritage and architecture. The cultural value aspect of heritage is there for a good way of making sure that this highly values site maintained.

Technology is another theme that is part of the graduation studio. As this old site is in bad state it needs some kind of constructional attention. Especially on building level where I transform an old warehouse. The old fabric is in need for new finish. Due to the design the building also requires technological changes. The re-use of the building will get a new function. This function means changes for the building.

The theme of the project does not have to do a lot with the graduation theme, which would have fit in more with a graduation studio that focusses on the sociological aspects. Though this is only a theme and not a graduation studio theme on its own.

When I look back to the relation between the theme of the graduation lab and my case study I can say that it has a relation. This is not worked out yet to the phase that it is a solid solution, but it has taken a step into the right direction. In order to make a good relation between the theme of the graduation lab and the case study, the main research question will need to be answered. This will be worked out further during the process.



Tryangle of heritage & architecture studio

ASPECT 3: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN APPROACH STUDIO & METHOD BY STUDENT

The methodical line of approach of the heritage graduation lab consists mainly out of three aspects. Analysis and research, value assessment and the architectural & technological design. Together with the theoretical framework, the design is worked out from the sketch design until the final design. With the help of reports for the three courses: cultural value, spatial analysis and technological analysis the input is constructed for a design.

During the design process the project is supposed to be evaluated along the process in order to find flaws. By the help of variations the design is exploited. Towards the end the focus will be more on the technical and less on the spatial design. Although they are clearly intertwined.

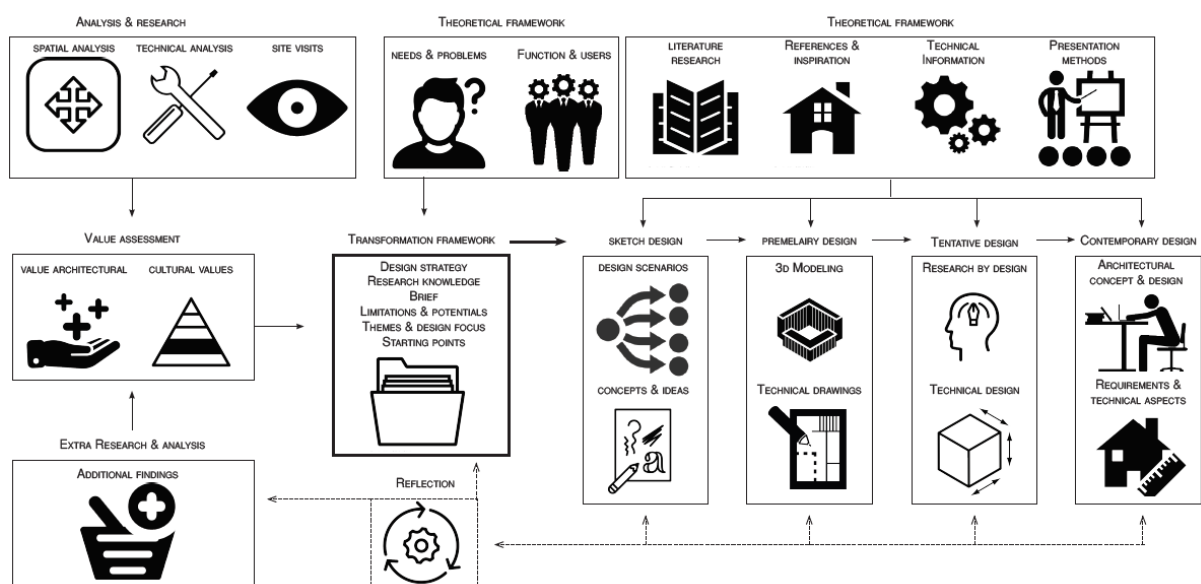
For my graduation line the process looks a lot like the prescribed approach by the studio. This has to do with the clear explanation of the way of working by the teacher and the way the project is connected to the way of working in the Heritage master. I have visualized the method in order to see how I handled the project and what could be changed. I think that when I look back the process is prescribed clearly, but in reality the way you use these tools can differ a lot.

To give an example is the transformation framework. It was not used before during the studios and was instructed at the beginning. Everyone has their own way of dealing with it. In my case it is more a collection of data rather than a single overview with all the input to take with you.

An other example is the cultural value matrix. This was also experimental and implemented on our own. This tool was optional to use. In my case I used it to create a concept for the site and the building, a strategy for the redesign and as an overview of important values related to the heritage site.

If I look at the process that is quite general for the studio I think that in my case the process was quite chaotic. This is due to the way I think as a person, but also due to the way I want to work. I like the creative part and that requires inspiration and motivation. The way you go through the design process is not prescribed, but if I would want to improve something it is the structure in the process. Mainly because a lot is new during the graduation studio this has not been easy.

Therefore the last period between p3 and p4 was mainly focused on reducing the design. Making the concept more easily understandable for outsiders. This is due to the reflection moments with others, teachers and myself.



Research method graduation studio

ASPECT 4: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROJECT AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

The project started with a workshop where we came up with solutions for the site. This was also used and shown to the government, because they have a problem with coming up with a good solution. This was for me a reason to somehow make the design possible as it is not just a fictional project, but a realistic challenge in need for solutions. The relevance of my project can be categorized in a thematic and a functional relevance.

The thematic relevance contains the main theme 'uniting'. As this industrial area is now closed off from the surroundings and the city, the location is in desperate need for reconnection. The project is located outside the city center in a poor district with lots of problems. A new purpose will attract new users to the area. In my case there is a new group that differs from the existing local inhabitants. That is why uniting is also relevant for the user scale and not only the site scale.

Mixing users with different social and or cultural backgrounds is an important subject in not only this city, but in many other cases as well. In this case young wealthy users from the center and elsewhere will need to mix with less wealthy Beato locals. MMC is an example of a less wealthy district in Lisbon. This area could be an example of mixing less wealthy users with a more wealthy users and become connected. The buildings can represent the locals, new users and different time layers. Finding new solutions for these demographical related problems is an important step for redirecting the future of Portugal. These cases can become examples for similar cases and become a drive for new developments in the district, but also in other similar projects.

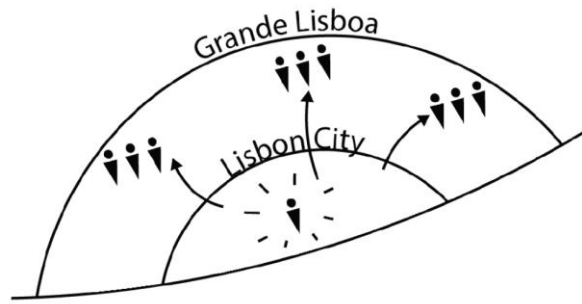
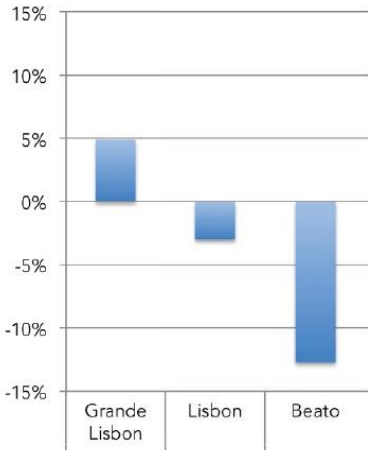
The MMC terrain has a lot of identities and characters that should all be considered to conserve. How the new site will look like represents the different characters in one identity. This task is very important for the surrounding but also the development of Beato. The future of Beato could unite the expo98 area and the inner city of Lisbon which is now scattered and disconnected.

The functional relevance contains a problem related to migration. This has been going on for a long time and requires solutions to improve this in the future. The function for the site tackles this problem by focusing on a group that is part of this migrating group.

A big problem in Lisbon is that young people leave Lisbon. They will leave as soon as they are not relying on their parents. These users are important for keeping Lisbon active in the future. Beato is an example of a less wealthy district in Lisbon. If it would be possible to attract these users towards Beato, this could start a new time layer for the area.

At the moment the site has started to be re-used as a creative hub. Information about this can be found on this site ¹. The design that I developed can definitely contribute in new ideas for the site. Not parse a complete design, but definitely as an example of how it could turn out and what the consequences would be for the area, the site and the buildings. For example is the main new purpose of the site to become a location for creative and technological innovation. With the help of Start-up Lisboa that is an initiative of the municipality the project could be set up and developed from scratch.

¹ <https://www.dinheirovivo.pt/fazedores/galeria/aqui-vai-nascer-o-maior-hub-criativo-e-empreededor-nacional/> conducted on 170424



Migration problem Lisbon & Portugal

Young people are fleeing Portugal in droves. But is this a bad thing?
 Joana Gorjão Henriques

The rise in emigration might just herald the emergence of a more self-sufficient, curious, and less spoiled generation



■ José Sócrates, the Portuguese prime minister, says the budget deficit needs to shrink to 4.6% of GDP this year. Photograph: Francisco Seco/AP

In Portugal, having an optimistic start to 2011 hasn't been easy. Along with Greece and Ireland, Portugal is currently one of the three weakest economies in the eurozone: the press seems primed for our downfall. The minority socialist government led by José Sócrates says the budget deficit, thought to be 7.3% of GDP in 2010, needs to decrease to 4.6% this year.



Social active problems and solutions in Lisbon & Portugal



New idea for site as creative hub