

# 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](mailto:Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl)), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

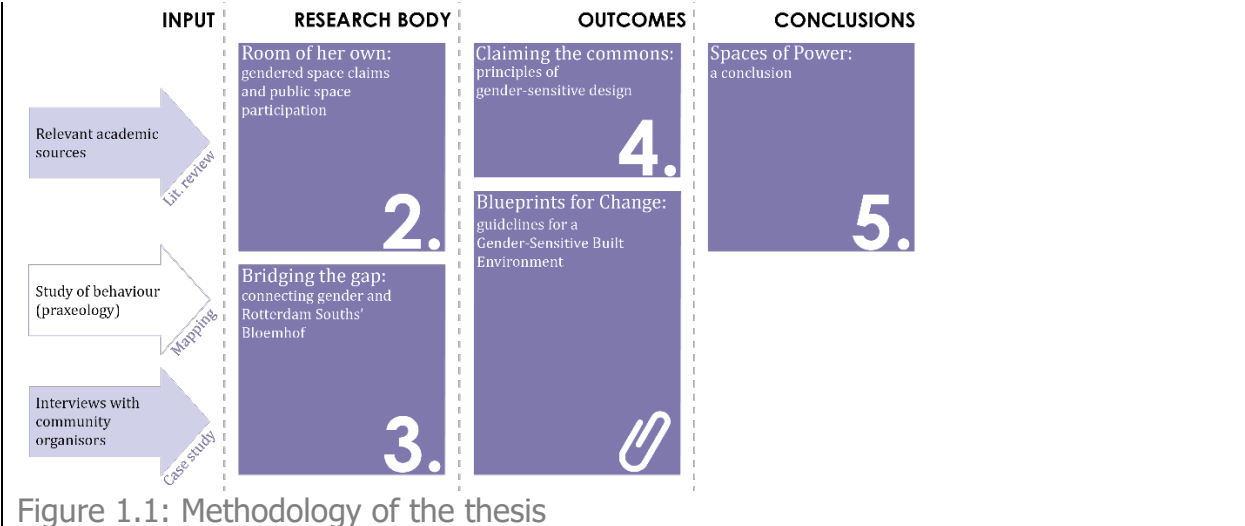
The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Desirée Alessandra Trommelen
Student number	5072247

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3RE100 Resilient Rotterdam Graduation Studio - Veldacademie (2024/25 Q1)	
Main mentor	Wing Yung	Architecture
Second mentor	Frank Schnater	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I wanted to do a studio where the human side of architecture was central to the themes of the studio. In particular I was interested in the topic of gender in the built environment and Veldacademie gave me the opportunity to explore that.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Spaces of power: Addressing women's space claiming and public space participation through gender-sensitive design in Rotterdam South
Goal	
Location:	Bloemhof, Rotterdam
The posed problem,	Negative effects of gender cause lower degrees of space claiming and public space participation for Women in Rotterdam South compared to their male counterparts. This graduation thesis aims to shine a light on the gendered aspects related to the spatial and social spheres in the urban context of Bloemhof.
research questions and	How can a gender-sensitive spatial design in Rotterdam south stimulate women's space claiming and public space participation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is space claiming gendered in relation to the built environment?</li> <li>• How is public space participation gendered in relation to the built environment?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the current demographic, spatial and social situation in Bloemhof?</li> <li>• How do women in Rotterdam (South) experience gendered space claims and public space participation?</li> <li>• How do gendered experiences display in Bloemhof?</li> <li>• What gender-sensitive design principles or guidelines simulate women's space claiming and public space participation?</li> </ul>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>A gender-sensitive design for a community center in Bloemhof</p>
<p>By means of a literature study and fieldwork (praxeology mapping and interviews) the research question will be answered. The output of the research part of the graduation will be a set of design guidelines (in five categories: process guidelines, arch. guidelines, programmatic guidelines, site recommendation, building type recommendation). The output of this study will then be translated to a gender-sensitive architectural design, namely a community centre in Bloemhof focussed on women.</p>	
<p><b>Process</b></p>	
<p><b>Method description</b></p>	
<p>Throughout the research, several research methods will be applied (See figure 1.1) in a 'research for design' approach. For chapter 2, Room of her own, a literature review will be conducted. This literature review will form a theoretical basis on the topic of gender in relation to space claiming and public space participation in the built environment. It will add to contextual framework and further expand on the problem field.</p>	
<p>In the following chapter, Bridging the Gap, a fieldwork approach will be used to connect the theory to the site of Rotterdam South, specifically the neighbourhood Bloemhof, and the inhabitants. A series of interviews will be conducted with female community representatives (similar to a case study). It is the hope that by interviewing selected women as spokespeople for a larger following, a larger collection of profiles can be enveloped in the study. The interviews will be open-ended and have a person-based approach, aimed at story-telling rather than (numerical) data collection. In addition to the interviews a site in Bloemhof will be analysed using praxeology(the study of behaviour) as a form of mapping. Throughout a longer stay at the designated site, the behaviour of the passersby's and users will be mapped; including the behaviour that is visible, but also that which is not visible. In addition, information will be collected through site photography.</p>	
<p>Chapter 2 and 3 comprise the building blocks that will be used to create Chapter 4, Claiming the commons, which will outline the most important design principles and guidelines. The attachment 'Blueprints for Change: Guidelines for a Gender-Sensitive Built Environment' is the full collection including description of all the principles and guidelines collected throughout the study. These principles and guidelines will shape the elements and boundaries with which a gender-sensitive design may be created. Chapter 5, Spaces of Power, will conclude the study, discuss the results and reflect on the research process and methodology.</p>	



## Literature and general practical references

The most important pieces of literature I will use are:

- Beebeejaun, Y. (2017) *Gender, urban space, and the right to everyday life*, Journal of Urban Affairs, 39:3, 323-334, DOI: 10.1080/07352166.2016.1255526
- Fenster, T. (2005). Gender and the city: the different formations of belonging [Online Book pdf]. In *A Companion to Feminist Geography* (pp. 242–256). Blackwell Publishing Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9780470996898.ch17>
- Gemeente Rotterdam. (2024). Wijkprofiel Rotterdam. Wijkprofiel. Rotterdam. Retrieved December 17, 2024, from <https://wijkprofiel.rotterdam.nl/nl/2024/rotterdam/feijenoord/bloemhof?toon=alles>
- Ma, R., Luo, Y., & Furuya, K. (2023). Gender Differences and Optimizing Women's Experiences: an exploratory study of visual behavior while viewing urban park landscapes in Tokyo, Japan. *Sustainability*, 15(5), 3957. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15053957>
- Schram, Krista, Wenda Doff, Tamar Fischer, Joost Jansen, Geertje Slingerland, and Linda Zuijderwijk. 2024. *Ruimte Voor De Meiden Op Zuid*.

## 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)?

I am conducting research for a design, focussing on the effects of gender on the spatial dimension. I am gathering the information primarily through fieldwork (hence the studio Veldacademie) and with the final aim of designing a piece of architecture (a gender sensitive design for a community centre) (hence the master track and programme).

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

I am addressing a gap in the research between the social dimension (the study of gender and its effect) and the physical dimension (a spatial design). While the topic of gender is not new and there is quite some research on the topic, there have been very little attempts at translating gender theory to the field of urbanism and especially architecture. How does the built environment have effect on gender?/ How is the built environment affected by gender? Question such as how can a neighbourhood be designed with gender in mind have been discussed a few times, but especially the architectural scale is neglected and -as far as I have been able to find- there has never been a set of gender sensitive design guidelines.