

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	David Fang	
Student number	4481739	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Glaneur, Glaneuses	
Main mentor	Eireen Schreurs	Architecture
Second mentor	Jos Lafeber	Building Technology
Third mentor	Leeke Reinders	Research, Anthropology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Urban Architecture is a studio which works through the scales, from city to detail. With the studio theme of "Glaneur, Glaneuses", it involves a lot of fieldwork, it is about "to get your hands dirty" as put by Agnes Varda. This is one of the most important qualities which I valued an architect. Moreover, this is a studio which gives much attention to the site and the existing, which are both essential as starting points of a design assignment.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Walking on the Edge (of post-industrial land and water)
Goal	
Location:	Maastricht, the Netherlands
The posed problem,	Although Maastricht is not a typical Dutch city with canals, it has a close relationship with water. Both the city and its residents have a dependency on water. Maastricht was built along the riverbank of Maas. In the Middle Ages, it became a fortress city, where water was used to protect the city from foreign invasion. The presence of the river has also accelerated the industrialization of the city. The waterfronts in Maastricht was intensively occupied by industrial activities and leisure activities such as fishing. As the industries gradually left the city, the waterfront becomes under used. Especially those built for the purpose of industrial uses, the post-industrial waterfronts, now turned into spaces which separate human and water.
research questions and	The research aims to investigate the human activities which take places on the waterfronts and the spatial

	<p>qualities of these places, in the post-industrial settings of Maastricht. The term 'waterfronts' here refers to the series of 'edges' between land of different types water bodies. The main research question which arise from here is <i>How can human activities be reintroduced to the post-industrial waterfronts?</i> This question is supported by a series of sub-questions: <i>Which human activities are visible next to water? How do people used to use the waterfronts? What is unique to post-industrial waterfronts? What are the architectural elements that invite people to use the waterfront?</i></p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The question stated above formulates a design assignment which explores the spatial potentials of spaces between architecture and water. During the design process, the way of shaping the borders and edges between land and water which could stimulate human activities will also be studied. The project aims to reactivate the waterfronts and reintroduce human activities by an architectural intervention, while also questioning the position of waterfront architecture.</p>

Process

Method description

The research is going to be mainly conducted with an 'anthropological lens', in the forms of archival research, photographic studies of human behavior, materiality and spatial analysis. Human activities and the relationship between human and water in Maastricht in the past will be studied through the collection of archival materials, including photographs, drawings or paintings, and also video clips. Some of these materials will be further studied in detail on the hand of sketching and drawing. They will also be put into comparisons with photographs of the current situation.

The second part of the research involves fieldworks. I have took a series of photos on the borders of the land, where land meets water in the center of the photos. A photographic experiment was then carried out by folding the photos along the center line. These pieces of 'land' and 'water' are reorganized and placed next to or apart from each other. This experiment aims to explore the spatial manifestation of the 'edges'.

This research continues with the use of a series of physical models. This is also an attempt to translate the findings of the research into ingredients for design. Waterfronts are essentially three dimensional spaces which could be better visualized and studied with physical models.

Overall, the research process is also a process of developing a research method. With inspirations from Matteo Pericoli's London Unfurled, Paulien Oltheten's photographic works and examples from Active Landscape Photography, I am attempting to develop my own way of explore and research.

Literature and general practical preference

Anne Godfrey, *Active Landscape Photography*

David Sim, *Soft city: building density for everyday life*

Erik Martens and Patrick Verhoeven, *Portraits*

Knoll, Martin, Uwe Lubken, and Dieter Schott, *Rivers lost, rivers regained: Rethinking city-river relations*

Matteo Pericoli, *London Unfurled*

Paulien Oltheten, *Theory of the street*

Richard Marshall, *Waterfronts in post-industrial cities*

William Hollingsworth Whyte, *The social life of small urban spaces*

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)?

Gleaning happens after harvest. If we see the industrialization as a harvest, the post-industrial waterfronts is a part of its by product. Despite the value that it might still contain, it is sometimes left behind. My project investigates the past of these waterfronts, which are also gradually forgotten as time pass by. During the architectural education, we are trained to observe and notice things that are usually ignored. We could therefore 'glean' these things, highlight their importance and existence and then also probably add more value to them.

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

Industrial waterfronts, such as harbours, are usually negatively perceived by people and usually depicted as a desolated place in films (Verhoeven, 2008). Also, post-industrial waterfronts are frequently related with the topic of contamination and water management in general. This design and research project explores the value of post-industrial waterfronts and attempts to broaden the discourse by bring in a human-oriented perspective.