

GRADUATION PLAN

for aE Studio Students

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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STUDIO

Name of studio	Architectural Engineering
Architecture teacher	Anne Snijders
Research teacher	Mo Smit
Argumentations of choice of the studio	A general interest and background in the more technical approach to architecture.

TITLE

Liveability and the Transition Zone: *Transformation Strategies to increase Perceived Liveability*

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the upcoming years a transition will take place in Amsterdam and the rest of the Netherlands following the aim to become climate-neutral by 2050. In an endeavour to create a society with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, the municipality of Amsterdam is aiming to disconnect all houses from gas by 2040. At the same time, the ever-growing population of Amsterdam needs a place to live and so the municipality plans to build tens of thousands of new houses throughout the city. Whilst not extending the city's borders, this leads to an enormous challenge of densification.

Geuzenveld, a neighbourhood in the far west of Amsterdam, was built during the 1950s and boasts a lot of public and green space due to its spatial layout following the principles of a garden city. To meet the goals of the energy transition and to use its potential for densification, Geuzenveld will need to be transformed in the upcoming years.

However, the neighbourhood of Geuzenveld has been designated as a 'developing neighbourhood' by the municipality of Amsterdam, which is characterised by persistent problems such as poverty, high unemployment and an unsafe environment. Therefore, the upcoming transformation could mean a great opportunity to improve the liveability and social cohesion of this multi-cultural neighbourhood.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to improve the liveability and social cohesion of Geuzenveld while transforming the neighbourhood to meet the goals of the municipality of Amsterdam for the energy transition and for densification, using its architectural and spatial qualities.

OVERALL DESIGN QUESTION

How to transform an existing building block in the neighbourhood of Geuzenveld to meet the goals of the municipality of Amsterdam for the energy transition and for densification, while improving liveability and social cohesion in the neighbourhood?

THEMATIC RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the potential of varying transformation strategies of residential building clusters in the Westelijke Tuinsteden to adapt their transition zone (between public and private space) and improve the perceived liveability of residents?

What are the architectural and spatial qualities of the existing residential building blocks?
How the relation between public space and private space in these building blocks defined?
What is the current state of liveability and social cohesion in the Westelijke Tuinsteden?
What transformation strategies can be performed to improve a buiding block?
How can liveability and social cohesion be improved through architectural and spatial intervention?

METHODOLOGIES

Context analysis will be used to answer questions regarding existing building blocks, their layout and the relation between public space, private space, buildings and infrastructure in each cluster of building blocks.

Literature study will be used to answer questions regarding the improvement of liveability and social cohesion through architectural and spatial intervention and the potential of the water-food-energy nexus.

Case studies will be used to research other examples of transformations and how they influenced liveability and social cohesion in their respective neighbourhoods.

PLANNING

A scheme of the division of the workload of the graduation project can be found on the final page of this graduation plan.

RELEVANCE

While the project itself is very specifically targeted at the transformation of the building blocks in the Westelijke Tuinsteden, many other neighbourhoods, particularly those of the same era, will go through a similar transformation. This research aims to find certain guidelines as to how the transformation of a garden city to a more energy-neutral and denser whole can benefit the liveability and social cohesion of the neighbourhood.

