

# 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	Doria Gobić
Student number	5861187

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
First mentor	Roel van de Pas	Architecture
Second mentor	Rufus van den Ban	Built Technology
Third mentor	Stavros Kousoulas	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Approaching graduation, I grappled with rising awareness of waste and excessive lifestyle in (our) Western society. The constant desire for more, leading to overproduction, wasting potential, goods, and resources. Uncertain about the typology, scale or aesthetics of my graduation studio, I identified my fascination with this theme. Hence, I chose ExploreLab because of its openness to idea exploration without a predetermined expected end design.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Tr(e)ashury Island
Goal	
Location:	Amsterdam, the Netherlands
The posed problem,	
<p>Approximately two-thirds of all resources extracted from the planet end up as waste. It's kind of ironic and paradoxical that we go to all the trouble to obtain these valuable resources and materials, just to simply discard them, incinerate them, or bury them afterward. What was once highly valuable becomes useless in the blink of an eye once we determine that it has served its (original) purpose.</p> <p>As my graduation year approached, I grappled with a pervading awareness of waste, wastefulness, and the abundance I am living in/with. Something that I felt we, as a (Western) society are not fully aware of, seeing as we persistently pursue more (as individuals, but also as a collective), perpetuating excessive (over)production and (over)consumption, resulting in the evergrowing production of waste. This excessive consumerism and wastefulness has led to the current condition of extensive contamination of our only planet, a situation predicted to worsen over time.</p>	

research questions and	How to design an aware collective with reevaluated (values and) conceptualization of waste, and its (lack of) value?
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design assignment in which these result.

When thinking about the application of some kind of solution regarding the topic, the initial idea was to repurpose the already existing waste into something other, giving it a second life, a different function and value. However, much as recycling and waste incineration are solutions for dealing with the problem when the problem has already arisen, doing so would also address the back end of the problem, rather than its conception and creation.

Therefore, the design would be focusing on giving a space (and) solution that evokes a paradigm shift on what waste is, reconceptualizes it, and essentially stops it from becoming, or at least prolongs the time in which one becomes waste.

By prolonging the lifespan of items, reevaluating consumption habits, and promoting sustainable behaviors, it is possible to mitigate the impact of waste (locally and globally). The focus therefore is not totally eliminating waste, but rather reducing its production and redefining the way society views waste, to stop, or realistically, slow its production and accumulation.

The essence of the design assignment then lies in the creation of an environment that fosters an ethos of care and repair. It shows a community banding together to repair their possessions, to stop them from becoming labeled as waste. This space would give the possibility for these things to get new significance and value, but it would also prompt a thorough reevaluation of the accepted notion of waste. The aim is to provide a designed space where people can engage in these transformative activities, as well as come together to create a different, aware collective. It compels individuals to recognize the effects of their acts and ways of living-thinking, which are the result of their desires and are influenced by their values.

In addition to being a means of self-actualization, the design is a physical representation of the group's common goal.

**Process**

**Method description**

Method of Research

The method employed for the research was examining literature from many perspectives, in hopes of uncovering the numerous ways in which waste is understood and its influence on society's narratives and ideals. A critical aspect of this investigation centers on the reevaluation of existing values. This entailed a comprehensive analysis of the literature that questions accepted conventions and what forces us to reevaluate the standards by which we determine value and importance. But since common values are created and are creating a collective, the creation of a (different) collective will be an important goal in design. This called for a reading of works that explore the processes of collective formation and explain how different people come together in support of a common cause or ideology.

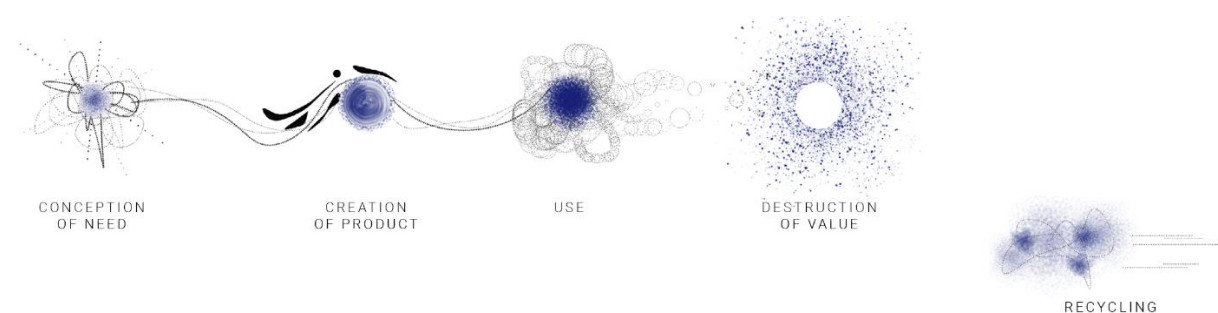
If the current collective is the one creating waste, what kind of collective would it be that is creating out of it? And what would it need to function and be able to create (product and itself)?

The complex ideas of awareness and the processes that generate it were at the heart of this investigation. This entailed exploring different viewpoints that illuminate the origin and spread of consciousness.

This study was essentially built around the synthesis of these diverse viewpoints and their convergence in the areas of awareness, collective creation and collaboration, reevaluated values, and most importantly, waste conceptualization.

### Method / Logics of Design

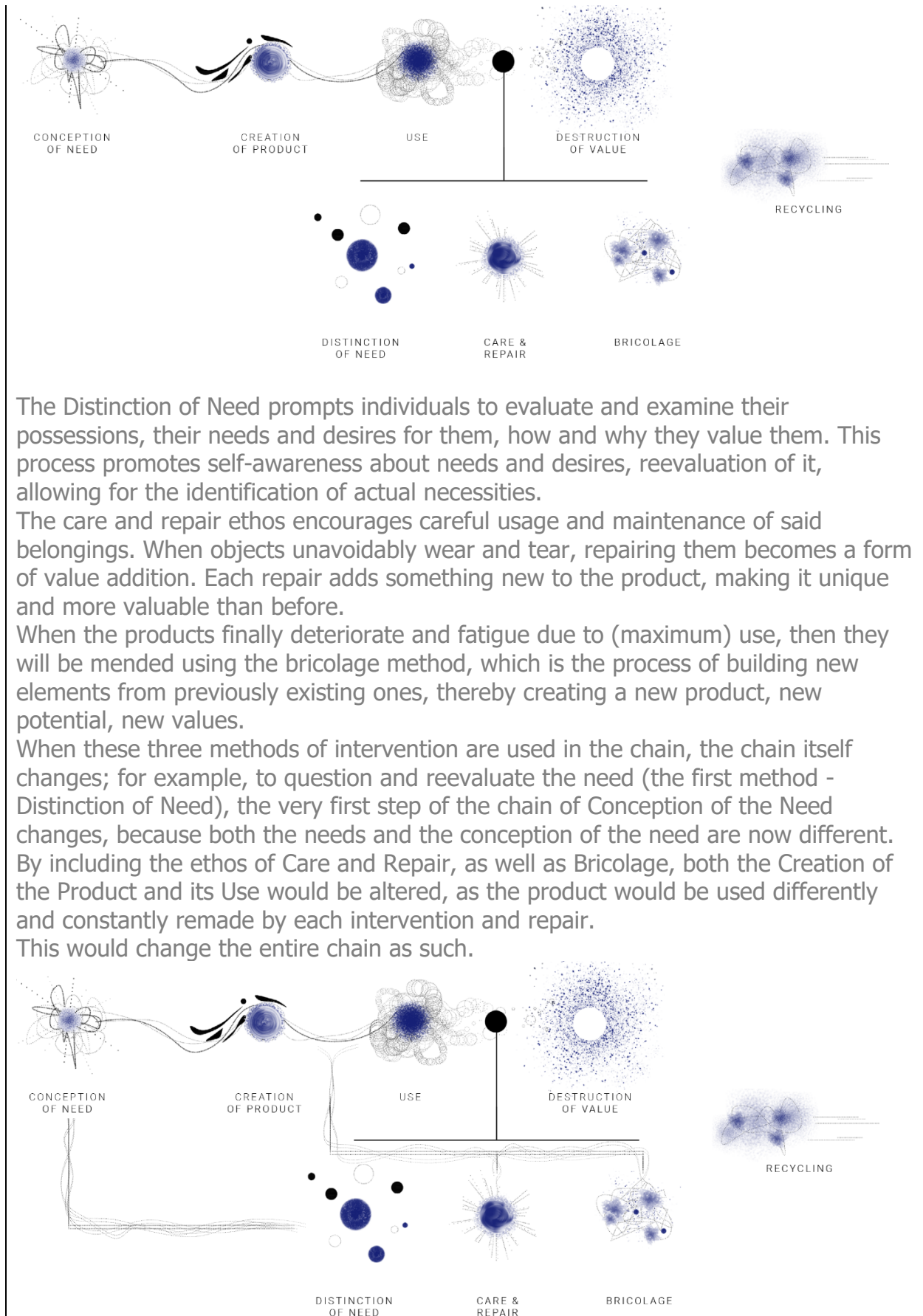
One of the major reasons why the planet as we know it is changing so drastically is truly due to human activities, primarily (over)production for (over)consumption, which increases every year instead of decreasing, motivated by the desire for more, better, newer. Capitalism (in accordance with which the above-mentioned takes place) is determined by one of its main points as to how it works, which is the regulation of the market by the method of supply and demand. That is, if something is not in demand on the market, over time its quantity and production will decrease, if not completely disappear. But to start producing it in the first place, a Conception of Need, or desire for said product, is needed.



After the Conception of the idea of the product, follows the Creation of the product itself, which is followed by its Use, which ultimately ends with its rejection at the moment when it is decided that it is no longer valuable, wanted, sought after - it becomes waste. That is the last phase of the product's life cycle, the Destruction of its Value - when it becomes worthless, discarded, trash, which will be buried, burned, forgotten, out of sight, out of mind.

Common approaches to addressing the topic and issue of waste, architecture included, frequently focus on recycling, which is a reactive solution that deals with the already created problem of waste, rather than preventing its formation as such. Therefore, my intervention in this chain would take place in the part before waste becomes waste - between its Use, the (conscious or subconscious) decision that it will be discarded, and the consequent Destruction of Value.

Three key methods form the basis for this intervention – Distinction of Need, Ethos of Care and Repair, and Bricolage.



The Distinction of Need prompts individuals to evaluate and examine their possessions, their needs and desires for them, how and why they value them. This process promotes self-awareness about needs and desires, reevaluation of it, allowing for the identification of actual necessities.

The care and repair ethos encourages careful usage and maintenance of said belongings. When objects unavoidably wear and tear, repairing them becomes a form of value addition. Each repair adds something new to the product, making it unique and more valuable than before.

When the products finally deteriorate and fatigue due to (maximum) use, then they will be mended using the bricolage method, which is the process of building new elements from previously existing ones, thereby creating a new product, new potential, new values.

When these three methods of intervention are used in the chain, the chain itself changes; for example, to question and reevaluate the need (the first method - Distinction of Need), the very first step of the chain of Conception of the Need changes, because both the needs and the conception of the need are now different. By including the ethos of Care and Repair, as well as Bricolage, both the Creation of the Product and its Use would be altered, as the product would be used differently and constantly remade by each intervention and repair.

This would change the entire chain as such.

## Literature and general practical references

[The literature (theories or research data) and general practical experience/precedent you intend to consult.]

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## Reflection

1. The relation between my graduation project, master track (Architecture), and master program (MSc AUBS) is addressing the challenge of developing a sustainable circular framework for living, thinking, acting, and creating. Aligned with TU Delft's emphasis on this model, my study investigates how architecture might catalyze a collective paradigm shift toward sustainability, demonstrating a dedication to innovative solutions in the built environment and the space it provides.
2. By concentrating on the front-end of the waste problem, it takes a proactive strategy that prioritizes prevention over reaction. The project proposes a novel approach that blends physical actions (such as bricolage and repair) with behavioral shifts, promoting self-awareness and encouraging a reevaluation of waste-related attitudes. This rethinking of waste as an abstract term with intrinsic value yields theoretical insights as well as practical reuse strategies. Ideally, by raising collective self-awareness and encouraging action, the project aims to contribute to a beneficial societal shift toward improved waste management.