

Graduation plan

Personal Information

Name: Roel Muselaers

Student number: 4052668

Address: Korvezeestraat 557

Postal code: 2628 CZ

Place of residence: Delft

Telephone number: 06 33714577

E-mail address: roelmuselaers@gmail.com

Studio

Theme:

“Flowscales, Infrastructure as landscape / landscape as infrastructure”

Teachers:

Daniel Jauslin (First mentor), Machiel van Dorst (Second mentor), Steffen Nijhuis

Argumentation of choice of the studio:

Preference for landscape architecture, experience and a challenging design location abroad.

Title:

Working title: “Interweaving borders”

Product

Problem statement:

Neglected places in the river border area of the Danube between Bulgaria and Romania, as a result of a lack of money from authorities and possibly a lack of awareness from local population

Research question:

How to interweave the river border landscape of the Danube between Bulgaria and Romania with the adjacent ecological and recreational network, to activate stalled areas, give space to its valuable nature and attract nature- and culture fanciers?

Definitions:

Ecological Network:

Coherent system of groups of natural elements (plant & animal life)

Recreational Network:

Coherent system of places to stay for pleasure for tourists and locals

Adjacent: shortest possibility to create an uninterrupted connection

River border landscape of Danube:

The river from the frontier and its direct adjacent landscape

Interweave:

Creating mutual connections between two networks

Area of research and design:

Observation has been the driving force of the research and design, because of the interesting outcome. The large scale area of research and design is based on the observed area, a 100 km stretch of the Romanian and Bulgarian river border landscape of the Danube between Ruse and Silistra, with a range of 20 km from the Danube to find opportunities to interweave. Information will be verified by desk research about this area.

The complex point where the Bulgarian city Ruse and Romanian city Giurgiu are situated opposite to each other at both sides of the river defines the middle scale frame of research and design [20 x 13,5 km], to study the urban-green tissue and its opportunities to interweave.

The urban-green transition will be elaborated in a small scale [3 x 4 km] to show the opportunities to interweave on a tangible scale.

Goal:

The development of a strategy at large scale, a master plan for the middle scale and a detailed elaboration at small scale will be the outcome of the project.

Process

Method description:

Research from observation and survey, verified by desk research. In the design phase a model will be introduced to study.

Literature and general practical preference:

Forman, R.T.T., 2010. *Land Mosaics, The ecology of landscape and regions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bal, D., Beije, H.M., Fellingier, M., Haveman, R., Opstal, A.J.F.M. van en Zadelhoff, F.J. van, 2001. *Handboek Natuuroeltypen*. Wageningen: Expertisecentrum LNV.

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Reflection

Relevance:

Against a background of upcoming tourism in Bulgaria and Romania, large investments of investors and organizations, pressure on natural and cultural heritage and the recent accession of both countries to the EU, the project picks up on a very actual theme from a social point of view. From a scientific point of view the observations will be compared to scientific information on this topic.

Time planning

P1 Analysis on large, middle and small scale, observations, figuring out fascinations, start literature study on ecology, first mentor Daniel Jauslin.

P2 Further elaboration on analysis on different scales and literature study on ecology. Framing design locations, sharpening the assignment, sketches for design, second mentor Machiel van Dorst.

P3 Complete analysis, concept strategy, master plan and plan.

P4 Elaborated strategy, master plan and plan.

P5 Complete story.