

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	Jermo van Bijsterveldt	
Student number	5108934	
Studio		
Name / Theme	Advanced Housing Design (AR3AD100)	
Main mentor	O. Klijn B.T. Haileselassie	Design Mentor Research Mentor
Second mentor	R. Kuijlenburg Dr. ir. A. Straub	Building Technology External examiner
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Designing small-scale and inclusive housing in harmony with the dynamics of the Dutch delta, living with water	
Graduation project		
Title of the graduation project	Tides of Change: Why we would want to live on water	
Goal		
Location:	Kwakelweg, Maasland, Midden-Delfland	
The posed problem, research questions and design assignment in which these result.	[Problem Statement] What is the value of living on water for the quality of life of residents? [Design Assignment]	
<p>Problem: An already determined future consisting of increased rainfall and flooding, a new landscape in which polders are no longer kept artificially and unsustainably dry, a housing shortage and a lack of building sites on land. Living on water in floating homes might be the solution to these challenges. But why would we want to live on water? How could it contribute to our quality of life?</p> <p>Research question: What is the value of living on water for the quality of life of residents?</p> <p>Design assignment: A socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable housing project and living environment on water, in which the advantages of living on water resulting from the research are fully utilised, both in the design and the target group, and the disadvantages resulting from the research are used as points for improvement, to improve the overall quality of life of residents. The design, located next to a care farm, accommodates people with a mild intellectual disability, who are likely to benefit from living on water within the rural context. The overall goal of the graduation project is showing why we would want to live on water.</p>		
Process		
Method description		
<p>The research consists of 3 methods. A literature study should clarify the history of living on water and the motivations behind it. An online survey is used to discover the differences residents experience between living on land and living on water, which trends can be discovered? These trends are used in the in-depth interviews with residents to gather more information. Are they happier, why, and would they recommend it?</p> <p>Although both quantitative methods (survey) and qualitative methods (literature research and in-depth interviews) are being used, the entire study is considered a qualitative study. The goal of the entire study is not generalisation, but to gain insight into the human experience of living on water. Results from the research are being used to choose the target group of the the design and to enhance the floating design itself, aiming for an improved quality of life of the residents.</p>		

Literature and general practical references

Rijcken, T. (2005). Floating neighbourhoods as they were and will be; why dwellers would want to live on water [Journal-article].
The Quality of Life Foundation. (2024). The Quality of Life Framework 2.0. In *QOLF*. <https://www.qolf.org/framework/Waterwonen>. (z.d.). Immaterieel Erfgoed. <https://www.immaterieelerfgoed.nl/nl/waterwonen#:~:text=Naar%20schatting%20wonen%20er%20in,zorgen%20voor%20elkaar%20normaal%20is>.

In addition, I use practical experience I have gained by visiting and analysing built floating residential areas, interviewing residents and conducting surveys. In the end, people who actually live on water can give me the valuable information.

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)?

My graduation subject, living on water, ties in with the ZUS plan that forms the basis of this studio. In this plan, the municipality of Midden-Delfland and actually the entire Delta area in the Netherlands is being reorganised and entire polders are being flooded, with living on water as a possibility on a large scale. In terms of architecture, there are opportunities here to improve the quality of life of residents at the housing and neighbourhood level. However, this

concept also requires a landscape and urban spatial integration, which can be found in our master plan. Our master plan is a more natural approach to the ZUS-plan and refers to historical landscape features, such as ancient creekbeds, and is a landscape in which we anticipate on a future with a lot of water. My design on water is specifically aimed at young adults with a mild intellectual disability, who learn to live independently here and at the same time find daytime activities and work in the adjacent care farm or in the city. This is in line with the goal of the studio, in which the co-existence of working, learning and living requires a new form of dwelling design.

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

Apart from the fact that it will probably be necessary in the future due to climate change and housing shortage, my graduation work can serve as a substantiation for why we would want to live on water. Fear of water can make way for hope. The concept of living on water can be applied on a large scale and can serve a large target group in natural environments: people with a mild intellectual disability. More than 1 million people in the Netherlands belong to this often unseen and misunderstood target group. Living on water therefore has the potential to create a socially inclusive and ecologically sustainable living environment as part of a larger care landscape.