

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	Menno Aerts
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Studio		
Name / Theme	Design of the Urban Fabric	
Main mentor	Ir. E.M. Bet	Urban designing and citizens' participation
Second mentor	Dr. A. Romein	Stakeholder structures and involvement
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The goal is to find out how citizens can design together with an urbanist. As the citizens mainly make use of the local scale, the main product will be a design on the local scale. Therefore the studio 'Design of the Urban Fabric' suits well in this thesis as it is focused on the design on the local scale.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Finding the Unfound Helping urbanists establish citizens' participation throughout the design process
Goal	
Location:	Tarwewijk, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
The posed problem,	The liveability of a lot of deprived neighbourhoods is bad, and it is the task of urbanists to solve this. Although urbanists are trained to do this, there is a big gap between the living worlds of the urbanists and the citizens of deprived neighbourhood. To close this gap it would be good to involve the citizens of the deprived neighbourhoods within the urban design process.
research questions and	How can the use of citizens' participation methods improve the urban design process in the regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods to improve the liveability?

<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The final result of this thesis will be an toolbox for urbanists which explains how to make use of citizens' participation during the design process. This toolbox will be reached by analysing the way citizens make decisions during a design process, and looking at the decisions that are either often forgotten or not made by the citizens. This will be done by analysing designs made for the project Tarwekracht in the Tarwewijk, and making new design decisions during the analyses to see what other results would be created. Therefor this thesis does not end up in a final design, but the designing is used as a method to create a toolbox.</p>
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p> <p>This thesis is build up off 3 different stages. In the first stage literature research will be done on general concepts of liveability, and the different types and methods used within citizens' participation. In the second stage the focus will shift from literature research towards case study research. Data will be gathered about the Tarwewijk to find out what type of neighbourhood it is and different executed citizens' participation methods will be analysed to find out what went well during these processes, what could be changed and what the roles of the urbanists and other stakeholders were during the design process. In the last stage the focus will shift towards the final case study, Tarwekracht in the Tarwewijk, to analyse what methods where used to involve and communicate with the different stakeholders, but also to see what design decisions citizens make and how these decisions can be formed into a final design. Where in the first and second stages most of the research will be done by reading and data collection and processing, in the final stage there will mainly be made use of analysing by drawing and by visiting workshops and talking with the involved citizens and stakeholders during the designing of the Tarwekracht.</p>	

Literature and general practical preference

Howley, P., Scott, M., Redmond, D. (2009) Sustainability versus liveability: an investigation of neighbourhood satisfaction. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, Vol 52 (6), 847-864, DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09640560903083798>

- Describing the 6 different aspects of liveability and what physical ideas can be used to improve either of the aspects. The 6 different aspects are: Income or Cost of Living, Health and Climate, Safety, Services and Facilities, Mobility and Transport, and Social Participation.

Tonkens, E., Verhoeven, I. (2019). The civic support paradox: Fighting unequal participation in deprived neighbourhoods. *Urban studies*. Vol. 56 (8), 1595-1610.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098018761536>

- Describing how citizens' participation could and should be established in deprived neighbourhoods by the use of the ACLR framework (Asked, Can, Linked, Responsiveness). The main conclusion of this research is that it is important to involve the citizens from the start towards the end of the process by not only asking what they want, but also actively helping them to phrase problems and solutions as well as by joining them by establishing connections with other stakeholders.

Besides these two sources a lot of other sources are also used to back up or reflect on these two sources.

During the research I will be working along with the Veldacademie in Rotterdam. Currently they are working on the design of two places, in which the citizens were the once who were allowed to design and vote for the best designs in their opinions. In this process they now started with detailing the winning decisions together with an urbanist, by which I will be present to see how this process is going and to find out what the reason for certain made decisions were. As this process is executed for the first time, it is not yet sure how it will develop, but there are might even possibilities to plan workshops to use during this process. Besides this current process I'll also be looking at former participation process executed by the Veldacademie and talk with one of the employees of the Veldacademie to find out what they could have done better and what went well.

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)?

As my topic is mainly focused on decision making in urban planning on the local scale it links directly to the studio of the Design of the Urban Fabric. As most of the wishes of the citizens are formulated in objects they want to have in the Urban Fabric, the studio and studio mentor deliver a lot off helpful information. Not only does the studio look at the designing, but it also looks at how to gather the information (analyses or questioning people). This last is done by workshops that provide information that is really helpful for my thesis.

The thesis establishes methods for urbanists to use when they want to make a design by which they want to introduce the citizens in the design process. Therefore it makes use of one of the possible design methods within urban designing. The master track of urbanism has given me a lot of information on how to make use of different communication methods and what to consider when designing in the urban environment, making the knowledge established during the master beneficial for the thesis.

This thesis mainly focusses on the design of the local scale. Literature and case study research will be done, as well as making analyses of other plans as of the urban environment. A design will be made of the local scale, although it does not function as a final design but as an analysing method. Another aspect within this thesis that is of importance are the relations between the different stakeholders involved. For these stakeholders, there will not only be looked at the once active on the local scale, but also at the once active on regional or even national scales. This makes that also the higher scales are involved, although no urban design will be made for these scales. Depending on how the workshops will develop, some design decision will might be made on a regional scale as well. The aspect of big climate issues as natural disasters, will also not be directly addressed, but the climate issues will come back on the lower scale by the considerations of infrastructure types or the reduction of the heath island effect.

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

The reason why this topic is important for the social framework is because it will provide answers on how to involve citizens in the urban design process. This is important because most urbanists are higher educated and often do not live in deprived areas, although they do design for the people living there. Therefore there is a gap between the citizens and the urbanists that this research will start closing.

Not only is this important for the citizens themselves, but also for the urbanists. The use of citizens' participation is increasing, and as more people are getting aware of this possibility, more people also want it to be used. Therefore it is important for urbanists to know how they can establish citizens' participation during the design process. Looking at the way the world is changing, it would not surprise me if urban designers won't be just designers in the future, but will be mediators between all the different stakeholders, while these stakeholders will be the once designing.

Also the scientific relevance of this thesis is high. A lot of research on citizens' participation has been executed, but there is not a lot of research yet done on the role of the urbanists in this process, as well as on the way it should be used during design processes. At the moment citizens' participation methods are mainly used to gather information from people, or the other way around, where people establish ideas, get the needed tools and money and start working these ideas out. Therefore, this research will be one of the first researches to contribute in relation of the fields of urban designing and citizens' participation.