

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
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Studio	
Name / Theme	Project Wesfort; the challenge of Wesfort
Teachers / tutors	Mentor (Architectural Design): Ir. J. Roos Mentor (Building Technology): N. J. Clarke Mentor (Cultural Value): Prof. dr. M. C. Kuipers Committed guest teacher: Dr. S.J.T. Jansen
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>After reading the project description two main themes arose which can be of use in the research of the Wesfort project; the contradistinction between heritage and basic needs, and the change of function in a static surrounding. After learning on a very pragmatic level how to deal with the reuse of existing dwellings in the Netherlands, I think a shift has to be made in order to understand the situation in Wesfort, which is more about dealing with basic needs. A solution has to be found in which both aspects –heritage and basis needs- are taken into consideration. Although they seem to be opposites, I expect it to be a paradox; something I have already dealt with in another project. In the project Wouwse Plantage (department of Landscape Architecture) the paradox played an important role. The aim was to research whether the Plantation could be transformed into something that is likely to survive time. Characteristics of the so called 'buitenplaats' are exclusivity and rest. But at the same time the place should become future resisting, attracting more people, and therefore loose the rest and exclusivity.</p> <p>The second main theme is the change of function and the association a place recalls. A comparison can be made with the industry areas in Western Europe, who used to be avoided in earlier times. Nowadays new values have been added to the places. An old shaft of a dirty coal mine used to be ugly fifty years ago, at this moment visitors see beauty in it. Negative associations have (partly) disappeared. Also a leprosy colony recalls negative associations. Wesfort is a complex built out of bitter necessity and was avoided due to its function. The</p>

	<p>function and users however have changed; now it has to attract people. One of my MSc. projects also dealt with a drastic change of users. Religious Heritage dealt with the new development of churches becoming vacant buildings. New functions had to be found, keeping in mind the conservative attitude of the owners. Not everything was allowed. Supermarkets do not fit according to some members of the church. The building should be integer.</p>
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Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Wesfort Captured
Goal	
Location:	<p>Wesfort, Pretoria, South Africa</p> <p>After reading the project description two main themes arose which can be of use in the research of the Wesfort project; the contradistinction between heritage and basic needs, and the change of function in a static surrounding.</p> <p>After learning on a very pragmatic level how to deal with the reuse of existing dwellings in the Netherlands, I think a shift has to be made in order to understand the situation in Wesfort, which is more about dealing with basic needs. A solution has to be found in which both aspects –heritage and basic needs- are taken into consideration. Although they seem to be opposites, I expect it to be a paradox; something I have already dealt with in another project. In the project Wouwse Plantage (department of Landscape Architecture) the paradox played an important role. The aim was to research whether the Plantation could be transformed into something that is likely to survive over time. Characteristics of the so called 'buitenplaats' are exclusivity and rest. But at the same time the place should become future resisting, attracting more people, and therefore loose the rest and exclusivity.</p> <p>The second main theme is the change of function and the association a place recalls. A comparison</p>

	<p>can be made with the industry areas in Western Europe, who used to be avoided in earlier times. Nowadays new values have been added to these places. An old shaft of a dirty coal mine used to be ugly fifty years ago, at this moment visitors see beauty in it. Negative associations have (partly) disappeared. Also a leprosy colony recalls negative associations. Wesfort is a complex built out of necessity and was avoided due to its function. Its function and users however have changed; now it has to attract people. One of my MSc. projects dealt with a drastic change of users. Religious Heritage dealt with the new development of churches becoming vacant buildings. New functions had to be found, keeping in mind the conservative attitude of the owners. Not everything was allowed. Supermarkets do not fit according to some members of the church. The building should be an integer.</p>
The posed problem,	<p>Lack of variation in the program and the development of the urban sprawl threaten Wesfort making its future as cultural heritage uncertain.</p>
research questions and	<p>Wesfort was designed to heal the people who suffered from leprosy. Wesfort was called a leprosy colony and was located in an open space, isolated from the city of Pretoria. The word <i>colony</i> derives from the Latin <i>colonus</i>. It can mean both colonist but also farmer. <i>Colonus</i> can also refer to a column, which is (in Roman architecture) a column positioned below the capital. In other words, a colony is not independently self-controlled, but is positioned below something, serving the more important one.</p> <p>The leprosarium of Wesfort was built in 1898, the first book of Howard about the Garden City was published in 1898. Both the leprosy colony and the concept of a new healing city were being formed in the same year. Probably this means Wierda and Howard were not influenced by each other. However it remains striking that both developments (concept) were constituted in the same era, v</p>

	<p>is the turn of the century. Many technological innovations entered the market, drastically changing the urban designs.</p> <p>Wesforts landscape and urban lay-out designed to express a healthy environment should contribute in curing the patients. Wesfort design therefore might follow the same principles applied by the Garden City Movement. The research question investigates the tools and elements applied on Wesfort that derive from the 'healing environment' applied by the Garden City Movement.</p> <p>Which interventions in the landscape and urban design of Wesfort as a 'healing environment' parallel to the Garden City Movement and the principles of the industrial village?</p> <p>Which technological innovations are applied in Garden Cities and in Wesfort?</p> <p>To what extent is the English Landscape Garden Style applied on Garden Cities and Wesfort?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	
<p><b>Urban sprawl</b></p> <p>Urban sprawl as we know it, with its negative connotation, was the result of the capitalistic system. In the early days of the Industrial Revolution, the city became denser. Some people, including socialists and feminists, predicted this density will lead to a new social society, in which workers were organized and women could extend their domestic sphere. However, the society changed into monopoly capitalism, in which companies had more influence. Money was created that made urban development outside the city possible. Vast urban sprawls were built, to house individual orientated people. The growth of wealth and the technical innovations brought into the market by the companies, made it possible for everyone to use cars (Hayden, 1982, pp. 22-26). The poor people, who had less choice, stayed (Bruegmann, 2005, p. 29).</p> <p>Wesfort as a leper colony was built far outside the city of Pretoria, to prevent contamination (at least they thought). The city feels very far away, as can be seen in its architecture. Cottage style buildings and special landscaping gave the feeling of being outside the crowded city.</p> <p>The urban development of Pretoria shows a strong growth in the East. The major affluent neighborhoods developed to the South-East. The large township of Mamelodi developed in the East.</p>	

the city. n. Atteridgeville is almost the only dense urban area in this part of the city.

### **Urban development**

A possible reason for the underdevelopment of the Western part of Pretoria is the ridges. Nowhere in Pretoria can so many ridges be found. The urban development of the North, South and East all see open space, avoiding building on the ridges (Project Wesfort, 2015). Remarkable is the lack of urban development in the Mageliesberg valley, in the West. This area was and is still known for its fertile grounds and agricultural development.

The architecture of the buildings and the architecture of the landscape (inspired by the English Landscape Garden Style) gave the impression of being in an exclusive area. The care for the surroundings gave the feeling of luxury. If it was not a hospital, white people visiting this place should have felt happy.

At the same time, Wesfort should attribute to the economy of Pretoria. To prevent the Western area of the city of becoming an urban sprawl where no production takes place, production should take place here again. Wesfort should have a future in which the place contributes to the city again. From attributing to the defense system, to attributing to the healthcare system, to attributing to the new economic potentials. Tshwane focused the economy on hotspots that have potential. One of them is tourism. Good or at least improved infrastructural connections are present. The Garden City combines both work and living. In the urban plan it took into account both private and collective space.

A literal interpretation of the Garden City is the program of dwelling. However, it should not fall in the same trap as what happened with the urban sprawl.

## **Process**

### **Method description**

Wesfort was designed to be self-sufficient. It was located in a remote area, far away from the downtown of Pretoria. The site was built in the period in which the garden village movement started (Ossington, 1965). The landscaping of Wesfort was part of the composition of the leper colony. The buildings and the landscape were positioned in such a way they enhanced the healing process of the patients. Altogether the whole ensemble of Wesfort was designed according to the Industrial town which mostly followed the layout following the English Landscape Garden Style principles. The research will focus on the technical aspects of the built environment, i.e. the position of the buildings according to the sun, wind (ventilation) and view. Since the principles of the Industrial towns are based on picturesque and scenery, the sources of the English Landscape Garden Style will be used (Hunt & Willis, 1988). It forms the basis on which the Industrial town will be explained. Next to it, the principles of the Garden City will be explained (Beecham, 1988; Jackson, 1985; Miller, 1992). This type of town planning used same principles as 'healing environment' and open space. Technical aspects might arise, explaining the ventilation (Banham, 1971). All data will be compared with the situation in Wesfort, approaching Wesfort's situation from a broader view; not only from the landscaping perspective, but from the healing perspective i.e. the ventilation.

urban lay-out, density and all interlinking connections.

The research however focuses on Wesfort; Wesfort as a health landscape is going to be investigated including potentials and values of how the area was designed. First the principles of the Garden City will be explained. The information will give a perspective on how Garden Cities were being formed. Wesfort will be related to the Garden City, specifically on the landscaping –English Landscape Garden Style and the Chalet Style and the technique, all focusing on the mechanism of health. A section of Wesfort will be made, showing all the elements and principles forming a health institute.

The constant use of analysis, literature research and design should attribute to a complete response in answering the research question. The research question helps in understanding the site. Analyzing and designing are the tools to test and research forms that are added and should tell how the heritage at Wesfort is best dealt with.

## **Literature and general practical preference**

## **Reflection**

### **Relevance**

Researching on a site that is located in a country that differs from the Netherlands make both student and authority in South-Africa look from different perspectives. The thing that we all have in common is that an answer has to be provided what to do with the heritage (which is a shared heritage). Researching on a site far away from the Netherlands but at the same time relating to the Netherlands enables new ways of valuing heritage. From both sides output can help in the research. The most important is

[The value of the graduation project in the larger social and scientific framework.]

## **Time planning**

Week 1.1	1 Sep	Start Studio
Week 1.2	8 Sep	Presentation Charter and discussion theme research question
Week 1.3		South-Africa: to gain information
Week 1.4		South-Africa: to gain information
Week 1.5		South-Africa: South-African culture
Week 1.6		Studio tutoring: group analysis; L, M and S-scale
Week 1.7	8 Oct	Studio tutoring: group analysis
Weel 1.7	15 Oct	Presentation Methods
	12-15 Oct	Studio tutoring: program of possibilities
Week 1.8	22 Oct	Studio tutoring
Week 1.9	29 Oct	P1. Which elements described by Howard can be applied to Wesfort. Which functions? What is the intervention and how is it related to Lotus Garden. Functions that enhance everyday life.
Week 1.10	5 Nov	the urban sprawl almost no production takes place. Should not be production as in factories. Architects and designers cannot design factories or economic substantiated plans. It should be more local, a first step in preventing the middle class from wasting time with transporting themselves. Frames in which the ordinary can occur. Frames that connect Lotus Garden to Wesfort.
		Studio tutoring
Week 2.1	12 Nov	Studio tutoring: group discussion
	16 Nov	Hand-in draft position paper; <i>Danger in Beauty</i> . Searching for parallels with Wesfort and the design question. Both mention the English Landscape Garden Style and Romanticism. The position paper diverges to the subject of esthetics (as independent and therefore an authority on its own). When beauty can be seen as independent, the search for beauty is too, by which the obscure and individual perspective become main tools.
Week 2.2	19 Nov	Studio tutoring
Week 2.3	26 Nov	Program; hotel. Tourism. What is the vision of SA and Tshwane regarding tourism?
Week 2.4	4 Dec	Access to Wesfort. To prevent the hotel from having a fence around the plot. Visitors and neighbors should have a chance to visit Wesfort, but for that a program is required, including proper routing.
Week 2.5	10 Dec	Studio tutoring
Week 2.6	17 Dec	Studio tutoring
Weel 2.7	07 Jan	Studio tutoring
Week 2.8	14 Jan	Studio tutoring
Week 2.9	18 Jan	Studio tutoring



Week 2.10	18 Jan	Studio tutoring
	28 Jan	P2: Conceptual design, analysis and pp Hand-in position paper Building Technology focused feedback session

[A scheme of the division of the workload of the graduation project in the 42-week timeframe. Compulsory in this scheme are the examinations at the middle and end of the semester, if required minors you intend taking and possible exams that have to be retaken. The submitted graduation contract might be rejected if the planning is unrealistic]