

# 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                   | <b>Merle Ebskamp</b> |
| Student number         | 4382919              |
| Telephone number       |                      |
| Private e-mail address |                      |

| Studio                                |  |                     |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Name / Theme                          | Explore Lab  |                     |
| Main mentor                           | Roel van de Pas  | Architecture        |
| Second mentor                         | Hubert van der Meel  | Building Technology |
| Argumentation of choice of the studio | I want to explore my fascination for experimentation in the design process with non-traditional tools. This is best possible in Explore Lab. |                     |

| Graduation project  |  |
|---|--|
| Title of the graduation project   | <b>Non-Traditional Experimentation Tools in the Architectural Design Process</b>   |
| <b>Goal:</b> Exploring the meaning of non-traditional tools used for experimentation in the architectural design process. |  |
| Location:   | 's-Hertogenbosch (Tramkade / Kop van 't Zand / Orthenpoort-Zuid)   |
| The posed problem,  | In architecture the focus lies on drawing and modelling, while there may be more tools that can also make a meaningful contribution to experimentation. The research explores the possibilities of these non-traditional tools for experimentation, which is the process of exploring and deciding. When designing I will actively use and further investigate the insights of this exploration. The design assignment requires one to strongly empathize with the location and current activities, the non-traditional tools may help to do so. |
| research questions and  | What type of non-traditional experimentation tools could be meaningful in the concept phase of the architectural design process? (Research Question)   |
| design assignment in which these result.  | The municipality of 's-Hertogenbosch wants to connect people and places close to the Tramkade. Tramkade is a temporary ten year social experiment (2015-2025) situated in an historic industrial site. After 2025 Tramkade needs to have a better connection to surrounding hotspots while also renewing its identity and waterfronts.<br>I would like to answer this request by designing an route of (small) architectural interventions (with the use of traditional and non-traditional tools in my design process).                         |
|   |  |

## Process

### Method description

The research will be conducted by seven case studies and a limited amount of literature research to introduce the reason and relevance. The case studies are real-life try-outs (experimentation) with non-traditional tools. The case studies are all conducted, compared and intensively evaluated in a similar way. This is an exploratory research which tries to find the difficulties and possibilities associated with non-traditional tools.

The design method will include traditional tools (drawing / modelling) as well as non-traditional tools (video, music, poetry et cetera).

### Literature and general practical preference

Multiple literature sources, such as:

- How Designers Think: The design process demystified (Lawson, Bryan)
- Design Thinking (Rowe, Peter G.)
- Design Methods (Christopher Jones, J.)
- Poetics of Architecture: theory of design (Antoniades, Anthony C.)
- Making the Design Process Explicit (van Dooren, E.)
- Theory Thesis: You See More Than You Draw (Ebskamp, M.G.)

Furthermore I also use hands-on experience to generate knowledge. Not only by case studies, but also by previous experiences, the organization and evaluation of a workshop and the future design assignment; all including non-traditional tools.

## 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)?

Explore Lab is very much a studio which intends to explore new limits and chances. The way of doing so is often based on your own fascination or frustration, while the results are meaningful for general architecture practice. My graduation is an exploration into new possibilities of non-traditional tools. This fascination originates from my long-term interest in education. Therefore my master program includes Van Gezel tot Meester. I also often design by exploring design solutions in all extremities. Furthermore I have always been interested in projects which include a high level of social interaction. The latter two are also displayed in MSc1 Extreme. My theory thesis is a literature research which argues that the use of 2D drawings as eligible representations of the future built environment is evasive. However, drawing as a tool to support intuition, invention and communication has proven to be fruitful. But, is there a way to come closer to our actual perception of space? For example to include more senses? Or by the use of a greater diversity in tools which highlights the complexity of perception?

Everything mentioned above comes back in my current graduation project. A project focused on social interaction and the development of a designer's toolkit. Thus, the results of my project may be of interest to those architects / architectural students / teachers who would like to broaden their view on a design toolkit.

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

The graduation work intends to (re)start a conversation and critical perspective on our way of teaching architectural design. The traditional tools used have proven to be very fruitful. Therefore this graduation is not trying to diminish the use of these tools, rather it is questioning the still unexplored possibilities of other non-traditional tools. Tools which asks the designer to extend his comfort-zone and horizon to come to a (more) meaningful design proposal.