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	
Name	P.C. (Peter) van Oosten
Student number	4322207
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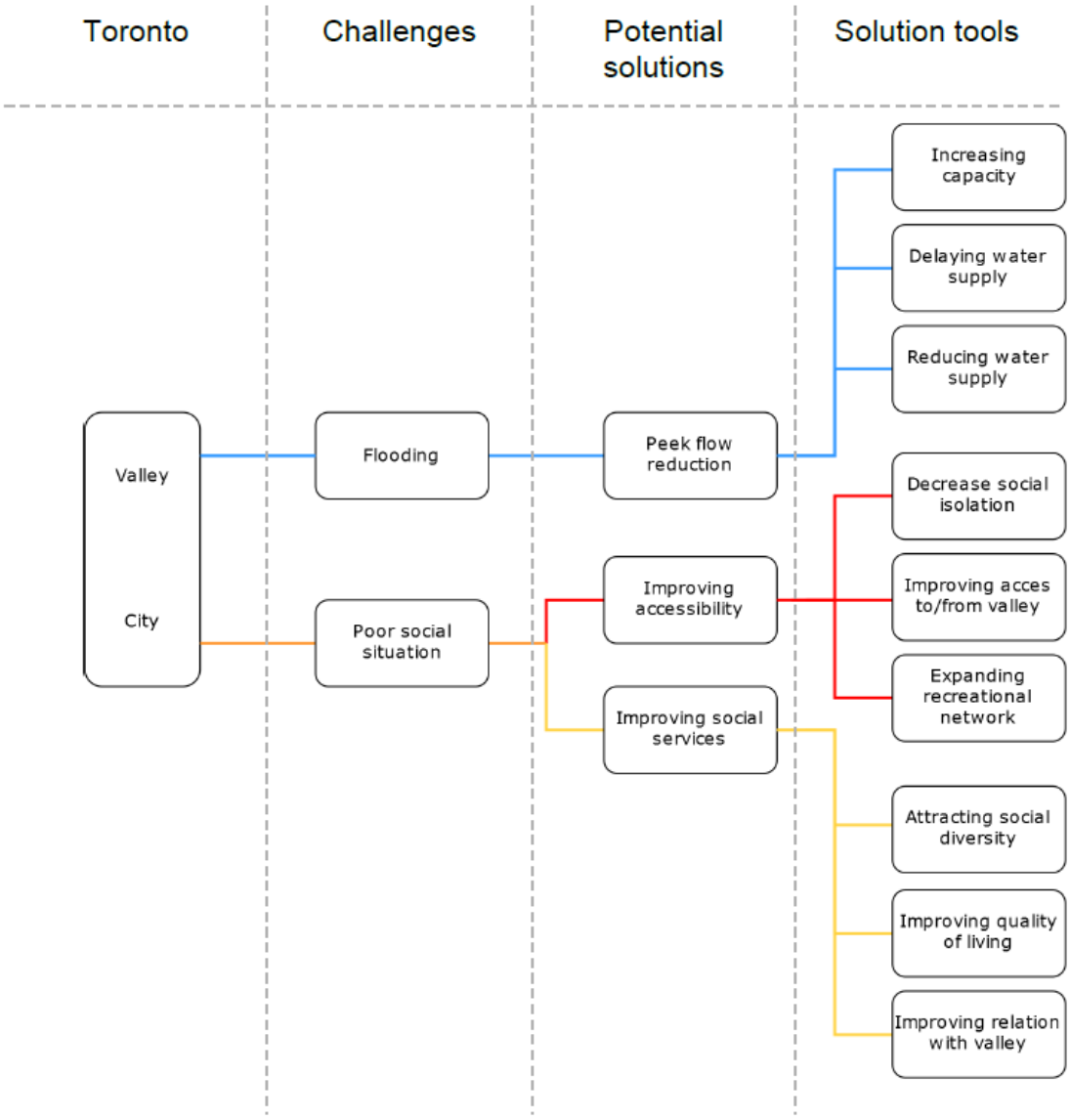
Studio	
Name / Theme	Flowscapes
Teachers / tutors	N. (Nico) Tillie, L.M. (Luisa) Calabrese, F.D. (Frits) van Loon
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Most suiting studio considering my interest in the field of Landscape Architecture

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	**Shaping the Don River Valley** A design for the Don River Valley to improve the quality of neighborhoods in Toronto
Goal	
Location:	Toronto (ON), Canada
The posed problem,	Along the Don River Valley there is a gathering of lower social classes, related to the valley being a backside within the urban tissue, leading to isolation Meanwhile the Don River Valley deals with annual flood problems and limited accessability, resulting in neglection of valuable area which lacks a multi-scale vision.
research questions and	What is an effective design strategy to reconnect the City of Toronto to the landscape of the Don River Valley at the metropolitan, district and local scale? • In which way can this strategy improve the social structure of neighborhoods surrounding the Don River Valley? • How can this strategy deal with challenges regarding water management?

	• How can design solutions for the Don River Valley and the solutions for the surrounding neighborhoods strenghten eachother?
design assignment in which these result.	By transforming the Don River Valley from a series of loose cross-sections into a lively and continuous metropolitan park which connects to its surroundings and at the same time works as a system.



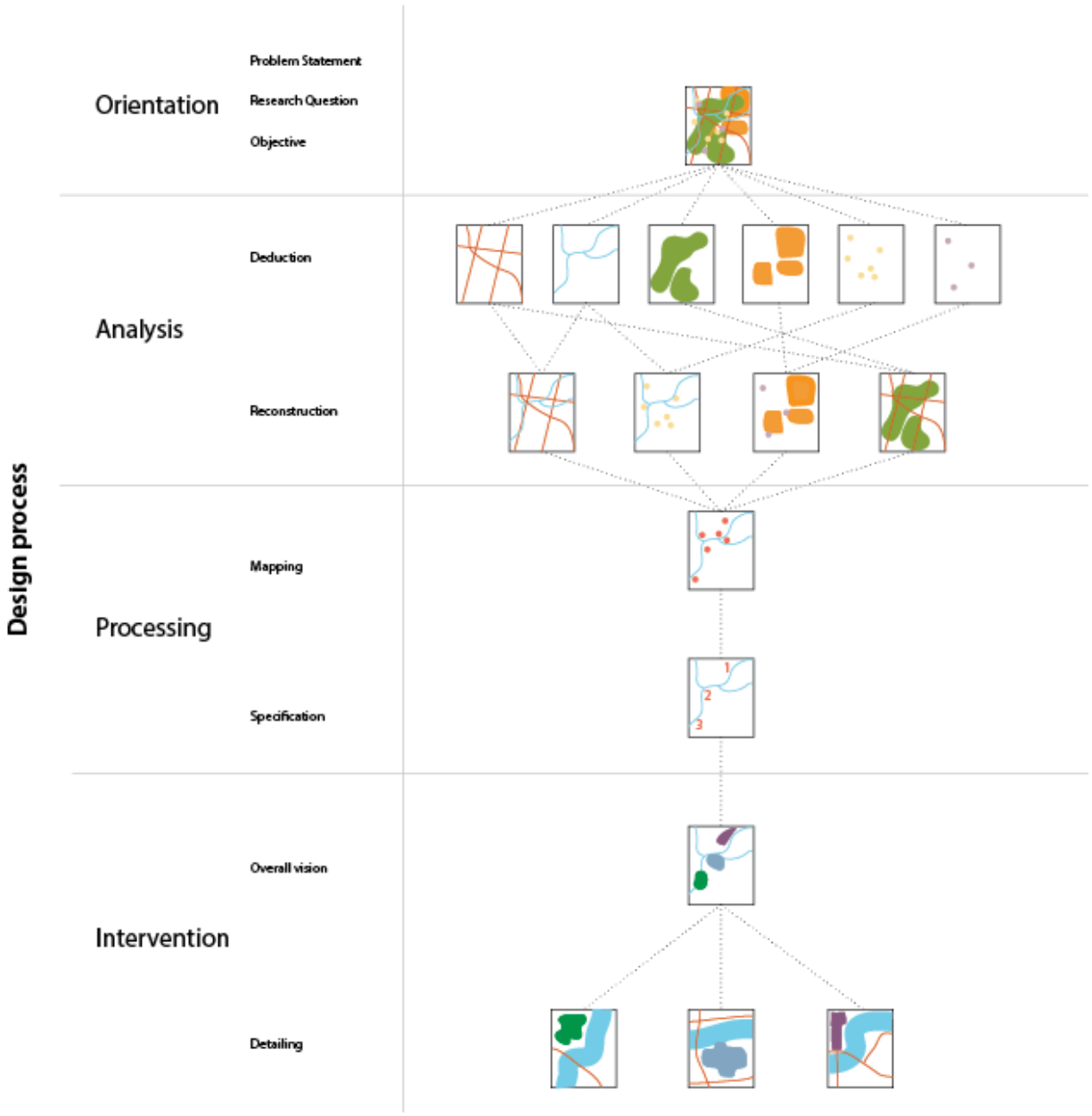
Process

Method description

Landscapes inhabit a high degree of complexity. This is for a considerable amount due to the landscape being a holistic entity where a multitude of aspects that define characteristics of the landscape all influence each other in either a direct or indirect way. Within such a system any change within the entity will alter other aspects. The practice of landscape design has to deal somehow with this complexity. There are multiple methods for doing so. This paper will show the characteristics and practical use of one methodology that has my personal preference. This preference comes forth from its ability to process the landscape characteristics in a rational way that it is applicable to any situation. Next to that, its uses within the design practice reach from the very first analytical steps all the way into the stage of landscape intervention. The methodology has common ground with several popular methods and multiple names would be applicable to different stages, though through this paper the specific methodology which is covered will be referred to as a method of 'deduction and recombination', for its tendency to systematically deal with the complexity of the holistic landscape by deducing information through the use of thematic layers after which new insights will be gained from recombination.

(Note: this is just a short version of a methodology paper writer by the author of this project)

In addition, this research takes notes from the methodology as described in Stremke, S.; Kann, F.M.G. van; Koh, J. (2012) Integrated Visions (Part I): Methodological Framework for Long-term Regional Design. European Planning Studies 20 (2012)2. - ISSN 0965-4313 - p. 305 - 320.



Literature and general practical preference

Stremke, S.; Kann, F.M.G. van; Koh, J. (2012) Integrated Visions (Part I): Methodological Framework for Long-term Regional Design. European Planning Studies 20 (2012)2. - ISSN 0965-4313 - p. 305 - 320.
McHarg, I. (1969) Design with Nature. Philadelphia: Natural History Press
Chung, C.K. (2015) Transformations of Urbanising Delta Landscape: An Historic Examination of Dealing with the Impacts of Climate Change for the Kaoping River Delta in Taiwan. Delft: TUDelft

Reflection

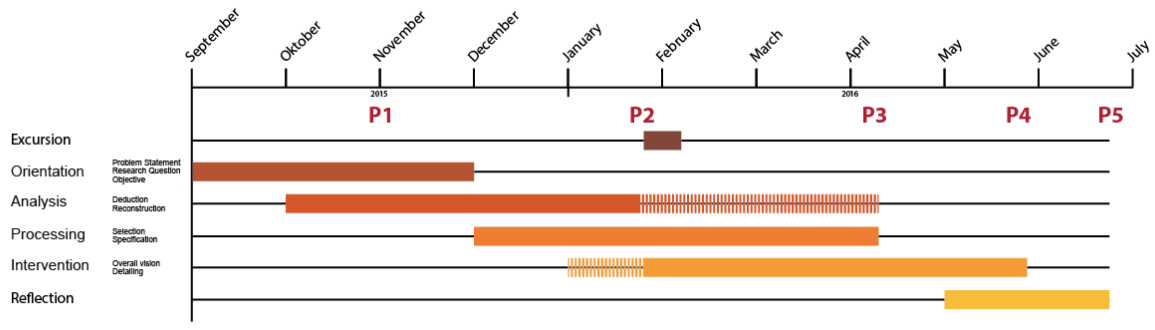
Relevance

Shaping the Don River Valley is a project which concentrates on a specific neighborhood, Thorncliffe Park, in the city of Toronto. Although the defined area can be considered to be a small area within the vastness of the urban tissue of Toronto, interventions are a direct result from observations on a city-wide scale. Among the addressed subjects some main topics are the public transport infrastructure of Toronto, socially isolated areas within the city of Toronto and dynamics concerning the Don River itself. When designing this awareness of multiscale relevance is constantly present. This multiscale relation of project area and the city of Toronto shows again the holistic attitude of the landscape, which is also addressed within the used methodology and the research question.

While for example the public transport infrastructure within the City of Toronto covers a predominantly metropolitan scale, the Don River itself can easily be linked to a regional scale in which the full spectrum of areas within the hydrological cycle of the river are related and therefore affected by the design. This means that when the design deals with local interventions, effects on the bigger scale are constantly taken into consideration. This works both though, where small scale interventions answer the demand of larger scale challenges, but simultaneously demand a vision to be addressed on a large scale.

This multiscale approach is lacking in the current vision on the city of Toronto, specifically for the Don River area. Many challenges addressed by the design can be directly related to this absence of a bigger vision. Solutions to challenges are commonly treated on a local scale, without taking note of the holistic attitude of the landscape which often leads to a mere shift of the challenge towards a place outside of the regarded scale. Not to be confused with a solution that serves the large scale, but is implemented on a local scale.

Time planning



Excursion: two week visit to the project area in the City of Toronto (ON) with the first week dedicated to gaining general knowledge about the city and its flows, together with joining activities at the University of Toronto, and the second week dedicated to site visits and gaining knowledge relevant to my personal project.

Orientation: getting to know about the site, its dynamics, challenges the city is facing and the context in which it all takes place

Analysis: going into both digital and analog literature to get a better understanding of the found challenges the city is facing, look for methodologies that could strengthen the research and start defining a problem statement

Processing: processing the gathered knowledge to develop design tools and spatial concepts while simultaneously gathering knowledge required to fill gaps

Intervention: going through the design steps needed to get to the desired result, while simultaneously consulting sources which are needed to improve; following a process of research and design

Reflection: reflecting on the work done while going once again through the steps that are taken before to improve and/or expand the project where needed