

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism &
Building Sciences



Graduation Plan

Personal information	
Name	Jade Appleton
Student number	4516524
Telephone number	
E-mail address	
Studio	
Name / Theme	Flowscapes
Teachers	Inge Bobbink, Luisa calabrese, Mentor at PBL: Alexandra Tisma
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Landscape architecture studio
Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Against landscape exploitation: A new landscape approach for sustainable rural development in Northern Honduras
Goal	
Location	Northern Coastline Honduras (Map in attached document)
The posed problem	<p>The rich landscape of Honduras has been historically monopolised by corporations for agricultural exports. Historically known as the banana republic, the landscape is again being transformed into a new monopoly, this time with the growth of Palm Oil. Palm oil agricultural growth is a huge problem in many rural areas across the world. Mass deforestation and loss to biodiversity, to make way for the palm oil is causing huge environmental problems. Along with environmental impacts, it is putting problems on to the country socially, with rights of the land being fought over.</p> <p>In conjunction with an internship at the PBL, these problems will be researched into further and analysed, for a reconsideration of the future landscape. Members of PBL will analyse the specific functional use of space for more detailed land use plans. I will specifically look at the spatial consequence on the landscape; as well as the role being a landscape architect can play within the project, and the spatial interventions which can help to shape the more sustainable future.</p>

research questions

Main research question:

How can the Landscape Approach* provoke a spatial design in the Northern coastline of Honduras and create a sustainable environment, accounting for the area's landscape values?

Research questions at PBL:

- What is the Landscape approach?
- Why the Northern Coastline of Northern Honduras?
- Who are the stakeholders in the landscape, and what are their individual ideas?
- What are the social/ economical/ environmental problems in the location, and how can this influence the spatial future of the landscape.

Research questions through design stage:

- How can the themes discovered in research; food security; water management; sustainable palm oil and eco tourism be integrated spatially?
- What interventions should be made within the landscape to achieve more sustainable landscape, and where?
- What design alternative can be created if the place focused on other economies, other than palm oil.
- How should time be considered in specific interventions?

Design assignment in which these result.

From the final vision of integrated landscape management on the landscape, I will create a detailed design of how the spatial framework can be implemented. This will be on a close up area within the landscape, an area with a large amount of Palm oil. To design how the landscape can work with sustainable palm oil management.

I will also create a plan of how the landscape can be designed and changed for a future without palm oil. To question the role a landscape architect can play in a problem in a larger economic and social context.

Attached is an diagram illustrating the research method. ([Attached in separate document](#))

Process

Method description

The project uses a landscape approach to consider all differing stakeholders within the landscape. From this two scenarios are being made. These scenarios explore both a 'dystopia' if the growth of palm oil was carried on as it is now and without change, and a 'utopia', which will highlight the optimum found land use plan, still with continued palm oil industry. These scenarios will be used to create visuals and bring awareness to the stakeholders in Honduras.

I will then, in my own detailed design, create a design which explores this optimum land use plan, and the design tools to achieve it. I will also create a plan of how the landscape can be designed and changed for a future without palm oil. To question the role a landscape architect can play in a problem in a larger economic and social context.

The method is further explained on an attached document.
(Attached in separate document)

Literature and general practical preference

Main literature used for research:

Scenario literature

'Scenarios for land use and ecosystem services under global change' - <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2017.03.021>.

'Exploring the use of models and scenarios as tools for assessing the potential contribution of Integrated Landscape Management to SDGs'

'Scenario Methodology for Modelling of Future Landscape Developments as Basis for Assessing Ecosystem Services'

Honduras research literature

'Challenges of Opportunity Cost Analysis in Planning REDD+: A Honduran Case Study of Social and Cultural Values Associated with Indigenous Forest Uses' - www.mdpi.com/journal/forests

'Supporting Sustainable Landscapes in Northern Honduras'

'Land grabbing, palm oil & violence in Honduras: The case of Grupo Dinant'

Reflection

Relevance

Rural development is a prominent issue as with expected population growth, ways must be decided upon to increase the amount of food produced. Thus, much pressure is being put onto rural areas and the agricultural industry with huge consequences on the environment and our spatial landscape.

Honduras is prime example of a landscape largely affected by our consumption habits. It is a landscape which has been defined by the monopolisation of agriculture, mainly by corporations, for solely economic purpose. The spatial consequences of such agricultural agendas must be realised for the future development, as well as how to sustain our environments environmentally, socially as well as economically.

In particular Palm Oil is one of the largest crops affecting the world today, it is in most of our food and beauty products. Its introduction into less developed countries has created economic reliance on the product. It must be questioned if this economic side is comparable to the environmental destruction and social upheaval. Can the landscape support another function for the countries growth.

Time planning

The internship started in March and will continue to September. This will be the basis time for my research and creation of scenarios for the project and spatial framework.

I will decide on a specific location in which to explore in more detail before by P2 in June. I will then travel to Honduras and explore the site further in August.

From September, I will start the design stage in more detail for the creation of a design for the future landscape.

Attached is an image of the timeline. ([Attached in separate document](#))