

MUSEUM VAN KINDERDIJK



Reflection Paper
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MUSEUM VAN KINDERDIJK

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0 // Project description

What is the relation between your graduation project topic, your master track (A, U, BT, LA, MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

Museum van Kinderdijk

This reflection is written in collaboration with the MSc3+4 Revitalising Heritage: Maritime Heritage Graduation Studio.

Kinderdijk has been accepted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. After COVID, there is an increasing number of visitors, leading to emerging challenges and various management plans being proposed to address them. Kinderdijk served as an important cultural heritage site that revealed the DNA of the Netherlands to visitors. Particularly, the landscape that represents Kinderdijk is one of the most significant Outstanding Universal Values (OUV).

During my visits and experiences at Kinderdijk, several questions and thoughts guided me throughout this year.

"What are the intangible heritages which are not clearly revealed at Kinderdijk?"

"How can these intangible heritages be more directly and deeply felt along with the current Kinderdijk to visitors? "

"And how can we integrate the community and the landscape by re-configuring the current plans of the museum?"

The question of how the values currently present at Kinderdijk are perceived by people is crucial from this perspective. Recently, many people have communicated their experiences, emotions, and images on social networks for sharing with others. This type of sharing performs a significant role in understanding and accepting the site, as well as creating its image of the site. By collecting and analyzing these responses, we can identify missing points, which are connected to the current image of Kinderdijk as an open-air museum and the required functions.

With that analysis, it can apply the current paradigm of the museum which focuses on the deep connection between intangible heritage and the museum. This correlation extends along with the characteristics of intangible heritage. Beyond simply showing the tangible heritage, the museum expands to the surrounding areas, engaging with locals. Thus, it evolves from architectural structures to dynamic and vibrant community centers, together with the locals.

Through this project, I compared OUV, intangible heritages, and images shared by people on social networks and planned the museum to offer visitors a direct experience through programs and circulation. Moreover, I identified the inherent values of intangible culture, including current and local culture, and applied them to the community center by integrating with the surrounding community.

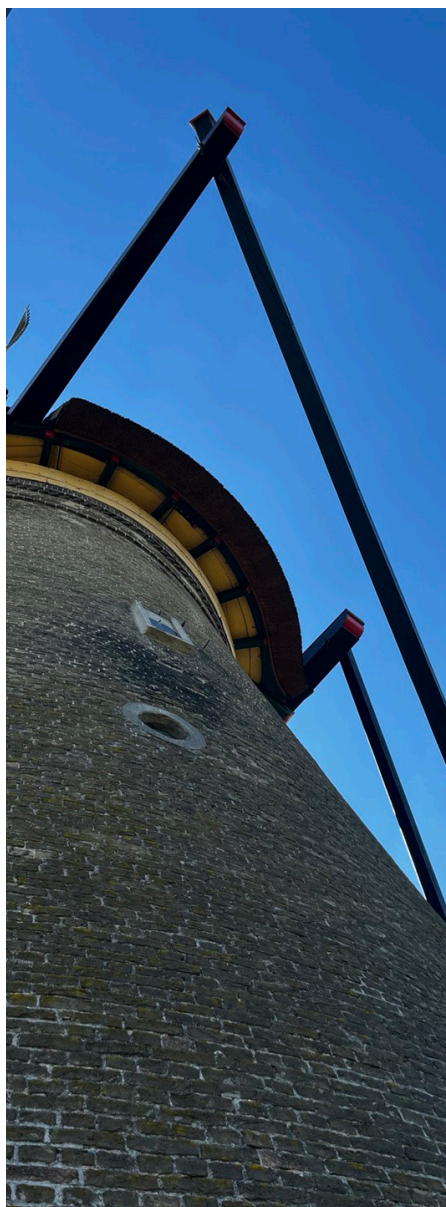


Figure 1-3. Photos of Kinderdijk (From Left, Mill, Miller's Kitchenware, the Barn located in Kinderdijk) (Author, 2024)

1 // Relation with Master track and program

What is the relation between your graduation project topic, your master track (A, U, BT, LA, MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

Integral Approach with Heritage, Life and Architecture

The MSc3+4 Revitalising Heritage : Maritime Heritage Studio focused Waterdriehoek region that lies East of Rotterdam between Gorinchem, Biesbosch, and Kinderdijk. With four lenses: History, Water, Heritage, and Local culture, all students assessed values on these places, identified key values, and proceeded with their design processes based on these focal points.

The theme of "intangible heritage" was closely intertwined with Kinderdijk's typological and intangible heritage, serving as the starting point for research and design. Designated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, Kinderdijk embodies a fusion of tangible and intangible aspects. Ongoing research into intangible cultural heritage, following UNESCO's definition since 2000, and studies on museums showcasing such intangible cultural heritage continue.

With this research and new paradigms, the project aims to explore both the tangible and intangible values of Kinderdijk through programs like museums and community centers. It seeks to convey these values intimately and directly to visitors, while also passing them down to the next generation and connecting with the local community. Through this endeavor, the project seeks to make the values Kinderdijk possesses more accessible and tangible by showcasing the local context, surrounding communities, and water-related knowledge and systems that may have been previously overlooked or not directly felt.

This project focuses on providing an integrated and multifaceted approach required by the master's program and track for architectural environments while exploring innovative methods. Furthermore, Kinderdijk's connection to the Netherlands' representative typological and intangible values, particularly its water management system, is deeply intertwined not only with architectural techniques but also with engineering, humanities, and sustainable development for the future.

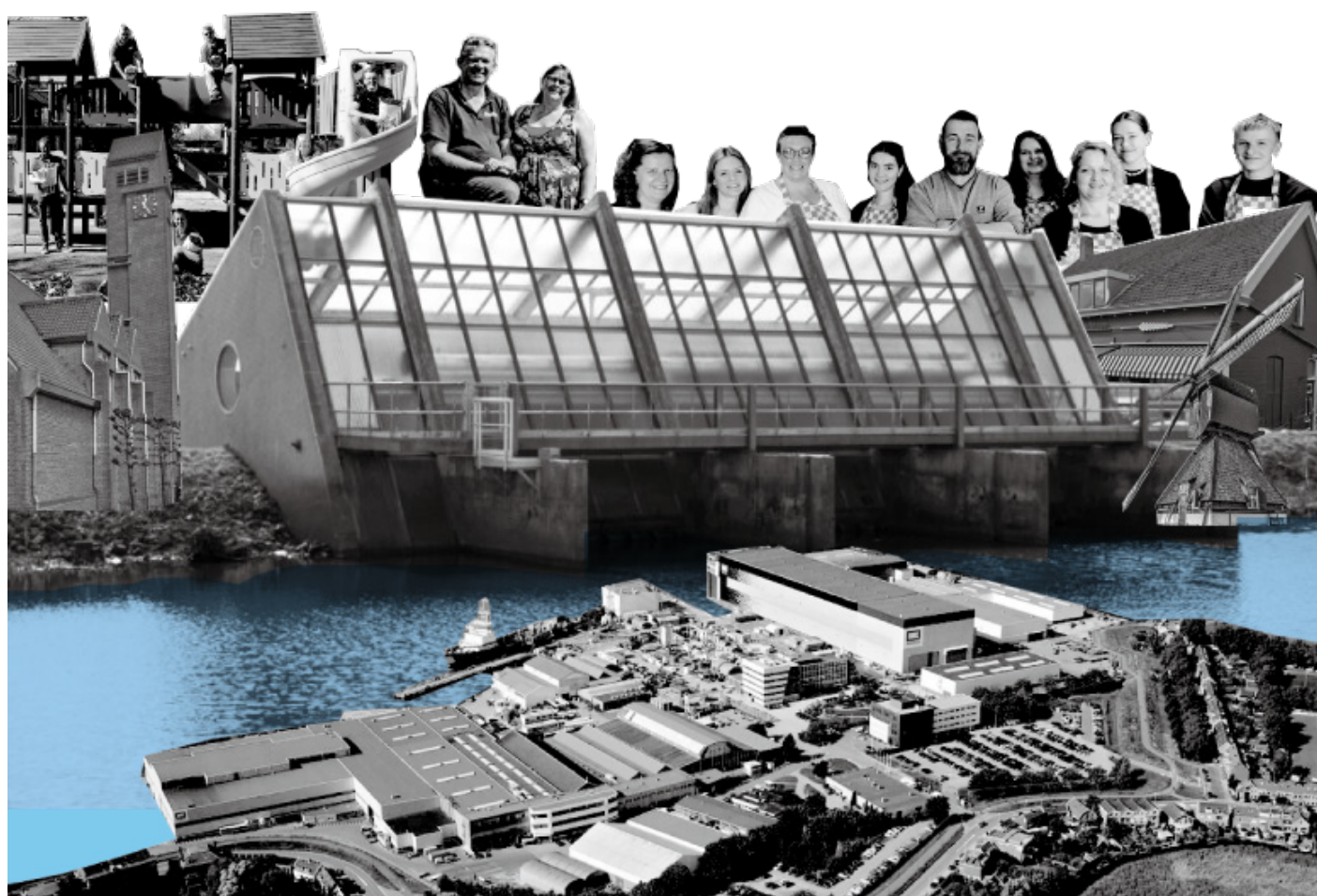


Figure 4. Images Collage represents the Intangible Heritage of Kinderdijk (Author, 2024)

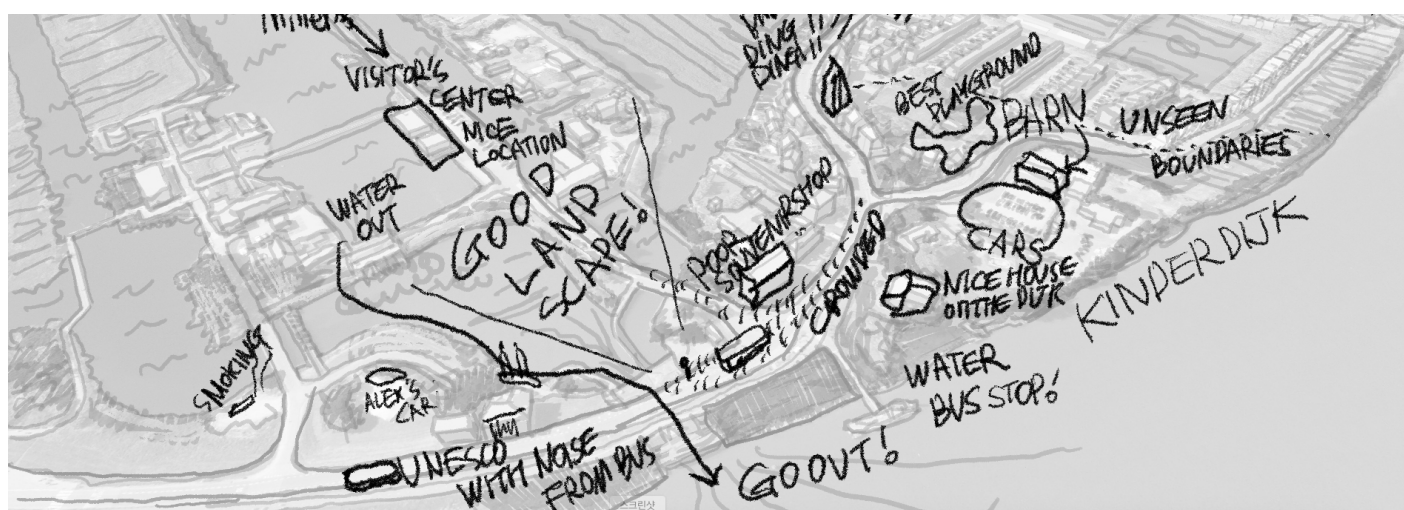


Figure 5. Sketch of Motivation from Kinderdijk (Author, 2024)

2 // Relation with Research and Design

How did your research influence your design/recommendations and how did the design/recommendations influence your research?

Museum with Intangible Heritage

Research and design are closely interconnected academically and cannot be separated. The progression of the project expanded from research and methodology to design. Specifically, it began with the concept of intangible heritage, which was started by my own motivation, and the integration of this concept with tangible heritage. This research extended to directly experiencing intangible heritage, examining the current state through people's reactions and images, and investigating how to more effectively combine intangible and tangible heritage by exploring existing museums.

This led to the design of a museum that evolves the mass into a form that creates the existing ensemble of surroundings and contexts, focusing on configuring the space by combining and creating circulations and meeting points for visitors and locals. Within the museum, spaces are created to provide deep experiences, including areas where the lives of millers, which were not well recognized on social networks, and the value of Kinderdijk's water management system could be explored.

As can be seen in the diagram on the right, these research efforts influenced each design. Research and design not only influenced each other, complementing one another, but also interconnected to provide not only theoretical foundations but also practical examples for each other.

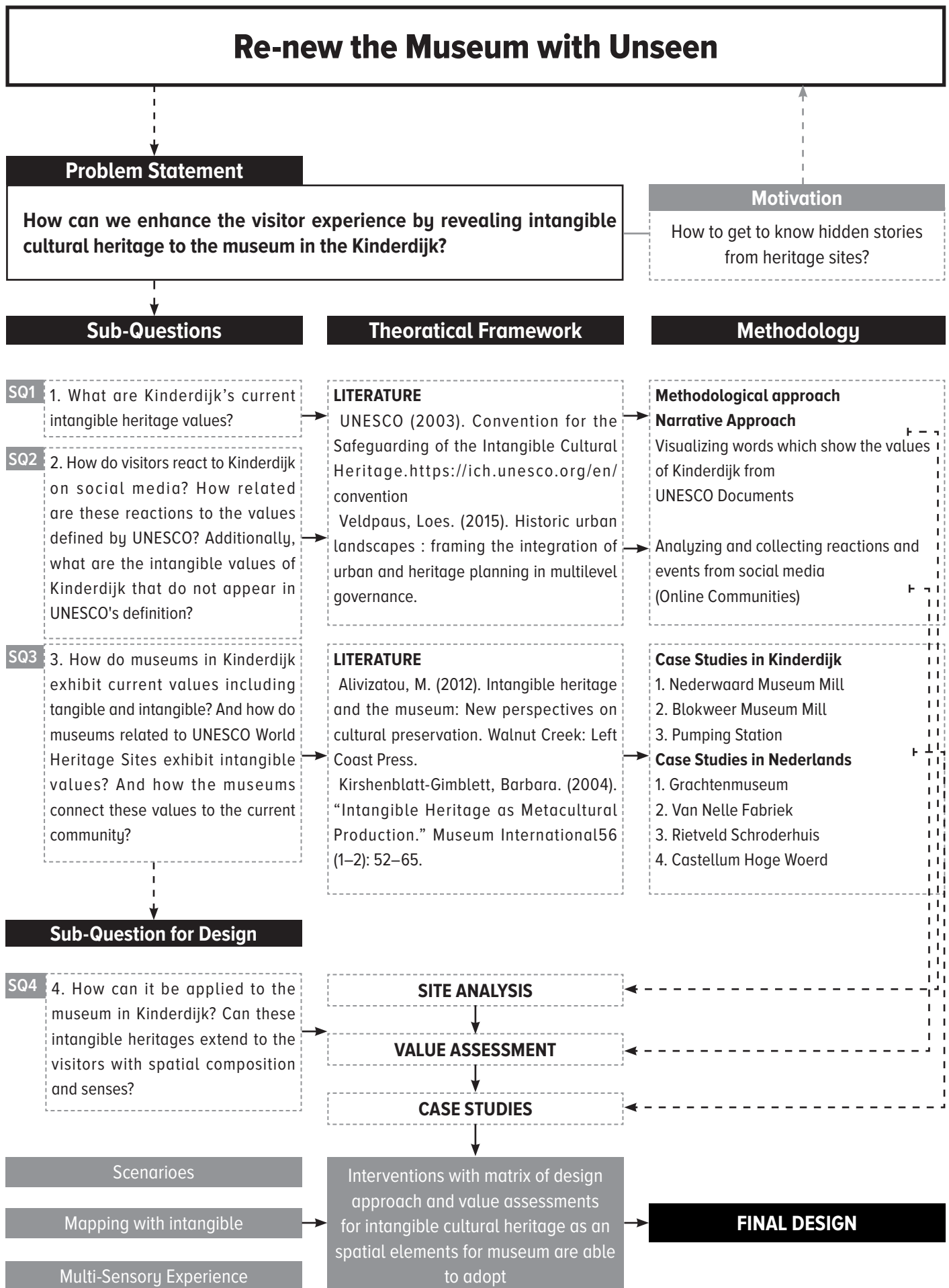


Figure 6. From Research to Design diagram (Author, 2024)

3 // Relation with Approach, Methods, Methodology

How do you assess the value of your way of working (your approach, your used methods, used methodology)?

Approach, Methods, and Methodology

The research can be approached in three phases. Each corresponds to three sub-questions. In the first phase, intangible values from Kinderdijk are assessed according to the theoretical framework mentioned above. It will be assessed using UNESCO documents and value assessments of Taxonomy of Veldpaus. And it will be intangible values can be extracted.

The second sub-question will be conducted through a narrative approach. Visitor responses will be compared with the intangible values assessed in Kinderdijk's UNESCO document in the previous phase. Through a program that networks the similarity of words (e.g., Figure 4,5), I will determine how connected words are in context and classify them what value is receiving attention from visitors.

The third sub-question can be approached how tangible and intangible values are revealed through case studies of museums. In particular, World Heritage-related museum and current Kinderdijk Museums can be compared and analyzed how they express ICH and how they display their collections in different ways. Furthermore, by combining research from the IHC museum frameworks, it will be examined whether museums in Kinderdijk are viewed as spaces where diverse visitors share ideas and gather together with the participation of local residents, and whether Kinderdijk's core values and ideas are provided through experiences and participatory approaches in open spaces.

Assessments of Methodology

This research used a method of collecting visitor responses through strategic inference using social media this methodology is also currently employed in various fields. However, it suggests possibilities of widening or narrowing the scope of inference due to a lack of amounts of samples, data selection errors, and time constraints, which may consequently restrict the results.

Additionally, the analysis of intangible values related to the community may also be limited, as an accurate assessment requires long-term observation and exploration of the community and its environment. Future steps involve closely monitoring and supplementing these limitations through more extensive online communities related to Kinderdijk, along with a thorough examination of literature and historical references. In the process of spatial substitution, the results of such studies need to be incorporated by design. The design aims to preserve Kinderdijk's artificial landscape by harmonizing it with the current tangible heritage and forming a cohesive ensemble.

Furthermore, it plans to expand the functions of the museum, respecting the community, creating spaces following their needs, and establishing interconnection with visitors. The design desires to be a form of development that integrates cultural heritage, transforming the town into a design that evolves alongside cultural heritage rather than being isolated from it.

VALUES OF KINDERDIJK

REACTIONS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

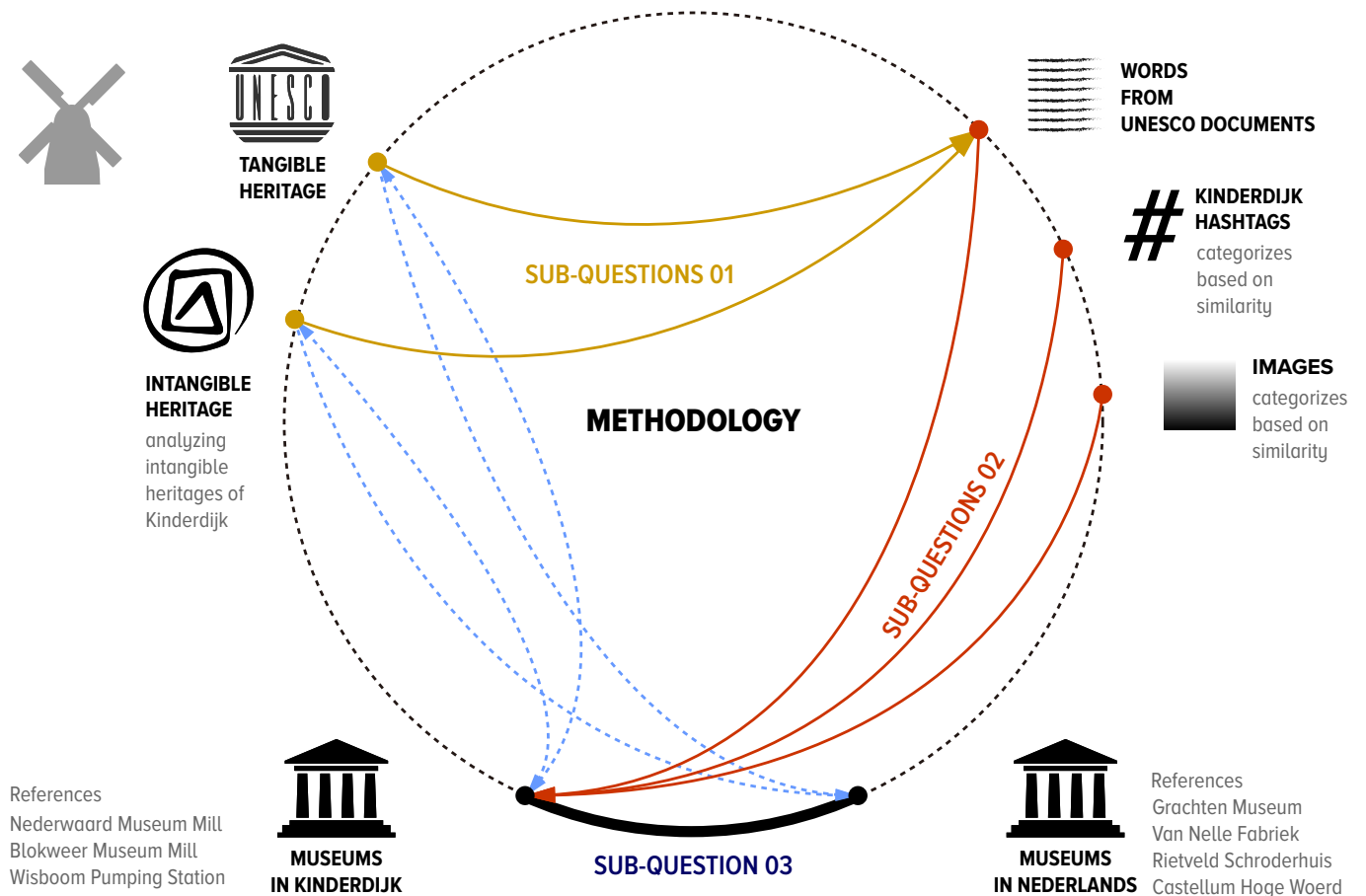


Figure 7. Methodology (Author, 2024)

4 // Relation with Ethics, Values and Implications

How do you assess the academic and societal value, scope and implication of your graduation project, including ethical aspects?

Methods of Research

In the field of humanities, data mining through social networks is already a prevalent technology. In recent years, these systems have continued to expand into other fields including the field of architecture. Previously, architects and social analysts analyzed behavior by directly observing people, but now we are analyzing the trends of these behaviors through the posts, hashtags, and images on the internet that they share.

Although this type of analysis is still unfamiliar and may cause controversy over its reliability, it is gradually gaining validity. Of course, the amount of data or the accuracy of the information may be questionable and ethically lead to privacy issues, but the application of analyzing data considers how people perceive a place or space and how that is reflected.

In this project, using data mining through a narrative approach can help understand how people perceive Kinderdijk and what is lacking. Through this, better environments can be provided to visitors or communities. Furthermore, such methods inherently contain social networks and possess a broad scope and influence, thus holding sufficient social value.

Project Design

The project's design began with the integration of two programs: a community center, aimed at revealing intangible heritage and sharing it with people, and a museum, where visitors can understand and experience the integration of intangible and tangible heritage.

The community center serves as a space for the area's intangible heritages, including community life, the lives of millers, and events around Kinderdijk. Meanwhile, the museum is designed to allow visitors to walk along a circulation path to experience both tangible and intangible heritages. Through the combination, intersection, and encounters of these programs, circulations are interwoven and overlapped, creating opportunities for shared experiences among visitors and locals. Additionally, water from Kinderdijk is dragged into the museum's pathways and intersection spaces, enabling visitors to directly experience its core values.

This approach complements the museum paradigm, enhances its functionality, and enriches the visitor experience. Furthermore, by connecting with the community center, the museum is reevaluated as a space for direct experience and communication rather than just a showcase of old items.

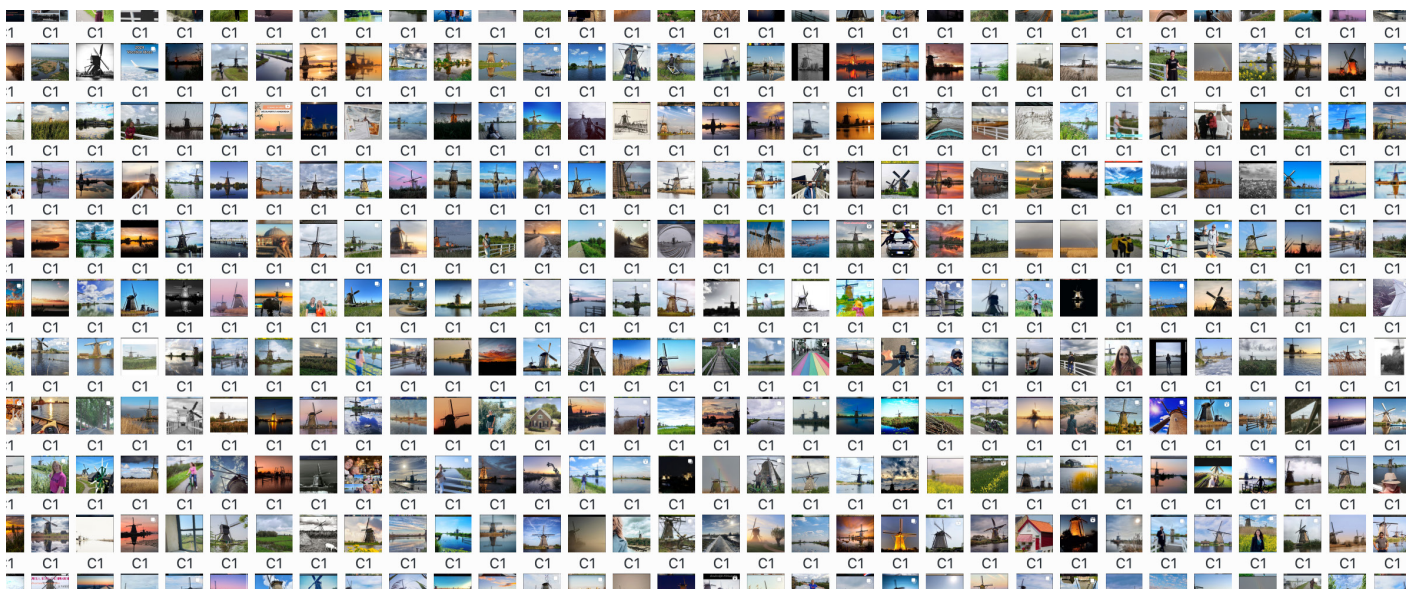


Figure 8. *Data mining from Instagram with #Kinderdijk (Author, 2024)*

5 // Relation with Transferability

How do you assess the value of the transferability of your project results?

Museums in Unesco

First, traditional approaches to heritage have focused on the conservation of old cultural heritage and tangible items. However, through this approach and methodology, heritage can become an important case for integrating intangible values that have been difficult for people to perceive along with existing tangible heritage. Specifically, by analyzing the characteristics of intangible heritage, which are constantly recreated and dynamically changing unlike tangible heritage, and redefining them, as well as understanding how intangible heritage is perceived by people through their thoughts, reactions, and images related to heritage, it can serve as a valuable methodology for effectively combining tangible and intangible heritage for people.

Second, this project conducted case studies on museums related to World UNESCO Heritage within the Netherlands. Through this methodology, museums currently located within other UNESCO cultural sites can refer to how to effectively communicate their inherent values to people and apply them to space and design.

Third, by providing cases on how visitors to increasing cultural heritage sites and locals living there can coexist or be separated, this supports the possibility of addressing the issues that many tourist destinations currently face.



Figure 9-12. *Photos of Museums in Unesco World Heritage Sites in the Netherlands (Author, 2024)*

6 // Relation with Ensemble

How do you assess approaches to context and surroundings of your project ?

Locals and Visitors

According to the Management plans for Kinderdijk, locals are expressing concerns about overcrowding, lack of parking spaces, and various noises and incidents caused by increasing numbers of visitors. This reflects a current situation where the interests of locals and visitors are conflicting. Furthermore, there is a growing sense among locals that their spaces are disappearing, and Kinderdijk is gradually transforming into a tourist-oriented area.

In order to respect the locals who have maintained and preserved the spirit of Kinderdijk, and to address these concerns, precise delineation of pathways and spaces for visitors has been planned. This aims to ensure that the pathways of both groups do not overlap within buildings, while still creating points of intersection through events and nature spaces. This approach not only harmonizes the two groups but also provides spaces for locals, allowing their culture to grow and thrive with Kinderdijk.

Surroundings and Landscape

One of the most critical aspects of Kinderdijk's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is the landscape, which has evolved into an ensemble through the water management system. This landscape represents the region and is a significant heritage that must not be compromised. To preserve these landscapes, the surrounding buildings are kept low and oriented towards Kinderdijk, all arranged along the borderlines and surrounding dikes of Kinderdijk. Preserving and safeguarding these surroundings is a fundamental principle. To maintain this and preserve the ensemble, the forms, and placements of the buildings were crafted to resemble and harmonize with the existing structures. This is an essential element in respecting the existing buildings and ensuring that the new buildings integrate seamlessly with them. Through this approach, this project aims not only to create an ensemble of locals and visitors but also to achieve an ensemble through form and scale.



Figure 13. *Photos of Landscape in Kinderdijk (Author, 2024)*

7 // Relation with Experience

How do you assess the quality and experience of space?

Experience from Essence

Experiencing intangible cultural heritage in museums, unlike tangible culture, is not easy. Since it literally has no physical form, it needs to be materialized through stories, techniques, and customs to be experienced.

Various methods are being used to experience intangible heritage. In this project, the focus is on three important intangible heritages of Kinderdijk: community, water management system, and the lives of millers. These intangible heritages are arranged along a route. Specifically, to provide a direct experience, the water level is lowered to the floor level to show how far the water rises, how it is controlled, and to provide an experience of future water levels.

Additionally, various multimedia and audiovisual media, as well as spaces connected to the community, are utilized to showcase museum experiences in a timely and multifaceted manner.



Figure 14. *Water on the space in the Museum (Author, 2024)*



Figure 15. *Project View (Author, 2024)*

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