

# 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	Elise Veerle Bos
Student number	4873548

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
Main mentor	Suzanna Milinovic	Urban Design
Second mentor	Rufus van den Ban	Architectural Engineering + Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Explore Lab provides me with the opportunity to work with my inherent fascination for the topic of human-nature relationships.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Re-imagining Architecture through and eco-feminist lens
Goal	
Location:	Amsterdam Centraal Station
The posed problem,	We have lost our connection with the natural environment and global systems that we are a part of. Architecture, as a cultural and spatial practice, currently plays a critical role in reinforcing this disconnection but might have the potential to do the opposite.
research questions and	What if we reimagine architecture through an eco-feminist lens to provoke nature-connectedness in Western society?
design assignment in which these result.	Re-imagining Amsterdam CS through my eco-feminist lens to challenges architecture's role in human-nature relationships and provides a critical reflection on how we engage with and relate to our natural environment.

## Process

### Method description

The research is conducted through a method of radical spatial imagination—a form of research by design grounded in the principles of spatial justice. This approach is iterative and cyclical, incorporating continuous feedback loops through diverse forms of knowledge collection and reflection.

At the core of the project lies an eco-feminist framework, understood as a dynamic and evolving body of knowledge. This framework is constructed through a combination of in-depth literature review, expert conversations, and participation in workshops and events. It forms the conceptual foundation for the exploration of four spatial imaginaries, each of which reimagines a site in the Netherlands through the lens of three to four specific values drawn from the eco-feminist framework.

These values are selected based on their significance within the broader theoretical context as well as their relevance to each specific site. Importantly, active engagement with my own *positionality* (see also: Bourke, 2014) —documented through a positionality journal—ensures transparency and reflexivity in both the selection of these values and the design of the imaginaries. This self-reflective practice acknowledges the influence of personal perspective within the research process and supports a more open and accountable design approach.

The imaginaries serve as speculative design explorations, offering spatial translations and manifestations of the eco-feminist values from the framework. Together, they present a diverse set of potential responses to the guiding research question: *"What if we reimagine architecture through an eco-feminist lens to provoke nature-connectedness in Western society?"*

From the insights generated through these imaginaries, a series of reflections are developed. These reflections distil key themes, lessons, and design essences that emerge from the speculative explorations.

A selection of these reflections will form the basis and departure point for the final design project, which will reimagine Amsterdam Centraal Station. The aim is to create a project that challenges current architectural practice and offers a critical reflection on how we engage with and relate to our natural environment. In addition to informing the conceptual foundation, concrete physical interventions from the earlier imaginaries may also be incorporated—directly or as inspiration—into the final design.

This project is, in large part, a critique of the status quo. It seeks to critically reflect on how we relate to our environment and to encourage alternative ways of thinking and feeling—understanding humanity as part of natural systems, rather than as an external force acting as owner or steward.

Drawing on eco-feminist perspectives, the project connects the exploitation of nature to broader political systems of oppression and domination. In doing so, it inherently challenges and critiques canonical Western modes of thinking, knowing, and being.

The aim of this project is to provide an alternative perspective - to imagine a world otherwise, so that we might begin to create a world otherwise. However, a world not bound by canonical westerns ways of thinking and knowing cannot be established from canonical western ways of practice. Or as Donna Haraway reminds us: "It matters what matters we use to think other matters with; it matters what stories we tell to tell other stories with; it matters what knots knot knots, what thoughts think thoughts, what descriptions describe descriptions, what ties tie ties. It matters what stories make worlds, what worlds make stories." (Harraway, 2016)

The applied method of radical spatial imagination is a deliberate attempt to explore new spaces for the production of knowledge. Centred around pluriversality, positionality, and design as a research method, the project does not seek definitive conclusions. Instead, it aims to open up a space for speculative and transformative possibilities by breaking down the false construction of objectivity, embracing the creative and imaginative potentials of research, and actively engaging with other ways of knowing—both non-Western and non-anthropocentric.

In this, the project resonates with and builds on the principles of Researching Otherwise as articulated by Nitin Bathla (2024)—responding to his call to reimagine knowledge production beyond dominant epistemologies and to inhabit alternative, plural spaces of inquiry that current methods often overlook or exclude.

## Literature and general practical references

The theoretical framework for this project is constructed from a wide range of literature, theories and practices, this list provides a selection of some of the relevant works and practices:

- Staying with the trouble, D. Haraway (2016)
- Braiding Sweetgrass, R. W. Kimmerer (2020)
- Ecology without Nature, T. Morton (2009)
- Lo-Tek, J. Watson (2019)
- Some relevant papers from the field of environmental psychology (e.g. *Lumber, R., Richardson, M., & Sheffield, D. (2017). Beyond knowing nature: Contact, emotion, compassion, meaning, and beauty are pathways to nature connection. PLOS ONE, 12(5), e0177186. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0177186>; Mackay, C. M. L., & Schmitt, M. T. (2019). Do people who feel connected to nature do more to protect it? A meta-analysis. *Journal of Environmental Psychology, 65, 101323. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2019.101323> )**
- Some papers on positionality and feminist theory (e.g. *Bourke, B. (2014). Positionality: Reflecting on the Research Process. *The Qualitative Report, 19(33), 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2014.1026>**
- Researching Otherwise, N. Bathla (2024)
- Conversations with (landscape) architects and artists working with more-than-human critters
- Eco-feminist symposium
- Growing my own Mycelium
- The Mushroom at the End of the World, A. Tsing (2015)
- In Praise of Shadows, J. Tanizaki (1933)
- Terra Forma, F. Ait-Touati, A. Arènes & A. Grégoire (2022)
- Designs for the pluriverse, A. Escobar (2018)

## 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)?

My project aligns closely with the Explore Lab studio where students are enabled to explore their own fascination. The studio's open and experimental framework facilitates the use of radical spatial imagination as my research method which allows me to challenge conventional thinking and speculate on alternative futures.

The project is centered around a critical engagement with the architectural design discipline and focusses on the scale of the individual building which embeds it in the architecture track. Its engagement with broader social and environmental challenges such as critical spatial practice and ecology connect it to the inter-disciplinary and future-oriented goals of the master program as a whole.

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

This project is relevant within today's larger social, professional and scientific context as it addresses the urgent need to rethink humanities relationship with

the natural world and responds to the growing disconnection from nature in Western society.

Simultaneously, it challenges conventional architectural practices by introducing alternative ways of knowing and designing, drawing on ecofeminist thinking and pluriversal research methodologies. These contribute to a broader movement towards more inclusive, reflective and transformative architectural research and design.