

## REFLECTION

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| Studio:                     | EXPLORE LAB                        |
| Research:                   | JACUARIE MIMESIS                   |
| Graduation project:         | The TEMPLE of the NATURAL DELIGHTS |
| Main Mentor:                | Ir. Robert Nottrot                 |
| Research Mentor:            | Peter Koorstra                     |
| Building Technology Mentor: | Ir. Jan van de Voort               |
| Graduate Committee:         | Daan Vitner                        |

First of all I would like to thank all people that helped me during my graduation project. The attention and reaction that everybody gave on what I am making or thinking about provokes development and enriched the project. The possibility to Design your own assignment within Explore Lab and the amount of freedom I got was sometimes frightening and endless but overall wonderful and challenging. The ability to explore make you find out who you really are. Defining your own boundaries teaches one a lot lessons which are valuable for the future.

If I look back at the main research question – How can architecture change the infinite society of man, animals and nature in the most effective way to a community which is more sustainable? I seriously started to wonder if we humans or a tool like architecture can have any influence on the direction life is going. Probably humans are all just ant-like puppets wondering around within the bigger system called the universe.

The start of the research looks in to the development of life on earth and the underlying motives to define how and why life on earth became like it is they are now-a-days. Try to find answers on the main research question outside the realm of architecture and liberated from current dichotomies. This generated some interesting results and insights, although it is all directed by me, what if other humans have different ideas about sustainable living. Will I influence them to, hopefully the utopian vision on how I think humanity could live a sustainable life on earth evoke a discussion; on how life is lived on Earth. This could have a much broader impact on the sustainable movement then the actual project itself, because that only reaches a certain amount of people. On the one hand the plausibility of the “Temple of the Natural Delights” creates a desire.

Nevertheless building will always displace matter, use goods, cut trees, transport these and eventually build it into a solid structure and is thereby paradoxical to sustaining. What if the wishes and needs of the users change or the climate alters in time. Due to the integrated climate systems and the idea that the shape of a building creates passive comfort advantages, it is not flexible and able to adapt. Therefor I imagined a living architecture. Now-a-days man is able to design DNA, with techniques like CRISPER. It is

still a very young technique where one is only able to adjust specific elements of the codes and with lots of luck also actually succeeds according to plan. But imagine if you are able to design our own organisms. Could humanity be able to design a living architecture that is able give us shelter and provide in our needs? Feeding itself on the waste products of society and storing greenhouse gasses in the process of its growth. The contextual inputs and internal desires are the rules of its design. It will grow in perfect harmony with the gravity and other forces working on it to create a strong and stable structure which uses as little sources as possible. Likewise for climate and is therefore able to create the perfect climatological comfort for its inhibitors like the plants that grow in, the animals that use it for its convenience and the humans that dwell in it. It is for instance able to sense heat and thereby able to adjust its shape in accordance to its occupiers. Hereby I thought that I had solved the sustainability issue. Although I also had to graduate as an engineer within a certain amount of time and it was presumably impossible to validate its plausibility.

On the other hand after all my attempted to find an extraordinary formula for sustainability. I have been thinking about the merely rational approach. Am I not making the same mistake as what happened earlier in the history of mankind? That when in the enlightenment due to rationalization of reality man thought to create a better world, but in the end we ended up with a climatological crisis for instance. So ideas as man intent them can have different outcomes. The ethical aesthetics has been a big topic within the design process humanity will only change through desire. I see myself as an expressive rationalist with an architect in the making that takes 'logical' steps in order to design an try to show these in an honest manner. Although talking to many experts there have been found some flaws in the system which are not so obvious. After all we are also humans. Actually everything we love, care about and desire for is not because it has any actual quantifiable benefit for life but just because it feels good. Therefor we can try to be as good as we can for our environment and overcome the climatological crisis but we should never forget the value of freedom.

With everything on does it should never be about the end goal but about the route to it. The interaction between the object and the subject are able to mutually positively benefit each other. Being good for you environment will reward, maybe not in the pace the homo impatient wants. Perhaps it won't but it will eventually somehow somewhere. Having peace whit this phenomenon and getting addicted with stuff that does good for all is the best thing there, you should try it yourself.

FLORIAN NELEMANS