G R A D U A T I O N P L A N

Ananda de Vos

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Former Gasworks Maastricht

Images

Photograph of the building during construction from 1912, retrieved from Rick Joseph in September 2015.
Photograph of the north facade in 2015 and of the damages, taken by Martin Beumer in September 2015.

01. PERSONAL INFORMATION

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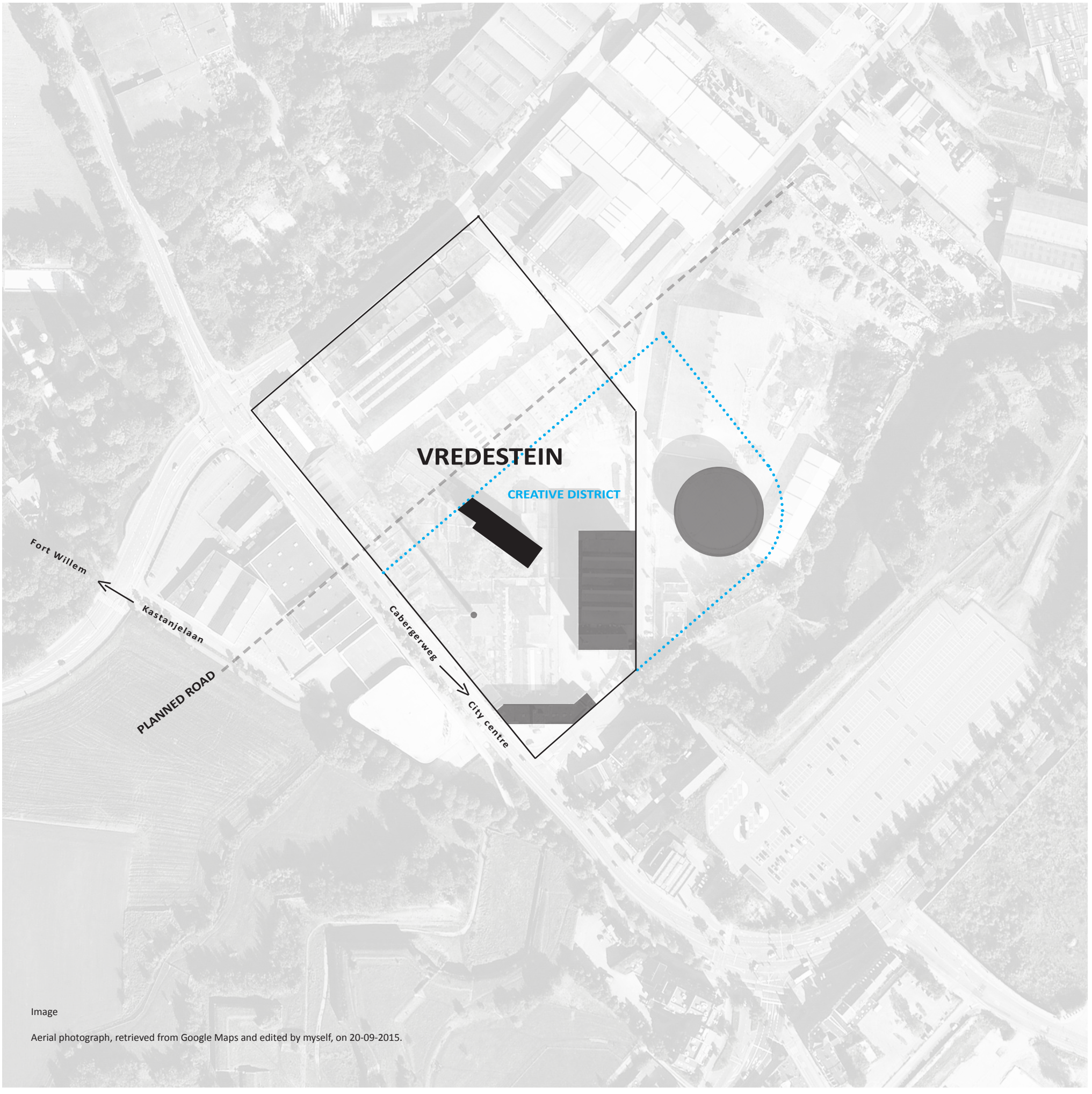
02. STUDIO

Name:	Architecture and Heritage
Teachers:	Lidy Meijers, Marie-Thérèse van Thoor and Bas Gremmen
Argumentation:	I have chosen this studio to deepen my understanding on the relation between the past and the present in the built environment. In design projects there is always some kind of existing context which the architect affects with a new design. I hope that by finding out more about the notions and traditions of the past, to be more sensitive towards the existing context.

03. GRADUATION PROJECT

Goal

Title:	Nightscapes Maastricht
Location:	Former Municipal Gasworks, Cabergerweg 45 Maastricht
Problem statement:	In many cities across Europe industrial sites have become redundant and lay vacant. In Maastricht not only the industry is moving away, the population count is also declining. The lack of funds complicates the reuse of its former industrial sites, and as a result they are fenced off. The former gas factory of the city is located in the derelict site of Vredestein. The reinforced concrete structure was engineered by Jan Gerko Wiebenga, who became the engineer of the Dutch modern architecture movement in his later career. The gas factory was in use from 1914 until 1930, and is a national monument today. Since the nineties the industrial activity slowly moved away from Vredestein, causing nature to take over its material remains. In 2014 and 2015 most of the factory halls and a large part of the former gas factory were demolished to make space for a new bridge landing. The city now envisions Vredestein as a creative district and event terrain. In some other preserved buildings the creative industry has already moved in, but the gas factory remains empty and closed off because of its damaged state.



Image

Aerial photograph, retrieved from Google Maps and edited by myself, on 20-09-2015.

The site of Vredestein is a site of memories; some have been intentionally preserved while others have been cleared for new construction. Both the site and the former gas factory have played an important role in the development of the city, but are closed off because they are not productive at the moment. But despite the fences, the site has attracted artistic interest from photographers and new kinds of activities like small events and secret parties. In its current state, it has gained the appreciation of local residents because of its indeterminate nature. It is a unique place because it is in contrast to the organized and designated city, offering more freedom for both interpretation and use. The proposed program for the former gas factory is a public place within the creative district and event terrain of Vredestein, which can house expositions in the daytime and parties at night.

Research question: How can the current state of decay of both the site and the structure add value to the experience of the space in a design for reuse?

Sub questions: What has caused the state of decay of Vredestein and the former gas factory and what characterises this state today?

How can the qualities of decay of Vredestein and the former gas factory be defined? What are these qualities? What are the challenges in preserving these qualities?

Relevance: In the reuse of built heritage, the design is often aimed at restoring the original state or image of the building. In the process of restoration many qualities that the site and building have gained over time are neglected. By exploring the qualities of decay and how these can be preserved in a reuse assignment, architects can gain more awareness of possible values which are already there at the start of the project but which are often lost at the end of the project.

Process

Method: Research by design

Because the research is about the experience of architecture, a qualitative research method is used. The process consists of three main activities; investigation, interpretation and creation. Each period of the semester focusses on one of these activities, but the others are also practiced in an iterative process. By continually repeating the cycle of learning and making, design solutions are tested and selected or rejected.

Investigation. The analysis of the location and its context are based on literature and materials from the archive. For the program and for the research themes multiple references and precedent projects are used.

Interpretation. The evaluation of the state, the city and the local residents are considered, as well as the ideas of the engineer of the gasworks. By considering these ideas and by observing which aspects of the project I am most drawn towards, I can clarify my own evaluation and personal position in writing and in diagrams.

Creation. Sketching is my preferred way of designing; especially one-point-perspective drawings and orthographic drawings. But because the structure of the chosen building is rather complex, study models offer a more accurate perception of the space.

References:

On Vredestein and the gas factory

van den Boogard, J., & Minis, S. E. (2001). Monumentengids Maastricht: Primavera Pers.
Rooij, A. v., Minis, S., & Mes, W. A. A. (2003). Bosscherveld & Belvédère: industrieterrein en uitbreidingsgebied van Maastricht (1e dr. ed.). Maastricht :: Stichting Werkgroep Industriële Archeologie Maastricht.
Loo, B. (2012). Bouwhistorische Verkenning Cabergerweg 45, Maastricht.
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Plan Palmbout for the new northern bridge and Vredestein, retrieved from Palmbout Urban Landscapes in September 2015.

Photographs taken by Martin Beumer and myself in September and October 2015.
Photographs taken by blogger Breur in 2014, retrieved in September 2015.
Photographs taken by Rick Joseph Schols around 2012, retrieved in September 2015.
Photographs taken by two Finnish bloggers in 2012, http://ghostfunfair.blogspot.nl/2012/04/radium-rubber-factory-maastricht_11.html, retrieved on 12-09-2015.
Photographs taken by Kim Zwarts, Zuiderlucht, juni-juli 2014.
Aerial photographs taken by Palmbout in 2015, retrieved from Blackboard in September 2015.
Aerial photographs and street views retrieved from Google Maps and Bing Maps in September and October 2015.

On Jan Gerko Wiebenga

Molema, J., Bak, P., & Wiebenga, J. G. (1987). Jan Gerko Wiebenga: apostel van het Nieuwe Bouwen: Uitgeverij 010.
Barbieri, U., Duin, L. v., & Jong, J. d. (1999). Honderd jaar Nederlandse architectuur, 1901-2000 : tendensen, hoogtepunten. Nijmegen: SUN.
Oosterhoff, J. (1988). Bouwtechniek in Nederland 1, Constructies van ijzer en beton: gebouwen 1800-1940, overzicht en typologie. Delft: Delftse Universitaire Pers.
Duiker, J. (1981). Hoogbouw (1930), Amsterdam : Van Gennep.
NAI. Jan Gerko Wiebenga. http://zoeken.nai.nl/CIS/persoon/3749 .

Reference projects:

On reclaiming industrial ruins

Duisburg-Nord in Germany's Ruhr region, former steelworks turned into a landscape park according to the plans of landscaper Peter Latz.
NDSM wharf in Amsterdam, former shipyard turned into creative district according to the plans of the local artists and real estate developer Ted Biesterbos.
Spoorpark Noord in Antwerp, former railway yard turned into public park according to the plans of the local residents and architecture studio Secchi-Viganò.

On the function of event terrain

Three different types of festivals with a similar size terrain as Vredestein are analysed:
Travelling theatre, dance and art festival De Parade.
Music festival Pitch, located on the terrain of the Western Gasworks in Amsterdam.
Open air cinema Pleinbioscoop in Rotterdam.

On the function of nightclub

Because there is not much available data, design principles or literature on the design of nightclubs, I have selected three clubs in Rotterdam to analyse because they are most familiar to me; Vibes, Bar and Perron.

04. TIME PLANNING

TIME	MAIN ACTIVITY	PRODUCT
MSC3 20 WEEKS	ANALYSIS Project context City and site Building	
	PRESENTATION 1 Progress review	ANALYSIS REPORT CONCEPT
	DEFINITION Program Position Research topics Research methods	
	PRESENTATION 2 Formal assessment	ANALYSIS REPORT GRADUATION PLAN
MSC4 20 WEEKS	RESEARCH Program Research topics References Design solutions	
	PRESENTATION 3 Progress review	RESEARCH REPORT DESIGN REPORT CONCEPT
	DESIGN Site Building Materials	
	PRESENTATION 4 Formal assessment	DESIGN REPORT
	PRESENTATION Communication Visualisation	
	PRESENTATION 5 Final presentation	

TIME		MAIN ACTIVITY	PRODUCT
September 2015	Week 01.	Research project context.	
	Week 02.	Site visit 1, location choice. Excursion Van Nelle Factory.	
	Week 03.	Analysis of the city and site.	
	Week 04.	Analysis of the city and site.	
	Week 05.	Analysis of the building.	
October 2015	Week 06.	Cultural values and preparation presentation.	Presentation on urban analysis
	Week 07.	Site visit 2, measurements and collecting sources.	Concept cultural values
	Week 09.	Preparation P1 report and presentation.	
	Week 09.	P1 presentation and reflection.	Concept analysis report
November 2015	Week 10.	Adjust analysis report and make a 3D model.	Virtual 3D model
	Week 11.	Define program and sketch design.	Physical 3D model 1:200
	Week 12.	Research program and sketch design.	
	Week 13.	Concept project structure and definition.	Pre-P2 presentation
December 2015	Week 14.	Draft design.	
	Week 15.	Prepare analysis report.	Analysis report
	Week 16.	Develop design, test against analysis and evaluation.	
	Week 17.	Develop design and make physical base models.	Site model 1:1000
January 2016	Week 18.	Prepare P2 presentation.	
	Week 19.	Prepare P2 presentation.	Graduation plan
	Week 20.	P2 presentation and reflection.	Fragment models of each scale Masterplan site 1:1000 Building design 1:200 Facade fragment 1:50

TIME		MAIN ACTIVITY	PRODUCT
	Week 21.	Model making on scale of the site, research on festivals.	1:1000 models
	Week 22.	Model making on scale of the building, research on nightclubs.	1:200 models
February 2016	Week 23.	Model making on scale of the facade, research on decay and lighting.	1:50 models
	Week 24.	Document models, test against the ideas of Wiebenga.	
	Week 25.	Design draft and evaluation cultural values and research.	
	Week 26.	Design draft and evaluation cultural values and research.	
March 2016	Week 27.	Preparation P3 research report.	Research report
	Week 28.	Preparation P3 presentation.	
	Week 29.	P3 presentation and reflection.	Research models on each scale Masterplan site 1:1000 Building design 1:200 and 1:100 Facade fragment 1:50 and 1:10
April 2016	Week 30.	Adjust research report.	
	Week 31.	Model making on each scale.	Physical 3D model 1:200
	Week 32.	Review design, test against cultural values and research.	
	Week 33.	Adjust design.	Pre-P2 presentation
May 2016	Week 34.	Create a draft design to test cultural values and thematic research.	
	Week 35.	Develop design, test against analysis and research.	
	Week 36.	Develop design, test against analysis and research.	
	Week 37.	Preparation P4 design report.	Design report
June 2016	Week 38.	Preparation P4 presentation.	
	Week 39.	P4 presentation and reflection.	Research and presentation models on each scale Masterplan site 1:1000 Building design 1:200 and 1:100 Facade fragment 1:50 and 1:10
	Week 40.	Prepare final presentation, adjust structure.	
	Week 41.	Prepare final presentation, adjust visualisation.	
July 2016	Week 42.	P5 presentation and reflection.	P5 presentation