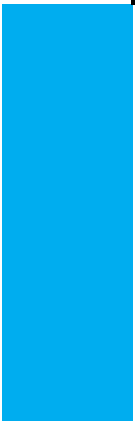


# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

M  
a  
s  
t  
e  
r



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

<b>Personal information</b>	
Name	Sarem James Sunderland
Student number	4421515
Telephone number	0630860420
E-mail address	sarem@sunderland.ch
<b>Studio</b>	
Name / Theme	Flowscapes
Teachers	Frits van Loon, Luisa Calabrese
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Motivation for the studio's position in contemporary landscape architecture: infrastructure as a type landscape and landscape as a type of infrastructure. The studio is my opportunity to engage with landscape from the perspective of infrastructure, in an integral approach, to face the complexity of the landscape and its manifold spatial dimensions.
<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	Valley of the Vajont: reconciling people and landscape
<b>Goal</b>	
Location:	Valley of the Vajont, Italy: rural valley located in the Carnic Prealps, part of the Italian Alps. Approx. 90 km North from Venice and 50 km from the Austrian-Italian border.

## The posed problem,

As a piece of territory (land occupied by human), the valley of the Vajont is weak. Two major regional problematiques are interwoven in leading to this declining condition: on one hand, the exodus occurring in rural alpine landscapes; on the other hand, the economical and social consequences of the the Vajont dam catastrophe. The event took place in 1963, when the newly built dam lead a 200 million cubic metres portion of the Mt Toc to slide into the reservoir and generate a tsunami. The 250 metres high wave wrecked the lower part of the valley and spread to the neighbouring Piave valley where it destroyed entire villages; altogether, over 1900 people lost life, of which 158 people in the Vajont valley.

The combination of the two leads people to progressively detach from their landscape, in emotion and function. Half the houses are already deserted, fields are increasingly abandoned and the site of the disaster remains a no man's land - whereas in the Piave valley, all wrecked grounds have already been recovered. The attempt of hydroelectric exploitation failed and the tourism that followed is now decreasing. The tragic events and the shameful post-disaster management left deep, long-lasting emotional damage. Places of commemoration found in myriads in the Piave valley are here scarce and informal, apart from the accidental remaining of the dam (the 'murderer' still in the landscape). And for the newcomer, the opportunities of engaging with this landscape are few: most of it can only be seen from the road, appart from the dam for which one pays for a guided tour. The valley appears as a neglected reality, one more in the cupboard of the big shames of Italy. The landscape is the support of these societal processes. An approach for a spatial intervention based on the landscape allows to deal directly with the complexity of these processes and their interrelations.

<p>research questions and</p>	<p>What makes the topography and the atmosphere of the valley? What is its spatial experience? What are the potentials to work with as a landscape architect?</p> <p>What are the main systems and processes at stake: ecological (landslides, succession), economical (agriculture, forestry, industry, tourism, services, seasonal work) and social (politics, communities, emigration, emotions)?</p> <p>What are their spatial dimensions?</p> <p>To intervene, in these processes: how can they be transformed and directed? How can people reconcile with their landscape? How can the landscape deal with emotional damage? How can economic conditions be created/improved? How can people live with the natural processes that occur? How can the turistic experience be re-inforced?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The project consists in the creation of a new topography to bring reconciliation between inhabitants and landscape, and through this provide solutions for the ecological, economical and social problems at stake.</p> <p>This takes place through the creation of a network of places along the lower section of the valley. In each place, a spatial experience is created/accentuated to reveal its own Genius Loci. These places are connected to each other and to the other places of the valley by a network of paths and road.</p> <p>The means used are water- and landform transformation as infrastructure for news forms of exploitation, occupation and activities; localised architectural interventions; extension and spatial transformation of the network of paths and roads.</p>
<p>This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.</p>	

>

<p><b>Process</b></p>
<p><b>Method description</b></p>

Based on the approach of research by design, the method consists of two main steps. Each corresponds approximately to one semester of work.

## 1. First step: explore, define, outline - understanding of the site, definition of the assignment

- Site and context analysis:
  - site visit: spatial exploration, semi-structured face-to-face interviews and engaged action with local actors, cultural exploration (i.e. museums), participation in local commemorative events.
  - mapping of different dimensions of the spatial environment (physical space and topography, natural processes at stake, economical context, social context, emotions)
  - modelling (of the main topographic dimensions such as relief, settlements, communication infrastructures, water)
  - site-specific literature studies
- Design experiments based on different landscape architectural approaches to the site (memory and transmission, tourism infrastructure, water- and landform transformations). These experiments allow to formulate possible assignments and project ideas. They are meant to define the objective of the project. They discussed and further elaborated through engaged action with professors and students
- Methodological framework research: methodology paper on landscape as an infrastructure for memory and hope. Achieved through literature and precedent studies

## 2. Second step: design

- Design process:
  - design experiments - these take place within the framework established in the first step. They are meant to define the means to achieve the project's objective.
  - engaged action with teachers, experts and students
  - second site visit to confront ideas with local actors
- Elaboration of site context:
  - interviews and/or engaged actions with local actors and experts
  - literature studies
  - mapping
  - modelling
- Elaboration of methodological framework:
  - literature studies
  - precedent studies
  - engaged action

## Literature and general practical preference

Literature for site context research:

'Il Vajont doppio il Vajont', Reberschak, M.

'Il Grande Vajont', Reberschak, M.

'La Pieve e le Regole', Vendramini, F.

'Una strada lunga cent'anni (da Longarone a Cimolais)', Deon Cardin, E.

'Vajont, storia della valle', Mazzucco, E., Mazzuco, R.

'Vajont e le altre dighe', Mazzucco, E., Mazzuco, R.

Literature for methodology research:

'Intermediate Nature: The Landscapes of Michel Desvignes', Corner, J., Tiberghien, G. A.

'L'art de la mémoire, le territoire et l'architecture', Marot, S.

'Trace, forme ou message', Debray, R., in 'La confusion des monuments', Cahiers de médiologie, Melot, M.

'Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories', Potteiger, M., Purinton, J.

'European Landscape Transformations: The Urban Residue', Lowenthal, D., in 'Understanding ordinary landscapes', Groth, P., Bressi, T. W.

'Hameaux de forestage: Vestiges - Vertiges de la Guerre d'Algérie en France', Bouvier, F.

'Memory in architecture', Tanovic, S.

'The emotional landscape', Sijmons, D., Dorst, M. van in 'Landscape and Energy Designing Transition', Sijmons, D., Hugtenburg, J., Feddes, F., Hoorn, A. van

## Reflection

### Relevance

Scientific relevance:

Establishing of an case of reconciliation through spatial design, addressing problematiques of the contemporary alpine landscape (rural decline, large-scale infrastructure, change and traditions) and of post-catastrophic landscapes (transmission of memory, regeneration).

Societal relevance:

Confronting reality and current developments with a new perspective for the declining living environment that the valley of the Vajont is and for its inhabitants.

Personal relevance:

Experience of intervening in alpine landscapes (motivated by personal background and fascination), of dealing with issues of memory and territory (motivated by personal thematic interest) and of approaching landscape as an infrastructure and an integrative practice.

## Time planning

See attached

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	P5
P5 preparation: visual representation, models						
Projection test in room						
Send report to print						
Decor preparation						
Design and send invitations						
P4 preparation: established objective and design, representation draft						
Second site visit						
Model 1:1						
Report writing						
Consult offers for book printers						
Designing with natural processes hand-in						
P3 preparation: established objective and conceptual design, design solution draft						
Model 1:100						
QGIS training week						
Designing with natural processes draft						
Reserve room for final presentation						
Design + print + send invitations						
Interviews transcription and layout						
Methodology paper hand-in						