

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), 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	Nino van Dijk	
Student number	5861667	
Studio		
Name / Theme	Revitalising Heritage	
Main mentor	Arnold Hermkens	Architecture
Second mentor	Marie-Thérèse van Thoor	Research
Third mentor	Thijs Bennebroek	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Ambition to work with existing architecture after graduation. Unique chance to work and research adaptive reuse of Industrial Heritage. My MSc1 choice was also H&A and want to explore this part of architecture even more.	
Graduation project		
Title of the graduation project	Genius Loci in Architecture: Spirit of Place As An Adaptive Reuse Strategy To Revitalise De Biesboschhal	
Goal		
Location:	Dordrecht, NL	
The posed problem,	<p>The adaptive reuse of heritage for the sustainable regeneration of industrial sites must balance economic, environmental, social, and cultural objectives. However, in practice, the adaptation process is often predominantly guided by economic and environmental considerations, with social and cultural goals being subordinate.</p> <p>As is stated in International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and TICCIH's <i>Joint ICOMOS – TICCIH Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes "The Dublin Principles"</i> "The industrial heritage is</p>	

"highly vulnerable and often at risk, often lost for lack of awareness, documentation, recognition or protection but also because of changing economic trends, negative perceptions, environmental issues or its sheer size and complexity." This vulnerability is further stressed by Cristian Wicke, who claims that "since the mid-20th century, however, energy transitions and increasing economic globalization have left urbanized regions in highly industrialised countries extremely vulnerable."

This vulnerability results in the loss of traces of culture, as the industrial heritage is often a bearer of tangible and intangible cultural values. These values give a place its character and is determined by how things are in our every day life-world concrete phenomena. By determining these unique value's, the spirit of place can be grasped.

The crucial task at hand is to regenerate these threatened historic sites in such a way that it does not lose its identity or spirit. There has been ongoing debate on what is the best strategy to approach such a complex task. Genius Loci and its goal to include site and building specific characteristics might construct a relatively new design strategy for the reuse of vacant industrial heritage building stock that has not gotten the attention in the academic world that it deserves.

In the context of the Biesboschhal in Dordrecht, Netherlands, preserving this spirit of place is crucial for maintaining the Waterdriehoek's historical and cultural identity. This research attempts to provide guiding principles for the adaptive reuse of the Biesboschhal. Although the building's physical appearance shows signs of decay, the values related to the genius loci could

	proof essential to maintain both the building and site's spirit of place.
research questions and	<p>The research questions that are formulated respond to the problem statement. The main question, together with the sub questions, forms the groundwork of the research. The main question of the research is as follows:</p> <p><i>"How is the spirit of place preserved in Twentieth-Century industrial heritage after adaptive reuse?"</i></p> <p>The question explores the delicate balance between maintaining the unique character and atmosphere of historic industrial sites while adapting them for new, modern purposes. It delves into how adaptive reuse strategies can ensure that these sites, with their rich historical, social, and architectural significance, retain their essence or genius loci — the spirit of place — even as they are transformed to meet contemporary needs.</p> <p>To help answer the main question three subquestions are composed:</p> <p><i>SQ1: "What is genius loci?"</i></p> <p><i>SQ2: "What adaptive reuse strategies already exist and how can they contribute to discovery of the genius loci?"</i></p> <p><i>SQ3: "How is the spirit of place preserved in transformed case studies?"</i></p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The thesis results could provide important input for the Heritage & Architecture Graduation Studio design brief. Although the design is not incorporated in the research, findings during the research can be processed into the design and vice versa.</p> <p>The design brief centers on the 20th-century industrial monument 'De Biesboschhal' located in the De Staart</p>

	<p>area of Dordrecht. This site, once a wharf dedicated to shipbuilding, has now transformed into a developing urban district. De Biesboschhal, along with the kraanspoor, are the last remaining traces of the former shipyards. It is therefore crucial to discover the genius loci these structures embody, ensuring their preservation within the evolving urban landscape.</p>
<p>Process Method description</p> <p>To be able to answer the composed questions of the research a combination of research methods is needed. First a literature review will be conducted to gain an understanding of the genius loci theory and to what extent it can contribute to maintaining the spirit of place of historical sites and buildings. Additionally, multiple heritage design approaches will be looked into to bring to light how these treat the genius loci theory within their strategies. In this way a position can be taken to help identify what exactly is the genius loci of a place. Thirdly, a case study research will be executed to link theory with practice and gain knowledge of adaptive reuse's current state. Examining how these projects succeeded or failed in preserving the building's characteristics and identity will provide insight into the role of the genius loci theory in this context.</p> <p>The findings and outcomes of the thesis will be implemented in the design assignment from the Heritage and Architecture Graduation Studio, contributing to preserve the spirit of place of De Staart in Dordrecht and in the larger scale, the Waterdriehoek.</p>	

Literature and general practical references

Literature:

Bell, Daniel. *Welcome to the Post-Industrial Society*. Physics Today 29, no. 2 (1976): 46–49

Bliek, Desmond, Gauthier, P. *Mobilising Urban Heritage to Counter the Commodification of Brownfield Landscapes: Lessons from Montreal's Lachine Canal*. Canadian Journal of Urban Research, vol. 16(1), 2006 (pp. 39-58).

Boesch, Martin, L. Lupini, and J. F. Machado, eds. *Yellowred: On Reused Architecture*. Mendrisio: Mendrisio Academy Press; Cinisello Balsamo, Italy: Silvana Editoriale, 2017.

Chilingaryan, Naira. *Industrial Heritage: In-Between Memory and Transformation*. PhD diss., Bauhaus- Universität Weimar, 2014.

Douet, James. *Industrial Heritage Re-Tooled: The TICCIH Guide to Industrial Heritage*. 2nd ed. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2021.

Gilad, Uri, J. Wingender, A. Pronkhorst. *Architecture Repurposed*. Amsterdam: nai010 Publishers, 2024.

Hall, Stuart. *Who Needs Identity?* In Questions of Cultural Identity, edited by Stuart Hall and Paul du Gay, pp. 1-17. London: SAGE Publications, 2000.

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). *Approaches to the Conservation of Twentieth-Century Cultural Heritage*. Paris: ICOMOS, 2017.

ICOMOS, TICCIH. *Joint ICOMOS-TICCIH Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes, «The Dublin Principles»*. Paris: 17th ICOMOS, 2011

Kuipers, Marieke, and Wessel de Jonge. *Designing from Heritage: Strategies for Conservation and Conversion*. Delft: TU Delft Open, 2017.

Norberg-Schulz, Christian. *Genius Loci: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture*. London: Academy Editions, 1980.

Plevoets, Bie, and K. Van Cleempoel. *Adaptive Reuse of the Built Heritage: Concepts and Cases of an Emerging Discipline*. London: Routledge, 2019

Smith, Laurajane. *Uses of Heritage*. New York: Routledge, 2006.

TICCIH. *The Nizhny Tagil Charter for the Industrial Heritage*, 2003, Retrieved October 5, 2024, from <https://ticcih.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NTagilCharter.pdf>

Wicke, Christian. *Industrial Heritage and Regional Identities*. New York: Routledge, 2018.

Zumthor, Peter. *Atmospheres: Architectural Environments, Surrounding Objects*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2006.

Practical references:

Project site:

Stadswerven. "Stadswerven." Accessed January 14, 2025.

<https://www.stadswerven.nl/>

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)?

The topic of this Graduation Studio, Revitalising Heritage, aligns with my research intentions. By researching adaptive reuse with genius loci new insights can be implemented into the architectural design strategy to contribute to heritage preservation with a phenomenology based approach.

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

The significance of the graduation work lies in the growing number of adaptive reuse projects and the pressing need to preserve existing structures with minimal loss of cultural values. By integrating a theoretical framework grounded in the preservation of the spirit of place and evaluating whether these principles are reflected in contemporary adaptive reuse strategies, the study aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on preservation strategies, introducing a approach based on the unique characteristics of place and the cultural significance tied to industrial heritage. This research could introduce an alternative adaptive reuse strategy than the commonly used principles generated by the conservation sector.