

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	Rick Klootwijk	
Student number	5944260	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Design of the Urban Fabric	
Main mentor	Teake Bouma	Urban Design
Second mentor	Remon Rooij	Spatial Planning & Strategy
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I chose the studio 'Design of the Urban Fabric' because my preferred scale level to work on is the neighbourhood scale. I like working on assignments that make the translation between city-scale issues and actual design. What spatial issues are at hand in a city and how can these be tackled by redesigning the urban fabric? For me, the designing aspect of urbanism is the most interesting because it aims to translate strategic statements to reality. The studio 'Design of the Urban Fabric' offers the possibility to make this translation, hence my choice for this studio.	

Graduation project		
Title of the graduation project	Reinventing working-class identity: A transformation framework for Oud Crooswijk	
Goal		
Location:	Oud Crooswijk	
The posed problem:	[Problem Statement]	
The application of social mixing in Rotterdam threatens the authenticity of the city. Rotterdam knew a large working-class population. However, due to poverty in the 1970s (Maandag, 2019) and the labour market shifting from a manual labor and production economy towards a knowledge economy in the past 50 years (Pilgrim-Brown, 2023), the city wanted to become more attractive for middle- and upper class people. Urban renewal assignments offered opportunities for this. In these assignments, the concept of social mixing would be applied (blending of different social classes in a city and/or neighbourhood). The idea of this concept is that it improves the overall quality		

and livability of cities because it enhances economic efficiency¹ and distributive equity² (Delorenzi, 2006).

However, in many Rotterdam neighbourhoods (Crooswijk in particular), this means that housing for working-class has to make room for more expensive housing which the working-class cannot afford. As a result, the working-class are pushed out of their neighbourhoods. Due to this, together with the shift towards a knowledge economy, the working-class character becomes less distinct in these neighbourhoods with the threat looming that this 'working-class' identity to disappear entirely.

This 'working-class' identity however, is a vital element in the city's DNA³, which Rotterdam deems vital for the wellbeing of its citizens. The 'DNA' is what makes Rotterdam authentic and stand out (DNA, n.d).

Oud Crooswijk currently is in dire need of urban renewal. To prevent the disappearance of the working-class identity in this process, this thesis will aim to transform the neighbourhood while reinventing the working-class identity.

research questions

[Research Question]

Main Question

How to reinvent the working-class identity and improve the spatial quality of Oud Crooswijk through transformation of the urban fabric?

Subquestions

1. What defines the working-class identity of Oud Crooswijk?
2. How does the identity of Oud Crooswijk translate to spatial characteristics?
3. What are the ambitions and core values for the transformation of Oud Crooswijk?
4. What is the transformation assignment for Oud Crooswijk?
5. How to translate the ambitions and core values to design principles?
6. How to apply the design principles in order to reinvent the working-class identity of Oud Crooswijk?

design assignment in which these result.

Creating a transformation framework for the urban renewal of Oud Crooswijk

Assignment: Enhancing Spatial quality

The urgency for urban renewal, requires an impulse into the spatial quality of the neighbourhood. According to the Dutch Rijksdienst Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE), spatial quality comes from cultural heritage consisting of architectural quality, urban quality and quality of the natural landscape. Ultimately, spatial quality is defined as the synergy between origin value, experience value, use value and future value

¹e.g. making society as a whole better off by enhancing solidarity, labour productivity and community sustainability

²improving the life-chances and social inclusion of disadvantaged groups

³ The 'DNA' of Rotterdam consists of the characteristics that make the city stand out and are described by the words Bold (Rauw), Forward (Ondernemend) and Culture (Internationaal)

(Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties, 2022 & (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed [RCE], 2022). In order to achieve this synergy, a transformation framework will be created to facilitate in the need for urban renewal.

Guiding theme: *Reinventing the 'working-class' identity:*

The goal of the transformation framework is to preserve the neighbourhood identity. However, the definition of 'working-class' has become diffused and less distinct over the past 50 years (Pilgrim-Brown, 2023) . Therefore, the guiding theme for the transformation framework will be the reinvention of the 'working-class' identity.

Process

Method description

The formulated assignment will be dissected into multiple objectives which largely align with the research questions. These objectives can be seen as steps to achieve the desired goals set in the assignment.

1. Defining the Identity of Oud Crooswijk

The first step is to (re)establish what the 'working-class' identity of Oud Crooswijk is. Since the modern-day 'working-class' identity is less distinct, this will be based on the theory of Dr. Pilgrim-Brown (2023), Gildea (2021) and Rolfe (2017). This theory has been developed as a new way to define modern-day 'working-class' identity.

The methods used to define this identity will consists of interviews with neighbourhood residents, archive research and literature- and data review.

The interviews will be used to establish how the residents identify themselves. The archive research and literature review will dive deeper in the history of the neighbourhood and what can be described as defining for the identity. The data-review will be used to establish common occupations, housing status, financial status and access to goods and technologies. These are the main definitions used to describe if people can be classified as 'working-class' according to the theory of Dr. Pilgrim-Brown (2023), Gildea (2021) and Rolfe (2017).

2. Translating identity to spatial characteristics

The transformation framework aims to propose spatial interventions, therefore it is of importance that the identity is being translated to spatial elements. This will be done by making an inventory of the spatial elements that characterize the neighbourhood. This will be done according to the evaluation method created by the Rijksdienst van het Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE) in 2014. This method has been created to inventory and evaluate and spatial elements to see if they can be considered cultural heritage. This method is relevant for this thesis because the RCE states that cultural heritage enhances the 'identity' of a place and the feeling of 'home' (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed [RCE],

2022). This inventory and evaluation will happen based on a spatial analysis of the neighbourhood. This analysis will consist of fieldwork, literature reviews of historical documents and various drawings and maps such as plans, sections and 3D drawings/images.

3. Defining core values

After the definition of the identity and its translation to space, the ambitions for the transformation can be formulated. This ambition will describe how the cultural heritage will be handled in order to take optimal advantage of its qualities. This description will be done by creating core values. These core values will be foundational for the transformation in order to reinvent the identity.

These core values will be created by categorizing the spatial characteristics into different values. This categorization will consist of (1) High value, (2) Positive value, (3) Indifferent value and (4) no value. Each spatial element that is considered to characterize the neighbourhood will be valued according to these categories. This will give insight in the spatial elements that have to be preserved in order to preserve and reinvent the working-class identity. Simultaneously, it also generates room for what parts of the urban fabric can be more easily transformed without damaging spatial elements which are vital for the identity. This categorization and evaluation is based once again on a theory and method of the Rijksdienst of het Cultureel erfgoed (2014). The core values will be foundational for the development of the design principles. The presentation of these values will be through drawings of plans, sections and (3D) images.

4. Defining the transformation assignment of Oud Crooswijk?

After the establishment of core values, the transformation assignment will be formulated. What spatial- and social issues need to be addressed? And what are the needs and wishes of the inhabitants? Additionally to this, there also needs to be an inventory of the current trends and transitions that influence the urban fabric. Think of transitions which are needed to combat the consequences of climate change for example.

This will be done by data-analysis and policy reviews. The data analysis will look for potential spatial assignments in the neighbourhood. The policy reviews will look to establish what current (spatial transitions) on the city- and national scale mean for Oud Crooswijk. This policy review will start with the Nationale Omgevingsvisie (2021) for national policies, and with the Omgevingsvisie Rotterdam 2050: de veranderstad (2021).

This step will conclude by combining core values with the spatial assignments and transitions in order to formulate one clear transformation assignment.

5. Translating core values to design principles

The fifth step is translating the assignment and core values to design principles. According to the RCE, this step allows the transformation framework to translate valuable spatial elements to design. (Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed [RCE], 2022).

The design principles will create guidelines for the transformation. They will make statements about the spatial elements and how they will be utilized. This can be done by (1) bringing back spatial elements, (2) re-interpreting them or (3) creating new (contrasting) spatial characteristics. Important side note however, these 3 options form the foundation for now, but during the process, the option will probably be changed and expanded. The design principles will be presented by drawings of diagrams, plans and sections and will be supported by writing.

6. Application of design principles

The final step is to apply the design principles. The aim of the design principles is to show that, reinventing the identity of Oud Crooswijk through urban renewal, is not dependent on a fixed outcome. With the design principles, the transformation framework rather offers a tool that can achieve the desired goal. But with an outcome that can be adapted based on the needs and wishes of the future developers, architects or other users. The objective of this is to show that different designs can lead to the same outcome of reinventing the identity. (Jaoude et al., 2022 & Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed [RCE], 2022).

These principles will be applied and tested through a scenario-study. These variants and scenarios will be explored at the hand of plans, sections and a 3D model. The application of the design principles will first serves as testing tool in order to test if the design principles achieve the desired outcomes. The testing will be done through SWOT-analyses⁴. After the design principles have been tested and approved, the design scenario's will serve as inspiration for future users of the framework. This will help to show future users how the design principles can be used and applied.

Literature and general practical references

Delorenzi, S. (2006) Introduction, in: S. Delorenzi (Ed.) *Going Places: Neighbourhood, Ethnicity and Social Mobility*, pp.1–11 (London: Institute for Public Policy Research).

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Lees, L. (2008). Gentrification and social mixing: towards an inclusive urban renaissance? *Urban Studies*, 45(12), 2449–2470. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098008097099>

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Musterd, S., Ostendorf, W. and de Vos, S. (2003) *Neighborhood effects and social mobility*, Housing Studies, 18(6), pp. 877–892.

NPO (Director). (2018, April). *Crème de la Crooswijk* [NPO Start].

<https://npo.nl/start/serie/creme-de-la-crooswijk/seizoen-1/creme-de-la-crooswijk>

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Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed [RCE]. (2014). Eenheid en verscheidenheid: een zoektocht naar een integrale cultuurhistorische waardestelling van het materiële erfgoed. In *Cultureelerfgoed.nl*. Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed.

Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed [RCE]. (2022). Transformeren met cultureel erfgoed.: Handreiking voor het opstellen van transformatiekaders. In *Cultureelerfgoed.nl*. Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed.

Van Es, E. V. E., Voerman, L., & Gemeente Rotterdam. (2019). *Crooswijk - Rubroek: Cultuurhistorische verkenning*.

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)?

Graduation topic focusses on how urban renewal in a neighbourhood can lead to less social equity and how this can impact the wellbeing of a city. And therefore focusses strongly on the interplay between the physical urban environment (elements, materials, form, scales, density and networks) and the socio-cultural,

ecological, and economic processes to foster sustainable and liveable places. This interplay is at the centre of the graduation studio Design of the urban fabric. Therefore, there is a strong relation-ship between my project and the studio. Additionally, the focus of both my topic and the studio lies on the neighbourhood scale. However, it also addresses the urgency of how spatial interventions on this level affect the larger scale. Lastly the strong focus on design is what makes the project and studio strongly related. The core focus of the project is on the existing urban fabric of Rotterdam and aims to figure out how ambitions and goals formulated on higher scales get real forms, spaces and materialization on the human scale.

In relation to the master's track Urbanism, the strongest relation with the project is the focus on sustainable urbanization. The graduation process stresses the need for a certain identity in order for Rotterdam to stay authentic and stand out. These conditions are what Rotterdam desires to facilitate an attractive urban environment for it's new and current citizens. However, with the current approach of social mixing the project stresses how this could lead to a less attractive urban environment and thus can be considered as not sustainable.

Additionally, the project addresses how the need for topics such as climate adaptivity and circularity create more complexity for urban renewal assignments. These topics are of vital importance in order to ensure the focus of the Urbanism department which is the (re)creation of sustainable urban landscapes. The graduation project addressing the topics of sustainable urbanization, climate adaptivity and circularity therefore make the project strongly related to the Master's track of Urbanism.

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

In the larger social- and scientific framework, this project addresses the urgency for the need of identity for a city in order to provide sustainable urbanization. Urban renewal assignment are necessary everywhere around the globe, and in many of these assignments we also see how this leads to gentrification and the exclusion of people. Since this is a global phenomenon, the findings from this project will contribute to the body of knowledge on the urban renewal of neighbourhoods in relation to gentrification. I think this contribution can be very valuable because combatting the negative effects of gentrification is still under oftentimes under debate.