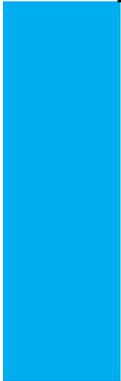


# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners ([Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl](mailto: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	Maud Ebbers
Student number	4741935

Studio		
Name / Theme	Planning Complex Cities	
Main mentor	Caroline Newton	Spatial Planning & Strategy
Second mentor	Tanja Herdt	Urban Design
Argumentation of choice of the studio	This studio is helping me to develop a strategy towards increasing citizen participation within the context (semi)public space of (urban) focus areas in transformation, while keeping a (socio-political) critical view on resiliency and social networks.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Reclaiming (Semi)Public Space
Goal	
Location:	Bospolder and Tussendijken, Rotterdam
The posed problem,	<p><i>This thesis criticizes socio-spatial inequality within vulnerable urban areas (from now on "(urban) focus areas". It will bring forth several perspectives on past, current, and upcoming necessary developments in Bospolder and Tussendijken, the case study location.</i></p> <p>Therefore, the definition, emerge and context of 'focus areas' will be elaborated. Political preferences influence spatial planning. For years the government dealt with focus areas in the same way or not? This thesis starts with two timelines, which are serving as the starting point. One on the shifts of people (<i>see figure 1</i>), which is showing the constellation of people living in poverty has changed due to various migration processes over time, which have been caused by a transition in our welfare state (Van Steenberg, 2020). Second, on the shifts in planning (<i>see figure 2</i>), which is showing several important milestones in the Dutch planning process, one of the most striking is that there is no spatial planning portfolio anymore since 2010. Many parties want to say something about spatial planning, but nobody really has the charge over it (Provoost, 2020).</p> <p>The third timeline (<i>see figure 3</i>) in the thesis research shows the effect of the shifts in governance and spatial planning (attitude), there is a change in language</p>

use, from “working-class-area” to “deprived area” to “focus area”. Most effects have a negative influence on planning for people and for communal or shared facilities and sources. Underpinned by *the trend* ((newspaper) articles) and *the today* (current (vision)plans and projects).

It is the nature of man to meet, look for example at the influence on loneliness of the Covid-19-situation now, and most of the encounters happen in semi-public space (Van Eijk, 2010). Van Eijk argues that ‘neighbourhood effect’ studies often overlook the fact that people encounter and engage with fellow-residents not in ‘the neighbourhood as a whole’ but in settings located in the neighbourhood such as schools, community centres, playgrounds and one’s ‘micro-neighbourhood’ of adjacent and nearby dwellings. Thus, to the extent that relationships are formed within the neighbourhood, this happens in specific neighbourhood settings. The composition of these settings is reflected in people’s networks rather than in the entire neighbourhood. (Kleinhans, 2010). Neighbourhood settings are most important for urban focus areas, because resource-poor people have a small movement scale, the quality of (semi-)public space plays an important role in this (Gehl, 2011). *So, this research strives for a change in the Dutch attitude towards spatial planning and/ of focus areas.*

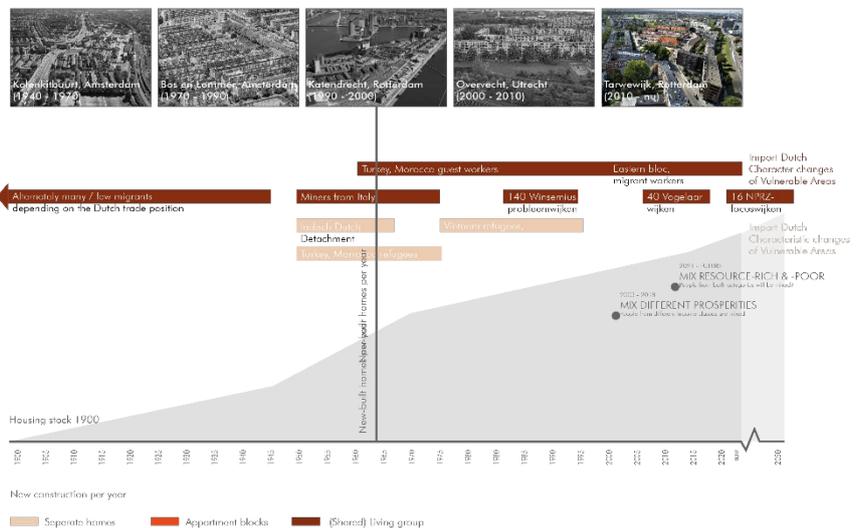


Figure 1. Timeline 1: 'Shifts of People'

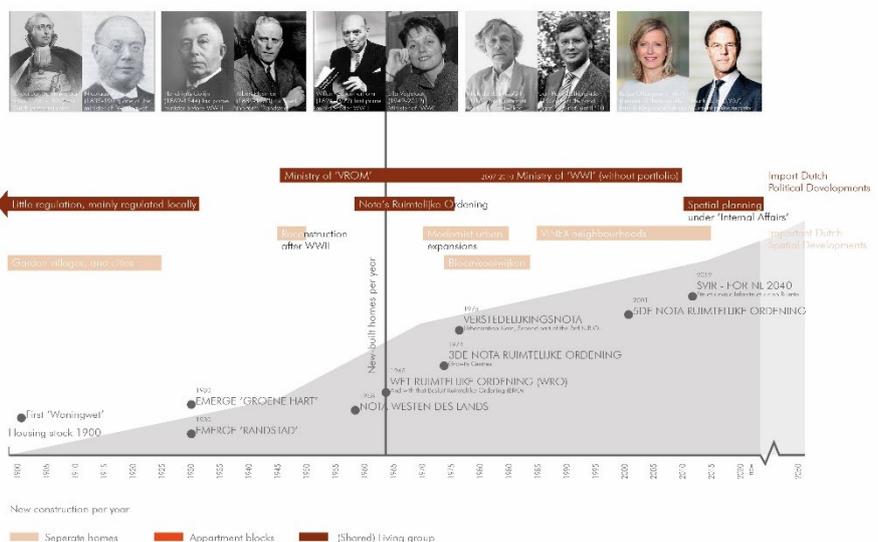
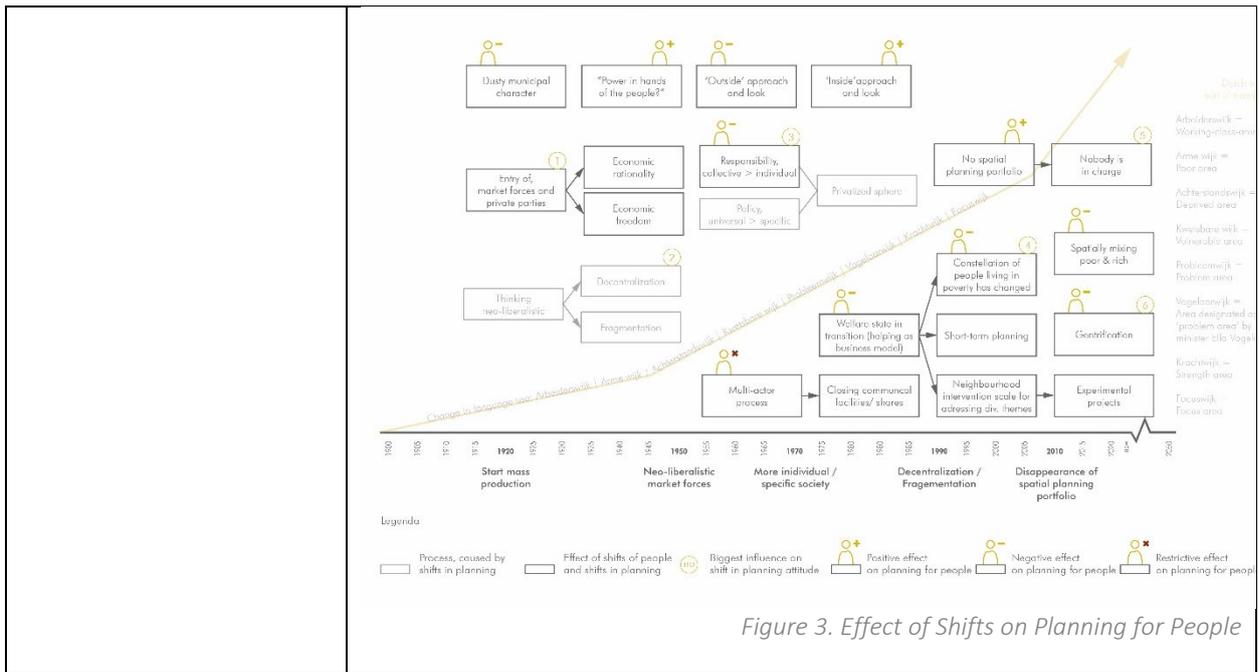


Figure 2. Timeline 2: 'Shifts in Planning'



**research questions and**

**Main research question:**  
*How can an asset atlas support true cross-understanding between all actors and their moving motives for focus areas, in the (semi)public space of a Rotterdam' resiliency showcase?*

**Sub research questions:**  
 SRQ1. What is the concept of focus areas in the Netherlands and Rotterdam?  
 SRQ2. What is the Rotterdam planning strategy in respect with focus areas?  
 SRQ3. What are social and spatial, potential untapped opportunities in (semi)public?  
 SRQ4. Who are the actors in Resilient BoTu2028, and what are their moving motives?  
 SRQ5. How to generate an atlas, with particular attention to (semi)public space, for cross-understanding, accounting for the short and long term?

**design assignment in which these result.**

*Design in semi-public space(s) that stimulate encounters and a resource-rich neighbourhood with many communal self-organization, facilities, and shares. Stijn Oosterlynck (2020) calls it a nationalization of solidarity.*

Assuming that a residential area must be a safe, liveable, and inclusive living environment, a list of criteria is composed, gained by literature study, to create a strategy towards how the Dutch planning attitude for and the Dutch way of dealing with urban focus areas can be changed. The following criteria play an important role in reclaiming urban focus areas: accepting the change of Dutch culture (1), putting self-interest in planning aside (2), dealing with problems quickly (3), improving the quality of semi-public space (4), stimulating opportunities to encounter (5), and increasing the range of amenities (6). In semi-public space most (accidental) encounters happen and on its' turn that is one of the conditions for a liveable and a safe space, a relationship of trust with the spatial environment. The criteria will generate a discussion for further research, analysis, and socio-spatial design, because they will be used to create a strategy towards how planning for urban focus areas can be more cohesive.

A misunderstanding between different actors' perspectives is revealed by a disappeared spatial planning portfolio and a New Environmental Act (Nieuwe Omgevingswet, NOVI) which are moving away from national authority (Provoost, 2020), and a transition in 'our' welfare state (Van Steenberg, 2020).

Possible interventions are compared against the criteria, which leads to several design goals. The design goals will be checked by participatory design with the residents of Bospolder and Tussendijken.

*The Dutch attitude towards spatial planning needs to change.*

## Process

### Method description

In the Methodological Framework (see figure 4) and Methods & Theory Framework (see figure 5), the methods and techniques of the research and design can be found.

In the Methodological Framework the frames of 'Participation', 'Goals', 'Criteria', and the 'Socio-Spatial Framework' are representing the methods which will be used. Planning for and with the residents of Bospolder and Tussendijken by participatory design, checking the design interventions with the criteria for (re)claiming semi-public space to stimulate encounters.

In the Methods & Theory Framework the dark red frames of 'Methods | Theoretical' and 'Methods | Practical' are representing the methods and the light red frames of 'Theories x Analysis' and 'Socio-Spatial Framework' represent the techniques.

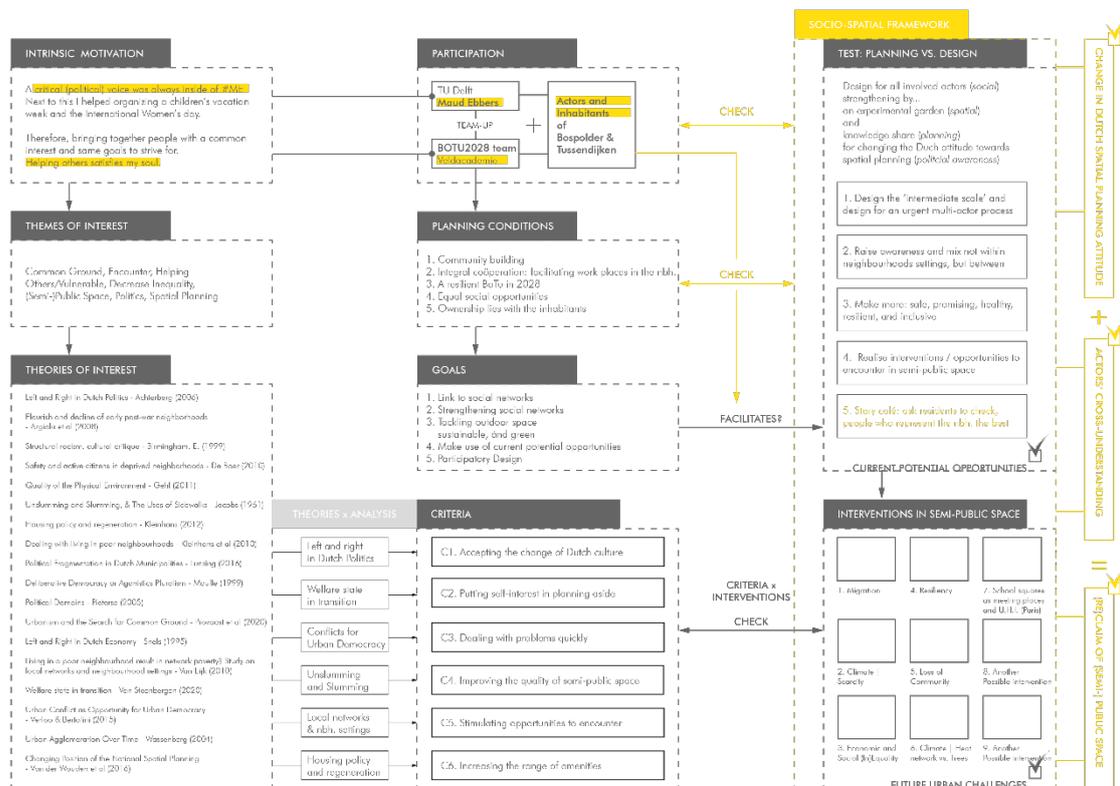


Figure 4. Methodology Framework

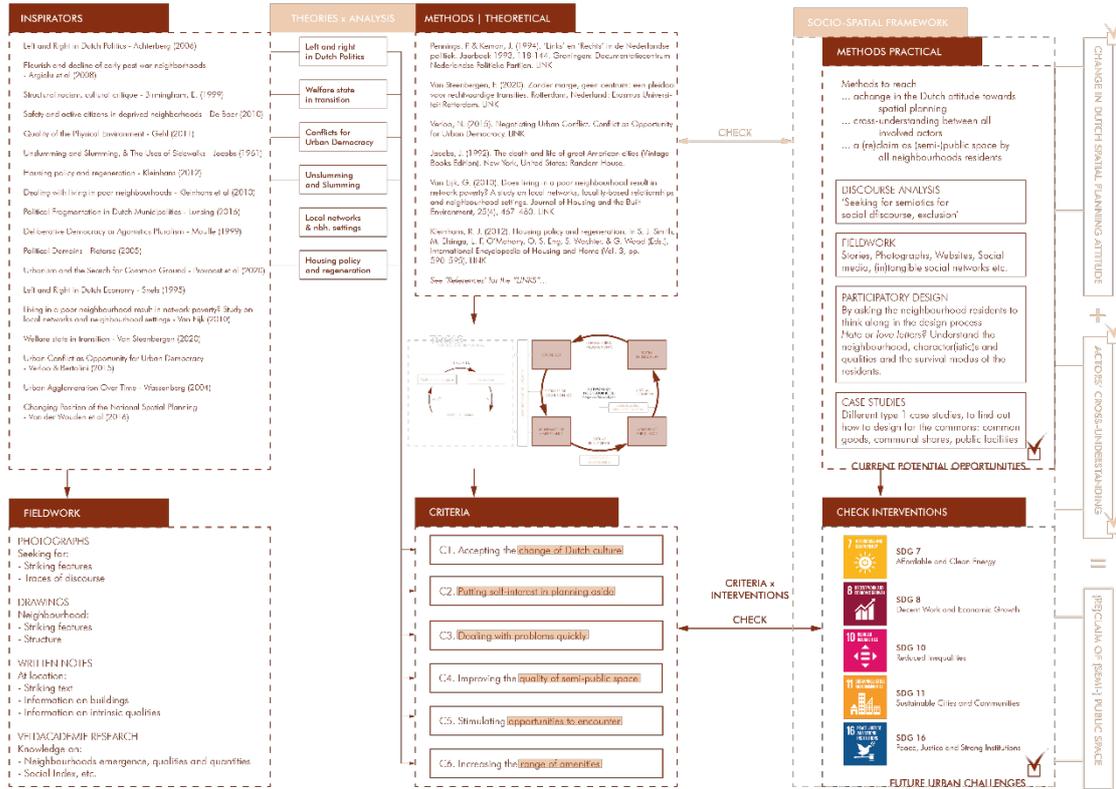


Figure 5. Methods & Theories Framework

SEE PAGE 10 AND 11  
OF THE 'ASSET ATLAS'

Figure 6. Final Research Framework

## Literature and general practical preference

The literature (theories or research data) and general practical experience/precedent I intend to consult are the following. Gained from the frame 'Theories of Interest' (see figure 4) from the 'Methodological Framework' (see figure 6).

I will explain the four most important theories, gained from literature, which are used to enrich the relevance and strength of the research. "Flourish and decline of early post-war neighbourhoods" (1) because this is where the challenge of planning for focus area is originated. "Living in a poor neighbourhood result in network poverty? Study on local networks and neighbourhood settings" (2) because this touches on the main reason why design must be done for and between "neighbourhood settings". "Welfare state in transition" (3) because this creates the context for the development of society over time. "Urban conflict as opportunity for urban democracy" (4) because, last but not least, this highlights that the iron must be forged when it is hot and a negative attitude can be turned 'easily' into a positive one with the right tools and approach.



Figure 7. ZOOM-IN 'Theories of Interest', Methodological Framework

## 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 relation between my graduation topic and the studio 'Planning Complex Cities' / 'Spatial Planning & Strategy' can be found in the pursuance of a change in Dutch attitudes towards spatial planning for urban focus areas. This request a different attitude of Dutch planners, a different attitude in a social, spatial, but above all political and economical way. A different way of planning by, for example, participatory design, originated by unrest and initiatives from bottom-up, think of "Conflicts as opportunity for urban democracy" (Verloo, 2015), steered by (top-down) responsive governance.

The relation between my graduation topic and the master track 'Urbanism' can be found in the urge to strive for a better social and spatial world, design socially responsible. The pursuit of designing a semi-public space in a safe, liveable, and inclusive living environment, an urban residential focus area.

The relation between my graduation topic and the master track 'MSc Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences' can be found in the multi-disciplinary approach of the research and design (explained above). A multi-disciplinary approach with touches upon the field of sociology, anthropology, psychology, (culture-based) planning, geography, architecture, spatial planning, urban design, and more philosophies. Again, I want to strive for being a socially responsible planner and/or designer, someone who engages others and enriches herself.

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

*By transforming the quality and quantity of semi-public space (resource-rich and -poor) residents will meet more often. This will contribute to the increase of a safe feeling, a more liveable environment, and a raising will to maintain a neighbourhood.*

The research will mainly focus on semi-public spaces, such as community centres, associations, and football clubs. These environments are safe, from a social and spatial perspective. Van Eijk (2010) tells us that in semi-public space most encounters take place. So, semi-public space is the location to intervene when 'a private reclamation' (by the residents) of public space is aimed for. As we learn from Van Steenbergen (2020), who tells about the Dutch welfare state in transition, charity and neediness have become a business model in the last decades due to the entry of market forces and strong emergence of private parties in the poor relief. Also, the constellation of people living in poverty has changed due to various migration processes.

*By changing the attitude towards planning in the Netherlands, the planning for focus areas can be transformed from a type of business model with a non-responsive government to serious long-term planning, with the aim to deliver customized collective interventions.*