Graduation Plan

Master of Science in Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

MSc Landscape Architecture 2024 - 2025

Melle Zschämisch

Graduation Plan

I   Personal information

Full name	**Melle Franciske Zschämisch**
Student number	4850718

II   Studio / Lab information

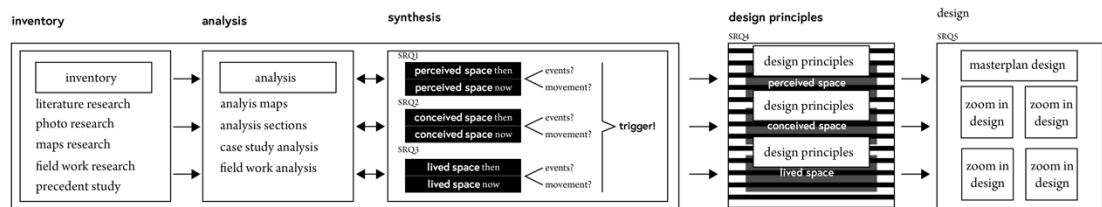|		
Name / Theme	FLOWSCAPES	
Main mentor	Prof.ir. E.A.J. Luiten	Landscape Architecture
Second mentor	Ir. Leo van den Burg	Urban Design
Argumentation of choice of the LA graduation lab	Since childhood, I have been fascinated by the history of places, and how these places evolve over time. The LA Graduation Lab 'Landscape Architecture Principles Lab #2', which this year focuses on one of these principles, the Palimpsest, is very much in line with this. The Palimpsest refers to different layers of the landscape over time, due to various factors. I was therefore immediately motivated to relate my interest and study in Landscape Architecture to my other fascinations in history, culture and politics.	

III Graduation project

Title of the project	**Sehnsucht** **The landscape of a wall that still is**

Context and aim of the project

Location (region / area / site)	Former German-German border site, Berlin, Germany
Problem statement	Until 35 years ago, the Berlin Wall encircled West Berlin as part of the German-German border. It ran straight through the historical city and cut it off from its surroundings. It made West Berlin an urban island within the GDR. To prevent East Germans from escaping to the West, the Berlin Wall featured a heavily secured land-mined border zone, also known as the Death Strip. This border consisted of a partly walled and partly fenced, wide-open space that bisected the city. Anno 2024, this zone, which is considered one of the major witnesses of the geopolitically very eventful 20th century, is less and less visible in the urban landscape of Berlin. Though the wall may be absent in physical form, it remains present in mental form, as shown by the discussions following the successes of radical political parties, particularly in former East German territories.

	The problem is determining where and how to use this zone of recent German-European history to address this mental border in German society.
Research question(s)	How can landscape architecture contribute to the social/cultural re-interpretation, spatial definition and future appearance of a historically contested frontier as the former Berlin Wall? SRQ1 How have the physical and experiential qualities of the Berlin Wall site evolved over time? (perceived space) SRQ2 How has the Berlin Wall site been planned, represented, and conceptualized over time? (conceived space) SRQ3 How have personal experiences, cultural meaning and collective memories shaped the identity of the Berlin Wall site over time? (lived space) SRQ4 What design principles can effectively address the narrative, legacy and relevance of the Berlin Wall site in German society? SRQ5 How can landscape interventions be developed based on the proposed design principles for the former West Berlin-GDR border site?
Design assignment	Develop a landscape design for the former West Berlin-GDR border site which tells the story about the ever-present wall in German society. Convey the physical and mental feeling of the impact of this wall by giving space to a layer of events in the landscape palimpsest of the site.

IV Graduation process

Method description

I am using the steps inventory, analysis, synthesis, design principles and design. Therefore, I am using literature research, photo research, map research, field work research, precedent study, map analysis, section analysis, case study analysis, and field work analysis.

inventory

inventory

literature research
photo research
maps research
field work research
precedent study

analysis

analysis

analyis maps
analysis sections
case study analysis
field work analysis

synthesis

SRQ1
perceived space then
perceived space now
events?
movement?

SRQ2
conceived space then
conceived space now
events?
movement?

SRQ3
lived space then
lived space now
events?
movement?

trigger!

design principles

SRQ4

design principles
perceived space

design principles
conceived space

design principles
lived space

design

SRQ5

masterplan design

zoom in design
zoom in design

zoom in design
zoom in design

Literature and more applied references

Theory

The Production of Space

Lefebvre, H. (1991). The Production of Space. Basil Blackwell Ltd.

Manhattan Transcripts

Tschumi, B. (1981). The Manhattan Transcripts. St. Martin's Press.

Landscape Biography

Kolen, Jan. (2015). J. Kolen & J. Renes, 2015: Landscape Biographies: Key Issues, in: J. Kolen, J. Renes & R, Hermans (Eds.), Landscape Biographies. Geographical, historical and archaeological perspectives on the production and transmission of landscapes, Amsterdam (Amsterdam University Press), 21-47.

## Landscape Architectural Perspectives as Agent for Generous Design

De Wit, S., & Bobbink, I. (2020). Landscape architectural perspectives as an agent for generous design. DOAJ (DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals). https://doi.org/10.7480/rius.6.97

Precedent

The Berlin Wall as Architecture, Rem Koolhaas

Koolhaas, R., & Mau, B. (1997). S, M, L, XL. The Monacelli Press, LLC.

Landscape Architectural Perspectives as Agent for Generous Design
(Landscape as Palimpsest)
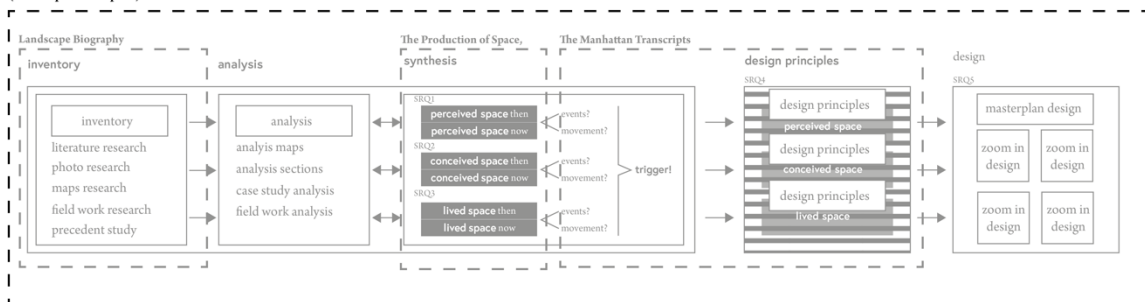
V Reflection on the project proposal

1. What is the relation between your graduation topic, the lab topic, and your master track?

The topic of my graduation, looking at how to make a non-physical but present boundary visible in the landscape, fits into the lab topic around the Palimpsest in the landscape. The research is about the history of the place and how this mentally felt border came about. The relationship to my master track is therefore the application of landscape architecture principles, with a focus on Palimpsest, a principle that recurs throughout the master track in the research and design process.

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

The project addresses the current discussion and reflection in German and European society on the post-1989 unification process, as perceived by Western countries, between Eastern and Western Europe. Due to the project location in Berlin, it addresses this social issue in the heart of Germany, where policy is made. Can landscape architecture be used to address social problems like this, to influence policy that foster equality, in this case in Germany.

In addition, this project challenges in scientific context by discovering a new turn in the Palimpsest principle looking at not physical but mental palimpsest layers.