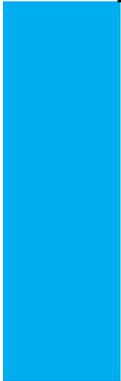


Graduation Plan

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	Sem van den Eijnde
Student number	4553993

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
Main mentor	Mo Smit	Architecture
Second mentor	Zef Hemel	Urbanism
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The freedom to formulate your design assignment and research method. This also enables me to combine an anthropological research approach with the technical challenge of local building materials.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Nieuwe Borgen, towards a regenerative farmyard

Goal	
Location:	Oldambt, Groningen
The posed problem,	<p>The posed problem is two-fold;</p> <p>There is a social and ecological degradation in the Oldambt region. The landscape is exploited through gas extraction and agricultural monocultures. On top of that, there is a lack of investments and future perspective resulting in the depletion of the landscape. An example of this are the abandoned farmyards, which are a result of large upscaling practices in agriculture. These farmyards have a unique typology that is characteristic for this region but many are left to decay.</p> <p>In my opinion, complexity seems to paralyze policymakers into generalizing the challenges mentioned above as 'a crisis.' The purpose of this research is to show the potential of a bottom-up approach instead of a top-down view. Its focus is on local values through the engagement and stories of farmers and people</p>

	<p>who are active in the region with the ultimate goal to find an approach to repurposing the obsolete farmyards in a regenerative way.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How could <i>landscape stewardship</i> contribute to a <i>regenerative farmyard</i> with a <i>tectonic</i>, that depends on the <i>regional landscape</i>? <p><i>Sub questions;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do farmers in the Oldambt region identify their current and future position in landscape stewardship? - Which values of landscape stewardship motivate towards a more regenerative farming approach? - How can the tectonic of a farmyard depend on the regional landscape and contribute to local building culture?
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>A now abandoned farmyard will be reconnected with the landscape as a regenerative farm. The ambition is to develop an architecture and program that depends on its surroundings. It acts a place for landscape stewardship and the ecological and social regeneration of the surrounding landscape.</p>
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>As a research method, 3 farmers connected to the Graanrepubliek are interviewed regarding their views on landscape stewardship and methods of farming. The interviews are structured according to the method of episodic narrative interviews. Five values (aesthetic, ecological, social, cultural, economic) are used to compare the outcomes. The interviews are visualized in a drawing of the farmyard inspired by the drawing style of Jan Rothuizen.</p> <p>As a second method, I hike/wander through the region to go from farmer to farmer. These wanderings are used to form a basic understanding of the landscape and are documented in photos and maps with observatory notes. The method enables coincidental encounters and stories.</p> <p>These maps of observations and the drawings from the interviews will be brought together in an atlas. Simultaneously the tectonic of the farmyards is observed in how it currently connects to its surrounding landscape. From this, a proposed tectonic for these farmyards will be developed that depends on the surrounding landscape.</p>	

The design method consists of 1. a social approach to formulating a program together with local farmers and 2. A material approach that focuses on the regenerative aspect of using local materials. A cultivation plan for the site of an abandoned farm yard I have chosen will be made. The design will show how the farmyard can be transformed into a regenerative farm. This will be a platform in a constant cycle with a diverse program that can develop and change over time. This design will function as an example of how a socially and ecologically regenerative farm in the region can be constructed. I would like to show a physical prototype of what a local tectonic could be, to show the potential of using local materials and a regional building culture.

Literature and general practical references

[The literature (theories or research data) and general practical experience/precedent you intend to consult.]

Existing literature

Avermaete, Tom. *Critical regionalism revisited*. Rotterdam: nai010 uitgevers/publishers, 2019.

Frank Westerman, *De Graan Republiek*, (Amsterdam: Olympus, 1999)

Huizenga, Hilde. *Oogst van de landschappen van rivieren en kust*. Peredour, 2013.

Hofstee, E.W., 1938. *Het Oldambt; een sociografie. Deel 1, Vormende krachten*. 2e druk. Groningen.

Jannes Formsa, Wiebe. *De Ommelander Borgen en steenhuizen*. Assen: Van Gorcum & amp; Comp, 1973.

Olst, E.L van. *Uilkema, een historisch Boerderij-Onderzoek: Boerderij-Onderzoek in Nederland, 1914-1934*. Leiden: DBNL, 2013.

Opdam, Paul. "How Landscape Stewardship Emerges out of Landscape Planning." *The Science and Practice of Landscape Stewardship*, 2017

Patteuw, Véronique, Hans Teerds, and Christophe Van Gerrewey. *What is good architecture?* Rotterdam: NAI Uitgevers/Publishers, 2013.

Semper, Gottfried, Harry Francis Mallgrave, and Wolfgang Herrmann. *The four elements of architecture and other writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010

Schultz, Nikolaj, Bruno Latour, and Julie Rose. *On the emergence of an ecological class: A memo*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2022

Method

Mueller, Robin Alison. "Episodic Narrative Interview: Capturing Stories of Experience with a Methods Fusion." *International Journal of Qualitative Methods* 18 (2019): 160940691986604. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1609406919866044>.

Smit, Mo, and Els Leclercq. *Circular communities: The circular value flower as a design method for collectively closing... resource flows*. Rotterdam: nai010 uitgevers, 2023.

Rothuizen, Jan. De Zachte Atlas Van Nederland. Amsterdam: Nieuw Amsterdam, 2011.

A significant amount of the research data is collected during interviews or conversations in Groningen. I am also intending on visiting Tjeerd Veenhoven in his studio in Groningen. To use his knowledge on using local (residual) materials.

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 program (MSc AUBS)?

As a graduation project, it is related to the master's track in different ways. The scale of the region and research area make the project closely related to the fields of urbanism and landscape architecture. On the one hand, there are social-cultural challenges in the area. How to research the challenges can be linked to research methods that are naturally more used in urbanism. On the other hand, there are ecological challenges. Regenerative farming and a local building culture, will impact how we view and design the landscape. The same applies to the field of architecture. In my research, I strive for a local building culture. I even try to avoid the word architecture. In my view, we as designers should aim for local understandable non-complex solutions. I try to learn from farm buildings where the house would be regarded as architecture and not the barn. However, these barns are way more relevant in developing a tectonic that depends on the local landscape. The question is if these barns are (can be/should be) architecture.

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

I think with my graduation project I want to show that it is important to listen, look, and understand an area in which you are designing. More importantly, to slow down during your process of observation and take time to come up with impactful solutions. I think there is a lot of richness in the stories people carry with them and as a designer being able to take them into account and transform them into a project. Also to show what it means to build a connection of trust with a place through meeting people and how this can inform and impact your project.