

Reflection

1. Reflection on the topic of the Flowscapes studio and to the lab

As expounded in graduation guide of landscape architecture 2019-2020, Flowscape discusses 'infrastructure as landscape' and 'landscape as infrastructure' on 'extremely large and very small interventions'. My graduation project, 'From isolation to integration _Transforming three estates into an urban landscape' exactly responds to that. In the whole process, the sequence of multiple scales is from the large regional scale, the local cluster scale, to the estate scale and the detailed landscape components scale. In the strategy section, 'infrastructure as landscape' refers to redeveloping the highway as a green landscape structure, which bridges Veluwe, the flooding plain and IJssel river. And, besides highlighting the landscape heritage in three estates, their functionalities of service, like cultural, educational and leisure are also enhanced. That is how 'transforming as urban landscape' reflecting in 'landscape as infrastructure'.

As for our lab, 'designing resilient heritage landscape _Garden of Gelderland', it requires to take sustainable spatial development and spatial design strategies for future-proof estate landscape into account. It would involve climate change, spatial fragmentation, tourism and recreational co-use. Coincidentally, my project is concerned about last two challenges. In responding to fragmented space in my site caused by urbanization, the strategy is to repair that by green and blue structures, coherent atmosphere and transitional space and facilities between the estates and urban environment. The balance between the tourism and recreational is kept by divided routes and service, intervention of new facilities and guidance of sight and space. What's more, three individual landscape facilities in each estate is to repair the broken surface water system, and on the other hand, as an optional drainage approach to tackle the extreme water level in the future.

2. A description of the societal relevance

First of all, as mentioned in the theory, heritage (landscape) is valuable to all the human beings with commemorative values and present-day values. It reminds us of the passage of time, the natural process of death, the recorded human past and even the conscious moment. Or, it serves a useful purpose with aesthetics. Regardless of which value, it is closely related to our society.

And there are more than 2000 estates reserved in Netherlands, of which 18% are in Gelderland. However, with time going by, the surrounding environment of the estates has changed and new challenges on the estates has happened, including climate change threat, spatial fragmentation and increasing tourism. Therefore we, landscape architects, should take the responsibility to seek the sustainable solutions. The three estates in my site is one of the cases that faced with so many typical spatial problems. The strategies that I proposed are not only targeted at my site but feasible and widely applicable which can be generalized on other heritages under the threat of urbanization.

3. A reflection on the strong and weak sides of the chosen (design) methodology

As far as I'm concerned, the methodology I have undertaken most in the process include research before design and research on design.

Research before design, I would say as the opposite of research for design, is to do the overall research as much as possible on the site, rather than research on some specific aspects. By doing that, the site could be understood more comprehensively from social, cultural, economic, ecological and political aspects. And also because of that, I would find different problems in the site and choose an interesting one. The weakness is time-consuming. And because of too much information, it is sometimes hard to select the most relevant.

Research on design is about case study. By seeking the most appropriate cases, practical principles that fits in my site would be summarized. Case study also gives me inspirations.

Last but not least, the most weak sides of me, or of the whole project might be too much attention on functionality or programs at beginning as I am deeply influenced by urbanism. I would appreciate my mentors who pointed out the right way of what landscape architects should do.

4. A discussion of possible problems that occurred during data collection and how one tried to overcome or compensate these problems.

There are lots of problems during data collection, including precise percentage of users in each estate, the landscape types like soil type in the building-up area, the history of Larenstein and data of middle vacant area.

First of all, it is quite hard to realize the ratio of the users. What I did is that when I visited the site, I counted the people in the site and observed a little to figure out their roles. For instance, when I visited Bronbeek, I recorded how many staff, elderly people and visitors here, in order to estimate the percentage.

Secondly, we could see the landscape types in no-build-up area. The landscape types, like top-soil condition, in build-up area, could be inferred from the area next to it. And sometimes, it is better to check by tracing landscape formation process. As for Larenstein, because there is nothing about past heritage, it is difficult to collect worthy data. Also the middle part, it is also hard to find any valuable information. What I was trying is to write the emails to the contact persons or relevant staff, like the contact information on the brand. Luckily, they are nice and gave me some useful links.

5. Difficulties to visit the site, digital mentoring and other issues related to the Corona-crisis

As for me, the main impact that Coronavirus took are three issues. The first one is inaccessible to the library. I have to admit that I am the person that only can focus on when in the right study place. No library is such a huge obstacle for me. And I really spent a long time adapting myself to study at home. And fortunately, I made it. Second thing is that communication with mentors are quite uneasy especially in the designing process. I do not like digital mentoring because by screen, it is

sometimes not clear or easy ongoing when we need more detailed and very precise guidance on designing. The third one is that I could not visit the site for the third time when I had to collect some details because that was the time when coronavirus was spreading in Netherlands. I had to review by photos.

Last but not least, I often felt bothered and stressed during quarantine especially doing Q4 and graduation at the same time. My mentors encouraged me a lot, to go out with friends, to communicate with my family, to leave some free time for leisure. They affirmed my ideas and really gave me lots of freedom in exploring this amazing field. I am really grateful to them and I would say, what they encouraged will stay with me, a not very confident girl sometimes, throughout her life.