

## What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic, your master track, and your master programme?

Within the graduation design studio 'Designing for Health and Care', I have chosen to research a specific target group; women during the stage of labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum. I hereby researched women's environmental experiences and needs within maternal healthcare facilities, which have been translated into design principles which could contribute to a positive experience and an improvement in health & wellbeing for women in a maternal healthcare facility. In the final stage of the graduation project, an architectural design has been formed; a maternity center.

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

Research has shown that within the female population, which currently is 50,3% of the entire population in the Netherlands (8,84 million women), 17% of the women remain childless. This concludes that most women come in contact with the experience of childbirth at some point in their lives and its corresponding maternal healthcare facilities. Since research has shown that these facilities are often highly regulated and medicalized, is it important to review maternal healthcare facilities and tackle the problem of having negative influences on women's (mental) health. On a larger scale could the design principles that arise from this research be beneficial for other healthcare facilities as well, like hospital settings. It could teach us, designers and future architects, to design from a more patient-centered design approach, improving health and well-being.

This graduation studio and project hereby also shows us what we can learn from researching specific target groups within healthcare architecture, instead of researching healthcare architecture or hospital design as a whole. Every target group has its specific experiences and needs within health and care and its corresponding healthcare facilities and buildings and therefore needs individual approaches when designing such (parts of) buildings.



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Lastly, in this graduation project, an architectural translation has been given to the research that has been done in the first half year of the graduation year. The research gave me a lot of insights into women's (environmental) needs in maternal healthcare facilities, especially how their needs for emotional support, involvement of their partner, and physical comfort could be translated into physical design principles. The final half year of the graduation project gave me the opportunity to transform these findings into an actual architectural design; a maternity center. The design explores architecture that fits the women's needs, whereby the interior and the inclusion of the landscape has been touched upon as well. Although the graduation year is an overall continuous process of researching and designing, wherein a lot has been explored, researched, and studied, there is one difficulty that lies within the fact that researching and designing never ends. Research has to be finalized at some point within a graduation project, and many decisions have to be made within the design process to keep progressing. In the end, I believe this is all part of the learning process as well, to make well-thought-through decisions and keep making progress, while accepting that there might be aspects still left untouched.

Overall I believe this studio has taught me valuable lessons as a designer, especially how to research and design for people within health and care. I am pleased to have chosen this graduation studio and I am looking forward to exploring more of this topic in my future career.