

Graduation Plan

Personal information	
Name	Camila Rosado
Student number	6082300

Studio		
Name / Theme	Circular Water stories	
Main mentor	Inge Bobbink	Landscape Architecture
Second mentor	Ulf Hackauf	Environmental Technology and Design
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The choice of the studio comes first from the common interest in researching water systems in Landscape Architecture. Moreover, during the last years, the studio has presented great examples of thesis that brought vernacular knowledge into a new perspective, designing resilient landscapes for the present and future challenges.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Valuing Culture and Water in the Cerrado: designing a Productive and Recreational Landscape for a Resilient Future in West of Bahia
Goal	
Location:	Rio de Janeiro Environmental Preservation Area, West of Bahia, Brazil
The posed problem,	<p>The Cerrado, a vast and biodiverse Brazilian biome, is often referred to as the "cradle of waters" due its hydrological cycle bringing together 8 major water basins of Brazil. However, this biome has faced significant threats from agribusiness expansion over the last 40 to 30 years, which resulted in widespread deforestation, break of the hydrological cycle, biodiversity loss, increase of heat and intensification of droughts. The biome is also home to diverse cultures and traditional communities whose importance is often underestimated and increasingly at risk with the impacts of industrial agriculture and neglected governance towards the problem.</p> <p>The thesis focuses on the west of Bahia, a territory part of the last agricultural expansion in Cerrado and a scenario for conflicts between traditional communities, agribusiness, and environmental preservation policies, resulting in water injustices and devaluation of local culture.</p>
research questions and	How can a landscape architecture design contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the socio-cultural values inherent in the natural resources and cultural landscape of the Cerrado biome?

<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>On a larger scale, the project develops targeted strategies for specific landscape typologies, integrating both productive and recreational landscapes.</p> <p>By implementing these strategies, the design aims to enhance natural resources and features, working with their potential to strengthen the local economic and cultural system.</p> <p>The interventions will be interconnected through a routing system, enabling access and the rediscovery of landscapes hidden and degraded by industrial agriculture.</p> <p>A smaller-scale recreation hub will be designed as an inviting space with spatial, ecological, and educational values for visitors and local producers to engage.</p>
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>The research involves hand drawing as a tool for representing and analyzing information from academic papers. Analytical mapping is used by incorporating georeferenced data, allowing for the synthesis of diverse data into conclusive maps.</p> <p>Part of the field work is visiting local communities, engaging with people, photographing, and immersing in the culture to gain insights. As part of representation, imaginative cartography is used to combine subjective perceptions with analytical data.</p> <p>The study also includes reading Brazilian regional literature and scientific texts to enrich understanding.</p>	

Literature and general practical references

Berleant, A. (1997). *Living in the landscape: Toward an aesthetics of environment*. Oxford University Press. <https://academic.oup.com/jaac/article/56/3/302/6341938>

Berleant, A., & Carlson, A. (2007). *The aesthetics of human environments*. Broadview Press. <https://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA85830112>

Boelens, R., Vos, J., & Perreault, T. (2018). Introduction: The multiple challenges and layers of water justice struggles. In *Cambridge University Press eBooks* (pp. 1–32). <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316831847.001>

Donahue, J. M., & Johnston, B. R. (1998). *Water, culture, and power: Local struggles in a global context*. *Choice Reviews Online*, 35(11), 35–6458. <https://doi.org/10.5860/choice.35-6458>

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 topic explores the complex issues of land use, water usage, cultural, and ecological impact of intensive agriculture through the lens of landscape architecture. The thesis includes examining rural areas as productive landscapes interconnected on a global scale. Designing these rural landscapes can impact local and global challenges, connecting the thesis topic to a key theme within the master's track and program. The approach involves considering perception, palimpsest, process, and scale continuum, the four perspectives basis of the Master program in Landscape Architecture at TU Delft.

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

The thesis discusses the impacts that industrial agriculture causes in terms of land and water use, as well as the cultural influence over certain regions and inhabitants of the landscape. The academic work researches the relationship between humans and the natural environment from a theoretical perspective. Broadly, the thesis discusses the importance of land cultivation and its relation to the cultural landscape. Moreover, the discussion expands to the role of a landscape architect in rural areas and the influence of landscape design to mitigate environmental problems, design more resilient landscapes, raise awareness, and reconnect people to the natural environment.

