The Berlage Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design
Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment
Delft University of Technology

Jana Čulek
4/9/2015

Thesis Project Plan

The Berlage.

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PERSONAL INFORMATION	
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ABOUT THE THESIS PROJECT	
Thesis project title	A Flat Tale
Thesis advisor 1	Salomon Frausto
Thesis advisor 2	Thomas Weaver

Thesis project description

The project is an investigation of the "Dutch Concept" through its architectural manifestations. It uses architectural and literary theory and structure to form a narrative to set the base for research and the development of the project. The final result will be an architectural fairy tale that will take into consideration the development of the architectural plot and construct a possible ending.

Thesis project site

The chosen site is the Netherlands. The project investigates Dutch architecture and visual culture.

Thesis project outcome

The main outcome of the thesis will be a book / fairy tale about Dutch architecture. Along with existing architectural projects and icons that will be critically examined through the project, possible new, fictional characters (of buildings) will be added to aid the story and form counter proposals. These small projects will be, naturally, of a conceptual nature, and will be aimed and critiquing specific aspects or outcomes of Dutch architecture. To accompany the book, drawings will be made in an architecture - fairy -tale style in order to depict the storyline of the tale. More attention will be payed to the portrayal of characters which will be a combination of the built reality, accentuated with elements that correlate the building with the fairy tale archetype. Maps of specific sites within the Netherlands are also possible, but also in relation to the storyline. A text document which describes in detail the process of creating the fairy tale. Along with real historical events that are significant to the architectural development of the Netherlands, relationships will also be formed to a wider scope of architectural discourse. This will help to position and understand better the reasons for architectural peculiarities within this context. A parallel investigation of both the format and the content will be performed throughout the design development and the outcomes will be described in this additional text.

Relevance

Along with real historical events that are significant to the architectural development of the Netherlands, relationships will also be formed to a wider scope of architectural discourse. This will help to position and understand better the reasons for architectural peculiarities within the context of the Netherlands. A parallel investigation of both the format of the fairy tale and the architectural content will be performed throughout the design development and the outcomes will be described through drawings and text.

Bibliography of literature, precedents, and references

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Structure and method

The conclusion of the project will be a fairy tale about Dutch architecture. The focus point of the project will be the Concept, as an idealized construct. It will be investigated through the form of a fairy tale, which inherently also deals with concepts, constructs and archetypes and is therefore an appropriate medium for this project.

The fairy tale will be constructed out of three layers: the fairy tale narrative, which follows the story of the characters through an adventure that is constructed with the purpose of conveying a critique of Dutch architecture; a set of accompanying drawings that will serve as a tool of pointing out, alluding to, and hinting at things that are not explicitly mentioned in the narrative; and a set of "reflection" letters, written by the main character of the story, an unspecified, foreign architect, through which he reflects theoretically upon his adventures, his findings and his thoughts. All three parts of the project are assembled together into one, multilayered fairy tale, which tells a story through three different architectural tools: the description, the drawing and the essay. Even though picture books (some versions of fairy tales) are originally based only on two levels of communication: the visual (representational, iconic) and the verbal (narrative, conventional), I will add the additional layer of the reflective essay which, in this case, is not necessarily considered either iconic or conventional.

Final schedule and time planning

WK 1.1 31 Aug–4 Sept
Compulsory kick-off workshop on presentation on Friday, 4 September 2015

WK 1.2 7–11 Sept
Thesis advisor meeting with Ido Avissar, Salomon Frausto, or Stefano Milani on Friday, 11 September 2015
Finalization of the narrative structure and defining the architectural projects that will be examined within the fairy tale format.

WK 1.3 14–18 Sept

Super pin-up with Atelier Bow-Wow on Thursday, 17 September
Thesis advisor meeting with Thomas Weaver on Friday, 18 September 2015
Critical reflection on projects through the development of the narrative on the basis of research into the architectural history of the Netherlands and its relationship to a wider architectural discourse.
Work on the number, content and layout of images and text in the final book.

WK 1.4   21–25 Sept
Thesis advisor meeting with Ido Avissar, Salomon Frausto, or Stefano Milani on Friday, 25 September 2015
Critical reflection on projects through the development of the narrative on the basis of research into the architectural history of the Netherlands and its relationship to a wider architectural discourse.
Work on the number, content and layout of images and text in the final book.

W 1.5   28 Sept–2 Oct
Thesis advisor meeting with Thomas Weaver on Friday, 18 September 2015
Creation of fist versions of the fairy tale book, and draft versions of the drawings

WK 1.6   5 Oct–9 Oct
Drawing workshop with Atelier Bow-Wow on Monday and Tuesday, 5 and 6 October 2015
Thesis advisor meeting with Ido Avissar, Salomon Frausto, or Stefano Milani on Friday, 9 October 2015
Finalization of draft of fist versions of the fairy tale book, and draft versions of the drawings

WK 1.7   12–16 Oct
Compulsory midterm presentation with thesis exam committee and thesis advisors on Friday, 16 October 2015

WK 1.8   19 Oct–23 Oct
Thesis advisor meeting with Thomas Weaver on Friday, 23 October 2015
Implementing comments and suggestions from the midterm presentation into the project

WK 1.9   26 Oct–30 Oct
Thesis advisor meeting with Ido Avissar, Salomon Frausto, or Stefano Milani on Friday, 30 October 2015
Refining elements of project.

WK 2.0   2 Nov– 6 Nov
Refining elements of project.

WK 2.1   9 Nov– 13 Nov
Finalizing all elements of the project

WK 2.2   16 Nov– 20 Nov
MSc1 and MSc 3 midterm presentations with Atelier Bow-Wow on Monday and Tuesday, 16 and 17 November 2015
Super conversation dinner with Atelier Bow-Wow on Tuesday, 17 November 2015
Thesis advisor meeting with Ido Avissar, Salomon Frausto, or Stefano Milani on Friday, 20 November 2015
Finalizing all elements of the project

WK 2.3   23 Nov– 27 Nov
Finalizing all elements of the project

WK 2.4   30 Nov–4 Dec
Dress rehearsal with thesis advisors on Friday, 4 December 2015

WK 2.5   7 Dec–11 Dec
E2 presentations with thesis exam committee and thesis advisors on Thursday and Friday, 10 and 11 December 2015
Super pin-up with Atelier Bow-Wow on Monday, 7 December 2015

WK 2.6   14–18 Dec
Postproduction workshop 1

WK 2.7   4–8 Jan
Postproduction workshop 2

WK 2.8   11–15 Jan
Postproduction workshop 3

WK 2.9   18–22 Jan
Postproduction workshop 4
MSc1 and MSc 3 final presentations with Atelier Bow-Wow on Monday and Tuesday, 18 and 19 January 2016
Super conversation dinner with Atelier Bow-Wow Tuesday, 16 January 2016

WK 2.10 25–29 Jan
E3 on Thursday–Friday, 28–29 January 2016