

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	Mengchi Wei
Student number	4944801
Telephone number	
Private e-mail address	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Designing resilient heritage landscapes— Garden of Gelderland	
Main mentor	Eric Luiten	Landscape Architecture
Second mentor	Hielkje Zijlstra	Heritage & Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I am always interested in heritage and old staff, I always want to do something about it. Since I come from China, there are a lot of heritage sites in my country and many of them still have a lot of potential in them to show to the public. I want to study in this project and conclude something that maybe one day I can use to deal with the heritage projects in my own country.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Arcadia Again

Goal	
Location:	Estates around Veluwezoom
The posed problem,	<p>The area was once called Arcadia in the history because of the specific nature landscape and the fact that the rich came here from big cities to build private estate for vacation, holiday and hunting etc. However, this cultural layer is almost missing now and the remained estates are just staying there individually in the area.</p> <p>Cultural landscape: While there are plenty of estates, many of them are hard to access for people due to their original purpose of establishing them and the complicated history. And they are also lack of connection with each other.</p>

	<p>In addition, many of them are losing their value of historical monument. People have difficult to fully experience the rich collection of historical estates.</p> <p>Natural landscape: The nature reserve area is far from urban area. The ribbon-shape cluster of estates cut in the middle between city and nature. There are forests, heather fields and grasslands in this area, with different species. Potential lies that estates could be the connection between nature and culture.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>What's the existing situation like? What's the potentials in this area with estates and also the surrounding environment?</p> <p>What's the trends in heritage? And what do those mean to designers?</p> <p>How to evaluate the cultural/ heritage value of the elements? What about in the field of landscape architecture?</p> <p>How to read the existing situation?</p> <p>how heritage sites transform to fit in the contemporary tourist and recreational activities?</p> <p>Which elements to keep and which to leave out?</p> <p>How to connect elements through height difference?</p> <p>How to organize the path network?</p> <p>How to create attractions along a route?</p> <p>How the individuals function in the large system?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>To use the cluster of estates as a ribbon and connection, to reorganize the elements to offer the public an ensemble for recreation where people can easily experience the historical monuments and nature reserve.</p> <p>To organize the elements under the concept of 'Arcadia'.</p> <p> Create a new route as a backbone of the all elements</p> <p> Re-organize the planting , road network, layout of estates etc. to let different elements interact with each other in coherence</p> <p> Establish multiple access to the 'Arcadia'</p>

<p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.</p>	

The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

Process

Method description

Research:

Reference/ precedent study, literature survey, case study,

Conclude and summarize the theory, tools, criteria, principles from the materials.

Analysis:

Nature: Elevation map/ Land use map with flora & fauna

Culture/ heritage: Part of city green & blue structure and its connection with estates properties.

Analysis of the chosen estates, in layers: Buildings, Path network, Layout of landscape, Planting, Connection with surroundings etc.

Analysis of the heritage/cultural values of the chosen estates.

Design:

Create a new route along one contour line(36m) as the backbone

Strengthen the connection between city and the new route

Work with the green and blue structure to guide people

Establish multiple access to the new route from urban area

Strengthen the connection between nature and the new route

Re-organize the planting to create varied experience along the route

Establish multiple access from the new route to the vast nature reserve

Re-organize the chosen estates

Choose crucial historical elements to revitalize, strengthen historical values

Re-organize the layout to create connection with the new route.

Create coherence:

Work with contours and height difference/green and blue structure.

Application of the principles concluded from the case study.

Literature and general practical preference

Meurs, P. (2016). Heritage-based design. Delft, Netherlands: TU Delft – Heritage & Architecture.

Kuipers, M., & de Jonge, W. (2017). Designing from Heritage; Strategies for Conservation and Conversion. Delft, Netherlands: TU Delft – Heritage & Architecture.

Storms-Smeets, E.A.C., & Gelders Genootschap. Gelders Arcadie; Karakteristieken en ambities arnhem, renkum, rheden, rozendaal, Wageningen

Site of Passeig de les Aigues in Barcelona

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)?

One of the most important objects in our studio topic is the estates in the area. The most attractive thing about the estates is that all the estates consist of buildings and the surrounding cultivated landscape (garden, orangery etc.), some of them even contain a larger area in the properties. Designing and making intervention in this kind of sites is what we always learn and try to do in our track. And our studio is also under a larger project led by the heritage and architecture department in our faculty, which tries to help the province of Gelderland to work with the heritage sites in the area. In my project topic, my aim is to help the historical estates transform to fit in the contemporary context and provide with more programs for the public, and the approaches to achieve it are in the field of landscape architecture, which are making intervention in the space, work with the layout of estates, reorganizing paths and plantings etc. In my project, I can apply the staff I learnt the last whole year, and research and design in the course of how landscape architecture projects work. After that, I am sure the outcoming will response to the larger scale of the project, to transform the historical sites to a proper places for the public to experience the beauty of culture and nature.

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

The most important points in my projects are: 1. Create a route system as a backbone to connect the estates, and also create access between estates and urban area and nature reserve area, 2. Make some limited intervention about the estates to make them interact properly with the route and show the cultural values better. In this way, the heritage sites will be more accessible to the public and also revitalize the estates in the contemporary context. In my opinion, the values of an object depend a lot on how much people, or the public, can experience. If the precious things only keep in the dark and away from public, it is not fully used. In my eyes, the existing situation of the estates here has a lot of potentials, they spread widely, some are public but some are private. People know their existence but can not enjoy some of them. With my intervention on the landscape level, the estates will become more closely to people's recreational activities, which will bring benefits both in culture and in economy. I hope this project can provide an option to the heritage transformation projects what heritage sites can offer and

benefit at the same time with some minor interventions to be more accessible to the public.