GRADUATION PLAN
Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Architecture and Heritage
Retreat Estates

Evi Loef, 4283228
09-01-2019
Personal information

Name                  Evi Loef
Student number        4283228
Telephone number      0625396780
Private e-mail address evi-loef@hotmail.com

Studio

Name / Theme         Architecture & Heritage, Retreat estates
Teachers / tutors     Hielkje Zijlstra, Wido Quist & Charlotte van Emstede
Argumentation of choice of the studio

I have always been interested in the existing built environment, and especially historic buildings. This interest comes from the fact that these buildings tell a story, and they can transport you to another time. Because of this interest, I chose to do an Architecture & Heritage studio for my Msc1 (the Santos warehouse in Rotterdam). I wanted to know what it was like working with an existing building, finding out it’s story and values, and finding a way to design with it.

In this Msc1 studio I found out that I liked working with a building that has a story, as it provides an interesting starting point or a design. I also think learning to work with existing buildings is important for the future, as buildings might lose their function due to societal changes, and therefore will need to be repurposed in order to survive.

For these reasons I chose to graduate in a Architecture & Heritage studio. When I saw the description of the Retreat Estates studio for the first time I was immediately interested. The project encompasses everything I was interested in; historic buildings with a story, working on a building level, and also working with the building interior.

The choice for this studio was therefor easily made.

Graduation project

Title of the project Retreat Estates, Redeveloping the Hammen Farm for future use

Goal

Location            TU Delft campus, the Hammen farm
The posed problem   Neglected unused farm on campus terrain
research questions  How can the Hammen Farm be used by the TU Delft and its students to improve their mental health, and mental health awareness?
and design assignment in which these result. Redeveloping the farm into a mental Health Center for the TU Delft and its students

Momentarily there’s a farm ensemble on the TU Delft campus that is quite neglected. The ensemble has a monumental status, but is decaying because it is no longer in use, and the TU Delft doesn’t know what to do with it. The farm ensemble consists of a main house, a churn mill, and a barn of which the roof has recently collapsed. There used to also be two haystacks on the site, but they have already collapsed years ago.
To make sure the farm doesn’t go into further decay and will be maintained, it needs to be repurposed. When the farm is in use, it is more easily maintained.

Because the Hammen farm has been compromised by the TU Delft development for many years, I want to turn this around and make the farm a very valuable aspect of the campus. It has to prove its worth. The past year many articles have been written about the growing amount of mental health issues amongst students, like burn-outs, performance anxiety, alcohol abuse and suicidal tendencies. These growing problems combined with the fact that the amount of students on the TU Delft is also growing, indicate that there is a growing need for mental health care on the campus. The TU Delft already provides some mental health assistance, but more is needed, and it also needs to become more accessible.

The Hammen farm would be a great location for a mental health facility for the Campus. It is located on campus grounds, but is very different from its surroundings. The Hammen farm is quite small and homely, surrounded by green, in contrast to the other large and anonymous buildings on campus. The Hammen farm therefore provides an escape from campus life on the campus itself.

Because of this I would like to repurpose the Hammen farm to be an Mental Health Center for the TU Delft and its students. A place on campus where they can escape their study related problems. The research question is therefore “How can the Hammen Farm be used by the TU Delft and its students to improve their mental health, and mental health awareness?”. The question encompasses the fact that the Hammen farm should become a place where students can be helped, but it’s presence should also create more awareness about mental health on campus, and make mental healthcare more accessible.

The mental health center will mainly focus on the TU Delft and it’s students, and is not intended to provide for the rest of the city of Delft. This is because by focusing on the TU Delft only, the mental health center can specialize itself in the more common problems on the university. Spaces can however be used by people from outside the university to organize something, and people from outside the university can also attend these kind of events.

Process
Method description

Before starting the design process, an analysis of the building needed to be made regarding architectural design, building technology and cultural value. The analysis forms the base of the repurposing and design for the Hammen, as the conclusions of the analysis form the starting point for the design process. The analysis will also be used throughout the design process, to look back on the starting points and values given to the ensemble in the analysis, making sure the design will encapsulate the given values and the original idea is not lost.

To figure out the new programme for the Hammen farm research needs to be done into what is needed on campus. This will be through literature, and through contacting people working in Mental Healthcare.

In developing a design for the farm and its new function, research will be done through sketching and 3D models. These may be physical 3D models, or 3D computer models.

Literature and general practical preference

Regarding literature, it is to be expected that further knowledge about designing with heritage is needed throughout the design process, like the
following books:


I will however also need to look into literature about designing for mental health related functions. I would like to know more about how architecture influences people, and how architecture can make people more comfortable. Some examples of literature about this topic are:


Reflection

What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,M-BE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

My research topic is focused on redeveloping the Hammen farm into a Mental Health Centre for the TU Delft. The redevelopment of the Hammen farm is the goal of the Retreat Estates graduation studio, the idea to make it into a mental health facility is a personal choice.

The Redevelopment of the Hammen farm is quite obviously related to the Architecture & Heritage track, as the studio is centred around the repurposing of an existing building, the monumental Hammen farm. This is of course very typical for a Heritage studio, which always focuses on working with the existing built environment.

The studio is also related to the master programme of architecture, as the farm will need to change in order to be reusable. Design decisions will have to be made considering the existing architecture, and most possibly also about new architectural interventions and additions.

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

As I discussed before, many news articles have been published considering the growing amount of mental health problems amongst students. It seems that not all people who need help reach out to get it, and those who do are often faced with a waiting list. This is also the case on the TU Delft, and their student psychologists. The TU Delft is also still growing, with more students applying to the university each year. With a growing number of students, a growing amount of health problems can be expects.

It is my opinion that the TU Delft should actively play a role in keeping their students mentally healthy, and my graduation project can help with that. By creating a place devoted to the mental health of the entire University, the TU Delft sends out a message, showing that they care about their students mental wellbeing. Students will also be able to get the care they need when they need it, and not suppress their problems and take them into a new phase of their life.

I therefore think that this graduation project could have a great social impact, I think students will perform better when they feel better, and I also think it is important to give people the care they need as soon as possible.
As I already discussed I want to do some research into designing for mental health care. It is my goal to translate the information found in my studies into an architectural design. Professionally and scientifically it would be interesting to see how this literature could translate into an architectural design. I hope I will be able to draw conclusions out of the research that will help people in a healing way. The conclusions drawn from my research and design might also not only be interesting for mental health care, but might also be implied in other situations.

Planning

P2 - January 17th   (10 weeks until P3)

(P2 retake – January 28th)

2.9   Processing P2 critiques / preparing P2 retake

2.10  Working on facade materialisation
Conduct research in materialisation of mental health buildings
(reference projects etc.)

3.1   Start working on building details
Continue on designing the exterior and interior materialisation of the buildings
(workshop on building fragments and details this week)

3.2   Processing its consequences of the detailing in the design
Working on the interior look and feel of the buildings, continue designing process

3.3   Working on façade fragment and details
(workshop façade fragments this week)

3.4   Working on detailing + processing its consequences on the design
Reflect on the use of cultural value in the design, in preparation of the next cultural value consultation

3.5   Reflecting on the use of cultural value in the design
Working simultaneously on improving the design and building fragments / details
(cultural value consultation this week)

3.6   Working simultaneously on improving the design (floorplans, sections etc.) and building fragments / details
Working on draft reflection for P3

3.7   Working on visualizing the current design for the P3 presentation
(plans, facades, cross-cuts, fragments, details, etc.)
Working on draft reflection P3

P3 - April 1st or 4th   (6 weeks until P4)

3.8   P3 presentation
Processing P3 critiques

3.9   Continue on processing critiques (design/cultural value/building technology), optimizing and improving design
Improving reflection
Prepare for excursion next week

3.10 Excursion to building site
Reflecting on design based on excursion to the building site

4.1 Finalize design for P4 Presentation
Start working on Theoretical and Thematical explanation of the design

4.2 Finalize building technology for P4 presentation
Start working on visualizing the P4 presentation

4.3 Working on visualizing the P4 presentation (plans, facades, cross-cuts, fragments, details, etc.)
Working on reflection P4 and the Theoretical

P4 - May 16th or 20th (6 weeks until P5)

4.4 P4 Presentation
Improving the design on the basis of critiques given on the P4 presentation

4.5 Continuing processing the critiques on the P4 presentation

4.6 Finalizing design

4.7 Finalizing Building technology (details, fragments, etc.)

4.8 Working on visualizing the current design for the P4 presentation (model, drawings, etc.)

4.9 Working on visualizing the current design for the P4 presentation (model, drawings, etc.)

4.10 P5 Presentation

P5 - June 24th or 27th