REFLECTION

P4- Landscape Architecture Track
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- The Relationship Between Research & Design

[Diagram showing the relationship between research and design, with sections on research objectives, research questions, design principles, case study, and conclusion and reflection.]
The research content of this project starts from the relationship of brook eco-system, recreational system, and estate landscape system to study and discuss their respective characteristics and coexistence relations. Discover the potential and future vision of the Baakse Beek region by discovering the intersecting parts of the system. The research design and research design methods are adopted in this paper. Through research, a design vision from one scale to another could be set up. Studies and recommendations at the regional scale provide a broad background and guidelines for design. When it comes to local design, which is mainly aimed at the three farms, the main design method is decomposing it into 3 layers, which are the water network, ecological network, and recreational network and designing layer by layer. The research mainly involves the differences between history and the current situation, looking for the reasons for the changes, and thinking about how to restore the cultural heritage on the three layers. After the summaries, go back to the first analysis to see if the whole design could fit in the physical area, what has been changed and how practical the design could be.

- Reflecting through the Relationship to Flowscapes Studio

As part of the Flowscapes Studio, this thesis project An integrated 'buttons' network- Nodal Landscape Reconnecting Baakse Beek Brook Eco-system & Recreational Landscape System aims to improve the quality of the ecosystem and entertainment system and restore the relationship between them through estate landscape, which is closely related to the theme of the studio, 'Designing Resilient Heritage Landscapes'. The Lab focuses on heritage development with treatments of environmental improvement. And in the project, estates would give full play to its historical value, which is an important part of cultural landscape design. At the same time, the Lab advocates a resilient landscape design, which is an indispensable design trend in my project to solve the problems of flooding and drought. Then the Heritage Lab, as one graduation studio of LA track, combines different scales and spatial relationships, focusing on solving various problems in the landscape field, including space, ecology, culture, and so on. The graduation design is also constantly discussing how to solve the consensus problems of landscape architecture.

In the whole design, in addition to relatively large-scale planning, it's also practical to consider small scales such as garden design, and even some structural transformation and innovation, which is related to the branch of the master program.

- Elaboration on Research Method & Approach

Methods in this project conclude research and design approach:
1. Look Estate Landscape as a system: a) Decomposing it in layers; b) Address them on different levels/scales; c) Look into time period
2. Regard Brook System & Estate Landscape as two related units that support each other: Interacting them on different layers (Commons, connections, opposites, conflicts...)
3. Consider human beings as continuously working elements, with dynamically changing activity routes: Guiding them in order to interact or keep distance with estate and landscape
4. Use Indicative Landscape as an integrated functional system: Make it as connection and coherence
among different elements with diverse characteristics

5. ‘Research to design’ and ‘design to research’: a) Summary principles according to research analysis and apply strategies and principles to specific spatial region; b) Conclude reflection of design; c) Go back to first analysis to see if the whole design could fit in the physical area, what have been changed and how practical the design could be

-The Influence of the Outcome relating to the wider Framework

The systemic relationship is the main topic of this project. The integration of the three systems could create a more resilient and reachable system in Baakse Beek region. At a larger level, the project explores whether nature can be more resilient to the changing rhythms of human life. From the perspective of social framework, the diversity of human activities is influenced by the ecological quality, which could also contribute to the relationship between human beings.

In addition, the ‘Heritage’ Lab is a part of KaDEr Research Project, which has last for 5 years and would continue 2 years more. The whole project was set up for Gelderland Province and what this project is working on would be directly related to the nature and culture in that region.

- Limitation and Dilemmas encountered in doing the project

Structures are always the most crucial things this year. I was sometimes struggling with it for there were amounts of problems that I'd like to solve, and I got a story of 3 systems of 3 estates, which sometimes puzzled me. And it might be got overcomplicated in my mind. Thus, it took me a lot of time structuring the logic story. Then about the process, there's a 3-months course happening from April this year, which led to a period of stagnation. Then I found that it was difficult to pick it up with the whole logic.