Old harbour
new possibilities

Designing the future transformation of the Merwe-Vierhaven, in a changing delta landscape

P4 Reflection
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In my project the creation of a new urban typology is the main subject, and therefore a lot of literature study was done on typologies. After all this reading I had a clear idea of what was expected from me when developing a new typology, but I had difficulties making a clear story of it. That is why the result of this study was initially a diagram containing all the elements a typology consists of. This turned out to be a useful tool for me, it guided me through the rest of the project. So this approach worked for me, the diagram helped making a new typology. But the writing part turned out to be very difficult, my writing skills are not developed enough. This is something I have to keep working on in the coming weeks, when finishing my thesis.

As part of the Delta Interventions studio, the future water related problems are a large part of my project, and also the reason I’ve chosen the project location. The Merwe-Vierhaven in Rotterdam is an outherdike area and faces future floods. At first I was overwhelmed by the amount of information that is available on this topic, so the idea that I could add something new vanished a little. Eventually I’ve managed to use the existing knowledge in a new way, as part of the new typology (which combines several flood protective measurements).

During my project I’ve spent a lot of time researching the subsoil and harbour businesses characteristics in the area. This is at the expense of my spatial analysis, which is one of the main elements of the Delta Interventions studio. This caused some difficulties as my focus was.

The reason I have chosen to do this is that I feel the project is more realistic now. It has a more technical/scientific basis. I have made a subsoil characteristics map and toolbox, which can be used by other who are working on the Merwe-Vierhaven as well. During this research I have gained a lot of knowledge from other fields of practice, which I think is necessary for a future multi-disciplinary working environment.
Due to my technical research I’ve had less time to elaborate on the spatial analysis part. Also I’ve struggled in the start of the project with finding the right subject. I started out with flood protection as a main element, but when subsoil and mixed-use became part of the project I was a little bit confused, did not know how to combine these things. The diagram from the literature study helped in getting a grip on the different topics, but it took a lot of time.

A week before the P4 the thesis need to be submitted. For me this caused some problems. The design developed continuously so the products where not finished yet. This means that the thesis contains a lot of preliminary drawings/maps. While the P4 presentation will show better images and a more complete story.