Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
Graduation Plan P2
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.

Based on graduation manual, Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building sciences, 2015-2016

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Graduation Studio
Name / Theme AR3AD131 Dwelling Graduation Studio: Dutch Housing Studio (2015-2016)
Teachers Pierijn van der Putt en Theo Kupers
Argumentation of the choice of the studio
Housing is a basic need and a large worldwide assignment. One of the main reasons I chose to pursue my graduation thesis project in Dwelling is because here I can work on the curfew of where architecture and inhabitants come closest together in our field. The challenge of combining mass housing with a human scale on which every centimetre counts and effects our lives intrigues me.

Graduation Project
Title The Buffering Boundary of two Narrative Neighbourhoods

Goal
Location Kattenburg, Amsterdam, Nederlands. 52°22N 4°55O
The posed problem Amsterdam is facing population growth and pressure on the housing market. The centrally located neighbourhood of Kattenburg is the assigned place to densify 200%, responding to Amsterdam’s trend of shrinking household sizes of on average 1,6 people per dwelling.
Kattenburg today consists of a post-war originating monoculture of 85% social housing, yet inhabiting families who have been living there for over centuries. It is now, since the beginning of 2016, being threatened by the opening up and development of the marine terrain, a young people’s innovation-oriented bordering neighbourhood. A large wall and freeway separates the rather characteristic, socially tied neighbourhood of Kattenburg with the marine terrain harshly. This division has kept Kattenburg
and the Marine terrain co-existing as two isolated entities for over 350 years. What will happen if this barrier is taken down? What influences will the marine terrain newcomers have on the surroundings? And will Kattenburg be able to maintain her character and identity, formed by centuries old stories of being home to ‘De Bijltjes’ and ‘De Eilanders’? Additionally, the freeway, leading to nowhere, is incongruent with Amsterdam’s biker friendly ambitions and her plans for a biking bridge to Noord. The need thus arises for a buffer zone between the marine terrain and Kattenburg, simultaneously providing a threefold connection, reflection and protection of both neighbourhoods. This buffer zone must engage with both neighbourhoods, serve as a place of exchange and interaction, slow down traffic, and house a large group of young people and facilities.

Research Questions

How can the neighbourhood boundary serve as a buffer between bordering neighbourhoods, thereby reflecting, connecting and protecting both existing and new?

How can neighbourhood stories be embedded into architecture, thereby contributing to this buffer function, serving as a reference to the past and an introduction to the future?

Design Assignment

The overall assignment consists of densifying 200% on Kattenburg, thereby keeping the existing intact as much as possible. Secondly, my personal research will consist of testing the opportunities of the neighbourhood boundary as a location to buffer the connections and interactions with the bordering marine terrain. The area consists of a 300m long strip of land with a width of 20m deep. This strip will be the location where the two neighbourhood identities collide, connect and interact. The area will house 200 dwellings, for students, young urban professionals, and couples based on top of a plinth of facilities, as workshops, cafés and a museum.

Process

Method description

Methods to be used are: research by design. Additionally I will research stories to research the neighbourhood identities, build scenarios, mood boards, models, draw 3d impressions on street level (phenomenological studies), compare reference projects and typologies.

Literature and general practical preference

Buffer: In its array of meanings, a buffer can be a place of temporary storage, it can cushion impacts, it can be a solution to prevent changes (in PH), or be an application to manage social network accounts.

The notion of the neighbourhood boundary as the essential element to maintain neighbourhood characters, is based on the theory of Christopher Alexander. To him homogeneity in culture is a lack of variety of life styles, arresting the growth of individual characters. Yet perfect heterogeneity is
monotonous in the same way. On the other hand complete segregation of subcultures creates a city of ghetto’s. Therefore Alexander pleas for a mosaic of subcultures, consisting of separate neighbourhoods, with subculture boundaries on which the interaction and exchange between these subcultures takes place. He uses the metaphor for neighbourhoods as cells of the body separated by cell walls. The cell wall preserves the functional integrity of the cell and also provides the multitude of interactions between the cell interior and the rest of the body, as for neighbouring cells.

Literature on Neighbourhood boundaries:
I will use the Patterns: 8, 13, 14 and 15. Respectively Mosaic of subcultures, Subculture Boundary, Identifiable neighbourhood, Neighbourhood Boundary.

Literature on Paths, Edges, Districts, Nodes and Landmarks,

*Built References:*

Historical: Pulteny Bridge, Bath, 1774; London Bridge, 1209; Ponte Vecchio, Florence, 1774; Notre Dame, Paris, 1507.

Contemporary: Kubuswoningen Rotterdam, Blom, 1984; IM viaduct, Zurich; Viaduct Berlin;

Unbuilt/theoretical: Steven Holls Bridgehouses; Plan for Hamburg Hafen City

**Reflection**

**Relevance**

Densification and transformation of post-war neighbourhoods is a hot topic in our big cities at the moment, due to migration to the city and population growth. Both densification and transformation imply change and addition of dwellings, types and thereby people and target groups to an existing community. I believe that research on structuring the boundaries between clashing neighbourhood identities and how to house different target groups tactically is essential to create a harmonious city. Densification on boundary peripheries could provide a solution, using certain typologies, target groups and architecture as a buffer between subcultures and maintaining neighbourhood identities. Using the neighbourhood boundary as buffer function of where stories come together and neighbourhood identities meet enables a diverse mosaic of subcultures in the city and avoids homogenization and segregation.

**Time Planning**

A scheme of the division of the workload of the graduation project in the 42-week timeframe is given on the next page. Examinations at the middle and end of the semester are given in yellow, with products required. Work load is expressed in blue saturations, from light blue (light work load) to dark blue (high load).
## M3 Week 3.1-3.3
- Research seminar: Problematiek, hoofdstuk 1
- Tutorial: Onderzoekscahstudies 4 projectann
- Analysis: Demografische analyse
- Design: P1

## M3 Week 4.1-4.9
- Research seminar: Hoofdstuk 1 en 2
- Tutorial: Hoofdstuk 3 en 4
- Analysis: Feedback
- Design: Idea design, reference, model, maquette, diagrammen, bilt, circulatie, operatiernummers

## Summer M4 Week 1.1-1.8
- Design: Feedback
- Research stories: Model, typologies development, circulation, research stories
- Presentation: Plans, site, section, facade

## M4 Week 1.9-2.10
- Design: Feedback
- Design development: Overall scheme, detailed plans, models, section, details
- Model: Final presentation
- Finalized material: Theoretical support
- Final reflection: Plans, elevations, sections, diagrams, axo, facade, 1:5, 1:30, storyline

## Summer M4 Week 3.1-3.5
- Design: Feedback
- Final reflection: Plans, elevations, sections, diagrams, axo, facade, 1:5, 1:30, storyline

## Summer M4 Week 4.1-4.5
- Design: Feedback
- Final reflection: Plans, elevations, sections, diagrams, axo, facade, 1:5, 1:30, storyline