

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Personal information	
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Studio	
Name / Theme	Flowscapes
Teachers / tutors	Inge Bobbink (L.A)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Landscape architecture studio

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	"Breath" – redefining a zone of informal settlement as an opportunity for the city and the environment for Ho Chi Minh City through the landscape architectonic intervention.
Goal	
Location:	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
The posed problem, and research question	<p>Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam is located in a prime location where the Saigon river and the Dongnai river merged. The so-called "Pearl of the Far East City" is strongly influenced by the rivers. This is reflected through the development of Ho Chi Minh City and their way of living. At the same time, being situated in the Saigon river delta, the city has attracted more people than it can handle. As time went by, the rapid and uncontrollable urbanization has severely destroyed the balance of the landscape and gradually eradicated the cultural way of living with water. Ho Chi Minh City has experienced severe problems with the overflowing of immigrants and housing shortage. This led to the occurrence of the informal settlements along the water structures. The informal community has created more difficulties in the city including polluted water, intensify flooding problems and blocking the connection of the city to the rivers and canals. Currently, more than 15% of the registered housing units are the informal settlements, and they are continuing to grow. Hence, the city strongly requires an alternative solution to the tackle with this challenge. This situation has led to the exploration of the thesis which intended to investigate the potential of landscape architecture to create the landscape architectonic interventions to redefine the zone of informal settlement as an opportunity for Ho Chi Minh City and the environment to 'breath.' This design intervention is expected to create an adaptable integration between the informal settlement, the city and the dynamic of the natural landscape and enhance the long-lost cultural value back to the city. The research scope is in the informal settlements along the water structures in the urban districts while the focusing area is in the most accumulated area of the informal settlers which are Kenh Te canal and Kenh Doi canal.</p>

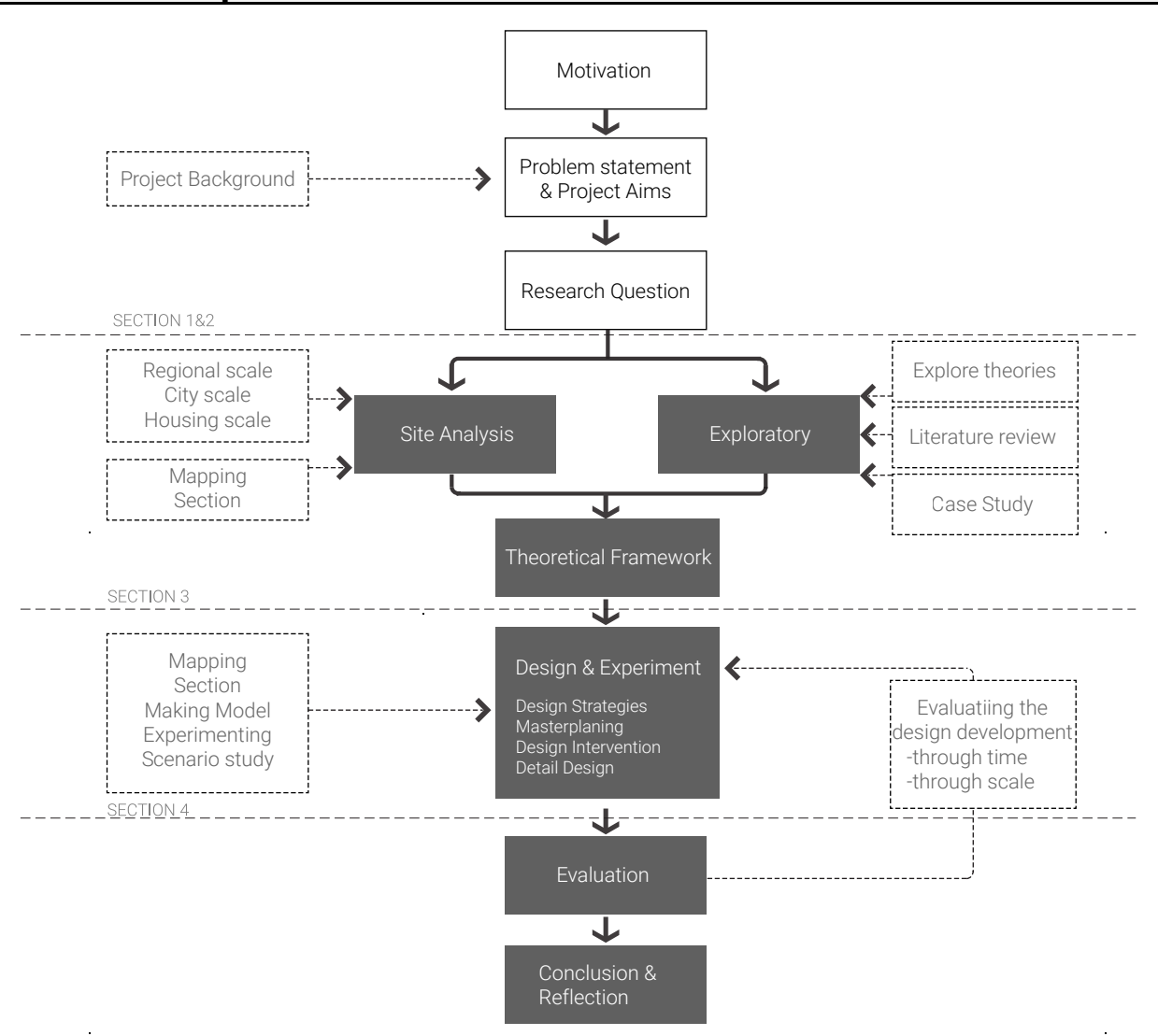
design assignment in which these result.

The project will explore the potential of the existing structure as an informal settlement as part of the landscape. The result of the design assignment can be described as following

- **Organs:** A set of typologies of small-scale design interventions which can generate interrelation between the informal settlement, the dynamic of the landscape and water. As well as, creating a connection between informal settler and Ho Chi Minh City people. The design is expected to be integrated into the existing structure and sustainably built by local material.
- **Breathing System:** A single organ or a single design intervention can create a certain effect while the installation of multiple design interventions can generate greater impact to the surrounding. A network of design intervention will provide a better condition to the city and the landscape to have a deeper breath. Besides, in order to acquire this stage, the scenario study will be explored to comprehend the forthcoming situation and the unexpected events in the mere future.
- **A toolkit of breathing system:** Informal settlement is not only a problem for Ho Chi Minh City but also a global issue. The exploration of this project is expected to be a set of design toolkits which can be used as a guideline for other cities with similar situations to create a network of landscape-acupuncture and to enhance the different cultural value of each city.

Process

Method description



Literature and general practical preference

Storch, H., & Downes, N. K. (2011). A scenario-based approach to assess Ho Chi Minh City's urban development strategies against the impact of climate change. *Cities*,28(6), 517-526. doi:10.1016/j.cities.2011.07.002

Vachaud, G., Quertamp, F., Phan, T. S., Ngoc, T. D., Nguyen, T., Luu, X. L., . . . Gratiot, N. (2018). Flood-related risks in Ho Chi Minh City and ways of mitigation. *Journal of Hydrology*. doi:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2018.02.044

Gravert, A., & Wiechmann, T. (2016). Climate Change Adaptation Governance in the Ho Chi Minh City Region. *Sustainable Ho Chi Minh City: Climate Policies for Emerging Mega Cities*,19-35. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-04615-0_2

Givental, E. (2014). The Ho Chi Minh City Canals: Assessing Vulnerability and Resilience Factors. *Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers*,76(1), 49-67. doi:10.1353/pcg.2014.0001

Lerner, J. (2016). *Urban acupuncture*. Island Press.

Hoogduyn, R. (2014). *Urban Acupuncture. Revitalizing urban areas by small scale interventions*.

Watson, D., & Adams, M. (2011). *Design for flooding: Architecture, landscape, and urban design for resilience to flooding and climate change*. Hoboken: Wiley.

Prominski, M., Stokman, A., & Zeller, S. (2012). *River, space, design: Planning strategies, methods and projects for urban rivers*. Basel : Birkhäuser.

Time planning

SEP	P1	Motivation	Site Analysis (macro scale) - Literature review - Comparative Study - Mapping	Geographical Condition Climate Condition Hydrological Condition Ecological Condition Cultural Condition	Problem Analysis - Comparative Study - Mapping	Site Potential	Research Question		
OCT									
NOV	P2	Research	Assessing Spatial Aspects between landscape and informal settlements	Literature review Case Study Mapping	Specify area to study	Design Framework - design direction - design potential	Theoretical Framework		
DEC								Theoretical Study Literature Review Case Study Comparative Study	Schematic design
JAN									
FEB	P3	Research by design	Scenario Based experiments with design through time differences	Design Intervention design development process					
MAR									
APR	P4	Detail Design	Finalize the Design						
MAY									
JUN									
JUL	P5	Reflection & Conclusion							