

Reflection P5

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Delta Interventions is an inter-disciplinary graduation studio focusing on water related issues such as flood risk management in urban delta regions. Due to a changing climate and changing insights concerning sustainable relations between cities and water-landscapes, new interventions will be needed to create a new urban delta-landscape. The task of an architect in this studio is to develop an architectural object in such a waterscape.

Here for I have chosen to design a community in the Parana Delta of Argentina, which is, like many other deltas, vulnerable to flooding. Like the subject of the studio, this project is a research of the different aspects of the delta and the possibilities this brings for an architectural design. This project focus on the geographical, ecological, social and economic aspects of the Parana delta and integrates these topics into an architectural design.

In this studio the students were free to choose a subject of interest. Since I am interested in making designs for lower middle class people in a low economic valued country, in ecological risk full areas, I have chosen for the growing economic area of the Parana delta in Argentina. This rapidly growing coastline misses a design strategy. Due to that many problems occurs, such as accessibility to and from the Delta, segmentation of the urban coastline and upcoming growth of informal settlements. These closed areas are a high risk for flooding because there is no strategy to decrease the impact of the floods. Besides people are not aware of these high risk in this area because there is no visual and physical connection with the delta because of the closed coastline.

That is why I reevaluated social housing in the coastal area of the Parana delta. This design had as goal to open up the coastal area to increase the connection with the delta and the metropolis, the design had to respect the ecological value of this area and people had to be made aware of the dynamics of this delta environment. Since the houses are for the lower middle class, it has to be made of affordable materials.

The method of the studio was to analyse the case areas in groups before starting with your own design. Since I decided to work on another delta than requested in the studio, I haven't work in groups for a long time. Nevertheless I have done the same work as my colleagues, but at another area. Since we were working with architectural, urban and civil engineer student, many topics were discussed in the studio. Some strategies of these other disciplines were very useful during the research. In this way of working with other disciplines I got a wider scope in the subject of designing, I am very pleased of this way of studio work. An example of this in my design is the spatial planning

and the goal of planning to develop this community in the regional scale and the impact of this design strategy in the regional scale.

The research for the design started with analyzing the Parana delta. The researched focused on the ecological importance of the delta and the impact of human hand in this delta. With this information a strategy of designing social housing in this delta was made. Also the flood characteristics were researched to make it possible to make a good decision of what kind of buildings I could place in this area. By case studies and research about the possibilities of building in a wet and floodrisk area, decisions were made what kind of prototype building suited such an area and what kind of changes had to be made in the prototype to make it suitable.

The design is the outcome of all the different research topics done. All the time the environmental characteristics (the geographical, ecological, social and economic) were the leading topics for the design decisions.

By reevaluating social housing in the coastal area of a delta, a new strategy of building in such a waterscape is formed. In the future the water will be more consistent in our lives, also in our living environment. It is important that people are aware of the characteristics, the risks but also the opportunities of living in a waterscape. This design will not exclude the delta characteristics but uses these characteristics to form a live able and sustainable living environment.