

The Berlage Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design  
Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment  
Delft University of Technology

# Thesis Project Plan

The Berlage.

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|------------------------|---|
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| ABOUT THE THESIS PROJECT |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Thesis project title     | Beyond the Cloud |
| Thesis advisor 1         | [name]           |
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**Thesis project description**

'Beyond the Cloud' speculates about the future of Iceland's landscape, presenting this territory as the center of the world- a kind of deposit of a new Holy Grail. It assumes a scenario of gradual occupation of its remote volcanic desert by a whole system of infrastructures dedicated both to the accumulation of digital data as well as to the production and distribution of renewable energy.

**Thesis project site**

The volcanic desert of Iceland.

**Thesis project outcome**

The goal is to design a set/sequence of fictional images that transmit a personal point of view on the evolution of these circumstances, as a glimpse Beyond the Cloud. A contextualizing – and provocative – written essay will complement this perspective.

**Relevance**

Today we are dependent on instant access to data, either on our smartphones or on our tablets. Information society relies on the internet of things. For one to be regarded as a cultivated individual it is not enough to know hard facts; it is about knowing where to source valid data – in a blink of an eye – in The Cloud. The invisible connection to physical data centers - where all information is stored - geographically located in remote locations, has conducted to this popular abstract connotation: as if obscured by a cloud, the infrastructures of the information society are invisible, nevertheless omnipresent. Latest updates tell us about the crucial position Iceland is assuming in making available its broad deserted territory to host this global cloud. The arguments for this positioning are strong and its pertinence starts to materialize. In geostrategic terms, not only is the security of data better guaranteed in an island, but also its 'centrality' - between Europe and North America - reveals to be convenient. Moreover, Iceland scores for its climatic conditions bearing in mind the huge amounts of energy usually spent in cooling systems, as well as for the cheap & clean electricity made available by existent hydropower sources. Finally, government's bet is to attract operators to set up shop here by weaving with tax incentives. 'Beyond the Cloud' is an aesthetic study that will for the first time anticipate the vast scale of this 'total-infrastructure' landscape devoid of any human life. Conscious of the utopic nature of this exercise, the project will nevertheless depart from real and updated data concerning Iceland's territorial context, the study of architectural tendencies for the types of buildings which are to 'fill' Iceland's landscape, but also with a down-to-earth perspective on political, economical, and cultural status quo.

**Bibliography of literature, precedents, and references**

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Stoll, Katrina, Scott Lloyd, and Stan Allen. Infrastructure as Architecture: Designing Composite Networks. Berlin: Jovis, 2010.

Verne, Jules. The Wilderness of Ice; Part Two of The Adventures of Captain Hatteras. Westport, CT: Associated Booksellers, 1961.

Villari, Sergio. J.N.L. Durand (1760-1834): Art and Science of Architecture. New York: Rizzoli, 1990.

#### **Structure and method**

Survey of the architectural relevance of Clouds through time. The catalogue will be developed with the support of Ph.D. Francisco Förster Burón – Astronomer and researcher.

A territorial survey of the island in order to identify areas for the development of the different fictional images. The survey will be supported by a local expert (to be defined).

In parallel there will be a study on architectural tendencies for the types of buildings that form the Electric Grid and enable the existence of The Cloud. The relevance of the different types would be developed with the support of Ph.D. Francisco Förster Burón – Astronomer and Researcher.

Design of a sequence of fictional images ( perspectives/axonometries) separated in different episodes of the future spaces of the Icelandic territory.

#### **Preliminary schedule and time planning**

##### **WK 35**

##### **Compulsory kick-off workshop**

##### **WK 36**

##### **Compulsory presentation**

##### **WK 37**

Meeting with Experts – reflection on the presentation and intentions for the project.

Reflect and research on the questions posed by the tutors and clarify their relevance for the final project.

##### **WK 38**

Electric Grid Architecture Type – How will they feed the project.

Final Selection of the collected material and drawings from the survey to Iceland and define concretely the chosen sites.

Map the desert of Iceland. Is it a landscape project? Is it a group of buildings put together? Is it a city?

Delineate the project in a storyboard. Where to start and the end goal.

##### **WK 39**

Delineate the project in a storyboard. Where to start and the end goal.

Written support of the thesis: Is it a long text? Or are they for example smaller episodes (e.g. Noah's Ark)

Go through the Bibliography.

Development of the Project – Axonometric, Perspective, captions, formal relations and comparisons with other examples.

##### **WK 40**

Meeting with Experts – presentation of the new elements.

Written support of the thesis: Is it a long text? Or are they for example smaller episodes (e.g. Noah's Ark )

Go through the Bibliography.

##### **WK 41**

Develop the elements for the presentation:

At the end of the week there should be a clear logic of the project showed through visual elements as well as the written text. .

Also there should be a detailed strategy for the production of the final elements.

Make the first try of the chosen representation method.

##### **WK 42**

##### **Compulsory midterm presentation**

##### **WK 43**

Meeting with Experts – reflection on the presentation and intentions for the project.

Research on the questions posed by the tutors and clarify their relevance for the final project.

##### **WK 44**

Development of the Project – Plans, Sections, captions, formal relations and comparisons with other examples.

##### **WK 45**

Development of the Project – Plans, Sections, captions, formal relations and comparisons with other examples.

##### **WK 46**

Meeting with Experts – presentation of the new elements.

Development of the Project – Plans, Sections, captions, formal relations and comparisons with other examples.

**WK 47**

Development of the Project – Plans, Sections, captions, formal relations and comparisons with other examples.  
Final drawings and Video production.

**WK 48**

**Dress rehearsal**

**WK 49**

**E2**

**WK 50**

**Presentation postproduction workshop**

**WK 51**

**Presentation postproduction workshop**

**WK 2**

**Presentation postproduction workshop**

**WK 3**

**Presentation postproduction workshop**

**WK 4**

**Presentation postproduction workshop**

**WK 5**

**E3**