The theme of the studio is Urban Regeneration: What next? The studio focuses on the Zaanlijn (railroad track Zaandam - Uitgeest), which is part of the Metropolitan area of Amsterdam.

The Zaanlijn functions as a barrier within the region. The main theme of my proposal is about breaking the barrier by making an underground station.

This is a generic topic that can be applied in cities all over the world; a railroad track usually works as a barrier dividing a city into two parts. (asp. 4)

When the railroad track is put underground, this barrier is dissolved.

As a consequence a lot of space is given back to the city. Also the mental barrier of the railroad track for the inhabitants is gone.

The question is how to fill up this empty space?
The new underground station in Delft is a good example regarding this topic. I have worked out this generic theme, in the specific context of Koog-Zaandijk.

Two other themes are important for my design proposal given by the studio, **densification** within existing urban fabric and the role of **industrial heritage** within the Zaanstreek area.

The station-area of Koog-Zaandijk contains the three themes given by the studio, that's why I chose to work on this location.

With my design I have connected these three themes into one project and I gave an answer on how to deal with these themes in the form of an urban and architectonical design. (asp. 2)

The methods given by the studio have proved to be sufficient for me to come to a design solution. It was difficult in the beginning to formulate a project out of nothing. An extensive urban analysis on the whole Zaanstreek area provided the necessary information to come up with a proposal. The negative aspect was that this analysis took a lot of time, which is not visible in the project anymore. A positive aspect is that I have learned to formulate my own kind of design. Normally the program and the location for a design are given.

Building typology, the framework in which the studio Hybrid Building is operating, gave me the tools to come up with an urban/architectonical design. (asp. 3)
I have searched for a typology that fits the location and the three themes that I wanted to work with, following up from the Urban Analysis.

I found the answer in the courtyard typology. The courtyard typology forms the base for my design. I was able to integrate the underground station, the densification and re-use of industrial heritage into one project.

From there on I developed my design with different tools: by finding reference projects and borrowing solutions from them to sharpen my own design, by making sketches, by making physical models, 3d models, plans, sections.

I always printed the plans and sections I made in CAD to check it with a red pencil. By doing this you see things in the drawing, which you don't see in the computer. This interaction between hand drawing and CAD drawing is very important. And it is important to be critical at the outcome and always look for a better solution.

It is very important in a design process to be aware of the topics you are working on. Only then you can carefully study material and theory that provides relevant information about the topic and helps you with the design.

Basically I have tried to keep a dynamic design process, by constantly changing the tools of design. By doing this I didn't get stuck during the design process and I was always able to make progress.
What I can improve is, knowing when to use what tool of design. This can result in a more efficient design process.
However I think that the concept of a dynamic design process proved to be quite successful for me, you constantly change your perspective on the design and find new problems/opportunities.

I managed to have a quite linear process; this proves that my way of working was adequate. Maybe the progress should have been faster, but the size of the project should be taken under consideration. It is an urban plan as well as an architectonic design, dealing with complex topics and when I started I didn't fully understand what I was doing yet. The teachers helped me to maintain the right direction and helped me to understand what the project is about. The design solution gives an answer to all the themes of the graduation studio, improving the station area, breaking the barrier, how to deal with industrial heritage and densifying the station area.