Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
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.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private e-mail address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Studio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name / Theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers / tutors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argumentation of choice of the studio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduation project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title of the graduation project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The posed problem,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Important time-resistant structures, like the ones of old water ways that currently work in favor of fragmentation can reverse their role and turn into connecting structures for restoring the landscape.

**Main research question:**

Can time-resistant water structures be used as a condition to restore and connect a fragmented landscape?

The questions that follow this are:

- How can we design a network of open spaces related with these structures?
- What are the current conditions that create fragmentation and isolation between the different landscapes in the area?
- Can physical and conceptual connections be utilized to restore the relations among the fragments?
- Which are the time-resistant water structures of the area?
- What are the opportunities to develop connecting structures in the landscape?
- How can we develop a strategy considering these structures as starting points?
- How can we apply the outcome of the design to other diffused and fragmented urban situations?

Use of the theoretical research and the area analysis to develop a strategy that has a double role:

- Taking advantage of time-resistant waterways to create physical and conceptual connections in a regional scale
- Create connections in-between the variant fragments that exist along the waterway and the surroundings

This strategy will have derived from the design assignment for the case of Poldervaart and will result in a masterplan along the canal as well as in smaller spatial interventions on a network of open spaces that generate from it.

In the end the strategy and the design principles will be tested in the case of Delfshavense Schie, which presents similar characteristics as an important water way but in different way.
Theoretical research framework (detailed research in the report):

Study of theories of
  Open City (Boundaries and Borders)
  Horizontal Metropolis
  Framework of the porous city
  Topology

Formulation of theory about fragmented landscapes:
  _City as landscape
  _City as a landscape of fragments
  _Landscape structures as a potential to restore and connect the fragmented landscape
  _Definitions of terms (fragments, physical connections, conceptual connections)

_Situation in the Netherlands
_Historical research: old structures engraved in the landscape have played a very important role on how the whole area has been developed
_Analysis of the area (mapping landscape characteristics and important open spaces in order to reveal potential structures that can work as connectors)

_Propose strategy with a double role (physical and conceptual connections on a regional and local scale)

**Design by Research**

Strategy and design principles extracted from the research framework in order to lead to the specific landscape architecture design.

**Research by Design**

  _Select the area with the higher potentials
  _Decompose the area along this structure, find the parts that constitute it
  _Trace the fragments and analyze them. Understand the needs of each fragment and of the whole area
  _Decide on the approach of the strategy, find more specific design principles
  _Detailed design of spatial interventions. How can the principles be translated spatially?
  _Apply the findings/conclusions on another area with similar structures as a test case to prove that the strategy works

The final project will be the outcome of a design research and research-by-design approach. It will be the blend of both: research leading to design decisions, and design experimentation asking for theoretical re-evaluations

**Literature and general practical preference**

Theories that have been influential:
  _Richard Sennett Borders and Boundaries
  _Paola Vigano Porous city
  _James Corner about Landscape Urbanism
  _Richard Weller about urbanisation and restoration of the landscape
  _OMA The heart of a city – Melun Senart
  _Sieverts Zwischenstadt
Literature:
_The Open City, Richard Sennett
-Horizontal Metropolis and porous cities, Paola Vigano Studio
_Antwerp, territory of new modernity, Paola Vigano, Bernardo Secchi
_The Territories of Urbanism: The Project As Knowledge Producer, Paola Vigano
_The elegance of topology, C. Girot
_What is landscape urbanism?, T. Turner
_Metropolitan Landscape Architecture - Urban Parks And Landscapes, C. Steenbergen, W. Reh
_Flowscapes: Designing infrastructure as landscape, S. Nijhuis, D. Jauslin, F.v.d. Hoeven
_Urban landscapes, S.I. De Wit, J.R.T. Van der Velde, S. Milinovic
_Learning from Rotterdam, F. Palmboom
_The patchwork metropolis 1989---2014, C. Pisano
_Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories, M. Potteiger
_Medium OASE 89, The mis-size city as a European urban condition and strategy, NAI Uitgevers
_Panarchy, Understanding Transformations in Human and Natural Systems, L. H. Gunderson, C. S. Holling
_Stadsrandenatlas Zuidvleugel, Lola architects
_Atlas van de Schie, J. E. Abrahamse

Reflection
Relevance

In the Netherlands, about three quarters of the population live in urban areas as well as work there. The largest cities in this metropolitan areas show also the strongest population growth. A national urban agenda, launched by the Dutch government, the Agenda Stad, affirms that cities play a key role in the future development, while in the future, it is expected pressure in the rural-urban fringe will remain strong (Ritsema van Eck et al. 2009; Hamers and Piek 2012). Following this notion, in the subsequent National Policy Document on Spatial Planning (the ‘Nota Ruimte’, Ministry of VROM 2004), the focus shifted towards urban networks and urban developments on a regional scale.

However, when these regional approaches try to form a vision for the landscape in a more generic and absolute form, it is likely that they lack in sensitivity about more topical and site-specific matters. Contemporary areas are in need of more situated approaches for urban landscapes as the future remains challenging. This project could give a new insight on how to generally deal with fragmented urban areas through a landscape architecture lens. By taking a closer look on the characteristics of the last, we could trace time-resistant structures and find potentials to create connections between the urban fragments as well as integration of the variant landscapes in a regional scale. Important waterways that prove to be resistant to time can act as generators of more complex connecting structures allowing the creation of an interlinked landscape. This project, even though it addresses only one specific area, could be a starting point for formulating strategies on a regional level and thus contributing to the general discussion.

Time planning