

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners ([Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl](mailto: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:

Personal information	
Name	
Student number	
Telephone number	
Private e-mail address	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
Main mentor	Roel van de Pas	[Academic field involved]
Second mentor	Leeke Reinders	[Academic field involved]
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Explore Lab offers an opportunity to work outside the boundaries of a typical studio. My project focusses on care in Wood Green and I think the freedom provided by Explore Lab allowed me to approach the topic from the perspective of those affected by care, rather than a purely architectural perspective. As care is practiced from the perspective of those needing care, so should plans for the future of the urban environment.</p> <p>The open structure has challenged me to create my own brief based on personal interests, independently research and through my work, build meaningful connections with people inside and outside of the university. Additionally, the freedom of Explore Lab is pushing me to constantly re-evaluate my own ideas, reflections and positions.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Meshworks of care – relational approaches to care and planning in Wood Green.
Goal	
Location:	Wood Green is a suburban district of London. Successive large-scale developments have produced a district that is architecturally and demographically diverse. At the same time, Wood Green is also one of the most deprived neighborhoods in Greater London. It is ranked within the 10% most deprived neighborhoods by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation that measures barriers to institutional services.
The posed problem,	<p>The current period of austerity has resulted in a withdrawal of state funding and subsequent shrinking and closure of public welfare programs, which has had a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable in Wood Green.</p> <p>Networks of care in Wood Green, both formal and informal, are struggling to survive these funding cuts. For many living in Wood Green, despite the requirement for care being urgent, it is not being met through conventional urban planning models. Urban planners within the council have often overlooked the complexity of issues that result from deprivation, and therefore struggle to provide effective care.</p>

	<p>More broadly, across London the practice of care and the spaces it occupies have been commodified and found to be unprofitable. Space for care is disregarded in favour of highly profitable residential and commercial units.</p>
<p>Research questions and</p>	<p><i>What is care?</i> My research begins by asking what care is, and how it operates within Wood Green. In order to support the existing networks of care in Wood Green, we must establish what care is.</p> <p><i>How is care spatialized?</i> The next question is an examination of how care is spatialized, and how it relates to its urban context. This involves wider questions about conceptual frameworks relating to social interaction and space.</p> <p><i>How can planning relate to care?</i> I ask how urban planning relates to care, and how this can reflect different theories of both care and space. This questions whether planning can move away from a traditional focus on buildings as objects, and asks whether it can incorporate the inherently relational nature of care and space.</p> <p><i>How to apply this?</i> This final question is how to translate different conceptual approaches to care, space and planning into the practical reality of Wood Green.</p>
<p>Design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design is an exploration into how architectural interventions can improve and expand meshworks of care in Wood Green. This involves a focus on shared space and architecture which responds to changing local needs.</p> <p>The design assignment looks to knit separate caring resources in Wood Green, into a common, outward facing meshwork. It places architecture for care in the public realm. I will explore this on two scales:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Neighbourhood planning:</i> Firstly, I will look at how meshworks of care can be encouraged to develop within Wood Green's diverse neighbourhoods through an alternative planning model.</li> <li>2) <i>Site specific architecture:</i> The second stage is to examine how architecture and physical interventions can form a knot of caring resources within a specific site. This will draw on existing formal and informal care resources on the site, but try to provide an architectural framework that can both draw them together, and allow them to adapt to changing requirements.</li> </ol> <p>In order to support those most in need in Wood Green the project must consider not just the relationship between deprived individuals and support, but to also consider the relationships between support structures themselves. This design pays attention to these relationships, encouraging entanglement on both a neighbourhood and architectural scale.</p>
<p>The research phase draws the following conclusions on the topics outlined above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By drawing on feminist theories, including those of Maria Puig de la Bellasca, I conclude that care is specific, situated and complex. But most importantly, care is relational. Care occurs within every connection that a form of life is dependent on, not through the reshaping of objects or individuals.</li> <li>• We can see how care is spatialized within urban environments, as a web of connections rather than individual isolated caring resources. To design a caring network across spaces in Wood Green, our approach must be relational, operating within this web of connections. This approach to spatializing care has been underappreciated in Wood Green, leading to ineffective solutions to social deprivation.</li> <li>• I also look at urban planning as a speculative practice concerning the built environment. The relational conceptualization of care can also be applied to space and urban planning, and I draw on Tim Ingold's understanding of the world as a 'meshwork' rather than a 'network' to do so.</li> <li>• These theories come together to conclude that by understanding both care and space as relational, and specifically through the concept of a meshwork, we can envisage a more effective planning model in</li> </ul>	

Wood Green. Through knotting meshworks, there is the potential to move planning away from processes that overlook the vital dependencies of neglected people, and instead encourage caring relations.

## Process

### Method description

The research phase took two very different perspectives on the topic, and found significant common ground between them:

The first perspective was to examine the state of social care and deprivation in London. The project initially started by looking at this across London – and covered themes including regeneration, government austerity, planning policies, and local authority involvement. I then turned to look at Wood Green more specifically, which encompassed many of the social and spatial aspects of social care in a concentrated geography. The methods here included primary sources such as interviews with local residents, planning policies, and site visits, as well as secondary research on deprivation in Wood Green and planning practices in London.

The second perspective was a conceptual one – looking at wider academic research on the project's themes. This was divided into two broad areas. One part was academic theories about social care and its interaction with space, and the other part was research on planning and the ways it can be spatialized.

I found the conceptual methods shed light on the more site specific research on Wood Green. Much of the academic research conducted in other contexts could be applied to Wood Green and the specific issues faced by local communities in the context of government austerity.

### Literature and general practical preference

**Literature:** as noted above the literature was focused on two areas, academic work on social care and its interaction with space, and academic research on planning and the ways it can be spatialized. The full bibliography is given below:

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Boyer, D., Howe, C, Bellacasa, M. P. de la. 133 - Maria Puig De La Bellacasa. Podcast audio. *Cultures of Energy Podcast* 2018. <http://culturesofenergy.com/133-maria-puig-de-la-bellacasa/>.

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Council, Haringey. "Young People of Haringey Set to Benefit from £6.5m Onside Youth Zone." <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/news/young-people-haringey-set-benefit-65m-onside-youth-zone>.

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Deleuze, G., C.V. Boudas, Mark Lester, and Charles Stivale. *The Logic of Sense*. Columbia University Press, 1990.

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Lees, L., T. Slater, and E.K. Wyly. *Gentrification*. Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, 2008.

Lefebvre, H. *The Production of Space*. Oxford: Wiley, 1991.  
Minton, A. *Big Capital: Who Is London For?* : Penguin Books Limited, 2017.  
Moore, Stephen. "Care Homes and Day Centres Bear Brunt of £70 Millions Cuts Proposed by Haringey Council." *Islington Gazette*, 2017.  
Pinching, A. *Wood Green Past*. London: Historical Publications Ltd, 2000.  
Puig de la Bellacasa, Maria. "'Nothing Comes without Its World': Thinking with Care." *The Sociological Review* 60 (05/01 2012).  
"Southwark Notes." <https://southwarknotes.wordpress.com/>.  
Stengers, I. *Cosmopolitics I*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010.  
Tronto, J. "Beyond Gender Difference to a Theory of Care." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 12, no. 4 (1987): 644-63.

## Reflection

1. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

The social relevance is the key motivation behind the work: deprivation in Wood Green and across London is a major issue, and the lack of effective care solutions is a key reason behind this. The current economic, political and regulatory framework struggles to deal with these issues, and regularly prioritises other objectives. This project looks to draw attention to the importance of care and encourage more effective dialogues relating to it. I suggest that taking a different conceptual approach to care and planning in Wood Green can lead to more effective solutions. Many of the themes described here have relevance to social deprivation more broadly, and how architects, planners, and political bodies address it.

The project was also relevant to wider academic and scientific discussions around care and planning:

- 1) The project has identified two separate areas of academic research which have significant common ground. This project looks to combine the work of feminist scholars looking at care with academic research on the relational nature of space and planning. My research identifies how these two strands of academia reinforce each other and present similar conclusions in the context of Wood Green.
- 2) The research project applies the conclusions of various academic research onto Wood Green as a new case study. The academic discourse I had engaged with had not previously been applied to site specific discussions around Wood Green. The project has supported many of the conclusions found by previous work in an entirely new case study.

The project has also provided an opportunity to question the professional context of architecture and planning in London. My project has looked to examine how architecture and planning engage with social issues, but also I have tried to understand how the wider economic and political context has encouraged this approach.