PERSONAL INFORMATION

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STUDIO

name / theme: Explore Lab / Architecture of the complex social context - specifically the Israeli-Palestinian conflict context

teachers / tutors:  
Henri van Bennekom (design)  
Carola Hein (research)  
Hubert van der Meel (building technology)

argumentation of choice of the studio: After a short stay in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, I became interested in the water scarcity in the area and the translation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to daily lives and its architectural embodiment. The idea of making architecture into a piece of politics is something that I am interested in, which I would like to practice in my future as architect.

GRADUATION PROJECT

title: Architecture of conflict: (un)divided Hebron

location: Hebron, West Bank, Palestinian Territories

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Israeli-Palestinian society is strongly divided at different levels and scales. People's movement is limited due to spatial manifestations of politics. Barriers and checkpoints keep Israeli and Palestinians apart from each other and control the movement.

Underground however, soil continuous through borders and water flows through both territories. The inequal division and limitations are the cause for territory-specific water scarcity and antagonism between people. With Hebron's divide of control (by Israel and the Palestinian Authority) it serves as an interesting case for the design project.

The principal research question is to understand the ability of architecture in a conflict city as Hebron: 
What in history has been done in architecture at conflict situations, and what did this mean to the conflict?

The design should be the architectural embodiment of what it (idealistcally) would be able to do to decrease the mutual mistrust and the problems of territorial water management in the region - following the research output.

How can architecture contribute to diminishing the water scarcity, the problems of territorial water management and the side effects in Israel and the Palestinian Territories?
Three types of research and investigation towards the design are being used. First of all, the contextual and historical research, analysis and mapping of the situation to understand and comprehend its context. A literature and theoretical research into the specific problems of segregation, divided cities and territorial water management in the Israeli-Palestinian case. As to investigate architecture capabilities in conflict situations, precedents are being studied. Projects in Berlin, Beirut and Belfast are subject to historical analysis to examine the meaning, success or failure and influence of the projects - as base for what the design could become in the case of Hebron. Specifically for the design, the three-dimensional experience is important, hence visualizations and models are key components for the design process to examine the impact on society.

**PROCESS | LITERATURE**


-Bolos, Christos, C., *Aldo Rossi in Berlin, or Form Through the Presence (and Absence) of Memory* (Yale School of Architecture: New Haven, CT, 2011)


-Gazit, Nir & Latham, Robert, 'Spatial Alternatives and Counter-Sovereignties in Israel/Palestine' in *International Political Sociology* 8(2014) 63-81


-*Haus am Checkpoint Charlie* [http://www.wikiwand.com/de/Haus_am_Checkpoint_Charlie] [last retrieved June 4th, 2017]


The graduation project, both design and research, are focused on an extreme example of segregation, antagonism and inequality in society, analysed through deeper layers within territorial water management in the Israeli-Palestinian case. The people in Israel, but mostly in the Palestinian Territories are being confronted with limitations, mistrust and misunderstanding and social inequality in their daily live, and I think it is important to keep making attempts to envision the society de-segregating.

The academic research is another step in the investigation to the power and possibilities of architecture. The research will take architecture as its case study from different conflict situations and cities, making it a thorough academic analysis, as a strong base to conclude what can or cannot be achieved by architecture.

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**REFLECTION | RELEVANCE**

The graduation project, both design and research, are focused on an extreme example of segregation, antagonism and inequality in society, analysed through deeper layers within territorial water management in the Israeli-Palestinian case. The people in Israel, but mostly in the Palestinian Territories are being confronted with limitations, mistrust and misunderstanding and social inequality in their daily live, and I think it is important to keep making attempts to envision the society de-segregating.

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REFLECTION | TIME PLANNING

wk 7/8
determining start and focus points
general research - first paper draft
literature and context research
literature research - second paper draft
literature research

wk 9/10
contextual research - third paper draft
design and location analysis - masterplan

wk 10/12
preparation and P1 presentation

wk 13/14
reflection and elaboration on P2 comments
summer holidays - low speed continuation

wk 15/16
literature research & design - drawings
literature research finalization - hand in

wk 17/18
preparation and P3 presentation

wk 19/20
design progress - 2d and 3d elaboration
design progress - 2d and 3d elaboration
design finalization - models

wk 21/22
preparation and P4 presentation

wk 23/24
reflection and elaboration on P4 comments
design - final 2d drawings and 3d images
design - model making

wk 25/26
preparation and P5 presentation

wk 27-36

wk 37/38

wk 39/40

wk 41/42

wk 43/44

wk 45/46

wk 47/48

wk 49/50

wk 51/52

wk 1/2

wk 3/4

wk 5