

## // REFLECTION

The **set approach** of the research was to research using literature and case studies. These would provide input for the design. This approach worked to an extent, however as mentioned before, the project is highly explorative. Therefore it is impossible to say whether the result is 'the best' result possible. In addition, **heuristic technique** has been applied many times due to limited time and knowledge. Therefore there could be many systematic errors and cognitive biases present. However, as of yet, we do not have a built project to compare this project with. So it is not possible to value our result objectively.

As mentioned before, in most designs the designer tries to find a solution to a known problem. In this project however, the problem is not known yet. The design will therefore help to get a better understanding of the problem instead of just focussing on finding a solution. This process is iterative and focusses on the design problem as well as the design solution. This way of working is called **exploration in design** (Maher & Poon, 1996).

Thus it is clear that the design could not have been produced without the research and the other way around. The research has developed together with the design, causing a **strong relationship**. This is shown in the figure on the right once again.

The **chosen theme** in the context of Explorelab was living on water. The design task chosen fits into this theme perfectly as the theme was self chosen. Also it can be said that the studio Explorelab is about exploring certain things. Exploring is a main theme of the research and design.

Explorelab gives students the opportunity to explore self chosen themes in a way that the student finds suitable. Thus there is no **methodical line** of approach in this graduation lab. Therefore the chosen methods cannot be fit into this approach. However, again the explorative nature of both studio and project come to mind.

On the **relationship between the project and the wider social context**, it can be said that the project is about the future. It might be a highly explorative utopia, but tomorrow's reality is today's utopia. Therefore the project is important to a wider social context. As it shows how desirable floating socio-ecological systems could be. This will inspire people to head into a new direction. This is vital because, as mentioned before, we, as humanity, are becoming exponentially larger, while using up too much too fast causing heavy pollution. This research and design are therefore of great importance for the creation of a **better future**.

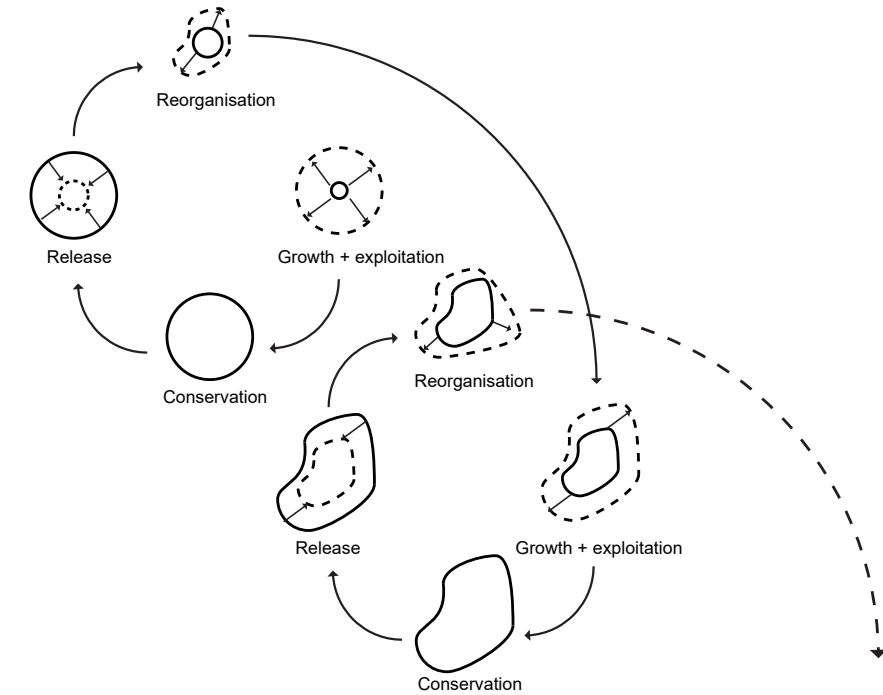


Image 99. An adaptive cycle of research by design and design by research (Walker et al., 2004)(own image)