

REFLECTION REPORT FOR P4

According to Appendix 3 of the Graduation Manual

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My graduation project as a part of the Delta Intervention studio is meant to explore how much can the architecture contribute to water management based on its new cornerstone “build with nature”. Starting from the research on coastal vulnerabilities to the study of wetland systems, I tried to conceive an extreme environment where man and nature should considerably rely on and interact with each other, through which sustainable principles can be developed in both site planning and architectural design. The outcome of this project has two aspects. From an overall perspective, the design of reed fields as part of the coastal reinforcement and definition of reed factory work for a sustainable ecology and sustainable economy. For architectural design, to place a factory on the water, to create a model in wild environment, to realize a natural form in construction and to use local materials in the design are the main challenges but at the same time final achievements.

1. The relationship between research and design

Research gives me an overview of delta projects and helps me to define what is vital and meaningful from the very first beginning. The entire process all starts from the research on multiple disciplines concerning water management and the long history of Dutch delta areas. The approach of learning from different tracks such as urbanism, landscape, hydraulic engineering, biology truly opened my mind that water management involves information and techniques from different expertise. It was indeed helpful to understand all those integrated approaches and complex systems. However, when I found out not many architectural projects were involved in this delta management, I asked myself what could architect do to devote to delta areas. According to the Delta Committee, “build with nature” has become the new strategy. Under this circumstances, I realized I can design an entire system where started from protection of coastal environment to sustainable economic profits, to renew the relationship between man and nature. And that is where I started.

Faced with an assignment I have never done before, research on various aspects of target group, on different level of the context and on possible methods for production help to define the content of a reed factory. Research on thatcher companies and factory buildings determined basic characters of this project: scale of the plant, ancillary facilities, circulations and transportation. Useful background information and important knowledge help to sketch a design and also modify or reform a design to make sure a reasonable and proper outcome.

2.The relationship between the theme of the graduation lab and the subject chosen by the student within this framework

The Delta Intervention graduation lab focus on delta environments where attract settlement, culture, industry, trade and tourism. This studio cares about display of natural dynamic, ecological richness and aims to find newly interventions for a safer and better water-systems which asks for interdisciplinary cooperation between all tracks. My graduation project starts from restoration of wetland ecosystems along oostvaardersdijk in order to respect natural power and adapt to the environment. This process at the same time can improve coastal reinforcement and produce additional benefits. To meet the requirements of natural environment is the first mission. To develop a sustainable economy is the second step while improve social awareness would be the last effort in this project.

3.The relationship between the methodical line of approach of the graduation lab and the method chosen by the student in this framework

In order to get a full grip on the complex notion of a design in delta areas, the first period of the studio provided necessary lectures for basic knowledge and invited experts working in this realm to introduce us to the real issues. Together with various spatial analysis and water related practice, a meaningful understanding of the delta could be developed, processing an initial design proposal. Further on, through sketching, shaping, modeling my design process, the methodology of analyzing, concluding, composing meaningful elements into a whole project turned out to be a rich method of studying. This process repeated from research and collect information to create and design fresh product. I find inspirations from natural environment and choose to produce a project that is not similar to any one else. Learn from exist technology and make use of creative minds to challenge myself with all the knowledge I learned before will improve not only this project but my capacity as well.

4.The relationship between the project and the wider social context

Based on the sustainable principles, this project for the first time put forward a proposal of an entire production and supply chain of the wetlands which improved coastal environment and produce additional profits at the same time. The idea about sustainable economy was applied and pursued in this project in order to develop an economy that is economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible. This is not only about protecting human beings from rising sea-level from natural disasters, but to remind people rethinking the relation between man and nature and renewing our arrogant attitude towards nature and other species. This project provides one possible practice, novel and ambitious, in sustainable development and try to move a step forward.