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*Reflection*

*The Honduran Production Valleys*  
*Finding balance between people and environment*



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## *Reflection*

### *In reflection to the wider context*

Whilst agricultural landscapes are products of the local ecosystem, and community in which they are situated, they are increasingly becoming affected by the same global issues and converging under the dynamics of globalisation. The main global issues being the inevitable population growth and consequential worldwide food insecurity. As predicted by the UN, the world's population by the year 2100 will be between 9.5 and 13.3 billion. In accordance to the average American with a food footprint of 1.4 hectares, 93% of the world's surface would be needed for a '2100 middle class world'. I think this project is extremely relevant at present for landscape architects, the mediators of environment, to offer solution to the growing need for agricultural space, and most importantly how this space works with the environment and people whom make up the landscape.

In addition to this problem on a spatial level, I think it very relevant as well to address the people of whom make up the landscape. My work at the PBL allowed me to explore three case studies of agricultural landscapes and their possible futures; in all three it was a multitude of actors contributing to the discussion. The agricultural landscapes in question are more and more being controlled by outsiders and influenced as such. Locals to the landscapes are continuously losing power in their landscapes. I think the project relevant in this way as it proposes balance to this problem and new ways for people to engage with their surroundings. As the world becomes more globalised, our way of life affecting those of whom live half way across the globe; we face these global challenges together. But it is important to see how the individuals of the landscapes themselves relate to these global frontiers.

In reflection; I think my project was able to add technical solution to this large problem on a spatial level toward a future where production landscape and environment are in balance, but it also considered the empowerment of people within the landscape at every stage.

### *In reflection to the method and ethical dilemmas*

I was very fortunate to work with the PBL during the initial stages of this project which could really support the research being conducted. Through my work at the PBL I had access to a great amount of information in regard to the problem in the specific area of Honduras, and from interviews with various actors within the landscape such as NGOs, Palm Oil companies as well as banks and donors of the project. This was extremely useful in seeing the project from a very real perspective and in the end for a

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more realistic approach of implementation, especially from an outsider perspective.

The interviews conducted were able to lead to scenarios which, through research in more depth and through illustration, were able to be brought back to the actors for real discussions on the varying scenarios. This was a great moment to make actors in the landscape aware of one another and their needs, as well as how the landscape works as a system and the consequences of their decisions.

It is as such that I think what this project really compels in is its social aspect; throughout the project actors of the landscape have been in discussion a large range of people have been talked to. As a landscape architect, I think it essential to bring these global problems into technical solutions in the landscape but always in consideration of the people and place. I think this especially relevant in my more western perspectives and design approaches to global contexts.

Again, in my own visit to Honduras, I set about to really talk to people there to fully understand the landscape. As well as living with an architect whom works in San Pedro Sula and could really bring me insight to the context, I conducted interviews to various landscape initiatives as well as at a palm oil company.

*In reflection of design and ethical implementation*

It was the ambition of my project to bring this large global issue to a realised design of site specificity. Although I think the concept and spatial design as whole works very well as solution to the problem, both balancing landscape and reconnecting people to their landscape, I think there are many aspects which still require much more research by in depth design. For the further in detail design, I think the project requires more knowledge on the landscape such as predicted rain falls and specialists on water management to realistically implement the project.

However I think the design is successful in its spatial quality it brings to the landscape, taking elements specific to the landscape itself and working with the natural form of the landscape itself. The design in places is not only about the technical solutions but subtle characteristics which tie together the valley of the Sula for interactions on an individual level.

I think the design in materiality successfully offers a realistic way of implementation. There are a few formal and set interventions in design, but much of the project is flexibly designed for interpretation by the locals themselves. As a project, I wanted to offer a united system but ensure enough freedom for the open interpretation by the people, so it is not too controlled, but even in implementation can empower the people of the landscape for their own control of their landscape.

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Even in thinking of the construction of the project, I brought people at the foreground of its implementation. Using the cooperative of HonduPalma as the starting point, which ensures the fair working with local people, people in the landscape will be involved in the construction and able to interpret it throughout.

Through land use changes and ownership change, this part of the project may take a long time to ensure, which can only come with cooperation of many actors within the landscape. I hope through the story I tell, which highlights the project to global issues and brings awareness of the whole system, that this can be influenced. This story is carried through to the drawings in which I display the final project. The compositions tell the landscape in a story capturing the link of the global to its local influence.

### *In conclusion*

The project highlights as to a possible future, of a united landscape, envisioned in a new story of the landscape. The project offers ideas of the landscape at whole, linking the global issues to the local situation. As well as real ways of construction and how the project may be implemented. With more focus on technical aspects of the project, I think the project could in reality be successful and a starting point to the entire northern coastline of Honduras.

The project in whole is display of an landscape architects influence on large global issues such as food production, and the technical solutions we can offer, envisioned for a realistic possibility for a balanced future.