Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
# Graduation Plan: All tracks – Urbanism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Personal information</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
<td>Bella Bluemink</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student number</strong></td>
<td>4282612</td>
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<td><strong>Telephone number</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Private e-mail address</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Studio</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name / Theme</strong></td>
<td>History &amp; Heritage</td>
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| **Teachers / tutors** | First mentor: Leo van den Burg  
Second mentor: Gerdy Verschuure-Stuip  |
| **Argumentation of choice of the studio** | I am interested in the connection between history and the present. Questions arise such as: ‘What is the influence of history on the present day and the future?’  
‘(How) is this visible?’  
‘Is this history still a quality now?’  
‘How do you preserve heritage qualities?’  
‘What is the meaning of heritage for people?’  
‘What is the value of a place for the actual users?’  
This studio will give me the opportunity to explore this topic further and combine it with other aspects that I am interested in. |

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<th><strong>Graduation project</strong></th>
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| **Title of the graduation project** | Social Spatial Inequality in The Hague  
*A cultural historical journey through the public spaces of Statenkwartier & Moerwijk*  |
| **Goal**               |  |
| **Location**           | The Hague, Statenkwartier and Moerwijk  |
| **The posed problem**  | The city of The Hague has a big social-spatial problem.  
The city is divided in neighborhoods with big social differences between residents. The contrast between the social welfare of residents, has a relation with the spatial neighbourhood division of The Hague. A certain neighbourhood is used by a certain type of residents. This leads to a form of social-spatial inequality. This happens when social differences are unjust, and have a strong |
relation with the spatial context. This is a problem that has been present in The Hague since the city was built. The problem is not as severe as it could be, but if nothing is done, it can have serious consequences like high unemployment rates, significant more crimes, a low form of social cohesion and even ghetto formation. Therefore it is necessary to address this problem.

**research questions**

Because of the historical character of this problem it will strengthen the research if a historical approach is chosen. In which the historical value of a place can contribute to the design of public space.

Therefore the following question is formulated and will help to structure the research.

How can public space design contribute to the reduction of social-spatial inequality between neighborhoods in The Hague, whilst using the historical value of the place, in order to contribute to a just city?

In order to answer this question this research will address several sub-questions:
- What is the social-spatial inequality problem in the city of The Hague?
- What is a just city?
- What is the historical and current value of a neighbourhood?
- What is the value of place attachment?

**design assignment in which these result.**

The intention of this project is to improve the social-spatial (e)quality in the city of The Hague. This project will focus on the effect of public space design as a method to reduce the drastic differences between neighborhoods in the city.

The goal of this project is a redesign of a public space, where the historical value of this place can contribute to a just design that addresses the social-spatial inequality problem.

**Hypothesis**

The historical value of a place is a strength that can contribute to the improvement of the future public space. It can give this place more character and identity. It can be the starting point to redesign a public space in order to make it more just. The chemistry between past and present will be the foundation for a bright "just" future.
## Intended end products
- A theoretical framework of just city design
- A theoretical framework of the value of place attachment
- A comprehensive analysis that captures the historical value of Statenkwartier and Moerwijk
- A comprehensive analysis that captures the current strengths and weaknesses of Statenkwartier and Moerwijk
- A redesign of a public space where the historical value and current strengths are translated into the design.

## Process

### Method description
This research project consists of three major components: theory, analysis and design.

The theory is split in two parts. A theoretical paper about the value of place attachment and a theoretical research of just city design will lead to a set of design guidelines.

Next to the theory a comprehensive analysis of the historical development and the current situation of two neighborhoods will be presented. The two neighborhoods will be compared on the historical and present situation. This comparison will give insight in the needs for the future and will therefore add to the set of design guidelines and will make it possible to choose the design location.

Both theory and analysis will give more insight in what is needed in the future. They set the guidelines that will be used to test the public space design, to make sure it will live up to this future image.

### Analysis description
In this research two neighborhoods will be analysed in detail. These neighborhoods are het Statenkwartier and Moerwijk. The analysis of these neighborhoods will be split in two parts: a historical development analysis and an analysis of the current situation.

Both of the analysis are based upon the theory of Taverne et al. (2012). In this theory a division is made between three fundamental aspects of urbanism; urbs, civitas and topos.

Urbs refers to the physical city, as envisioned by urban planners and architects. The spatial structure and built shape are the main characteristics of this aspect (Schippers, 2013).

Civitas refers to the city as a place in which political, economic, social and cultural
developments come together (Schippers, 2013). This aspect is about the daily life of people, how they use and intervene with space and place. People are influenced by the way an area is planned, but also have the power to use the space as they want.

Topos refers to the representation and interpretation of the city. Texts, images and representations can describe the ideals, dreams and visions for or about a place (Schippers, 2013). It is about a perceptive image of the city. Topos is the soft city, of illusions, myths, dreams and aspirations.

In order to structure the analysis, the three different aspects will function as a point of departure. The historical analysis will give more insight in the development of the neighborhoods. How they were designed (urbs). How and by whom they were used (civitas). And the interpretation of the public life by authors and artists (topos). The analysis of the current situation will explain the current physical form (urbs). How and by whom the neighborhoods are used (civitas). And the interpretation of the public life by residents and myself (topos).

From the analysis of the historical development and current situation of both het Statenkwartier and Moerwijk a comparison study of the past and present and both neighborhoods is possible. This study will result in a SWOT analysis.

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<th>Literature and general practical preference</th>
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<td>The theory is split in two parts. A theoretical paper about the value of place attachment and a theoretical research of just city design will lead to a set of design guidelines.</td>
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*Place Attachment*

Place attachment is a strong bond between an individual and a specific place, because of this bond people want to remain in this comfortable and safe place. This bond can occur on different levels of scale, also in the scale of urban design.

Place attachment has a physical and personal aspect. This personal aspect can be the psychological/ emotional response to the physical place, the social context or the historical character of this place.

When designing a place, the complete experience of people, both physically and psychologically should be researched. Urban designers should focus on the physical and personal aspects of places. Tools as mixture of users and participation can lead to an improvement of the personal site of place attachment. In order to improve the physical site of place attachment it is important to improve the physical place with the following attributes in mind: accessibility, legibility, vitality, diversity, transaction, distinctiveness, comfort and safety.

When place attachment is taken into consideration as an important part of design analysis or as a design tool, places will form a more coherent whole. The increased place attachment will also increase the quality of life.
The Just City

"The Just City Lab investigates the definition of urban justice and the just city, and examines how design and planning contribute to the conditions of justice and injustice in cities, neighborhoods and the public realm” (The Just City Lab, 2017). The Lab created an index that identifies 12 principles and 50 values that contribute to the realisation of the Just City. Issues of (in)justice are different for different contexts, therefore the index is a developing proposition (The Just City Lab, 2017).

In a study of the Public Life & Urban Justice in NYC’s Plazas (Gehl Studio & J. Max Bond Center, 2015) the just city theory is elaborated. The indicators of Gehl: public space and public life are combined with the just city principles. A new method to measure and evaluate who feels invited to new public spaces, or who does not, how spaces are used, and what types of economic or social opportunities they foster, was
introduced (Gehl Studio & J. Max Bond Center, 2015). Within each of the eleven values, a combination of public life (how people use space and who they are), public space indicators (quality and design of the space) and urban justice indicators (human health, economic, civic, culture, aesthetic, and environmental wellbeing) were included (Gehl Studio & J. Max Bond Center, 2015).

Sources

Analysis theory – Urbs, Civitas and Topos
For the analysis the theory of Taverne et al. (2012) us used. In this theory a division is made between three fundamental aspects of urbanism; urbs, civitas and topos.

Urbs refers to the physical city, as envisioned by urban planners and architects. The spatial structure and built shape are the main characteristics of this aspect (Schippers, 2013).

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Sources

Reflection
Relevance
As mentioned before the social differences have consequences on the daily life of residents of a certain neighbourhood. In order to maintain and improve the (e)quality of different neighborhoods it is necessary to intervene.
Current interventions are limited. They mostly focus on the housing stock in neighborhoods. By improving the housing, or creating a varied social mix of residents
the situation should be improved. These interventions lead to great discussions about segregation and gentrification.

Because of the close relation between the spatial division of neighborhoods and the social differences between these neighborhoods, it is more than logical that interventions in the public space would be helpful for the current situation.

**Time planning**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>problem analysis</td>
<td>theoretical framework</td>
<td>historical development analysis</td>
<td>current situation analysis</td>
<td>comparison study</td>
<td>design</td>
<td>completion</td>
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P1 P2 P3 P4 P5