

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation project topic, your master track (Ar, Ur, BT, LA, MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

The graduation project looks into integrating urban farming throughout the TU Delft campus to help with solving various problems laid out by the campus like CO2 neutrality, social participation, health and the integration of surrounding inhabitants. The project does this by first establishing which kinds of urban farming functions are desirable in these situations and defines their sizes, plan of requirements and connectivity through a series of flowcharts, and function clusters which falls in line with the 'harvest' topic of the Architectural Engineering studio. After this a specific location was chosen based on the requirements, and an architectural design was made around the defined urban farming functions, their specifics and how they could help with solving the problems mentioned by the TU Delft Campus.

2. How did your research influence your design/recommendations and how did the design/recommendations influence your research?

During my research I analysed the various resource and product flows of urban farming and how they interact, how outside non-urban farming sources, like housing and faculties, could be included within these flows, and how these flows could efficiently be combined into coherent clusters. Based on this research I deduced that I wanted to continue working on an urban farming cluster that focusses on driving social interactions between the people, and which functions were necessary to achieve this.

During the design process some alterations were made to the defined functions of the social interaction cluster, as the chosen location had some site specific properties which influenced the cluster. Mainly, the chosen location had ample of space left after the defined functions were implemented, along with the current shortage of student housing around the TU Delft campus, led me to adding student housing to the social cluster and integrating them within the flows.

3. How do you assess the academic and societal value, scope and implication of your graduation project, including ethical aspects?

This graduation project focusses on urban farming centric spaces throughout the TU Delft campus to improve the public health, and drive public engagement within the area. The TU Delft has indicated that it wants to improve the campus by attracting inhabitants from the rest of Delft, and for people to stay after 6. These urban farming centric spaces could help by creating more reasons for a more diverse group of people to stay for the entire day. The research is therefore quite specific with a large focus on the TU Delft campus, but other locations could still use this research as a baseline, and follow the same steps, if they also want to enhance or create urban farming focused public spaces within their cityscape.

4. How do you assess the value of the transferability of your project results?

The project was set up in such a way that the essence could easily be extracted and transferred to other sites that want to design with urban farming in mind. The resulting cluster scheme from the research defined various types of urban farming clusters, all with different roles, which can be picked from and be used to deduce the necessary functions which best suit a given role for the site.

Site specific properties will however influence the defined functions given in the cluster scheme, as it also did for my site, and the scheme should therefore only be used as a guideline, and not as an end-all be-all solution for each location.

5. How do you assess the value of your way of working (your approach, your used methods, used methodology)?

My way of working could generally be summarized by focussing on a singular topic for a couple of days, first researching the topic, looking for references and creating basic schematic drawings, after which I would create my own design based on the findings. This generally led to me coming up with design proposals which I personally felt happy with, but also often led me to hyper fixate on small details surrounding that specific topic, which in turn led to me taking too long on individual topics, which resulted in less time for other topics which should have been handled more thoroughly.

I also usually only showed my architectural drawing to my architecture mentor, and construction drawing only to my construction mentor, while looking back it probably would have been better to show both mentors all my findings instead, if only briefly, so they could get a better feel of the entire project instead of only for their specific roles.