

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Victor Loop
Student number	4658590

Studio		
Name / Theme	Advanced Housing Design: Ecologies of Inclusion	
Main mentor	Robbert Guis	Architecture
Second mentor	Stephan Verkuijlen	Architectural Engineering
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The relevance of the topic of housing design in society and the lenses of sustainability, social inclusion, affordability, gender equity and building resources through which the studio operates.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Transforming collectivity: Reimagining living together in Vlaardingen Westwijk
Goal	
Location:	Westwijk, Vlaardingen
The posed problem,	<p>There is a multitude of factors that are currently pressuring the housing market in The Netherlands. We have more people to build for, less space to build on and increasingly complex environmental conditions due to a changing climate.</p> <p>The point of departure for this graduation project is a masterplan of the Midden-Delfland region, created by landscape architecture office ZUS for the bigger Redesigning Deltas research project. The masterplan imagines Midden-Delfland as a "productive landscape" for natural resources and water storage. Within this masterplan the urban borders of the landscape are to be densified to relieve the</p>

	<p>surrounding cities of the pressure of the current housing crisis and provide a healthy and green environment for the residents. In order to conserve the landscape of Midden-Delfland these borders play a crucial role as a negotiation between the urban and man-made natural landscape.</p> <p>One of the neighbourhoods bordering Midden-Delfland and the urban region of Rotterdam is Westwijk in Vlaardingen. This post-war neighbourhood was designed according to modernist spatial strategies that resulted in a very recognisable post-war urban fabric and architecture. The way the neighbourhood was set-up provides opportunities for densification according to the Midden-Delfland masterplan. However the neighbourhood faces challenges similar to other post-war neighbourhoods of decreasing building quality, a monoculture of function and housing types, and undefined and badly maintained public spaces. This graduation project will think of a design that can reinforce the urban border around Midden-Delfland as well as address some problems in the Westwijk neighbourhood.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>MQ: Do collective qualities of housing cooperatives provide opportunities for the sustainable transformation of an existing building in a post-war neighbourhood?</p> <p>RQ1: In what ways was collectivity organised in post-war neighbourhoods?</p> <p>RQ2: What are currently social and spatial problems in post-war neighbourhoods?</p> <p>RQ3: What are the characteristics of housing cooperatives?</p>

	RQ4: What are spatial and social qualities in buildings realised through cooperative models?
design assignment in which these result.	The findings of the research will be tested and applied on a case in a post-war neighbourhood in The Netherlands; Westwijk in Vlaardingen. The neighbourhood is a very clear example of post-war urban planning and architecture. The design project will attempt to introduce a new form of collective living in the neighbourhood and investigate the spatial needs of such a project. The testing ground is a residential and commercial centre from 1963. The centre is an example of the way collectivity was organised when the neighbourhood was built, but currently doesn't fulfill that function explicitly. The design project will find potentials in this building for renovation and addition of building volume in order to create a collective living environment with communal functions for residents as well as residents of the bigger neighbourhood.

Process

Method description

The graduation studio started with a collective research into the landscape of Midden-Delfland. Different groups set out to look into specific topics; accessibility, time, program, morphology and a landscape model. This research was combined in a booklet at P1 to establish a firm ground of knowledge in order to formulate the problem statement and design goal for the project.

After P1 the location of Westwijk was chosen and further research into this neighbourhood was conducted in order to understand the neighbourhood when it was built and now. Archival material was consulted and analytical drawings of the urban fabric were used to understand the neighbourhood.

Parallel to the group work a theoretical research was developed in order to contribute to the design project. Through a series of case studies practical examples of buildings conceived by housing collectives were examined to learn about the process and qualities of such a building. The findings are practical on the one hand such as different housing types, building circulation, distribution of different functions, etc. On the other hand the examples show the potential of these projects to provide a secure, affordable and stable living environment for a demographic that is generally

more diverse than commercially developed project in a similar context. The findings will be projected on the shopping centre on the Van Baerlestraat in Westwijk in order to imagine how a program for collective housing could land in the context of a post-war neighbourhood.

After P2 the design process will focus on creating a design that embraces existing qualities of the building complex and turns existing potential into new qualities for residents of the building and the neighbourhood.

Literature and general practical references

The research is based mostly on literature and case-studies regarding collective living. Besides that spatial conditions in Westwijk are researched in order to establish a clear view on what opportunities the neighbourhood offers for collective living.

Sources:

Arigolu, R., van Dijken, K., & Koffijberg, J. (2008). *Bloei en verval van vroeg-naoorlogse wijken*. Nicis Institute.

Beekers, W. P. (2012). *Het bewoonbare land: Geschiedenis van de volkshuisvestingsbeweging in Nederland*. Boom.

Blom, A., Jansen, B., & Van der Heiden, M. (2004). *De Typologie van de Vroeg-Naoorlogse Woonwijken* (Wederopbouwarchitectuur). Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed.

Czischke, D., Peute, M., & Brysch, S. (2023). *Together: Ruimte voor collectief wonen*. nai010 uitgevers, 2023.

Hochstenbach, C. (2022). *Uitgewoond: Waarom het hoog tijd is voor een nieuwe woonpolitiek*. Das Mag Uitgevers.

LaFond, M., Tsvetkova, L., Aguayo-Krauthausen, R., & id22: Institut für Kreative Nachhaltigkeit (Eds.). (2017). *CoHousing Inclusive: Selbstorganisiertes, gemeinschaftliches Wohnen für alle = self-organized, community-led housing for all*. Jovis Verlag GmbH.

Lans, J. van der, Pflug, M., Appelman, S., Beekers, W., & Cüsters, J. (2021). *Canon volkshuisvesting* (4e druk). Vereniging Canon Sociaal Werk.

Lengkeek, A., & Kuenzli, P. (2022). *Operatie wooncoöperatie: Uit de wooncrisis door gemeenschappelijk bezit* (S. Franke, Ed.). trancity*valiz.

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

My graduation project relates to the architecture track in the way it researches site specific challenges and tries to resolve them - at least partially – on the building scale.

2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

The current built environment in The Netherlands is already very dense and the pressure on urban environments is growing. Combined with environmental factors and the preservation of nature it raises challenges to densify existing urban fabric. However existing neighbourhoods come with a specific context and their own set of challenges. Working to improve living conditions in a specific area while also addressing the unique context is an important step in order to create an environmentally, but also socially sustainable living environment. I believe this exercise is very relevant and important in the workfield of architects today and the future.