

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	Eelkje
Student number	4350448

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Fabrics	
Main mentor	Prof. ir. R.J. (Rients) Dijkstra	[Academic field involved]
Second mentor	Prof.dr. M. (Maarten) van Ham	[Academic field involved]
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The studio topic is At Home, questioning how the future city will look like. I took the title quite literally and chose the project location in my neighbourhood. Due to urban renewal I came to live in this place. The way this has happened can be interpreted as a form of gentrification. This is a sociological term for the economic upgrading of neighbourhoods that eventually leads to the displacement of people with lower incomes. Soon when I moved into the neighbourhood, I noticed resistance from current residents. Their neighbourhood was 'not their neighbourhood anymore' and the at first affordable housing quickly rose in rent. A home means for me a safe place to grow up. Also, a place with identity. A place that is yours and you feel belongingness towards.</p> <p>The research problem I want to tackle is about spatial justice and social sustainable urban development.</p> <p>Gentrification, an unsustainable form of urban development, is a market and policy driven event. Instead of thinking about a solutions as intangible policies or planning, creating unavoidable physical design could be of great importance.</p> <p>The studio Urban fabrics promote two complementary approaches: design, driven by science & design, driven by practice. This perfectly aligns my approach to this problem.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Welkom Sustainable Urban Development introducing socio-economic mixed program for the preserved neighbourhood.
Goal	
Location:	Spangen, Bospolder & Tussendijken
The posed problem,	Due to the pressure on the housing market in the neighbourhoods in Delfshaven, a socially economic inclusive composition of residents is endangered. Due to a lack of affordable housing or a lack of personal connection to the place, people move to other neighbourhoods. To some extent, mixing of the previously segregated neighbourhood is desirable. But when this goes too far, there is a chance of re-segregation. This will lead to unsustainable urban development with the lack of a balanced resident flow.
research questions and	<p>RQ: How can urban design contribute to a socially sustainable form of urban development in the Spangen, Tussendijken en Bospolder increasing liveability, socio-economic inclusivity and preserving the sense of belonging?</p> <p>SQ1. What are the urban instruments that contribute to urban development that stimulate liveability and social sustainability providing socio-economic inclusiveness and a sense of belonging?</p> <p>SQ2. How does the current socio-economic status of the neighbourhoods compare to that of the Netherlands and Rotterdam?</p> <p>SQ3. Which are the elements of the neighbourhood's identity that contribute to the sense of belonging?</p> <p>SQ4. How can the current socio-economic program be redesigned to achieve socio-economic inclusivity</p>

	<p>increasing liveability and preserving the sense of belonging?</p> <p>SQ5. What spatial opportunities and urgencies are there to realise a liveable neighbourhood design?</p> <p>SQ 6. How to design these neighbourhoods creating social sustainability, increasing liveability, socio-economic inclusivity and preserving the sense of belonging?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	Output: Design Guides, Strategic Masterplan, Atmospheric Visuals
<p>Project aim: Smart design for urban development which provides room for capital bearers, but where the requirements to allow social-economic minorities to live are guaranteed. This will contribute to a sustainable social-economic form of urban development. The outcomes will show a social-economic inclusive design with a preserved neighbourhood identity.</p>	

Process
Method description
<p>Exploratory research: Fieldwork, statistical analysis, Documentary research The exploratory research helps to find the problem which is not clearly defined yet.</p> <p>Constructive research: literature review, case studies The constructive research helps to define the problem and it proposes a direction for solution.</p> <p>Empirical research: interviews stakeholders, existing environmental visions Empirical research focuses on the observed and measured phenomena. It extracts knowledge from experience and other non-theoretical research.</p> <p>Research by design: hand sketching, form studies, site specific design Research by design is an academic investigation which is a crucial method in urban design. Design is explored as a method of research for the expansion of a project and also exploring the different ways by which a design is carried out.</p>

Literature and general practical preference

These are literature theories I used for my graduation plan:

Right to the city

- Lefebvre, H. (1968) *La droit à la ville* (2e ed.), Anthropos, Paris

Spatial Justice

- Soja, E. W. (2010). *Seeking Spatial Justice* (1st ed.). University of Minnesota Press.

Liveability

- Leidelmeijer, K., & van Kamp, I. (2003). *Kwaliteit van de Leefomgeving en Leefbaarheid* (No. 630950002). RIVM.
<https://www.rivm.nl/bibliotheek/rapporten/630950002.pdf>

Social Sustainability

- Eizenberg, E., & Jabareen, Y. (2017). Social Sustainability: A New Conceptual Framework. *Sustainability*, 9(1), 68. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su9010068>

For general practical experience/precedent I will use:

- Fieldwork at site
- Interviews with stakeholders in the area (like Housing Corporations, Municipality, (long term) residents, business owners, architects or urbanists who are active in the area, community initiatives)

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)?

For me, the choice for this study was always one that was close to myself. From an early age I have been interested in making a place its own home. Only later during my studies I started realising that this is not only at home, but also on the street. I know that I am privileged to live the way I live. That is why I would like to contribute to creating a pleasant living environment for everyone. The professionalism of architecture and urban design leads to aesthetic expressions with a caring effect in an inescapable design.

My thesis topic is also about this idea. Understanding the beauty of individuality of a city, a neighbourhood, an area or public space versus seeing the creation of profit and just money which is not always the most durable solution. Urban planning provides the foundation for design decisions that will have consequences for everyone's future. It feels like you can really contribute to changing the world in this profession. Not only afterwards the problems have been caused, but also just before to prevent people from any problems they don't have to face. There is a wide range of urban designs that show that spatial design actually contributes to creating and preserving a world as we know it. Taking an extra step to also show people who do not experience the world as beautiful, the beauty and create an environment to feel safe in. Important decisions should be about long term solutions. Changing the city is not free, not only in money but also in resources. Therefore, choices must be made at technical levels, but certainly also at socially sustainable levels. When people agree and there is peace of mind, other more important problems can be solved together.

This is how I see the relationships between the different courses of study that I have followed, or are still following. Urban planning provides the way to solve problems economically, socially and ecologically. Concepts that belong to creating a sustainable future, so that in a few years' time life will still be just as nice as it is now.

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

Societal relevance

Kraaijvanger (2020) states that the world population will continue to increase at least until 2064. Now that the world population continues to grow and the demand for new urban developments continues, the question of how this can be done sustainably is considerable.

- Gap between rich and poor - Besides this growing population, the gap between poor and rich is still growing. With that equality was already bad and it is getting worse. Beunderman & Molijn (2021) ask themselves: "Is capitalism derailing in the Netherlands? Inequality is increasing. The statistics on opportunities, income, wealth, housing and work show: wealth at the top is swelling, while the low-skilled, flex workers and young people are getting into

trouble". If no action is taken and no action is taken towards equal opportunities in housing, the future will bring the city to the elite. Remie (2016) supports this prediction and writes that cities are turning around. Where they used to be more of a bastion for the poor, now there is less and less affordable housing to be found, according to new research. Remie calls this the 'suburbanization of the poor'. Which states that this is partly due to urban policy and will lead to more segregation and inequality in the future.

- Labour market - The problem does not only arise on the basis of unequal to spatial rights, it also permeates in this way in other institutions. In Amsterdam, for example, prices have risen so high that healthcare workers can no longer live in the city. This has major consequences. This is especially showing now, in times of the COVID-9 pandemic. It is strictly a profession such as care that should have its employees living nearby. This indicates a clear interest in socio-economic inclusiveness. Thereby, there are already initiatives in Amsterdam that give priority to teachers, agents and healthcare workers in the housing market (NOS, 2021c).
- Social cohesion - Likewise, the problem of segregation also arises in school systems. The segregation of school students into different schools has important implications for educational inequality, social cohesion and intergenerational mobility (Gutiérrez, Jerrim & Torres, 2019). This means that this problem already creates unequal opportunities from an early age. Gutiérrez, Jerrim & Torres conclude that structural factors are likely to be the main drivers of between-school segregation and that education policymakers may need to be much more radical if they are to foster greater levels of integration between the rich and the poor. You could also approach this in a way that fits urban planning and thus state that urban policymakers should also focus in urban development plans on the integration between rich and poor.
- National interest - This problem does not only cause social problems in the big cities of the Netherlands, but has already been observed in several other cities in Europe. Tammaru, Marcińczak, Musterd & Van Ham (2019) states the poor are progressively concentrating spatially within capital cities across Europe.
- International interest - Moreover, the levels of socio-economic segregation in European cities are humble compared to some other places in the world (Tammaru, Marcińczak, Musterd & Van Ham, 2019). For instance, the racial residential segregation of blacks once defined urban America. Massey (2016) found out it caused the sharp rise in inequality and accompanying growth in class segregation.

Scientific relevance

- Much research has been done on the sociological effects of gentrification and unsustainable urban development. This often refers to politicians and policymakers who are blamed for creating unequal opportunities in society. Policy is something intangible and is made by people who can be influenced,

only if they see importance and mostly when they personally benefit from it. This thesis will contribute to relevance to science by physically answering the problem. By writing a physical plan combined with policy outlines, conceptual ideas about creating equality for socio-economic minorities are turned into urban design elements. Something one simply cannot ignore and in a way forces participation.

Ethical considerations

Creating socio-economic equality by sustainable urban development seems to be of great importance for ethical considerations.

However, changes in the urban fabric will always create conflicts of interest. Countering the rapid process of gentrification also entails ethical contradictions. An important consideration that should be made is why people with money and their investments are subordinate to the people who earn less and thus often contribute less to the economy. An important weighing instrument for this should be on sustainability. So the question is what kind of development will ultimately be beneficial for the ultimate goal for the longest time. Both sides, the rich and the less wealthy, will have to give up some of their demands.

For urban development in a capital city it is rarely possible to develop on urban space that has no function however. A choice would have to be made between modifying existing buildings or demolishing and building something new. In which current users or owners of the building cannot exercise any rights, at least temporarily. The final design will decide to what extent they will return to what they previously thought they were entitled to.

In addition, the development of public space at a place where no buildings are located is also a dilemma. People tend to think that the public space is theirs, as Hartevelt (2019) stated earlier. A sense of inequality quickly arises when authorities make the decision about this space. When this public space also fulfils a social or ecological function, this entails even more conflicts of interest.

Social, economic and environmental sustainability make these important measuring instruments for ultimately arriving at an urban design that can provide improvements in the liveability for users for as long as possible.

Short Project Summary (max 200 words):

The concept of gentrification is currently a hot item in the news. Not only nationally, but there are plenty of these examples internationally as well. The displacement of socio-economic minorities leads to the fight against inequality and indicates an unsustainable way of urban development. Policy seems to fail and those who have money are in control. People experience more and more after seeing new urban designs: "My neighbourhood is no longer my neighbourhood". In intention there is not much wrong with making segregated neighbourhoods more socio-economically inclusive, but a certain level of identity should not be lost in the process. There should also be a balance when introducing new residents into the district, as the re-segregation of capital-bearing people is lurking.

My graduation project focuses on how urban instruments can provide a sustainable inescapable design in which socio-economic inclusiveness is realised and identity is preserved.