

### **P3 REFLECTION PAPER GRADUATION PROJECT**

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The knowledge of architecture is embodied in the way that we use space. An architect has the job to shape the built environment into meaningful places. Before the decisions by the architect were mainly based on form reasoning, social or generative methods and visualization. However, last decades a new important question overrules: How do we (my generation of designers) contribute to the reverse of climate change? The sustainability question, among other thing made the profession of the architect more complex. Collaboration and research are becoming more essential than ever before. Research is able to improve the design in relation to the current challenges in the built environment.

The research outcomes form an essential foundation on which a project can be developed, through research the designer understand what can be addressed through design. My studio, the Architectural Engineering Harvest studio examines the demands in relation to the resources. The cycle of resources influences the architectural landscape and objects. In this process social and economic circumstances should profit from the innovative design solutions. Our design methodology is based on investigating local and scientific knowledge as a foundation for innovations, bringing these epistemes together is leading to new types of space and materialization. The technical solutions are answers to social problems at the same time.

In my research, I sort processes and material streams to research the possibility of interrelated connections to be able to create a more efficient whole. This is relevant because most cases of design are leading to an increasing demand for raw materials, energy production and the generation of waste. However, when design is able to adopt these demands as internal part of the planning process. The designer is able to select legitimate sources based on local stocks and processes. Rather, than seeing the use of resources as an external factor happing independently of the process. By talking to my teachers and finding out about this approach, I realized that using this approach as a start of a design project, is not corresponding with the design methodology of most designers in practice at all. In my point of view this is an approach that every designer should start to adapt in relation to environmental issues we are facing.

My research outcomes contained a clear overview of processes and numbers, which translated easily into a program with square metres. Having a clear program of demands proved to be a good foundation to start the design process. However, the research outcomes are not sufficient for the design process. For instance, user groups and experience of the building are underexposed in following the flow analysis approach. I tried to investigate these complimentary subject in parallel investigations. The parallel research is continued till the final stage of the design project.

So far, my teachers were positive but also critical towards the choices I made during the graduation project on all levels, research, design and building technology. I think the critical attitude helped me a lot, by questioning your choices and especially comparing alternatives, a designer tends to rethink and selects to best option. Or find out, I have to take a step back and look for other solutions. Out of experience I know, I achieve the best results after very critical analyses of my work by others. I have learned, that even if I like me own work, I have to stay critical and be open for change, which is not always easy. However I try to never follow the advice blindly, when I am really sure about a certain aspect I do not change it for another's opinion. But instead, I start looking for the arguments why I think it should be that way.

My project proves the rising complexity of architectural projects nowadays. For next projects I would like to collaborate with other people from an early stage for a stronger result. I believe that the downside of my project is my depth of knowledge of some fields I am touching such as ecology and technological processes. Such disciplines influence architecture increasingly. Not just in my project, but in the built environment in general.

I believe that my design captures the spirit of the place and incorporates the program. The final part of the graduation is all about going in more depth and achieving the highest level of detail and integration of ideas. For my project a high quality visualisation is very essential, because there are no exact precedents of the program of my project. To convince people of the qualities their imagination needs to get triggered with the right imagery.

The solutions in my project are based on existing problems or opportunities in South Limburg and the world. However, the existing stakeholders are not involved enough in my process. For this reason my project is mostly likely not fit for implementation. Nonetheless, In essence the project includes a vision and a program with a corresponding business model that is very fruitful for the region of Parkstad. Even at another location or with slight program changes the project is not losing its purpose. Therefore I hope that the work I did, does not become completely invisible after my graduation.