

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	Margot Schouls
Student number	4820584

Studio	
Name / Theme	Design of the Urban Fabrics
Main mentor	Leo van den Burg Urban Design
Second mentor	Thomas Verbeek Urban Studies
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I chose the Urban Fabrics studio, because I want my graduation project to be design-based on a smaller scale. I am interested in designing for people and take into account their opinion about their living environment. As a final product I would like to have a design through multiple scales, but with a main focus on a smaller scale.

















Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Segregation in Vlissingen
Goal	
Location:	Vlissingen, with zoom-ins on some neighbourhoods within the city.
The posed problem,	In Vlissingen, there is a socio-spatial segregation between neighbourhoods. Socio-spatial segregation leads to urban decay and negative neighbourhood effects. Therefore, segregation is a problem and needs to be reduced to improve the living environment of poor social groups in Vlissingen.
research questions and	How can socio-spatial segregation between neighbourhoods in Vlissingen be reduced by urban design? Sub-questions: Diagnosis - How did socio-spatial segregation arise between neighbourhoods in Vlissingen?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What factors currently contribute to socio-spatial segregation between neighbourhoods in Vlissingen? <p>Projection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do the inhabitants of the segregated neighbourhoods in Vlissingen experience their living environment and do they experience a problem with segregation? - What factors or spatial interventions could contribute to reduce socio-spatial segregation? <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What design is needed to reduce socio-spatial segregation between neighbourhoods in Vlissingen through multiple scales?
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<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The aim of the graduation project is to create a design through the scales that reduces the socio-spatial segregation between neighbourhoods to improve the living environment of poor social groups in Vlissingen. The design will have its main focus on some of the segregated neighbourhoods and the impact of the design on the surroundings.</p>
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Process

Method description

SUB-QUESTIONS	METHODS	METHOD DESCRIPTION
<p>Diagnosis How did socio-spatial segregation arise between neighbourhoods in Vlissingen?</p>	 	 Literature review
<p>What factors currently contribute to socio-spatial segregation between neighbourhoods in Vlissingen?</p>	  	 Data review  Spatial analysis
<p>Projection How do the inhabitants of the segregated neighbourhoods in Vlissingen experience their living environment and do they experience a problem with segregation?</p>		 Fieldwork
<p>What factors or spatial interventions could contribute to reduce socio-spatial segregation?</p>	 	 Interviews / focus group  References
<p>Design What design is needed to reduce socio-spatial segregation between neighbourhoods in Vlissingen through multiple scales?</p>		 Design experiments

For the diagnosis, the methods are very analysis based. These methods include literature review, data review, spatial analysis and fieldwork. Spatial analysis is a broad term for all the analysis that needs to be done for the location. It consists of things like history, mobility, amenities and much more.

For the projection, an important method is to do some interviews or to start a focus group with inhabitants of Vlissingen. This will help to get an idea how these people experience their living environment, but also if they experience any problems with segregation. There might be the possibility that they do not see any problems and like their living environment as it is.

To look further into factor or spatial interventions to reduce segregation in Vlissingen, a literature review and references could help to identify what is already done.

For the design question, the best method is to experiment. This way the experiments can be tested in a critical way and in the end the one that seems to work best in Vlissingen can be further explored in a final design.

Literature and general practical preference

The literature used in the graduation project are mostly related to segregation. An author who wrote a lot about this is Sako Musterd. A few examples of the papers he wrote (with others as well), are:

- Musterd, S. (2020). Urban segregation: contexts, domains, dimensions and approaches. In *Handbook of Urban Segregation*.
<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788115605>
- Musterd, S., & Ostendorf, W. (2008). Integrated urban renewal in The Netherlands: a critical appraisal. In *Urban Research & Practice: Vol. 1(1)* (pp. 78–92). <https://doi.org/10.1080/17535060701795389>
- Musterd, S., & Winter, M. de. (2002). Conditions for spatial segregation: some European perspectives. In *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research: Vol. 22(4)* (pp. 665–673). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.00174>

There are also some other theoretical concepts that are related to segregation that will be included in the graduation project. These concepts are:

Urban decay and deprived neighbourhoods;

- Andersen, H. S. (2019). *Urban Sores: On the Interaction Between Segregation, Urban Decay and Deprived Neighbourhoods*. Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315191980>

Neighbourhood effects

- Ham, M. van, Manley, D., Bailey, N., Simpson, L., & Maclennan, D. (2012). *Neighbourhood Effects Research: New Perspectives*. Springer.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-2309-2>

Sense of belonging

- Lager, D., Van Hoven, B., & Huigen, P. P. (2013). Dealing with change in old age: Negotiating working-class belonging in a neighbourhood in the process of urban renewal in the Netherlands. In *Geoforum: Vol. 50* (pp. 54-61).

When it comes to reducing segregation, things like social mix and gentrification become interesting theoretical concepts.

- Annunziata, S., Lees, L., & Alonso, C. R. (2021). Segregation, Social Mix, and Gentrification. In *Companion to Urban and Regional Studies*, 497–515. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119316916.CH23>
- Hochstenbach, C. (2016). State-led Gentrification and the Changing Geography of Market-oriented Housing Policies. In *Housing, Theory and Society: Vol. 34(4)* (pp. 399–419). <https://doi.org/10.1080/14036096.2016.1271825>

All this literature is what is relevant right now. The literature will of course be further developed in the process of the project.

When looking at my own general practice experience about segregation, it is mostly about the spatial differences between places. These differences are the reason why I wanted to investigate more of this topic. Differences I already saw in Vlissingen before I started graduating (because I lived nearby Vlissingen for 8 years), are building typologies, the maintenance of public spaces, the amount of greenery, but also the quality of greenery, the types of people walking around and just the overall perception of the places. It is also because of the reputation of some neighbourhoods in Vlissingen that I never wanted to walk or cycle there alone in the evenings.

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)?

The topic of the Urban Fabrics studio this year is 'embracing plurality, growing porosity'. I feel like this topic can be interpreted in multiple ways, since the words plurality and porosity are a bit vague. When looking at my own topic, I feel like segregation is very related to plurality. In this case, plurality is about all kinds of people living in the same urbanized environment. Segregation is about how all kinds of different social groups concentrated themselves in the city.

Segregation is very related to the urbanism master track, since the concept on its own is almost always used in an urban context. When looking for literature about segregation, many papers use the term urban segregation or spatial segregation. This is because social groups concentrate themselves at certain spaces in the city, which makes segregation a spatial and thus urban concept.

This relation with urbanism also creates the relation with the master programme in general. Something that might also be related to the other tracks is that housing policies are quite important when it comes to segregation. Also, a final urban design will include parts of architecture and landscape as well, because these are very related to urbanism.

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

There is many literature about segregation and most of them go into social mix as a solution to reduce segregation. The literature always seems to focus on the economical benefits when high income social groups are placed within the low income social groups. They either make sure that the average income of a place

is higher with this new social group, or the new social group is beneficial for local entrepreneurship or market exchange. However, social mix often leads to gentrification. This is also a topic that is discussed a lot in literature.

My graduation project could contribute to this literature, because my approach is different. My main focus will be on the current inhabitants. Social mix might be a possible solution to reduce segregation, but it must be a solution where the current inhabitants benefit from and not the economy. That is also why interviews in my project could help to understand their situation and if they would like to change their environment with social mix as opportunity or not. What I also want to explore is if segregation is always something negative. I could not find much literature about the positive effects of segregation, while I believe it cannot be negative only.

These two approaches are different than what is discussed a lot within literature and could therefore be an interesting addition.