

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	Ruben Bernard Pieter Bremer	
Student number	4482972	
Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3AH115 Revitalizing Heritage	
Main mentor	Arnold Hermkens	Heritage & Architecture
Second mentor	This Bennenbroek	Heritage & Technology
Third Mentor	Marie-Therese van Thoor	Heritage & Values
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The choice of the Heritage & Architecture graduation studio, is a continuation of my chosen Msc1 course, as well as earlier interests developed during my bachelors', which I attended at the Haagse Hogeschool.</p> <p>Since my second year within the bachelors, I have had an interest in old monumental buildings, how they were constructed and what to do with them to keep them part of our urban fabric. During my third year I was able to attend the Heritage & Architecture minor, which further increased my interest. I enjoyed the puzzle that comes with making something old and obsolete, relevant and useful again, while trying to maintain the value of what's there.</p> <p>This graduation studio provides a puzzle that is quite multifaceted and challenging. Problems like abandonment, the presence of dikes, water and flooding, a rich history, surrounding populations wanting a say, the housing crisis, environment, a UNESCO site closeby...</p> <p>This package of issues, contrasts, heritage and beauty that is in need of revival attracted me to this studio.</p> <p>This studio allows me to apply my knowledge and experience I've gained over the last few years and hopefully it leads to me exploring new heritage-related issues and techniques.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	'Voices of the industrial waterfront, heard oncemore' - Analyzing the untold narratives of historical communities through combining multiple research methods.
Goal	
Location:	Kloos & Zonen Industrial site, Alblisserdam 
The posed problem,	The problem is the threat to local cultural and industrial heritage at the Kloos site, posed by abandonment of the site, and the former workers community that is passing. These workers had influence in creating cultural heritage that is connected to the landscape (Kurin, 2022). Yet, their narratives have remained undertold, overshadowed by industrial prowess. If these narratives/stories of these communities remain untold, their experiences and their influence on local culture will be lost over time. This is relevant, as it is important to retain cultural heritage, including the heritage of 'ordinary' residents and workers (E.Burton, 2023, p.2), (Caragata, 1979, p.9), (Hein, 2019, p.417).
research questions and	Following the problem of potential heritage loss, the goal of this research is to create an insight into the untold narratives of historical workers' communities of Dutch industrial waterfronts, in an effort to deduce the local culture that is connected to the Kloos waterfront., the thesis will investigate the following research question: <i>'What are the narratives of historical workers communities of Dutch industrial waterfronts?'</i> For the research question to be answered correctly, sub-questions were created to structure and organize the research: 1. <i>What narratives are connected to the Kloos industrial waterrfont landscape?</i>

	<p>2. <i>Which narratives of historical workers communities are untold and why?</i></p> <p>3. <i>What is the connection between these narratives and the culture they originate from?</i></p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Inspired by Kloos – an urban redesign of the Kloos site in Alblasserdam – The design intends combine the historical cultural themes attached to the site (concluded within this research) with current design requirements, in creating a new, livable environment within the site</p>
<p>The result of the research will give insight into the historical narratives and local cultural themes that appeared among the workers of Kloos & Zn. In Alblasserdam.</p>	
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p> <p>In the first phase, 'collection', desk research is performed in an effort to gather background information on the Kloos site, and see which narratives are already out there. This was done through literary review, 4 archive visits, site visits and attending lectures on the subject.</p> <p>An Oral History (Perks, Thomson, 2003) concerning the former workers of Kloos is made to provide different and personal narratives of the Kloos workers community. Oral Histories are studies of events of people through conducting interviews. This method allows for the inclusion of perspectives, opinions and views of the interviewee, giving a more subjective perspective on historical events.</p> <p>The narratives found through the different research methods will then be analyzed through regression, in an effort to <i>Select</i> which narratives are un(der)told. Regression analysis of sources and research methods, will explain why some narratives have remained un(der)told.</p> <p>Creating a historical <i>soft map</i> of the locations, based on the method of <i>Jan Rothuizen (2014)</i> (see fig.6) aids in connecting the different untold narratives to the Kloos landscape.</p> <p>To validate the oral history, a matrix (Perks, Thomson 2003, p.281) a matrix is made, where themes mentioned by the interviewees (fact-checked through desk research) are compared among each other. Through this comparison, common cultural themes can be found.</p> <p>The narratives and cultural themes that result from this research, will serve as starting points of in design studio. It is my aim to connect the current Kloos site with its local history and culture and these cultural themes can aid in this.</p>	

Literature and general practical references

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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 Kloos site in Alblasterdam is the waterfront chosen as research topic, as it is the same site I shall redesign during my design studio. The studio topic, revitalizing heritage, is also the main design goal for this location – revitalizing heritage. Part of being able to do so, is to find out the heritage of the site, to whom it belongs and what meaning the site has for its surroundings. Within my redesign, I intend to tackle current and future demands within the region, while also connecting to and celebrating the industrial and cultural heritage of the site, and what that site used to mean to the surrounding residents and the workers that were employed/involved there.

The graduation topic, the narratives of the historical workers community, aids in achieving the goal of creating a design that is connected to the local cultural heritage, as it provides insight into said heritage. It is also important that the design resonates with the local culture in which it is placed. Through my research topic, insight is created into the historical culture, from which the current culture developed.

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

Secondly, the graduation topic intends to Create insight into a type of heritage that often remains untold – that of the ordinary people, the workers and their families. Perhaps the stories perceived as less popular, even mundane, deserve a spotlight. This ties into a statement of *C.Hein (2019, p.417)*. questioning 'which story we consider important'. The narratives discussed within the research are at risk of being lost, as little has been done to document them or integrate them into other media forms, compared to the 'known' industrial prowess of the site.

The research question also leads to the development of a method of analysis – which could aid in similar situations/settings in the future.

A landscape type that is abandoned or reused, to which an aging historical community is tied. This situation poses the risk of potentially losing both the tangible and the cultural heritage of the landscape, as the aging community will gradually pass away, taking their narratives and culture with them.

By combining different methods, I hope to develop a new analysis method that could aid in capturing the narratives and cultural themes of these aging communities, in an effort to preserve these themes through an architectural design.