

FutureLand Worlds on SHELL

p4 reflection

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Transitional Territories
North Sea Landscapes of Coexistence

Research and design with studio.

The multidisciplinary aspect of the Transitional Territories studio engaged all of the participants to work in groups to collect and map research with different sub topics about the North Sea. This played a role in my project development and made the graduation experience holistic from beginning to end. The seminar series made me form a position to investigate throughout the year.

Research by design on territorial scale that poses complex changing environmental challenges for a project proposal is helpful. To plan a future proposal cannot be based solely on existing conditions and programs, the research proposal is about sites, territories, in transit hence changing with shifting programs and being altered. Therefore, the design research process should be able to give back multiple times, therefore it has to be reflexive. When studying territories, we can't disregard the political, economic, ecological and geographical factors into study. And these factors don't have direct solutions that planners and architects can solve directly. The studio brief advocates for designing multiple scenarios which helped in synthesizing creative leaps in thinking.

Research through Design an adopted research methodological approach is used to tackle and understand the territorial complex scale to reach a design intention proposal was suggested as a starting point for research to gain knowledge. Mapping with it's different methods and designing scenarios through a phenomenological methodology helps me intervene critically in an urban context in a sensitive way through an experience space research based. Allowed me deduct phenomenological qualitative site-specific conclusions about the concerned space.

Relation between project and studio.

Decay is one of the results of abandonment. Decay of certain infrastructure mainly occurs due to lack of maintenance and that is rare if the infrastructure is in need, but a more probable situation is war and or a result of a catastrophic disaster that leaves the environment toxic and inhabitable for long periods of time.

The Port of Rotterdam is going under change concerning the petrochemical part. The reasons of decrease of oil in the last decade for the aim to shift to more sustainable energy production and for the increase of toxic spills on the ground and atmosphere. The Port's strategy is to push automation over these chemical sites that happen to be bordering the ever-growing urban Rotterdam and controlled agricultural areas on the ports' North and South edges.

We're living in an era where spaces of logistics are further being detached from cities and urbanization to avoid choke points. But as these spaces migrate they leave traces of spaces permeating the city. The temporality of the project is plays an essential role where the projects acts as a parasite in the way it plugs into existing infrastructure and objects in the port and also feeds on the man-made material and transforms it to create itself, and with time the project can act as a base to be colonized or even parasited onto with future port development.

The limited activity is for the altered flow of deceased bodies and their relatives form Rotterdam to the port to cremate the concerned individual a process that destroys the silo to produce metal urns. This act will transform the site that lacks memory to a site of memory start up in people's minds. The memorial wall progress and evolves with time to a climax where it begins to decay once again. The thesis concocts future unusual narratives to understand the decaying oil energy landscape. It reconnects different types of decaying economic infrastructure together for a future ecological natural nature evolution in the context of rising bordering practices around the North Sea to unlock a new common while creating a world perpetually oscillating between dystopia and a future filled with hope that shows the beauty of decay.

Research methods.

Following from the territorial analyses research of the North Sea maps and their overlay, with the lenses of predicted sea level rise, flood predictions and the concentration of pollution in relation to land use and

soil types; the Port of Rotterdam shows an area of concern taking into consideration that it is the Europe's biggest port and the world's second largest will be facing a new altered transitional state. Petrochemical sites bordering the North Sea will start to undergo gradual decommissioning. Hence, leaving behind them toxic wastelands that would not be used for human activities for many future decades, leaving the site in a transitional state. The territorial research investigation questions the future petrochemical sections in the port that are close to urbanization in an after-oil scenario taking the oil reservoirs as an object for the study of decay. The research looks onto the Port as a void in the urban fabric, absent from people's minds and recognition due to its high security measures.

The Port is looked through its interaction with its landscape first by looking at its morphological history as a trading port, importing and exporting logistic space as a national identity, although it's detached metaphorically, and its future identity of decay. Structurally it has the highest altitude above water up to 6 meters compared to the city of Rotterdam. Rotterdam port is the island that will stay afloat with high climate change for a country under sea level might be its re birth, toxicity allows evolution for a new nature.

Designing scenarios suited the complex analyzed problems because it helps in synthesizing creative leaps in thinking. With mental maps are part of the behavioral geography and were the early studies done that have intersected geography and the actions of human beings. I was able to translate my personal spatial experience into a visual format. Having the chance to visit the site multiple times allowed me to feel the atmosphere of the space through different times of the week and different hours. Sketching instances and coding them in a sketch book along with taking a series of photographs and then trying to analyze and decode the material to extract relevant information to present a narrative at the end, from the decoded 'collected' objects and recompose/ collage and reorder them helps me achieve a program that relates to my site experience which resulted in conceptualizing the architecture project zoomed in from the territorial macro scale issues. When it reached the design of the architectural project I took a back-casting strategy where I placed a future scenario that I'd like the project to achieve in its time and designed it backwards to its building block unit.

Relation between project and grater social aspect.

The project that starts from the notion of decay , of the silo, to the birth of a new nature. The project aims to create a habitable new land to be colonized for the future through a natural way as nature can heal itself by itself and in this manner natural harmonies are returned but, in that process, human activity is limited. The project highlights the moto "Nature in progress" that resembles the common "Work in Progress" sign in construction and productive environments. The relation of the project and the greater social aspect answers the design question of how can the future land which is toxic in our age unlock a future common? How can/ what is the architecture to achieve the coexistence state to in the automated toxic landscapes of the Rotterdam Port?

Project deals with circularity of materials of oil reservoir steel into a building blocks of a future monument, and sustainable in terms of exposing as much as possible of previous built on surface area to air allowing the earth to naturally remediate nature through plant's phytoremediation that grow on intoxicated fields to clean itself from previous petrochemical toxins whilst limiting human activity in the site. A project that looks at the Flows of North Sea's natural resources extraction created logistical industrial infrastructure areas, and in some cases toxic, that have/ will become abandoned after oil. The project tackles the notion of transitional flows of the port. Once it was receiving extracted resources from North Sea and rest of the world while acting as a void to Rotterdammers into a project that inverts the flows of the port from Rotterdam to it in form of memory. Oil storage metal reservoir fields into metal memory urns.

Ethical issues and dilemmas I have encountered in doing the research, elaborating the design and potential applications of the results in practice.

The main dilemma was on how to translate the collages and model done for the studio symposium into a spatial architectural project. But that was being resolved with time after P2 until just after P3 where all of the ideas started to feed one another for a unified proposal. At the beginning of the design studio I had imagined a setting and mood for the project based on a certain scenario I have studied in the collaborative group research part. As my individual research progressed, it opened many doors for exploration and testing which left me a bit uncertain of my initial idea. But after reflecting on the process before the P3 stage I went back see what I have done and found a consistent thread that links back to the initial idea I had at the beginning. The dilemma part was the 'elastic feeling' that everything is possible. But a moment of reflection to see what the essence of is resolved the issue. I had and pushed that into resolving its details. The project is my interpretation of what a void space is and what can it become. The whole design process revolves around the idea of designing emptiness with time to create a room for nature to grow.