

The Berlage Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design
Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment
Delft University of Technology

Spring 2017 ARB214 Thesis Preparation
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Thesis Project Proposal Plan

The Berlage.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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ABOUT THE THESIS PROJECT PROPOSAL

Thesis project title

Asphalt Gardens - Or Hortus Europas

Thesis project description

The project is a garden network, alongside the main highway that connects Kortrijk and Lille.

Thesis project site

The Lille Metropolitan area is a diffuse urban landscape. It has an undulating topography covered mainly with asphalt roads and plots and agricultural units that make difficult the continuity of parks and public gardens. The project is taken place alongside the main highway A22 that connects Kortrijk and Lille. It appropriates existing obsolete asphalt or agricultural plots. These plots are chosen according to their strategic positions in relation with the borders, the different cities and the post-industrial uses that surround them.

Thesis project outcome

The thesis project outcome ranges from city-scale urban approach designed in 1:2000 scale drawing and model, architectural scale visualized in 1:500 and 1:200 drawings, characteristic details in 1:10 and scaled models made of asphalt and collages that show the atmosphere of the garden network.

Relevance

Gardens always appear in the history of architecture. They are appreciated as an idealized model of beauty or as a controlled environment that completes culture and nature. They are subjects of human creativity and explore the representation of the "cosmos". The word garden comes from the old English "geard", meaning a fence or enclosure, and from "garth", meaning a yard or a piece of enclosed ground. A garden is a place where architectural elements, and landscape come together. The garden can be part of a building or an autonomous entity. It can have borders like solid walls or permeable surfaces, like trees. It can have water elements, like fountains or decorative floors and walls. It can be on the ground or, hidden under the ground. Asphalt was first used for preventing road erosion from the stormwater rainfall. Its appearance in European cities in the 1820's was originally linked to pedestrians and sidewalks. Since the middle of 19th century, this mixture of bitumen, a tar-like binding material, and inert materials like sand or crushed stone has come into ever wider use. Asphalt has been idealized through the last century. But it is not an innocent material. It is accused of air and water pollution. However, asphalt's advantages brought it to the top of the urban ground. Asphalt is scaleless, it can occupy any kind of surface endlessly, colonizing the territory and providing a continuous surface. It is a protective skin and can be used for interior floors and walls, and especially to the flat roofs of the buildings making them impermeable to water. According to the American urban planner Kevin Lynch, a highway is a work of art and it identifies the surrounding landscape. According to the project, Asphalt Gardens create a cinematic experience on the highway. Asphalt's blackness becomes the canvas on which the colors of nature look fantastic. In Asphalt Gardens one can find the ideal environment for leisure, contemplation, and gardening in the dense urban context. Taking into consideration the physical characteristics of the material, the homogeneity, the sound absorbance and the perfect surface drainage, the project uses asphalt as a creative element in architectural design.

Bibliography of literature, precedents, and references

Books:

- Aben, Rob, Saskia De Wit, and John Kirkpatrick, Vert./English Ed. *The Enclosed Garden : History and Development of the Hortus Conclusus and Its Reintroduction into the Present-Day Urban Landscape*. Rotterdam: 010, 1999.
- Appleyard, Donald, Kevin Lynch, and John R Myer. *The View from the Road*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1966.
- Baker, Kate. *Captured Landscape : The Paradox of the Enclosed Garden*. London: Routledge, 2012.
- Giesecke, Annette. Jacobs, Naomi. *Earth Perfect? Nature Utopia and the Garden*. London, Black dog publishing., 2012.
- Kingsbury, Noël, and Tim Richardson. *Vista : The Culture and Politics of Gardens*. London: Frances Lincoln, 2005.
- Lynch, Kevin, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Massachusetts). *Managing the Sense of a Region*.

Cambridge, Mass.: M.I.T. Press, 1977.

Waldheim, Charles. *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006.

Zardini, Mirko, Wolfgang Schivelbusch, and Centre Canadien D'architecture. *Sense of the City : An Alternate Approach to Urbanism*. Montréal, QC: Canadian Centre for Architecture = Centre Canadien D'architecture, 2005.

Precedents:

Agence Ter Landscape Architecture, *Redevelopment of the headquarters of a medical foundation*, Geneva, Swiss, 1997.

Giacomo Filippo Tomasini, *Botanical garden at Padua*, gravure, *Gymnasium Patavinum* book Published in 1654, Italy. <https://wellcomeimages.org/indexplus/image/M0016098.html>.

Office Kersten Geers David Van Severen, *Oasis*, United Arab Emirates, Sharjah, 2013, <https://divisare.com/projects/322603-office-kersten-geers-david-van-severen-bas-princen-oasis>

The Courtyard of the Lions, Alhambra, Spain, 1390.

Unknown artist, *The Garden of Nebamun*, 1380 BC, British Museum, London, U.K., 72 x 62 cm., painting on plaster,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gardens_of_ancient_Egypt#/media/File:Le_Jardin_de_N%C3%A9bamoun.jpg

Reference projects:

Carl Theodor Sorensen, *Musical Garden*, Herming, 1945.

Brule Marx, *Jardins terraco*, Rio de Janeiro, 1945.

Mary Miss, *Field Rotation*, Park Forest South, Illinois, 198.

Structure and method

1. Urban Context: The network: topographic section highlighting the relation between urban and nature (reference drawing: Patrick Geddes' Valley section), detailed spatial analysis of the area (reference drawing: Kevin Lynch's drawing for Lippstadt), diagram of the sense of space and motion (reference drawing: Kevin Lynch's diagram for Boston), 1:2000 or 1:1000 model of the area

2. Working with asphalt: models and mockups made of asphalt

3. Architectural scale_Designing the Asphalt Garden: planimetric project drawing with axonometric element, section of the garden showing the underground water and planting system, zoom in on the asphalt elements exemplary design details, collages showing the atmosphere of the garden and model of the network of asphalt sites in 1:500 scale

Preliminary schedule and time planning

WK 35

Monday, August 28–Friday, September 1: Compulsory kick-off workshop

WK 36

Monday, September 4–Friday, September 8: Design workshop

WK 37

Monday, September 11: Presentation of collective work

Revisit the site and define or adjust project's intentions after the reflections of the presentation.

Identify the basic principles for the ideal asphalt garden and work on the topographic section and the big scale model of the area.

Come in contact with the expert and experiment with asphalt.

WK 38

Monday, September 18: Submission of proposal for collective publication

Complete the topographic section and the big scale model.

Sketch the asphalt gardens in 1:500 plans and sections and work on the diagram of the sense and motion.

Work on the same scale with draft model as well.

Work for the collective part.

WK 39

Saturday, September 24–Sunday, October 1: Excursion to the Czech Republic

WK 40

Develop the design in 1:500 and continue with 1:200 or 1:100 scale. That includes sketch drawings and axonometrics. In parallel, think about the construction details and continue working in the model and experimenting with asphalt.

WK 41

Monday, October 9: Presentation of draft collective film for midterm presentation

Friday, October 13: Submission of select midterm materials to thesis examiner and transcription of new conversation with expert

Develop the elements for the presentation, finalize the models and drawings and start working on the film.

WK 42

Monday, October 16: Pencils down, submission of collective work

Wednesday, October 18: Pencils down, submission of individual work

Thursday, October 19 and Friday, October 20: Compulsory midterm presentations

Finalize the elements for the presentation and the film.

WK 43

Monday, October 23: Presentation of draft proposal for thesis exhibition and event

Wednesday, October 25: Submission of final draft text for publication

Reflection on the presentation and define or adjust project's intentions.

Organize drawings and models and photographs.

Work on the collective parts.

WK 44

Develop the design of the gardens in 1:500 and 1:200 or 1:100 scale in plan, section and axonometric drawings.

Work on the 1:500 model of the network of gardens

Develop the asphalt models.

WK 45

Develop the design of the gardens in 1:500 and 1:200 or 1:100 scale in plan, section and axonometric drawings.

Develop the design of the asphalt elements and work with the asphalt models. Draw the section of the garden showing the underground water and planting system.

WK 46

Monday, November 6: Submission of final draft images for publication

Development of the project and focus on the collective parts.

WK 47

Monday, November 22: Pencils down, submission of collective work

Wednesday, November 24: Pencils down, submission of individual work

Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 24: Dress rehearsal (including collective material, individual projects, draft publication, draft design for exhibition, and draft outline of final public event and presentations)

WK 48

Friday, December 1: Submission of final project dossier to examiner

Develop the elements for the presentation, finalize the models and drawings and start working on the film.

WK 49

Monday, December 4: Pencils down, submission of all collective work

Wednesday, December 6: Pencils down, submission of all individual work

Thursday, December 7 and Friday, December 8: E2 (go/no go presentation)

WK 50

Monday, December 11: Submission of all final collective drawings and text for publication

Tuesday, December 12: Submission of final exhibition design

Wednesday, December 13: Submission of draft portfolio

Friday, December 15: Submission of draft final film and short. Book sent to printer.

WK 51

Monday, December 18: Submission of all final individual drawings and text for publication

Wednesday, December 20: Submission of draft *draaiboek* for final event

Friday, December 22: Presentation of revised final film and short. Completed publication sent to printer.

Thursday, December 21 and Friday, December 22: E2 Retakes

WK 2

Monday, January 8: Dress rehearsal for E3 and submission of final portfolio

Friday, January 12: Dress rehearsal for public final event and presentations

WK 3

Wednesday, January 17: Send all individual panels to print

Friday, January 19: Send all collective panels and banners to print. Second dress rehearsal for public final event and presentations

WK 4

Monday, January 22 and Tuesday, January 23: Exhibition build-up

Thursday, January 25: Submission of all final models for exhibition

Friday, January 26: Exhibition installation and submission of all required final materials to the TU Delft Repository.

Second dress rehearsal for E3

WK 5

Monday, January 29: Dress rehearsal for public final event and presentations

Tuesday, January 30: Second dress rehearsal for E3

Wednesday, January 31: Final preparations for public final event and presentations

Thursday, February 1: Public final event and presentations

Friday, February 2: E3 with thesis examiner