

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	Jason Galea
Student number	5840279

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
Main mentor	Taneha Bacchin	Architecture
Second mentor	Georgios Karvelas	Building Technology
Third mentor	René van der Velde	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Explore Lab allowed me to address the specific problems faced with Indigenous knowledge and Land Use, and their intersections with Architecture within my home area in Victoria, Australia.</p> <p>The unique opportunity to work on a project with the consent of the Wathaurong First Nations Group, to address both the social and ecological issues present in the Victorian Volcanic Plains required a studio which would be open to support the specific yet broad scope of this research. Explore Lab allowed me to conduct broad scoping research before making decisions on an architectural intervention</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Re-imagine the Country
Goal	
Location:	Victorian Volcanic Plains - Australia
The posed problem,	<p>In essence, the research problem revolves around the imperative to conserve and restore the endangered grasslands of the VVP while reimagining a sustainable way of living within the unique Australian landscape.</p> <p>The investigation delves into the spatial ecologies of First Nations People, aiming to translate the perspectives into tangible design outcomes and policy interventions for a more environmentally and socially friendly VVP landscape.</p>

	<p>Additionally, the research addresses the critical issue of undervalued landscapes and the under valuing of indigenous knowledge and Landcare practices. The cultural richness embedded in the landscapes, often overlooked, holds untapped potential for sustainable land management.</p> <p>By highlighting the undervaluation of these landscapes and integrating indigenous knowledge into the discourse, the research seeks not only to preserve the VVP but also to contribute to a broader recognition of the ecological significance and cultural wealth embedded in Australia's landscapes.</p> <p>This dual challenge emphasizes the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to ecological restoration and sustainable living.</p>
research questions and	<p>How can rural urban planning and architectural interventions be used to conserve and restore the endangered grasslands of the VVP while reimagining a sustainable way of living within the unique Australian landscape?</p> <p>What are the fundamental views, laws and dynamics of First Nations People and how do they manifest as spatial ecologies?</p> <p>How can First Nations spatial ecologies be applied to the Victorian Volcanic Plains?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The design proposal serves as a logical extension of the preceding research, addressing both the social and ecological challenges within the context of the VVP. Positioned on Wathaurong-owned property, it functions as a prototype farm integral to a larger rural-urban plan.</p> <p>Situated on land already owned and managed by the Wathaurong Co-Op, the project will function as a First Nations Agricultural Campus. This site-specific landscape is purposefully crafted to support ongoing initiatives by the Wathaurong group, focusing on the protection and cultivation of critically endangered grasses and animals native to the region. Moreover, it aims to preserve and emphasize the significance of the 11,000-year-old sacred rock site.</p> <p>The design facilitates the re-learning of traditional First Nation land management practices, including the planting</p>

	<p>and harvesting of grass seeds, production of native foods, and landscape management through fire stick farming. Additionally, the project aims to provide education for First Nation youth in traditional practices and impart knowledge to the general public, emphasizing the value of First Nation culture and fostering an appreciation for the critically endangered grasslands.</p> <p>These design requirements will be actualized by incorporating the core thematic principles developed during the research. This approach ensures that the final design output remains sensitive to First Nations' land management practices, serving as a prototypal flagship with a uniquely Australian approach to land management.</p> <p>The designated spaces within the design include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seed Bank + Nursery - Farm - Food Production - Cultural Laboratory - Educational Spaces - Agricultural + Conservation Spaces <p>This comprehensive design envisions a holistic First Nations Agricultural Campus that not only addresses ecological challenges but also actively contributes to the cultural preservation and sustainable land management practices of the VVP.</p>
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[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.

The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

Process

Method description

The initial framework and background information collection encompassing the social, ecological, and economic aspects of the research is now complete. In June 2023, I conducted an initial site visit involving interviews with the Wathaurong Co-Op, supplemented by documentation through photography and sketches.

The research methods employed embraced a wide array of primary and secondary sources. In addition to literature, a significant portion of the research drew upon interviews with stakeholders, including ecological experts in the VVP grasslands, First Nations representatives, influential social writers in the field of First Nations land

culture, and political experts addressing the destruction of the grassplains. The findings from these interviews, along with other data, will converge in the thesis and a series of drawings, sketches, and maps that spatialize many of the themes and principles analyzed during the research.

The design process will inherently draw from the guiding principles established in the research, which include mapping and drawing exercises. Further site-specific mapping activities, such as documenting and spatially analyzing various significant natural and culturally significant areas within the site, including the documentation of fire stick farming, are planned. Additionally, a month-long field trip back to Australia in February 2024 will facilitate revisiting the site, conducting further site analysis and interviews. This trip will also involve visits to various other project examples, such as the Budj Bim Cultural Centre (the first Indigenous UNESCO Cultural Site in Australia), and participation in private collaborative land care initiatives like the Yambulla project, a collaboration between private landowners and First Nations People

Literature and general practical references

Gammage, Bill. "The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines Made Australia," 2012.

Greider, Thomas, and Lorraine Garkovich. "Landscapes: The Social Construction of Nature and the Environ-ment." *Rural Sociology* 59, no. 1 (1994): 1–24.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1549-0831.1994.tb00519.x>.

Marshall, Adrian. "Start with the Grasslands." Melbourne, 2013.

Marshall, Adrian. "Western Grassland Reserves Position Paper: Grassy Plains Network Towards Making One of the World's Great Reserves," 2021.

Memmott, Paul. "An Introduction to Architecture + Building Traditions: Lessons from Ethno-Architects," 2002.

Memmott, Paul. Gunyah, Goondie + Wurley : The Aboriginal Architecture of Australia, n.d.

Memmott, Paul. "Positioning the Traditional Architecture of Aboriginal Australia in a World Theory of Architecture," n.d.

Neale, Margo, and Lynne Kelly. *First Knowledges: Songlines: The Power and Promise*, n.d.

Pascoe, Bruce, and Bill Gammage. *First Knowledges: Country: Future Fire, Future Farming*, n.d.

Rapoport, Amos. "Australian Aborigines and the Definition of Place." Sydney , 1972.

Rose, Deborah Bird. *Nourishing Terrains: Australian Aboriginal Views of Landscape and Wilderness*. Australian Heritage Commission, 1996.

Stanner, William Edward Hanley. *White Man Got No Dreaming: Essays 1938 - 1973*. Canberra, Australia : Australian National University Press, 1979.

Budj Bim Cultural Landscape – Cooper Scaife Architects

Krakani Lumi Standing Camp - Taylor + Hinds

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)?

In the master track of Architecture, I have acquired skills in spatial design, environmental analysis, and cultural considerations. My thesis explores the intersection of these elements by delving into the spatial ecologies of First Nations People, aiming to translate their perspectives into tangible design outcomes. This resonates with the core principles of architectural design, where theoretical knowledge is applied to create innovative and culturally sensitive spatial solutions.

Furthermore, within the MSc program at TU Delft, I have engaged in interdisciplinary learning, combining architectural principles with broader perspectives on sustainability, cultural studies, and urban planning. My research addresses critical issues in ecological restoration, sustainable living, and the undervaluation of landscapes, aligning with the interdisciplinary nature of the MSc program.

In essence, my graduation project bridges the gap between theoretical exploration and practical implementation, reflecting the holistic and interdisciplinary approach fostered by both the master track in Architecture and the MSc program at TU Delft.

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

The relevance of my graduation project extends to the larger social, professional, and scientific frameworks, aligning with environmental and social concerns in the field of architecture and greater. A fundamental aspect of my work encompasses social engagement, aiming to contribute to the understanding and appreciation of First Nations culture and knowledge. This holds significance in addressing historical injustices and designing in contemporary society. The project's duality in addressing both cultural engagement and responses to the climate crisis, highlights its relevance to broader global issues.

Moreover, my engagement with these critical topics and stakeholders positions the project as a valuable resource for future professional endeavours. In the scientific research realm, my work contributes to diverse fields such as Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Social Constructionism, and Cultural Anthropology. The interdisciplinary nature of the research, intertwining ecological, cultural, and design principles, underscores the need for further scientific exploration across diverse disciplines. The project serves as a node within the network of knowledge, offering insights into First Nations spatial ecologies and influencing discourse within these academic domains.