

REFLECTION PAPER

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

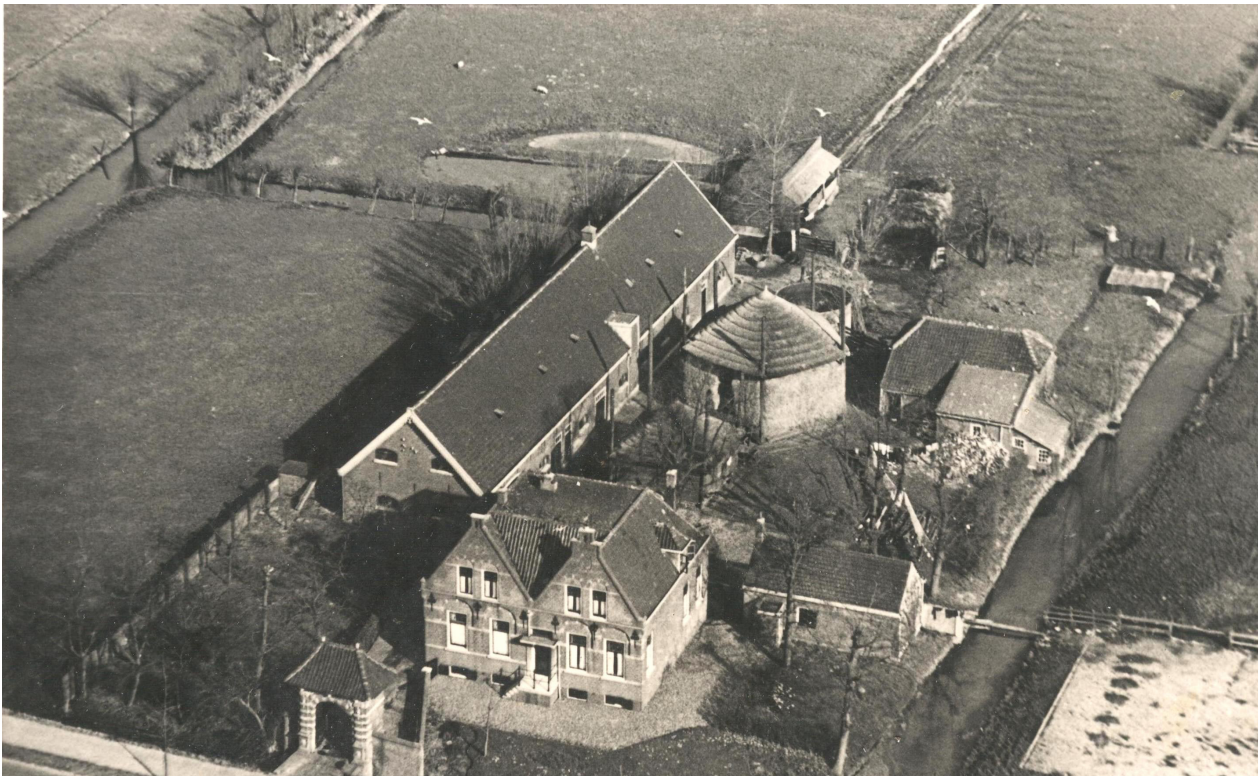
JUNE 25, 2019

Introduction

This paper is part of my graduation project at the faculty of Architecture, Urbanism and the Built Environment, within the chair of Heritage and Architecture. It serves as reflection on the different stages during my research and design for the Hammenfarm in Delft. In this paper I will cover four different aspects. First I will cover the relation between the theme of the studio and my graduation project, then the relation between research and design. Subsequently I will cover the relation between the methods within the studio and my used methods and lastly I will cover the relation between my project and the wider social context. I will end this paper by describing and reflecting the choices I have made in both my research and design phase.

My graduation project focuses on a redesign of the Hammenfarm and a part of the surrounding context within the campus of the Technical University of Delft. The initial project was only aimed at the Hammenfarm but during my research and design phases I expended my focus to a wider context in order to implement a broader design strategy that revitalizes the Hammenfarm and brings connection between the campus of the Technical University of Delft and the urban developments of Delft.

The program that I have chosen for the redesign of the Hammenfarm contains a small scale agricultural green area, a restaurant, a market hall and apartments. By making the Hammenfarm open to public it can act as a pivot between the University campus and the city of Delft.



The Hammenfarm in 1961

Relationship between your graduating project and the studio topic.

The chair of Heritage and Architecture covers buildings, complexes and areas that have an enriched cultural and historic value. The studios offered take on case studies that are challenged with creating new projects within an existing context, that fits in the historic and contemporary Zeitgeist.

The chair offers each year different studios that students can choose to graduate in, these cover large to small scale projects. My fascination lies in designing the story and concept of my projects in the small detail, on both material and technical level. This fascination fits great within the graduating studio 'revitalising heritage', which consists in two small scale case studies of where the student has to choose one for his graduating project. The case studies are the estate Reuversweerd, close to the city of Zutphen and the farmstead the Hammenfarm, in the city of Delft.

Prior to the project, I preferred Reuversweerd because of the impressive appearance of the main house, but after visiting both locations the connection with the Hammenfarm was stronger due to the context in which it exists. An interesting context of the University campus and a, future, urban area in the city of Delft, both in continuous development, surrounding the Hammenfarm.

The theme of the studio 'Revitalising Heritage' is in line with the main problem I found at the Hammenfarm. The once detached farmstead has been enclosed over the years by University buildings of the Technical University of Delft and the industrial developments along the banks of the Schie. It has lost its agricultural function and finds itself on 'a historic island' within a contemporary context. Future development along the banks of the Schie, Schieoever, and on the University campus will only enforce this isolation without a reintegration of relevance to the Hammenfarm. The core goal in this project is introduce this relevance by revitalizing the Hammenfarm with new functions and make it a pivotal point in the future developments of the surrounding context.

Relationship between research and design

The relationship between research and design is of great importance in the chair of Heritage and Architecture. Within the field of heritage, the designer finds himself in an existing context that is embedded with cultural and historic values. The challenge lies in detecting those values in the built environment, research them and strive to a value assessment and which decisions can be made. These decisions can differ in to let it perish in natural state, to conserve or to refurbish with a new design strategy. For making these decisions the research part of each case study is from great importance.

This graduation project has followed a set route made within the studio of Revitalizing Heritage. The first phase consisted of a study in which the history and current context of both projects (Reuversweerd and the Hammenfarm) were analyzed and a cultural value report was drawn up. The analyzes focused on architecture, building technology and cultural values, and had the purpose of creating a good picture of both projects before the students made their choice for one of the projects. After completing these reports, the design phase started in which the previous research served as a foundation for the starting points.

The research reports of the first phase have been a part of my design phase as a foundation to always refer back and reflect whether my design decisions fit within the architecture, technology and cultural value. By including parts of the University campus I enlarged the focal point of my project, which was at first only the site of the Hammenfarm. I had to do more research to understand the values and the future developments of the surrounding areas. Insight in the future developments of the University campus were partly provided by talks with the department of real-estate of TU Delft. Where plans for future developments of the Schieoever are publicized by the municipality of Delft. This all added to the foundation on which my design proposal is based on.

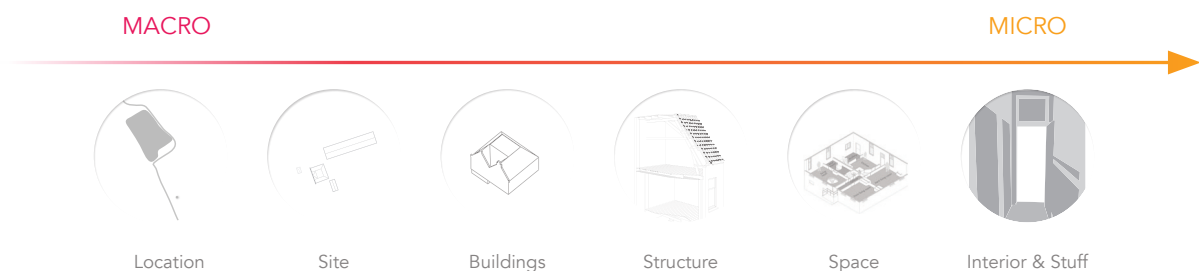
The visits to the site have been important as the on-site research gives the best insight on the tangibles and also the intangibles of the project. We have been to three organized visits to the site on which the project evolved greatly due to the current restauration works. The first visit was prior to the renovation started and the site offered an intimate atmosphere due to the overgrown greenery. A later visit was after the majority of the greenery was removed and the size of the site and the position on the campus was more visible.

This changed the atmosphere of the site and gave me inspiration to incorporate both, intimacy and transparency in my project.

The existing buildings on the site influence the possibilities for new architecture, for scale and materialization. For the scale of the proposed extension of the main house, where the restaurant will be located, my design approach was thoroughly linked with research in materials and structural methods. During the design phase I have designed and calculated several options for the structure of this part with different materials, or combinations of. This resulted in multiple design results that differed in scale, leading to comfortable internal/external height of the extension that is in balance with the surrounding buildings.

I embedded the same approach for the connection details of the façade of the extension where I searched for a balance in dimensions that complimented the overall appearance of the design.

The structure and the connection details in architecture have enormous impact on the execution of the building and are important for me to incorporate these in my design phase. Architecture for me is an continuum between designing and making, the architect and the craftsman.



Research and design structure used in my project

Relationship between the methodical line of the graduation studio and the methods used.

The methods used within the chair Heritage and Architecture are based on the balance between design, technology and cultural values. This is characterized by the designated tutors within the graduation project, one for architecture, one for technology and one for cultural values, all knowledgeable in the field of Heritage. The research phase, prior to the design phase, is also based on these three components and follows the "Research by design" methodology. The three components were analyzed within a framework proposed in 'Designing from Heritage – Strategies for Conservation and Conversion', by Marieke Kuipers and Nicholas Clarke. This framework, the Heritage Value Matrix, consist nine different layers that represent the built artefact, from macro to micro.

The architectural and technical analyses were done focusing on these layers, which were also used for the value assessment in the cultural analyses. The conclusions from the research reports form a basis for the design phase in which the balance is also sought within these three components, in the nine different layers.

Riegl+ → Brand+ ↓	AGE value	HISTORICAL value	INTENTIONAL COMMEMORATIVE value	NON INTENDED COMMORATIVE value	USE value	NEWNESS value	(relative) ART value	RARITY value	OTHER relevant values
SURROUNDINGS/ SETTING									
SITE									
SKIN (exterior)									
STRUCTURE									
SPACE PLAN									
SURFACES (interior)									
SERVICES									
STUFF									
SPIRIT of PLACE									

The Heritage Value Matrix (Clarke & Kuipers, 2017)

For the design phase of the graduation project I used the same strategy as in the nine layers, from macro to micro. This helped to maintain a clear structure in my design phase and to reflect on my design choices for each component. The conclusions from the analyzes have worked as a foundation on which I started designing, while respecting the cultural values.

A good understanding of the architectural, technical and cultural aspects of a project are essential for a good design strategy that can revitalize and emphasize the historic with contemporary architecture.

Building on the above, when I decided to expand the initial scope, from Hammenfarm to an area that includes the University campus and the Schieoovers, the first step of the design process has become more of an urban design task. This was a challenge for me, partly due to the many future developments that were not entirely clear, but also due to the lack of experience in designing on this scale. The plan got more defined by making clear guidelines on what I wanted to achieve on this scale, a connecting line between the campus and the Schieoovers and green public functions related to nature and food.

Relationship with the social context

With my design for the Hammenfarm and the surrounding context I have made an attempt to reintroduce the relevance and to break the barrier that has arisen between the University campus and the developments of the Schieoovers. Both TU Delft and the municipality of Delft have a vision to create a connection, but both lack execution.

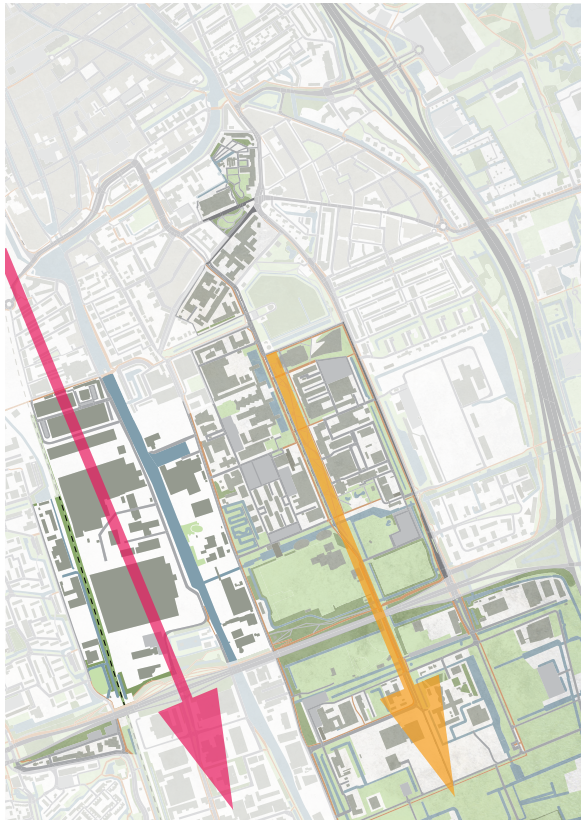
My proposal includes an extension of the Mekelpark 'reaching out' towards the Schieoovers, contrary to the current linear direction along with the University campus. This incorporates a new bike connection between the campus and the train station Delft Campus (Delft Zuid), a new public green area including the Hammenfarm, the market hall (API hal) and a new green agricultural area (Speeldernis). These public areas act as a 'grey zone' between the campus and the Schieoovers, and creates an continuous connection.

In the agricultural green area there is space for vegetable gardens, an orchard and vineyard, which can be managed by the community consisting of the new residents of the Schieoevers and people living on the University campus. The most common form of living in the area already is apartments without a garden, a trend will continue in the developments of the Schieoevers. The green area creates an opportunity to be and work outside with nature.

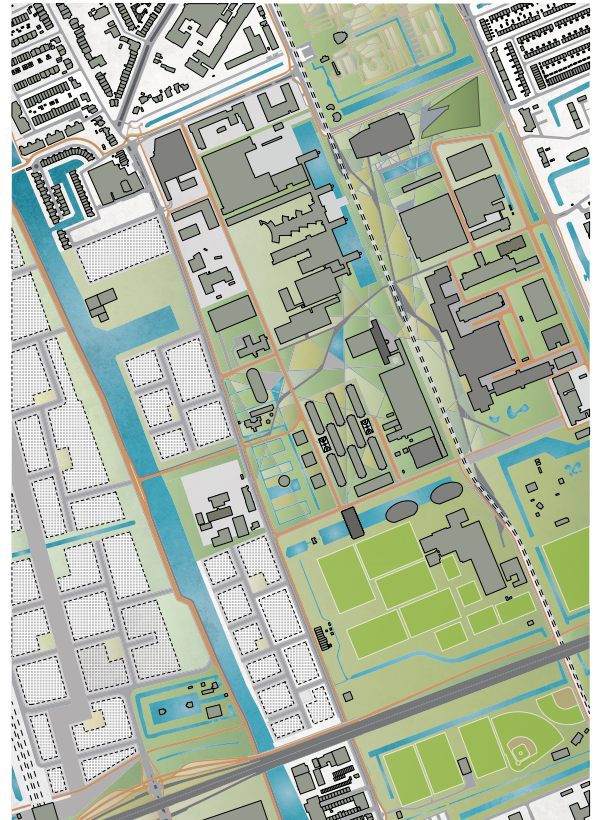
The restaurant in the Hammenfarm can get inspiration from the crops that are grown in the green area and can partly add the products to the menu. This can be a place where people from the University and the residents of Delft integrate in an informal environment open for everyone. A place where people are hold on pause, whilst dining, in an environment that represents the history of the place, the history of agriculture, the basis of food.

The market hall lends itself a place for weekly markets with products made in the Hammenfarm and its surroundings, being also used being also used to host activities from the University. The apartments aim to facilitate accommodation for guest professors, who can experience in the middle of the historical and cultural context of Delft and the University.

By introducing the various functions in the project area, a variety has been created in public spaces that are used throughout the day and week, by residents and people from the University.



Future developments of the Technical University of Delft and the urban developments of the Schieoevers



Proposed design with extension of the Mekelpark for a public green space connecting the Schieoevers with the campus.

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