

Reflection

I have attempted to investigate the architectonic and social relevance that come with museum design in my graduation thesis, especially in light of changing visitor expectations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. As stated in the research, the study is important for architectural discourse as well as for the larger social domain. The post-pandemic increase in museum attendance highlights how museum exhibition expectations are changing, which calls for a reassessment of architectural techniques to improve visitor engagement and overall experience.

Based on thorough research and analysis, the thesis highlights how architects have a significant influence on how visitors experience museums. Architects can create immersive settings that attract and resonate with visitors by intentionally integrating design elements and spatial layouts. This goes beyond aesthetic concerns to include the development of a dynamic and stimulating visitor experience as well as the encouragement of meaningful interactions.

Additionally, the study emphasizes the social significance of museum design and stresses the significance of developing accessible, inclusive environments that appeal to a wide range of visitors. Architects may help create a feeling of community and belonging in museum environments by recognizing and catering to the diverse requirements and interests of visitors.

As demonstrated by the Maritime Museum and Schoenenkwartier case studies, careful architectural design can greatly improve visitor perception and engagement. These instances provide powerful illustrations of how architectural intervention can alter the cultural landscape and improve societal experiences. It is important to acknowledge that including a wider array of case studies could have enriched the findings of the thesis. However, due to constraints such as time and word limits, the paper's scope was necessarily limited. Nevertheless, the insights gained from the research have proved invaluable for the subsequent design task. These newfound design elements have been seamlessly integrated into the development of the old Baggermuseum, now WOW-Quarter, enhancing its overall conceptualization and execution.

The past academic year has presented its share of challenges, as I guess is typical for the final year of the master's program. The long durations of the initial periods (P1 & P2), spanning 10 weeks each, contrasted with the relatively shorter durations of P3 & P4, with only 8 and 6 weeks respectively. Personally, I would have preferred a reversed allocation of time periods to allow more time for the finalization of the project.

On a personal note, the past year has been marked by significant challenges, including my parents' divorce. While I prefer not to delve into further details, it's undeniable that these circumstances have impacted my ability to maintain focus.

Nevertheless, I am proud of the outcomes achieved in both my graduation thesis and design project.

Throughout this journey, my mentors have played a pivotal role. Their expertise and clear communication during guidance sessions have been invaluable. I extend special gratitude to my design mentor, Alexander de Ridder, for his dedication, including the extra counseling sessions held during the TU vacation to ensure my project would be up to standard for the P2 retake presentation.

Of course, I am also grateful to all other mentors who have supported me throughout this challenging year. Their guidance and encouragement have been instrumental in my academic progress and personal growth.