

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

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## Graduation Plan:

Personal information	
Name	Barsha Amarendra
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Studio		
Name / Theme	Flowscapes / LAB: Gardens of Gelderland	
Main mentor	Ir. Saskia de Wit	Landscape Architecture
Second mentor	Angeliki Sioli	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Landscape studio dealing with heritage landscapes in the Netherlands with the possibility of stakeholder participation and feedback along with the opportunity to witness the site transform over the seasons in order to account for this aspect in the design task.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Sequencing experiences: Rethinking the estate landscape for sensorial affordances.
Goal	
Location:	Baakse Beek, Gelderland

**The posed problem**

Upon exploring the estate landscape through maps and consequent visiting, what fascinated me the most was the composition of the landscape into a system of enclosures and the Baakse Beek, which flows through the landscape unseen and inexperienced to an outsider with no prior knowledge of the brook.

The cultural landscape elements compose the landscape into enclosures with scattered farmhouses, stately houses and meadows as essential elements in these enclosures. This spatial composition is a result of the close working of the farmer and the estate owners. Wherever the estates have passed through different ownerships and been sold, the estate grounds have lost this spatial character of small-scale enclosure landscape. Each enclosure is unique from one another due to the elements, which form the enclosure, but also the cultural and ecological practices, which happen in them. Furthermore, the character of these enclosures also changes at different times of the day and the year.

Furthermore, upon visiting the estate landscape in the summer months, what hits the hardest is the complete absence of water in the brook. While most of the estates have no water in the brook, few do have water but covered in a thick layer of algae making it inhabitable for any forms of ecology. The absence of the water in the Baakse Beek also affects the level of water in the moats around the Kasteel and the visual perception of the scene it generates. A decaying brook is in stark contrast to the ecologically rich grounds the estates maintain and poses a threat for the vitality and perception of the estate ecosystem.

The private nature of these estates supplemented with the absence of walking routes leave the rural people residing in and around these estates with very little opportunities to engage or interact with the landscape spaces and the brook. Few estates like De Wiersse and Vorden do have walking paths that allow people to move through the

<b>Research Objective and Questions</b>	<p><b>Research Objective:</b></p> <p>To revitalize an estate landscape into a resilient and experiential carrier that reinforces regional Identity.</p> <p><b>Research Questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can the estate landscape of Baakse Beek be understood in terms of its objective and subjective qualities?</li> <li>2. What design strategies can be derived to revitalize the brook system and enhance the sensorial site specificity of landscapes?</li> <li>3. How can the derived concepts be applied in a spatial and temporal manner in the estate landscape of Baakse Beek respecting the uniqueness of each Estate?</li> <li>4. What are the implications of the final design in terms of social and ecological aspects?</li> </ol>
<b>Design assignment in which these result</b>	<p>The research would lead to the following products:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A regional design sketch to restore the health of the brook system integrated with a route, the solutions of which are site specific to each estate.</li> <li>2. An estate level vision that uses the solutions of the Brook to become experiential nodes in a network of landscape architectonic follies that acts as sensory destinations within the estate landscape.</li> <li>3. Detailing and materialization of a part of the route and corresponding landscape space.</li> </ol>
<b>Process</b>	
<b>Method description</b>	

The methodology of the thesis is structured into three parts:

1. *The research approach* that deals with understanding of the site and its qualities along with strategizing design principles through case studies
2. *Research by design* that deals with design experimentation with the derived design principles to fit the landscape qualities realized.
3. *The Participatory approach* with estate owners to refine the design explorations to suit the estate identity but also to understand preference of the other stakeholders for the image of the landscape.

The theoretical framework is realized in a way that different theories feed at each stage of the methodology.

### **Research Approach:**

The first section of the research approach deals with exploration of the site to understand the elements that compose it, the qualities these elements have and their connections to one another to form a whole. It also deals with realizing the gaps in the landscape and also the potentials for intervention. It thus leads to inventorying of the landscape.

A predominant part of this section is done based on the *Theory of reading and writing landscapes* and *Sensory landscape theories*. The method for understanding and exploring the landscape has been through reading a set of chosen spaces in the landscape in the form of layers of different elements of atmospheres that act together upon a space to generate a sense of place. These readings were documented by using *narrative as a tool*. The preliminary narrative for every space was thereafter structured such that each space touches upon each element of chosen atmospheric qualities for investigation. This resulted in the ability to compare the different spaces for which sensory element it displays the most dominantly.

The second section of the research approach consists of strategizing design principles from case studies that not only has the potential to restore the brook but also enhances the experience of the landscape. For instance, the case study of Ischigami's water garden which not only has the ability to hold water in the landscape but its design elaboration makes an individual pause, look around in awe and experience the place. The end result of this study would be a toolbox of strategies.

### **Research by Design:**

## Literature and general practical preference

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4. Enache, C., & Craciun, C. (2013). The Role of the Landscape in the Identity Generation Process. *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 92, 309–313.
5. Havik, K., & Van Haeren, K. (2016). A story of three: a narrative approach to reading atmosphere and making place. *SPOOL*, 3(2)
6. Havik, K. (2013). *Urban Literacy: Reading and Writing Architecture*. Rotterdam, Netherlands: Nai010Publishers.
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8. Palang, H., Printsman, A., & Sooväli Helen. (2007). *Seasonal Landscapes*. Dordrecht: Springer.
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10. Stobbelaar, Derk & Pedroli, Bas. (2011). Perspectives on Landscape Identity: A Conceptual Challenge. *Landscape Research*. 36. 321-339.
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## Reflection

**1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (Flow-scapes) and your master track (Landscape Architecture)?**

The graduation project deals with the interaction between the water system, the estate landscape ecosystem and the experiences of the people. This is in relation to the studio topic of Flow-scapes, which deals with a system approach wherein the landscape is treated as an interconnected system of different layers acting together. Just like how the studio focuses on the flow of elements such as metabolic flows, ecological flows, etc., the graduation project as well deals with the flow of water through differing landscapes and the required interventions that would affect the flow in the consecutive phases. Additionally, flow is also seen as a movement of people in the Flow-scapes studio, which is inherently present in the graduation project as it aims to create a network of route that allows people to move through the different unique spaces in the estate landscape. Finally, the graduation project adheres to the ethos of the Flow-scapes of designing through scales by structuring interventions from a regional level until the detailing and materialization of the routing and landscape architectonic follies.

The master track of Landscape Architecture deals with the understanding of the landscape on levels of spatial and sensorial experiences but dealing with functional problems of life with water, decaying territories and climate change. The master track practices a balance between ecological and aesthetic concerns that arise in a landscape. As such, the graduation project is in accordance to the master track of landscape architecture as it not only deals with both the spatial-sensorial experiences and functional challenges of water, climate change, but also sees ecology as integral to the aesthetic experience of the landscape.

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

In the present times, estates are becoming increasingly hard to maintain, the problems escalating in the face of climate change. They are either abandoned or parts of the heritage grounds sold off to accommodate demands of urban expansion. What then ceases to exist are estates as a condensed unit of ecological diversity with a mosaic of gardens, farmlands, forests, landscape parks, ponds and buildings all at the same place.

Although a conventional approach to maintain these heritages is to open it for tourism to earn revenue, this cannot be done for all estates due to private ownership of them. The approach in this thesis was based on the

