

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	Monique Vashti
Student number	4795970
Telephone number	
Private e-mail address	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Monique Vashti / Urban Fabric	
Main mentor	Gerdy Verschuure-Stuip	Landscape Architecture
Second mentor	Els Bet	Spatial Planning
The argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Having an architecture background from my previous study, I have always been interested in utilizing design to create an enjoyable place for the user to engage with. In urbanism context, it translates to a bigger scale which is the relationship of the urban form and the social environment. Therefore, I feel the strongest connection with this research group as the studio itself has a tangible design approach solution in creating a sustainable urban environment. By joining this research group, I want to know more about how transformation and modification of spatial form could influence the social life and behaviour and also the other way around.</p> <p>Also, I have a personal interest in history, heritage and culture aspects in an urban environment. Coming from a country with diverse and rich cultures, Indonesia, I always respect the cultural identity and heritage value of a place. After a year of studying in TU Delft, I have not got a chance to be involved with a project with a heritage or cultural background. Therefore, I want to do a graduation project that concerns the heritage and cultural values of a place and utilize it as a tool and value for the possible design solutions.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Renewal of Western Garden Cities in Amsterdam Nieuw-West: Community Based Approach as a Preservation Strategy in Couperusbuurt
Goal	
Location:	Slotermeer, Amsterdam Nieuw-West
The posed problem,	The current problems of spatial and social layer disrupt forming a well-integrated socio-spatial aspect of urban life in Western Garden Cities.

The urban form of Western Garden Cities with its status as municipal heritage is not capable to meet the current needs and the historical urban fabric is threatened because of the city's densification agenda. At the same time, residents are considered as socio-economic weak groups which create social segregation towards the city of Amsterdam. These circumstances and the weak attachment between urban form and urban residents highly affect the neighbourhoods to provide a liveable neighbourhood for its residents.

Thus, urban renewal with the preservation of historical heritage value in the neighbourhoods of Couperusbuurt, Western Garden Cities is urgent.

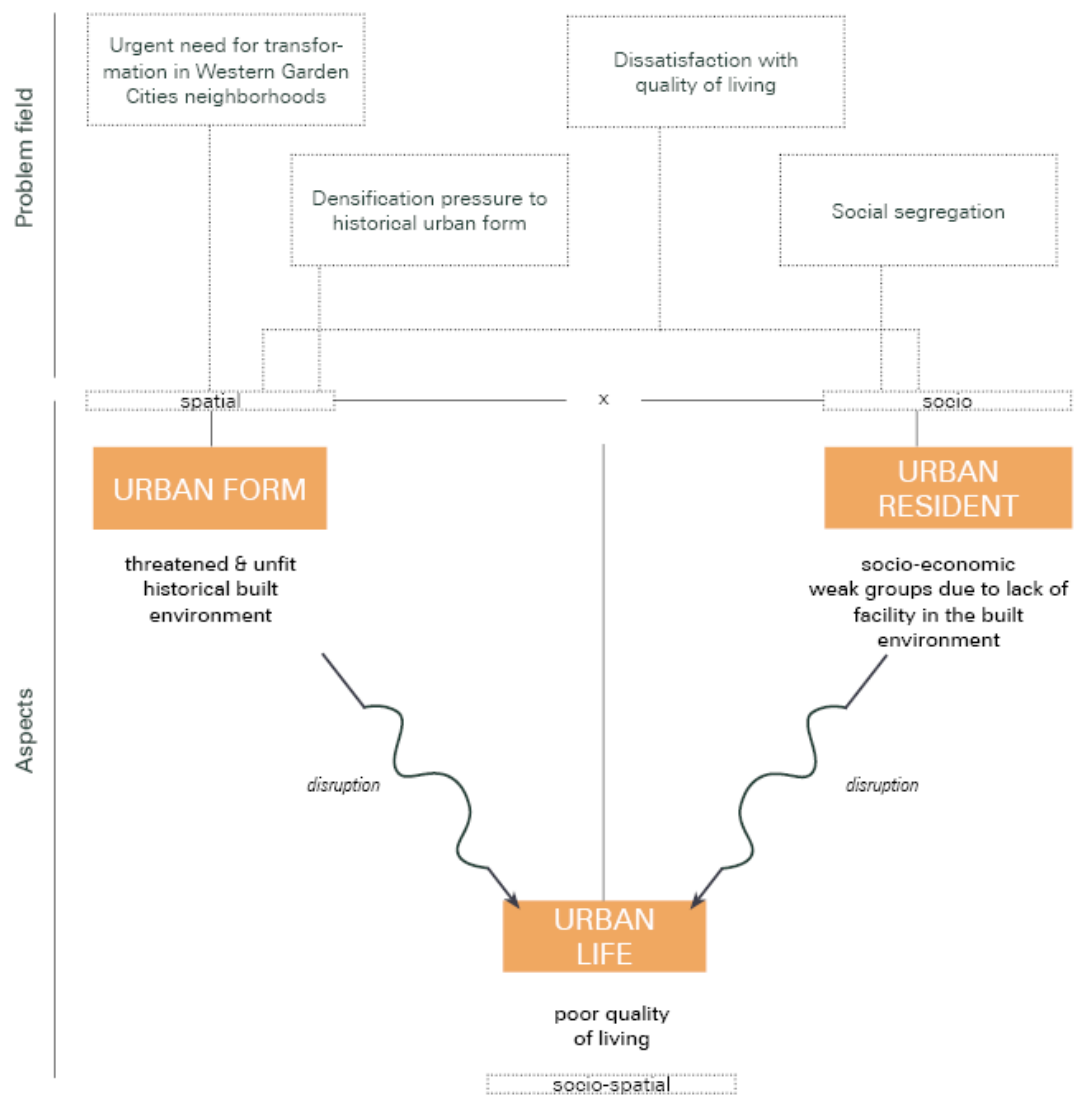


Figure 1. Problem analysis

research questions and

Main Research Question:
How can the heritage urban form be adapted to the current needs of urban residents to facilitate future urban life?

Sub Research Questions:

1. What is considered heritage urban form in the Western Garden Cities neighbourhood?
2. What are the cultural background and the needs of the residents in Couperusbuurt?
3. How do people interpret and use the spaces in the existing neighbourhood?
4. What are the indicator & tool to build socio-spatial cohesion in urban life?
5. How to translate socio-spatial cohesion quality into spatial design elements?

design assignment in which these result.

Research aim:
This research aims to achieve a socio-spatial integration by promoting people-place attachment and creating a livable urban life in the neighbourhood. Also, the built environment should embody the historical heritage importance of Western Garden Cities and helps to improve socio-economic cohesion in the neighbourhood.

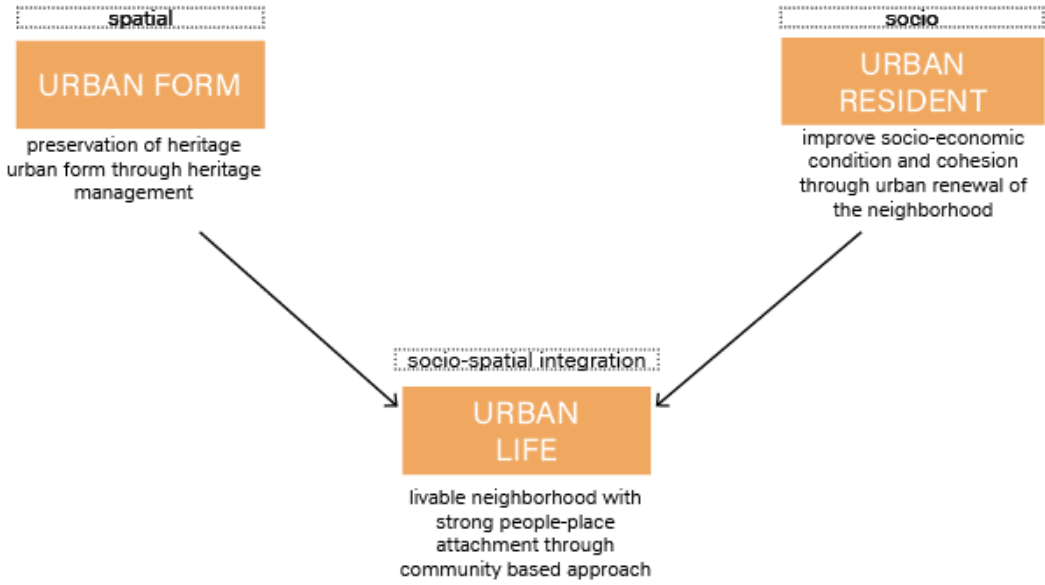


Figure 2. Research Aim

The concrete strategic and design outcome of this project will answer to the previous sub research questions and touch upon multiscale intervention which are:

Scale: macro (Amsterdam Nieuw-West)

Strategic Framework:

- A spatial indicator of heritage value in the urban heritage form

An urban design heritage guideline on which built environment element be protected and which should be transformed to answer densification demand

Design outcome:

- A strategic network mapping that promotes urban life activities in the green, blue, grey infrastructure thus creating a stronger connection between Western Garden Cities and the city as a whole

Scale: meso (Slotermeer)

Strategic Framework:

- A collection of listed data with the demographic background of the residents along with the list of the requirement of public-private space for the users.

Design outcome:

- A strategic mapping with the distribution of public-private use in the heritage built environment that is distributed through open space public space such as, lake, neighbourhood plaza, neighbourhood street, inner courtyard, building with social facilities (church, mosque, school)

Scale: macro (Couperusbuurt)

Strategic Framework:

- A pattern of movement, activities, intensity of use of space and the quality of public life that serves as the basic data for further design development.
- A data of lifestyle of the residents (provided by the Municipality of Amsterdam through ongoing research)

Design outcome:

- Design of the public space in an area that is considered as an area for strategic transformation and could promote social engagement in the neighbourhood.

Scale: nano (public space & building in Couperusbuurt)

Strategic framework:

- A design framework which consists of a pattern framework or a toolbox of possible spatial design elements.

Design outcome:

- Small scale design intervention such as urban design furniture and architectural element in the neighbourhood to improve the quality of life and answering the residents' needs.

Process

Method description

The methods that are used in this research are:

1. Literature review
2. Site observation (a) interviews, b) spatial analysis, c) documentation)
3. Documentary analysis (a) historical documentation, b) policy and municipal vision, c) demographic)
4. Mapping analysis (a) historical mapping study, b) morphological study, c) GIS mapping)
5. Scenario building

The use of the methods that are listed above is integrated into each sub research questions and the variable of research aim. The following description explains the overview of the relation between the methods, research questions, and aim:

Research approach:

Considering the heritage background in this project, the research focus and limitation in heritage scope are defined through a theoretical framework that is built from the literature review. Later, the research questions are defined.

Analysis:

The main analysis in this research consists of three main variables that are related to the problematization and the research aim of the project which are:

1. Urban Form

The analysis of urban form aims to investigate the urban morphology of the area by looking through its historical development and the current built environment. This investigation aims to assess what is the value that the urban form holds and what heritage value it has. Also, this analysis will answer sub research question one (SR1).

Methods: literature review, site observation, documentary analysis, case study analysis, mapping analysis

2. Urban Residents

The analysis of urban residents aims to investigate the demographic and the needs of the residents. Considering the urgent need or urban renewal in the Western Garden Cities neighbourhood, it is important to understand to whom this project addressed to and to whom is the design meant for. Therefore, this investigation will also look at the cultural background of the residents. This analysis will try to look into a micro-scale (focus on Couperusbuurt) as much as possible so that the information that will be obtained will be concise and straightforward to the residents of the Couperusbuurt itself. Lastly, the conclusion that will be derived from this analysis will answer sub research question 2 (SR2).

Methods: site observation, interview, documentary analysis, mapping analysis, stakeholder analysis

3. Urban Life

Urban life embodied the manifestation of the relationship between the built environment and the people who perceive and use the space that the built environment. In this project, it could be concluded that the urban form and the urban residents create urban life. In this chapter, the relationship between the historical urban form and the way people perceive and use it is analysed. Also, this analysis will answer sub research question three (SR3).

Methods: literature review, site observation, documentary analysis, mapping analysis

Design process

In this part, the remaining sub research questions of SR4& SR5) will be discussed in the further in the MSc 3. The design outcome will cover the strategic framework for the renewal plan, and also design intervention in the neighbourhood scale.

Methods: literature review, site observation, scenario building

Literature and general practical preference

Feddes, Y., & Hinz, A. (2011). *De groene kracht* (1ste editie). Sun Uitgeverij.

Heijdra, T. (2010). *Amsterdam Nieuw-West*. Uitgeverij René de Milliano.

Janssen, J., Luiten, E., Renes, H., & Stegmeijer, E. (2017). Heritage as sector, factor and vector: conceptualizing the shifting relationship between heritage management and spatial planning. *European Planning Studies*, 25(9), 1654–1672.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2017.1329410>

Meurs, P. (2015). *Heritage-based design*. TU Delft

Municipality of Amsterdam. (2013). *Nota-cultuurhistorie Westelijke Tuinsteden*.

Nio, I., Reijndorp, A., Veldhuis, W., Blom, A., & Coumou, H. (2016). *Nieuw-West: parkstad of stadswijk*.

De vernieuwing van de Westelijke Tuinsteden Amsterdam. Trancity Valiz.

Exploring Its Meanings? *Frontiers in Psychology*, 11, 259–273.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.00294>

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (U), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

In this Master programme, the presence of utilising scientific research and applying technical aspects is necessary for the design process. Also, in the urban design approach, one of the question that most of the times raised in this master track is "Who are you, the client?".

Therefore, in this research project, scientific research focuses on understanding intangible and tangible heritage-based design. Later, the heritage value that should be preserved in the future of the urban renewal will be translated into the technical and spatial design element. Also, by utilising intangible community heritage as the main approach of the research, the project concentrated on the people as the main client. It focuses on how people perceive and use the space through times and identifying the current needs of the people which later be translated into the spatial design element to create a liveable urban life.

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

Societal Relevance

Considering the social segregation in Amsterdam, the attempt to achieve a more coherent social environment is necessary. Western Garden Cities as one of the highly segregated neighbourhoods in Amsterdam needs social intervention to try to balance the gap between the people. Through this research project, the design solution is hoped to be part of the solution in this answer by trying to integrate these area in term spatially and culturally.

Also, considering the heritage background of this research, the project aims to look heritage beyond the form but also its community and how do people use the space. In the design practice, it is important to understand who are the client and the user of the designed space, thus this project will aim to do so by integrating heritage value in the design approach.

Scientific Relevance

In the European context, the presence of heritage is undoubtedly strong. However, the meaning of heritage and the valuation to assess heritage goes beyond the morphological but also to its meaning by looking through the context, community and design (Meurs, 2015). However, the interpretation of intangible heritage does not have a specific limitation and guideline, unlike tangible heritage. Therefore, the project aims to explore the meaning of both tangible and intangible heritage and applies it to design elements that could improve the daily life of the people.

Aside from its heritage context, this project aims to raise one solution to the housing shortage issues in The Netherlands. The issue has emerged since the past years. Therefore, a lot of attempts have been made to answer the rising population needs. In the other hand, Western Garden Cities who is located in the outskirts of Amsterdam is considered as a municipal heritage is also currently facing the densification challenge. Therefore, it is important to handle the heritage urban landscape which is facing densification issues correctly so that the future development will not be harmful and destructing the quality and the urban form of the heritage Western Garden Cities.