

Reflection

Next to the conclusions on the design result, a critical reflection on the design process is necessary to finalize the learning trajectory of the graduation project.

These last paragraphs give insight into my understanding of the method and argumentation in the thesis. The reflection also discusses the influence of feedback by the mentors on the project. The relationship between research and design will be elaborated on, and further compared to methodologies used within the master track of landscape architecture. A discussion on the probable application of the design results in practice will conclude the reflection.

The goal of the research was to provide knowledge, methods, and principles to understand, structure, and guide the design process. The design approach offers a strategy that leads towards a desirable future for Everglades City and its surroundings. Therefore, the research has both been decisive and essential for the outcome of the design. Decisions that were made within the research process have fundamental for the design concept.

From a scientific point of view, it would seem evident to distinguish research from a design. But the difference between research and design is actually not that obvious. With this clear distinction, concepts as design research and research-by-design seem to be ignored.



Figure 147. Effects of sea-level rise already visible - Biscayne National Park (own picture)

Design research concerns analysis of existing designs or precedents, and research-by-design concerns study through design. (Nijhuis & Bobbink, 2012) This research strategy for landscape architectonic design, forms the academic background within the master track of landscape architecture. Therefore it is an essential part of my design routine. When reflecting on the graduation project, these concepts are, maybe even unconsciously, applied in different stages of the design. Certain components of the design are the immediate result of knowledge acquired by design research. Other results are the outcome of design experiments. The systematic combination of both design research and research-by-design results in knowledge-based and creative design. (2012)

The approach is not only useful for landscape architectonic design, but has also proven to be very effective when studying the fields of ecology and governance. The ambition of the interdisciplinary design approach to create a synergy between three different academic fields, stood in for the complexity of the project.

When looking forward, the application of the interdisciplinary design approach will even be more useful when it can be transformed into a workshop setting. The intention to stimulate participation in the thesis remains theoretical until its broad into practice. The development of an interdisciplinary design workshop can be an exciting proposal for successive

research in the future. The analysis and design results, on the other hand, contribute to the present body of knowledge on spatial transformation in the area.