

# 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](mailto: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	Fleurtje Ruijs
Student number	4448553

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban architecture; Bricolage	
Main mentor	Prof.ir. P.E.L.J.C. Vermeulen	Architecture
Second mentor	Ir. J.D. Fokkinga	Building Technology
Third mentor	Dr. L.G.A.J. Reinders	Research mentor
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I have chosen for this studio, because of the different scales you would design. To have the opportunity to design not only a building, but also change the setting/context of it. I always liked working on multiple scales and that was the main reason I had chosen for this studio.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	<b>Along the river</b> A place of fertile ground and growth
Goal	
Location:	Nijmegen; Molenpoort mall
The posed problem,	The Molenpoort mall is not functioning anymore. The need for shopping is decreasing and there is a increasing need for housing. The building block is now way to big and lacks of porosity. There are no intimate spaces nor does this part of the city connect to the rest of Nijmegen.
research questions and	<p>“How can the mall be transformed into a place of intimacy, purity and vulnerability, with empathy towards all the layers of Nijmegen?”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the layers of Nijmegen and the layers of the molenpoort?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to solve the problem of housing in Nijmegen, in the Netherlands or even in Europe?</li> <li>- How to design a hybrid building, that can house individuals and also the community?</li> </ul>
design assignment in which these result.	A public building, with above temporary housing.
<p>In the urban plan, we designed a place for a new public building. With the thought of creating a place for the people of Nijmegen. From the analysis of Nijmegen I could conclude that it is a problem for people to find a house. Especially for people that just started to work, have difficulties with finding an affordable home. Next to this it should also become a place where the space offers a fertile ground to grow.</p> <p>This ground should become accessible for all the people in Nijmegen. For young and old. The temporary housing would work as a bridge between living at your parents or student house, towards getting a place for your own. The stay can go from a couple of weeks, to a year. Even though this concept is more focused on the young starters it can also work as a solution after a break-up or after losing your house. Give a place where they have the opportunity to take a break.</p> <p>It will become a hybrid project that will fit the needs of the inhabitants of Nijmegen. That will work as a catalyzer and form fertile ground for the people in Nijmegen so that they can grow. Grow into there own place. Grow in creativity, make new connections and have the possibility to learn from one other.</p>	
<b>Process</b>	
<b>Method description</b>	
<p>The research that is already done has a strong narrative, a line or you could see it as a river. It flows from the big scale to the smallest and from the very far past to the future. I will continue this working method for the rest of my research. Maybe it will not go so far and so big as in my previous research, but it will try to look beyond.</p> <p>To work as a bricoleur I shall interrogate water. Water as an element, but also in concept of thoughts. I want to try to discover new significant and new possibilities with designing with water. The framework of thoughts will be evolved by research by literature. Gaston Bachelard will in this case be my main focus of reading.</p> <p>I want to clarify how bricolage will play a role in my design and therefore I shall write an essay. This essay will be about "Bricolage in the modern society". It will explain the difference between a material and an element and how I think bricolage should be used in architecture.</p> <p>After a framework of words is set, I will go into the matter of water and explore the capabilities of it. Main focus will be reflection and flow. For the reflection I want to make models. A small sequel of models explaining what reflection could mean for architecture.</p> <p>Flow can be research by studying the river further, making schemes and by looking at case studies. It will also contain a literary study to clarify the therm. Eventually it will be about</p>	

composition of spaces, stairs and ramps and with models digital or physical that can be studied.

As an addition to these studies, research should be done for the program of hybrid building. There are already concepts that exist and can be good case studies. Organizations like "the student hotel"(Delft) or "Startmotor" (Rotterdam) will be of interest and can help me clarify the exact scope of the program. This study will have the form of text, images and drawings.

With using my hands, theorising about water and bricolage and by going in conversation with the people, I will have a wide scope of material to work with for my design. The research and design process are intertwined and will be in constant dialogue throughout the whole project.

## Literature and general practical preference

My main focus the past half year was to find the different layers of Nijmegen. I started the research with the story of the river and that took me to many directions. Nature and the history of Nijmegen are two very important layers and will form the base of my design. In my research I tried to find the poetics of water and of space by reading Gaston Bachelard. Down here I paste a piece of text I wrote to explain the connection between theories I try to make with my design.

### Ground theories of my project:

The imagination of water. Imagination is a major power of the human nature. Imagination is the ability of producing images. The imagination separate us from the past as well as from the reality, but it faces the future (Bachelard, 1953). It is a wandering of the mind, what could be. It is a system of the mind to adapt yourself to the present and the future. Gaston Bachelard tries to unravel the mind and especially the 'daydreams'. In his book "The poetics of space" he does this with the metaphor of 'the house'. In his book "Water and Dreams" he does this with water.

Why water, you could ask. Why not fire, earth or air? My choice of water is grounded in the poetry of this element. The flow, the freedom, the strength and the endlessness is what my fascination is about. Rivers, lakes, streams and the seas have always been important to me. To wander and meander in my own thoughts.

We think with water. We use watery language and metaphors. Those metaphors help to express a wide range of concepts and experiences. Gaston Bachelard calls it "the material imagination"(Bachelard, 1983). It means that water brings a strong an carried repertoire of emotional, cultural and sensual associations to its role as metaphor (C. Chen, J. MacLeod, and A. Neimanis; 2013).

Gaston Bachelard explains that in water you can recognize a type of intimacy that is very different from those suggested by the "depth" of fire and rocks. Water is a special type of imagination. "It involves a type of destiny. An essential destiny that endlessly changes the substance of the being." (Bachelard, 1943, p.6).

An image of water tells more than a thousand words. Water reveals, and reflects (Bachelard,1943). Water is a matter of relation and connection. We are surrounded with water and exist of water. It flows between and within our bodies, across space and though time. Water gathers stories about history, identity and it collects memories. (Strouet, 1983)

"The material imagination" is also a part of the theory of bricolage. Bricolage has everything to do with imagination. If bricolage is dealing with the things you have at hand, imagination is energy that drives this.

In every design is a bit of bricolage. Panagiotis Louridas concludes that; "Bricolage is the creation of structure out of events" (Louridas, 1999). It is the primitive foundation of thought. It is a life process that explains the transition from nature to culture and doesn't have a form (Scalbert, July 2011).

The link between bricolage and the material imagination of water is that it both explains this primitiveness of thoughts. Water is what wrecked Robinson in the first place, but also saved him. It gave him destiny. Water is what Robinson drove to thinking and seeing beyond.

*"The lake of pool of stagnant water stops us near its bank. It says to our will; you shall go no further; you should go back to looking at distant things at the beyond."* – J. Strouet (1983)

Robinsons tries to find order on his island. He tries to find use of the things he has at hand and he becomes a natural force that is part of the island. He is afraid of what nature can bring him, nevertheless he tries to work with it as much as possible. He is being the designer, the builder and the inhabitant of his creations (Scalbert, July 2011). His story is about surviving and that drives our minds to its limits. For architect the situation is different, but it tell us that we can try to rethink our design and go beyond.

To life in a society that has everything it is not difficult to deal with what we have. That's why I don't want to project the theme of bricolage on the (re-)use of materials, but on the process of thinking. The process of design.

Bricolage in my research will not be about materials, but about elements. Elements of the existing to make something new. To use elements of the existing, the elements should be worth saving. If that is not the case than you should build something that ones will be worth saving. Bricolage in terms of architecture is, in my opinion, not to build a building, but to rethink your actions. Thinking about the aging of buildings and use of them in the future. You should not build a building only for the need of today, but for also for the need that will come.

### References:

- Bachelard, G. (1943) *Waters and Dreams; An Essay on the Imagination of Matter*. Paris: Librairie Jose Corti.
- Bachelard, G. (1958) *The Poetics of Space*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.
- Chen C. ; MacLeod J. ; Neimanis A. (2013) *Thinking with water*. Montreal & Kingston, London, Ithaca: McGill-Queen's University Press 2013
- Louridasc, P. (October, 1999) *Design as Bricolage: Anthropology Meets Design Thinking*. Elsevier Science Ltd. Published in Design Studies Vol 20, No 6 , pp 517{535.
- Scalbert, I. (July, 2011) The Architect as Bricoleur. Source: Candide. Published by: Actar, Barcelona/New York on behalf of Candide. Journal for Architectural Knowledge No. 04, pp. 69-88.
- Strouet J. H. (1983) *Waters and Dreams; An Essay on the Imagination of Matter*. Dallas: he Pegasus Foundation.

### Reflection

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

*In my project I try to work and think like a bricoleur. I explored the theme of 'bricolage', so I have now a clear idea what being a bricoleur means to me and how I can design like one. The project contains an urban design of the area*

*where the Molenpoort is located and I shall design a public building that is situated in the middle of this urban plan.*

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

*In Nijmegen, and in the whole of The Netherlands there is a problem of shortage of housing. Especially for people that just started to work have difficulties with finding an affordable home. I think my research and my design can be of help solving this problem.*