



MSc thesis  
Landscape  
Architecture

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# Objective of the MSc thesis

- Self-driven Research & Design project
- Creating new knowledge on the basis of what you have learned so far
  - Culmination of the MSc degree, capitalising on previous courses
  - Development of an expertise
- 6 months but typically takes longer
- 36-39 ECTS
- Possibility to do a 'Research only' thesis but does not qualify for Landscape Architect title in the Netherlands
- Participation in the ArchiPrix

# Requirements for LAR students

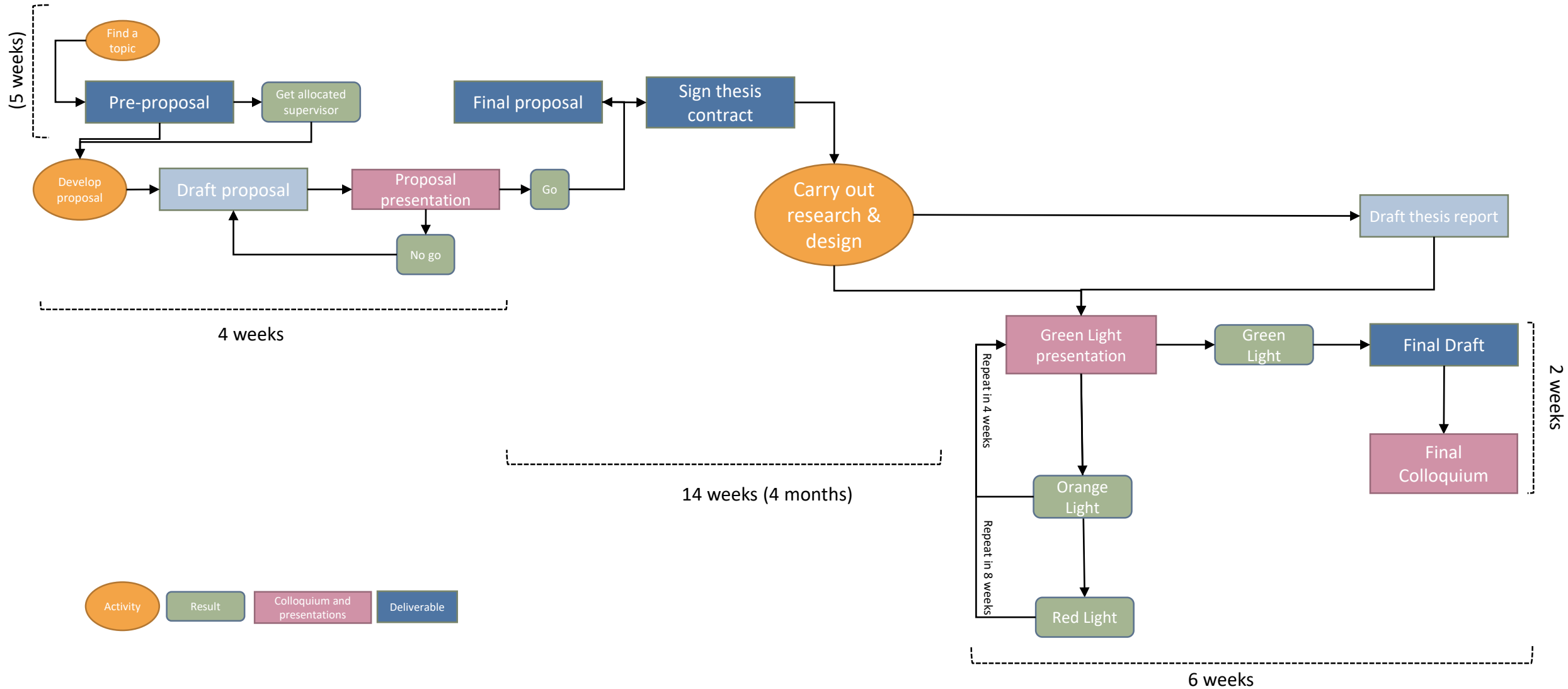
- LAR-38806 Master's Studio Regional Landscape Architecture: a Systems Approach
- GEO-37806 Research Methodology For Planning And Design
- The completion of the 'Internship Landscape Architecture' (LAR-70424 up to LAR-70439) is advisable.

All prequalification requirements have to be met BEFORE starting your thesis project, i.e., before your 'kick-off' meeting with your supervisor

# Thesis guidelines

- MSc-thesis Guidelines Landscape Architecture  
(latest version February 2020)
- Brightspace page with
  - How to define your topic
  - Proposal outline guidance
  - Overview of research methods

# Organization and planning



# Steps and protocol

- Select a topic and supervisor
  - See [\(page\)](#)
  - Select a site/location/scale
  - Submit pre-proposal
- Prepare a research proposal and presentation
- Carry out the research + design
  - Write out the thesis report
- Green Light presentation to ensure your research is ready to be submitted
- Final colloquium and examination

Proposal  
presentation

Green Light  
presentation

Final  
Colloquium

# Finding a topic

- Start thinking about it NOW!
- Connect it to the LAR group's expertise and research interests
- Possibility of co-supervision with other chair groups (ex: Planning, Forestry, Cultural Geography, Health and Society, etc.)



# Available time supervision

- Major thesis: 50 hours
  - 35 h of contact time, including reading and emails
- You are expected to work independently most of the time
- You are responsible for keeping in touch with your supervisor
- Plan your supervising schedule in advance!

# Supervisors and research topics

- Gabrielle Bartelse

- Historical landscapes
- Cultural heritage
- Foodscapes



Examples of theses supervised:

- *Urban Acupuncture in Rotterdam. As an approach towards urban identity (2012-2013)*
- *A future for the past. A new destination for Fort Honswijk (2014-2015)*

# Supervisors and research topics

- Sjoerd Brandsma
  - Eco-revelatory design
  - Water cleaning landscapes
  - Urban climate adaptation
  - Ecological urban expansions
  - Park design



Example of thesis supervised:

- *Permanent Polder Food: Exploring permaculture theory and cultural food heritage values for the landscape design of a sustainable city region food system in the Haarlemmermeer (2018-2019)*

# Supervisors and research topics

- Marlies Brinkhuijsen

- 20th century landscape architecture
- Place-making and heritage
- Focus on tourism and recreation
- Managing public space



Example of thesis supervised:

*Tielerwaard-West 2.0: The legacy of the design language in 20th century Dutch landscape plans and its significance in terms of the present and future landscape of Tielerwaard-West. (2018-2019)*

# Supervisors and research topics

- João Cortesão
  - Urban renewal
  - Climate-responsive urban design
  - Water-related urban design
  - Resilience



Examples of theses supervised:

- *Revival of Disappearing Landscapes in Ria de Aveiro, Portugal (2018-2019)*
- *Cool Heritage. Guidelines for combining bio-climatic design and built cultural heritage.(2018-2019).*

# Supervisors and research topics

- Rudi van Etteger
  - Phenomenology
  - Water-related design

Examples of theses supervised:

- *Crocodylia urbanis: Co-existing with urban wildlife in Vadordara, India (2018-2019)*
- *Wastelands on the edge: Exploring the land-water edge so as to integrate wastelands into green-blue infrastructures (2018-2019)*
- *Biodiversity by Design: Maximising the biodiversity potential of Rivierenwijk, Utrecht by landscape architecture design (2018-2019)*



# Supervisors and research topics

- Merel Enserink\*
  - Sustainable energy landscapes
  - Participative landscape design

The focus of her PhD research is on the development of local, sustainable energy landscapes, also referred to as energy gardens.



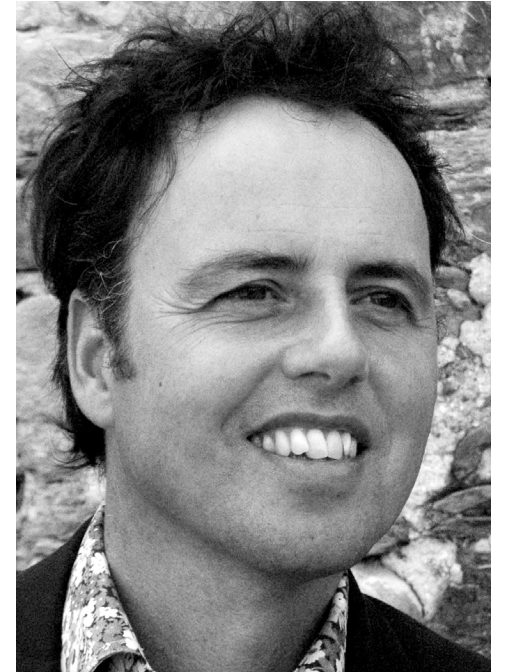
*\*Co-supervision only*

# Supervisors and research topics

- Adriaan Geuze
  - Regional design
  - Historical landscapes

Examples of theses supervised:

- *Rethinking XXL-distribution A case study in North-Brabant, the Netherlands (2018-2019)*





# Supervisors and research topics

- Sanda Lenzholzer
  - Urban (micro-)climate adaptation and health (website [climatelier.net](http://climatelier.net))
  - Research through design

Examples of theses supervised:

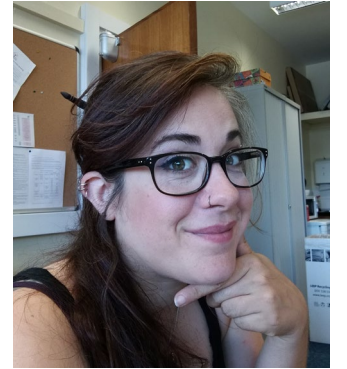
- *Revealing the Urban Climate: A design study on climate revelatory visualisations (2017-2018)*
- *Thermally comfortable and accessible spaces for elderly (2017-2018)*



# Supervisors and research topics

- Agnès Patuano

- Landscape and health and wellbeing
- Landscape preference
- Participation
- Children and vulnerable communities
- Landscape visualisations



# Supervisors and research topics

- Sven Stremke
  - Energy landscapes
  - Climate mitigation (website [www.nrglab.net](http://www.nrglab.net))

Examples of theses supervised:

- *Back in Balance: Towards a carbon neutral peat meadow landscape. The western peat meadow landscape of the province of Utrecht, the Netherlands (2018-2019)*
- *Positive Siting Strategy A positive strategy for siting and designing wind parks in the National Landscape of South-Limburg, the Netherlands (2018-2019)*



# Supervisors and research topics

- Yuting Tai

- Water related design
- Delta urbanism
- Climate change adaptation



# Supervisors and research topics

- Laszlo van der Wal\*
  - Water infrastructure and landscape design
  - Fire-resilient landscapes

- **PhD : Infrascapes**

Looking at the relationship between hydraulic infrastructures, such as dams, weirs and sluices, and the landscape they are embedded in. Extended knowledge on how infrastructures and landscapes interact to form *infrascapes* is critical in informing adequate strategies for dealing with aging infrastructures.



*\*Co-supervision only*

# Finding a topic

- Remember we are Landscape Architects, so find an issue that can be solved:
  - By systematically organising functions in their appropriate location.
  - By shaping locations with green tools like: trees and plants, shaping the land and directing waterflows
  - By shaping urban open spaces.
- Find a site/location which is relevant for the issue you want to solve

# Questions?

Questions and further information:

*Thesis coordinator*

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Questions?