

# LAR 81812

## BSc thesis Landscape Architecture

Academic year: XXXX-XXXX

Period: X

### Coordinator and contact person

Dr. Dipl.Ing. Sven Stremke MA or Ir. Gabrielle Bartelse

### Examiner

Prof. Dr. Adri van den Brink

### Supervisor

XXXX

### Language of the course

You are free to choose Dutch or English. Since English is the common language in the Master Program, we recommend you to practice your English during the BSc thesis.

### Study load

12 ECTS

### Period

The BSc thesis will be offered during period 1 and 6. The program is full-time. That is why you are encouraged to discuss extra courses, re-examinations and other learning activities with your first supervisor. Please note that you cannot register for the BSc thesis via SSC but must do so by email to Audrey Raijmann-Schut (audrey.raijmann-schut@wur.nl) a minimum of two weeks before the start of the respective period.

### Examination

The following products will be evaluated and contribute to the final mark:

- Project proposal
- Report including chapter on self-reflection
- Posters
- Presentations and discussion

You have the opportunity to discuss ideas for your proposal and your final report during the scheduled tutoring moments. The final assessment will be carried out by your supervisor(s), the respective BSc thesis coordinator and the final examiner Prof. Dr. Adri van den Brink. We aim to have the assessment ready within three weeks after submission (official holidays are excluded, see Wageningen University academic calendar).

### Assumed knowledge

You are expected to have attended the full Bachelor program at BLP. Successful completion of the following courses is a prerequisite in order to start your BSc thesis:

- Regional Design Studio (LAR 35806 or LAR 31306);
- Research Methodology for Human Environment Interactions (YRM 21306 or comp. course).

### Profile of the course

The Bachelor thesis is the completion of the BLP program Landscape Architecture. The thesis effectively involves research-based design dealing with a societal problem. The problem, to be offered by the staff, meets the required complexity for BSc level and enables you to demonstrate BSc level competences with regard to academic knowledge and skills. The assignment is chosen so you can independently conduct the necessary research and design and bring the thesis to a satisfactory conclusion. After successful completion of the BSc thesis, you have proven that you

are qualified for the MSc Program. You are expected to design on different scale levels. Disciplinary interaction and collaboration will be part of the BSc thesis, but each of you will be assessed on your individual competences. You may indicate your preference for one of the alternative topics that are being offered. Yet, we cannot guarantee that your preference can be accommodated. Detailed information on the selection process and the final decision will be provided by the coordinator (if applicable).

### **Learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the BSc thesis, you should independently be able to:

- Execute a landscape design-related research under supervision, formulate a project proposal, extract questions from design practice and execute a literature review (A1 and B);
- Give evidence of scientific curiosity and pro-activity (A1, B and D);
- Carry out a descriptive and critical analysis of the physical and social dimensions of the development of the landscape under the influence of natural & cultural processes (A1 and B);
- Apply different design theories, approaches and practices (A2 and B);
- Represent future landscapes at different scales, be familiar with different types of design processes and distinguish different design methods (A2, B and C);
- Present the results of research and design visually, orally and in text (B, C and D);
- Express an opinion, have a critical attitude and be able to reflect on personal thinking and action (A1, A2, B, C and D);
- Organize individually a well-managed research and design process and work according to the planning (A1).

Note: Numbers between brackets refer to assessment criteria stated in thesis evaluation form.

### **Course material and resources**

#### *Additional information for the BSc thesis*

- PDF's of all presentations
- Topic outline(s) describing the assignment
- Outline and explanations for the BSc thesis proposal
- Study materials for the project proposal:
  - Kumar. R. (2005) *Research Methodology. A step-by-step guide for beginners*. Second edition. Sage, London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi.
  - Case Study Designs, Part V (Chapters 13, 14 and 15) from: de Vaus, David (2001) *Research Design in Social Research*, Sage, London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi.

#### *To carry out the study*

The supervisors will share a selection of literature and basic maps with you. However, you are responsible for the collection of relevant and appropriate literature, maps and other data. Please consult the WUR library and your supervisor for additional sources of information. Be aware that you need maps that give realistic and accurate information of the situation. Ordinary city maps, tourist maps or cadastral maps are not accepted as a basis for design. At least 5 scientific papers should be used as reference in the thesis.

### **Educational activities**

The program consists of the following parts:

1. Formulation of a project proposal and learning objectives (plus portfolio for supervisors);
2. Conducting research-based design including study of relevant literature to support the proposed design and creation of designs on different scale levels;
3. Reflection on the research-based design process, the results, the approach and your personal learning objectives.

As you are supposed to conduct the thesis for the largest part independently, tutoring is limited (maximum 5hrs per student). Joint discussions and presentations are scheduled throughout the period. The objective of these collective meetings is to reflect on each other's work and learn from one another. Active attendance is required. The program of the BSc thesis is roughly determined. It is your responsibility to watch over the progress, to make sure you attend the tutoring and to provide the supervisor with products in due time (see deadlines in schedule).

### **Content of the course**

#### *(1) Formulate a project proposal*

In the first week, you compose a project proposal. This proposal (max. 1.000 words) should be structured according to the outline provided by the thesis coordinator. Make sure the proposal is in line with the technical criteria listed in appendix 1. You must discuss your ideas for the project with the supervisor and present your proposal during a group meeting at the beginning of the second week. The proposal has to be accepted by the supervisor to proceed with your thesis.

#### *(2) Conduct research-based design study*

In the coming weeks, you carry out your proposal. Be sure that you make timely arrangements for field visits and interviews, and that you collect the data you need (such as maps) in time! For your research at an academic university, it is expected that you include scientific publications. You cannot, in other words, limit your research to online media and so-called 'grey literature'. A midterm presentation and group discussion provides you with the opportunity to learn from each other and stay focused. After presenting your final results orally, you have a few extra days to finalize your report and posters making best use of the comments you received during the tutoring and the presentation. In the final report, please make sure you include a discussion and conclusion section that match the expectations for an academic BSc thesis conducted at Wageningen University. In the discussion section, you need to critically discuss the findings of your own research and the propositional design. Make use of the method(s) for plan critique learned e.g. in the Theory and Aesthetics course (LAR 22806).

#### *(3) Reflect on content/process of the study and personal learning objectives*

Your thesis report should include one (final) chapter where you reflect upon the results of your research, the progress, the lessons learned, your personal learning objectives and expectations for this course. It is recommended to keep a log, in which you record thoughts and events.

### **Deliverables**

The deliverables consist of:

- Project proposal (max 1.000 words plus portfolio; digital submission);
- Illustrated thesis report (max. 40 pages A4 or 30 pages A3; digital submission);
- Posters (two A0 posters or equivalent; digital submission only);
- Final presentation (PowerPoint or similar program).

PDFs of the final thesis report, the posters, and final presentation must be submitted to Monique Jansen ([Monique.Jansen2@wur.nl](mailto:Monique.Jansen2@wur.nl)). Only when all products have been received, the assessment procedure will be initiated. We will use the checklist included in appendix 1 to formally check your submissions. If the listed items are not dealt with appropriately, the products will be returned immediately and you need to re-submit. Note that handing in your final products after the official deadline means that 0.5 point will be deducted from your overall grade, unless your supervisor granted permission for late submission in advance. If you are ill, inform your first supervisor immediately by email (and report back after you have recovered).

### **Assessment criteria**

The evaluation form with all assessment criteria can be found in appendix 2. Students need a minimum 5,5 for each of the following five sets of competencies to pass the course: Research competence, Design qualifications, Report, Presentation, and Final discussion. Thesis reports and posters will undergo a technical check before they are forwarded to the supervisor(s), the coordinator and the final examiner. If a product does not pass the technical check, it will be returned immediately. Plagiarism is not accepted and will be punished according to the University exam regulations. For the final assessment, a rubric is used. This rubric is based on the general BSc theses rubric at Wageningen University and expanded by some 'design qualification' criteria for the Landscape Architecture students.

If the quality of the final thesis product at the end of a period is insufficient the thesis will be graded insufficient. The student will have possibilities to resubmit two times, during the re-exam weeks at the end of period 3 and in August (see schedule WUR academic year). If the quality is still insufficient the student will have to redo the complete thesis, preferably with another supervisor.

### **Study space**

There is space for BSc thesis students in the new Atelier, on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Forum building. Desktop computers are installed with the following programs: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, AutoCAD, SketchUP Pro and ArcGIS. If you have questions concerning computers or software, please contact Monique Jansen (Monique.Jansen2@wur.nl). Your supervisor(s) will inform you where the tutoring will take place.

### **Reimbursement of expenses**

You may receive a reimbursement of travel expenses to visit your study site if you don't own a student OV card, up to a maximum of €50. The expense form can be found in Appendix 3. Please ask your first supervisor to sign the form and hand it in (along with the original receipts) to Annelies Bruinsma: Gaia building room B.313.

### **Publication or public presentation of results**

When presenting results of your BSc thesis outside Wageningen University (e.g. competitions, projects of the Science Shop, articles, interviews) the names of your supervisor(s) must always be stated along with your name.

### **What if there are problems?**

In case of health issues or personal problems, please contact your supervisor and (if applicable) your study advisor. Issues related to supervision and the like should be discussed with your supervisor first, and (if needed) with the thesis coordinator.

## **Appendix 1: Checklist for submission products (proposal, report and posters)**

- Thesis title, student name and name of supervisors on cover page
- Student name, supervisors, date and student number clearly indicated in colophon
- Table of content accurate and properly formatted
- Layout clear and attractive
- Text to the point and concise
- Text does not exceed maximum length for proposal and report respectively
- Scientific literature used (minimum of five scientific papers plus books)
- Spellcheck done and grammar checked
- In-text references okay (show like this: author, year)
- Each figure mentioned in the text (internal reference)
- Each figure has a number and figure caption explaining what is shown
- Each figure with reference stating the name of the author/designer/photographer
- Each map with North arrow
- Each map with scale-bar or approximate scale mentioned in the figure caption
- Each map with legend or description with words in the map
- Last three chapters in this sequence: Discussion, Conclusion, Reflection
- List of references formatted accurately and included in the appendix (CiteItRight.pdf)

### **Some additional tips from Monique Jansen:**

- Font size for poster and report should be different. A poster should be readable from a distance, while your report is read up close. Make a print of the chosen font in different sizes.
- When using columns, make sure the column is neither too wide nor too narrow. About 10/15 words on one line is the average for columns.
- Text belonging to images should be close but not touching the image.
- Images on screen look brighter than when they are printed!
- Image size should correspond with what is visible on the image. Detailed images should be larger than schematic images.
- When using images from others, make sure all is readable including the legend, text and scale. If not clearly visible, make your own version of the legend, text or scale.
- All images should be numbered from top left to bottom right of the page.
- Images should be located close to the respective text, if possible on the same page/spread.
- Note your name on the cover of your report! It's your work. Be proud of it.

## Appendix 2: Evaluation form (version September 2015)

### BSc thesis evaluation Wageningen University: LAR Design Thesis

|                        |   |                  |
|------------------------|---|------------------|
| Name chair group       | Landscape Architecture                  | <b>Signature</b> |
| Name student           |   |                  |
| Registration number    |   |                  |
| Study programme        | BSc Landscape Architecture and Planning |                  |
| Specialisation         | Landscape Architecture                  |                  |
| Code thesis            | LAR 81812                               |                  |
| Short title thesis     |   |                  |
| Country of research    |   |                  |
| Date examination       |   |                  |
| Supervisor chair group |   |                  |
| Thesis coordinator     | Sven Stremke/Gabrielle Bartelse         |                  |
| Examiner               | Adri van den Brink                      |                  |

|   | grading<br>mark 1-10 | relative<br>weight * |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>A1 Research competence (10-40%) *</b> <i>Minimum required 5.5 (sufficient)</i>         |                      | 25%                  |
| 1. Initiative, pro-activity and creativity  |                      | 0,0                  |
| 2. Commitment and perseverance  |                      |                      |
| 3. Time management  |                      |                      |
| 4. Critical and self reflective capacity  |                      |                      |
| 5. Handling supervisor's comments   |                      |                      |
| 6. Analysis and processing of data and literature   |                      |                      |
| <b>A2 Design qualification (10-40%)</b> <i>Minimum required 5.5 (sufficient)</i>          |                      | 25%                  |
| 1. Architectural composition of spatial organization and shaping of parts                 |                      | 0,0                  |
| 2. Creative thinking regarding landscape architectonic design and aesthetical enhancement |                      |                      |
| 3. Conceptual strength that expresses, leads, or predicates the design                    |                      |                      |
| <b>B Report (40%) *</b> <i>Minimum required 5.5 (sufficient)</i>                          |                      | 40%                  |
| 1. Problem definition and research set-up   |                      | 0,0                  |
| 2. Theoretical underpinning and use of literature   |                      |                      |
| 3. Description methods and analysis data  |                      |                      |
| 4. Clarity of argumentation and conclusions   |                      |                      |
| 5. Critical discussion  |                      |                      |
| 6. Writing skills including correct quoting   |                      |                      |
| <b>C Presentation (5%)</b> <i>Minimum required 5.5 (sufficient)</i>                       |                      | 5%                   |
| 1. Graphical presentation   |                      | 0,0                  |
| 2. Verbal and non-verbal presentation   |                      |                      |
| <b>D Final discussion (5%)</b> <i>Minimum required 5.5 (sufficient)</i>                   |                      | 5%                   |
| 1. Knowledge of the study domain  |                      | 0,0                  |
| 2. Defense of the thesis  |                      |                      |

\* please choose weights such that there sum is 100

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | 0,00 |
|--------------|------|

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>FINAL GRADE</b> |  |
|--------------------|--|

Comment by supervisor

Comment by 2nd reviewer/examiner

02.10.15

### Appendix 3: Expense form



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITEIT  
WAGENINGEN UR

### Reimbursement travel costs BSc thesis

Reimbursement per thesis maximum € 50,00

#### • Leerstoelgroep Landschapsarchitectuur (LAR)

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Datum                             |           |
| Naam                              |           |
| Adres                             |           |
| Postcode en woonplaats            |           |
| Registratienummer                 |           |
| Vakcode                           | LAR 81812 |
| Totaalbedrag te vergoeden         | €         |
| Overmaken op Bankrekening (IBAN): |           |
| naam bank:                        |           |
| BIC-code bank                     |           |
| ten name van:                     |           |
| Naam begeleider                   |           |
| Handtekening begeleider           |           |

Verzoek bonnen gemaakte kosten bij te voegen.

Inleveren bij administrateur Annelies Bruinsma, Gaia, 3<sup>e</sup> etage, kamernr. B313