

Open Invitation

for PhD proposals

23-01-2020

WATER SIGHT

**Architecture and Landscape Architecture
Academic year 2021 – 2025**

Under the auspices of the Graduate School of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, the research group '**Architecture and the City; public building/public realm, composition & tectonics**' (A&C) of the department of Architecture and the research group '**Landscape compositions & systems; water systems worldwide**' (C&S) of the department of Urbanism, section of Landscape Architecture invite interested academics and/or professional candidates to submit a PhD proposal aligned with the program of **Water Sight**.

In the program **Water Sight**, we focus on two themes '*Challenging the re-design of former harbour areas and river banks*' led by the Architecture & City group in cooperation with the Landscape program led by the LA group.

The A&C group is chaired by associate prof. Dr.ir. Susanne Komossa and is based within the chair of Architectural Composition/Public Building. The C&S group is chaired by Associate Professor Dr.Ir. Inge Bobbink within the section of Landscape Architecture.

Both the A&C and C&S research and education portfolios focus on questions regarding the mutual relationship between the city and its public realm, and in the case of the C&S its site specificity. Due to the nature and the ever-changing character of the public realm, this relationship can only be seen in a socio-cultural and economic context. The idea of the public realm refers to an intermediate "space" be it virtual or physical, which facilitates and mediates between different groups of inhabitants, individuals and the (urban)landscape including water- and green structures. For the A&C group, the architecture of the city and its actual qualities forms the main framework of research. For the C&S group the landscape itself is the object of research. Both groups like to dive deeper in the understanding of water (rivers, canals, basins, fountains, irrigation- and drainage systems) as the 'material' of liveability. The interest in **form and composition and the beauty of things** strongly connect the two disciplines.

It is becoming obvious that all designers need to take environmental challenges very seriously, especially regarding the reduction of the use of fossil energy. Therefore, despite continuous migration to cities, the unlimited growth of cities' surface without the integration of the landscape and its demands in terms of respecting the rules of ecological diversity and dynamics is no longer an option. Thus, urban transformation of former industrial areas, often located in the vicinity of city centres, densification of the urban tissue and the re-use of the current building stock will offer challenges for integration. Due to climate change, future designs **will require innovative solutions for sustainable (circular) water- and green systems**. The **Water Sight** program assumes that the challenges of environmentally sustainable, economically vital and socially inclusive cities will have to be met in the future by interlinking new and re-used buildings, water and green systems and objects as part of the public realm and circular economies.

In terms of research and design methods: (building) typology, typo-morphology, research-by-design, adaptive design and dealing with time and process are central in the research approach Delft has to offer. Reference projects, like for example traditional water systems worldwide can deliver insights of sustainable, economic, spiritual and spatial values within the public realm.

The program offers a challenging research environment that includes facilities within the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment and the A+BE Graduate School. The research groups consist of researchers from the fields of Architectural Composition/Public Building, Complex Projects, Methods & Analysis, Urbanism and Landscape Architecture, and is part of a large international network.

We invite candidates to prepare and submit PhD proposals on the topic of **Water Sight**. Through this research we aim to increase the research and design capacities of future academics, architects and urban and landscape designers. By combining specific research methods centring around research-by-design, we aim to develop and test novel architectural and urban models.

Position

The PhD candidate will conduct academic research and related activities. The candidate will be integrated into the A&C or C&S research group, working closely with members and international partners. The program will provide a platform for the development of research skills and experience.

For a successful application the candidate must be able to:

- 1) Situate his/her proposal within the A&C and/or C&S research and the **Water Sight** theme,
- 2) illustrate clearly a hypothesis, theoretical framework, methods and approach of the research that the dissertation will aspire,
- 3) demonstrate the proposed dissertation's value and contribution to existing discourse
- 4) document qualified design experience and research skills.

The PhD trajectory will commence with a one-year probationary period, at the end of which the candidate will submit to the peer-review process. The review panel of both external and internal jurors will evaluate the research work for its quality and scientific rigor. In case the research work will prove to be satisfactory, the hospitality will be extended for an additional period of three years expecting completion of this PhD thesis during four years in total. The professors will be the promoter, and a staff member from the A&C or C&S group holding a PhD degree will be the co-promoter/daily supervisor.

Please note that TU Delft **does not** provide financial support and that the candidate has to demonstrate the availability of funding to financially support her/himself during the PhD research and the ability to pay the mandatory tuition fee. All specific conditions will be determined according to the TU Delft's Doctorate Regulations and the Graduate School rules, to be found on:

<https://www.tudelft.nl/bk/onderzoek/graduate-school-a-be/>

Submission Requirements

Motivation letter, one A4. The applicant should elaborate personal motivations, interests, and aspirations in pursuing a PhD degree and describe his/her qualifications. The applicant should explicitly argue how the proposal is closely aligned with the A&C and C&S research interests. Specify the area of focus and indicate how the applicant's research proposal pertains to those areas.

Full C.V. The C.V. should contain comprehensive chronological information of your academic and professional experience, as well as a record of publication. The C.V. should also include the names and contact information of three referents or recommenders. Also mention in which capacity these are familiar with your qualifications and capabilities (e.g. teacher, employer, colleague, et cetera).

Research Outline,

The outline should include the following:

1. **Provisional Title:** A general introduction to the project, framing it conceptually, thematically, indicating research methods and strategies and the time table for a year research period.
2. **Abstract:** Short summary (300-500 words), including keywords.
3. **Question(s)/Hypothesis, Aims and Goals:** Clearly formulate the question(s) or hypothesis that drive the research and carefully articulate the aims and ambitions of the proposed study.
4. **Preliminary outline:** Describe the overall structure of the PhD research and explain in which ways it will address your question(s)/hypothesis.
5. **Disciplinary Approach:** Introduce your research methodology and position it in its larger disciplinary framework.
6. **Research significance:** Explain why this research is relevant and original. (Comment may be included as to who you believe is your 'audience'.) Position the proposed research within the framework of the research programs as spelled out by the A&C group and other subprograms of the 'The Architecture Project and its Foundations'¹
7. **Preliminary Annotated Bibliography:** This has to distinguish primary and secondary literature and will provide short summaries of each source regarding topic, disciplinary/methodological/theoretical framework used and the relevance to the research.
8. **Addendum:** This can include anything the candidate finds relevant advancing a clear picture of him/herself as a potential PhD candidate – for example a published text.

Document Length: This first draft research should be limited to +/- 2500 words (exclusive bibliography & addendum).

Submission specifications

All the above-mentioned information must be consolidated in one single PDF file of no more than 30 pages and 20 MB. Please name the PDF file as: *Lastname_keyword.pdf* (e.g. Paul Smith_Water Sight_date.pdf).

Submission: The deadline for submission is 30 June 2020, 12PM (CET).

Questions and proposal submission:

Susanne Komossa, mail address: s.komossa@tudelft.nl

Inge Bobbink, mail address: i.bobbink@tudelft.nl

Selection Process

The senior members of the A&C and C&S research groups and a representative of the departmental research council will first screen the proposals for qualification. After the initial screening, the reviewers will assemble a short list of the selected candidates and invite them for a presentation. Based on the results, the A&C and/or C&S research group and a representative of the departmental research council will decide whether they will accept the selected PhD candidate or not. In certain cases, the faculty may ask the candidate to answer additional questions and revise the proposal for a follow-up meeting before a decision is made.

Schedule

Invitation:	23 January 2020
Submission:	Deadline 30 June 2020
Interview and Presentation:	Fall 2020
Notification of Acceptance:	latest at the end of December 2020
Start of Research Work:	January 2021 (Subject to meeting our Graduate School requirements)
One-Year Peer-Review:	January 2022
Completion:	April 2025

WEB:

For further information on the [Architecture & City program](#):

For further information about the Graduate School A+BE:

<http://phd.bk.tudelft.nl/>