2 Research approach

Initial preposition, drawn from observation:
How do the interrelations between regional design and planning influence the peformances of design?

Single case study analysis:
What are key performances of regional design in the realm of regional spatial planning and how can these be analysed?

Theory formation

Multi-case study analysis:
What aspects of spatial planning frameworks influence the performances of regional design and how can these be analysed?

Refined preposition, drawn from exploratory case syudy analysis:
How do the interrelations between regional design and planning influence the peformances of design?
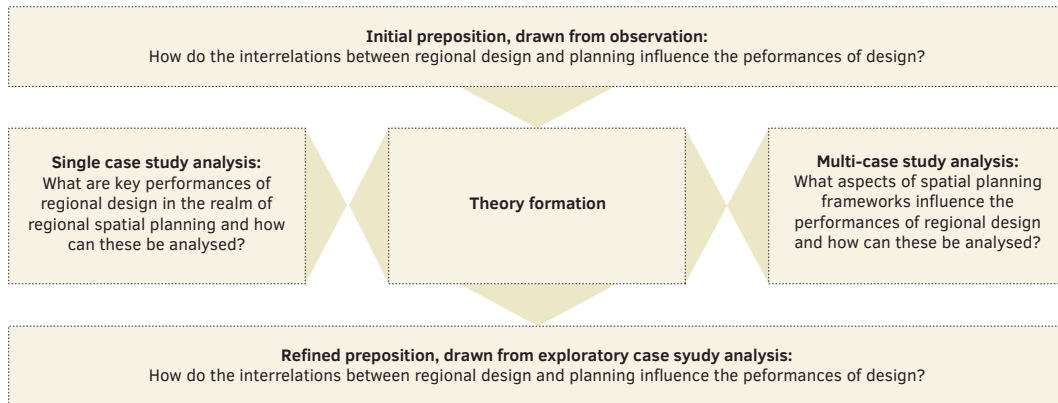
FIG. 2.1 Research design: main elements of the research

The main methodology used to answer the above-listed research questions was that of an exploratory case-study research (Figure 2.1). In this methodology the formation of hypotheses and empirical analysis inform each other during iterative steps: an initial proposition was formulated and tested through case-study analysis; results led to an adaptation of the proposition, which was tested in the next case-study round. It is important to note that exploratory case-study research does not fully verify hypotheses, but seeks to stabilise them and in this way give direction to further research (Yin, 2013, Yin, 2012). Below, the use of the methodology for this thesis is explained.

Besides using empirical case-study research for the strengthening of propositions, the dissertation also draws on theoretical notions from the fields of design and planning, as explained in the previous chapter. Its engagement with theories from different disciplines required a comparison of concepts and categories presented in fields and sub-fields. Criteria to qualify such theory formation in the social sciences is discussed below, under the heading 'theory formation'.

It is important to note that this chapter adds to the more detailed descriptions of methods in Chapters 4 to 7 and that Chapter 8: Conclusions contains critical remarks on the methodologies which have been applied.

2.1 Exploratory case-study research

Regional design is a collaborative and interactive social practice that includes a broad array of actors with a multiplicity of different interests. It is concerned with the built environment, which is itself a complex system. As noted in the Introduction, regional design triggers multiple expectations but its performances have rarely been evaluated. There are only a few scholarly writings that are dedicated to the topic; these elaborate upon a multitude of theoretically founded interrelations among regional design and spatial planning but draw on a narrow empirical evidence base. In such a context it is important to first detail and stabilise propositions; and exploratory case-study research is an appropriate research methodology to do so (Yin, 2013). Conditions that qualify such research include a well-motivated selection of consistent cases, suited to explore a proposition internally, and to generalise outcomes. These cases should be ones that exist prior to any exploration, be well-documented through a variety of (preferably) publicly accessible sources, and be spread over time. How these conditions were met in this research will be explained briefly below.

2.1.1 Selection of cases

In the Netherlands, it is common to use design-led approaches in the realm of spatial planning. As a consequence, over time there have occurred a multitude of design practices related to city-regional, provincial, national, and also trans-national planning. A first choice in this case-study analysis was to focus on interrelations between regional-design practice and Dutch national spatial plans. Aspects of these plans changed in the time period under investigation. The political colour of Dutch governments shifted, which led to different scales and scopes of planning. In 2008 the Dutch Spatial Planning Act (*Wet Ruimtelijkle Ordening*, Wro) was revised, diminishing the importance of national plans. The period between 2000 and 2012 saw an overly frequent publication of plans (in comparison to earlier); some of the plans analysed never became effective and therefore had a particular formal status. However, the principal role of national plans remained stable over time: they were consistently drawn up to guide the planning of lower levels of government and consistently did so by implying (transforming) spatial-planning rationales. One reason for choosing the Dutch national planning frameworks was their common purpose which allows for generalisation. A second reason for this choice was the rich documentation in Dutch national spatial planning. Negotiations on national plans involve multiple tiers of government, are intensive, and are (partially) a formal requirement. They find

an expression in a multitude of publicly accessible policy documents that reflect (changing) positions of plan actors (including their perceptions of geographies) and that also frequently include references to regional design.

A second important choice in this case-study analysis concerns the time period in which these investigated regional-design practices occurred: all of them evolved between the mid-1980s and the 2010s. The start of this period saw accelerating attention to regionalisation in Dutch national planning (documented in scholarly writing on planning), and the emergence of regional design as a distinguished discipline (documented in scholarly writing on regional design). While there were many regional-design practices with a regional scale before the 1980s, it was only from this time that the practice was referred to as such. The end of the period was determined by the 2012 publication of the National Policy Strategy, the most recent national plan that could be considered at the time of this analysis.

With the principal choice for a focus on Dutch national planning in the period of the 1980s to the 2010s, several rules were used to guarantee internal consistency between the regional-design practices investigated. The first rule concerned their content. Dutch national plans traditionally cover several larger thematic fields, most notably urbanisation, (transport) infrastructure, open (rural) landscapes, and water systems. Regional-design practices are used for an elaboration of developments in all fields, at times seeking to integrate them. Cases that were considered in this research had a focus on the thematic field of urbanisation and usually involved attention to transport infrastructure development. All had a concern (sometimes inclusive, sometimes exclusive) about the western part of the Netherlands, commonly known as the Randstad region. Last but not least were cases chosen by the prominence they gained in Dutch spatial planning discourse, expressed in frequent referencing to them in policy documents, professional writings, and also (partially) in academic literature. This choice has, apart from its own internal consistency, enhanced the richness of the available documentation.

During a large part of the case-study analysis, four regional-design practices gained main attention. Then, during a final stage of the research, propositions concerning aspects of spatial-planning frameworks that influence regional-design practice were tested through investigating the institutionalisation of regional design in Dutch national planning and policies. During this verification, a broader set of regional-design practices were considered, with a broader scope concerning their thematic field. In particular, practices with an interest in the development of open (rural) landscapes were also considered. Table 2.1 (below) lists all regional-design practices and planning frameworks that found attention. The ones that received core attention during the exploratory case-study analysis are highlighted.

TABLE 2.1 Regional-design practices between the 1980s and the 2010s*

Year	Regional-design practice	Planning framework	Documentation (primary and secondary)
1984 - 1987	**The Netherlands Now As Design (*Nederland Nu Als Ontwerp*, NNAO)**		Van der Cammen (1987)
1985 - 1986	Netherlands River Land (*Nederland Rivierenland*), 1st Eo-Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (1986) De Jonge (2009) De Jonge (2008)
1988		Fourth Report on Spatial Planning	Ministerie van VROM (1988)
1988-1989	City and Land on the Slope (*Stad en Land op de Helling*), 2nd Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (1989)
1991 - 1992	Region of Streams, 3rd Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (1992)
1993		Fourth Report on Spatial planning Extra	Ministerie van VROM (1993)
1994 - 1995	Inside Randstad Holland, 4th Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (1995)
1996		2nd note on architecture policy (*De Architectuur van de Ruimte. Nota over het Architectuurbeleid 1997-2000*)	Ministeries van OCW et al. (1996)
1996 - 1998	**Delta Metropolis (*Deltametropool*)**		Vereniging Deltametropool (1998) Frieling (1998) Van Duinen (2015)
1997 - 1998	Who is Afraid of the Empty Programme? (*Wie is er Bang voor het Lege Programma?*), 5th Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (1998)
1999		Note on policies on the preservation and use of cultural heritage (*Nota Belvedere*)	Ministeries van OCW et al. (1999)
2000		Note on architecture policy 2001-2004 (*Ontwerpen aan Nederland. Architectuurbeleid 2001-2004*)	(Ministeries van OCW et al., 2000)
2001		Fifth Report on Spatial Planning (*Vijfde Nota Ruimtelijke Ordening*), 1st version	Ministerie van VROM and Rijksplanologische Dienst (2001)
2001 - 2002	Unbounded Movement (*Grenzeloze Beweging*), 6th Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (2002)
2001 - 2002	Studio Deltametropolis (*Atelier Deltametropool*)		Ministerie van VROM (2003)
2001 - 2002	West Flank Delta Metropolis (*Westflank Deltametropool*)		

TABLE 2.1 Regional-design practices between the 1980s and the 2010s*

Year	Regional-design practice	Planning framework	Documentation (primary and secondary)
2001 - 2002	The Art of Gardening (*De kunst van het Tuinieren*)		
2001 - 2002	Triangle Haarlemmermeer-Almere-Utrecht (*Driehoek Haarlemmermeer-Almere-Utrecht*)		
2001 - 2002	Designing on Higher Level of Scale (*Ontwerpen op Hoger Schaalniveau*)		
2002		Fifth Report on Spatial Planning (*Vijfde Nota Ruimtelijke Ordening*), 2nd version	Ministerie van VROM and Rijksplanologische Dienst (2002)
2002 - 2004	New Dutch Water Line (*Nieuw Hollandse Waterlinie*)		Luiten et al. (2004) Luiten (2011)
2002 - 2003	Vision for the Urban Network Arnhem - Nijmegen (*Visie stedelijk netwerk KAN*)		Urban Unlimited (2003)
2003 - 2006	Studio IJmeer (*Atelier IJmeer*)		Koolhaas and Marcusse (2006)
2004		National Spatial Strategy (*Nota Ruimte*), 1st version	Ministeries van VROM et al. (2004)
2005		Note on architecture policy 2005-2008 (*Actieprogramma Ruimte en Cultuur. Architectuur- en Belvederebeleid 2005-2008*)	Ministeries van OCW et al. (2005)
2005 - 2006	Agains and with the Current (*Tegen de Stroom in en met de Stroom mee*), 7th Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (2006) De Jonge (2016)
2006		National Spatial Strategy (*Nota Ruimte*), final version	Ministeries van VROM et al. (2006)
2005 - 2007	**Studio South Wing (*Atelier Zuidvleugel*)**		Atelier Zuidvleugel (2005) Atelier Zuidvleugel (2008b) Balz and Zonneveld (2015)
2005 - 2007	City Line (*Stedenbaan*)		Atelier Zuidvleugel (2006a)
2005 - 2007	In-between Space (*Tussenruimte*)		Atelier Zuidvleugel (2007) Casabella et al. (2007)
2005 - 2007	The Nine Cities (*De Negen Steden*)		Atelier Zuidvleugel (2008a)
2006 - 2007	Studio Brabant City (*Atelier Brabantstad*)		Bosch Slabbers (2007)

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TABLE 2.1 Regional-design practices between the 1980s and the 2010s*

Year	Regional-design practice	Planning framework	Documentation (primary and secondary)
2008		Note on architecture policy 2009-2012 (*Visie Architectuur en Ruimtelijk Ontwerp*, VARO)	Projectgroep Visie Architectuur en Ruimtelijk Ontwerp (2008)
2008 - 2009	Outside the Randstad (*Buiten in de Randstad*), 8th Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (2009)
2008	Designing Randstad 2040 (*Ontwerpen aan Randstad 2040*)		Blank et al. (2009)
2008		Structural Vision Randstad 2040 (*Structuurvisie Randstad 2040*)	Ministerie van VROM (2008)
2010		Change in MIRT procedure	Ministerie van I&M (2010) Enno Zuidema Stedebouw et al. (2011)
2011 - 2012	New Energy for the Peat Colonies (*Nieuwe Energie voor de Veenkoloniën*), 9th Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (2012)
2011 - 2012	**Spatial Models SMASH 2040 (*Ruimtelijke Modellen SMASH 2040*)**		Zandbelt & Van den Berg (2012)
2011-2013	Studio Coalstal Quality (*Atelier Kustkwaliteit*)		Atelier Kustkwaliteit (2011)
2011 - 2012	Studio Making Projects (*Atelier Making Projects*), part of the 2012 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR) 'Making City'		Brugmans and Petersen (2012) Boeijenga et al. (2013)
2011 - 2012	Studio Zuidas City Centre		
2011 - 2012	Studio The City of Rotterdam South		
2011 - 2012	Studio Rhine-Meuse Delta		
2011 - 2012	Studio The Metropolitan Landscape		
2011 - 2012	Studio Making Olympic Cities		
2011 - 2012	Studio 100.000 Jobs for Almere/ Making Almere		
2011 - 2012	Studio Creating Nodes		
2012		National Policy Strategy for Infrastructure and Spatial Planning (*Structuurvisie Infrastructuur en Ruimte*)	Ministerie van I&M (2012)

TABLE 2.1 Regional-design practices between the 1980s and the 2010s*

Year	Regional-design practice	Planning framework	Documentation (primary and secondary)
2012		Note on architecture policy 2013-2016 (*Werken aan Ontwerpkracht. Actieagenda Architectuur en Ruimtelijk Ontwerp 2013-2016*)	Ministeries van I&M et al. (2012)
2012 - 2014	Project Studios (*Projectateliers*), part of the 2014 IABR 'Urban by Nature'		Brugmans and Strien (2014)
2012 - 2014	Project Studio Planet Texel (*Projectatelier Planet Texel*)		Godefroy et al. (2015)
2012 - 2014	Project Studio Rotterdam 1: The Urban Metabolism (*Projectatelier Rotterdam*),		Tillie et al. (2014)
2012 - 2014	Project Studio Brabant City (*Projectatelier BrabantStad*)		Floris Alkemade Architect et al. (2014)
2014 - 2015	The Cities Triangle (*De Stedendriehoek*), 10th Eo Wijers competition		Eo Wijers Stichting (2015)
2014 - 2016	IABR Studios (*IABR Ateliers*), part of the 2016 IABR 'The Next Economy'		Brugmans et al. (2016)
2014 - 2016	IABR Atelier Groningen: Towards a New Energy Landscape		Hoekstra and Francke (2016)
2014 - 2016	IABR Atelier Rotterdam: The Productive City		Francke and Ten Kate (2016)
2014 - 2016	IABR Atelier Utrecht: The Healthy City		Vervloesem and Wessels (2016)
2015 - 2016	IABR Atelier 2050: An Energetic Odyssey		H+N+S Landscape Architects et al. (2016)
2016 - 2017	MIRT research Accessibility Rotterdam The Hague (*MIRT-onderzoek Bereikbaarheid Rotterdam Den Haag*)		De Zwarte Hond et al. (2017)

Consecutive rounds in case study analysis

Case-study analysis was conducted in two rounds of exploration: a first, single, and in-depth case study, followed by a second, multiple case-study analysis, with historical and comparative components. Both rounds are described briefly below.

During a first in-depth case study, key performances of regional design in the realm of spatial planning were investigated. The regional-design practice analysed was the Studio South Wing (*Atelier Zuidvleugel*), initiated in 2002 by a coalition of sub-national governments in the southern part of the Randstad. This case complies with the general criteria for the selection of cases mentioned above. All regional-design practices that were investigated during the exploratory research were well-documented in terms of final design proposals and the use of these in policy processes. In addition to such documentation, this case also included a well-documented design process. As in other regional-design practices, a broad array of actors was involved in the Studio South Wing. Interaction between them was facilitated by a dedicated communication strategy: every design step was published and open to comments by stakeholders. Publications were accessible via a Studio website until around 2015. Additional empirical material was acquired through interviews with key actors in the Studio (see Appendix A for list). Questions were semi-structured and covered two main topics, notably the initiative for the Studio South Wing (its motivation, and formation) and the approach taken by the Studio (its description, and expectations). I was involved in Studio South Wing as a regional designer. Such personal engagement may raise questions about bias and a justification for the use of such a case is elaborated below, in the section 'theory formation'. The first single in-depth case study is documented in the publications that are taken up in Chapters 3 and 4. In addition, it can also be found documented in Balz and Zonneveld (2010).

Results of the first case-study analysis raised attention about spatial-planning frameworks as determinants of performances of regional design. A second round of exploratory case-study analysis was, therefore, dedicated to identifying aspects of the frameworks that do indeed influence performances. Multiple case-study analysis was used to compare interrelations between regional-design practices and the different national spatial plans published between 1988 and 2012. The case study was prepared by making a detailed analysis of these plans. The selection of regional-design practices was informed by the general rules mentioned earlier. Practices included The Netherlands Now As Design (*Nederland Nu Als Ontwerp*, NNAO), the Delta Metropolis (*Deltametropool*), the Studio South Wing (*Atelier Zuidvleugel*), and the Spatial Models SMASH 2040 (*Ruimtelijke Modellen SMASH 2040*). In particular, the first two cases are, due to the prominence they gained in Dutch

planning discourse, well documented by professional and scholarly literature; the documentation of the work of the Studio South Wing is mentioned above; while the last case, Spatial Models SMASH 2040, complies less well to the general rules set out for cases, in particular the requirements concerning prominence. It was chosen as one of the first practices that evolved due to the formalisation of regional design in Dutch national planning. Analysis relied on primary documentation only. The second multiple case-study analysis is documented in the publications that are to be found in Chapters 5 and 6, and which are also documented in (Balz et al., 2014).

Results of the exploratory case-study analysis have led to the proposition that regional design resembles discretionary action. This perspective emphasises the importance of actor constellations in regional-design practice. A last step of the research was therefore to analyse over time the actors involved. To understand the institutionalisation of involvement, a broader set of regional-design practices found attention. The selection of these cases is explained above. Table 2.1 includes a list of the primary and secondary literature upon which the analysis drew. In addition, national policies with an influence on practices were considered. The most important among these are the Dutch architecture policy and the policy concerning decision making under the umbrella of the Long-Term Program for Infrastructure, Transportation and Spatial Development (MIRT). A publicly accessible documentation of such policies is obligatory in the Netherlands. This analysis is documented in Chapter 7.

2.2 Theory formation

In addition to testing propositions by means of empirical case-study analysis, this research has also used theoretical notions, acquired by means of a literature review, to support and develop them. Such theory formation in qualitative social research is vulnerable: initial concepts tend to be biased; concepts tend to accumulate over the course of theoretical reflection and to form non-transparent constructs finally. Ways to avoid such entangling are in an unbiased selection of an initial observations and data-set, a well-documented, transparent process of theory formation (including the mentioning of events that gave direction to theory formation), an adherence to the purity of theoretical notions, and the testing of such notions against alternative concepts and categories (Bendassolli, 2013, Corbin and Strauss, 1990).

2.2.1   Initial observation

Theory formation is rooted in an observation of an initial 'data-set' which calls for a revision or enrichment of current theories by means of a new proposition (Corbin and Strauss, 1990). The selection of both, an initial data-set and initial theoretical notions, needs to be unbiased by the subjectivity of researchers. The initial proposition of this research was that regional design is an argumentative practice that performs in spatial-planning decision-making. Theoretically, performances were first explained by interrelations between spatial representations (i.e. design proposals) and spatial concepts (the institutionalised perceptions of geographies that are used in spatial planning). The selection of these theoretical complexes was deduced from observation of the above-mentioned Studio South Wing. As noted earlier, I was involved in this practice myself, in the function of Chief Designer. Such rooting of propositions in personal experience certainly raises questions about bias. However, drawing on my personal observation as a source for theory formation can be justified. One justification is the extensive and publicly accessible documentation of the design practice. Secondly, I documented my observation prior to the formulation of theoretically grounded propositions (see Chapter 3). A final justification lies in the way in which the theories were initially selected. I am trained as an architect and built a carrier as a professional designer. When I started this dissertation my explicit knowledge about planning was minor. The theoretical notions that formed the initial starting point of theory formation were suggested, not by myself, but by scholars from the field of planning with whom I discussed my experience.

2.2.2   Process of theory formation

Transparent process is one important aspect that qualifies theory formation. For this reason, a brief description of the process is given below. This summary adds to documentation in the form of conference papers and the articles that are incorporated into this publication. Chapter 8 includes tables that list key concepts and notions that were finally selected for the building of the analytical framework that is the main result of theory formation.

The first selection of key theories included spatial concepts and spatial representations, as mentioned above. A literature review, guided by these key words, led to a distinction of designs by their different logics of spatial representation and their orientation towards dimensions of spatial concepts. Regional design appeared as a practice that evolves in a discursive dimension of spatial concepts and performs through the structuring of argument. This more detailed proposition

was underpinned by theoretical notions of spatial planning, in particular, notions that explain and detail how attention to spatial development is facilitated in spatial-planning decision-making. Notions concerned visions, governance, a decision-centred view on planning, and discourse. To stabilise the proposition an in-depth case-study research was carried out (see above). Results highlighted the need for attention on a pragmatic use of regional design in the realms of spatial planning and governance. They led to a further detailing of the logics of spatial representation and the dimensions of concepts distinguished earlier. Notions emphasising regional design as a form of territorial management were supported by a review of the planning literature featuring the key words identified earlier.

A search to understand pragmatic behaviour in spatial planning led to a refinement of the initial analytical framework. It also brought critical remark on the use of spatial concepts, visions, and visualisations to the foreground and thus emphasised spatial-planning frameworks as determinants of performances of regional design. In a second stage of theory formation, aspects of frameworks that influence regional design were investigated. From the outset, there was the recognition that spatial concepts incorporate reservoirs of meanings in their dimensions. During the second stage of theoretical reflection these reservoirs gained accelerated attention. They were equated with a given room for interpretation. A broad body of literature related to the notion of flexibility came under investigation. New key concepts were indicative planning, flexibility and certainty, plan-led and development-led planning, choice in argumentative planning practice and discretion. Theoretical notions on these topics were used to stabilise the assumption that room for interpretation matters for design. They finally led to a classification of spatial concepts by their degree of ambiguity and the assumption that such ambiguity confines regional design as a rule-building practice, or discretionary action. The proposition that room for interpretation informs performances of regional design was tested during a multiple case-study analysis (see above).

Theoretical notions on (regional) design were considered from the outset of theory building. They were used to underpin initial assumptions on regional design as a communicative and collaborative planning practice, the importance of spatial representations in regional design and also a relation between design proposals and institutionalised geographies. However, at this stage of theory formation a broader body of design theory came under investigation. It was used to verify that design is argumentative, a form of rule-building, and influenced by a given 'epistemic freedom'. It thus contributed to the final position that regional design, when used in the realm of spatial planning, seeks to justify planning by a consideration of its impact on local situations and that it, as such a discretionary action, either evolves as pragmatic behaviour or as a form of advocacy. Predicted related implications

were, in a last stage, supported by notions on governance and verified through an empirical analysis of the institutionalisation of regional design in Dutch national spatial planning.

For theory formation it is important that simplicity of theoretical notions is maintained. The major analytical complex that emerged during theoretical reflection concerns was (1) spatial concepts, categorised in an analytical, normative, and organisational dimension, as well as a degree of ambiguity and (2) spatial representations, categorised in an analytical, normative and organisational logic. These notions were sustained over the course of theory formation.

Theory formation is supported by discussions on concepts and categories with other scholars. During the course of the dissertation several opportunities for exchange were created. The most important of these events are listed in Table 2.2 (below). Appendix C incorporates a more detailed account of the issues that found attention.

TABLE 2.2 Exchange on regional design during theory formation

Round table: Emerging Regional Design in an Era of Co-governance and Co-evolution	
Date: 10th July 2014 **Location:** Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands	**Host:** The round table discussion was organised as part of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) 2014 Annual Conference 'From Control to Co-evolution' **Organisers:** Verena Balz, Wil Zonneveld, Department of Urbanism, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Delft, the Netherlands
Mapping the City - A Seminar on Comparative City Analysis and Mapping	
Date: 29th October 2014 **Location:** Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions (AMS) – Royal Institute of the Tropes (KIT), Amsterdam, the Netherlands	**Host:** Van Eesteren-Fluck & Van Lohuizen Foundation (EFL), the Archives of the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta) at the ETH Zürich, and the Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions (AMS) **Organisers:** Verena Balz, Rotterdam, the Netherlands **Documentation:** Balz (2014)
Shaping regional futures: Mapping, designing, transforming!	
Date: 14th -15th October 2015 **Location:** Oskar von Miller Forum, Munich, Germany	**Host:** Agnes Förster, Alain Thierstein, Chair of Urban Development, Munich University of Technology (TUM), Germany **Co-organisers:** Verena Balz, Wil Zonneveld, Department of Urbanism, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), the Netherlands **Documentation:** Förster et al. (2016)
Shaping Regional Futures: Design and Visioning in Governance Rescaling	
Date: 18th -19th May 2017 **Location:** Medici Riccardi Palace, Luca Giordano Conference Hall, Florence, Italy	**Host:** Valeria Lingua, Giuseppe De Luca, Chair of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Florence (UNIFI), Italy **Co-organisers:** Verena Balz, Wil Zonneveld, Department of Urbanism, Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) and Alain Thierstein, Lukas Gillard, Chair of Urban Development, Munich University of Technology (TUM), Germany **Documentation:** Attendees of the conference contribute to the forthcoming book titled Shaping Regional Futures: Design and Visioning in Governance Rescaling (Lingua and Balz, 2019)