

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), 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	Pjotr van Noesel
Student number	4441176

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Glaneurs Glaneuses	
Main mentor	Paul Vermeulen	Architecture
Second mentor	Lex van Deudekom	Building Technology
Third mentor	Leeke Reinders	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Architecture is strongly related to a place/context. It has the potential to work on levels beyond its built scale. The Urban Architecture studio allows for an exploration of these relations. It does so by taking a medium size urban scale as the starting point for urban and architectural explorations. The urban site and architectural project are thus strongly related to one another. The studio values the role of context and allows for a thorough appropriation and appreciation of a site and place. The theme of Gleaning (Glaneur/Glaneuse) relates to these things. It is about carefully picking up that which is already there. It offers a poetic approach to sustainability, preservation and finding value in the existing, making use of the many tools, inspirations and elements a site has to offer.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Cultural Center in a Paper Mill
Goal	
Location:	Maastricht
The posed problem,	<p>Since 1850 the SAPPI paper mill (former Royal Dutch paper mill) has taken a central location within the city of Maastricht. It has become a part of Maastricht's industrial heritage. However, over time it has detached from its urban environment, becoming an inaccessible "island." It is fenced-off and closed to the public. Much of the former functional factory grounds are left to decay, slowly growing into a state of assumed obsolescence. Urban</p>

	<p>development is, and has been, changing and improving the surrounding Sphinx area. Simultaneously SAPPI is slowly retracting from parts of the site. There is an opportunity to reclaim a piece of the urban landscape of Maastricht and reconnect it to the city.</p> <p>The ensembled structures that make up the factory are complex. Accumulation of built additions over time seem to obstruct or hide an essential piece of Maastricht's industrial history. The former logic belonging to the paper mill and its production process are lost in a collage of architectural disorder. Retrofitting this existing environment that had a previous purpose, without losing its character, requires understanding it. One should question what value there can still be found within the paper mill.</p> <p>Maastricht presents itself as a city of culture and houses a wide array of (educational) art institutes. It is a quality they pride themselves on and would like to build upon in the future. A part of these institutes lacks permanent residence. In an attempt to "bring Maastricht to the SAPPI grounds" a culture oriented program could contribute and simultaneously offering a permanent stronghold for the city's cultural component.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>The paper mill is to be understood as an assemblage: a whole made up of equally valuable parts. From the perspective of the Glaneur this "whole" needs to be figured out in an attempt to "glean" its values. Assemblage theory provides an approach to carefully deconstruct the found pieces of a complex whole. Architecture and architectural design research can be used as an experiment to find existing value and retrofit it into something new using assemblage as an operative tool. The potential cultural center means to offer a program that becomes more than the sum of its parts. In that sense it is operating as an assemblage as well.</p> <p><i>How can a cultural center be designed whilst maintaining a strong connection to its site and past using the design tool of assemblage?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How can the existing factory architecture be understood as/through assemblage?</i> - <i>What can be gleaned from the factory site through assemblage?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How can the combined mixed use functions of a cultural center form an assembled whole?</i> - <i>In what way can the urban and architectural project provide a reconnection to the city?</i>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design of a built ensemble that houses a cultural center with a mixed use program located on the old factory grounds of the paper mill.</p>
<p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]</p>	
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>Up till the P1 presentation the factory site and its inner workings have been dissected to reveal its layers of time and the flows of the paper production process. A guided site visit allowed us to get a better grip on an, at first sight, incomprehensible structural ensemble. Using analytical models, site photography and archival images this first part of research and analysis revealed the structural organization and logic of the royal SAPPI paper mill and the defining role of the paper production process.</p> <p>The following phase, focusing on urban design, has been informed partially by research from three different developing research perspectives. A literary approach to Maastricht, a focus on nature and greenery, and from my personal developing point of view: the literature surrounding the theme of collage and the collage city. Thus influencing an urban design that incorporated diversity in program, timelines, design, and actors. Assessment of the factory architecture led to different "stages" of intervening, thus incorporating the theme of gleaning by making a distinction of parts of the site that could (easily) be reused, needed redevelopment or should be demolished. Within the phase we used physical models, drawings and 3D computer models working on a 1:1000 and 1:500 scale.</p> <p>Continuing the architectural design phase after P2, I will be taking a combined design/research approach using the theme of assemblage as a (literary) source/inspiration to further inform and develop a design where the research part is incorporated in the architectural design process. Drawing, sketching, computer modelling, physical modelling, writing and photocollage will be used as practical methods for design and research work. Starting from the P2 these drawings will be refined from the current 1:500 detailed scale level towards 1:200 – 1:100 and for specific parts 1:50 – 1:5 detailed scale levels. The re-use part of the project will require analysis into the state of the remaining structures and their materiality. A planned workshop with ROTOR will be used as input and advice regarding the reused buildings and building elements.</p>	

Literature and general practical preference

De Caigny, S., Somers, D., Van den Driessche, M., Bovenbouw Architectuur, & Borret, K. (2021). *Composite Presence*. Flanders Architecture Institute.

Christo, Spies, W., Reader, S., Pavese, E., & Volz, W. (1984). *Christo : surrounded islands*. Meulenhoff/Landshoff.

DeLanda, M. (2006). *A New Philosophy of Society*. Bloomsbury Academic.

Dovey, K. (2013). *Assembling architecture*, in Frichot, H., & Loo, S. (eds) *Deleuze and Architecture*, Edinburgh: University of Edinburgh Press. Pp. 131-148.

Easterling, K. (2021). *Medium Design*. Verso.

McFarlane, C. (2011). *Assemblage and critical urbanism*. *City*, 15(2), 204–224.

Rowe, C, and Koetter, F. (1978). *Collage City*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

Seitz, W. C. (1961). *The art of assemblage*. Museum of Modern Art; distributed by Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y.

Shields, J. A. E. 2014. *Collage and Architecture*.

Wehmeyer, S. "Collage-Based Research and Design." *Dimensions* 1, no. 1 (2021): 25–36. <https://doi.org/10.14361/dak-2021-0104>.

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)?

The architectural design project for a culture center on the former grounds of the SAPPI paper mill is part of a design proposal for an urban plan for the southside of the SAPPI factory in Maastricht. The project takes on multiple scales, both urban and architectural. The design consists of several buildings and houses a complex program combining different functions of which some relate to their direct urban surroundings. Combining both re-use of existing built structure and new buildings on a rich historically rooted site, the approach of the glaneur comes into play: how can we work with the remains of what we find on site, and how do we incorporate the history of a built location with a specific function. In that sense it fits in with the Urban Architecture studio theme (Glaneur/Glâneuse).

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

A combined design/research into a program (cultural center) place (former paper factory) and several themes (Glaneur/Assemblage) should hopefully result in new findings in an approach to architectural design. It should provide knowledge on the use of "gleaning" and assemblage as a design approach or tool in architectural practice. The project provides an example for working with industrial heritage on a complex urban site that borders between an expanding city and functional industry. Glaneur/Glanceuse is closely related to the topic of sustainability. It shows us how we can make more out of the findings we make on a site.