

## Reflection P4

Preliminary results of research and design

As the name Interiors Buildings Cities suggests, the studio considers the different scales of an architectural project, seeing all as interconnected parts within the broader order of architecture. The graduation studio, titled 'Palace', considers representative public buildings as vital spaces for collective public life. This year's project addresses the idea of the public library, through elaborating a design for the Stockholm City library. As a situated work of architecture, the design considers the importance of its immediate location. The building addresses the city, and vice versa. In designing for a monumental building, the design forms a response to a highly specific context, and is elaborated on all scales. Thus, Architecture, Urbanism, and Building Sciences are to be thought of as an integrated whole.

The project is based in the shadow of multiple failed competitions. As I saw the project at the beginning, it offered a unique opportunity to explore the potential of the previous competition briefs, while also allowing me to redefine and reconsider the fundamental questions posed by these briefs. As I got further into the process of designing, I discovered that I was, in fact, not designing according to any predefined brief, and allowed myself to design much more free than any concrete brief would have allowed. It became a project of interrogation and careful consideration. Research into the history of the building, and other works by its architect came to inform many of the choices I made within my own design.

A central question guiding my design process was: How does the library's design offer discernible spatial quality to its users? This led to an exploration of the relationship between the new library and Asplund's existing architecture. This approach led to an architecture that is not directly mine, but also not a pastiche. It is a carefully balanced reinterpretation which heavily draws upon the sensibilities found in the work of Erik Gunnar Asplund. In comparison to the winning proposals for previous competitions, which both failed as a result of political disquiet and a serious concern about their approach to heritage, I feel my proposal deals with heritage in a more subtle way. Resulting in a project that feels like an appropriate response, that is complementary to the library it is designed for. Presenting itself as series of interior spaces that resonate with Asplund's architectural language in their form and spatial arrangement. While taking into account the needs and expectations of a contemporary library; a library that feels open and welcoming to all, which can be inhabited freely.