

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Personal information

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Studio

Name / Theme Public Building

Main mentor	Henk Bultstra	Architectural Design
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Stefano Corbo	Theory and Delineation

Argumentation of choice of the studio

In an era where changes follow up on each other at a high pace and social separation is a main topic, public buildings can provide spatial solutions to create healthy and sustainable societies in ever-evolving cities. The Commons are a fundamental starting point to create spaces that can accommodate a dense diversity in people, processes and functions. The innovative and explorative character towards the Public realm is the reason why I have chosen the Public Building studio as my Graduation Studio.

Graduation project

Title of the graduation project:

The Time-Line

A multi-phase project in Friedrichshain, Berlin that responds to urban changes.

Goal

Location: Friedrichshain, Berlin, Germany

The posed problem:

Gentrification is happening throughout Berlin. As Jane Jacobs said: "As long as gentrification proceeds gently, with moderation, it tends to continue to be beneficial, and diversifying.". Gentrification in Berlin was promoted by the government after the city's unification of the west and the east. The, on social theories based, housing market was introduced to the capitalistic market. Especially districts in East Berlin saw rent prices rise.

From then a gentrification trend has gone in a clock-wise movement through the inner-city districts (Holm,2013). In these districts different stages of gentrification can be observed from 'early pioneer gentrification' to 'super gentrification'. The last stage, as Jane Jacobs states, has an undiversified area as consequence.

Friedrichshain has undergone the pioneer phase of gentrification. Changes in social composition are observed in terms of the rising share of residents with high educational status (Krätke,2013). Also rents have risen and commercial bars and clubs have taken over the traditional corner pubs (Holm,2011). Nevertheless Friedrichshain shows diverse demographics with a rising number of inhabitants with a migration background and an increase in young people.

Gentrification in the districts of Berlin tends to cause isolation, social compartmentalization and lack of sense of belonging – felt by new and original district inhabitants. An unbalanced quality of life distribution emerges, which leads to unsustainable models of city growth.

Research questions

How can the architecture of a public condenser as a multi-phase system respond to social and economic issues like gentrification in an ever changing environment?

How can the public realm contribute to the well-being of citizens?

How can existing structures be adapted to sustain new uses?

Design assignment in which these result.

The concept design for P1 is explored by different design tools to formulate architectural ambitions in a design manifesto regarding the public condenser. The schematic design is made within the design framework of P1, consisting of architectural diagrams, plans, sections and physical models.

The chosen site for the project is a central point in Friedrichshain. It is surrounded by gentrified neighborhoods and is on the border of residential and commercial areas. On site there are three existing buildings. Because of sustainability considerations all three buildings will be partly re-used or adapted. From two of the buildings the flexible organized structure will be re-used. From the last building only the plattenbau façade elements will be re-used as temporary design elements. The whole plot will work as an urban corridor to connect function zones of the urban fabric. This will be divided in three moments aligned to their context: attract, connect and direct. Each moment holds different program components, enhancing the experience. The main structure connects all three moments and its program. This structure works as an architectural carrier where functions can be attached and removed over time. The metabolic character of the project gives answer to its changing surrounding needs over time.

Process

Method description

The Architectural research is done by the intertwining of design, survey, deep analyses of references, scientific research and theoretical research. The concept design is based on survey and theoretical research and is further explored by design. The design tools used to answer the question 'What is a public condenser of the 21st century?' are:

- Collage & montage
- Superposition & Superimposition
- Sample, Archive & Index
- Psychogeography
- Assemblage & Tectonics
- Affectation
- Intermodality

The project's composition, circulation and spatial relations are examined by design and understanding of architectural research and references. Elaborated studies on materialization, sustainability and circularity of the project will be done by feasibility studies and understanding of scientific research to materials.

Architectural projects:

Archigram Plug-in City, Peter Cook, 1964

FRAC Dunkerque , Lacaton & Vassal, 2013, Dunkirk, France

Fun Palace, Cedric Price, 1961

Gare Maritime, Neutelings & Riedijk, 2020, Brussels, Belgium

Hedmark museum, Sverre Fehn, 1980, Hamar, Norway

Kabeldistrict, MEI architecten, 2024, Delft, Netherlands

De Meerpaal, Van Klingeren, 1965, Dronten, Netherlands

Nagakin Towers, Kisho Kurokawa, 1970, Tokyo, Japan

'Open Bouwen', John Habraken, 1961

Parc de la Villette, Bernard Tschumi, 1987, Paris, France

Spatial City Project, Yona Friedman, 1958

Villa Verde in Constitución, Elemental, 2010, Constitución, Chile

Your Rainbow Panorama, Studio Olafur Eliasson, 2011, Aarhus, Denmark

YueCheng Courtyard Kindergarten, MAD Architects, 2020, Beijing, China

Literature:

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Holm, A., and A. Kuhn, (2011). Squatting and urban renewal: The inter-action of squatter movements and strategies of urban restructuring in Berlin. International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 35(3): 644–658.

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Wong, Liliane. (2023) *Adaptive Reuse in Architecture: A Typological Index*. Basel: Birkhauser.

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

The graduation project 'Time-Line' relates to the master track Architecture since it focuses on technical, spatial and social challenges within the built environment. The complexity of the project is in the re-use and adaptive re-use of the context, wherein a multi-phase system is designed to give answer to changing societal needs. This is in line with former studios complex projects and MEGA, where an integrated design has been made by incorporating all stake holders and disciplines. Also it relates to the Public Building studio topic commons. The project focusses on the commons of a big number of people separated in two main groups, original and new inhabitants. This division is relevant because of the gentrification process. Since this process is temporary, consisting of different phases, the project aims to create value and be functional in all phases by changing over time.

This metabolic approach gives answer to the four thematic pillars of the Public Building studio. It creates multiplicity, hybridity, resilience and sustainability as a foundation for a lasting, meaningful and valuable building.

The metabolic philosophy is a more often used concept, which has proved its relevance with different ideologies behind it. However, using it to respond to the fast-paced process of gentrification in Berlin to create a healthier and more liveable city for inhabitants, makes it into a new relevant concept worth exploring further in the larger social, professional and scientific field.

