

# 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](mailto: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	René Damstra
Student number	5507235

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Building Cities / Palace: An Architecture For Art	
Main mentor	Mark Pimlott	Architecture
Second mentor	Matthijs Klooster	Architectural Engineering
Third mentor	Amy Thomas	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The interest in the ways of teaching and the assignments at the Interiors Building Cities studio, the interest in making physical models and the fascination for both contemporary art and architecture, which are coming together in this graduation studio.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The design of a Flemish contemporary art museum for the current M HKA (Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerpen), which will be the VMHK (Flemish Museum of Contemporary Art) in the future.
Goal	
Location:	Antwerp, Belgium. Waalsekaai 35a where there is now a former courthouse building that is likely to be demolished.
The posed problem,	M HKA's current building no longer meets their own requirements along with their growing ambitions: expansion, management and exhibition of the Flemish Community's collection, presenting itself more as a research institute and setting up an archive department for visual arts.
research questions and	What is a possible design proposal based on the design brief for a well-functioning new museum for the VMHK in Antwerp in which additional consideration is given to the social and public aspect of a museum, the urban embedding and relation with the park

	and a creative and inspiring atmosphere?
design assignment in which these result.	The design assignment encompasses a design that answers, after critical questioning, the design brief and offers a well-functioning museum at all aspects and levels. The design includes and focusses on the social and public aspect of a museum and is on urban and environmental level embedded in its surroundings, especially in relation to the park in front. At last, the design creates a creative and inspiring atmosphere. In the bigger picture, the design takes a position within the ongoing discussion of what the identity and position of a museum should be.
<b>Process</b>	
<b>Method description</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Precedents Study as a body of knowledge, an analysis of eight reference projects: in drawing, model, text, comparison and discussion.</li> <li>- Spatial Ensembles: an analysis of the current collection of M HKA in drawing, models, text and discussion. The assignment encompassed a design of a possible 'spatial ensemble' for artworks of a selected artist, which are in possession of the M HKA.</li> <li>- Collective Research: collective research of all different aspects in a research process, which are appointed by ourselves. All research is mapped and collected in the software Notion as a database. The topics include: urban history and site, museum families, history of contemporary art in Flanders and Brussels and the anti-museum.</li> <li>- Site visit: several visits and analysis of the site and its surroundings</li> <li>- Reference projects and visits: visit of other museums as reference project for the purpose of, for example, understanding of how museums present themselves and how they are functioning.</li> </ul>	

## Literature and general practical preference

Literature and readings of Research Seminars:

- Mark Pimlott, *Visibility spectacle theatricality* (2022)
- Grayson Perry, 'Beating the Bounds', BBC Reith Lectures
- Charlotte Klonk, 'The Dilemma of the Modern Art Museum' in *Spaces of Experience: Art Gallery Interiors from 1800 to 2000* (New Haven; Yale)
- Podcast, *The Bilbao Effect #1: Bilbao, Spain* Guggenheim Bilbao's director general discusses the city's world-renowned transformation
- Darby English and Charlotte Barat, 'Blackness at MoMA: A Legacy of Deficity', in *Among Others: Blackness at MoMA* (New York: MoMA, 2019)
- 'Culture and Privilege' Episode of *Thinking Allowed*, BBC

Precedents Study:

- Museu de arte São Paulo. Lina Bo Bardi
- Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. Rogers + Piano
- Museum Abteiburg, Mönchengladbach. Hans Hollein
- Kunsthaus, Bregenz. Peter Zumthor
- Tate Modern, London. Herzog + De Meuron
- New Museum, New York. SANAA
- Kunsthaus, Zürich. David Chipperfield
- FRAC, Dunkerque. Lacaton + Vassal

Reference museums (as part of Collective Research)

- MAS, Antwerp, Neutelings Riedijk Architecten.
- Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (KMSKA), Antwerp, Jean-Jacques Winders and Frans van Dijk, and KAAN Architecten.
- FOMU, Antwerp, Frans Van Dijck and Georges Baines.
- M HKA, Antwerp, Michel Grandsard.

Other literature will be included in the Collective Research booklets.

## 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 studio name 'Interiors Building Cities' and the title of the assignment 'An Architecture For Art' show in one go the relationships between the project topic, studio topic, master track and -program. The design of a building that houses contemporary art is the topic of both the project and the studio. The first part of 'An Architecture For Art' includes both the word and the master track 'Architecture', which is part of the larger master program. The design will touch upon urbanism, as the museum is part of a larger urban context. Besides that, the design will be worked out to a level of detail, which will touch upon architectural engineering.

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

There is a large social relevance to a project that encompasses the design of a contemporary art museum. Art has a great social importance, as it is both the voice and the reflection of the public. Art is an unconstrained way to question political issues and plays an important role in individual positioning. Art is socially crucial, which labels the building that houses the art equally crucial.

The graduation project is similar to a design assignment or competition in the professional work field of architectural offices. The design will be based on an actual design brief, issued by the Flemish government for the M HKA. The divided collective research and design process is similar to the process in an architectural office, which suits in the professional framework.

As for the scientific framework, academic research has been done. The Reading Seminars have been concluded with a reflective research plan. Individual and collective research and the precedents study strengthen this scientific base.