

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	Bart Claver
Student number	4804112

Studio		
Name / Theme	Architectural Design Crossover	
Main mentor	Alper S. Alkan	Architectural Design
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Agnes van der Meij	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>My choice for this studio is based on its interdisciplinary approach to the intersection of different systems and urban conditions. A city is not homogenous but multifaceted and requires a framework that not only investigates the physical aspects of a city but also the underlying socio-economic and demographic conditions. Besides this aspect, my choice was also motivated by the possibility to freely focus on and research a unique area of interest which will evolve into a design concept.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	An immovable feast: the architecture of a sustainable foodscape
Goal	
Location:	Madrid, Spain
The posed problem,	<p>The relationship between the city and the land that feeds it has drastically changed over the past centuries, causing a change in the way people value food.</p> <p>The industrialization of the agricultural sector from small local independent producers to vast monocultural companies has broken the connection between consumer and producer and replaced it to that of consumer-processor-producers.</p> <p>Consumers often don't know where their food is from, while producers don't know who consumes their produce. This has caused a change in the way food is valued. Civil values such as animal welfare, fair trade and</p>

	<p>environmental wellbeing have been replaced by commercial and industrial ones such as price, year-round availability, and quality assurance. This is leading to cities being supplied by highly processed food produced by pesticides, artificial fertilizers and other detrimental farming practices, negatively impacting those that consume it and the environment. Therefore, it is necessary to change the way people value food and the practices surrounding its cultivation.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Main: How could architecture play a central role in the creation of a sustainable foodscape in Madrid?</p> <p>Sub:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where does Madrid source its food from and what are the local cultivation initiatives? - What is the historic and cultural context of Madrid's foodscapes? - What constitutes sustainable food practices? - Who are the actors and what is their role when it comes to sustainable food practices? - What systems make up the foodscapes of Madrid?
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The outcome of the research is an understanding of the current foodscape of Madrid and the changes that are required to transform the current situation into a sustainable one. The prevention of resource depletion,</p>

	<p>limitation of detrimental effects on the environment and reintroduction of social civic values will be central themes.</p> <p>The design assignment which follows from this, will be an architectural intervention which will function as a pilot for sustainable food practices within the city of Madrid. The project will make use of existing networks and actors surrounding the chosen site to elevate the project beyond an urban agricultural production site.</p> <p>To accomplish this the assignment is split up in multiple parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify a site which has a connection with horticulture production within Madrid. - Identify and map the surrounding flows and actors that can connect with an agricultural program. - Develop a program that combines agricultural production with existing material flows and social aspects. - Design an architectural intervention that uses the synergy between existing flows and actors, and agricultural production to reestablish the relationship between the consumer and the food they consume. Making the project a catalyst towards a sustainable foodscape in Madrid.
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[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.]

Process

Method description

As a foodscape of a city is a complex system to investigate it will be necessary to divide it up into several aspects and make use of a multidisciplinary toolset. While it will not be possible to cover the entire complexity of the foodscapes during this project, a general understanding is required before diving deeper into a more specific aspect of it.

- **Systems: flows, actors and processes**
Food production is a global process in which food is produced, processed, transported, distributed, sold and consumed. To gain a grasp on this, it is necessary to identify the current flows, actors and processes that play a part in this. These elements will be identified through literature studies, mapped and visually depicted via diagrams. Making it possible to identify points of failure and opportunity.
- **Urban scale: regional context and city-hinterland**
The urban scale will focus on Madrid and its surrounding region. Gaining an understanding of Madrid within the larger global network both present day as well as historically.

Historic research through archival maps, accounts, photographs and literature is used to understand the evolutions that the foodscape of Madrid has gone through over the last few centuries. The historic conditions and practices uncovered from this research will be of value in rebalancing the present-day foodscape through their reintroduction. This research also provides the first sites of inquiry within the city of Madrid. The outcome of this will be in the form of mapping and textual description.

Mapping of the flows and actors within the Madrid region provided an overview of the current foodscape of the region and its connection with that of the global scale, demonstrating where Madrid sources its food from and how that is impacting the city on an environmental and socio-economical scale. The result of this will be maps and systemic diagrams. Besides the current dominant situation this scale also provides an opportunity to research alternatives that are already in place via case-study research.

- **Site analysis and networks**
The historic research done on the urban scale has provided multiple sites of inquiry that have a historical connection to agricultural production within the city of Madrid. These sites have been mapped to show their historical evolution and context is provided through literary research. This has led to a single site. This site and its surrounding neighborhood will be mapped both spatially and systemically to uncover flows and actors that can be combined with an agricultural program to reach a synergy with the architectural concept.

Literature and general practical references

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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 foodscape of a city is a complex set of systems and actors that is directly linked with the city through the acts of producing and consuming food. These acts shape not only the surrounding hinterland but also the environment, infrastructure and social make-up of a city. Through an integral architectural approach it is possible to demonstrate an alternative relationship between the city and its foodscape, and between consumer and the food they consume. One wherein there is no depletion. As this requires an interplay of multiple flows and actors its fits well within the Architectural Design Crossover studio.

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

The relationship between the city and the land that feeds it has almost completely disappeared over the last century. This has negatively impacted the way food is valued which has caused negative consequences such as environmental degradation, disappearance of relationships and knowledge, and a worsening of both human and animal welfare. The focus of this project is to reestablish this lost relationship through an architectural projection that reintroduces historical conditions and practices and combines them with contemporary flows and actors to form a program that fits the 21st century. This will result in a pilot project which will demonstrate how architecture can have a central role in reestablishing the relationship between consumer and the food they consume, and thus the creation of a sustainable foodscape, resulting in healthier and happier cities.