

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: Architecture

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	Xiao Cheng
Student number	5782244

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
Main mentor	Roel van de Pas	Architecture
Second mentor	Rufus van den Ban	Building Technology
Third mentor	Elise van Dooren	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The cemetery was a part of the city, as death was a part of life. In today's death-avoiding society, to study the role of cemeteries in public life and explore the possibility of bringing them back into the community.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	What is a Modern Mausoleum?

Goal	
Location:	Rotterdam, Paris
The posed problem, research questions and design assignment in which these result.	Today, we stand at an uneasy juncture: older traditions of handling death are breaking down while new ones have yet to fully emerge. How the relationship between cemeteries and urban life has changed in Western culture in terms of publicity and accessibility? Integrating the cemetery into the daily routine of urban residents as a public space. Giving a new Definition of Sacred Space in urban life. Providing a shelter for lonely people in the city.

[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

During the research phase, literature study was conducted on cemeteries from four periods: ancient Rome, the Middle Ages, the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and today.

For design, case studies and model tests will be introduced to conduct Form Studies, Daily Routine, and Sacred Space research.

Literature and general practical references

Heller, J. L. (1932). Burial Customs of the Romans. *The Classical Weekly*, 25(24), 193–197. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4339101>

E.Dassmann, Ambrosius von Mailand. *Leben und Werk* (Stuttgart 2004)

H.W. Böhme, *Adelsgräber im Frankreich. Archäologische Zeugnisse zur Herausbildung einer Herrenschaft unter der merowingischen Königen*, *JbRGZM* 40, 1993, 397–534.

F.Hassenplug, *Das Laienbegräbnis in der Kirche. Historisch-archäologische Studien zu Alemannen im früher Mittelalter*, *Freiburger Beiträge zur Archäologie und Geschichte des ersten Jahrtausends* (Rahden 1999)

I.Kiefer-Olsen, *Christianity and Christian Burial. The religious background, and the transition from paganism to Christianity, from the perspective of a churchyard archaeologist*, in: C. K. Jensen – K. H. Nielsen (Eds.), *Burial and Society* (Aarhus 1997) 185–189.

Grete Swensen & Jan Brendalmo (2018) *Churchyards and cemeteries throughout the centuries — praxis and legislation*, *Landscape History*, 39:1, 87-102, DOI:10.1080/01433768.2018.1466551

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)?

Architecture has always served public life and created public spaces. Cemeteries, once a part of public life, are now missing in the context of modern architecture. Research and thinking in this area is a reflection and supplement to modern architecture.

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

Loneliness is a common phenomenon in modern society. People need spiritual space to relieve and feel connected. Death, as a part of human common perception, has been absent from daily life for a long time. I hope to bring the concept of death back to people through architectural means. This will be a philosophical reflection on death and society.