

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Personal information	
Name	
Student number	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities – Palace	
Main mentor	Sam De Vocht	Architecture
Second mentor	Elina Karanastasi	Architectural Engineering
Third mentor	Sereh Mandias	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>I am strongly interested in the approach taken by the Interiors Buildings Cities chair. The initial incorporation of large-scale modeling and precedent studies to delve into pertinent architecture resonates with me. Additionally, I aim to investigate the intricacies of 'the library' as a complex institution, examining its role within the urban landscape and exploring the architectural and interior elements that would enhance this endeavor. The studio's simultaneous consideration of the three scales for project development aligns with my vision of how architecture should progress.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The Right to the City [Library]
Goal	
Location:	Stockholm, Sweden
The posed problem,	<p>Over time, the library's role has been redefined by considerable social and political changes. Currently, libraries grapple with a significant growth in the digitization of information. They are no longer limited to merely lending books and providing study spaces; instead, there is a growing need for them to transform into versatile and expectation-free environments. Asplund's 1928 architectural design for the Stockholm Public Library no longer effectively meets the spatial demands of the city's modern society.</p>
research questions and	<p>The arising research questions span the various scales and reflect my specific areas of interest.</p>

	<p>City:</p> <p>How can an extension be designed to seamlessly connect Asplund's building with the annexes, preserving the unique character of each building within the cityscape?</p> <p>Building:</p> <p>In what manner should the building be configured to establish a sequence of diverse settings as users navigate through it, while maintaining a clear route through the interconnected structures?</p> <p>Interiors:</p> <p>What distinguishes the design of a space and its fitted furniture for a quiet reading room from that of an active workspace, where individuals feel engaged in collaborating and experimenting?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design assignment regarding the Stockholm Public Library is to explore how to maximize the potential offered by its architecture and urban setting. The focus is on addressing the needs of contemporary society and preparing for future changes. This includes adapting to the digital shift in knowledge dissemination while acknowledging the enduring importance of books.</p> <p>The design aims to create a space that is open, welcoming, and easily accessible, catering to both educational and leisure activities. A crucial aspect is the commitment to sustainability, recognizing the challenges faced collectively. The goal is to craft an environment that not only honors the library's rich history but also looks ahead, providing an environmentally conscious hub for the community.</p>

Process

Method description

To address the research questions and meet the design requirements, various research methods will be carried out.

Site visit:

At the start, we will conduct research at the site. Together with the studio we will visit Stockholm city. During this site visit we will pass time in the library to get acquainted with and learn about the building. Furthermore, we will investigate the urban context and visit other relevant projects of Asplund and his contemporaries.

1:25 model:

Together with the studio we will carefully construct a 1:25 model of a selection of interior spaces of the Asplund library as completed in 1928. This will be subdivided into different smaller models that can be assembled to form a comprehensive understanding of the library's organization. The model will serve to reveal insights into the library's conception at that time and allow us to track changes over the years. Archive pictures of the library will be recreated through model photography, providing a basis for comparison with images taken from the exact same positions in the library in 2023.

Precedent studies:

In order to understand the context in which the Stockholm Public Library was designed, we will study several precedents of Asplund's oeuvre. By doing this we will get to know the concepts, methodologies and aesthetic, compositional and material considerations that defined his evolving architectural interests. It will also offer a deeper understanding of the social, political, cultural, and architectural milieu during Asplund's period as an architect. To conclude this research we will create one drawing that summarizes the essence of the project.

Room for a library:

To comprehend the library as a contemporary public building and a larger institution, we will investigate the various facets that define a modern library space. This exploration involves considerations such as scale, character, furnishings, and the potential relationship with the exterior. Through this investigation, we aim to clarify our position and approach to the broader task of designing an extension for the Stockholm Public Library.

Modern library:

Together with the studio we will investigate multiple modern public libraries. By conducting thorough research and precise documentation, we will delve into the thought processes that influenced the design of each of these libraries. This involves examining their context, understanding how their architecture engages with the public, and representing their respective functions. Consistent drawing and

documentation methods across all research groups will facilitate clear comparisons between the different case studies.

Project Journal:

Parallel to the research and design phases, a project journal will be developed to document the entire process and provide space for reflection. This documentation will be instrumental in assessing the research and progress made throughout the graduation year. In addition to the project journal, collective and individual research findings will be compiled and documented in research books and an exhibition at the faculty.

Literature and general practical references

Precedent studies:

- Lister County Courthouse, Gunnar Asplund.
- Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, Henri Labrouste.
- Stockholm Public Library, Gunnar Asplund.
- Stockholm Public Library extension competition entry, Caruso St. John.
- Half Moon Theatre, Florian Beigel.

Literature

Ahlberg, H. (1945). *Architect Gunnar Asplund: biografisch essay*.

Wölfflin, H. (1950). *Principles of Art History: The problem of the development of style in later art*. In Dover Publications eBooks. <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA10674864>

Strindberg, A. (1879). *Röda rummet: skildringar ur artist- och författarlifvet*.

Stenport, A. W. (2002). Imagining a New Stockholm: Strindberg's "Gamla Stockholm" and the Construction of Metropolitan Space. *Scandinavian Studies*, 74(4), 483–504. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40920402>

Storgaard, E. (2018). Domestic Monumentality in the Interwar Years. Gothenburg Courthouse Extension and Aarhus City Hall. *Microcosm. Searching for the City in Its Interiors, OASE*, (101), 22-29. Retrieved from <https://www.oasejournal.nl/en/Issues/101/DomesticMonumentalityintheInterwarYears>

Mies van der Rohe, L. (2007). On Architecture as Language (recorded in Chicago, 1956). In *Bauhaus Reviewed (1919–1933)*. Norfolk: LTM Recordings.

Deleu, J. (2008). *600 gedichten over leven, liefde en dood: nieuw groot verzenboek*.

Butler, C. (2012). *Henri Lefebvre: Spatial Politics, Everyday Life and the Right to the City*. Routledge.

Kostof, S. (1995). *A History of Architecture (2nd Edition)*. Oxford University Press.

Béliier, C., Bergdoll, B., Cœur, M. L., Bressani, M., Grignon, M., De La Mure, M. H., Lemoine, B., De Jong, S., Van Zanten, D., & Uniack, G. (2012). *Henri Labrouste: Structure Brought to Light*. The Museum of Modern Art.

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 master track adopts an approach that integrates design practice with physical and social sciences, technology, and engineering to generate innovative solutions for more sustainable development. The emphasis is on utilizing design to address the technical, social, and spatial challenges prevalent in the built environment.

The Stockholm Public Library serves as an excellent case study including various domains related to architectural development. Our exploration extends to researching the public institution and its role within the city. This involves the consideration of the present and future users of the building. Central to our research is the evolving role of the library, considering its historical significance, its current state, and our vision for its future. This discourse significantly influences the design of a sustainable building, ensuring its continued functionality in an era where digitization is increasingly prominent. Additionally, we are confronted with the technical challenges of dealing with an existing structure, asking for innovative and creative solutions.

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

The Stockholm Public Library has attempted multiple times to expand through competition briefs, all of which proved unsuccessful. Now they are in the middle of a project to restore the library as it stands, indicating a search for the best next steps for both the library and its users. My design aims to discover the most suitable solution based on an analysis of the library's current state. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that despite comprehensive research, a one-year project cannot encompass all the complexities of this case study. Lastly, the weight of global climate-related challenges is evident, impacting not only my personal life but also the academic practice. As an architecture student it is essential to carefully consider the available resources, use them efficiently and reflect on the consequences of every design decision.