

P4 Reflection

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P1

At the beginning of P1, there was an emphasis on research. Divided into groups, we conducted research on Asplund's body of work. Subsequently, we analysed a library of our choice with the same group. With these analyses, we were able to compile two research books. The first book on Asplund's body of work provided a clear picture of the time period and context in which the Asplund library was built. This was certainly a driving force for me at the beginning, to learn more about national romanticism and helped me greatly during the site visit in Stockholm to contextualize some building styles. At the same time, Asplund's body of work was very diverse with a strong stylistic break. The book on libraries provided an even more diverse picture. As a result, it was unclear how to characterize a public library as a typology. This proved to be a problem for me at the start of my first design assignment.

The second part of P1 focused on the design of a library room. With an unclear purpose of the library, my initial ideas focused on the library as a kind of book café. This didn't feel very fruitful to me and was quite frustrating. Fortunately, the work during this period was interspersed with lectures and workshops. From this, it became increasingly clear to me that I was more interested in the library as a platform for knowledge transfer. From this perspective, I could also see much more clearly the form and layout of the library, a library where I often retreated during my teenage years to study quietly. From here, my first question arose: how do you shape the quality of such a study space, what is the relationship between outside and inside, how many stimuli do you need? These questions led me to design two library spaces around a central cloister garden; by creating a sequence of spaces, I could create a distance between the outside world and the study space.



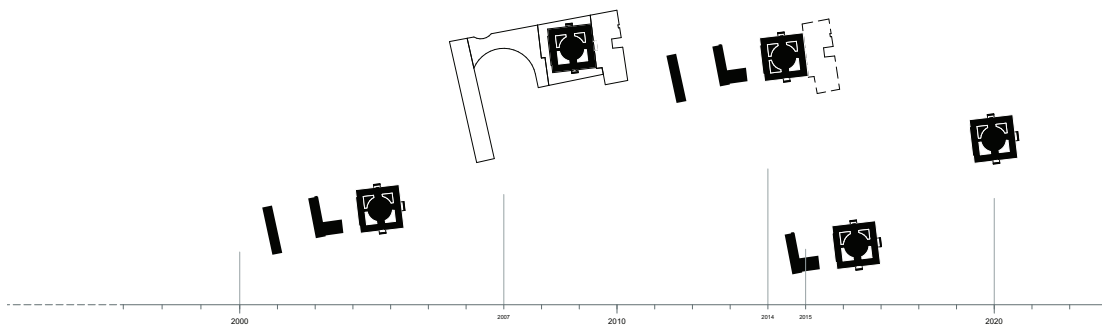


Final Proposal P1 (courtesy of Author)

****P2****

After the P1 presentation, the main graduation assignment was introduced. The assignment built forth on the competition for the expansion of the Asplund Library in Stockholm in 2006. This was not executed, and after another attempt in 2014, this competition was never completed. The library was examined collectively, by first analysing after which it was digitized. The lack of clear drawings was one of the first major challenges. At the same time, individual analysis and interpretation of the library began. After reading the brief, it became clear to me that this graduation assignment is not only about the expansion but also to find answers for the following topics: the purpose, the monument, and the program. Programmatic, the brief no longer seemed to align with the current perception of the library as a public function. And for me, the ambitions seemed too great for the current building. Careful and well-thought-out treatment of the existing building is also necessary. Ultimately, a suitable program must also be given that meets the ambitions of the building.

At the same time, common products and assignments from the studio took up a lot of my time. I saw little room to answer these questions I posed myself. As a result, I designed during tutoring without a clear goal, which was not very successful. The Christmas break finally gave me some breathing room. During the Christmas break, I finally succeeded in thoroughly researching a possible new program. Through thorough analysis of library data within Europe, I regained a clear ambition and direction. The site visit to the Predikheren klooster also gave me confidence that there was room for a new approach to a library in which the platform is central. The analyses I had done created a picture of an overly ambitious plan in terms of square meters. This gave me the space to really focus on the existing library.



Ambitions vs outcome expansion library(courtesy of Author)

P3

After my P2, the main lines of my program were established. At the same time, my interactions with the library still felt too abstract. I knew that on the one hand, I had to cultivate a better understanding of a more classical vision of architecture, and on the other hand, I had to start testing to make my plans really concrete. At the same time, a new assignment came from the studio that required a 1:25 scale model. I threw myself into this. However, I still did not have a strong strategy towards the building. As a result, designing the 1:25 scale model took a lot of time. Research also took a lot of time as some common products were still missing. Towards my P3, I had my room; I missed my strategy on the building as a whole. My P3 was not very successful.



Model P3(courtesy of Author)



P4

After all the ups and downs of the past period, I decided to put all expectations aside and really consolidate my strategy. During work on the 1:25 scale model, I gained a lot of insights into the structure of the library. I saw more and more opportunities to fit my ambitions and program into the structure of the library. This also made it easier for me to really imagine and fill in the spaces. Around this time, as a group, we also gained possession of a large set of archive drawings from the municipality of Stockholm. This allowed me to finally test my suspicions, which gave me a lot of certainty. During this period, I also created some more time for myself. This allowed me to experiment a little more. As the design took more shape, opportunities started to arise. Some of them I would like to further develop between my P4 and P5 presentations. My design is based on a library as a public palace, and I would like to visualize this concept more strongly.



Render P4(courtesy of Author)

General Reflection

Now that my project is nearing its end and I look back on it, I realize it has been a turbulent year with significant ups and downs. The winter was particularly challenging for me, and I found myself having to push hard to keep up for the rest of the year. Working within such a diverse studio was also a challenge. I assumed that everyone within a studio takes a certain responsibility in working on agreements, communication, and shared products. I noticed that not everyone naturally takes the initiative to communicate or work on these products. While I don't blame anyone for this, I realize I need to set my boundaries more quickly at times. This might have allowed for a better balance between group work and individual work. Maintaining a certain structure and occasionally taking a step back for reflection remains a point of focus.

A specific challenge in this project was the open brief. Because the assignment takes place within a studio setting, many questions remain unanswered. For example, how much archive material is needed? It remains difficult to shape a user object when you cannot engage in dialogue with the target audience.

At the same time, the challenges of this studio also offered many opportunities. The focus on a library (whose role is currently undergoing significant change) and the focus on an important monument in architectural history provided opportunities not only to design a building but also to take a stand and make one's personal beliefs and ambitions as a student known.