

Graduation Plan



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	Inez van Oeveren (Spaargaren)
Student number	4567315

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Black Hill City	
Main mentor	Paul Vermeulen	Architecture
Second mentor	Freek Speksnijder	Building Technology
Tirth mentor	Eireen Schreurs	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>With my graduation project, I hope/aim to contribute towards a more socially sustainable future by creating an innovative response to the multi-ethnic city Liège in Belgium. From early on, my interest has been focused on people and architecture; an anthropological approach towards architecture is something I would implement in my research and design. The UA studio offers me a site to work with, which I hope makes my scope smaller to focus more closely. The studio allows me to learn and think in scale, tackle issues on an urban level, and make small gestures to significantly impact on an architectural level. The way the chair works, starting from a broader perspective with group work and being open to tackling new creative perspectives, is something I am looking forward working with. Next, combining research with design is something I am familiar with but still challenging. It will undoubtedly make my graduation project more levelled.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Fluid Space – introducing an elastic activator for a fluid space
Goal	
Location:	In between the new tram depot and bridge 'Pont du Bouhay' crossing the train track in Liège, Belgium.
The posed problem,	It leads me to believe that for architects, empty, unused spaces have often become a necessity of urban planning and

are not fundamentally integral parts of the overall urban plan. Starting from the principle that these spaces will always occur at different stages of an environment/neighborhood.

Bressoux and Droixhe are together a small multi-ethnic neighborhood in Liege with an industrial past. The stratification and complexity of this neighborhood are prominent. The built environment consists of working-class houses and old and new industrial buildings. Many of the residents carry a 'backpack' and have little structure in their lives. On top of that, it's mainly emigrants living in this neighborhood, making it a place to settle and leave.

In addition to everyday annoyances such as dumping household waste from the balconies or in the in-between spaces. Striking to me is especially the large amount of neglected spaces. Also, in the Bressoux and Droixhe neighborhood there are a large amount of 'in-between spaces', 'empty spaces', 'non-places' and 'abandoned spaces'. Between houses, porch flats and apartment buildings. Sometimes a piece of neglected space is intended for a particular function, target group or someone in particular but mostly not. It is sometimes appropriated from a social point of view, sometimes from a private desire, leading to a pleasant or less pleasant atmosphere.

The immense amount of empty, neglected and poorly maintained surfaces in Liège leads me to an intense internal debate on the choice of inner-city spaces and their infill. This includes both private and collective spaces, apart from their mono-function, which have not found added value for society, the residents.

According to my perception, the empty and neglected spaces in Bressoux and Droixhe respond to fluidity. Therefore, I prefer to call them 'fluid spaces'. Spaces that have the potency to be highly malleable and dynamic environments. There are many ways to explore them and find the nature of these places; how they work and if they can shift into positive spaces with the use of their own qualities, the outcome being to create a neighborhood that contains more elasticity.

With the term 'fluid space', I named a type of urban space I observed. The site at Pont du Bouhay is one of them; in between the tram depot and the bridge is this empty, neglected space. It now fulfils the function of construction work for the new tram depot and is partly overgrown by

	<p>plants and trees. A fluid space with spatial characteristics, as a wide and open view on the uphill part of Liège, and a train and bridge presence. Along with the fact that it is the entrance for current residents to the other part of Bressoux, the arrival stop of visitors, travellers, refugees, and visitors of the expo complex (under construction).</p> <p>The necessity to pursue the exploration of these spaces, and this Pont du Bouhay in particular, comes from the amount of neglected visible characteristic fluid spaces in Liege. These fluid spaces should influence the designer to presume the need for a design interaction. Therefore, the nuanced site reading from different dimensions and perspectives can be emphasised as a prerequisite. The site reading judges the necessities of intervention and sustains other cherished qualities within a leftover space.</p>
<p>Research questions and</p>	<p>How can a 'fluid space' become a positive influence on its surroundings? And be more functional, have added value to the urban environment and inhabitants?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where are the current 'fluid spaces' in Bressoux - Droixhe? And how did they develop over time? - What are the qualities of the 'fluid spaces' in Liège? Socially, ecologically, and materially? - How can we use the methodology to explore possible design approaches for 'fluid spaces' site? - What is the effect and value of design transformation of a 'fluid space'? <p>How can we design and build something that functions well during its projected lifetime but can be used in other ways afterwards, to ensure elasticity?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can we sustain a 'fluid space' after the design has been implemented?
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The plot is situated in the future part of Liège. With 'the future part', I am referring to the ongoing implementation of the tramline, expo complex and the infrastructure transformations required in the process. This is a plot where the future of Liège is being built around. Along with the fact that it is the entrance for residents to the</p>

	<p>other part of Bressoux, through the bridge. And with a train station near the arrival stop for visitors / travellers, think of Limburg (NL), France and Germany, as well as refugees and visitors of the expo complex (under construction).</p> <p>The building or cluster of buildings will respond to the qualities of the 'fluid space', to not build a closed building block, but instead an openly accessible area, so that we can adjust along with the changing needs for space and society that we can offer elasticity (flexibility, modularity) for now and in the future.</p> <p>It will be built and operated to support people from outside but will also function for habitants in and around the neighborhood. The building will include temporary housing possibilities, houses for a temporary short stay for different groups, such as permit groups, refugees/migrants (families or solo), hotel (tourists) and students. Next to the housing units, there will also be proposed additional public functions (kindergarten, lobby, shared living, kitchens, toilets and bathrooms, social meeting centre and an option for a shop/restaurant). In this way, people in the neighborhood can benefit and will build a circulation of young and old people who can kickstart each other.</p> <p>The research and design will respond and focus on exploring to create attractive positive spaces, reflecting on the qualities of the 'fluid' places. And learning from its forming to discover the characteristics and ensure flexibility and elasticity design, which is essential to assure the anticipation with the bridge, the future part and the layered and complex multi-ethnic Bressoux.</p> <p>Creating a building for different generations and divers groups with the elasticity approach, I hope that the building will sustain and work for a long time.</p>
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Process

Method description

The research will focus on anticipating layered and complex multi-ethnic neighborhoods like Liège, Bressoux - Droixhe and its residents. To conceptualise the neighborhood's 'fluid spaces', the positives and negatives.

One of the methods relevant to this research is 'cartopology'. Cartopology is a term that refers to the field in which researchers visualise the how and where of everyday life (as in anthropology) by drawing it out in maps. The cartopological map is a research tool to explore and document 'place' and the 'every day'. And with my mark

to use different lenses such as social, ecological and material. With which I aim to capture the effect it has on the neighborhood, its surroundings and the space itself, and the social aspect.

Cartopology reveals the qualities and conceptualisation of a design, which includes studying some of the many neglected areas, 'fluid spaces'. The drawings with multiple lenses are the desired products of the research.

Literature review, drawing/mapping and the outcomes of site research in the form of cartopology will be the main domains of the research.

By using literature, I hope to find substantiation and answers to questions that cannot be answered by cartopology. But also making the outcomes understandable and grounded in design.

Literature and general practical preference

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Reflection

The Urban Architecture studio focuses on Liège, a scared city, which aims to look at the city as an opportunity to create 'healing' projects in the current urban fabric. My graduation project focuses on the neglected areas, or so to say, the fluid space and the effect it has on the neighborhood, and the social aspect.

In the city of Liège, one of the first things that caught my attention were the neglected, sometimes monofunctional or entirely abandoned areas. The interruption of these places didn't work positively for the neighbourhood Bressoux.

The project's relevance lies in the investigation, activation and collection of knowledge at these places. To form a perspective on how the neighbourhood works, thereby presenting insights for other cases. I aim to give a different perspective in the architectural debate on the neglected areas in cities: how they are formed, the relationship with the neighbourhood, and how the architect's role is in improving these spaces.

The project could hold the potential to be translated into a new concept for neglected areas.