

# 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](mailto: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	Mats Ruppert
Student number	4589548

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3DC100 / Architectural Design Crossovers / Heterogeneous City: London	
Main mentor	Agnes van der Meij	Architecture
Second mentor	Joran Kuijper	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The set-up for the ADC graduation studio offered freedom in terms research top and design. Before starting the graduation I was mainly focused and fascinated by architectural heritage and turned too much of a blind eye to other architectural disciplines. The freedom of the studio set up was interesting for me as I wanted to explore other architectural areas of the field and clarify or confirm my position as a architect before going into practice. The responsibility of handling freedom and discovering new things encouraged me to keep an open mind an don't hold on to my comfort zone.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Experiencing Social Transition, High Streets and Community Kitchens as thresholds for socially inclusion
Goal	
Location:	Green Street, Newham, London
The posed problem,	The rising socio-economic pressure on London citizens asks for (and is supported by the government) more or better planning and social incorporation of measurements against food poverty and social exclusion. One of the existing tools are community kitchens. The posed problem is two-folded. I state that there is still a gap to fill in the acceptance and implementation of community kitchens and other social food initiatives. On the other hand, the present socio-economic and technological changes are influencing the vibrant, diverse and commercial hearts of community's, the High Streets. High rent prices for small entrepreneurs, declining quality due to underinvestment, more online shopping activity and gambling rates on High Streets in deprived areas are some of these issues. Half of the visitors of High Streets are unemployed and used by marginalized and

	under-represented groups. Nonetheless, High Streets are socially and culturally active places. Both topics are in need of a transition and the posed issues are seen as opportunities to better the social inclusive and commercial core of communities.
research questions and	<p>How can a community kitchen contribute to the social inclusion of communities around ethnically diverse and commercial high streets?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the (social) values of community kitchens and its participants</li> <li>- What are the influential aspects of social inclusion in the urban realm?</li> <li>- What is the contemporary socio-economic state of London High Streets?</li> <li>- How and where are socio-spatial transitions shaped on the High Streets?</li> </ul>
design assignment in which these result.	Designing an assemblage of programs and public spaces which facilitate in the process of social transition, interaction, presence and acceptance on a London High street. The aim of the architecture is to embrace and celebrate diversity of- and on the high street while including a social food initiative in its social climate. The to-be designed architecture is seen as a welcoming transitional space (low threshold) in a surrounding that is in transition (the high street) to incorporate a program that aims socio-economic transition (the community kitchen). The assignment focusses on shaping these transitions and the (social) being of people in and around them.

## Process

### Method description

#### Literature and reports review:

To be able to understand the full context in which High Streets and Community kitchens operate in, I read multiple researches and reports that have already investigated several social and organizational aspects of the topics. In order to formulate my own interpretations of the case studies I read and filtered literature that focusses on the social, cultural, economic and spatial aspects of interactions and being in the public realm.

#### Case Studies analysis:

- Of Community Kitchens, in addition to researching the existing researches on the social values and contribution of community kitchens, I have visited several community kitchens and **interviewed** participants on their perception of the social food initiative. My **own experience** of the visits will also be included
- Of High Streets, The methods used in the analysis of the high streets are: **urban analysis mapping, 3d conceptual visualization** and **photography** supported by empirical explanation of the visited streets. The empirical notions are supported with findings and theory of other researches in similar contexts. By deciphering the lay outs and typologies, most interesting locations and built elements that shape the transitions on urban and micro level and social behaviour on micro level, a catalogue is created.

## Literature and general practical preference

### On Social Food Initiatives and Community Kitchens:

- Iacovou, M., Pattieson, D. C., Truby, H., & Palermo, C. (2013). Social health and nutrition impacts of community kitchens: a systematic review. *Public Health Nutrition, 16*(3), 535–543.
- Kuskoff, L. (2014). Redesigning Everyday Practices Toward Sustainability: Potentialities and Limitations of a Community Kitchen. *Design Philosophy Papers*.
- Marovelli, B. (2019). Cooking and eating together in London: Food sharing initiatives as collective spaces of encounter. *Geoforum, 99*, 190–201.

### On Social behavior in the public realm:

- Aelbrecht, P. L. S. (2016). 'Fourth places': the contemporary public settings for informal social interaction among strangers. *Journal of Urban Design, 21*(1), 124–152.
- Franck, K., & Stevens, Q. (2006). *Loose Space: Possibility and Diversity in Urban Life*.
- Mehta, V., & Bosson, J. K. (2010). Third Places and the Social Life of Streets. *Environment and Behavior, 42*(6), 779–805.
- Radice, M. (2016). Unpacking Intercultural Conviviality in Multiethnic Commercial Streets. *Journal of Intercultural Studies, 37*(5), 432–448.
- *Suburban Urbanities: Suburbs and the Life of the High Street on JSTOR*. (2015).

### On Transitional Spaces:

- Boettger, T. (2014). Threshold Spaces. In *De Gruyter eBooks*
- Kimmel, L. (2021). *Architecture of Threshold Spaces*.

## 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 studio considers the architectural project as "a synthesis of the im/material conditions in an interdisciplinary framework that requires a multi-modal design research". My research and design assignment connects well with this as it searches for the spatial and material aspects of built environment and the bodily experience to achieve social change. Where the design is mostly proposed on the architectural building scale, it aims to have a larger urban and societal impact. The reasoning behind it is supported with interdisciplinary findings from literature research, urban analysis and architectural investigations.

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

By creating spaces for inclusive interaction and conversations across different ethnicities, cultures, ages and classes, boundaries preventing society from moving forward in these issues can be broken down. The people who suffer from or experience these issues could help to make a difference for themselves and others. The solution cannot always be expected to be given by the government and I suggest that by incorporating the community in the route to a solution a more cohesive and solidary future. My research builds and expands on the visualization and interpretation of social presence and interactions in transitional spaces, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> spaces of the urban realm and social food initiatives.