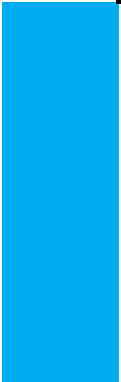


Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), 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	Yaren Kopan
Student number	5507472

Studio	
Name / Theme	Public Building Graduation Studio 2022-2023 Public Condenser New Urban Lounge & Commons
Main mentor	Henk Bultstra Project Design
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Stefano Corbo Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Architecture is mainly concerned with social discourses that focus on the human being, both as an element of the public and as an individual being. Many current projects and real-world examples demonstrate that design decisions are often influenced by the financial interests of individuals or groups with significant capital, resulting in solutions that primarily address the needs of specific groups, types, or problems, rather than the wider population.</p> <p>However, architecture should be flexible enough to target unpredictable groups and events. As Public Building Studio proposes, this flexibility can be achieved by anticipating and designing for possible scenarios for the Commons that define a community, bringing together the opposites through multiplicity, hybridity, flexibility and sustainability.</p> <p>Beyond what traditional architectural practice offers, designing public buildings can be thought of as designing generators of potentials, opportunities, encounters and "the public", and this is only possible by "embedding and over-coming fixed categories such as domestic vs. foreign, public vs. non-public, foreign vs. foreign, public vs. private, individual vs. collective, shared vs. alienated."</p>

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Architecture as a Sounding Board
Goal	
Location:	Friedrichshain, Berlin (Germany)
The posed problem	<p>"The proclivity to unrest and "culture of conflict" can be linked in part to Berlin residents' characteristic tough, combative physiognomy, and an aspect of how many Berliners have over time imagined and represented themselves and their city." (Davis, 2007) In recent history, the city has been the scene of conflicts between locals and foreigners on political, social, economic and cultural fronts, and over who will claim the Commons, often resulting in major violent incidents. To this day, Berlin continues to exhibit inconsistencies, contradictions and conflicts regarding the identity of the Commons. While all power structures and capitalist formations are pushing us further and further away from each other, the architecture of the future must look for ways to live together.</p> <p>The proposed project aims to address the relationship between architecture and communication by recognizing architecture as a medium, in our case, as an urban collective infrastructure that not only accommodates but also generates diversity in every sense, and thus the Public Condenser of the 21st century is envisioned as an active infrastructure that plays an urban role serving various forms of expression and ideologies. In this case, representation and imagination of the Commons, expression and transmission of the knowledge is associated with the communication organs and the way they are employed within the city. And recent history shows that necessary information is only transmitted through a top-down mechanism that reflects the agendas and ideologies of specific communication bodies and institutions. The 21st century, however, allows people to discover and compare information more freely and easily. The "old" therefore needs to be adapted to the "new", otherwise certain values and existing organs of communication, such as the Neues Deutschland building, will no longer be able to respond to the public, as they have already started to do. In general, Berlin lacks spaces for expression and communication platforms (not limited to virtual) to showcase these expressions through bottom-up media formations.</p>

<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Due to the context of the chosen site, the research consists of two parts: an existing East German building that requires intervention and a new building that will cooperate with the old building. The research aims to formulate these two parts and at the same time answer some questions about bridging them.</p> <p>The 21st century quest for the public condenser as urban collective infrastructure raises the questions <i>"How can the Public Building be a stage for people to realize various forms of expression?"</i>, <i>"Can architecture contribute to the creation of bottom-up programs (media)?"</i> and <i>"In what ways can the virtual environment collaborate with the physical (architecture) and serve to increase the public's freedom of speech and participation?"</i>, <i>"How can architecture aim to give voice to people with opposing and common views under the same roof, and what kind of spaces can respond to this diversity of views?"</i></p> <p>while the existing Neues Deutschland building on the site and the necessary interventions raise questions such as <i>"How can we extend the life of a physically and functionally decaying building through adaptive reuse strategies?"</i> and <i>"How can architecture establish relationships between old and new (media)?"</i>.</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Media and its wide range of applications can enhance the various forms of expressions, and the Public Building aims to generate these expressions through housing different media organs/functions like broadcasting news, radio, social media (content creation), publishing (ND), participatory activities (debates, protest, celebrations etc.) and enable a bottom-up communication process. While the functions of the program spaces are categorized as "Display" and "Production" spaces, the screening function becomes an integral aspect of all other (production) spaces. Thus, each space of the program serves a display function to enable a more transparent and direct dialogue between different media actors, no matter how different they are from each other. Through this transparency and visual dialog between the spaces, a more honest and multifaceted communication is aimed to be achieved. To enable such a dialogue, the spaces are arranged in the most flexible way, where the ground is cleared of all obstructions and the</p>

	<p>masses are raised to the upper levels, as in Arata Isozaki's (1962) "city in the air" proposal.</p> <p>The diversity of media will create new forms of expression where different media meet and/or overlap (e.g. podcasting-radio broadcasting). This intersection of different uses of media will foster new opportunities for users to find their own ways to represent their ideas. In this way, it will host the known and provide a space for the unknown.</p> <p>As the ND building is part of the means of communication, it seeks new interventions that will make it up-to-date and create a binding agreement with the "new". In order to create this relationship between old and new, the current function of the building is considered as one of the main functions of the program that can contribute to other media agents in terms of editorial and publishing work. The functional connection needs to be physically reflected in the design of ND so that users can experience the flow between different media. For this, it is planned to create this connection through an underground floor where "display" activities take place and people are invited to experience what is happening in the Public Condenser as part of the urban fabric (topological design). Other design strategies for the ND will have a common language with the new extension and the design strategies for the new one will be adapted to the "old" one.</p>
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Process

Method description

Under the research by design aspect of our studio, we started our process by raising the question of how we perceive the 21st century public building in terms of its function, context and architecture. This main question shaped our various assignments that led us to explore some possibilities in the design process. While designing the assignments, some questions emerged that triggered research on our proposals. Starting from a collage, I realized that certain concepts might be necessary for the Public Condenser I was designing: architecture as a tool, architecture as a collective urban infrastructure, etc. Just before the trip, more general information about the city was gathered and during the trip, commons that can only be perceived in the field were observed. Berlin's commons mainly represent the most characteristic and collective aspects of the city. For this case the commons were extracted as "expression", "anarchism", "creativity" and "spontaneity", which informed the program proposal for the Public Condenser. After the trip, we were

asked to produce new iterations in a different format from the previous tasks: Assemblage. With the idea of PB as an infrastructure, the assembled commons were transformed in a physical model into spaces to be attached to the primary (scaffolding) structure. In this way, the first architectural proposal for the Public condenser emerged. The categorization of the sub-spaces shows a clear division within the program: Production and Display spaces. Following a process of exploration and with contextual inputs, the assembly model was transformed into a conceptual building in which specific relationships were established within and around the building. Once the overall atmosphere and style of the building was decided, possible connections with the ND building were explored. The design decisions made during the research process were adapted to the ND building according to the site-specific conditions. The flexibility and add-on character of the proposal can be seen on both sides of the project.

After P2, the decisions taken for the realization of the building will be tested. These decisions will mainly concern façade design, climate control, building management and possible different scenarios requiring different technical solutions. A circular and sustainable strategy will be incorporated into the design process by considering the use of materials that can be easily reused, recycled or repurposed, implementing systems that reduce energy consumption and water usage, and promoting the use of renewable energy sources. Additionally, the design will aim to integrate green spaces and promote biodiversity, and the building will be designed to support the health and well-being of its inhabitants.

Literature and general practical preference

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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)?

During my MSc1 in Public Buildings I worked on the concepts of multiplicity, hybridity, flexibility and sustainability in the context of Rotterdam. The designated site presented design challenges that required us to think creatively and incorporate existing elements such as nature and infrastructure. We came up with the concept of an "inhabitable bridge" that connects different patterns of the urban environment. In my MSc2 program in the studio Interiors, Buildings, Cities, I had the opportunity to work at multiple scales and build a relationship between the interior and the city,

which is often neglected in architectural projects. This experience made me question the traditional top-down approach of architects and encouraged me to think about bottom-up formations that build on the way users define their own space.

When it comes to the idea of the Public Condenser, previous experiences helped me formulate my ideas when thinking about how to use challenging contexts, how to create a dialogue between inside and outside, and how to realize the "public interior" as part of the overall composition.

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

This project tests the use of architecture as a sociological tool. Although the project focuses on ways of communication and forms of expression, the ability of architecture to play an urban and infrastructural role can also allow for other bottom-up programs to emerge. This structural and functional flexibility can be adapted to many areas of architectural interest (social, political, ecological, cultural, etc.). In the specific case of the subject at hand, the project's ability to accommodate many differences, contrasts and commonalities expands the audience and allows everyone in the community to be housed, regardless of their ideologies. The alignment of so many differences together and in dialog with each other allows all media organizations to create honest, transparent and free expressions that are accountable to each other. With this freedom and participation in communication and expression, it aims to question and set an example for the restrictive examples of freedom of expression such as top-down censorship decisions and communication restrictions by certain authorities.

Time Planning

P2-P3:

After P2 I will focus on implementing the feedbacks to the project and explore new ways to address new problems that can possibly emerge during the P2 session.

Since the project has a relatively larger area to focus on, a critical exploration process will be required especially for the Neues Deutschland building's programmatic configuration and the connection with the "new" addition. This process will aim to reveal the circular design aspects of the design and therefore new strategies will be explored and applied to the design.

As we proceed with the design process, the thorough examination of materials will greatly enhance the architectural design. All aspects of the building will be thoroughly explored, from overall layout to specific details, at different scales,

ranging from 1:500 to 1:50. The architectural design will be refined and completed before P3, around the third week of March, by creating detailed floor plans, elevations and sections that emphasize the relationships between various spaces within the building and how they are used for producing, gathering and expressing.

P3-P4:

As we approach P4, the final stages of the design process will focus on fleshing out the details of the building's materialization, climate control, and energy design. This will involve creating detailed diagrams and plans that address the engineering requirements of the building. Sustainability and efficiency will be at the forefront of all decisions made. During the last 1-2 week(s) leading up to P4, I will finalize the design decisions and begin preparing a physical model of the building

P4-P5:

The final stage of the design process includes making any necessary adjustments to the materials used in the design, preparing detailed drawings and diagrams that clearly illustrate the design, and creating a physical model of the building at the appropriate scale. This step is important to ensure that all aspects of the design have been considered and that the final product accurately represents the intended design.