

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan:

Personal information

Name Cheung Kwan Yuet Mabel
Student number 5720060

Studio

Name / Theme Methods of Analysis and Imagination
Main mentor Klaske Havik Architecture
Second mentor Pierre Jennen Building Technology

Argumentation of choice of the studio I chose Methods for my graduation studio because it encourages freedom to pursue non-conventional means of architectural representation in research and design. Writing as a method of research and design is something I have wanted to experiment with since writing my history thesis in the previous semester.

Graduation project

Title of the graduation project LasnaKino

Goal

Location: Lasnamäe, Tallinn, Estonia

The posed problem Homelessness of Tallinn filmmakers, the industry has been demanding a film production house from the city for years.

Research questions
How can an industry in filmmaking provide cultural substance and act as a catalyst to rejuvenate the post-Soviet 'sleeping district' of Lasnamäe?

How do films produce and reproduce the image of Tallinn? How do these films impact everyday experiences and perceptions of the city?

Who are the stakeholders involved in the filmmaking process? What can Tallinn offer them and what can they offer to the city?

Design assignment To design a film production house in Lasnamäe, Tallinn as a counter proposal of the film campus planned in Paljassarre, Tallinn.

Process

Method description

Research Method:

1. Comparative analysis of the district planning of Lasnamäe by Eiel Saarinen and the Soviets through layering historic maps.

By comparing the urban planning of these two distinctly different ideologies, it reveals their differences but more importantly their similarities. It shows that Saarinen's plans have acted as a precedent for the Soviet's master planning. The influence of both ideologies can be seen in the urban fabric of Lasnamäe today.

2. Field work using double exposure photography and text.

The method of double exposure photography was obtained from *Repository: 49 Methods and Assignments for Writing Urban Places*, as a means of doing fieldwork. This technique allows for mindful exploration and helps compose themes worthy of analysis. These images are then combined with writing on stories and memories collected through interviews on the fieldtrip to create postcards.

3. Interviews with film and culture related parties in Tallinn.

Interview with the following local organizations were completed:

- Lasnamäe district administration, City management unit
- Ministry of culture, Advisor on Architecture and Design
- Museum of Estonian architecture, Curator
- Lasnaidee, NGO working in Lasnamäe, Event planner
- Film production, Set designer

4. Archival research on the building structure of Prisma supermarket and of Soviet blocs in the chosen site.

The city archive of Tallinn gave access to layout and structure of these buildings to investigate their potential for adaptive reuse.

Design Method:

1. Adaptive reuse of existing supermarket – Prisma in Tondiraba of Lasnamäe

The warehouse structure supermarket will be adapted into film production house, with facilities and amenities that encapsulate the entire film making process.

2. Inversion of historic plans into interior layout of film town design

To mediate the incredible scale of the Prisma infrastructure to something more human scale, the town planning of the historic city is used in the interior planning of the building.

Literature and general practical references

Clarke, D. B. (1997). *The Cinematic City* (1st ed., p. 129). Routledge.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203973363>

Djomkin, I., & Saarinen, E. (1977). *Eliel Saarinen ja 'Suur-Tallinn'*. Kunst.

Foucault, M. (1984). *Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias*. *Architecture /Mouvement/ Continuité*. <https://web.mit.edu/allanmc/www/foucault1.pdf>

Haas, Vaike. (2006). *A Review of Urban Planning in Tallinn, Estonia: Post-Soviet Planning Initiatives in Historic and Cultural Context*.

Machado e Moura, C., Milián Bernal, D., Restrepo Restrepo, E., Havik, K., & Niculae, L. (Eds.) (2023). *REPOSITORY: 49 Methods and Assignments for Writing Urban Places*. (1st ed.). <https://writingurbanplaces.eu/wp-content/uploads/230303-REPOSITORY-ONLINE-VERSION.pdf>

Saarinen, E. (1949). *The City: Its Growth, Its Decay, Its Future* (p. 210). Reinhold.

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)?

My graduation will be a film production house that is built upon an existing warehouse supermarket as well connecting Soviet housing areas adjacent to the site as a potential area for community gathering. The challenge of adaptive reuse with an existing structure will be explored and resolved through building engineering investigations.

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

My research began with investigation into the spatial and social issues of the much-disputed Soviet district – Lasnamae. Due to social, political and historic reasons in the planning and habitation of this area, there are deep-rooted issues in segregation between those who identify as Russians and Estonians. The lack of cultural spaces as well as any production sector has allowed the district to remain a 'sleeping district' decades after the end of Soviet occupation.

My graduation project attempts to remediate some of these issues through the introduction of a film production hub into the heart of Lasnamae. The infrastructure will allow filmmakers to take advantage of the dystopic setting of a post-Soviet urban landscape and generate art, culture, economy and jobs for the district.

Beyond the building's fundamental ability of producing art and culture. The project aims to dedicate a portion of its spaces towards community integration.