Graduation Plan.

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Personal.

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Studio.

Name / Theme	Architectural Design Crossovers
First Mentor	Alper Alkan	Design	Architecture
Second Mentor	Florian Eckardt	Technical Building Design	Architectural Engineering
Third Mentor	Leeke Reinders	Research	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	My choice was centered around three arguments, the first being the multi-disciplinary approach of the graduation studio. Which allowed me to borrow research techniques of other fields, being anthropology and the art. In combination with a design process slightly different than with a traditional architectural design approach would be . Secondly, there is the way of teaching I much appreciated during an elective in Msc. 2. The last argument was the location, being somewhere in Madrid.

Graduation Project.

Title of the
Graduation project — Building … Care

Goal.

Location — Studio Location | Madrid, Spain
Project site | A project located around the street, Calle Embajadores in the so called 'Barrio de Lavapiés'.

Posed Problem — Those who live in Lavapiès, a district in Madrid, are either cared for or taking care of someone or something. It is a neighborhood with people who dare to speak up, with things in need of Care. The issues range from policy choices resulting in zero social housing in the city. To an urban scale with the municipalities somewhat hostile choices for the design and materialization of the public squares and streets in the neighborhood. Zooming into more architectural issues what the design and implementation of much needed living rooms in both private and communal buildings.

Not all of those problems are to be addressed with a built solution. Therefore, this graduation project is centered around the notion of Care as a pivotal axis in the architectural project. Care is deliberately written with a capital C and architecture comes in second, with a small a. By seeing Care broader than a species activity, the phenomenon might connect different scales, people, and materials. This definition of Care can be described according to themes. Beginning with Parish consists of the themes commoning and rituals. In Balcony the themes are repair, expression and regeneration. Muur explains the intersection between (un)safety and propriation. Kitchen is about the themes patina, preservation and maintenance. Stage is themed around performance , both socially and technically.

Research Questions — What if notions of Care are prioritized in designing the built environment of Lavapiés in Madrid considering the interplay of materials, use and the broader (social)context?

   I . What are the implications of building Care?
   II. How does it (not) manifest itself in the neglected neighborhood Lavapiés in the central district of Madrid?
   III. How to translate/design Care into architectural design? What are the affordances, typologies, materials or site requirements?
   IV. How to formulate a design kit with a focus on Care?

Design assignment
in which this result.

A caring building: an architectural project for networks of Care.

Calle embajadores . A place where many stories on both Care and Neglect in Madrid can be found. These stories are assembled and translated into five chapters: Parish, Balcony, Muur, Kitchen and Stage. In order to built a toolbox for 'Building … Care' each chapter is devided in themes. These themes are both a research tool as an outcome in the form of design principles. These tools are used in my design proposal for 'Building…Care' as a proof of concept.

The goal is to create new spaces centered around the chapters: Parish, Balcony, Muur, Kitchen and Stage in a mixed use building allowing its users to come together, understand each other and simply be. The building itself is a collage of new and exisiting networks of Care.

Process.

Method description

To be able to build a comprehensive toolbox that integrates various creative elements for building Care, I need to go beyond a conventional research methods and use a mixed-methods approach. I intended to use known methods such as precedent studies, literature review and anthropological- and design research to understand the cultural, social, and architectural context, which I combined with diverse creative techniques such as speculative writing, poems, abstract modeling, digital drawing techniques, photo-collage and montage.

The script or storyboard formed the start of my design, which can be seen as a proof of concept. And remained an itterative tool throughout the design of the building, which can be seen as a proof of concept. Through out the design phase I kept reflecting/proyecting my ideas with the findings of the research. Therefor the process has been the method to develp a series of scenario's within the design proposal. In the building simular layers from my analysis are visible throughout a lence.

Design wise I have kept working on that same street,
as a sequence of stories,
as a site of investigation of care in my research
as a site for design intervention
as a connection between actors and building
as an academic excersice in Building with Care.

Literature **Primary.**

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Reflection.

Reflection.

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic, your master track (A), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

A more subtle link is the use of networks of Care as a focus for the research, which results into a layers within the project as commonly seen in the studio. Rethinking the notion of Care and using a design-research method to do so is in line with the way we are taught during the master program, using both theoretical and practical research, combined with telling visuals and the arguments to support my choices. Thereby addressing the urgency of Caring rightly in Architecture is in line with the sustainability goals of the TU brining it even further by trying to formulate a design approach which cultivates an ethos for engagement, repair and more.

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

Caring Architecture a relatively new term, but what does it mean. What does it look like when designing with Care as a pivotal axis throughout the project? The term Care comes from feminists like Joan Tronto and Bearnice Fischer (1990) , who see Care as "everything that we do to maintain, continue and repair 'our world', so that we can live in it as well as possible. That world includes our bodies, ourselves and our environment, all of which we seek to interweave in a complex life sustaining web." They set the trend for contemporary theorists and activists who kept on talking about "care," who see it as something that has to do more with the ethos and effect of maintenance than with its (re)productive capacities. As Mattern (2018) states in his essay, he says it is hard to argue with that. Because who doesn't care for Care? Yet care, like maintenance, is easily romanticized. Because of that it is taken for granted, for example during Covid in the Netherlands we gave a wavering applause to the nurses and hospital staff taking care of us for so long...yet we kept our policy and therefore their paycheck the same. Our doings do not match with our dreams and ideas.

Something similar could be said about Architecture. It is written with a capital A to prove it as an expression of power, yet it expresses what those in power want. While it should start with Caring architecture . Even tough there are a few architectural projects who have placed the notion of Care at the center while designing. All of those projects are more experimental and lack a methodology. The label 'caring' is given afterwords, and could be seen as green/political washing. While in related fields such as Landscape Architecture and Urbanism there are projects who tie the activity of Care to practice. The relevance of this graduation work is therefor exploring a methodology to Care properly. Its' relevance is in the methodology being a stepping stone for building with Care.

3. How did your research influence your design and how did the design influence your research?

In my case the research and design are intertwined and will be connected until the end of my project.
By projecting, translating and rewriting daily life and all the actors within a network of care, I developed my design. The themes helped me come up with the input for the design and are a framework for visualizing the output. The two being so intertwined allowed me to add layers, make choices, build up a list of arguments, and iterate both research and the design. The design therefor is not a solution but a process.

4. How do you asses the value of your way of working?

Looking back at this graduation year I have learned a lot about my way of working. I knew I have an eye for detail, and am capable of telling a story. Yet those strengths turned out to be the biggest heardles as well. This method might not have been the most effective way, yet in hindside I can say I needed all the d-tours to come to my design and have the puzzle pieces fall into place. In the end all those details helped me making choises in last phase of the design process. It allowed me to explore both, the practical and the theoretical side of caring Architecture. Care has been at the core of the project all along.

5.   How do you assess the academic and societal value, scope and implication of your graduation project, including ethical aspects?

The ethical aspects form the core of my project, building with Care is based on an ethics theory. In a time where we question our motives for making choices, the way we manage, the language we use a project like mine is fitting. It makes sense for the field of Architecture to create a built environment where more is considered than the wishes of those in power. Architecture being an expression of power, allows for it to express it's power rightly. Even tough I have taken a street in Madrid as a case study the tools for designing Caring Architecture are applicable in a broader context and therefor contribute to both Academia and society.

6. How do you assess the value of the transferability of your project results?

Caring Architecture is often a label given to a building once it is phinised, but by developing a toolbox to design with Care it is possible for others to implement Care from the get go. The tools are easily transferable.
Yet the outcome of the design is very personal to my take on Caring architecture. Personally it helped me look at designing Architecture differently and I hope it will remain in my symbolical backpocket, ready to use it in the rest of my career.