

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	Deying Chen
Student number	5504295

Studio		
Name / Theme	Architectural Design Crossovers – Heterogeneous City:London	
Main mentor	Johan van Lierop	Architecture and the Built Environment, Theory & Territories
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Architectural Engineering + Technology
Third mentor	Alper Alkan	Architecture and the Built Environment, Theory & Territories
Argumentation of choice of the studio	ADC studio allows cross-domain design in architecture and flexibility in terms of the design and research program.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	On the Edge -- A study into social integration within community boundaries
Goal	
Location:	Western Tower Hamlets, London
The posed problem,	<p>Social Segregation caused by boundaries between new developments and existing communities has led to severe edges between different groups of people. These edges include but are not limited to their income, demographic, and morphology of their living environment.</p> <p>The idea of a border is where different groups meet, and the edge should be an active zone of exchange for both ideas and products. The current centralized development of communities should be avoided, instead, resources should be</p>

	<p>located on the edge between communities to open gates between different racial and economic groups, in order to improve social sustainability and social mobility.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p><u>In the process of gentrification, how to design with openness within the 'edge' area to both promote social integration and innovative collaboration?</u> What are the urban morphologies of these spatial boundaries? Where are these spatial boundaries located? What are the functions located on the spatial boundaries between new developments and existing communities? What's the psychological impact on people due to the big contrast of urban fabric between different communities? Why is it important to link people from different communities together? How does a space promote spontaneous interaction at the edge of communities? What are the forms of spatial boundaries in human scale? Are they indoors or outdoors? Are they considered pleasing or unpleasant?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>By redesigning transport infrastructure and adding on social infrastructure I aim to bridge the infrastructural edge. The building includes living for family and young professionals, the third spaces, and an innovation center to help minority entrepreneurs, making sure local minorities are not excluded in the gentrification process. Therefore in the design stage, I focus on an innovation accelerator/knowledge hub mixed with social and living functions. The social infrastructure will be mix with transport infrastructure the generate the maximum accessibility and social integration.</p>
<p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.</p>	

The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

Process

Method description

The methods used range from big scale to small, from the urban scale to the borough scale and in the end the street scale. In the urban scale, to identify potential locations for investigation, I made a location map highlighting the enclaves within London. In the borough scale, to identify the edges conditions within a certain area, I made **mappings** highlighting the morphological edges. In the street scale, I used the technique of '**thick description**' to overlay information of different types of edges. 'Thick description' is a concept in anthropological study that was first introduced by British Gilbert Ryle. It indicates the analytical method to describe things in a multi-layered structure, contrasting with the traditional single-layer analysis, or a description that only showcases the surface. In the context of urban edges analysis within London, 'thick description' is fitting for its nature of layering complex information and comparatively organizing the definition framework of different edges, at the same time preventing the analysis to be overly mechanical or technical. Therefore I decided to create a multi-layered 'thick description' of the urban edges of London.

In order to further develop the edge condition analysis as well as exemplify the urban openness at western Tower Hamlets, I extracted 3 sites within the area to comparatively further investigate. The sites all sit on top of certain edge conditions. I apply the '**urban openness analysis**' to classify the urban structure types within the sites, together with analysis of their dedicated flow areas, density, porosity and imperviousness. In the end I come to the conclusion of typical urban openness on the edge spaces within western Tower Hamlets.

Literature and general practical preference

1. Akcan, Esra. *Open Architecture: Migration, Citizenship and the Urban Renewal of Berlin-Kreuzberg by IBA 1984/87*. Birkhäuser, 2018.
2. Klinenberg, Eric. *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*. Crown, 2018.
3. Nail, Thomas. *Theory of the Border*. Oxford University Press, 2016.
4. Newman, David. "On Borders and Power: A Theoretical Framework." *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, vol. 18, no. 1, Mar. 2003, pp. 13–25, <https://doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2003.9695598>.
5. Sennett, Richard, and Pablo Sendra. *Designing Disorder: Experiments and Disruptions in the City*. Verso Books, 2022.
6. Sibley, David. *Geographies of Exclusion: Society and Difference in the West*. Routledge, 2002.
7. Sim, David. *Soft City: Building Density for Everyday Life*. Island Press, 2019.
8. *The Metropolis of the Twenty-First Century*. <https://www.oasejournal.nl/en/Issues/80/TheMetropolisOfTheTwenty-FirstCentury#091>. Accessed 19 Jan. 2023.
9. Oswald Mathias Ungers, "Architecture's Right to an Autonomous Language, 1979," in *The Presence of the Past: First International Exhibition of Architecture La Biennale di Venezia 1980* (Venice: Edizione La Biennale di Venezia, 1980), 319 and 324.
10. Van Rooyen, X. "Megaform Versus Open Structure or the Legacy of Megastructure". *Histories of Postwar Architecture*, vol. 1, no. 3, Jan. 2018, pp. 30-49, doi:10.6092/issn.2611-0075/8515.
11. Wolfrum, Sophie. "Porous City-From Metaphor to Urban Agenda." *Porous City*, De Gruyter, 2018, pp. 9–14, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/9783035615784-001>. Accessed 19 Jan. 2023.

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)?
 2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.
1. In order to design for crossing edges and social integration, what architects can do is to design space for economic, educational or leisure activities in order to bridge the contrast of socio-economic and infrastructural edges. The cross domain design requirements fit with the studio topic of heterogeneous London, which encourage the design for a diverse and multicultural city. In a bigger scale, the scientific way of study the edge conditions as part of the urban structure is relevant to Msc AUBS program and Architectural track for its applicability of overall research on urban space and architecture design.
 2. Gentrification in London has led to enclaves of new development surrounded by working class neighborhoods, therefore creating an 'edge' area between these two. The gentrification process of London was caused by the growth of business

opportunities and population. On one hand, Gentrification has led to the increase of hygiene and quality of life, on the other hand, the rising cost of living that comes with its process has pushed locals out of the city center, or has led to the loss of identities of certain communities. Such phenomenon is common in big metropolitan areas all over the world, therefore the study of social integration in urban transitional zones is relevant in a bigger social framework.

The study of edge crossing is applicable to the study of movement, it is essential in the architecture research on edge areas to simulate the movement, so that even though people might not know what they need, they are still connected or reconnected in novel and essential ways. The urban theories of Open structure and porosity is closely linked to social integration between different communities and democratic space. My thick descriptions of edge conditions not only provide a throughout urban analysis of edge conditions of western Tower Hamlets, but also offer a well organized theoretical framework for future studies on urban edge conditions.