

graduation reflection

[Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism
and Building Sciences]

10 November 2023 (scheduled P5 date)

i. *Personal Data:*

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TU Delft

Faculty of Architecture & The Built Environment
Dept. of Architecture / Architecture & Dwelling
MSc 3/4 / Graduation Studio / 2022-2023

ii. Studio:

Name/Theme:

(AR3AD105) global housing / sao paulo: repair & consolidate

Main Mentor:

Dr. Nelson Mota,

TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture & the Built Environment,
Department of Architecture, Group Architecture & Dwelling

Second Mentor:

Frank Schnater,

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Third Mentor:

Ir. Harald Mooij,

TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture & the Built Environment,
Department of Architecture, Group Architecture & Dwelling

iii. Reflection:

a) What is the relation between your graduation project topic, your master track (Ar), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

The relationship between my graduation project, my studio 'Sao Paulo: Repair and Consolidate', my Master of Architecture track, and the TU Delft Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences program, is the value placed on current issues of global housing, inclusivity, and building science. With studios offering diverse levels of experimentation and technical complexity, the goal is to find a productive synthesis within this spectrum that will inform and shape a better built landscape. The program upholds a common theme: how do we as designers approach the built environment with a sense of resolve, place-making, and timelessness for an enriched future? This ethos aligns with what I hope to investigate through the choice of track, graduation studio, and graduation topic

to investigate new perspectives towards spatial discourse specific to dwelling design.

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

The direction of this research is to not only expand on the current urban fabric of Sao Paulo, in the formation of more resilient and meaningful atmospheres within the city, but however, to additionally address place-making in environments dealing with high density, precarity, diverse socio-economic conditions, and situations of environmental sensitivity for populations within the Global South. These areas, harboring rapid growth and urbanization, at rates in which the built environment, local economy, and local governments have difficulty accommodating.

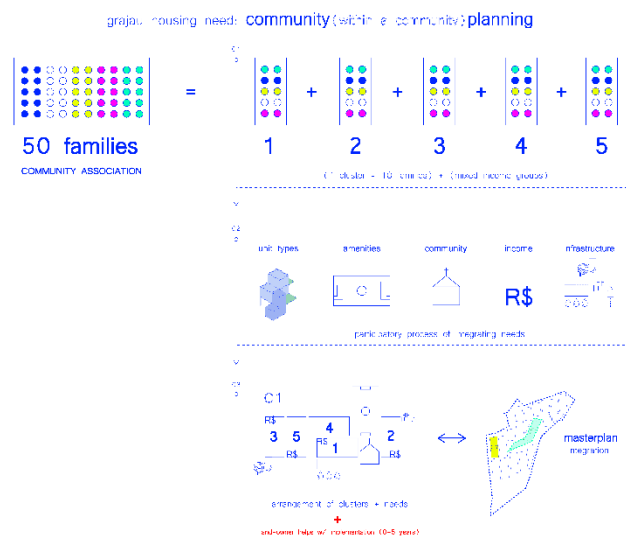
The graduation project looked to move beyond conventional governmental quotas of the housing crisis, and instead looking for a softer, more malleable approach towards high density housing – a humanistic approach – one which a community can identify with. The city of today, “...is not only the city of the poor, or the regular models of the formal and informal...but a kinetic space, a space where these models collapse into singular entities and where meanings are ever shifting and blurred” (Mehrotra 2017, 133). As architects and urbanists, it is essential to adapt design approaches to reconfigure, adapt, and reformulate to the permanent state of flux through the built landscape.

b) How did your research influence your design / recommendations and how did the design / recommendations influence your research?

My research influenced my project design in various ways. On the neighborhood scale, the creation of varying-sized blocks (ranging from .4 to 1 ha) allowed for the creation of community collectives, each responding to diverse contextual conditions, creating unique identities within their bounds. My kit of parts approach promoted participatory process adding an additional layers of sense of

place. The clusters were able to respond to the diverse edge conditions of their respective block taking into consideration the urban edge, the natural edge, and the residential edge. The typological dwelling diversity within the various dwelling clusters responded to community needs. Taking this into account, the elements attributing to a sense of place – those being the community’s socio-economic endowments, their activities, situations and events, the degrees of involvement and attachment – produced interior and exterior spaces catering to a variety of social conditions.

My design influenced my research by exploring methods of dwelling congregation and clustering. It explored how to enable the creation identity from one block to the next, using a consistent kit of parts to accommodate diverse user groups and lifestyles.



c) How do you assess the value of your way of working (your approach, your used methods, used methodology) ?

I would assess my working process to be positive. The kit-of-parts approach – from the scale of the cluster, to the unit, to the structural components – holds a large amount of typological variation to meet a plethora of user needs. This enabled a strong sense of place within each block scenario.

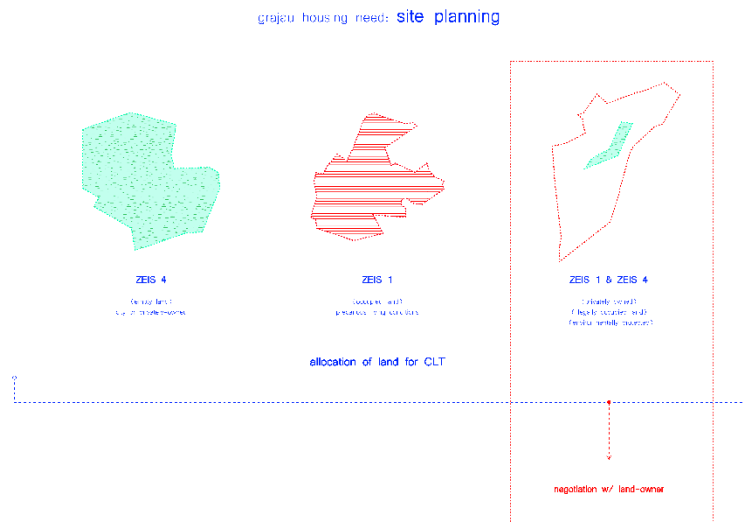
Regarding my used methodology, through the use of literature review, mapping, ethnographic analysis, and case study analysis, proved fruitful. Each area proved valuable in informing the design exploration. The literature review allowed for extensive knowledge of current and past urbanization of Sao Paulo and its periphery. It addressed informal settlement development and reflection of dweller needs and community organization. Mapping proved useful, visualizing the development of the area of Grajau and the Anchieta settlement through time. Ethnographic analysis enabled a deeper understanding of community values and dynamics; giving a glimpse into everyday activities, social constructs, and the importance of community participation within precarious informal settlements. Finally, the analysis of case studies from inside and outside of Brazil proved indispensable in terms of understanding what is appropriate for an effective social housing typology. Incorporating elements from various case studies, and rejecting others within my own dwelling designs established a thorough understanding of what is appropriate in proposing dwelling typologies relevant to the lifestyles, climate, and available resources of within Grajau.

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

I would assess the academic, societal, and ethical value of my graduation project as a valid alternative approach towards providing quality housing for those living in precarious conditions within Grajau. My project challenged the existing typological solutions provided by the local government (sterile tower slabs, domesticating dweller lifestyles) and the current acupunctural approach found on the site (a slow and inefficient process). My approach towards affordable housing not only meets the basic human need for humane and sanitary housing but also promoting a strong community identity and accommodating for resilience while facing transient realities.

e) *How do you assess the value of the transferability of your project results?*

I would consider the transferability value of my graduation project to be flexible. Depending on location, context, and dweller organization, the logic behind my approach is one that is malleable towards various scenarios. My approach is not only applicable within my selected site. However, the approach would be appropriate for additional contextual scenarios of unoccupied land, established settlements, and early occupations through dweller and municipality organization; addressing the neighborhood, the block, the cluster, and the unit scales.



f) Reflection Questions:

1. How would you approach in promoting your approach to the local municipality?
2. How could your design be understood and communicated to the local community?

g) Preparation for P5

I would continue to find an appropriate representation technique to clearly communicate my kit-of-parts approach as a catalogue booklet in addition to solidifying the contents of my graduation report.