

Reflection-Giammarco Emili TU Delft

Looking back, a first reflection is centered around how absolutely instrumental and influential every moment belonging to the Studio has been. This applies from the very beginning of our explorations: in particular, our London and Oxford journey have proved to be an extremely fertile ground of inspiration and reflection for future design discussions. The extensive and diversified set of projects and places visited have provided a solid foundation to start a debate over central themes, like Integration between Campus and the City, or Publicness, recalling our visits inside London Campuses. A fundamental moment of reflection is also represented by the site visit to the Central Station Area: here, I began to reflect on how differently people – including us students, tutors and guides – access the city using various means of transport. A reflection over the theme of Accessibility which would later greatly influence my design positioning. Additionally, the lectures offered have provided a fertile ground for thinking, especially raising a deeper awareness towards themes such as Sustainability, Circularity in the built environment, again later comprised in my design positioning. The quality of this first stage of research is undoubtedly one of the most influential dimensions which would later inform the project position. However, in this respect, the frequent dialogues with tutors over such themes proved to be crucial: indeed, their real potential, and their specific relevance in relation to the particular design assignment, have been understood thanks to that prolific exchange of ideas and perspectives. The positioning emerging from this first phase, which would represent the solid theoretical base for future design reflections, is a product of such a fertile dialectic methodology of confrontation. In the second phase, now confronted with the specific constraints and possibilities of the identified site, the design translations of those ambitions have been explored in their real potential owing to the same prolific debate, leading to, in a recursive process, adjustments and further architectural explorations. Feedback from tutors profoundly supported design ambitions, providing invaluable suggestions about possibilities, constraints, real-life applicability of the presented design proposals. In this process, learning touched several different dimensions: the competencies developed belong in the fields of theoretical and pragmatic discussion and assessment of design ambitions, methodology and respective outcome – as the Theory-and-Delineation and Project-Design sessions have highlighted – and in the fields of technological and construction knowledge – as the Technical-Building-Design tutorings have emphasized. However, a design methodology which has a dialectic foundation at its core, one which takes a dialogue of ideas, possibilities, constraints, as its principle, is the great lesson I welcome in my professional and personal advancement.

A Campus as introduced in the discussion is certainly one with a profound public vocation: indeed, the public dimension of such a spatial entity has been understood as a primary

means of comprehension since the very first phases and reflections. In this respect, knowledge, competencies, methodologies built across the several academic components that belong to the Architecture track all have come together to provide an essential set of instruments to address the particular topic effectively. A sensitivity towards the wider economic, social and environmental implications of spatial solutions has been fostered by past studio experiences – which have inspired a broader perspective on the designer's responsibility – while a methodology of research and analysis towards academic works has been promoted by theoretical courses. Furthermore, the project has been addressed in all its components and scales, from that of the city and beyond to the singular constructive and technical solution, owing to the collaboration and dialogue with the other disciplines belonging to the Master Programme. A work that acts as a moment of reflection and proposal, then, with an ambition to represent a positive contribution to the discussion happening in the practices and academic environments of the architectural field. But also to external agents and stakeholders, which may very likely find themselves represented in the set of groups and individuals touched and influenced, and pro-active part of a discussion whose foundations and implications are of the strongest scope. A first contribution may be recognized in its call for the building of a collective and individual conscience towards the phenomena acting as its principles, or foundation of research. A recognition of their urgency, of their influence over our lives, but also a recognition of the role the built environment has, and can have, in shaping our existence as a primal and final cause, acting as principle and objective. An architecture that is understood as a political act. But a contribution also as a work whose outcome is a proposal which can be looked at as a potential model for future interventions, promoting a creative exchange of analysis, studies, intentions, expectations, and a reasoned collection of spatial solutions, examples, items for the creative practice in the wider sense.