

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

2020-21



## Personal Information

Name  
Student  
Number  
Email

## Studio

Name	ExploreLab	
Main mentor	Suzana Milinovic	Architecture
Second mentor	Rachel Lee	Research
BT mentor	Hubert van der Meel	BT

Argumentation of choice of the studio

This graduation project is heavily research focused and the final design project is too be seen as a case study for the efficacy for this manor of research. Therefore, the particulars of the design are less important that the process by which the project is designed. ExploreLab combines these two aspects, research and process focused, in a way that no other studio does. This is why I have chosen ExploreLab specifically.

## Graduation project

Title of the graduation project

Transspace

## Goal

Location:

Urban Environment

Problem Statement

In Hooper-Greenhill's work 'Museum and the interpretation of visual culture' one can see a museum building, the works, placement, order of works, light, textual explanation and placement within a city as a script, one that can be interpreted. She goes on further to describe how one's culture, identity, socialization, education, etc can influence how one interprets this script and impacts how one reacts, relates, and understands the works on display<sup>1</sup>. Using Hooper-Greenhill concept of script, I would argue that all space can be read as a script. Therefore, an Architect's choices influence how people read the script of a building. Furthermore, one's identity can influence how one reads the script of a building and how one reacts, understands, and is impacted by a

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<sup>1</sup> Eilean Hooper-Greenhill, Museums and the Interpretation of Visual Culture, Museum Meanings (London ; New York: Routledge, 2000).

building. As Dianne Harris writes, “space is equally significant in the construction of ideas about race and identity.”<sup>2</sup> Writers like Dianne Harris<sup>3</sup>, Lucas Crawford<sup>4</sup>, Michel Foucault<sup>5</sup>, and others have stated that architecture is means of power and control and that this impacts the users of a building. Especially those who are understood as societally non-normative. These mods of control, and the tools for control at architecture’s disposal are varied but can be used to have both a positive as well as negative impact on the users.<sup>6</sup> One mode of control is with the gendering of space. Although these modes of control are socio-cultural an architect can, within the bounds of that socio-cultural milieu, choose how to apply that gendered control. This can be done explicitly, such as in the case of Prisons, Bathrooms, and Changing rooms, but also implicitly. Where a space is not prescriptively nominated as being for one gender but the design, layout and framing of that space, make it gendered. An example of this implicit gendering of space is the domestic kitchen. Especially the suburban kitchen of the 50s in the USA. Olivia Ahn describes how the domestic kitchen became both a reflection of and constructor of gender.<sup>7</sup> During WWII, when many women worked in factories, acted as the head of the household, and generally gained a lot of autonomy, we saw a regression of gendered norms in the 50s. One way in which this was achieved was by the large suburban projects, such as Levittown, where ‘the kitchen became the female domain of the mother’<sup>8</sup>. Not only were these spaces socially the milieu of the ‘mother’, but they also were designed for the proportions and capabilities that a mother was to have. As Piet Zwart said in 1936 ‘[de vrouw] haar arbeid zonder overbodige inspanning kan verrichten’.<sup>9</sup> As feminist activist and academics have shown architecture can impact the lives of women with their design, is this also true for Transgender and Non-binary people?

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2 Irene Cheng, Charles L. Davis, and Mabel O. Wilson, eds., *Race and Modern Architecture: A Critical History from the Enlightenment to the Present* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv11cwb7>.

3 DIANNE HARRIS, *Little White Houses* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013), <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5749/j.ctt3fh6f2>.

4 Lucas Cassidy Crawford, “Breaking Ground on a Theory of Transgender Architecture”, *Seattle Journal for Social Justice* 8, no. 2 (2010): 515–39.

5 MICHEL FOUCAULT, *POWER: The Essential Works of Michel Foucault 1954-1984*. (Place of publication not identified: PENGUIN Books, 2020).

6 FOUCAULT.

7 Olivia Ahn, *GENDER PERFORMATIVITY IN THE HISTORY OF SUBURBAN ARCHITECTURE*, Website, 13 April 2014, <https://thefunambulist.net/podcast/olivia-ahn-gender-performativity-in-the-history-of-suburban-architecture>.

8 Olivia Ahn.

9 bruynzeel KEUKENS, ‘De Geschiedenis van Bruynzeel Keukens’, accessed 22 December 2024, <https://www.bruynzeelkeukens.nl/over-ons/geschiedenis>.

Research Questions	How then does architectural scripts of buildings today impact how Trans people react, relate, and understand the buildings and spaces they encounter. How do gendered spaces, aspects of temporality, process of becoming, control and simple usage of buildings and space impact the lives of Trans individuals?
Research Project	A collection of Essays, Plan analysis, and Research by design object. These will be connected by an Editorial and Final Conclusion
Design	Designing a 5-bedroom house with office and retail facilities for Trans individuals. 2 short term crash site studios, 3 long term rooms with bathroom but shared common areas. The building as a whole and each individual floor has three phases, protect, fight, and bloom reacting on the individuals need but also the wider social expectance.

## **Process**

### **Method description**

Interviews with Trans, Non-Binary, and Queer people around their personal experience in relation to the built environment.

Essays, Plan analysis and Research by Design to further understand and deepen conclusions from the interviews

Using conclusions from these interviews and essays, plan analysis and research by design to design a building that specifically caters to Trans, Non-binary, and Queer people's needs.

### **Literature and general practical preference**

Beauvoir, Simone de, and Constance Capisto-Borde. *The Second Sex*. New York: Vintage Books, 2011.

bruynzeel KEUKENS. 'De Geschiedenis van Bruynzeel Keukens'. Accessed 22 December 2024. <https://www.bruynzeelkeukens.nl/over-ons/geschiedenis>.

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. Routledge Classics. New York: Routledge, 2006.

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Halberstam, Jack. 'Unbuilding Gender'. *Places Journal*, no. 2018 (3 October 2018). <https://doi.org/10.22269/181003>.

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Joanna Parker. 'Architecture Is Yet to Come to Terms with Trans Bodies'. *FailedArchitecture*, 26 May 2020. <https://failedarchitecture.com/architecture-is-yet-to-come-to-terms-with-trans-bodies/>.

Joel Sanders. 'FROM STUD TO STALLED! ARCHITECTURE IN TRANSITION'. *JSA (blog)*, 15 October 2017. <http://joelsandersarchitect.com/from-stud-to-stalled-architecture-in-transition/>.

Lucas Cassidy Crawford. "'Breaking Ground on a Theory of Transgender Architecture'. *Seattle Journal for Social Justice* 8, no. 2 (2010): 515–39.

Marquez, Xavier. 'Spaces of Appearance and Spaces of Surveillance'. *Polity* 44, no. 1 (2012): 6–31.

Massey, Doreen B. *Space, Place, and Gender*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1994.

Olivia Ahn. *GENDER PERFORMATIVITY IN THE HISTORY OF SUBURBAN ARCHITECTURE*. Website, 13 April 2014. <https://thefunambulist.net/podcast/olivia-ahn-gender-performativity-in-the-history-of-suburban-architecture>.

Rands, Melissa Leigh. 'At the Intersection of Space, Place, and Experience: An Ethnographic Case Study of Affordances in Architectural Design 1'. Doctor of Philosophy, Iowa State University, Digital Repository, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.31274/etd-180810-5028>.

Roy, Arundhati. *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*. New York: Vintage Books, 2018.

Springer, Simon, and Philippe Le Billon. 'Violence and Space: An Introduction to the Geographies of Violence'. *Political Geography* 52 (May 2016): 1–3.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2016.03.003>.

West-Pavlov, Russell. *Bodies and Their Spaces: System, Crisis and Transformation in Early Modern Theatre*. Costerus, N.S., 156. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2006.

Yushang Zhang. 'Home on the Intersection'. *Home on the Intersection* (blog), n.d.  
<http://yushangz.lofter.com/>.

## Reflection

The aim is to be part of a larger movement within architectural discourse that will help to better understand what relationship there is between identity and experience, akin to the movement that has been seen in many other areas of study, but most exemplary in the literature and media studies. In these fields, since the 70s, many frameworks have been developed through which to try and understand the relationship between identity, experience, and interpretation of a piece of media or culture. This graduation project aims to transpose those lessons onto architectural discourse and further develop the relations between Trans identities and architectural experience.

Although my motivation for this is to some extent personal and anecdotal, I do truly believe that architecture should create architecture which is reflective to an individual needs rather than a more modernist 'one size fits all' approach. Neither should architecture reflect the needs of institutions or capitalist needs which may not, arguable ever, reflect the needs of the individual. I argue that identity and identity politics can be part of a framework that can allow architects to create buildings reflective of the needs of the individual, as a force of democratization.

## Timeline

### 2020

- W. 36 Formulating Research framework and Method
- W. 37-39 Initial Research, Choosing Research and Design Mentors
- W. 40 Formulating Interview Questions
- W. 41-44 Finding interview participants, Research into interview methods
- W. 45 **P1:** Presentation: Research framework, Interview Framework
- W. 46-51 Doing interviews and research
- W. 52-53 Location Research, Formulating Requirements

### 2021

W. 03	<b>P2:</b> Preliminary Research Results, Design Goals and Framework
W. 04	Finalizing Location, Expanding Requirements
W. 05	Design Development, Material Research
	Design Development, Poetics Research
	Design Development, Finalizing Research
W. 13-14	<b>P3:</b> Design Sketches, Plans, Sections, Elevations, Model
W. 15-16	Design Development, Technical Aspects. Reflecting on design with Interview participants
W. 16-19	Design Development, Plans, Sections, Elevations, Models, Details
W. 20-21	<b>P4:</b> Presentation of Final Plan and Relations to Research
W. 22-24	Finalizing for P5
W. 25-27	<b>P5:</b> Presentation of Final Design and Relations to Research