

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 | Simon Muntz |
| Student number | 4664841 |
| Studio | |
| Name / Theme | Interiors Buildings Cities |
| Main mentor | Mark Pimlot Architecture |
| Second mentor | Mauro Parravicini Architectural Engineering |
| Argumentation of choice of the studio | The decision to graduate in this studio was driven by the design approach of the chair. I earlier followed courses within the chair of Interiors, and I was fascinated by an architecture that is a product of history and the interactions that takes place on the site. I feel that this study give place to pursue these interests. |
| Graduation project | |
| Title of the graduation project | Towards a new appreciation |
| Goal | |
| Location: | Stockholm, Sweden |
| The posed problem, | The redevelopment of the Erik Gunnar Asplund library. A project that has been a political and architectural debate for over 18 years. Prior to our project already two proposals have been rejected and the library has been in a state of demise since then. |
| research questions and | How does one take an approach towards monument and build on an existing architectural project? What is a contemporary library today and which role does an architect play in it? How can one take a feasible approach in a much political debated project as the Asplund library (how can we learn from |

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| | past proposal and understand the local political climate? |
| design assignment in which these result. | A new contemporary library in Stockholm which relates to the current Asplund library. Exploring Asplunds legacy and building forth on the existing qualities of the library. |
| | |
| Process | |
| Method description | |
| <p>To make a proposal that adds value to the library and answers the need in terms of preservations and is feasible for the context, one must thoroughly understand the typology of the building and the system it sits in. Firstly one must take a position or opinion of the role of a contemporary library and test where these functions can be placed. this will partly be done by the work done in the research course before P1. However, the precedents that will be studied may not fully embody a contemporary library anymore given that societal changes happen rather quickly. Therefore, additional research must be conducted as well talks with librarians and professionals in the field.</p> <p>From this understanding a first ambition, an approach can be extracted. These conclusions will be helpful in setting the design area and in making a program.</p> <p>From there on the Library itself will be examined through drawing and building models to fit in the new program. By these drawings there can be assessed how these new functions affect the existing library in terms of routing, atmosphere and function This will result in a new proposal by the time of P2.</p> <p>From there on different tracks regarding the quality of spaces, the extension of the atmosphere of the current library, and the technical requirement will be worked out in model and in diagram. These tracks will be tested separately and collectively. Using large scale (1:25) will certainly give starting points to move forward with the design.</p> | |

Literature and general practical references

Past proposals have been analyzed extensively to understand the political climate this project takes place in. To be able to extend a building with some very distinct Neoclassical touches, precedents and the building itself will be read about and analyzed. Works by Caruso St John, KAAN, and other will be helpful. To take a position towards the contemporary library, papers and policy plans provided by Stockholm city council and the Swedish library act will be very helpful.

Reflection

1. At our master (and bachelor) we are educated to think as a designer, working with wicked problems. To translate this into architecture I believe that one must be able to understand and relate all the different aspects of design to each other. This should result in a more holistic design tackling politics, ambition, and human relations. This specific design project has to answer to all these factors. A history of politically driven proposals and their demise, the ambition to cherish a monument and providing a library for all inhabitants of the area.
2. I believe that we come from a time where it was believed that the world was fully understood, an era of the malleable world disregarding its complexity. Now faced with the limits of that way of thinking, there is a need to take a more reflective approach looking more at effects and relations, rather than steering and forming. This approach is in my understanding more fitting and celebratory of the complexity of our being. I try to work and learn in that understanding and believe that is reflected in my work as well in my approach to this library.