

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	Magdalena Beata Klimczak
Student number	4748050
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Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Spolia	
Main mentor	Eireen Schreurs	Architecture
Second mentor	Els van Meerbeek	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>For my final graduation studio I have chosen Urban Architecture, as the studio approach seems to coincide with my design approach: designing with a great attention to context, both built and non-built, considering direct (future-users) and in-direct impact (the neighbourhood), critically researching and analysing the existing fabric and trying <i>to either complete or re-direct it by adding a building¹</i>.</p> <p>This year studio theme of "Spolia" – <i>a term from archeology, spolia are the left-overs or 'spoils' of a building, which find themselves back in a new structure²</i> – has seemed particularly interesting to me. And so have been the notions it carries: the conscious re-use of the urban city tissue, the matters of sustainable approach, the transformation of left-overs into something meaningful for the surroundings.</p> <p>In my thesis I would like to analyse and incorporate all design aspects which the studio focuses on: the careful analysis of the existing urban tissue and its significance, the evaluation of its potential and issues, the answer attempting to use its advantages and minimize its disadvantages to better the surroundings.</p>	

	<p>1 - Urban Architecture. (2020). Retrieved 3 January 2020, from https://www.tudelft.nl/onderwijs/opleidingen/masters/aubs/msc-architecture-urbanism-and-building-sciences/master-tracks/architecture/programme/studios/urban-architecture/</p> <p>2 - Schreurs, E., Vermeulen, P., Reinders, L., Hachez, A., van Meerbeek, E., & Ajari, M. (2019). Handout Urban Architecture (p. 4). Delft: Urban Architecture.</p>
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Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Social housing as a driver for upward social mobility.
Goal	
Location:	Anderlecht, Brussels, Belgium
The posed problem,	<p>The site is located in Anderlecht, one of the 19 municipalities of Brussels. With population of 118,414 and 30% of population of nationality other than Belgian, it is a diverse and vibrant community. The population density is high (19,020 inhabitants / km²) and the residential landscape is varied: residents inhabit 19th and 20th century tenement houses, converted historical complexes and public mass housing¹.</p> <p>Les Goujons is an example from last category. Built in 1970s as a solution to housing crisis, this social housing complex is now in a state of decay and deterioration. It is a massive project, housing over 900 inhabitants, with 382 apartments spreading over 18 floors. Its monumental geometry dominates all the surroundings and influences all public spaces around it. Lacking any human-scale, directed at one social group, designed without any consideration of fostering community or allowing socialization, with age it has gained a not-so-pleasant recognition².</p> <p>Les Goujons is not the only example of 1970s post-war mass housing deterioration. Similar projects of social housing were built all over Europe. Majority of them are facing the same problems: partial vacancy, neglect and poor safety condition, short life-span of housing and pauperization of its inhabitants. Due to lack of political support, changing demographics and economics, public housing has become not a temporary solution, but a solution for chronically poor. Propelling the vicious cycle, the economic situation of the residents makes them even more vulnerable for social difficulties³.</p> <p>Housing offers more than just a shelter: it provides stability (both in terms of economics and in terms of peace of mind), feeling of security and a sense of belonging.</p> <p>Current social system does not always foster the situation of those who are in need. Could social housing be designed in a better way? Could social housing be a driver for upward social mobility?</p>

	<p>1- Institut Bruxellois de Statistique et d'Analyse. (2016). <i>Zoom sur Anderlecht</i> [Ebook]. Retrieved from http://ibsa.brussels/fichiers/publications/bru19/Anderlecht_FR.pdf</p> <p>2 - Union de Locataires d'Anderlecht-Cureghem. Le site des Goujons. Retrieved 4 January 2020, from http://www.ulac-huvak.be/le-site-des-goujons/</p> <p>3 - Prak, N., & Priemus, H. (1985). <i>Post-war public housing in trouble</i>. Delft: Delft University Press.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01. Can well-designed social housing be a driver for upward social mobility? 02. How social housing can be improved? 03. What are the factors in designing liveable, user-oriented, human-scaled residential architecture? 04. What are the qualities that make a house a home? What are the qualities creating community? 05. How can we use the existing housing tissue in order to create better social housing? 06. What to keep? What are the elements of existing city tissue worth keeping? Which have a potential to be altered? What needs to be removed?
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>With consideration of a difficult housing market in Brussels, and even more difficult situation of many social housing complexes, the project will consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01. Creating a masterplan for the whole site, with special consideration of housing, 02. Suggesting possible solutions of transforming Les Goujons, the existing housing complex, 03. Designing a new social housing complex, proposing alternative solutions aiming for fostering upward social mobility.
<p>The goal of the project is to investigate possible alternatives for social housing. Haunted by problems such as neglect, vandalization, safety decrease, high turnover rates, the social housing complexes often seem to be a transit accommodation. Les Goujons, the building at the site, is currently experiencing many of those problems. The project will attempt transforming it through means of decreasing its density, modernisation of existing structure and addition of new functions. At the same time, in order to provide the same amount of social units, or even more, the new housing complex will be designed, complementing the existing one. The project will aim at introducing varied social housing strategies such as alternative types of intermediate tenure, home-based work, social owner-occupation and fostering community identity. The neighbourhood will gain more residential buildings of better quality, aiming at their longevity. The introduced strategies will impact also the atmosphere of the place, improving its current state.</p>	

Process

Method description

The design of the project will be based on the conducted research.

So far, the method of interviewing site users and their neighbors seemed to be particularly interesting. Not without a challenge, it brought many interesting conclusions. Furthermore, film and the film-making process was also an insightful research method. It gave a possibility of having an insight in few seconds - or in some cases - minutes, in private life of people using the space and the life of the space as well. Further analysis of the collected materials and its post-processing allow to catch more details.

A literature review with detailed residential architecture case studies also proved to be useful, especially concerning mass housing from 1970s, visions of liveable residential architecture from 1970s onwards as alternatives to mass housing, and various social housing approaches. Furthermore, home-based work subject will be explored.

Furthermore, I would like to continue interviewing the residents of Cuerghem, analyzing their living habits and their residential/social/other needs. Additionally, I plan to visit more examples of housing such as Rotterdam Ommoord.

The outcomes of the research will be evaluated and implemented into the design. The form finding will be worked-on with help of models.

The results will be depicted as schemes, diagrams, architectural drawings and models.

Literature and general practical preference

Literature:

Druot, F., Lacaton, A., & Vassal, J. (2007). *Plus*. Barcelona: GG [Editorial Gustavo Gili].

van Gameren, D., Kuitenbrouwer, P., Schreurs, E., Holliss, F., Jrgenhake, B., & Hausleitner, B. (2019). *Home Work City. Living and Working in the Urban Block. DASH*. Rotterdam: Nai010.

Hatch, C. (1984). *The scope of social architecture*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Holliss, F. (2015). *Beyond live/work. The architecture of home-based work..* New York: Routledge Ltd.

Krantz, B., Öresjö, E., & Priemus, H. (1999). *Large scale housing estates in North-West Europe: problems, interventions and experiences*. Delft: Delft University Press.

Prak, N., & Priemus, H. (1985). *Post-war public housing in trouble*. Delft: Delft University Press.

Smith, W. (1971). *Housing. The social and economic elements.*. Berkeley.

Teymur, N., Markus, T., & Woodlley, T. (1988). *Rehumanizing housing*. London: Butterworths.

Woodman, E., Wessels, R., & Van der Heijden, H. (2013). *Habitat*. Rotterdam: Nai010.

Precedents:

- Knikflats, Rotterdam Ommoord, The Netherlands – transformation of mass housing by biq,
- Transformation of 530 dwellings, block G, H, I in Bordeaux, France by Lacaton & Vassal,
- Housing transformation in Saint-Nazaire, France by Lacaton & Vassal,
- Kings Wharf, Hackney, London, UK – live/work complex by Davy Smith Architects,
- The Barbican Estate in London, UK – a housing complex by Chamberlin, Powell and Bon Architects,
- Social housing with social home ownership in Montreuil, France by Benjamin Fleury
- Kings Crescent Estate, London, UK – transformation of existing housing, addition of new housing completing the whole complex by Karakusevic Carson Architects
- Bacton Estate, London UK – housing complex by Karakusevic Carson Architects
- Piazza Ceramique, Maastricht, NL – live/work building by Jo Janssen & Wim van den Bergh,
- Scheicentrale 4b, Rotterdam, NL - live/work building by Mei architects and planners,
- IBeB, Berlin, Germany - live/work building by Heide & von Beckerath.

Architects:

Lacaton & Vassal

Frances Hollis

Biq

Karakusevic Carson Architects

Reflection

The project will consider the theme of the Urban Architecture studio "Spolia" through juxtaposition of an existing, but transformed social housing building with a new residential complex.

The earlier explained term "Spolia" can be understood in both material [in se] and non-material [in re] sense and its use can be motivated economically, ecologically or aesthetically. However, the remains of the previous buildings are not only actual, physical elements with physical value to be assessed, but also the identity, images and atmosphere they create. Perhaps one of the most important values is the value that the users attribute to them. The new built project will attempt not only to upkeep the existing community identity, but also strengthen it.

The goal of the project is to show an alternative design of social housing.

The project has a significant social relevance: mass social housing, similar in some extent to Les Goujons, is still present all over Europe and still even now holds a certain stigma. Paradoxically it is stagnant in the way how it approaches habitation, ignoring all other functions (e.g. socializing or working), reducing it to merely accommodation, but also provides a lot of uncertainty for its users¹. However, it holds an enormous potential of being a social asset, a mean to decrease inequality and even out the chances, so to be a driver for upward social mobility.

1 - Prak, N., & Priemus, H. (1985). *Post-war public housing in trouble*. Delft: Delft University Press.