# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

# Graduation Plan: All tracks

<table>
<tr><td>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.</td></tr>
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The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

| Personal information | |
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| Name | Liuying Chen |
| Student number | 5800145 |

| Studio | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name / Theme | Palace, Msc3 Interiors Buildings, Cities | |
| Main mentor | Sam De Vocht | Design |
| Second mentor | Elina Karanastasi | Technology |
| Third mentor | Sereh Mandias | Research |
| Argumentation of choice of the studio | For me, architecture is a matter of discussing scale. Exploring how to transition from detailed construction to the interior and exterior spatial aspects, and then integrating with the urban context, is a research question worth delving into. "Interiors Buildings Cities" focuses specifically on this cross-scale research and delves deeply into it. Additionally, research based on models allows me to better comprehend the logic of materials and construction. Therefore, I have chosen it as the topic for my graduation project. | |

| Graduation project | |
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| Title of the graduation project | Information Theater - Expansion and Renovation of Stockholm City Library |
| **Goal** | |
| Location: | Stockholm, Sweden |
| The posed problem, | This year's IBC's theme is "Palace," exploring new development approaches for urban public functional spaces such as libraries, which originated from palace architecture, in the context of contemporary times.<br><br>When libraries were closely associated with palace architecture, their existence inherently bore a class distinction and served as an overt symbol of power and authority. The combination of a monopolistic control |

| | over certain channels of knowledge and information dissemination, along with the grand and meticulously ordered palace-style architecture, led to a one-way output and a sense of "control" towards the public. However, with the development of democratization, the awakening of civic consciousness, and the diversification of communication channels, libraries gradually transformed into service-oriented structures.

Stockholm Public Library, as a library from the 1920s, pioneered the use of architectural elements such as the Rotunda and open bookshelves, which softened the oppressive nature of traditional library architecture at that time. It embraced a humanistic approach, fostering a sense of active participation and community vitality among its visitors. However, after a century, the original library's space and knowledge dissemination methods are no longer sufficient to meet the diverse needs of society. This project, based on a failed competition held in 2006 for the expansion and renovation of the library and the advisory brief proposed in 2014 based on the 2006 competition, explores the new social functional positioning and service direction of the library in the face of a multicultural audience and is rooted in the unique political and cultural context of Stockholm. |
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| research questions and | Over the past century, Stockholm City Library has attracted a significant portion of the local middle-class population. However, its target audience has shifted from a large student population to predominantly older age groups. Additionally, Stockholm is experiencing the impact of increasing immigration and a trend towards racial diversity. While the existing library has dedicated areas, |

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| | such as the children's section, that showcase collections of multicultural books, the quality of these collections is relatively low. How to expand and renovate the library to encompass a broader age range and a more diverse cultural background is a crucial question for discussion.<br><br>Moreover, in the 21st century, information dissemination is not confined to traditional media such as books and paper. Modern means like E-media leverage electronic networks for efficient and flat communication, enhancing the dynamism of interaction between people and information. This new mode of information dissemination reflects trends in the physical space and opens up new possibilities for the establishment of a novel library. Given these circumstances and needs, the research question for the library project is: *How can the expansion and renovation of Stockholm Public Library attract a younger and more culturally diverse audience, integrating with the evolving trends in new forms of information interaction?* |
| design assignment in which these result. | Stockholm Public Library is situated at the foot of the mountains in the city center of Stockholm, becoming a visual focal point alongside the Observatory, Stockholm School of Economics, and Teaterverket Sve. It harmonizes with the surrounding urban environment through a slightly off-axis alignment, emphasizing its prominence. Additionally, on the west side of the site, three annex buildings serve as complementary structures and are included in the design scope.<br><br>Considering the real conditions of the site and the developmental needs, the project aims to construct a new library with an approximate area of 3000 $m^2$. It will encompass diverse functional |

| | spaces such as an Immersive E-media room, a multilingual reading room, and an urban activity lounge to cater to a variety of audiences. The design also involves the transformation and activation of the existing urban library's bazaar and underground spaces, facilitating communication and connection between the new and old libraries. The goal is to create an interactive entity that radiates into the urban space. |
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## Process

### Method description

Reviewing Paper and Information Materials and Mapping:
This is an initial research stage where literature, information materials, and mapping are utilized to understand the urban structure, context, and distribution of functional spaces in Stockholm. Geographic Information System (GIS) tools can be employed to create maps, highlighting key urban features.

Collecting Information about Stockholm Public Library through Paper and Information Materials:
By examining the library's historical archives, visitor statistics, and related spatial data, information about the changes, architectural background, and its relation to the urban context of Stockholm Public Library can be gathered. Information regarding political and cultural aspects can also be obtained from relevant literature.

On-Site Research:
During on-site research, firsthand experiences are used to understand the architectural space and current visitor conditions at Stockholm Public Library. This provides a sensory understanding of the actual environment and allows for the observation of user behavior and spatial perception.

Interviews:
Conducting face-to-face interviews with various groups such as visitors, staff, and city tourists helps gather their perspectives on the existing architectural space and their expectations for the new building. This approach provides in-depth social feedback and identifies specific needs.

Model Making:
Creating models offers a more specific understanding of site features and architectural scales. This aids in visualizing and comprehending spatial relationships, providing tangible references for the design.

Architectural Drawing:
Using architectural drawings to analyze and express the logic and concepts of the new library space. This may include floor plans, section drawings, elevation drawings, etc., detailing architectural structure and spatial layout.

## Literature and general practical references

1. Elmborg, J. K. (2011). *Libraries as the Spaces Between Us: Recognizing and Valuing the Third Space*. Reference & User Services Quarterly, 50(4), 338–350. http://www.jstor.org/stable/20865425

2. Wrede, S., & Asplund, E.G. (1979). *The architecture of Erik Gunnar Asplund*.

3. Ahlberg, H. (1945). *Architect Gunnar Asplund: biografisch essay*.

4. Richard-Bazire, A. (2014). *Dans le sillage d'Henri Labrouste, premiers travaux à la Bibliothèque nationale. Livraisons D'histoire De L'architecture*. https://doi.org/10.4000/lha.393

5. AndersBergstrom(2011). *Det moderna monumentet: Stadsbiblioteket och den historika värderingen. Bebyggelsehistorisk tidskrift*

6. Bennett, H. (2013). *The Psyche of the Library: Physical Space and the Research Paradigm*. Art Documentation: Journal of the Art Libraries Society of North America, 32(2), 174–185. https://doi.org/10.1086/673511

7. Scott Bennett. (2009). *Libraries and Learning: A History of Paradigm Change. Portal: Libraries and* the Academy, 9(2), 181–197. https://doi.org/10.1353/pla.0.0049

8. Vogiazides, L., & Mondani, H. (2023, January). *Neighbourhood trajectories in Stockholm: Investigating the role of mobility and in situ change*. Applied Geography, 150, 102823. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2022.102823

9. Aabø, S., & Audunson, R. (2012, April). *Use of library space and the library as place*. Library & Information Science Research, 34(2), 138–149.

10. Existing E-media approches in Stockholm City Library
E-medier & databaser. (n.d.). https://biblioteket.stockholm.se/en/node/70517

11.Contreras, J. F. (2021, January 1). Manifesto of Interiors. http://books.google.ie/books?id=1t_QzgEACAAJ&dq=Javier+Fern%C3%A1ndez+Contreras++Manifest+of+Interiors:+++Thinking+in+the+++Expanded+Media&hl=&cd=1&source=gbs_api

## Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

   My graduation research project explores the urban and societal responsibilities of contemporary libraries. However, my individual research focuses on the communication and interaction among people in the middle to lower age groups and those from diverse cultural backgrounds within the context of libraries. It specifically delves into revitalizing the vibrancy of the library and enhancing the appeal of interactive information and knowledge. This spatial research, grounded in the demographics of library users, primarily manifests in tangible architectural entities. Simultaneously, due to the library's positioning, it radiates influence on the urban architectural layout and cultural context. The impact on individuals also quietly permeates the city's cultural atmosphere through variations in population density and activity levels, resulting in implicit and subtle effects.

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

   Scott Bennett classifies the attributes of library services for users into readercentered, book-centered, and learningcentered paradigms. The first two paradigms existed relatively parallelly in the 20th century, while the latter is considered to be associated with the information age. As he suggests, libraries need to transition from a service-oriented nature to an educational one. The concept of a "productive research environment" is often applied in settings like laboratories, but when applied to libraries, the research process is also a way of constructing knowledge interaction and acquisition, a vital part of the design. This guidance at the architectural environment level can be seen as the arrangement of physical structures, spatial hierarchies, and the vulnerability of the online environment. The library space research based on new means of information interaction is built within this framework.