

# 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](mailto: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	Weiyuan He
Student number	4902300

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors, buildings and cities: Palace	
Main mentor	Susanne Pietsch	Architecture
Second mentor	Birgitte Hansen	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I am very interested in the studio's research on different scales of public space. In addition, this topic allows me to think about the investigation and renovation of large and complex buildings in the urban context. The Workspace theme is attractive to me for its discussion of equity in spaces, gender issues, and people's ways of working and I am also very interested in the development of future office space.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Bank as a public working complex
Goal	
Location:	Brussels, Belgium
The posed problem,	Currently due to the virtualization of the way of money and the role of the bank itself of money transactions being replaced, although the National Bank of Belgium has a huge space, it is difficult to play a role in the current society. In addition to this, this huge banking system not only embodies national capital but also alienates it from its urban context. In the future, the National Bank of Belgium will have fewer employees, how to use the extra space to make this building permeable and maintain it as a symbol of the National Bank? If the bank considers part to be open to the public, then who is the public? What will their arrival mean for banks and capital? Most importantly making architecture that is capable of addressing past, present, and future with both a sense of continuity and an openness to change.

research questions and	Research on Space Design and Social Aspiration of Co-Working Mode. What are the spatial components of co-working? Who is the target group? How do these spaces relate to the banking space? What are the current co-workings in Brussels? How are they being used?
design assignment in which these result.	<p>Through processes of iterative drawing and physical and digital modeling, I need to develop a complex public building, resolved at all scales, from the interior to the urban. This is contextualized by understandings established in an integrated research program.</p> <p>The design will propose means by which it could engage both the public and its own staff in this process of transformation: asking who they are, how they might be brought into relation with one another, and what types and qualities of space might successfully accommodate and engage them. Specifically, the current spatial organization of the bank is reconstructed through a series of drawings and models, and a new feasible layout plan is proposed. For the current structure and environmental factors of the building, feasible renovation measures are proposed. In addition to this, how the interior space is expressed to reflect the connection between the bank and the public / surrounding buildings / nature.</p>

## Process

### Method description

Several research themes and methods have been explored, to focus on the NBB in Brussels from various perspectives.

#### Precedent studies:

The task will be to recreate these photographs as three-dimensional models and then record them in a way that recreates the original image. To be successful this will require extensive analysis of the drawings alongside the image. Its intention is to focus attention on the spatial and experiential character of the studied buildings and the ways in which they are inhabited, as a means for critique.

#### Literature research:

The purpose of the literature research is to have a basic understanding and objective evaluation method of the workspace and banking system in different eras through the research on banks and office spaces by architects and historians in different periods. These articles serve as a starting point to consider the connection between the NBB's workspace and the banking system and to critically present research and design perspectives.

### **Design: Social Plinth**

Thinking about the meaning and value of social base through design or behavior, as a means of thinking about public space. The approach might engage more or less directly with issues that pertain to what the bank does, or it might relate to questions that will form the context within which a future bank should operate or which it should be working to protect.

### **Site research:**

Site study through visiting the important buildings and surrounding areas near the site. Understanding the national bank from the Brussels' point of view, how it relate to the city and what its different facades represent. After walking around the city, a preliminary understanding of the landmarks and regional features of the variable region can be had. Besides, Through site research, there is a clearer understanding of the scope of urban space and the different representative elements: natural elements, churches, transportation, bank interior space and its needs, etc.

## **Literature and general practical preference**

### **Literature:**

Daphne Spain, *The Contemporary Workplace* in Rendell Penner Borden, *Gender-space-architecture*.

Francis Duffy, 'Office Buildings and Organisational Change', in Anthony D. King, ed., *Buildings and Society*, 1980.

Dovey, Kim. 'Corporate Towers and Symbolic Capital'. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* 19, no. 2 (1992): 173–88.

Nikolaus Pevsner, 'Exchanges and Banks' in *A History of Building Types*, Princeton University Press, 1976, Ch.12.

*Uncommon Sense: A Vision For A Post-Capitalist Society* With Yanis Varoufakis.

Daqing Mao, *Breaking the Barriers between Companies: Co-Working Office in the Era of Sharing*.

*Research on the Development of Co-Working Space and Its Impact on Innovation in the Information Era* by Wang Jing, Zhen Feng, Feng Jing.

Jing Zuo, *The Design of Co-working Space and its Urban Expression Method*.

Mark, Pimlott. *The Public Interior as Idea and Project*. Noord-Brabant: Jap Sam Books, 2016.

**Precedent:**

Sigurd Lewerentz Riksförsäkringsverke  
Citicorp Building, New York, 1977  
SAS Frösundavik Office Building

**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)?

For my theme and studio theme, it is a discussion of future workspace and employee working mode. I think the whole studio is more about the relationship between banks and the public, that is, the connection between banking institutions and social institutions. For me, for the theme of Co-working, what I want to express is the possibility of having various workspaces for different individuals in the whole bank space. In this way, I want to reflect the diversity of work modes and express the care of to each individual.

On the other hand, through past studios, I felt the relationship between various disciplines for architecture. Especially for architecture and urbanism, the relationship between the two is the closest. I want to express the relationship and mutual influence of architectural space to the urban context through my graduation project, which I think is a transitional process from small design to large planning. Just like the studio's name: Interiors, buildings and cities.

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

My graduation project is a renovation task, which includes an assessment of architecture and work patterns from an architect's point of view, an understanding of urban space, and a study of architectural deconstruction and other physical environments. Design, as an intervention, is the interpretation of the various subjects mentioned above and the study of engineering techniques. I think a good design may not have a connection to the entire architectural discipline, but a balance of solutions and problems, with architectural technology as a methodology. I hope my graduation project can have professional research and practical design.

Graduation design is a long process, and the final plan may be a decisive result, but I hope that I can make certain progress in research ability, architectural technology ability and self-thinking ability throughout the graduation project. I hope to acquire my own architectural concept during the process, to witness the changes of my thinking towards the bank. The whole graduation outcome in the process I think will be of great significance to my future career.