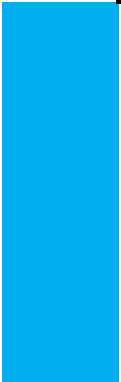


# Graduation Plan

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	Sebastiaan Vork
Student number	4454391

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
Main mentor	Micha de Haas	Architecture
Second mentor	Janina Gosseye	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	A strong belief in thinking and practicing architecture in different ways and a strong fascination for the current housing crisis combined with the development of housing commons in the Netherlands.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Dutch Housing Commons: How Spatial Agency can support the development of Housing Commons in the Netherlands
Goal	
Location:	Nijmegen, The Netherlands
The posed problem,	Systematic and fundamental change of the housing market is not happening, and a persistent housing crisis remains the status quo.
research questions and	How can Spatial Agency, through the creation of strong, projective spatial examples, support the development of Housing Commons in the Netherlands? My sub questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do we envision the role of the spatial agent within the design process?</li> <li>- How does the creation of imaginative examples play a role in changing the public opinion?</li> <li>- How do we understand housing commons in the frame of this research?</li> </ul>
design assignment in which these result.	To imagine the potentialities of Housing Commons in the Netherlands through

the reappropriation of existing office blocks in non-Randstad areas. Therefore, the selected office block in Nijmegen is an exemplary Dutch office typology which ultimately provokes a bigger system.

The goal of the graduation project is to spark a change regarding public opinion on housing cooperatives in the Netherlands through on the one hand a visual script – showing the coherent and integral story between the several actors involved – and on the other hand the architectural imagination of a housing cooperative in Nijmegen. The choice of Nijmegen is related to the belief that 'we' are currently too much focused on the Randstad during the development of new projects. Therefore, it is beneficial to expand and refocus our view on the Netherlands. These goals together are part of the concept of spatial agency; other ways of doing architecture.

## **Process**

### **Method description**

RE > Research

The final product of the research part of my graduation project will be a visual script in which I will integrate the perspectives of the several actors involved in the development of housing commons in the Netherlands. These different actors are the bank, cooperative, critic, developer, dweller, government, theorist, and architect which I have interviewed during the past period. The statements of these actors are enriched by books, articles, lectures, reports, and case study projects related to the subject. In this way a conversation is being established between the actors and the literature available to create a coherent an integral story on the development of housing commons in the Netherlands in search for common grounds or conflicting opinions between the different actors.

The visual script is divided in five acts. The first three acts are covering the three sub questions of my research. The fourth act covers my speculative design project in Nijmegen. The fifth act deals with the long-term vision of housing commons and therefore this chapter is a speculative chapter into the future. For the P2 on June 14, 2023, the script is planned to be finished. The completion and assemblage of the visual script takes place towards P3.

AR > Architecture

The design project will be conducted using several methods. First, using physical modeling on scale 1:500 (to have a good feeling on the urban scale the project and the city) and 1:100 / 1:50 (to understand the spatial relations within the building and between neighboring buildings). Furthermore, I will be in contact with the Gemeente Nijmegen and already existing housing cooperatives in Nijmegen to analyze and examine the needs of a city as Nijmegen. Besides that, I have obtained the original drawings and details of the building (from 1970 and the revisions made in 1990), I have done historical research on images and cartography in Nijmegen, and I have visited the site and city which I captured through photos.

### BT > Building Technology

The building has been analyzed on its construction through the available architectural drawings. It is intended to use the existing bare concrete structure as the base for the project. The remaining building parts will be re-evaluated on its purpose and quality to hopefully reuse them in certain ways. On the other hand, I expect it to be necessary to add new square meters as well because of the proposed program. Therefore, apart from transformation I will also have to rely on contemporary construction methods using for example wooden structures.

## Literature and general practical preference

Literature (which I predominantly made use of throughout my research):

An Architecture of Complexity by Lucien Kroll (1987)

De Draggers en de Mensen by John Habraken (1961)

Spatial Agency by Nishat Awan et al. (2011)

New Commons for Europe by Flavien Menu (2018)

New Housing in Zurich by Dominique Boudet (2017)

In Defense of Housing by Peter Marcuso and David Madden (2016)

Housing the Co-op by Sacha Delz et al. (2020)

Operatie Wooncooperatie by Arie Lengkeek and Peter Kuenzli (2022)

Bolo'bolo by Hans Widmer (1983)

Atlas van Afgehaakt Nederland by Josse de Voogd and Rene Cuperus (2021)

Elke Regio Telt! by Rli (2023)

On the Commons by An Architektur (2010)

Zurich Housing Commons by Tom Avermaete et al. (2021)

Vier scenario's voor de inrichting van Nederland in 2050 by PBL (2023)

Productive Universals by Anne Kockelkorn and Nina Zschocke (2019)

And several other research papers, lectures, and reports.

Furthermore, I have had many talks with people from the field (apart from the conducted interviews) and I will continue to do so throughout my graduation to sharpen my view on the subject, its political position, and to get a better understanding of the public opinion.

## Reflection

1. Relation to my master track Architecture and master AUBS: I intend to provoke the current view on the role of the architect in a constantly changing society. Furthermore, the topic is urgent given the persistent housing crisis and the lack of new ways of thinking on these matters in the Netherlands. Besides I will transform a vacant / obsolete office tower in Nijmegen (although now it is being used as a refugee home for Ukrainian people, which is very good cause). Furthermore, my research is to some extent related to the 1M homes initiative.
2. The topic is relevant because of the following intentions: coming up with a viable and imaginative reappropriation strategy for obsolete office blocks in the Netherlands / Supporting the development of housing commons in the Netherlands / Contributing to the current public debate on housing commons in the Netherlands / Rethinking and provoking our current focus on the Randstad / Aiming to provide an exemplary project which is not only Nijmegen specific but could be used throughout the Netherlands / Rethinking the role of the architect in terms of financial, legal and regulatory responsibilities as well as the power of architectural imagination. Besides that, I pursue the interdisciplinary approach the architect trying to get a better understanding of the other stakeholders in place.