

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	Kamil Urban
Student number	5855136

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities / Palace	
Main mentor	Mark Pimlott	Architecture
Second mentor	Mauro Parravicini	Architectural Engineering and Technology
Third mentor	Jurjen Zeinstra	Research mentor
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The studio of Interiors Buildings Cities is focused on working with projects on a different scale. From the wide urban approach through thinking about the single building to the small details of interior solutions. The principals of the studio are highly design oriented which allows to work and develop students abilities of formulating their ideas with parallel thinking of how they can be expressed in a form of design.</p> <p>The studio considers the educational process as a collective effort which implies the ability to work with a team, communicating and organising the work of a bigger group of people. Combining all these facts I see this studio as a great preparation for the future professional work as a responsible and aware designer.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The common public: Stadsbibliotek in The City of Stockholm.
Goal	
Location:	Stockholm, Sweden
The posed problem,	Stockholm City Library is a globally recognisable building designed by Gunnar Erik Asplund and completed in 1928. The whole site design contain also three annex buildings on the back, west side of the main library.

	<p>The Library has been functioning for decades and has undergone a few renovation and redesign works. Nevertheless, neither of them solved a real issue of this library which is a lack of a functional space. In the past were organised two competitions in 2006 and 2014 but both were not implemented due to a lack of funding and difficulties in reaching an agreement on how to work and intervene with a priceful monument of the current library.</p> <p>Summarizing all these facts together the problem that has to be faced in this project is reorganizing and creating more functional space for the historical building of Stockholm City Library with a context of clear budget and political limitations.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>How the contemporary library should function with the requirements and responsibilities of the institution of the public library in the face of cultural and social transformation? In other words, this project will look at the possibilities of the development of social infrastructure in the form of a library and how it can respond to the political and cultural changes in society.</p> <p>The following question would be how to implement this agenda and use the potential of the existing monument of Stockholm City Library to create a new functional space with a new meaning for both local and city visitors.</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Architectural project of the City Library in Stockholm containing the reorganisation of the existing monument of Gunnar Asplund. Design with the implementation of the research on the role of the institution of public libraries in the political and sociological context of Sweden.</p>

Process

Method description

The working methodology based on collective research by reading, drawing and modelling. Getting to know the context of Gunnar Asplund's design by analysing his projects. Understanding his design by revealing interrelations between different projects and influence and inspirations from the undergoing cultural and sociological changes at that time. That stage resulted in a better understanding of the process which resulted in the project of *Stockholm City Library*.

Collective work on the analysis of other precedents of libraries. Research by drawing and positioning them in reference to each other. Discovering evolution in the approach to the institution of the public library, its role and meaning in the life of citizens. This part of the research allowed us to position *Stockholm City Library* in the wider typological context.

Working on understanding the spatiality and architectural character of the *Stockholm City Library* was completed by making a collective 1:25 model of the main reading spaces of the library. Research through modelling, understating and simplifying spaces to their essence to be able to recreate their qualities.

Looking carefully and using a library. Visiting *Stockholm City Library* and confronting our gained knowledge and imagination with the reality of this building. Seeing also other libraries such as *Mechelen Public Library* or *Lochal Public Library* to observe how these spaces are used nowadays and how they can function concerning their spatial qualities.

Research through design. Creating the first abstract proposal for the *room for a library*. Testing spatial solutions and defining our position towards functioning and essentials of public space such as a library.

Reading texts, listening to podcasts and debating on the role of the institution of the public library in contemporary society. Functioning of the library as a whole system, a network of libraries. Confronting the change of media and digitalization. Defining the activities which should and can take place in the modern library.

Drafting the first approach and design strategy for the project of the *City Public Library in Stockholm* on the basis of the information we collected and produced in the collective research.

Literature and general practical references

Ahlberg, Hakon. *Architect Gunnar Asplund: biografisch essay*. Amsterdam: G. van Saane, 1945.

Apelt, H., and H.H. Yegenoglu. *The Library: Architectural Analysis*. TU/e, 2012

Béliier, Corinne, Barry Bergdoll, Marc Le Coeur, and Martin Bressani. *Henri Labrouste: Structure Brought to Light*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 2012.

Berger, Laura. "The Building that Disappeared: The Viipuri Library by Alvar Aalto." Doctoral diss., Aalto University, 2018.

Creagh, Lucy. "From acceptera to Vällingby: The Discourse on Individuality and Community in Sweden". Delft: Footprint, 2011.

Mårtelius, Johan. *Swedish Modernist Architecture and the Critical Antithesis of History*. Milano: ERMES, 2013.

Woollen, Malcolm. *Erik Gunnar Asplund: Landscapes and Buildings*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2019.

Wrede, Stuart. *The Architecture of Erik Gunnar Asplund*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1980.

Walter Benjamin. *Unpacking a Library*. New York: Schocken Books, 1931.

Francesca Torzo. *House of Literature*. Watercolor, 2019.

Alberto Manguel. *Packing my Library: An Elegy and Ten Digressions*. Yale University Press. 2018.

Collective analysis of Gunnar Asplund projects:

- Villa Snellman
- Woodland Chapel
- Lister County Courthouse
- Skandia Cinema
- Stockholm Exhibition
- Bredenberg Department Store
- Göteborg Law Courts Annex
- Woodland Crematorium

Collective analysis of library precedent projects:

- Salle de Lecture, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Henri Labrouste
- Viipuri Library, Alvar Aalto
- National and University Library, Joze Plecnik
- Beinecke Library New Haven, SOM

- Berlin Statsbibliothek, Hans Scharoun
- British Library, Colin St John Wilson
- Exeter Library, Louis Kahn
- Seattle Public Library, OMA

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)?

Palace as a graduation topic for the studio of Interiors Buildings Cities is a public space of social interaction. In other words, these are the spaces which together with their function and spatial qualities create a frame and a stage for a public life to happen. This year the graduation project topic is the City Public Library in Stockholm. Architecture for the public library nowadays has to accommodate many new functions such as an information point for refugees, workshop places or help for elder people. This increase in functionality and bigger diversity has a reflection on the architectural and urban solutions. Moreover, this transformation is happening in the face of the climate change. As a result, the library as a building should not be only a place which provides knowledge but has to be a space which responsibly uses its resources starting from the building technology and ending on the operational strategy of the whole system.

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

Libraries have always been a key social infrastructure both reflecting and initiating changes in society. The role of such places has been to support the quality of life and well-being of our communities. This task is specifically important in a society which has been undergoing significant changes caused by climate change, an influx of immigrants from war zones or a housing crisis. In the face of these challenges, the meaning and role of the institution of a public library as a non-profit organisation providing knowledge and help is significantly more important.

Apart from dealing with a new social context, the graduation project is set in the very strict context of the existing monument of Stockholm City Library. This is specifically important considering the climate catastrophe and the shifting attention from building new objects to reusing and repurposing the existing fabric.

In the wider professional and scientific context project aims to take a position in the discourse about the future of the system of libraries in Stockholm. Deeply analyse its situation and propose a solution which will take into consideration the political context of the whole nation, the sociological context of the city and the specific spatial conditions of a particular building and its surroundings. Working on all of these scales from the city through building to its interior creates a framework which allows to address these main challenges and expresses them in the form of an architectural project.