

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	Xinyi Wu
Student number	5822777

Studio	
Name / Theme	Design of the Urban Fabric
Main mentor	Marco Lub
Second mentor	Kyri Janssen
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The primary reason for choosing urban fabric as the focus of my graduation project stems from my affinity for urban studies at the neighborhood scale, which I find to be more intimately connected with human experiences. I am particularly drawn to the intricate interplay between society and urban spaces. This interest aligns with my aspiration to delve into how urban layouts, designs, and the spatial arrangements of neighborhoods influence and shape social interactions, community dynamics, and the overall quality of life. Through this project, I aim to explore innovative urban design strategies that foster vibrant, sustainable, and socially cohesive communities.

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Cohesive Marketplace- Design of urban public space for diversity
Goal	
Location:	Haagse Markt neighborhood, Den Haag
The posed problem,	This paper takes the southwest area of The Hague, where the Haagse Markt is located, as a research subject. It explores how redesigning public space during market transformation can enhance social cohesion, addressing the challenges which are marketplace decline and social segregation caused by the gentrification process.
research questions and	How can redesigning of the public space of Haagse Markt and its neighborhood in Transvalkwartier enhance social

	cohesion during the retail gentrification process?
design assignment in which these result.	The project aims to develop an integrated urban design strategy that focus on fostering social cohesion in Socio Segregated and diverse cultural Neighbourhoods in the process of revitalizing market spaces in The Hague's Transvaalkwartier.
Process	
Method description	
<p>I'm going to use methods as below: literature review, mapping, data collection, fieldwork, case study, design experiment</p> <p>Literature Review: This foundational step in the project involves a thorough examination of relevant literature to understand and define core concepts, including hyper-diversity, socio-spatial segregation, inclusivity, resilience, and coexistence. The insights gained from the literature review guide the research direction and provide a contextual basis for subsequent spatial analyses.</p> <p>Socio-Spatial Analysis: This analysis delves into the demographic characteristics of the population, including income levels and educational backgrounds, which are crucial for formulating design propositions. It helps to identify the distinct needs and requirements of various social groups concerning the built environment.</p> <p>Mixed Media Analysis: To grasp the current and historical dynamics of the area, various media sources such as news articles, documentaries, blogs, and social media posts are analyzed. This approach also involves processing data from previous interviews, offering insights into the daily lives, routines, and environmental challenges faced by the local population.</p> <p>Fieldwork: Observing human behavior in public spaces is instrumental in comprehending the area's diversity, the formation and interaction of different groups, and how individuals utilize or relate to the space. This method is invaluable for gaining an in-depth understanding of the study area and its specific requirements.</p> <p>Ethnographic Mapping: Based on observations of human behavior, ethnographic maps are created to illustrate how people engage with the space and each other. These maps detail the spatial and social characteristics of the area, people's movement and activities at certain times, and behavioral patterns in specific locales.</p> <p>Spatial Mapping: Utilizing statistical data, this method provides a comprehensive understanding of the area's socio-spatial challenges. Factors such as urban form, building functions, public facilities, networks, and low-income or low-education areas are analyzed, informing the design proposal for public spaces.</p>	

Design experiment: As a design-oriented project, design experiment is a crucial tool for generating conclusions and proposals. It leverages design values and principles to create a framework for planned interventions, drawing from both qualitative and quantitative analyses.

Case Study: A pivotal component of this graduation project involves conducting a detailed case study. This analysis examines a specific urban area or a set of areas where similar urban design challenges have been addressed or are currently being tackled. The case study approach allows for an in-depth understanding of how theoretical concepts and design strategies have been practically applied and manifested in real-world settings. It involves evaluating the successes, challenges, and the socio-economic and cultural impacts of urban design interventions.

Literature and general practical references

Literature fields: Urban Public space, informality and formality public space, social cohesion and retail gentrification, marketplace design

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- Uitermark, J., Duyvendak, J. V., Kleinhans, R. (2007), Gentrification as a governmental strategy: social control and social cohesion in Hoogvlief, Rotterdam, volume 39 (1), pp. 125-141
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- Luckins, T. (2009), Gentrification and cosmopolitan leisure in inner-urban Melbourne, Australia, 1960s–1970s, *Urban Policy and Research*, volume 27 (3), pp. 265–275
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- Clare Rishbeth, Farnaz Ganji & Goran Vodicka (2018) Ethnographic understandings of ethnically diverse neighbourhoods to inform urban design practice, *Local Environment*, 23:1, 36-53, DOI: 10.1080/13549839.2017.1385000
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- Pinto, A. J., & Remesar, A. (2015). Urban Cohesion. A Public Space Network Assessment. On the Waterfront. *The International on-line Magazine on Waterfronts, Public Art, Urban Design and Civil Participation*, 2015, vol. 2, num. 39, p. 7-25.
- Somashekhar, M. (2020). Racial Inequality between Gentrifiers: How the Race of Gentrifiers Affects Retail Development in Gentrifying Neighborhoods. *City & Community*, 19(4), 811-844.
- Rose, Demaris (1996). "Economic restructuring and the diversification of gentrification in the 1980s: A view from a marginal metropolis". In Caulfield, J.; Peake, L. (eds.). *City lives and city forms: Critical research and Canadian urbanism*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. pp. 131–172

Case studies: ethnically diverse neighborhoods, market placemaking, design of informal public space

Reflection

1. The relationship between my graduation project and the studio topic, along with its alignment with my master track in Urbanism, and is deeply interconnected and multidimensional. My graduation project, focusing on the spatial and social implications of retail gentrification in culturally diverse urban areas, directly resonates with the core values and objectives of my master track. It embodies an exploration of urban design and social cohesion, elements that are central to the disciplines Urbanism. This project not only allows me to delve into the architectural and urbanistic aspects of space-making but also to address the pressing urban challenges of gentrification, social segregation, and public space dynamics. The studio, with its specific focus, provides a practical and theoretical context in which I can investigate these issues. It acts as a bridge, linking my academic pursuits in the MSc AUBS program with real-world urban phenomena, thus ensuring that my graduation project is not only academically rigorous but also grounded in the realities of contemporary urban development.

2. The relevance of my graduation work extends beyond the academic realm into broader social, professional, and scientific contexts.

Socially, it addresses the pressing issue of gentrification and its impact on community cohesion and public space accessibility. By exploring how urban design can mediate these challenges, my research contributes to the development of more inclusive and equitable urban environments.

Professionally, this work is pertinent to the fields of urban design, architecture, and public policy. It provides insights and tools for professionals aiming to balance economic development with social equity and cultural preservation. Scientifically, my graduation project contributes to the academic discourse on gentrification, public space, and social cohesion. It offers a novel perspective by integrating architectural, urbanism, and social theories, thus enriching the understanding of how spatial design shapes and is shaped by social dynamics. Overall, my graduation work aims to foster a multidisciplinary dialogue, bridging gaps between theory and practice, and contributing to the creation of more resilient and cohesive urban communities.

