

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	Apostolos Spyropoulos
Student number	4877403

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3DC100 Architectural Design Crossovers	
Main mentor	Johan van Lierop	Architectural design
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Building Technology
Third mentor	Alper Alkan	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Developing my own architectural perspective and approach over the urban and local cityscape stratification and continuity-discontinuity layers. Taking the opportunity to develop an architectural intervention outside of the standard norms.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Unveiling the Transtemporal Plotting the Time of Terrain over Space
Goal	
Location:	The graduation project takes place along Paseo del Quince de Mayo, South-West of the old city of Madrid, along the river Manzanares, in San Isidro Park, Madrid, Spain.
The posed problem,	<p>The research hypothesis is that extensive layering and apparent modifications in the San Isidro area along Manzanares, dictated by the necessity of expansion, have changed the site's everydayness. As a result, patterns of continuities and discontinuities began to take over the area, which needs to be addressed in the contemporary context and life of the city. This calls for an architectural intervention which aims, beyond the project itself, to the seamless transition of current and future everyday rituals.</p> <p>Due to urban stratification, there is an accumulation of multiple functions, atmospheres, daily rituals and routines over the greater area of San Isidro. In particular, the San Isidro, San Justo and Santa Maria cemeteries, alongside the park, festivities, and infrastructural networks, pose a convoluted environment where the different functions compete for prevalence. Simultaneously, their borders blur, putting the contemporary rituals in danger instead of promoting their evolution/development along the urban context. Furthermore, the city's current and future development plans treat</p>

	<p>the areas mentioned above as sites of additions; it is not interested in preserving or developing existing characters; rather, it imposes new ones. Instead of trying to solve or alleviate the complex current state, it adds more layers to the existing ones. The graduation projects need to act as a reflection and critique of the current situation.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Research Question How is the development of the everydayness itself and the conditions around it constituted in spatial relations? What influence has the daily ritual's progress had on the synergy between meaning, space and society?</p> <p>Sub-Question 1. Where does is the connection between site and its everydayness reside? How can it be interpreted/re-constructed?</p> <p>Sub-Question 2. Who takes part in the contemporary myths? Is there any overlapping between actors (human and non-human) within everydayness? What do those actors invoke to the place?</p> <p>Sub-Question 3. Which are the values (historical, cultural) that a ritual encloses in space? How can they be traced (re)discovered?</p> <p>Sub-Question 4. How can an architectural intervention be curated in such a way to be still a part of changing rituals? How can architecture reach beyond the very specific ritual itself and tie it into everydayness?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The research aims to create an extension connecting the two cemeteries in the form of a promenade along the existing infrastructures, addressing the current and future functions of the greater area without disturbing San Isidro's Park role. In other words, the design assignment asks for a reconsideration of the everydayness, cemetery and festivity functions along the area of San Isidro. The architectural proposal needs to simultaneously convey the different actors and events that take place in the park, as well as its contemporary myths -sequence of arrival, view, stroll/exploration- and blend with the existing landscape, that construct the site's everydayness. The outcome will provide a new perspective on the possibilities in a context characterized by heavy stratifications and conspicuous adjustments dictated by the necessity of expansion and development.</p>
<p>From an architectural perspective, this creates an interesting field of inquiry regarding the rituals and everyday protocols or, as Roland Barthes states, the 'myths of today'. The stratification of historical and cultural layers has generated visually obscure situations that lead to discontinuities, disruptions and fragilities. The research contemplates that calibrated actions on the local scale can restore the balance between what is inherited and what belongs to the urban character.</p>	

This task requires the project and site to be constructed as aspects of a dialectic that allows both to reevaluate and reinvigorate their connection.¹ To construct the site is to construct its everydayness. Constructing the everydayness entails acknowledging the unchangeability of the site/project connection and presenting an opportunity to evolve it. Following this framework, the site continues to be the basis upon which any endeavour is established, but this very basis becomes the theme of critical investigation. This provides the opportunity to reflect on the territory, which will consequently prevail on the fabric through new specialised forms characterised by re-examined functions.

Process

Method description

Theoretical Approach

The theoretical framework used for this research aims to provide a better understanding of the conditions of the San Isidro area along Manzanares through the everyday rituals, defining architectural components and fragilities, but also to which values enclose the site. The position of Beatriz Colomina, Milica Muminovic and Martin Hogue will be utilised to establish an understanding on the construction of the everydayness of the site, giving insight into the materialisation of its development along the site. This will be the base for further design research.

Conceptual Approach

A visual representation will be provided through a series of historical and present paintings, images and maps stretching over the city and its connection with the local rituals (religious processions, burial and quarries). Through the mapping of those activities, I attempt to uncover the continuities and discontinuities layers transforming the San Isidro area into a node of networks and its layers which comprise its everyday life. It initiates an understanding of various occurrences and will be followed by selective mappings along the San Isidro Park and the Manzanares River. These mappings allow uncovering elements and relations, old quarries, cemeteries, infrastructural elements, and inhabitation, to understand the occurrence and placement of certain spatial conditions. By layering and dissecting, spatial analysis becomes projective as it assembles sets of dynamic and spatial relationships, the trajectories of which offer an index of possible sites for architectural intervention.

Contextual Approach

This will be further investigated by linear surveys along the San Isidro neighbourhood, showcasing its sectional rhythm, through the cemetery-burial, festivity and park-routine functions. All discovered knowledge will be merged to construct the everydayness-conditions of the site based on the understanding of local occurrences, situations, relations and fragilities. The everydayness of these locations will be composed in a series of drawings attempting to highlight the fragilities and juxtapositions in the relations of object, human and event actors in a dynamic manner in new reciprocity and conflict. Case studies such as Bernard Tschumi's '*Manhattan Transcripts*' and Anuadha Mathur's and Dilip da Cunha's '*Soak, Mumbai in an estuary*' will be analysed and used as a methodological tool for mapping the place-time entities.^{2,3} These will be the following steps in defining the proposed functions and their intersection with the site/landscape.

¹ Hogue, Martin. "The Site as Project." *Journal of Architectural Education* 57, no. 3 (2004): 54–61. <https://doi.org/10.1162/104648804772745265>. p. 60

² Tschumi, Bernard, and Robert Young. *The Manhattan transcripts*. London: Academy Editions, 1994.

³ Mathur, Anuradha, and Dilip da Cunha. *Soak: Mumbai in an Estuary*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co., 2009.

Design Approach

Proposed Program: Promenade, landscaping, cemetery-commemoration and leisure (picnic areas, playgrounds, sports equipment, belvedere areas).

Purpose: Extension-assimilation of the existing cemeteries, San Isidro, San Justo and Santa Maria, while merging their functions with San Isidro's Park, creating a hybrid form of cemetery and promenade.

The design approach will have two main directions. First, by considering the rules and practices that have contributed to the urban form, we may attempt, on a local level, to reflect between the parts and the whole, between what is inherited and what is part of the actual reality, more general urban reality. Second, the proposal needs to be curated in such a way as to avoid creating a contradiction by intervening in discontinuities in the historic and current fabric of the city. The existing situation needs to be seen as generative. It is not intentionally shaped or designed by the future proposal; it is appropriated. The intervention has a twofold aim: tracing and mapping the contemporary myths and the regeneration and reinvention of Madrid's daily character.

Literature and general practical references

Literature References

- Colomina, Beatriz, and Joan Ockman. "Introduction: On Architecture, Production and Reproduction." Essay. In *Architectureproduction*, 7–23. New York, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 1988.

Interpretation and Representation

- Evans, Robin. *Translations from drawing to building*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1997.

Methodological Tool of Analysis

- Hogue, Martin. "The Site as Project." *Journal of Architectural Education* 57, no. 3 (2004): 54–61. <https://doi.org/10.1162/104648804772745265>.

Constructing New Paradigms of Site

- Kahn, Andrea, and Carol J. Burns. "On Site: Architecture Preoccupations." Essay. In *Drawing/Building/Text: Essays in Architectural Theory*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1991.

Constructed Site

- Mathur, Anuradha, and Dilip da Cunha. *Soak: Mumbai in an Estuary*. New Delhi: Rupa & Co., 2009.

Methodological Tool Through Visuals & Sections

- Muminovic, Milica. "Place as Assemblage: Abstracting, Diagramming and Mapping." *ATHENS JOURNAL OF ARCHITECTURE* 5, no. 1 (2019): 61–76. <https://doi.org/10.30958/aja.5-1-3>.

Methodological Tool – Place as Assemblage

- Sheppard, Lola, and Mason White. "States of Disassembly." In *Imminent Commons: The Expanded City: Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism 2017*. Actar D, Inc., 2017.

Layered and Networked Territory

- Tschumi, Bernard, and Robert Young. *The Manhattan transcripts*. London: Academy Editions, 1994.

Mapping – Analysis of Sequential Images and Rhythms

- Zozaya Montes, Leonor. "Constructions for a Canonization: Reflections on the Places of Memory and Worship in Honor of San Isidro Labrador." *Electronic Journal of Modern History* 7, no. 22 (2011).

San Isidro Area & Ritual

Precedents

- Igualada Cemetery, Barcelona Spain, by Enric Miralles.

Cemetery, Topography

- Art Pavilion, chapel and Belvedere in Saya Park, Gyeongsangbuk-do, South Korea, by Alvaro Siza

Topography, Belvedere

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

The goal of "Unveiling the Transtemporal" is to understand heterogeneity as the omnipresent urban condition of the modern metropolis, one that traditional disciplinary strategies cannot conduct. Consequently, the main objective of this graduation project is to synthesise tangible and intangible parameters using an interdisciplinary framework that requires an all-encompassing approach to design research. The research thoroughly analyses the greater San Isidro area and its context at various levels, including topography, topology and typology. By 'plotting the time of a terrain over space', I aim to examine the everydayness and the rituals of the site's extensive mix of material and immaterial elements and confront the established approaches within a broader historical, social and cultural context. In challenging the immanent conflicts and complexities in the site's heterogeneous urban conditions within the studio's guidelines, the project aims to unveil the short, long and abstract qualities of the built and experienced environment.

As architects, we are asked to cultivate those layers that constitute the site through design in such a way as to reveal inactive strategies and narratives.⁴ This research, therefore, becomes critical. By gathering knowledge from the theoretical framework and methodology, I foresee being able to start answering how the everydayness of the site is constructed through time and what influences the conditions around it. This will establish an understanding of a purposeful site for intervention. In doing so, I express my intention of activating a specific part along the greater area of San Isidro Park by reflecting on the typology of rules and

⁴ Foster, Hal, and Kenneth Frampton. 'Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance.' Essay. In *The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture*. Washington: Bay Press, 1983, p. 108

practices that have contributed to the urban form. The project endeavours to restore the balance between the parts and the whole, between what is inherited and what belongs to the actual reality, more general urban; this through actions calibrated on the local dimension.