

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examcommissie-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	Sofia Montalti
Student number	4941209
Telephone number	
Private e-mail address	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Spolia	
Main mentor	Eireen Schreurs	Architectural Design
Second mentor	Els Van Meerbeek	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>First, the choice for the Spolia studio is based on its complete approach to the design, starting from a medium-sized urban site to the building detailings, considering public, private and collective realms. Specifically, I found attractive the emphasis on "spolia", fragments of buildings that have the potential to be reused as a sustainable practice. The issue of reuse is increasing in importance in the current architectural scenario, because of the excessive amount of buildings as well as materials that still need an alternative life. Over all, the multidisciplinary approach of the studio offered the opportunity to look at architecture from the perspective of anthropology, by integrating alternative methods to research as well as design. For all these reasons, this graduation studio well suits the last project of my academic experience in provision of the professional career.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The culture of making, a craft centre in Anderlecht, Brussels.
Goal	
Location:	Anderlecht, Brussels, Belgium
The posed problem,	

	<p>First, the current urban and social conditions around the Anderlecht site are critique. The space seems to lack both social and architectural qualities, probably because of the ambiguous coexistence between its industrial and residential character. The main intervention will address these problematics with an urban design proposal that will reorganize the neighbourhood by enhancing its possibilities. The project will bring new functions to the area in regards to the new future design plans that will take place in few years. At the centre of the debate will be the community: how to create an effective design through the respect of the it and its culture.</p> <p>Then, from the urban proposal the project will dig into the building proposal. In fact, the main issue to be tackled will consist in the realization of a Craft Centre through the restoration of the culture of making as a mean to bring the community together and grow together.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Urban Scenario: - How could the new Urban Proposal improve the evident problematics around the site in terms of both architectural and social qualities? - How could the new Craft Centre respond and relate to the pre-existing city context within a fragmented urban form by contributing to the city in terms of both architectural and social qualities?</p> <p>Architectural Scenario: -How could the new Crafts Centre engage with its pre-existing fragmented surroundings while being built with a contemporary language?</p> <p>Program: -How could the new Craft Centre create a space in which the culture of making is not only exhibited but also experienced as a mean to bring the community together?</p> <p>Materiality: -How could the "spolia"around the area be integrated in the design?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>First, the design assignment will result in an urban planning proposal that solves the general problematics of the area. Then, the design will focus on one particular building with a program and a composition that will respond to the needs of the area as well as its community: a Craft Centre that mixes vocational school and public functions with productive spaces. The building will</p>

be an active element within the city organism and will be designed in response to the social, historical and architectural context.

The design will aim to combine the industrial character of workshop spaces with the qualities of public interiors - cafes, showroom and shops-, dealing with the tension between public and private. The main challenge of the project will be creating a multipurpose centre that offers the possibility of growing together as a community through the act of making. In a current scenario where productive sides of cities are kept out of the centres, the building will open the culture of making to its surroundings as a mean of attraction and where the community can recognize itself.

Process

Method description

Different methods and techniques of research and design are going to be used to answer the complexity of the site.

- Analysis
- Literature studies and references
- Drawings
- Model Making

Analysis:

A deep analysis on the identity of Anderlecht as well as its community will be conducted to understand how the design could be profoundly addressed to them.

Literature studies and references:

A deep research on the Craftsmanship topic and different manufacturing techniques will be conducted together with a deep analysis on existing references. This will help the design process by understanding the real needs that this particular program requires.

Drawing:

The drawing approach will be used to investigate the architecture of the building. How does it geometrically and compositionally relate to its surroundings? How does its architecture enhance the experience of the space? Which experience do I want to create in this particular architectural moment?

Model Making:

The model making approach will be used to investigate space quality and materiality: the three-dimensional sphere that the drawing can't express. This technique will guide the choice of materials as well as the intentions to create particular atmospheres.

Literature and general practical preference

Literature:

Campbell, C. (2005). The Craft Consumer: Culture, Craft and Consumption in a Postmodern Society. *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 5(1), pp.23-42.

Homo Faber: crafting a more human future. Master artisans. Exceptional objects. A new perspective. Catalogo della mostra (Venezia, 14-30 settembre 2018). Venice: Marsilio Editori, 2018.

Ingold, Tim. *Making: anthropology, archeology, art and architecture*. London and New York: Routledge, 2013.

Pallasmaa, Juhani. 2012. *The eyes of the skin*. New York, John Wiley & Sons Inc.

Pallasmaa, Juhani. *The Thinking Hand: Existential and Embodied Wisdom in Architecture*. Ad Primers. Chichester, U.K.: Wiley, 2010.

Rowe, Colin, and Fred Koetter. *Collage city*. MIT press, 1983.

Sennett, Richard. 2009. *The craftsman*. London: Penguin Books.

Sennett, Richard. 2017. *The fall of public man*.

<https://www.overdrive.com/search?q=9DFCE988-65D2-4BC5-A2A1-2A956013956D>.

Zumthor, Peter. *Atmospheres: Architectural Environments, Surrounding Objects*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2006.

Research papers:

- Plusoffice architects / Collectif WRKSHP, *Atelier Brussels: The Productive Metropolis*, 2016

- BOZAR, *A Good City Has Industry*, 2017

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)?

The graduation project chosen aims at one of the main focuses of the studio: the design of a building that means to redesign an environment with lots of urban and social problematics. As architects we have an important role in shaping not only the physical environment, but also those untouchable elements that enhance the experience of the everyday life. For this reason, I am looking for an architecture that fosters experience and embraces designs that could improve social questions and issues.

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

The significance of this work in a larger social, professional and scientific framework lies in its approach in regards to the craft institutions within its social and cultural context. Production and education, always placed at the sides of cities, have the chance to create new opportunities within the city context and its social realm.