

# 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	Andrea Beznitchi
Student number	5861683

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities / The Modern Public Library	
Main mentor	Sam De Vocht	Architecture
Second mentor	Elina Karanastasi	Architectural Engineering
Third mentor	Sereh Mandias	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The studio choice is based on its focus on public sites where societal and political issues are highly distinguishable, and are intertwined with architectural ones. The set briefs invite us students to analyse and dissect existing projects across all scales, in physical and digital formats that allow for a full understanding of the posed problems.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The Library: Public Destination for Private Intentions
Goal	
Location:	Stockholm, Sweden
The posed problem,	In 1931, while the Stockholm Public Library was still new, it was considered too small. Following the two failed competitions launched by the library, in 2006 and 2014, which invited a significant expansion and reinvention of the monumental building with particular care regarding its heritage, the library and the area surrounding it have experienced a period of stagnation.

	<p>The goal of the project is to analyse the architectural and urban legacy and navigate contemporary issues and future developments, discuss the programmatic aspects of the existing building and its efficiency, and determine the areas that need intervention.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>In the context in which the Stockholm Public Library is already housing an overwhelming amount of material and information, how can it adapt to a fast-paced informational era, while maintaining the original sensitivity of Erik Gunnar Asplund's design?</p> <p>How can the library be extended with additional programs, connecting the existing structure and annexes, and be perceived as a unified entity, from an architectural standpoint?</p> <p>How can the Stockholm Public Library function as a more inclusive and dynamic meeting space?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The extension and redevelopment project should consider diversifying the library's offerings as a main approach. By identifying the dysfunctional aspects of the existing library, my design proposes a connection to the square, the annexes and Observatory Hill, allowing the necessary functions to intervene minimally and respectfully.</p> <p>A new, attached structure will allow for a freer and more inclusive design, as well as additional, more dynamic activities and programs. It will focus on transforming the Stockholm Public Library and the area around it into an active hub that is attentive to society's ever-evolving needs, shifting from a collection-oriented institution to a community-oriented meeting and learning place.</p>

## **Process**

### **Method description**

- Precedent studies – the work of architect Erik Gunnar Asplund:

An in-depth analysis and comparison of eight diverse projects allowed for an understanding of the architect's design tendencies and approach regarding different functions such as cultural, legislative or retail.

- Precedent studies – Modern Libraries

Taking inspiration from other modern libraries has revealed comparative aspects such as a wide range of services and facilities. Layout and spatial organisation of different libraries/collections in different settings and approaches to various systems and architectural expressions were collated into a body of material that informs individual projects across the studio.

- Model-making – Stockholm Public Library

Through the collective effort of the studio, a 1:25 model of crucial spaces of the library was built, by carefully studying archival material. Intending to record how the library was conceived and perceived in its early existence, we were able to reflect, individually, on its strong aspects as well as limitations.

- Site visit to Stockholm

The studio trip has enriched our knowledge of the library and its surroundings – the three annexes located at the rear of the building, at the bottom of the Observatory Hill. An overview of the city has also provided insight into architectural and social tendencies.

- Site visits to other libraries

The studio trip to Het Predikheren Library in Mechelen, Belgium and Lochal Library, in Tilburg, Netherlands has provided an understanding of the architectural process that is undertaken when readapting an existing structure, introducing new design components and shaping meaningful public spaces.

## Literature and general practical references

Aabø, S., Audunson, R. and Vårheim, A. (2010) 'How do public libraries function as meeting places?', *Library & Information Science Research*, 32(1), pp. 16–26. doi:10.1016/j.lisr.2009.07.008.

Dahlkild, N. (2011) 'The emergence and challenge of the Modern Library Building: Ideal types, model libraries, and guidelines, from the enlightenment to the experience economy', *Library Trends*, 60(1), pp. 11–42. doi:10.1353/lib.2011.0027.

Hilliard, W. (2021) *Stockholm Public Libraries. Essential Public Spaces*. thesis. KTH School of Architecture.

Koch, D. (2004) *Spatial systems as producers of meaning: The idea of knowledge in three public libraries*. thesis. KTH School of Architecture.

Lehmann, S. (2023) 'Reimagining the Library of the future. from social condenser and Community Hub to regenerative design', *Public Library Quarterly*, 43(2), pp. 223–259. doi:10.1080/01616846.2023.2242626.

Lundberg, L. and Johansson, I. (2013) *Spelbomskan 13, 3, Del Av 16: Lamellbyggnaderna Vid Stadsbiblioteket, Vasastaden, Stockholm: Kulturhistorisk Karakterisering*. Stockholm: Stockholms stadsmuseum.

Sternheim, J. (2022) *Imagination and participation: Next steps in public library architecture*. NAI Uitgevers / Publishers Stichting.

Stockholm Stad (2006) *Asplund: Architectural competition the stockholm city library: Competition brief*. Stockholm: Stockholm stad.

Wilson, C.S.J. (1998) *The design and construction of the British library*. London: British Library.

Wrede, S. (1980) *The architecture of Erik Gunnar Asplund*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

## 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 studio focuses on the architectural aspects of the Stockholm Public Library and the complex question regarding its expansion, addressing the requirements of the master track and the master programme. By conducting research into the posed problem and by testing architectural strategies, my graduation project aims to propose

a solution that connects the existing library and its annexes located on site. From an urbanism standpoint, the project will be approached at a larger urban scale, encompassing the overall area and neighbourhood, pedestrian and vehicular circulation and landscaping concerns of Observatory Hill. Furthermore, the project will be analysed in great detail, closely inspecting the manner in which the new proposal will touch the existing buildings, demonstrating knowledge of building technology and engineering.

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

As Stockholm's minister of culture and environment, Jonas Naddebo states: "*Even in a society that is dominated by digital infrastructure, there will be a need for an open democratic space - to read, learn, find help, be inspired, and to use tools required to participate in our society*" (Hilliard, 2021, p.30), which I believe is a compelling point when discussing the future of the Stockholm Public Library.

My graduation project aspires to underline the current societal issues related to the role of the public library, and how principles of inclusion and multiculturalism can be expressed through architectural design. By combining the traditional quiet reading room with the dynamics of a community space, my aim is to design a public destination to meet and create as well as learn and reflect.

The graduation project is working based on the architectural competitions brought forward by the Stockholm Public Library. In order to understand how to approach the project professionally, one needs to acknowledge the circumstances which allowed both competitions to fail, from a social and political standpoint, as well as a financial one. These aspects attribute great importance to the competition and the project in contemporary society.

The scientific realm supports the research above and the architectural intentions, considering there has been an immense scholarly focus on the use of library space, and its role in the age of digital technology. Theses written by William Hilliard and Daniel Koch are just a few examples demonstrating the importance of exploring the future of the modern public library.