

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	Anna Maguire
Student number	5602769

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Last Green in Town	
Main mentor	Rosie van der Schans	Architectural Desing
Second mentor	Lex van Deudekom	Structural Design
Argumentation of choice of the studio	My choice for this studio was directly related to my interest in the translation of large scale urban concepts and ideas into material architecture and the creation of space. Alongside this, green space – or what is modern green space – has been a subject that intrigued me to choose this studio.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Ecological Industrialism – infrastructure for the Anthropocene
Goal	
Location:	Friche Josaphat, Brussels, Belgium.
The posed problem,	In the contemporary urban landscape, the dichotomy between <i>urbanity</i> and <i>rurality</i> has dissolved. Historically the city manifested as the object, with the background being the rural and wild natural condition. This framework no longer holds, instead, there is a blurred and ambiguous landscape of border conditions and hybrid typologies. The disappearance of the traditional, or <i>humanist</i> , city began during the industrial revolution with the city dissipating into the landscape, blurring the lines between urban and nature. Particularly in densely populated countries, like Belgium, the wilderness or rurality no longer exists, and the anthropocentric landscape dominates,

	<p>leaving little fragmented space for non-human life. In many modern cities a historic or spatially defined central city remains, surrounded by a sparse but interconnected industrial framework which interlaces urban centres and permeates 'junkspace' throughout the 'rural'.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Industrialism has historically been framed as being in direct opposition to the needs of non-human life, a symbol for mankind's relentless colonisation and exploitation of the natural world. However, for this project I attempt to reframe this narrative by understanding industrial landscapes as inherently un-urban, therefore opportune for development as an ecological landscape or network. How, in light of the Anthropocene and the modern 'transgenic landscape', can we utilise these disperse industrial landscapes and their border conditions to create biodiverse havens, protected from both the city and agricultural landscapes, dissolving the historic notion that mans industrial future is at odds with the natural world.</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Embracing the transient and dynamic nature of industry, an urban 'system' or methodology will be devised to create spatial permanence of industry on the proposed site. Architecturally, the border condition between urban residential and the industrial function will be elaborated with the proposal of an intermediary space comprising of small scale manufacturing, makers spaces, or ateliers, alongside other functions to be elaborated. The specificities of each proposal will be detailed with the ideology of ecology and utilising findings from my research to define or encourage encounters and cohabitation between the life of the friche and the site.</p>

Process

Method description

Firstly, a series or sequence of ecological corridors will be proposed using mapping techniques analysing the industrial networks of Belgium and their patterns of development. These maps will be produced on multiple scale levels, researching large scale patterns of development, medium scale border and fringe conditions within cities, and small scale patterns of spatial development or land use.

The maps will be accompanied by photographic series of case study locations throughout Belgium, for example to industrial city of Charleroi and the Port of Antwerp, in order to understand the spatial and architectural qualities of these locations.

This research will then be used to inform my design decisions for proposing an alternative spatial typology for the industrial area in Schaerbeek, Brussels .

Literature and general practical references

Manifesto of the Third Landscape, Gilles Clément, 2018

The Planetary Garden: Reconciling Man and nature, Gilles Clément, 1999

Urban-Nature: The Ecology Of Planetary Artifice, Harry Guggen and Bárbara Maçães Costa, 2014

Making urban nature, Jacques Vink, Niels de Zwarte, and Piet Vollaard, 2017

Urban Re-Industrialization, Krzysztof Nawratek, 2017

Reflection

1. My graduation project tackles the problem of the 'Last green in town' by proposing ways in which we can make use of wasted, or neglected, but very necessary space in the modern city.
2. Industry and industrial landscapes are rarely areas of design or architectural beauty, but in the modern day where land in cities is scarce, and expanding outwards is no longer possible, the quality and efficiency of all our built environment is crucial. Building and establishing space for non-human life should be at the forefront of planning and design decisions in the years to come, incorporating these ideals into optimising our built environment is crucial for ensuring sustainable, as well as beautiful, development.