

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	Freek van Schaik
Student number	4851757

Studio		
Name / Theme	Global Housing - Architecture of Transition in the Bangladesh delta	
Main mentor	N.J.A Amorim Mota	TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture & the Built Environment, Department of Architecture, Group Architecture & Dwelling
Second mentor	R. Conesa Sanchez	TU Delft, Faculty of Architecture & the Built Environment, Department of Architecture, Building Technology and Engineering
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I've been always fascinated in different cultures and places in the world, specifically in countries with harder conditions for its people and environment. In the Netherlands, architecture projects are often used by people for its aesthetic reasons, but in other countries such as in Bangladesh, architecture can really better peoples life (conditions) and make a difference. It's a unique opportunity to design a dwelling project and do research on the various issues this country is dealing with (climatic, social, economic etc.).	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Densified Laladighi - A Sequence of Transition Spaces
Goal	
Location:	Laladighi, Sylhet, Bangladesh
The posed problem,	The essence of well thought through transition spaces is prone to become overlooked in the future. Bangladesh is undergoing a process of increasingly rapid urbanisation after the country became independent in 1971.

	<p>This mass migration towards the cities is creating major difficulties in the housing sector. Smaller urban areas like Sylhet are expanding their territory with hardly any development control or master plan from the (local) government. As a result, the realisation of a large percentage of new middle or higher income dwellings in the cities, are being handled through real estate developers. The focus of these developers is on mass producing and selling isolated dwellings, instead of integrating the entities into the urban fabric.</p> <p>Little positive contribution to their surroundings is being made due to the structures concentrating primarily on their individual plots and neglecting the streetscapes around it. Public and private spaces are often completely separated through the use of solid boundary walls and closed gates in the plinths of new residential buildings for privacy and security purposes. Sadly, these features are creating inactive street edges where anti-social behaviour and street crime are more likely to occur.</p> <p>These spaces lose the potential of becoming places for informal social gatherings by small groups of people which adds life to the streets.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Main question: 'How should transition spaces of dwelling practices in Sylhet be designed in order to positively impact its surroundings?'</p> <p>First sub question: 'What types of transition spaces, in relation to borders and boundaries, can be found in Sylhet that positively impacts its surroundings?'</p> <p>Second sub question: 'What is the thematic essence of transition spaces</p>

	<p>situated in Sylhet that positively impact its surroundings?’</p> <p>Third sub question: ‘What architectural characteristics give transition spaces in Sylhet the ability to positively impact its surroundings?’</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Taking into account the importance of transition spaces in Bangladesh’ in future dwelling architecture is crucial. Peoplespecific themes like gender, ethnicity, religion and income are all playing a key role in the creation of meaningful transition spaces, which affect and operate on various scales: the scale of a dwelling, community.</p> <p>The research will extend into a dwelling project which focusses on bringing individuals together and avoid conflict by implementation well thought through transition spaces.</p> <p>The assignment will be valuable to contribute to the discussion about the decreasing implementation and importance of transition spaces in other locations in the Global South where these are part of architectural culture such as India.</p>

Process

Method description

The foremost research methods that will be used to attain the knowledge to answer the questions and design the project are literature review, fieldwork observations and case study analysis.

Since transitions spaces in Bangladesh are perceived differently and have fuller meaning than in most countries in the West, like the Netherlands, a literature review of existing (academic) discussions and articles give insight into its significance. This provides a knowledge base which helps to answer the sub questions, especially the second sub question.

The fieldwork observations in Sylhet will be the most important method used in this research because of its on-site investigations. These explorations should consist of interviews with residents in Sylhet, note-taking on the discovered qualitative transition

spaces and a visual analysis of these through photography. Mostly the first and third questions will benefit from the findings done during the field trip.

The process of answering the first sub question and the curation of the research overview, will improve from a more comprehensive research. This is to be achieved by investigating the transition spaces of various case studies throughout South Asia. Those can be for instance more contemporary residential projects, like Charles Correa's Belapur Housing and Raj Rewal's CIDCO Housing, both located in India.

Literature and general practical references

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Rahman, M. M., Islam, S., & Hasan, M. T. (2016). A redevelopment approach to a historical market in Sylhet City of Bangladesh. *Civil Engineering and Architecture*, 4(3), 127-138.

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Shaikh, Z. U., & Mowla, Q. A. (2009). Documenting the Architectural Style of the Antiquity Buildings in Panam Street. *PratnatattvaJournal Dep. Archeol*, 79-97.

Singh, R. (2015). Understanding transition spaces. [www.academia.edu. https://www.academia.edu/19852235/Understanding_Transition_Spaces](https://www.academia.edu/19852235/Understanding_Transition_Spaces)

Ziad, A., Fahami, M., & Fariha, L. (2019). Assessing the Impact of Street Frontage in Streetscape on the Quality of Public Gathering Space: A Case Study in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

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 relation between my graduation project, the studio 'Global Housing - Architecture of Transition in the Bangladesh delta' and the 'Architecture' track of the 'TU Delft Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences' program, is the investigation of current (global) issues which can be solved through adequately sustainable designed architecture projects. This studio is a great example of that since its foundation is the aim to create a better built environment through housing in less developed countries in the Global South (in my case Bangladesh) trying to solve their unique accompanying challenges.

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

My graduation project will be valuable to contribute valuable social, professional and scientific knowledge (through design) to the discussion about the decreasing implementation and importance of transition spaces in other locations in the Global South. Mentioned earlier, new mid-rise dwelling with dead street edges are being realised in Bangladesh causing segregation and criminality. My challenge is to design a solution in which different communities co-exists while avoiding conflicts. Therefore the relevance of my graduation project focusing on adequately designed transition spaces, is significant in the various frameworks mentioned above.