

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 | Theo Schoon |
| Student number | 5714362 |
| Studio | |
| Name / Theme | Public Building The Vertical Campus |
| Main mentor | Paul Kuitenbrouwer |
| Second mentor | Piero Medici |
| Third mentor | Gosia Golabek |
| Argumentation of choice of the studio | <p>During my studies, I became fascinated with how buildings can relate to public space. Hybrid buildings offer various possibilities to investigate this matter and to design the spatial gradient of publicness. How can you integrate a public building into the city while preserving the character of its private functions, without detracting from its openness and relationship to the city? These themes and questions make this studio interesting for taking a position on how public and private programmes coexist in a building.</p> <p>During my studies, I have already gained a lot of knowledge about the different ways of interpreting the public realm and the relationships between buildings and public space. By participating in the Public Building studio I would like to develop further my position on the relationship between building and the public realm. In this studio, I can explore and develop my fascinations from research to design and hopefully contribute in the creation of public buildings in my future career.</p> |
| Graduation project | |
| Title of the graduation project | B67 <i>Continuum of Bezuidenhoutseweg 67</i> |
| Goal | |
| Location: Building: | The Hague, High-Density area Temporary House of Representatives of The Netherlands |

The posed problem

In Oxford and Cambridge, higher education arose around the 13th century and has undergone major developments. One of the first colleges in Oxford was Balliol College started as an act of charity in 1260 by the King of Scots, John Balliol, where Balliol housed poor students in a house rented by him (Jones, n.d.). Over the years, several colleges have been built, each with its character and identity and mostly horizontally organised. These colleges are, sometimes, connected by footbridges but are mainly self-contained complexes. The complexes are organised out of several courtyards to which university facilities are attached. The resulting colleges are introverted due to the courtyard-facing facades that create close street frontages and have little connection with the public realm. Many campuses continued developing using the traditional layout and are mostly still segregated from the surrounding city fabric. The densification of cities necessitates the integration of campuses into the city. This ensures that cities are open and more accessible and spaces and programmes of the city and campus can reinforce each other and contribute to challenges within the society (den Heijer & Curvelo Magdaniel, 2018).

As an answer to the studio brief, the Temporary House of Representatives of The Netherlands in The Hague was selected as a project site for the new campus. This building is an obsolete office building that is, due to its function, for many parts closed for the public. The new campus will accommodate lecture halls, workspaces, housing and other public functions. These programmes have specific requirements and dimensions and therefore the building needs to be transformed. However, in The Hague's densely built Central Innovation District (CID) there is little room for a horizontal extension and creating a horizontally oriented campus as in Oxford. In fact, in the future, the Municipality of The Hague plans to densify further the CID (Municipality of The Hague, 2021), leaving even less space for buildings and public spaces. On the other hand, it creates opportunities for more multi-use high-rise buildings with different types of public programmes and spaces. Therefore, the campus needs to grow in height which causes implications for the more "traditional" circulation patterns between different floors and functions within and around the campus. How can vertical circulation be created by breaking through the stacked floors as Musiatowicz (2008) argues?

Additionally, at the moment the building of the Temporary House of Representatives of The Netherlands, colloquially named the Monkey Rock, is seen as a monotonous closed structuralist building. Although the building has a distinct identity and is part of "the unity of the archipelago" (Koolhaas, 1994, p. 296), how can the new campus incorporate the local identity which could be represented by the kiosk typology of The Hague, which is now lost in the high-density area?

Research questions

How can verticality as a strategy transform obsolete office buildings?
How can traditional universities transition to vertical hybrid organizations, utilizing vertical circulation to enhance the public realm and promote vertical movement among users?
How can local characteristics be implemented in vertically organised buildings of a big scale?

Design assignment

The Temporary House of Representatives of The Netherlands is designed with specific requirements and dimensions to function as an office building. To transform the structure into a campus a new tower needs to be created to accommodate all the new programmes. Additionally, the building needs to establish more relation with the public realm to act as a public campus. Therefore a system needs to be created to be more open to the public realm around the building and at the same time encourage vertical circulation. Moreover, to prevent the campus from becoming a monotonous complex the local character of the kiosk typology of The Hague will be implemented giving it its own identity.

Process

Method description

To achieve the intended research outcome, research will be conducted through the research-by-design method. Hence, in this research speculative thinking and projecting ideas go hand in hand with theoretical research. However, the first phase of the research will focus on the history of university design and mainly the circulation patterns before speculating about future design concepts. This will be explored by a historical literature review and additionally with case studies, using *University planning and architecture: the search for perfection* from Coulson et al. (2011) as a guideline. In the second phase, case studies will be used to investigate how to encourage people to move vertically in a building and how public spaces can contribute to this. Lastly, research on the local identity of The Hague will be done on how the character of the kiosk typology can contribute to formal and informal design to create a variety of identities within the building.

Literature and general practical references

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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 is a search for design solutions that answer the questions raised by the studio's theme, Vertical Campus - a public hub of the future in The Hague. This vertical campus will be designed around the densely built-up Central Station where now obsolete massive building volumes seem to form a piece of the city of their own. This project focuses on how an obsolete massive building volume can be transformed and expanded vertically to become the campus of the future. In attempt to investigate how large scale buildings can contribute to and prolong the identity of the city, the typology of kiosks was applied. The local character of the kiosk in The Hague can give the interior of the building identity while encouraging users to move vertically so that not only the ground floor is used but the entire campus becomes a vertical public hub.

The campus is eventually located in the Temporary House of Representatives of The Netherlands, De Apenrots (transl: The Monkeyrock). Through my earlier master's programme Heritage, an attempt was made to determine the value of the existing building and give it identity. During the research-by-design process, concepts were developed and the existing building was kept intact as much as possible and the new vertical addition referred to the existing identity. On the other hand, research was conducted into the development of campuses to predict the future of the campus, stemming from a previous master's programme.

The knowledge acquired during this master's helped me to reflect on the concepts in the technical elaboration of the building. Value determination of the building, research-by-design to create concepts and strategies and the technical elaboration here. I believe that in this project, the different master's programmes came together to produce the final result.

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

Over time, campuses have transformed from being their own communities in the city to being integrated more within the existing structure of the city. This is a theme we are increasingly faced with to not only use the building more efficiently through hybrid solutions but also to allow more audiences to come together.

The graduation project investigated how De Apenrots can distance itself from the closed building volume by opening up to the city. By creating an indoor street on the ground floor and by designating public floors in the facade of the tower, it tries to encourage different target groups to use the programmes in the building.

The public floors in the building consist of a mix of programmes. These programmes encourage different target groups with different social and ethical backgrounds to use them. These include programmes such as sports and games, but also shops and print shops that can be used by students, office workers and residents. The spaces used by the programme are designed to easily change and adapt to needed requirements. Hybridisation of these spaces contributes to mixing target groups and users in the building. Meeting rooms can be used as lecture halls for the university and, when not in use, for residents' meetings or various clubs in the evenings.

In this graduation project, the campus is seen as a convergence of programmes and target groups that contribute to mixing social and ethical backgrounds.

The project's research is divided into three themes. Transforming obsolete office buildings, encouraging vertical circulation and using the local character of the kiosks in The Hague to give identity to the building.

Not only in the Netherlands are many (empty) obsolete office buildings. With the increasing pressure to create new spaces with the lowest possible carbon footprint, it is important to do research to the existing building portfolio before building new. The graduation project can contribute to convincing to transform existing office buildings and make use of the existing qualities they offer.

Cities are becoming increasingly crowded and there is less room for new construction or expansion of obsolete office buildings. As a result, there is a shift from horizontally to vertically oriented buildings. This densification also affects the city's public spaces and will have to be facilitated in other ways. This project tries to depict ways to stimulate vertical circulation so that the whole building is used by different target groups and in the city, public spaces are located at different heights. The stacking and relationships between various programmes and ways of moving through the building can serve as an example of what possibilities there are as cities are increasingly going towards more vertical orientation and encourage people to move vertically in a building.

Finally, the project tried to translate the local character of the kiosks in The Hague into design principles. The verticality of buildings can lead to just a stacking of functions where each floor has the same anonymous identity. This project tries to integrate a combination of informal and formal functions in the building where the informal functions give the building different identities.

This project is not a toolbox from which design principles or interventions can be chosen, but an example the integration of the three themes in a building.

Planning

Principles of the master plan presented during P1 and concepts developed between P1 and P2 are implemented into the design project. The schematic design is developed and the integrated design proposal is presented during P2.

From P2 to P3, the schematic design is further developed and more research on circulation patterns and the identity of informal programmes will be done. Resulting in a preliminary design in which the principles of the master plan and the concepts developed up to P2 are integrated. These principles lead to a preliminary situation drawing, floor plans, sections, facades, schematic detailing and façade fragments.

After P3, the products will be further developed into a final design with a detail level between 1:100 and 1:20. The starting points and concepts presented during P1 and P2 are translated into a final situation drawing, floor plans, sections, facades and further detailing and façade fragments. The products presented during P4 are complete and finalised. However, between P4 and P5, minor changes can be applied in some products to achieve an even better integrated design proposal during P5.