

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	Rongmin Zhou
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Telephone number	
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Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Spolia	
Main mentor	Eireen Schreurs	Interior Architecture, Materials
Second mentor	Els van Meerbeek	Practical Projects
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The studio provide me a chance to understand a given site from different scales, in which my design will be conducted logically from a complete and deep research. Besides, the topic "Spolia" inspire me a lot to develop a deeper consideration in second-hand fragments and to mine some neglected phenomena in the urban context.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Meet at a Street Corner: A public building along the wall that interlace the library and sports facilities
Goal	
Location:	Anderlecht, Brussels, Belgium
The posed problem,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In a given site, the public domain we see as visitors is usually different from the actual public domain. Publicity is relative. Some public areas are only public to local residents and the openness changes over time. - The lack of public facilities is a neglected but severe issue in Anderlecht, which may lead to the weak neighborhood cohesion and sense of belonging. - The wall is a negative back that separates the two sides, but at the same time, there is also the potential to create second-hand space along itself that can reverse the back to the front and guide the transition between public and private. - The street corner, a central place of urban life, serves as a social meeting place and represents the best opportunity to reorient the neighborhood. A well-designed urban corner creates an attractive vista and gives strong visual appeal to the streetscape. However, in

	<p>the case of Anderlecht, the vitality of street corner doesn't seem to have been developed, with some corners even work as an end.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The tension between dynamic and static activities in one building.
research questions and	<p>P1(group research question): Whose neighborhood? P2(individual research question): How do urban public space and buffer zone contribute to the street life of Anderlecht neighborhood?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The entrance: Where are you allowed to enter? Where is the front? - The grade of public and private. - Define the service scope and objects of public facilities. - The wall: How to reverse the space from back to front? What can people at two sides share from each other? How to deal with the safety issues along the wall or the buffer zone? - The perception of a street corner: What does a "street corner" mean? What can the street corner contribute to the neighborhood? - The relationship between the library and sports facilities: Are they connected or separated? Do they have separate entrances? How to make the two parts manageable and controllable?
<p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]</p>	

<p>Process</p>
<p>Method description</p>
<p>P1 Research:</p> <p>Spatial narrative as a phenomenological research method is adopted as the main approach to explore the neighborhood in the given context. The specificity of this method lies in the use of phenomenology to read places and conduct spatial experience. It requires the researcher to perceive the atmosphere with multiple senses instead of only sight observation, which means during the field investigation, sound recordings, videos, interviews and texture rubbings are as important as photographs.</p> <p>In our case, both outside and inside space of Anderlecht neighborhood are considered as various "rooms", thus form a continuous narrative with characters and events in it. The narrative is represented by 3 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The composed film compares and contrasts the different realities of the city, revealing a collective perception of the neighborhood. Along with telling a tale, the movie depicts the experience of the neighborhood from a sensory point of view, allowing the viewer to hear, see and feel; 2. The scenes we filmed became our sets, the people we interviewed became our characters. Each "room", along with each person, has a story to tell;

3. The script holds a description on the setting in which all these stories take place. It forms a glossary to all these stories which can be used to cut and edit into a plot line for a film.

P2 Research:

The P2 research is a continuation of the P1 research. It explores the relation of "room" sequences in a whole public/semi-public space system. A mapping based on the reference of Nolli map is used as the main method to represent how the "rooms", especially public space and buffer zone, interlace with each other and work together to contribute to the street life of the neighborhood.

In the mapping, private spaces are depicted as blocks and the interiors are blacked, while streets, squares, public buildings and public parts of private buildings are classified as the same kind, with their first floor plans depicted and the interiors left blank. It emphasizes the existence of private spaces as the background of both external and internal public space in the city: the black blocks become the substrate of the space and the redundancy of the city, while the public/semi-public space system composed of open space and public buildings has become a dynamic and positive element, forming the skeleton of the city as well as representing the street life of a neighborhood.

Design:

The design is considered from 3 starting points:

1. The meaning of the "street corner".
2. Inverse the existing textures the public/semi-public space system.
3. The value of the "wall" as second hand space.

Literature and general practical preference

Research:

- Giovanni Battista Nolli. *NUOVA PIANTA DI ROMA 1748*. Editions Intra Moenia 2016.
- Miriam Fitzpatrick. "Fieldwork in public space assessment: William Holly Whyte and the Street Life Project 1970-1975." *Architecture and Field/Work*. Edited by Suzanne Ewing. London: Routledge, ©2011.
- Krystallia Kamvasinou. "Editing the field: video tales from globalized city scapes." *Architecture and Field/Work*. Edited by Suzanne Ewing. London: Routledge, ©2011.
- Leon Krier. *The architecture of community*. Edited by Dhiru A. Thadani, Peter J. Hetzel. Washington: Island Press, 2009.
- Bernard Tschumi. *Le Fresnoy : architecture in/between*. Edited by Joseph Abram. New York: The Monacelli Press, 1999.
- Klaske Havik. "A Plea for Poetic Receptivity in Architectural Research." *Reading architecture: literary imagination and architectural experience*. Edited by Angeliki Sioli and Yoonchun Jung. New York: Routledge, 2018.

Design:

- Matteo Robiglio. *RE-USA : 20 American stories of adaptive reuse, a toolkit for post-industrial cities*. Foreword by Donald K. Carter. Berlin: Jovis Verlag GmbH, 2017.
- Françoise Astorg Bollack. *Old buildings, new forms : new directions in architectural transformations*. Foreword by Kenneth Frampton. New York: Monacelli Press, 2013.

- *Access for all : São Paulo's architectural infrastructures*. Edited by Andres Lepik and Daniel Talesnik; with photographs by Ciro Miguel. Zurich: Park Books, c2019.
- Flemish Architecture Institute. *Embedded architectures*. Edited by Christoph Grafe. Antwerp, Belgium: Vlaams Architectuurinstituut, 2014.

Practical preference:

- BRUTHER: Cultural and Sports Center in Paris, 2014.
- OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen: Merchtem Weekend House, 2012.
- Jiakun Liu: West Village Basis Yard, 2014.
- Alvar Aalto: Library in Vyborg, 1935.

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 project is the accumulation of multiple years of gathered interests in the street corner perception and the potential street life in a neighborhood, while the chosen studio (Urban Architecture) with the topic "Spolia" has a specific definition of second-hand fragments and their new meaning in another context.

The concept of "Street Corner Urbanism" is introduced to interlace the second-hand fragments or the space created by them with urban public space, thus explores how these fragments can be reused to frame an ambiguous meeting corner or public facilities for the neighbourhood so as to enhance the core cohesion and sense of belonging.

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

The project understands a given environment from different scales, in which the design will be conducted logically from a complete and deep research. In this way, we can find some neglected phenomena in the urban public/private system, as well as take some important points, such as the street corner and the tension between dynamic and static in public space, into consideration. What's more, the project focuses on the meaning of second-hand fragments(including actual elements and memorial motifs/styles) in a new context, which leads a position in sustainable design from both natural and cultural perspectives.