

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	Ziqi XU
Student number	5574188

Studio		
Name / Theme	Design of Urban Fabric	
Main mentor	Maurice Harteveld	Urban Design
Second mentor	Suzana Milinovic	Urban Design
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The design of the urban fabric looks for insight to the physical elements of the urban landscape. And these elements are seen as potential to recompose or renovated to create a new sense of landscape. In my project, I see the form of these physical elements such as green spaces, urban public facilities, and open streets as a reflection of current or previous economic activities. To regenerate Chinatown needs to align with the current updates as well as conserve the previous impressions. Critically thinking of current urban fabric and recomposing or transforming them will become a part of my design tool to approach to my aim of activating public space and thus better incorporating it with community development.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Glocalization on the way -Rotterdam Chinatown Transformation
Goal	
Location:	Chinatown, Rotterdam
The posed problem, research questions and	<p>The gap within transforming Chinese community sub-groups and its adaption with other cultures in Chinatown</p> <p>How can Rotterdam Chinatown become a community hub to empower the Chinese community in Rotterdam as well as activate local public life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Rotterdam Chinatown adapt to the transforming Chinese immigration community in Rotterdam?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can public space become a tool to empower the Chinese community and integrate with other local communities in Rotterdam Chinatown?
design assignment in which these results.	The design assignment of this project would be to use public spaces in Chinatown as an approach to empower the transforming Chinese community and stimulate cultural integration with local communities.
<p>There is a gap between the need of transforming the Chinese immigrant community in Rotterdam and the functions provided by the current Rotterdam Chinatown. Chinese traveled to Rotterdam from different backgrounds and times. They have different social and cultural needs. Chinatown is identified as a symbol for overseas Chinese to seek for a sense of belonging as well as these needs. However, Rotterdam Chinatown is currently dominated by second-generation of Chinese born between the 1970s and 1980s. The functions that they provide remain the same as 100 years ago, succeeding the business run by the first generation of Chinese immigrants. However, there is a large number of knowledge immigrants arriving in Rotterdam in the past 20 years, and this number will increase. The newly-come Chinese require more, but there has not yet come up an allied platform for different Chinese groups to communicate their ideas. The current Chinatown has not yet adapted to this transformation.</p> <p>Rotterdam Chinatown has a central location in Rotterdam, where it concentrates dynamic immigrants from different ethnicities at the same time. The area plays the role of the cultural center and urban green axis for Rotterdam city. Therefore, Chinatown not only serves the Chinese community but also other local cultures and city visitors. The transformation of Chinatown demands cultural diversification and inclusiveness at the same time.</p> <p>The challenge of Rotterdam Chinatown is that it needs a space quality that enables the Chinese community to connect within transforming sub-groups and localize themselves in the Rotterdam city context.</p>	
Process	
Method description	
<p>This research starts with understanding the historical backgrounds of the Chinese community in Rotterdam. The scope of seeing the Chinese community development helps us learn about the transformation of these social groups as well as explore the reason hiding behind the urban performances of current Rotterdam Chinatown.</p>	
<p>At the same time, a literature study of the relationship between urban performances, and economic and social activities reveals the essential connection between cultural communities and urban fabrics. In this study, the literature proceeds to research to analyze the current Chinese community and Rotterdam Chinatown urban spaces, as well as predict the community transformation and future Chinatown space use by the group.</p>	
<p>With the knowledge mentioned above, the author conducted qualitative and quantitative research to build up the database of the Rotterdam Chinese community for this project. This</p>	

set up a stepping stone for the following participatory phases. The aim of both types of research is to understand responses' connection with the Chinese community, their opinion's toward current Chinatown use, and future development in terms of social and spatial perspectives.

The qualitative research mainly targeted at on-site stakeholders such as Chinatown entrepreneurs and on-site NGOs. They understand well the daily use of Chinatown as well as have a big potential to lead to the transformation of the Chinatown community. The author conducted face-to-face semi-structured interviews with every involved stakeholder in person, and translate the results into maps.

The quantitative research is conducted with an online survey with a prepared questionnaire. The questions raised from the literature study and previous analysis. The survey targeted the young generation of Chinese who come here for education and jobs.

Based on all the background collection, the author extracted the stakeholder's opinions and translate them into pattern languages. Pattern language referred to in the book "A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction" written by Alexander(1997), is the dominant communication and design tool in this research.

This pattern tool is used in the stakeholder workshop for multiple stakeholders to make spatial and social vision designs for future Rotterdam Chinatown to communicate with the same design language.

With the results of the workshop, a proposed plan will be designed. The design will include participatory design and temporary spatial intervention. The proposal will be tested with practice on an event day.

From the reflections of the performances of visitors on event day, an evaluation and consultancy report will become the final outcome to testify to the effectiveness of this proposal planning and pattern language for this project.

Literature and general practical preference

-Lei, J. (2018). Spatial patterns of Chinese immigrants in Rotterdam (Master's thesis, University of Twente).

-Pieke, F. N., & Benton, G. (1998). The Chinese in the Netherlands. In *The Chinese in Europe* (pp. 125-167).

Palgrave Macmillan, London. -Sun, W. (2022). *Chinese Notions of Public Space: Transculturation in Urban Design and Architecture after the 'Reform and Opening-up' in 1978*.

-Xiang, B. (2004). *Transcending boundaries: Zhejiangcun: the story of a migrant village in Beijing*. Brill.

- Guy, D. (1967). *La société du spectacle*. La Société du Spectacle was first published in

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)?

Relation to the studio topic

The design of the urban fabric looks for insight into the physical elements of the urban landscape. And these elements are seen as potential to recompose or renovated to create a new sense of landscape. In my project, I see the form of these physical elements such as green spaces, urban public facilities, and open streets as a reflection of current or previous economic activities. To regenerate Chinatown needs to align with the current updates as well as conserve the previous impressions. Critically thinking of current urban fabric and recomposing or transforming them will become a part of my design tool to approach my aim of activating public space and thus better incorporating it with community development.

Relation with Urbanism Track

This project aims to find the balance between bottom-up and top-down urban design approaches. The methods of participatory design by the Chinatown community aim for involving the transforming immigrant community in urban development. However, it has to follow the trend of the Dutch context with the master plan proposed by Rotterdam municipality. The future vision of Rotterdam city includes cultural diversity, mobility sustainability, and an inclusive urban environment. This project requires insight academic approach to urban environments and urban developments in a critical way which also matches with the visions of Urbanism Track and Msc AUBS.

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

Scientific relevance

This research is going to explore the relationship between the atmosphere of public space and human well-being, which will reach the field of environmental psychology and the quality of public space use.

Societal relevance

This research can provide data on the current Chinese immigrants living conditions in Rotterdam, which may be useful for social research and urbanism scholars who have similar research field. The discussion of the sense of belonging in a culturally heterogeneous environment will be one of the focuses.