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	Vittorio Romieri
Student number	5388422

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture _ GLANEURS GLANEUSES	
Main mentor	Paul Vermeulen	Architecture
Second mentor	Lex van Deudekom	Building Technology
Third mentor	Leeke Reinders	Research, anthropology

| Argumentation of choice of the studio | In my academic and professional experience, I have been developing a deep interest in the adaptive reuse of the architectural heritage, especially those buildings and areas of the public domain. The choice of enrolling for the MSc in Architecture at TU Delft was dictated by the will of carrying forward my curriculum based on the approach to the existing built environment: the Heritage and Architecture design studio attended on MSc1, the Interiors Building and Cities design studio (MSc2), and Urban Architecture design studio as a Graduation Project, are opportunities to deepen my interest in the architectural and, therefore, urban re-development, intending to give the city buildings responding to the evolving social requirements. I believe that attending the Urban Architecture graduation studio allows me to enrich my formation and approach as a future architect, especially regarding adaptive reuse and public architecture. According to my experience, public buildings are the cardinal points of the urban fabric as they provide the city and its community with flexible and multifunctional environments. Moreover, the redevelopment of the existing urban fabric is a way to highlight its physical contribution to the city, adding value in the perspective of sustainable, innovative and long-lasting architecture. Therefore, an architecture that is generous and survives generations. Both the project of adaptive reuse and public buildings are a public task. These interventions include the different urban and architectural layers of the site, considering the historical, cultural and social ones, too. Existing buildings are marks of city transformation, especially of the adaptation to urban and social changes in history. Not an autonomous approach, rather interdisciplinary. In fact, I see in Urban Architecture design studio the right environment to develop and deepen my personal curriculum and interests, especially at the end of my studies. What I realise to be crucial in the design process are research and analysis, from the larger scale, including the support of different experts, to the smallest detail and representation, and the UA design studio allows to develop various solutions at every stage. Therefore, my choice of applying for this graduation project is by no means indifferent to the path and position I have taken towards architecture, where several subjects and disciplines contribute and influence each other in the design process. |

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	OPEN CALL (for direct action)
Goal	
Location:	SAPPI factory, Maastricht, NL
The posed problem,	In a – general and local – context where the developmental logic of neoliberal urbanism creates more conflicts than solutions and architecture doesn't engage enough with 'local' political and social contexts, the need to re-consider the potential for architects to be influential and transformative agents of (existing) space grows pressing.
research questions and	• The architecture practice threatened by the commodity exchange of the marketplace (context) • The new definition of context and the limits of architectural 'loneliness' • Alternative ways of doing architecture • The alternative as a reaction and/or adaptation to the context
design assignment in which these result.	The site as a temporary office – the (architecture) on site collective as a mediator between the relocation and disappearing of the industrial activity and the opportunities embedded in the vacant spaces left. Defining a conceptual and physical framework in which the various parties interested in the site can locate themselves and develop their own interest(s), the purpose is to assemble a new configuration of buildings which functions are not overdetermined, allowing a continuous transition of activities once the site is completely re-appropriated.

Process

Method description

Spatial production belongs to a much wider group of actors – from users to architects, from politicians to builders. Architects and non-architects have to collaborate, architects have to become spatial agents characterised by a much more collaborative approach in which they act with, and on behalf of, others.

In this ecosystem of actors and events, the intention of the research is to narrate the conditions in which an on-site architectural collective could be an alternative to challenge the current real estate market, from a general context to the specific one of the Sappi factory in Maastricht, investigating in which way this alternative could provide more sustainable solutions with a different urban strategy.
Through interviews to current users (sappi), possible future ones, local realities, and, especially, already existing architecture collective – e.g. 51N4E and ROTOR in Brussels – the aim is to collect dialogues between the architect (the student) and the different parties involved in the definition of the urban space.

The information collected will be used as introductions and conclusions to these dialogues, gradually building a narrative as a tool in the design process. In fact, the design assignment – as will be presented in the common urban plan – aims to discover and develop the scenario between the factory – in its built and non built matter – and the possible opportunities that its vacant spaces can offer, as evidence of the possible cohabitation of public and private domains.

Choosing a strategic on-site spot to (re)design aims to provides the architecture collective with a daily perception of the environment and, therefore, to build up a conceptual framework and catalogue of buildings in which interested 'developers' are in a position to choose for themselves.
Finally, this 'theatrical' setup of the research will be translated in the design, too. Instead of overdetermining the function of the selected building, the design looks for spatial connotation change and transitional adaptability, allowing different conditions to happen after the collective will leave the site.

Literature and general practical preference

Literature

- GARUTTI, Francesco, CCA (Canadian Centre of Architecture – The Things Around Us: 51N4E and Rural Urban Framework (RUF), 2021;
- 51N4E, GRAZIANI, Stefano, FSHAZI, Falma – HOW THINGS MEET;
- 51N4E – Double or Nothing;
- LEYSSEN, Dieter – Meanwhile use as an act of resistance;
- AWAN, Nishat, SCHNEIDER, Tatjana, TILL, Jeremy – Spatial Agency: Other Ways of Doing Architecture;
- HOSOYA, Hiromi, SCHAEFER, Markus – THE INDUSTRIOUS CITY. Urban industry in the digital age;
- ROSSI, Aldo – The Architecture of The City, 1966;
- CLEMENT, Gilles – Third Landscape Manifesto, 2005;
- CALVINO, Italo – Invisible Cities, 1972;
- LEFEBVRE, Henri – The Production of Space, 1974;
- LEFEBVRE, Henri – The Urban Revolution, 1970;
- SMITHSON, Allison & Peter – AS FOUND

Precedents

- 51N4E – D'leteren project, www.51n4e.com/projects/dieteren.
- 51N4E – BUDA Art Factory project, www.51n4e.com/projects/buda-art-factory;
- 51N4E – Lab North project, www.51n4e.com/projects/lab-north;
- 51N4E – TID Tower project, www.51n4e.com/projects/tid-tower;
- 51N4E – ZIN project, www.51n4e.com/projects/espace-nord;
- ROTOR – Mode and Design Brussels (MAD) project, rotordb.org/en/projects/mode-and-design-brussels-mad
- ROTOR – Lafayette Anticipation project, rotordb.org/en/projects/lafayette-anticipation;
- Circularium. www.circularium.be/fr;
- David Chipperfield Architects – Bötzow Brewery, divisare.com/projects/452573-david-chipperfield-architects-simon-menges-botzow-brewery

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 studio topic Glaneur/Glaneuse refers to the old 'profession' of the gleaners, those people who were picking up the leftovers of the agricultural harvest and making of these useful usage for their families. Today, the term can be use to refer to many other leftover picker, and also architects are called to be some kind of gleaners. As written in the studio description, "architecture grows out of existing conditions and resources."

In these months previous to P2, the site (filed) has been read and appropriated. The reading process has been guided from the French architecture theories of Clement, Lefebvre and Latour. Clement, in Third Landscape Manifesto, describes how urbanisation creates residues within the city structure, such as parks and vacant industrial areas, like the SAPPI factory one in Maastricht. As it has not acquired a decisive urban form, it led to different – spatially and legally – solutions, such as squatting (illegal appropriation) and land selling.
The appropriation, as shown in the P2 urban proposal, comes with the idea of the on site architecture collective. With the title Open Call the aim is to have a collective – composed by architectural and non architectural expertises – able to define a conceptual framework in which the various parties interested in the site can locate themselves and develop their own interest(s). This framework is also physical, with the purpose of assembling a new configuration for the leftover buildings gradually becoming vacant due to the SAPPI factory relocation. Locating the collective in the warehouse in-between the factory buildings and those vacant fulfils the Urban Architecture expectations of adding a building that can (re)designing an entire environment.

In that respect, the project challenges already happening developments within the site, questioning their social, economical and environmental sustainability. The demolition of the existing factory fabric provides more space for specific urban and architectural development. However, this specificity requires more time, money and energy than the adaptive reuse of the existing structures, with the risk that city requirements change during their construction. Therefore, the gradual appropriation and adaptation of the vacant spaces allows a more sustainable planning of the built environment, a cardinal point of the master track (architecture) and the master programme in general.

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

The whole research and design concerns the (re)definition of the architects role in the social environment. As previously mentioned, neoliberal developments norms shut down other ways of thinking and operating. In this conflictual environment, many architects find themselves reduced to simple decorative participants improving the marketability of developers' projects.

This critique aims to re-evaluate the potential and influence of the architects in the definition of the urban space and translate it in an entrepreneurial plan. TU Delft is a faculty that creates the conditions for you to be entrepreneurial. Therefore, the research detaches from the academic architectural 'utopia' and looks forward for a more realistic approach with given realistic conditions.

As previously stated, architects need to face to the evolving city requirements and, in order to change their un-comfortable condition, to open the office and create a shared enterprise. Documenting the dialogues and interaction with interested parties and practical references of architectural collective, my work is meant to be used as a valuable alternative for the architecture practice in the processes of adaptive reuse, in the general context and in the site-specific one of the Sappi Factory.