

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: Architecture tracks

Personal information	
Name	Laura Kemp
Student number	4786467

Studio		
Name / Theme	Complex Projects	
Main mentor	Marija Mateljan	Theory of Architecture and Digital Culture
Second mentor	Arie Bergsma	Building Technology
Third mentor	Yağiz Söylev	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Large-scale project and programmatic complexity (e.g., public building), education about methodology and process; practice-related approach.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Berlin Open Depot.
Goal	
Location:	Kulturforum, Berlin (Germany).
The posed problem	<p>The city of Berlin is often described as a city with a vibrant cultural scene. The divided past resulted in the duplication in development of cultural institutions. During the Cold War, East and West competitively tried to blink out in various facets. The Museum Island and the Kulturforum were developed. Consequently, the cultural heritage is spread out over the whole city, stored and displayed at 17 different locations. Ever since the unification in 1989, the institution managing the Berlin collection, the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SPK), has tried to reorganize its collections.</p> <p>The SPK faces shortage of display and collection space and the collection is largely invisible for the public. At the same, the collection changes in form and size. Dynamic collection demands dynamic exhibition and storage space. Acquiring, preserving, researching, presenting, documenting and publicizing the tangible and intangible testimonies of man and his environment requires space. Thus, the project proposes a building with spaces that can be adjusted based on the collection.</p> <p>The Berlin Open Depot transcends the typical structure of museum buildings, adopting a new approach in its design and layout. The design pushes the boundaries of</p>

	<p>exhibition and storage spaces, consequently forming a solid, yet flexible space that can facilitate unlimited forms of exhibition. Due to its multidimensional design, the Berlin Open Depot extends beyond the confines of display, exhibition or showcase. It can also serve as a space for events, lectures, or workshops and can be curated by artists as an ever changing canvas.</p> <p>When considering the future, it is crucial to realize the impact of the built environment and construction sector on climate change. Therefore, the ambition of the project is to rethink the museum building, research and design solutions and use it as a tool to raise attention for an urgent, extremely relevant problem the world is facing: climate change. Awareness of social, political, economic topics can be communicated through the medium of a new museum, while offering a new perspective on art through the spatial organization.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "How can an art depot be designed as a publicly accessible space that at the same time facilitates the future change of the art collection?" - "What characterizes the open-depot building?" - "Who would be initiator and user of the project and what are their needs and desires?" - "How does one design an one-off building in the context of Berlin, a city that already counts many icons?" - "How can a new perspective be designed when considering exhibition space?" - "How can a public storage space be designed?"
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Research is divided into two groups: program research and design brief research.</p> <p>A study on the program aims to explore the evolution of a particular building throughout history, thereby developing the research themes, research questions, and ambitions of his project. A framework provided by the graduation studio is an analysis of the museum building through three major historical periods: agrarian, industrial, and information society. This research is conducted by analyzing drawings, mainly floor plans, and comparing and identifying patterns and changes that accompany the technological age of society.</p> <p>The design brief research is based on three categories as well: client, program and location. For program, the goal</p>

is to identify patterns across the results and create an informative benchmark that can capture key aspects and parameters of the space and flow. For clients, the survey examines the client's profile, tasks, and structure. For site, the research will be carried out on four different scales and themes, such as: morphology, natural systems, transport, historical development and ecology will be explored. Each of these three categories of design brief has distinct research ambitions. These ambitions are linked to the main goal and research questions of the project, ensuring a link between the two studies. A matrix of research results and goals serves as a guide for the design scenario and subsequent design process.

Process

Method description

Research is divided into two groups: program research and design brief research.

A study on the program aims to explore the evolution of a particular building throughout history, thereby developing the research themes, research questions, and ambitions of his project. A framework provided by the graduation studio is an analysis of the museum building through three major historical periods: agrarian, industrial, and information society. This research is conducted by analyzing drawings, mainly floor plans, and comparing and identifying patterns and changes that accompany the technological age of society.

The design brief research is based on three categories as well: client, program and location. For program, the goal is to identify patterns across the results and create an informative benchmark that can capture key aspects and parameters of the space and flow. For clients, the survey examines the client's profile, tasks, and structure. For site, the research will be carried out on four different scales and themes, such as: morphology, natural systems, transport, historical development and ecology will be explored. Each of these three categories of design brief has distinct research ambitions. These ambitions are linked to the main goal and research questions of the project, ensuring a link between the two studies. A matrix of research results and goals serves as a guide for the design scenario and subsequent design process.

Important for the design was the site visit. This gave insight into the size and atmosphere, the urban fabric and the public opinion on the chosen site. By talking to people living and working in Berlin and a tour given by a local, the site could be put in a surveyed. It gave a human perspective on the place, instead of only using top-down research.

In addition, literature study provided evidence that collections of cultural institutions grow and therefore ask for more storage- and restoration space. Literature studies was the basis to gather information about the client, the SPK.

Furthermore, the Webex interview with Ralf Nitschke, from the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, and Sabine Kühne, who is responsible for the he project SMB Friedrichshagen, provided knowledge about the status, process and needs of the client, the SMB, that also manages the museums at the Kulturforum. The interview with AV1 architects in Berlin during the site visit, gave insight in the design of the depot in Friedrichshagen, which is now under construction and is expected to be brought fully into use in 2025.

Literature and general practical preference

Reference projects: (**primary**, secondary)

Open-depot

1. Collection Center NL, Amersfoort
2. **Depot Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam**
3. Metaalhof, Rotterdam
4. Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam
5. Naturalis, Leiden
6. Amsterdam Museum, Amsterdam
7. Nationaal Maritime Museum, Amsterdam
8. Collection Centre Friesland, Leeuwarden
9. Central Depot, Berlin
10. **Museum aan de Stroom, Antwerp**
11. **Schaulager, Bazel**
12. Quai Branly, Paris

Multi-sensory

1. Tate, London
2. Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven

Literature & sources:

Ankersmit, B., Loddo, M., Stappers, M. & Zalm, C. (2021). Museum Storage Facilities in the Netherlands: The Good, the Best and the Beautiful, *Museum International*, 73:1-2, 132-143

AV1 Architekten (2011). Display storage and depot of the Berlin State Museums. Retrieved on 01-11-22 via <https://av1architekten.de/Staatliche-Museen-Berlin>

BBR (n.d). State Museums in Berlin – depots and workshops, 1st construction phase. Retrieved on 12-10-22 via <https://www.bbr.bund.de/BBR/DE/Bauprojekte/Berlin/Kultur/depots-und-werkstaettender-staatlichen-museen-zu-berlin/neubau>.

html#Projektbeschreibung

Benzine, C. (2022). Retrieved on 13-11-22 via <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/here-isevery-artwork-attacked-by-climate-activiststhis-year-from-the-mona-lisa-to-girl-with-a-pearl-earring-2200804>

Berlin State Library (2020). Facts and figures. Retrieved on 09-10-22 via <https://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/diestaatsbibliothek/zahlen-und-fakten/>

Goldstein, C. (2022). Artnet - 'We Have Been Deeply Shaken': 92 Museum Leaders Release Statement Addressing Climate Actions That Target Works of Art. Retrieved on 02-11-22 via <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/icom-statement-museum-climate-actionvandalism-2207520>

ICCROM-UNESCO (2011) . International Survey on Museum Storage 2011 – Summary of Results. Retrieved on 01-11-22 via: https://www.iccrom.org/sites/default/files/ICCROMUNESCO%20International%20Storage%20Survey%202011_en.pdf

Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (2023). Central Storage Facility of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. Retrieved on 12-01-2023 from <https://www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en/locations/construction-projects/central-storage-facility-of-the-staatliche-museen-zu-berlin.html>

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)?

Studio keywords: Bodies and buildings; Digital Culture.

Architecture track keywords: Technical, social, and spatial challenges.

MSc AUBS keywords: Built environment; multi-disciplinary.

The project, the Berlin Open Depot, addresses the societal and climate related problems as it reflects on the importance of architecture as a contributor to the built environment and as a tool for influencing and representation of a specific place –

which goes beyond construction but also human behaviour. The Berlin Open Depot as a building itself will not only sustainability issues through technological solutions, but also through the program itself. Consequently, narrative and research are related to the studio and its topics. An example is the spatial and technical challenge to combine the program of an publicly accessible exhibition space with a strictly secured depot, whilst developing solutions for flexible spaces.

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

The impact of the climate crisis are setting off a chain reaction, from extreme weather and natural disasters to access to key resources such as food and water, and beyond, endangering life on our planet for future generations. By rethinking the architecture of museum and storage buildings, these public attractions can influence our behaviour, and serve as an example of how we build. Not only exhibitions related to climate change, but the building itself will show the user of the building the importance of how we deal with our environment. Through choices in materiality, flexibility and technological solutions, the building can serve as an new typology, branding the city and expressing the cruciality of the question how to deal with climate change.

The relevance to the scientific framework is that although climate crisis – as well as the contribution of the built environment - and architecture of display are intertwined topics, there is still substantially research to explore in regards of their intersection. As this building typology is emerging and new, limited refence projects were available. Therefore, the most equal, comparable and suitable for the scale and location were chosen to work with. The relevance of the research and design is a contribution to the open depot building typology. The work proposes one solution for public display and exhibition spaces, developed in times of a climate crisis in the context of Berlin. The outcome, research and design solutions, can be seen as a scientific framework that provides solutions, which can be applied in future scenarios.