

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	Agnes Homsma
Student number	5435145

Studio		
Name / Theme	Heritage & Architecture: Revitalizing Heritage	
Main mentor	Alexander de Ridder	Architecture
Second mentor	Koen Mulder	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The Zero Waste Church Studio interested me because it provides an opportunity to preserve the cultural, historical and social value as well as design for future generations by implementing new technologies and ideas.</p> <p>I find it important to always consider the effects buildings have on their surroundings and on society. To strive for minimal impact on the environment while having a positive effect on people's lives.</p>	

Graduation project		
Title of the graduation project		Housing Modern Rituals: A redesign for the St. Dominicus church
Goal		
Location:		Utrecht
The posed problem,		Vacancy
research questions and		How can contemporary spiritual values help preserve the St. Dominicus church?
design assignment in which these result.		A redesign for the Sint-Dominicus church
<p>The main problem is that churches in The Netherlands currently face a decline in members and struggle to stay in service. The graduation studio Heritage & Architecture: Revitalizing Heritage - Zero Waste Church focuses on the values of these heritage buildings to determine if building elements are heritage or waste. This research focuses on repurposing the church’s social and spiritual values in the redesign of the case study: St. Dominicus church.</p> <p>The main research question states: How can contemporary spiritual values help preserve the St. Dominicus church?</p>		

Process

Method description

To achieve this, first, a more in-depth study of contemporary spirituality is needed. This is done through a literature review to develop a theoretical framework and methodology for the final design process. The outcome of this literature review will be validated and evaluated by examining spiritual architecture through analysing several case studies.

The second part of this research consists of an analytical study in which the results of the literature review and analysis of the case studies are used as a methodology to further analyse the existing church building. This is done by questioning the church's caretakers, observing the community, and conducting research on the current church activities. The results will be compared to the theoretical framework of contemporary spirituality and will provide a new program and design for the building.

Literature and general practical preference

Barrie, T., Bermudez, J., & Tabb, P.J. (2015). *Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315567778>

Bermudez, J. (Ed.). (2015). *Transcending architecture*. Catholic University of America Press. <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.tudelft.idm.oclc.org/lib/delft/detail.action?docID=3135192#>

Versteeg, P. (2003, December 31). Meditatie en subjectieve betekenisgeving. Meditatie als rituele vorm binnen nieuwe christelijke spiritualiteit. *Jaarboek voor liturgieonderzoek*, 19. <https://ugp.rug.nl/jvlo/article/view/38066>

Birch, R., & Sinclair, B. R. (2013). Spirituality in Place: Building Connections Between Architecture, Design, and Spiritual Experience. *ARCC Conference Repository*. <https://doi.org/10.17831/rep:arcc%y116>.

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 studio Heritage & Architecture: Revitalizing Heritage - Zero Waste Church focuses on the values of heritage buildings to determine if building elements are heritage or waste. This research focuses on repurposing the church's social and spiritual values in the redesign of the case study: St. Dominicus church, while also considering the zero waste topic. The redesign for the church will be a conclusion of this research and can be an example on how to determine the values of heritage buildings and how to make a redesign with those values in mind.

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

Secularization in The Netherlands is a current issue when it comes to adaptive reuse. The challenge of conserving heritage is to implement sustainable strategies while at the same time considering the cultural values of the building. Although this research is specific to the case study of the Sint-Dominicus church, it can further contribute to the general research in adaptive reuse. More specifically, it focuses on churches and how to treat sacred architecture when repurposing. Although the result is specific to this graduation project and the case study, it can still serve as an example for future research projects in contemporary spirituality and adaptive reuse.