

# 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](mailto: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	Annebel Willemijn Formsma
Student number	5258529

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture, Glaneurs/Glaneuses	
Main mentor	Paul Vermeulen	Architecture
Second mentor	Lex van Deudekom	Building Technology
	Leeke Reinders	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I chose this graduation studio, because I would like to explore the challenges designing brings to critically work with the existing, while also taking into account the culture, ecology, economy and the perspective of inhabitants of Maastricht. In addition, it intrigues me to look at architecture on different scales, from the city to the smallest detail. The impact and significance of an intervention in the (inner) city is great and for me it is therefore a challenge to be able to approach this from multiple perspectives in order to discover new potentials and possibilities. As a 'glaneuse', I will pick up physical objects and spatial concepts in the urban environment by investigating and analysing in order to give it a new and more meaningful purpose for future practices.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Finding new social space
Goal	
Location:	Maastricht, Netherlands
The posed problem,	The secluded industrial Sappi site in Maastricht is located north of the city centre within the fortifications. Although a new urban plan for the site takes into account a mixed program and the scale of both industrial area and city centre, it does not yet ensure that a completely new urban area is integrated into the urban fabric and at the same time also be a lively place where communities interact. In addition, we are dealing with a pandemic in which people

	<p>have started to live even more individually and isolated than ever before. More activities take place within their home that previously took place in public space. As a result, loneliness is more common and our society has changed. Therefore it is of great importance to create nodes for social cohesion in the city and bring people together.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>In my research I want to focus on what attracts Maastricht inhabitants to a public space and which architectural elements can provoke people to interact with each other. To do so, I will explore the topics related to the following questions in my research: How do you ensure that different social groups are brought together and that each of these groups feel at ease in this public space? What is the image and identity of Maastricht and of the Sphinxkwartier? How can architectural elements create places that increase the social cohesion of communities in a newly developed post-industrial area?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The thesis aims to discover ways in which architectural elements can encourage the potential of social interaction between communities within the city of Maastricht. These architectural elements can create a vibrant and inclusive public space by promoting social cohesion. As a glaneuse, I will look for the socio-spatial practices in Maastricht in order to observe the actions and behaviour in a certain context. The aim of this research is to gain insight into the attitude and behaviour of the inhabitants of Maastricht on the use of public space and the identity that the city and the Sphinxkwartier have obtained in order to develop an approach to utilize the socio-spatial potential in a new public space. This new public space will function as a hub of social interaction of the Sphinxkwartier, by meeting, sharing knowledge, playing and learning. The search for the identity is mainly focused on the spatial qualities, while the search for the attitude and behaviour of the inhabitants will focus on the human qualities.</p>

## **Process**

### **Method description**

In this research different research methods will be used to understand how people behave and interact in public spaces and to see what socio-spatial practices make such spaces work, in order to find out how architecture can encourage social interaction between different communities. The research methods are desk research, socio-spatial mapping and ethnographic research.

The research will start with a desk research to establish a theoretical framework in which I will conduct this research. By increasing knowledge in the field of social space, public space, placemaking, social cohesion and the notion of social spaces

in Maastricht, a selection can be made on vivid and inclusive public spaces in Maastricht. These areas all have their own characteristics which represent the city and all offer a setting for different communities to intersect, engage and interact. After the desk research, the selected public spaces in Maastricht will be analysed by investigating their urban form and the behaviour and actions of the users of these spaces. To get an overview of the interconnections between social and physical, photographs, drawings, maps and observations will be used as tools to collect and process the way public space encourage or discourage social interaction through socio-spatial mapping. I will explore the existing and search for the potential to extract practical design solutions. Extracting this information allows me to assess the socio-spatial practices within Maastricht and thus with similar geographical and historical features as the studio site. The observations can be described as looking at the inhabitants from a bird's eye view. The ethnographic research will therefore contain interviews to get a better understanding in the perspective and attitude of the users of these spaces. This information will be translated and captures in analytical drawings. The mapping and analytical drawings will be collected in one catalogue which includes the architectural elements that provide an opportunity for social interaction, vibrancy and attraction and also ensure the identity and image of the studio site.

#### **Literature and general practical preference**

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Tuan, Y. (2001). *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience*. Minneapolis, US: University of Minnesota Press.

Whyte, W.H. (1980). *The social life of small public spaces*. Washington, DC, US : The Conservation Foundation.

Whyte, W.H. (1981). *City Spaces, Human Places* [video]. Archive.org. <https://archive.org/details/CitySpacesHumanPlaces>

## 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 majority of this research will focus on different public spaces in Maastricht, which will be conducted according to the concept of gleaning. Gleaning means 'picking up physical objects and spatial concepts in the urban environment or part of the urban environment, investigating and analysing the existing ideas, principles, elements, materials and practices and using them for new purposes in order to give it a new and more meaningful purpose'. I will, as a glaneuse, analyse public spaces in a comparable setting in Maastricht in order to develop an approach to utilize the socio-spatial potential in a new public space, the studio site.

My research will focus on the perspective of different groups of people within the city. I endeavour to approach architecture from a social perspective, where the actions and attitudes of communities can contribute to creating an attractive new neighbourhood. It is interesting to see how users socially create meaning in public space.

I see the process of design and research as something that takes place simultaneously until P4, with these studies at times intertwined and at other times completely separate from each other.

This graduation plan shows that I want to approach research from many different perspectives, apply multiple research methods, critically assess the knowledge and information obtained and then convert the results into ways in which architecture can contribute to improving a social problem. Moreover, it is a study that addresses current issues, such as the development of post-industrial areas, reusing space and dealing with a pandemic.

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

Today we live in a society in which the well-being of people is becoming increasingly important. Besides that, isolation and loneliness is a trending and contemporary problem which makes it an intriguing research to find ways of how architecture can help encouraging social cohesion of communities in public spaces.

During my research I will take on both an active and an observing role in order to get the best result for the research. I use multiple methods, confirming or contradicting the interim conclusions. I will adapt a critical position, look for the cause and find a solution to ensure that the research is valid. This increases the relevance of my research.