

# 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	Eline Franke
Student number	4732499

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture – Last Green in Town	
Main mentor	Elsbeth Ronner	Architecture
Second mentor	Jos Lafeber	Building Technology
Third mentor	Leeke Reinders	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The Urban Architecture studio immediately caught my eye because I was eager to integrate my interests in architecture, people, and the design of experiences, along with my curiosity about them, into my graduation project. The opportunity to conduct hands-on and practical research to shape my design process intrigued me. On top of that, the studio's interwoven approach to research and design resonated with me, and I was eager to delve deeper and enhance my skills in this aspect. The studio's openness to ideas aligns with my passion for exploration and innovation, ultimately resulting in the development of a well-rounded design.</p> <p>The studio's focused exploration of the chosen site, Friche Josaphat in Brussels, appealed to me. The structured approach, transitioning from the urban to architectural scale, offered a great chance to understand the urban site thoroughly before diving into the design of the project.</p> <p>Moreover, the studio's early emphasis on collaborative work intrigued me. Working with others to generate diverse ideas always appeals to me, and I believed it led (and leads) to a gradual and logical development of the project. All in all, the Urban Architecture studio felt like the ideal space to bring my graduation ambitions to life.</p>	

<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	Walking & experiencing Brussels from its inner city to urban greenery
<b>Goal</b>	
Location:	Josaphat Friche, Brussels
The posed problem,	<p>The site of the studio is the Josaphat Friche in Brussels, which covers a considerable area. Over time, a significant biodiversity has emerged on part of the site. Conversely, there is small-scale industry on the site, the two areas are separated by a railway track. The current biodiversity is a unique circumstance on a partially undeveloped prime location in the city of Brussels. This raised the initial question of <i>'how should I, as a designer, relate to such biodiversity?'</i></p> <p>After thorough research leading to an exhibition for P1, our group concluded that the site is not merely an empty piece of land with abundant biodiversity; it holds a profound history and merits careful consideration. Armed with this understanding, the second phase focused on crafting a master plan for the site. It was decided that the biodiversity would be preserved, supported, and potentially expanded by creating a nature reservoir where humans would be guests. Consequently, the biodiverse greenery extends to the other side of the railway track, prompting the subsequent question: <i>'How can space be provided for humans and living in this nature reservoir?'</i></p> <p>Given the demand for housing in Brussels, the masterplan has designated the remaining space on the site for the creation of a new residential area. This decision leads to the establishment of a distinct boundary between the two zones: the biodiverse undeveloped greenery and the vibrant new residential built environment. This echoes a similar contrast observed on the scale of Brussels, where the lively city center contrasts with the urban greenery of the Friche Josaphat, and neighborhoods like Schaarbeek act as transitional spaces between them.</p> <p>The transition from the lively city center to pockets of urban greenery occurs regularly and at different scales. Understanding how this transition is experienced is a key aspect of my research and design. This exploration leads to the central theme of my project: the transition between the bustling, built environment of the city and the serene, undeveloped urban greenery, and how it is perceived by</p>

people. The problem statement of my project revolves around addressing this theme as a designer. Given the challenges of sustainable development faced by cities, the integration of green spaces is becoming increasingly vital. My project responds to this need by adopting a human-centric urban development approach.

Consequently, my research will delve into the transition between zones on the urban scale of Brussels, examining three areas: the Brussels city center, Josaphat Friche, and the intervening neighborhood, Schaarbeek. The insights gained from this exploration can then be applied to the three zones on the scale of the site: the biodiverse urban greenery, the new residential area, and the space in between. This intermediary space will serve as the project location, allowing the research theme, 'transitions,' to be translated into a design.

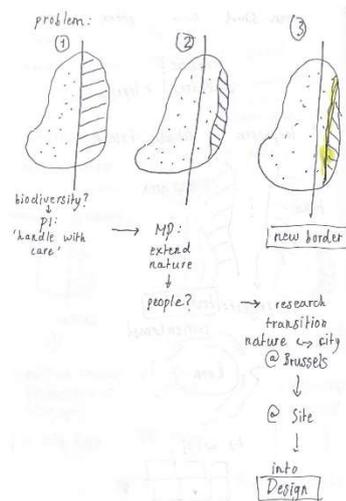


Figure 1: problem statement scheme (source: author)

Research questions and

How do individuals experience the sequences from the inner city to urban greenery in Brussels while walking, considering the zones of Brussels Historic Centre (pentagon), Schaarbeek, and Josaphat Friche?

Sub-questions:

**1. Walking Experience:**

- How can the act of walking capture the experience of transitioning from the inner city to urban greenery in Brussels?

## **2. Definition of Zones:**

- (A) Inner City:  
What constitutes the inner city of Brussels, specifically referring to the Brussels Historic Centre (pentagon)?
- (B) In-between Area:  
How can the Schaarbeek neighborhood be defined as part of the in-between area?
- (C) Urban Greenery:  
Why is the Josaphat Friche considered urban greenery, particularly in the context of P1?

## **3. Sequences:**

- Distinction Sequences:  
What are the distinctive sequences encountered when transitioning from an urban site to urban greenery?
- Categorizing of Sequences:  
How can these sequences be categorized, considering visual, social, and sensory (in particular nature) aspects?  
  
(A) Visual Sequences:
  - What visual elements characterize the transition from the urban to the natural environment during the walking journey?  
(B) Social Sequences:
  - How do people and social interactions contribute to the sequences experienced during the transition?  
(C) Sensory Sequences:
  - What is the overall sensory experience or "feeling" encountered during the transition due to natural circumstances such as weather conditions (sun, rain, shade, wind) and how does it contribute to the overall walking experience?

This research question and its sub-questions aim to explore the aspects of the walking experience during the transition from the inner city to urban greenery in Brussels. The focus is on defining zones, understanding the impact of walking, and categorizing distinctive sequences, including visual, social, and sensory elements.

design assignment in which these result.

The project encompasses the renovation of an existing building situated at the intersection of two contrasting zones on the site: the green area and the urban zone. The building consists of a smaller concrete structure and an attached warehouse shed. The objective is to preserve the original concrete building and retain some of the structure and gridlines of the warehouse while incorporating new elements. The total area of the plot is approximately 5300 m<sup>2</sup>, and one of the objectives is to minimize the built-up area, either through partial open spaces or by introducing a courtyard surrounded by various spaces.

The building is allocated for the new residential area within the master plan and is situated in the public heart of the plan. The building can be conceived as a community center and a connector within the neighborhood, with a focus on fostering cultural or sports activities to bring together the residents.

Ultimately, the project aims to capture the essence of the transition between the distinct green and urban zones for people. This involves incorporating insights from ongoing research and observed sequences during transitions at different scales (building, nature, material) to inform architectural design.

In essence, the design assignment involves transforming the existing building at the intersection of the green and urban zones into a vibrant and functional space for the new residential area in the masterplan. The design seeks to apply insights gained from the observed sequences during research to create an architecturally and contextually responsive design, ultimately serving as a smooth transition between the diverse zones.

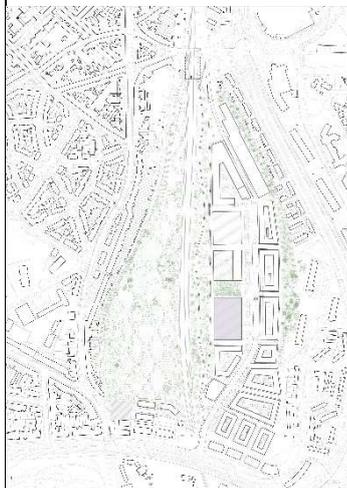
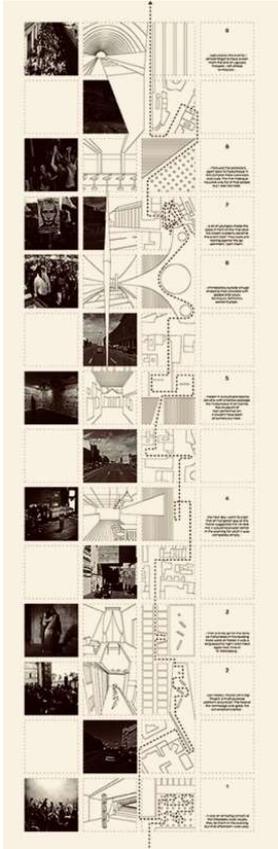


Figure 2: Masterplan, building plot highlighted in purple. (source: author)

## Process

### Method description

This study will explore the transitions between three distinct zones—Brussels city center, the neighborhood of Schaarbeek, and the Josaphat Friche—by employing a walking approach grounded in psychogeography. Psychogeography, viewed through the *dérive* method, involves spontaneous wandering through the urban landscape to derive unique and unplanned experiences. Before commencing the investigation, the theory behind psychogeography will be analyzed based on existing literature and examples.



The identification of different zones will rely on collaborative research conducted for P1, existing literature, and photography. The fieldwork will involve documenting sequences experienced during walks through the designated areas. Visual, social, and sensory elements will be documented to grasp the nuanced transitions, and these will be structured into a scheme, featuring the route in the middle, with corresponding views and associated feelings on the sides (see Figure 3).

The data gathered from these sequential investigations will form the basis for analyzing the dynamics of transitioning between zones at both urban and subsequent site scales. This approach, rooted in psychogeography and the *dérive* method, ensures a thorough exploration of the walking experience and associated sequences in the context of the Brussels landscape. The insights derived from this method will play a crucial role in informing the design phase.

Figure 3: Example of visualizing psychogeography (source: AA School of Architecture 2014 - Lorenzo Perri, n.d.)

## Literature and general practical references

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

My project explores the transition between urban and natural zones in Brussels, aligning seamlessly with the overarching studio theme of 'Last Green in Town.' This alignment not only emphasizes the importance of nature in urban development but also fits well with my Master's track in Architecture, emphasizing its interdisciplinary nature.

Beyond the academic sphere, the relevance of my graduation work extends to real-life challenges. In the face of sustainable development challenges, integrating green spaces into urban landscapes is increasingly important. My project directly addresses this need, focusing on sustainable and people-centric urban development to tackle contemporary issues in the field.

From a scientific standpoint, incorporating psychogeography and the *dérive* method into my research methodology provides a unique angle to comprehend human experiences in transitional spaces. The insights gained from this approach have the potential to shape future urban design practices.

By contributing to the broader conversation on urban sustainability and human-centric design, my work becomes a valuable addition to ongoing discussions in both professional and scientific realms.