

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	Harin Nitin Naik	
Student number	5590914	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Complex Projects / Bodies and Building Berlin	
Main mentor	Henri van Bennekom	Architecture (CP)
Second mentor	TBC	TBC
Third mentor	Eline Blom	Architecture (CP)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Complex project explores a great variety of fields and design scenarios and in this case, Berlin, Germany.</p> <p>The architecture of power is always a fascinating area of study especially when it draws its connection to the cultural and public environment. Berlin is one such example of changing and evolving power which shaped and influenced the architecture of Berlin we see today. When the studio of Bodies and Building Berlin was introduced this is what influenced my choice of the studio and courthouse project in particular. I wanted to be a part of a studio that incorporates collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches to design and research outcomes.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	New Judicial Complex. Envisioning the Courthouse of Berlin and its embodied civic identity.
Goal	
Location:	Berlin, Germany
The posed problem,	<p>The thesis explores the overarching theme of the lost concomitant relationship between courthouses and public spaces.</p> <p>In the case of Berlin in the year of 1996, a referendum was organized for the sequential merger of the state of Berlin and Brandenburg. The referendum faced a heavy defeat with more than 50% of people voting against the motion. The failure didn't stop the governments to continue their efforts over the year. A second attempt was initiated in</p>

	<p>2005 as an initial step the higher courts of Berlin and Brandenburg were merged. Over time the entire merger of the states was never possible and in the recent interviews, each government expressed their denial of the merger. This raises the matter of separating the merged courts and bringing the courts back to Berlin.</p> <p>This gives an opportunity for a new design of the courthouse to overcome the existing courthouse architecture of Berlin. Where the courthouses which are housed in 90s neo-classical buildings, even though architecturally intriguing are mute to their surroundings with their locked doors and restricted entrances.</p>
research questions	How can a courthouse in Berlin be a people's court and reflect its role as a space for civic engagement?
design assignment in which these result.	The assignment will result in a design proposal for a new Judicial complex which will house the Higher Administrative Court, Higher Social Court, and Fiscal Court of Berlin. The project will also incorporate a public forum and plaza to reestablish a courthouse as a civic space. The resulting project will produce an intervention that aims to celebrate every citizen's integration and access to justice.
Process	
Method description	
<p>The research consists of one overarching theme of envisioning courthouses as civic spaces and people's courts. The study involves research about key themes and elements that would eventually become the base for the research question and the future design.</p> <p>To evaluate these key themes the research involves the study of historical developments in the architectural type of courthouses and their evolution over time. It explores various historical and contemporary examples to establish the relationship between public spaces in and around the courthouse. This includes literature study and visits to various courthouses in and around Germany.</p> <p>Parallely it also involves the study of German Judicial systems to understand their working and evolution over years with the change in political powers. A closer look at Berlin leads to the conclusion of the courthouses required in the city.</p>	

Literature and general practical preference

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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)?

The complex user flows and space relations in a courthouse make it a one-of-a-kind building. A building that possesses the power to alter the surrounding public spaces and realm. The architectural design of the courthouse can help or hinder the broader efforts to create a strong civic society and bring back palpable civic qualities to Berlin. The project focuses on the evolution of the architecture type of the courthouse into a civic space which forms a perfect tool under the studio topic Bodies and Building Berlin to investigate this historical connection of public spaces with the courthouses.

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

Regarding the relevance to the larger framework, the graduation research and project engages with a global phenomenon of a shift in the architectural type of courthouses. The evolution into an independent and isolated type has led to increasing in the inaccessibility and distancing from the civic environment which affects the trust of people in the system. Within the context of Berlin, Germany where the courthouse building is impacted by the cycle of shift and repurposing. Where other countries have attempted to streamline and modernize the justice system, a step towards more accessible and unhindered justice. The project aims to provide a solution that challenges this shift through the design of courthouses, public forums and plazas that come together to form a coherent civic space.