

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	Yueyi Liang
Student number	5973732

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities	
Main mentor	Susanne Pietsch	Architecture
Second mentor	Elina Karanastasi	Building engineering
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The methodology of the chair is how different scales of architecture cooperate and inform each other. Interest in the topic of the proposed project and the reality of it.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Transformation of De Singel - incorporating the VAI archive into the existing cultural complex
Goal	
Location:	Antwerp, Belgium
The posed problem, research questions and design assignment in which these result.	A new home for the Vai in De Singel How can the extension for an architectural archive contribute to De Singel, while stating its own identity? A design for the intervention of De Singel
Sub questions: What are the architectural characteristics and current issues of De Singel? What does a contemporary archive require spatially and programmatically? What does the archive offer to De Singel as an active cultural space for everyone?	
Process	
Method description	
-Precedent studies in groups into archive buildings to learn about the typology to be able to take a stance what a contemporary archive should be through model making, drawing, writing and discussing.	

- Designing a space for archival activities leading to first thoughts about a contemporary archive and its role in a broader public domain
- Recreating the De Singel in models on 1:250, 1:200 scale to learn about the spatial relationship of the campus with its surroundings, and how different phases of construction connect.
- Site visit to the De Singel to learn about the experience of the building, its real qualities and how people act and use the building.
- Archival research into the building, looking at previous proposals, construction drawings, renovation drawings, and historic photographs.
- Reference projects and visits: visit and research archives for how they are used by the public and how they function.

Literature and general practical references

Literatures:

- Mirko Zardini, Guido Beltramini (ed.) The future of Architecture Museum (2022)
- John Harris, 'Storehouses of Knowledge: The Origins of the Contemporary Architecture Museum' in Canadian Centre for Architecture: Buildings and Gardens(1989)
- Jaap Bakema Study Centre, Architecture Archives of the Future (2023)
- Ursprung & De Meuron, Herzog & De Meuron: Natural history(2003)
- Marlene Manoff, Theories of the Archive from Across the Disciplines (2004)

References:

- City Archives, Sint-Niklaas, Robbrecht en Daem architecten
- State Archives, Ghent, Robbrecht en Daem architecten
- Het Nieuwe Instituut, Jo Coenen
- Narbo Via Museum, Foster + Partners
- Institut Mines-Télécom, Grafton Architects
- Aalto Studio, Alvar Aalto
- 10 Fabrikstrasse, Taniguchi and Associates

References archives from collective research:

- Sir John Soane Museum, Sir John Soane
- Canadian Centre for Architecture, Phyllis Lambert
- Beinicke Library, Yale University, SOM
- Drawing Matter, Hugh Strange
- Ungers House extension, Oswald Mathias Ungers
- Bordeaux City Archive, Robbrecht En Daem Architecten
- Herzo de Meuron Kabinett, Herzo de Meuron
- Ark Des, Arrov Frick Arkitektkontor

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 master's program teaches using design to solve problems, with the architecture track focusing on the built environment. The studio emphasizes

applying design across interiors, buildings, and cities. In the graduation project, students define the core problem from broad briefs and apply multi-scale design solutions.

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

Archives play a critical role in keeping records of the past and producing new insights for developing the future. Architectural archives, specifically, play a critical role in social and cultural dynamics of our built environment. A project about the new home for VAI archive is a relevant one in an age where the role of archives is changing towards a more public engaged meeting place. And its new site in De Singel, a cultural complex in Antwerp, adds possibilities for interactions with other organizations in De Singel.

The graduation project is based on an actual design competition for the VAI as a standalone building in 2021 that led to no construction. It uses this competition as a starting point and develops the brief to situate the archive in a modern cultural complex, employing individual research and design as well as group methodology, to articulate the project as an actual practice.

The graduation project resonates both within individual and group work to which extend there is frequent use of research combined with lectures, seminars and on hand design approaches. Combined with a conclusive reflection of the research plan, the project provides a scientific foundation to build upon during the graduation period.