

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	MACIEJ MOSZANT
Student number	5131170

Studio		
Name / Theme	Borders and Territories Graduation Studio	
Main mentor	Nishat Awan	Researcher, Borders and Territories
Second mentor	Oscar Rommens	Researcher, Borders and Territories
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Main reason for which I chose the B&T studio was its interest in socio-political context of built environment that I have found in the center of my fascinations when studying architecture. Moreover, I found the theme of New Silk Road particularly grasping as it deals with the sites that, having been at the outskirts of the general interest, now are expected to gain a considerably greater importance in the near / less near future.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	'To re-permeate the frontier . Emerging conditions of informal trade at the Iran - Pakistan national border.'
Goal	
Location:	Jodar, Balochistan, Iran-Pakistan border
The posed problem,	Balochistan is the most precarious province of Pakistan. Along with cross-border Iranian Balochistan-Sistan province, it is the homeland of the Balochi people, whose territory has been divided by the national frontier. The violence of the state against the ethnic minority manifest itself as negligence and constant exploitation. This has induced Balochi to engage in 'illicit' – though commonly acknowledged and tolerated by the state - practices. Informal trade, border smuggling and

	human trafficking have become one of the few ways to survive in the economic misery of this no-man's land. Once permeable, the border has been gradually fortified, cutting off locals from their main source of income.
research questions and	How to re-enable and facilitate cross-border trade without losing its informal character and at the same time reestablish the Balochi sense of independence and adherence to their land ?
design assignment in which these result.	Series of spatial interventions that facilitate direct cross-border trade without disturbing/losing its original informal nature and importance of the landscape characteristics.

Process

Method description

a.) Literature

Study of the literature on smuggling practices, border fortifications, assemblage theory, role of physical infrastructure in the built environment, notion of 'social infrastructure'.

b.) Site and contexts' exploring vehicles

Taking into account the lack of possibility of travelling to Balochistan, tools such as YouTube, Google Maps or Google Earth have become a primary vehicles for exploring and enabling 'visits' to the site. These methods respond to the distant and clandestine nature of the context.

c.) Local conditions mappings

Several mappings made in different scales. A mapping of goods' flows comprise scale of the entire region. Aside from mapping most important smuggling routes and sites it also draws topographical image of the landscape. The second mapping represents zoomed-in mechanism of how one particular oil smuggling route functions that leads to place called Jodar. Another mapping presents the physical infrastructure of the border itself – it comprise the approximate localization of border road-crossings, fortifications, fences, observation/guarding posts as well as its position towards 'official' border line.

d.) Modus Operandi workshop

A series of physical models/experiments have been made, that respond to the "2.5D site" , "assemblage" and "atmosphere" themes in order to:

- spatialize the previously made mappings considering the nature of smuggling, at the same time migrating between different site scales

- present subjective understanding of cross-border smuggling
- encounter further not yet explored conditions such as the environment and materiality of the desert landscape and how different materials/textures behave in the sandstorm, particularly through the reduction in visibility.

e.) Design strategy

The design strategy concludes producing a territorial-scale dispersed and diversified spatial intervention that responds to the conditions of the particular smuggling sites along the border. It will include a series of facilitations reenabling more fluent cross border trade. The sites of these will take advantage of the border's fortification existing disruptions made by periodic rivers. In the further stage of the project the special attention will be given to Jodar - site of the most intense oil smuggling, where the premise for trade will be spatialized.

Overall, the environmental conditions such as sandstorms will be used to obscure smugglers from the vision of law enforcement forces. Lastly the intervention will also try to spatially materialize the actual economic independency of Balochi from the state that exploits them.

Literature and general practical preference

The research positions itself in a multi-disciplinary scope, deriving not only from spatial domains such as architecture or urbanism but also, even more importantly, from various social sciences such as ethnography, sociology, anthropology and politics. Hence, the sources of the paper comprise trans-disciplinary works, often operating on the edge of the above disciplines as well as include diverse media types such as books, official reports, online articles, Instagram posts or YouTube videos.

GENERAL THEORIES:

AbdouMaliq, Simone. "People as Infrastructure: Intersecting Fragments in Johannesburg." *Public Culture* 16(3), no. 2004): 407-29.

<http://research.gold.ac.uk/id/eprint/1946/>

Anwar, Nausheen H. "Asian Mobilities and State Governance at the Geographic Margins: Geopolitics and Oil Tales from Karachi to Taftan." *Environment and Planning A* 48(6), no. January 2016): 1047-63.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0308518X15594804>

Appadurai, Arjun. "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy." *Theory Culture Society* no. 7 1990): 295.

http://www.arjunappadurai.org/articles/Appadurai_Disjuncture_and_Difference_in_the_Global_Cultural_Economy.pdf

Ben Anderson, Colin McFarlane. "Assemblage and Geography." *Area* 43, no. 2 2011): 124-27. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41240473>

SITE-SPECIFIC SOURCES:

Devasher, Tilak. *Pakistan the Balochistan Conundrum*. 2019.

Larkin, Brian. "The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure." *Annual Review of Anthropology* Vol. 42:327-343, no. October 2013 2013):

<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-anthro-092412-155522>

Notezai, Muhammad Akbar. "Oil, Sweat and Tears". DAWN, Accessed November 2, 2020. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1489874>.

southpunjabnews.com. "Iranian Smugglers Trafficking Fuel into Pakistan". Accessed 13 November, 2020. <https://www.southpunjabnews.com/2019/06/the-iranian-smugglers-trafficking-fuel.html>.

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 phenomenon of border fluxes in Balochistan appears to find its vivid reference to the socio-political emphasis that sits in the core of 'Emergent Border Conditions in Eurasia' scope of interests. The smuggling and its response to the changing nature of border security is a new emerging condition, especially as it intersects with the context of the new silk road in Eurasia. As a result of larger (geo)political context, new realities materialize and create very tangible consequences for local people. The relations between both – global and local – are also what strongly constitutes for the studio interests. Accordingly, this constant migration between scales and context types is characteristic for the architect's work on every phase of the project. In a broader sense, such radical sites as Balochistan constitutes to hold a special importance of places with uncommon potential for research leading to unconventional conclusions that may eventually alter our vision on built environment.

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

Smuggling practices in the official state narrations have usually been recognized as unequivocally 'illicit'. However, for the local communities, these practices have been considered to be entirely legitimate and for years have been standing for their main source of income. What is more, in case of Balochistan, these 'illegal' practices make up a great part of the province's economy, in fact replacing the state's role. In the today's societies being more and more deprived of trust in the neoliberal state, the example of Balochistan poses an alternative to the official economic practices and alters common understanding of economical independence.

Being hardly accessible (in particular for non-locals) - as the result of the geological, political, environmental circumstances - the examined area holds an (architectural) peripheral nature, therefore unveiling uncommon potential for exploring experimental understandings of the spatial situations that occur there. For the same reasons, the research, in consequence, demands a very particular investigative approach, drawing a reference to forensic practice.

In terms of professional engagement, the project envisions architecture engaging in other than 'official' (state or private client) commissions. It propose finding architect's sense of agency also as becoming rather a 'facilitator' rather than a 'creator'. By this, designing infrastructures that can then be used appropriated by others to create their own spatial conditions, is meant.

