

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	Maaïke Salters
Student number	4494806

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture	
Main mentor	Sam Stalker	Architecture
Second mentor	Craig Martin	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I am incredibly curious and eager to learn how to move through different scales. From first doing research on an urban planning scale to then zooming in on a smaller scale to then being able to use this research output as input for an architectural design. I wanted to learn more about this specifically and I thought it would be interesting to work with these different scales.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Urban edges and transitions (research) Moving through scales (design) (I am not sure about the title yet)
Goal	
Location:	Brussels, Friche Josaphat
The posed problem	Because of the phenomenon bronxification and disneyfication, Brussels became a very fragmented city. This is being enhanced by the political aspect of brussels being divided into multiple municipalities, lacking one big leading coherent guiding factor. The fragmentation of the city causes the edges of these fragments to under develop, making these borders identity-less. The boundaries and borderzones play a major role in whether or not these fragments integrate well with one another, as Richard Sennett states: 'urban edges is where most interesting things happen, where life happens'
Research questions	Therefore my research questions states: What are the morphological elements that mark an urban edge? What happens at the border zones of city fragments? How to design urban transitions? How to apply this edge thinking in designing architecture?

<p>Design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>I propose to work on an event space that is currently on the site; it is an existing hall that is, in my opinion, a very large dense solid block that does not fit in the surrounding neighborhood. For making our group masterplan we, based on analyzing what is worth to keep, made a decision on which buildings to keep and which to demolish in order to create a long-lasting and durable masterplan for the future. The event space has an interesting and meaningful purpose as a building, but architecture and aesthetically wise it is not really worth preserving because it does not blend in with the neighborhood and is not easily integrated in a future plan as it is. However, the location itself is crucial for Brussels as a city as it is frequently utilized to plan events for the European Parliament. People travel from all over the world to attend the scheduled events held here, thus it appears that there is a demand for these venues.</p> <p>The big solid concrete block is also included in my boundary and border research (see below), and therefore, also a interesting subject. Because of the above mentioned reasons, I would like to either maintain the hall or preserve and reuse the materials. I would like to combine multiple scales in one project; make a community center/culture hub that is suitable for neighborhood users and combine that with this bigger scale event space. This way multiple groups can meet here, and it can even serve as a building/place where locals can speak their voice to speak their opinion on political issues. The event space is located in the central area of our group masterplan, and therefore has gotten a very prominent location, this could be interesting to use in my architectural design proposal.</p>
<p>Research:</p> <p>My research is about recreating the fragmented city by making a patchwork with textile. This idea derived from my interest in the industrial background of the case study site: the Friche Josaphat in Brussels. It is currently a wasteland, and a former mashyalling yard. In this industry related research and because of my art history background the textile related history that brussels/flanders has struck my interest. Because the Friche is like an isolated island, the Friche itself can ben seen as a patch; a patch that does not blend in with its neighborhood. From this my research theme derived: boundary elements that mark urban edges and it's consequences for its borderzone.</p> <p>The goal of my boundary and border research is to discover the boundary and border zones of the Friche patch. The research will help to understand how borderzones behave and how they can be used in a design process. The patch research in combination with the boundary research will provide insight in designing the masterplan. It will help answer the question to whether or not to open up the Friche, and if so, where specifically. Is it better to keep the boundary dense and closed or will the Friche benefit from a more porous boundary line? In the end I hope to take key elements with me to further apply in my design process.</p>	

Process

Method description

Research:

For this study I will conduct site related research specifically applicable to the Friche. The edges of the Friche will be deeply examined to find what elements enclose the Friche. The photographs will be organized in different categories. The categories represent layers around the Friche and the effect the specific discovered boundary has on the visibility directed towards the Friche. The boundaries will be analysed very thoroughly to be able to make a catalogue of boundaries. Drawings will be made of what effect the boundaries can have on the borderzone. I will use textile as a medium to translate this outcome in recreating the patchwork city.

Design:

For my design proposal I will conduct extra research and try to find extra needed information regarding designing the event space/community centre. For this, I will mostly use literature, case studies and references to learn about the theme's re-use, scaling in relation to programme and flexible buildings. To learn more about the programme and what is needed for these users, I will look for case studies nearby and try to visit them. By seeing and observing how the space works, how people walk, where people talk and meet etc, I will learn more about how the different spaces can work in one building.

Literature and general practical references

Further research necessary regarding my design project that I would like to conduct is about reuse, event spaces, community centers, scales, flexibility and adaptability (maybe more).

Literature:

- Adaptable architecture – Theory and Practice (Robert Schmidt III and Simon Austin)
- Event-SpaceTheatre Architecture and the Historical Avant-Garde (Dorita Hannah)
- Demountable construction for sustainable buildings (Sebastian Ortler)
- Reuse to Reduce (Jan Willem ter Steege)
- Adaptive Reuse in Architecture - A Typological Index (Liliane Wong)
- <https://divisare.com/plans-of-cultural-centers> (Diverse floorplans of community centers)
- Richard Sennett: The Public Realm (Borders and Boundaries) (already reading this)
- Cultural Centres (Cecilia Bione)

References:

- Longgang Cultural Centre - Shenzhen, China (Mecanoo Architecten)
- Culturehouse in Arnhem (Neutelings Riedijk Architects)
- Atatürk Cultural Center (Tabanlıoğlu Architects)
- SuperHub Meerstad -Groningen (Zwarte hond)
- Het eemhuis – Amersfoort (Neutelings Riedijk Architecten)

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)?

My graduation topic will use discovered research output about borders and boundaries to work through different scales within my project. The challenge lies with designing a small cultural centre for the community/neighborhood/local residents and combining this with a big scale event space that is meant for large events. The studio topic is last green in town, referring to the neglected wasteland area the Friche, being the last green in town. Within our group masterplan we redesigned this green 'wasteland' space and gave it a new purpose with more opportunity to stay a green big open space. This means that for the next ten years or so, we want to ensure that it remains a green space and prevent it from being built upon. With my design being more or less in the centre of our masterplan, and right on the edge of our big green central heart, I want to combine culture with nature, and also see how this elements can work hand in hand. Additionally, from an architectural standpoint, the Friche can provide a very meaningful visual connection between nature and culture by serving as the background for theatre or event spaces. My design is related to the mastertrack Architecture in the sense that by designing an actual building, the building acts as a puzzle piece of a bigger complex urban development jigsaw puzzle. The building will be relevant in the plan, therefore in the neighborhood, by being architecturally significant.

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

The relevance of my graduation work is applicable in multiple fields. The research of boundaries and borderzones will be generally relevant for all isolated fragments found in a urban network. The research output will be further generalized to make an framework that is applicable for multiple locations similar to the Friche. The results are also applicable to single situations for established boundaries.

My design project will cover different themes that can be relevant for similar projects.

Different scales of programme:

The design proposal will try to solve combining different scale programme's in one building. How does this work with routing within a building? Is it possible to have different parties use the same space at different times? Is their opportunity for different groups to meet? How do these groups function/work/use one building?

Adaptable/flexible buildings

Perhaps I will try to see if adaptable buildings or flexible spaces can be beneficial in this case. If spaces/building are flexible; can grow with time and adapt to their needs, this can be a sustainable solution to in the future also implement in other buildings to make a long-lasting floorplan.

Reuse:

I would like to reuse an existing building, keep the programme but intensify its meaning and create a hybrid culture hub/community centre with an event space. The theme of reuse is a

technical issue. I would like to reuse the building and attach building space to the existing one.

This theme's will all contribute to a scientific framework, where the discovered information can applied to similar studies.