

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	Robert Witczak
Student number	4748468
Telephone number	
Private e-mail address	

Studio	
Name / Theme	Explore Lab
Teachers / tutors	Jorge Mejia Hernandez (Design) Jan van der Voort (BT) Frist van Loon (Research)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Explore Lab offers an inspiring opportunity to develop and focus on an unique personal fascination which concerns the role of domestic space under phenomenon of suburbanization and rapid growth of modern cities – particularly based on polish examples. Explore Lab provided an open formula for the design process, giving the possibility to collaborate with mentors from different disciplines, working in-between architecture, city and landscape.

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	COMMON GROUND The project as a soft border

Goal	
Location:	Poland
The posed problem,	Recent Polish history can be characterized as a sequence of housing crisis's started from shortage of housing supply due to effects of IIWW, massive and fluctuated migrations of countryside people to the cities and finally contemporary phenomenon of suburbanization. The image of dynamic changes on housing market sector of last three decades of polish freedom is

	inseparably related to the process of suburbanization. Under those circumstances the notion of domestic space has quite complex and dynamic history. It reveals a gradually emerging ground of reconceptualization of the role <i>domestic</i> plays in contemporary cities.
research questions and	"Common Ground" analyses the genealogy of polish sprawl, among others a story of 'house with garden', passionately popularized by catalogue houses by newly born middle class, and focuses on different ways that domestic space transformation can work as an instrument for social change.
design assignment in which these result.	For the design assignment, a peripheral neighborhoods of Wroclaw's suburbs has been chosen to be a canvas for experimental model. The interventions focus on the suburban fences, as the only shared element in the environment. It transforms the spatial boundaries into a space of interactions, cooperation and sharing.
<p>The inquiry on <i>domestic space</i> in Poland arises from the issue that most of processes the society is shaped take place in a domestic realm. Recent Polish history can be characterized as a sequence of housing crisis's started from shortage of housing supply due to effects of IIWW, massive and fluctuated migrations of countryside people to the cities and finally contemporary phenomenon of suburbanization.</p> <p>The image of dynamic changes on housing market sector of last three decades of polish freedom is inseparably related to the process of suburbanization. Sprawling suburbs reveal many aspects of shaping polish freedom and related to that an establishment of newly born polish middle class. Its genealogy reaches the latent revolution of social structure carried out in between 1918 and 1956¹. <i>Domestic space</i> of house and garden became a symbol of prestige, that most of polish people were aspiring to, rooted in a break between form of individualized lifestyle copied from wealthier western societies and a distant echo of the history of Polish nobility and peasant's serfdom². According to aforementioned facts the notion of <i>domestic</i> seems to have quite evolving and complex genealogy. Due to massive migrations, relocation</p>	

¹ A. Leder, *Przeźniona Rewolucja. Ćwiczenia z logiki historycznej*, Krytyka Polityczna, 2014, p. 12;

² M. Arczyńska, *Polityka, prestiż i odreagowanie: dom jednorodzinny w okresie transformacji*;

of polish population, latent social revolutions, *domesticity* might be characterized by its ambiguity and mutation of identity. Tracing back the evolution of *domestic space*, in context of house and its garden, through emerging middle class, the thesis claims to raise, after three decades of polish freedom, the question of newly shaped polish identity: *Where do we come from? How we are? Where are we going?*

It seems to be an appropriate moment to cast a retrospective look over *domestic life* – tracing back the genealogy of polish home. By having a long-term look, the assessment might settle what remains the same and what has changed in modernity. First of all, according to Rybczyński³, a home as an *indoor domestic space* has been history of developed comfort with its all consequences of typologically defined series of rooms with prescribed functions, strengthening the sense of interiorized, privatized and being a manifestation of the self. Secondly, the role of garden as an *outdoor domestic space*, has been gradually decreasing, acting from the countryside yard of collective social interaction to the individual possession under control and surveillance.

It reveals a gradually emerging ground of reconceptualization of the *domestic*. The project aims to redefine the notion of *domestiąty*, where the questions of indoor and outdoor domestic spaces will be addressed, in order to release the potential of *commons*.

Process

Method description

The first part of the research project elaborates (mainly in the form of text) the genealogy of polish suburbanization, in context of establishment the middle class, politics and the family. It presents the findings of an bibliographic study, carried out during first phase of the project. The second part of the research project traces back what domesticity was meant before and how it has been evolved during time (from interwar period to today) and captures the role that domesticity can play in sprawl on many levels (single house, cluster of houses and housing estates).

Literature and general practical preference

Theory:

H. Lefebvre, *Critique of Everyday Life: The One-Volume Edition*

M. Foucault, *Of other spaces, Diacritics 16*

Sociology:

A. Leder, *Przeńniona Rewolucja, Ćwiczenia z logiki historycznej*

H. Domański, *Polska Klasa Średnia*

R. Sennett, *Together*

K. Kajdanek, *Pomiędzy miastem a wsią*

Home:

J. Rykwert, *On Adam's House in Paradise*

Z. Rybczyński, *Home: A Short History of an Idea*

M. Arczyńska, *Dom Polski;*

³ Z. Rybczyński, *Home: A Short History of an Idea*, Penguin Books, 1986;

Reflection

Relevance

The COMMON GROUND research project is aiming to address a questions of evolving domesticity. How can a domestic space transformation work as an instrument for social change? What is the role of domestic space in staging public encounters? How do the collective can be reconstruct out of individuals? What is the role of architecture in defining the relationship between the domestic indoor space of house and outdoor space of garden? The project is far from problematization the sprawl, rather than proposing an alternative to shift its inherent logic into different direction.

Time planning

Weeks 1.1-1.5

Definition of the "sprawl"/ Choosing Design and Research mentors/ Elevator pitch

Weeks 1.6-1.10

Further definition of the topic/ Preparation for P1 presentation/ P1

Week 2.1

Reorganization of the project/ Identifying and focusing on domesticity/ "House and garden"

Weeks 2.2-2.6

Typological Analysis/ Development the narrative/ Building up argumentation line

Weeks 2.7-2.8

First written paragraphs of the research project/ Development of the design proposal/ Research as Atlas (sketches)

Week 2.9

Review after P2 presentation

Weeks 2.10-3.4

Submission of the research thesis (draft)/ Further development of the design proposal/ Development of Research as Atlas

Week 3.5-3.9

Development of drawings

Weeks 3.10

Sections, plans, sketches of details/ P3 Presentation

Week 4.1

Review project after P3 presentation/ Refinement of drawings

Weeks 4.2-4.3

All drawings provided/ Final report/ P4 presentation

Weeks 4.4-4.9

Complete review, preparing of final models and additional graphics

Week 4.10

Public P5 presentation