Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	**Justus Laurenz Schäfer**
Student number	5837359

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
Main mentor	Mieke Vink	A, Form Studies
Second mentor	Rufus van den Ban	AE+T, Building Technology
Research mentor	Stavros Kousoulas	A, Theory and Philosophy
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Throughout my studies I have developed a strong interest in the political implications, potentials and responsibilities of architecture. Looking for what a truly political architecture is – outside of what we consider political structures s.a. Parliaments etc. – and how to best amplify the political literacy of individuals, I did not want to limit the choice of site or methodology, which Explore Lab seemed to be a great fit for. As the construction of my argumentation was going to start from a predominantly philosophical and theoretical point, the free choice of my research mentor was an important factor for me.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Plastic Love – Politics of the Bricolage
Goal	
Location:	Rotterdam, NL
The posed problem,	The polycrisis we are facing is fundamentally tied to the way we organise our coming together, the way we formulate and overcome problems we cannot overcome by ourselves, in other words, it is a crisis of politics. As dominant paradigms of western politics (s.a. representative politics) appear to abstract, normalise and paralyse individual political opinions, reproducing extractive economies and inequity, we need to find new ways of productive

	dissent that facilitates collective fabulation and transindividuation. As the scientification of practices has created a rift between affect and reason, the gap between the desiring individual and the "intelligent" collective inhibits the political change necessary. The question arises of how to use architecture as a medium and framework can improve the technological literacy and problematisation capacity of individuals that make up the multiplicity of the political.
research questions and	How can practices of collective care – as a mode of social and material discursive intervention - liberate desire from determinate abstraction and aid in the individual's capacity to problematize the coming together of itself and a respective socius? The following subquestions arise: How do dominant systems of value and belief determine our desire literacy? What is the correlation of technology (e.g. the built environment) and the construction and maintenance of beliefs? How might an individual believe differently to participate in productive politics?
design assignment in which these result.	The adaptation of a transformer station in the south of Rotterdam.

The infrastructure which transmits information with rapid speed is causing an alienation from our surroundings (via the outsourcing of energetic and libidinal investment to external production and consumption cycles). As a political product, that via its proletarianising effect on individuals renders productive and collective politics of transindividuation impossible, the design assignment will problematise the coming together of the individual and the collective via the architecture that is produced to sustain the alienating network. The transformer station in Rotterdam Zuid will become object of discussion about the necessity and degree of automation, as well as its regime and determinacy.

Process

Method description

Schizoanalysis (Deleuze, Guattari)

Taking the schizophrenic as a creative potential, rather than a sick individuum, schizoanalysis aims to understand a condition as a positive multiplicity, rather than a dialectic incoherency. The schizophrenic never invokes the same genealogy to an object, questioning not what something is, but what it does (and what it could do). Constituted by the technical milieu, systems of value and belief, social and corporeal territories, and flows of information etc., we can examine the workings of dominant paradigms and how to intervene with them.

Critical discourse analysis compliments the schizoanalytical approach.

The design will take on the questions of the "broken" and the "working" machines around us that inform our energetic engagement and resulting environmental literacy. The architecture should then be "schizophrenized" – layered in its genealogy – interpretable, appropriable, and composable.

Literature and general practical references

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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)?

With my graduation project, I aim to question the potential of architecture and the resulting responsibility of the designer when it comes to its political function (the organisation of individuals and the formulation and overcoming of problems not overcome by oneself). The environment that we are embedded in is setting certain constraints that favour specific behaviour and restrict others. Therefore the built environment is something fundamentally political. The graduation project aims to investigate what a consciously political architecture – under the definition of politics given above – looks like.

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

The project tackles the question of how we might live with each other. It aims to create fertile soil for collectivity - that is driven by productive dissent – from which new collective fabulations can emerge. The project denies the artificial, dialectic separation of practices, and takes into consideration the philosophical, psychological, architectural, social, economic, and ecological factors. It is attempting to reintegrate architecture in its socio-political roots