

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	Oana-Cristina Cioploiu
Student number	5394538

Studio		
Name / Theme	Global Housing: Mixing Navi Mumbai	
Main mentor	Harald Mooij	Architecture
Second mentor	Frank Schnater	Building and Technology
Third mentor	Vanessa Grossman	Architecture and Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The choice was made for this studio because of its emphasis on the housing conditions for the low-income population and the general context of the Global South. The studio offered me a chance to work outside of the typical European context with which I am used to, and the opportunity to answer to unique conditions existent in Navi Mumbai with a mass housing project.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Creating Women's Places of Fun in Residential Neighbourhoods
Goal	
Location:	Navi Mumbai, India
The posed problem,	The Indian context has a history of segregation on basis of gender, religion, caste and class. Neighbourhoods can encourage or challenge this segregation based on their social diversity. Going beyond this, when regarding the gender division of spaces, women's position in the public and private space is subjected to expectations of behaviour (Phadke, Khan and Ranade 2011, 107-171). These expectations influence their use of the public realm, and a banal use such as loitering (to linger with no particular purpose), or such as having fun is viewed as not strong enough to justify their use of the space. The "Why

	Loiter?" campaign and book emphasized the problem of safety for women in the streets of Mumbai and has encouraged women to use public space for loitering. However, the problem remains that many of these are not safe and do not have proper conditions (such as toilets close by).
research questions and	How can we create places of fun/pleasure for women in mass housing neighbourhoods?
design assignment in which these results.	The design challenge is to create a mass housing project strategy that could be replicated. Thus, while the project needs to respond to the Navi Mumbai context, the strategies employed should have certain repeatability. The goal of the project is the creation of a mass housing project relying on social interaction and women-friendly public spaces.

Process

Method description

The main method of research and design is the literature review, comprising of books, articles, blogs and online talks with the main theme of feminist theory, intersectionality, behaviour patterns of women, places of fun for women, women in the public space, and what comfort, health and safety mean for women. These topics are viewed in relation to Mumbai / Navi Mumbai, or the Indian context. Social media proves an invaluable resource in researching the location of Navi Mumbai, however with notable restrictions (for example, women from lower-income groups might have a smaller online presence).

The intersectionality framework in feminism theory brings back some categories previously used as segregation in the Indian context, going beyond gender, to race, sexuality, religion, disability and others. The individual is represented as overlapping identities, which influences the discrimination they are subjected to (Coaston 2019). Working at the intersection of the axis of individualities can help diversify the feminist movement in India. For example, by recognising the privilege of upper-income groups women, a tighter community and support system can be formed (R. Nair 2020), that would empower women no matter their social identities.

Research through design is the second method of research and design used, based on case studies from Navi Mumbai. Most of these case studies have been analysed in

the first semester as part of group work done in the studio. However, they will be viewed from the perspective of their female residents, to establish daily life patterns.

Literature and general practical preference

The main book of reference for the theme of this project is *Why Loiter? Women and Risk on Mumbai Streets*, by Shilpa Phadke, Sameera Khan and Shilpa Ranade. This offers a detailed analysis of women in the Mumbai public space, and more specifically what places of fun they have, and how they interact with them. As part of the research plan course, the lecture of Madhavi Desai *Gender and Architecture in India: Private and Public Spaces in Post-colonial Times* has provided another great resource for understanding the challenges faced by Indian women in their daily life. Desai's text *Traditional Domestic Architecture of Gujarat, India: Women, Space and Culture* has illustrated the importance of a transitional space, a platform for interaction between the outside and inside or a hard threshold, the traditional *otla* space, and its extensive use by Hindu women and the reliance of Muslim women on it as a break space.

Literature:

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Coaston, Jane. 2019. The intersectionality wars. 05 28. Accessed 11 10, 2021. <https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2019/5/20/18542843/intersectionality-conservatism-law-race-gender-discrimination>.

Das, Maitreyi. 2016. Mahila Mandals in Gender Politics. 09 13. Accessed 11 10, 2021. <https://www.epw.in/journal/2000/50/commentary/mahila-mandals-gender-politics.html>.

Desai, Madhavi. 2014. "Traditional Domestic Architecture of Gujarat, India: Women, Space and Culture." 7th International Seminar on Vernacular Settlements on the theme 'Reassessing Vernacular Architecture: Theory and Practice—traditions, identities and globalization. Istanbul: Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Architecture.

Kalia, Saumya. 2021. The Secret Lives Indian Women Lead on Balconies. 11 09. Accessed 11 10, 2021. <https://theswaddle.com/the-secret-lives-indian-women-lead->

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Kaza, Krystina. 2010. "The Opla: A 'Free Space' in Balkrishna Doshi's Aranya Settlement." Unitec New Zealand School of Architecture.

Lefebvre, H., Stanek, Ł. and Bononno, R., 2014. *Toward an architecture of enjoyment*. U of Minnesota Press.

Menon, Nivedita. 2015. "Is Feminism about 'Women'? A Critical View on Intersectionality from India." *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 50, No. 17 (Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 50, No. 17).

Murti, Aditi. 2021. Tell Me More: Talking Urban Women's Safety and Access With Dr Shilpa Phadke. 04 03. Accessed 11 10, 2021. <https://theswaddle.com/tell-me-more-talking-urbanwomens-safety-and-access-with-dr-shilpa-phadke/>.

Nair, Nandini. 2020. The Woman on the Balcony. 08 13. Accessed 11 10, 2021. <https://openthemagazine.com/cover-story/the-woman-on-the-balcony/>.

Nakhal, Jana. 2015. Women as Space/Women in Space: Relocating our Bodies and Rewriting Gender in Space. Accessed 11 10, 2021. <https://kohljournal.press/women-in-space-womenas-space>.

Nielsen, Kenneth Bo, and Anne Waldrop. 2014. *Women, Gender and Everyday Social Transformation in India*. Anthem Press.

2011. *Of the House, the City, the Earth and the Universe: the Opla as a Threshold Space*. Patel, Sheela, and Diana Mitlin. 2001. The work of SPARC, the National Slum Dwellers Federation and Mahila Milan. Poverty Reduction in Urban Areas, London: Human Settlements Programme IIED.

Patel, Sheela, Jockin Arputham, and Sheridan Bartlett. 2016. "How the women of Mahila Milan in India learned to plan, design, finance and build housing." *Environment & Urbanization* Vol 28(1).

Patil, Vrushali. 2013. "From Patriarchy to Intersectionality: A Transnational Feminist Assessment of How Far We've Really Come." *Signs* Vol. 38, No. 4, Intersectionality: Theorizing Power. The University of Chicago Press.

Phadke, Shilpa, Sameera Khan, and Shilpa Ranade. 2011. *Why Loiter? Women and Risk on Mumbai Streets*. Penguin Books India Pvt. Ltd.

Shaw, Annapurna. 2004. *The Making of Navi Mumbai*. Orient Blackswan.

Precedents:

Versova Aga Khan Baug in Mumbai, by Ismailia Central Housing Board (1978-1983)
Artist Village in Belapur by Charles Correa (1983-1986)

Hudco (& CIDCO) Housing Sanpada by Hema Sankalia (1988-89)
Chakan Housing Proposal in Pune Mumbai by S + PS Architects (2021)

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

The graduation studio Global Housing emphasizes a problem that has been growing for some time, the lack of sufficient housing, and the often-improper housing conditions found in the Global South, especially for the vulnerable low-income population. The studio aims for the promotion and preservation of architectural and community qualities in a mass housing neighbourhood.

My graduation project builds upon problems such as women in public space and intersectionality and social interaction in housing projects.

The social framework encountered in the Indian context tends to overlook or diminish women's spaces, and thus their safety and health.