

# 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](mailto: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	Marcella Gerdina Heijink
Student number	4968735

Studio		
Name / Theme	Heritage-Transitional Identities	
Main mentor	Christopher de Vries	Architectural Design
Second mentor	Anet Meijer	Architectural Engineering
Third Mentor	Lidwine Spoormans	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>I believe that gaining a better understanding and deeper knowledge of architectural heritage is really valuable within the societal and sustainable contexts we are currently experiencing. I believe that reintegrating architectural heritage into our current systems in the right way can be a highly sustainable solution. This is because it builds on what already exists, while also providing a way to pass on architectural and cultural stories across generations.</p> <p>In addition, I have had the opportunity in my previous studios to work with old buildings and sites. This has given me the sense that my design proposals gain more depth and layers, as there is already so much to build upon. You are working across different layers of architectural times. The challenge, therefore, lies in ensuring that your own proposal fits with what is already there. For me, this adds complexity and makes projects more engaging.</p> <p>This is why I chose this graduation direction, which also emphasizes the social aspect, for example, through a community center. Through this, I challenge myself and expand my knowledge in the fields of cultural heritage and socially responsive architecture. I believe this can become a valuable asset.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	On the threshold of identity
Goal	

Location:	De Bowling, Buikslotermeerplein
The posed problem,	<p>The municipality of Amsterdam introduced the Centrum Amsterdam Noord (CAN) plan to transform Buikslotermeerplein into the district's new central area. Nearby, 7,000 new homes are under construction in Elzenhagen, while 3,000 additional homes and new functions are planned for Buikslotermeerplein itself, creating a densely developed area with high-rise buildings. The new housing, with higher prices than existing apartments, is expected to bring demographic and social shifts linked to gentrification. This process often results in to a loss of diversity and unique character, creating a more homogeneous streetscape. As spaces become more alike and demographic shifts occur, the neighborhood's original identity and diversity can be lost.</p> <p>Among these developments is the Bowling, built in the 1980s as a social anchor for residents. Threatened by municipal plans for demolition, its social role has diminished, and the upper floor is now squatted. Losing the Bowling would mean not only the loss of a meeting place but also a space that encourages social contrasts.</p> <p>The importance of open, porous and imperfect spaces in cities and buildings, according to some theorists as threshold spaces, is gaining increased attention by researchers and architects. While these theoretical perspectives provide valuable insights, an important question remains unanswered: what do such open spaces look like in practice, and how can they effectively be integrated within existing buildings?</p>
research questions and	<p>Main question: How can threshold spaces contribute to preserving the connecting role of the Bowling at Buikslotermeerplein, while counterbalancing gentrification and homogenization in the neighborhood?</p> <p>Subquestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How have historical and social developments, such as the rise of community centers and the impact</li> </ol>

	<p>of neoliberalism and gentrification, influenced the meaning and role of the Bowling at the Buikslotermeerplein in Amsterdam-Noord?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. What is a threshold space, how do they contribute to social and spatial interaction within the building, and in what way do threshold spaces manifest themselves in buildings?</li> <li>3. At what different scales do thresholds occur, and what elements of thresholds can be found in different case studies?</li> <li>4. Which different thresholds can be found in Amsterdam-Noord, and by which elements are these thresholds characterized in the realized urban tissue?</li> <li>5. What might be a threshold for residents of Amsterdam-Noord to enter a community center?</li> <li>6. How can this research be translated into a design and program for the Bowling at Buikslotermeerplein, applying the architectural principles of thresholds?</li> </ol>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>As the graduation studio's title, "Transitional Identities," already suggests, the Bowling currently holds a former identity that is undergoing transformation. This could lead to a design challenge to allow the Bowling at Buikslotermeerplein to transform alongside the social and demographic shifts, while preserving its own identity within these new plans. The design can therefore explore interventions that make the Bowling resilient, ensuring it remains both a relevant building and a space that continues to emphasize social contrasts, while also counterbalance the potential homogenization of the area.</p>
<b>Process</b>	
<b>Method description</b>	
<p>The research consists theoretical and practical components.</p> <p>The theoretical part focuses on literature method based on books, academic articles, and journals, building on previous research conducted on this subject. This part addresses</p>	

subquestions 1 and 2. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the social and political context of Buikslotermeerplein, the documentary "*Heerlijk Anoniem*" and an interview with the last owner of the Bowling will also be used.

The practical part of the research focuses on various methods, which are ultimately combined and compared through triangulation to gain a more fundamental and well-supported conclusion.

3: This question is answered through the analysis of five architectural case studies, each exploring thresholds at different scales:

Performance Art Center, Taipei (urban scale)  
SESC Pompeia by Lina Bo Bardi (building scale)  
Het Moederhuis by Aldo van Eyck (street entrance scale)  
Engawa - Outside-in principle (outside-in scale)  
De Vuurvogel by Jan Verhoeven (interior scale).

Archival drawings, photographs, floor plans, and sections are analyzed to identify threshold elements. These elements are then marked in axonometric drawings to emphasize in different colors which elements are important for the threshold space.

4: Fieldwork in Amsterdam-North identifies five types of thresholds: entrances, arcades, gates, canopies, and niches. Thresholds are recorded through photographs and measurements, visualized in three drawings: axonometry, plan, and section. Characteristics such as position, material, light, visibility, and program are analyzed, forming an overall conclusion about their urban role.

5: Interviews with Amsterdam-Noord residents explore barriers to community center entry, distinguishing between original and new residents. Responses are categorized into five subgroups, summarized in two tables (attractive vs. unattractive factors). Conclusions highlight key obstacles and motivators.

6: the design proposal is translated in diagrams and tested in combination of 2D drawings, physical models and sketches

## Literature and general practical references

Main literature, essays and readings:

4. Benjamin, W and Lacis, A (1978) "Naples," Reflections: Essays, Aphorisms, Autobiographical Writings, trans. Edmund Jephcott, ed. Peter Demetz (New York: Schocken, 1978), 166-167
5. Berman, M. (1983). All that is Solid Melts Into Air: The Experience of Modernity. Verso.
6. Boer, R. (2018, May 29). Smooth City is the New Urban. Volume 52: The End of Informality.
7. Boer, R. (2023). Smooth city: Against Urban Perfection, Towards Collective Alternatives.
8. Byung-Chul, H. (2018). Saving beauty. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018 [originally published in 2015, translated by Michael Hamburger].
9. Deleuze, G. (1983). Cinema 1: The movement-image (H. Tomlinson & B. Habberjam, Trans.). University of Minnesota Press. (Original work published 1983)
10. Foucault, M. (2004). Naissance de la biopolitique: Cours au Collège de France (1978-1979). Seuil/Gallimard.
11. Kimmel, L. (2021). Architecture of threshold spaces: A critique of the ideologies of hyperconnectivity and segregation in the socio-political context. Routledge.
12. Lynch, K. (1981). A theory of good city form. MIT Press
13. Mak, G. (2012). Een kleine geschiedenis van Amsterdam (36th ed.). Olympus.
14. Marcuse, H. (1964). One dimensional man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society. Boston : Beacon Press.
15. Metal, S. (2007). Gentrification, an overview. Gentrification. Flows and counterflows, OASE, (73), 7-28. Retrieved from <https://www.oasejournal.nl/nl/Issues/73/GentrificationAnOverview>
16. Purcell, M. (2008) Recapturing Democracy. Neoliberalization and the struggle for Alternative Urban Futures. New York: Routledge 2008
17. Stavrides, S. (2010). Towards the City of Thresholds. Trento: ProfessionalDreamers. <https://www.professionaldreamers.net>

### Documentary

18. Hanselaar, C. (2019). Heerlijk anoniem: Wonen in Het Plan van Gool [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=<videolink>>

### Casestudies

19. Performance Art Center by OMA, Taipei, Taiwan (urban scale)
20. SESC Pompeia by Lina Bo Bardi, Sao Paulo, Brazil (building scale)
21. Het Moederhuis by Aldo van Eyck, Amsterdam, Netherlands (street entrance scale)
22. Engawa - Outside-in principle, Japan (outside-in scale)
23. De Vuurvogel by Jan Verhoeven, Heumen, Netherlands (interior scale)

### Casestudies in field:

24. The arcades, 't Zonnehuis, Amsterdam-noord
25. The entrance, NDSM-werf, Amsterdam Noord
26. The niche, Modestraat buikslotermeerplein, Amsterdam-Noord
27. The gate, NDSM-werf, Amsterdam-Noord
28. The canopie, Tolhuistuin, Amsterdam-Noord

## 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)?

Within the studio, it is often discussed how we, as architects, position ourselves within political, social, and societal contexts. These aspects are reflected in the design of community centers, which in essence are mini-societies where various segments of the population come together. The studio challenges us to carefully consider our position within these contexts and how it translates into architecture. Furthermore, the community centers in Amsterdam-Noord are of cultural significance to the area, stimulating us as young designers to reflect on how we engage with such heritage. These considerations are closely linked to my chosen design topic, which addresses contemporary issues such as gentrification, as well as the building De Bowling, where various conflicts arise.

To develop effective interventions, it is important to understand the political and social dynamics surrounding a community center as well. This type of function aims to bring people together and strengthen social cohesion, which begins with understanding its underlying social roots. The master's track is not only focused on architecture, but also on the broader field of urbanism and the built environment. These disciplines are linked to the aforementioned political, social, and societal contexts. By understanding these aspects, taking a position within them, and then translating this into architecture, an integrated design can be developed.

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

The importance of open and imperfect spaces in cities seems to be receiving more attention. For instance, the manifesto Interspheres by Studioninedots suggests that creating more "porous places" in urban areas could promote diversity. Similarly, René Boer, in his book Smooth City, points out that cities are becoming too homogeneous, where differences are erased and opportunities for social interaction are reduced and that leads to a less diverse streetscape. The manifest and the book seems to suggest that spaces which encourage interaction and contrast might be more valuable than those that are entirely smoothened. While these theoretical perspectives offer useful insights, it remains to be explored how such open spaces actually manifest in practice and how they might be effectively incorporated into existing buildings. The Bowling at Buikslotermeerplein could potentially offer a chance to explore this question by applying concepts to architectural interventions. Beyond this specific case, the research might hold broader relevance. The idea of an "imperfect" city could provide a framework for urban development that emphasizes inclusivity. By focusing on this case study, the project may provide practical insights and potentially contribute to the ongoing discourse on the smoothification of cities.