Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

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<tr><td>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.</td></tr>
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The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Quinta Hoeneveld
Student number	5085381

Studio		
Name / Theme	Designing for Care in an Inclusive Environment	
Main mentor	Kobe Macco	Urban design and Landscape Architecture
Second mentor	Paddy Tomeson	Architectural design, research & engineering
Third mentor	Leo Oorschot	Architecture and Urbanism, in practical field as well as research field
Argumentation of choice of the studio	When designing architectural projects during my bachelors and masters at TU Delft, the topic 'health' has often been a theme and source of inspiration in my projects, not only out of interest but also because it is a very valuable theme no matter the brief. Diving deeper into the theme of health & care hopefully enriches my knowledge about this topic and helps me creating inclusive designs in the future.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	**Social Encounters through Architecture**
Goal	
Location:	Tarwewijk
The posed problem,	In the year 2023 according to CBS, feelings of strong loneliness are subject to almost 11 percent of the Dutch society, and it affects all ages, both men and women. Loneliness leads to significant societal costs, including in healthcare. This study focuses on how the built environment possibly could be

	related to the feeling of belonging and on how physical and programmatic qualities related to architectural design which could increase chances of encounters between people. Architectural qualities will be researched in relation to various scales—from interior spaces to the transition zone and on the level of the neighbourhood—with the aim to reduce feelings of loneliness and enhancing pleasant, social public life in cities.
research questions and	**Main question** Can public and residential buildings in inner-city neighbourhoods, such as Tarwewijk in Rotterdam, create opportunities for social encounters across different spatial scales (of the interior, street, and neighbourhood) to contribute to the prevention of loneliness? 1. Who suffers from loneliness and what role plays architectural and urban design in this issue of loneliness? 2. What are the key-factors that contribute to the success of a well-functioning meeting place at the scale of the neighbourhood, and how can these factors effectively stimulate social contact between residents? 3. How does the transition zone create opportunities for encounters between people? 4. How could the interior of a building create opportunities for encounters between people?
design assignment in which these result.	A hybrid building including a library as a social meeting place for the neighbourhood and 4-5 stories housing from the second floor and up, including a circulation system / transition zones designed to create opportunities for social encounters between residents.

From the fieldwork in the Tarwewijk it appears that there are social & cultural meeting places lacking especially for youth/young adults. Therefore in the Tarwewijk, these groups are more prone to experiencing feelings of loneliness. This also aligns with the numbers from the CBS regarding 'emotional loneliness', which is most prevalent among individuals aged 15 to 25 y/o.

From the research it appears that social infrastructures, such as a library could serve as a meeting place, that is also attractive for all age groups, no matter the social or cultural background of people. It is the fact that libraries function as a free, accessible public space, while also offering a wide variety functions which may attract the interest of different groups. In this scenario, a library could also be designed with extra attention to the target group of youth/young adults.

The research also focuses on the physical qualities a building should have in order to create opportunities for encounters between people, covering aspects such as transition zones, routing, transparency, microclimate and so on. The third sub question delving more into physical qualities of 'transition zones' emphasizes the importance softening the boundaries between public and private. In these transition zones, spontaneous encounters between people are more likely to occur. The physical qualities mentioned in this section are also design guidelines that will be considered during the upcoming design phase.

The fourth research question delves into interior spaces and how these influence social relations. This question is mainly answered by the ideas and perspectives from architectural thinker and designer Herman Hertzberger. He emphasized about designing spaces; 1. That always provide the option to withdraw from social interactions; 2. Having the right balance of openness and closeness; to be aware of proportions, distances in space; 3. Design for different personal interpretations. According to Hertzberger, all of these considerations can influence the social relations between people in a space.

Process
Method description

Roughly, 3 main methods can be outlined; theory, case studies and going into practice (in the Tarwewijk)

1. Theory → providing a wide scale of different architectural/sociological thinkers in the field of social interaction in the built environment; discussing their ideas at different scales of the neighbourhood, transition zone and interior.
2. Case studies are included (site visits as part of the fieldwork) to deepen and reflect to the theory by looking from a different perspective about what architectural physical conditions or programmatic qualities can influence encounters between people
3. Going into practice (Tarwewijk) mainly by coming in contact with people from the neighbourhood. This will be achieved by regular visits at a 'inclusive/ open-to-everyone' type of neighbourhood initiative (Take-A-Way) for more in-depth conversations with local residents of the Tarwewijk. In addition, a workshop is organised next to a local supermarket in the Tarwewijk (Dirk) to come in contact with a more diverse palette of different social groups and age groups.

According to all the information received during these moments, the social infrastructure of the neighbourhood is mapped in order to find out what different age groups or social groups need in the neighbourhood, with the intention to foster a stronger sense of social cohesion & increase social contact among residents in the Tarwewijk.

Literature and general practical references

The research is based on the work of architectural and sociological thinkers in the field of social interaction in the built environment.
At the scale of the neighbourhood, literature from Richard Sennett regarding his essay about 'The Public Realm', and Eric Klinenberg with his book 'Palaces for the People' were primarily used.
At the level of the transition zone, information is mainly extracted from the book 'De Stoep: Ontmoetingen tussen huis en straat [The Sidewalk: Encounters between house and street] by Eric van Ulden, Daniel Heussen & Sam van der Ham and 'Ontwerp voor Ontmoeten' [Design for Encounters] by Platform 31.
For the level of interior, literature from the book 'Ruimte Maken, Ruimte Laten' [Creating Space, Leaving Space] by architectural thinker and designer Herman Herzberger has been used as main source.

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 research addresses loneliness as a public health issue, which aligns with the broader theme of care and architecture. Specifically, it explores how the built environment can foster a sense of belonging and facilitate social interactions. Since in is taken into consideration that loneliness is a complex experience shaped by individual perceptions and diverse social and cultural factors, this research aligns with the theme of designing inclusive environments. By examining how architecture can contribute to social well-being, the project fits within the topic: 'Designing for Care in an Inclusive Environment.' Additionally, it remains closely connected to the core principles of Architectural Design, reinforcing its relevance to both theory and practice.

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

This research is highly relevant in today's context, as loneliness is an urgent social and health issue with significant impacts on people's well-being. The study provides valuable insights into how architectural design can stimulate social encounters, contributing to the scientific discourse on creating more healthy and inclusive public life in cities. By identifying key physical and programmatic design elements that support social contact in public life, the research offers practical implementations for the fields of architectural design and urban development. Ultimately, it aims to

improve societal health by reducing loneliness through well-designed, socially engaging environments.