

1 What is the relation between your graduation topic, your master track (A,, U, BT, LA, MBE), and your master program (MSc AUBS)?

Architecture of Accumulation is a theoretical project that addresses the contemporary state of extensive global infrastructures that sustain global civilization, capitalism, and free trade. The topic of the project is relevant for my master track and program since it contributes to the development of the architectural field by exploring the spatial implications of the intersection between architectural and infrastructural orders, details, compositions, and forms. Accumulation is both a defining condition of industrial territories, conceived as a potentially endless multiplication of standardized forms, as well as an architecturally generative concept. Throughout the process, it served as an intellectual and formal framework that enabled me to engage with the complexity of the productive landscapes and speculate about their most radical manifestations. The design reflects and sublimates the state of the territories, that, with the development of capitalism and consumption, occupy an increasingly larger part of the planet. It explores the potential of the language and imaginary of architecture to respond to this condition and explore the potential to create a new type of hybrid super-structure, which blurs the border between the infrastructure and architecture.

2 How did your research influence your design/ recommendations and how did the design/ recommendations influence your research?

The ongoing research was crucial for the formulation of the topic, as well as the formal development of the design. I engaged with the condition of accumulation throughout multiple perspectives and scales- from the territorial mapping and analysis of the Colon Free Trade Zone, Port of Cristobal, flood plain, and other super-scale entities, to the spatial and compositional experiments with accumulation as a tool to generate architectural form, and particular technical solutions of details. The continuous relationship between research and design resulted in the creation of a hybrid, heterogeneous structure that explores the complexity of dimensions, operations, and proportions of contemporary infrastructural space. The project aims to engage with the whole territory, from the sea to the land and from the bedrock to the clouds. The complexity and density of components were informed by the analysis of the programs already existing on the site (port operations, warehouse) and the possible new contributions (water storage and purification, food production).

3 How do you assess the value of your way of working (your approach, your used methods, used methodology)?

The most valuable aspect of the used methodology is that it combines a codified technocratic understanding of space specific to infrastructure projects with the spatial sensibility inherent in architecture. Infrastructure, usually assessed from the perspective of its effectiveness in solving a very defined, unambiguous problem, lacks a systemic perspective and spatial consideration. Architecture of Accumulation is a structure oriented toward the symbiotic operation of the individual programs that constitute it, but also aware of the impossibility of realizing the vision of a perfect machine-like building. The drawings depict the structure as eternally unfinished, heading toward its inevitable collapse, but nevertheless productive and useful for its immediate neighborhood. Thanks to this method the project becomes multidimensional and self-aware.

4 How do you assess the academic and societal value, scope and implication of your graduation project, including ethical aspects?

Architecture of Accumulation is an ambiguous idea situated between a utopian belief in the possibility of a technocratic solution to the planet's problems and its exact opposition. The

project poses the question of whether every utopia is also a dystopia at a certain level, as the multiplicity of agendas and actors involved in the creation of such a structure implies the ongoing internal conflict within the structure itself. The design is not concerned with a problem-solving approach, and it might be perceived as an architectural reflection on the spaces conceived as a byproduct of contemporary culture and consumption. It does not pose any simple answers and may be perceived as a cursed utopia, perhaps the only utopia we are still able to produce and believe in- ambiguous, twisted, on the edge of becoming its own antithesis.

5 How do you assess the value of the transferability of your project results?

Accumulation of capital, as well as the resulting territorial and architectural operations, reaches its peak in Panama, yet the proliferation of extensive technical objects affects countless locations all over the planet. The possible architectural qualities of accumulation of built forms, organized and governed by hyper-technical order may become a starting point for the speculations about the future state of the global built environment in the context of the proliferation of extensive industrial landscapes. I believe that the formal language created as the outcome of my design holds the potential for further exploration.

6 *What was the role of drawing in the process of design and manifestation of ideas?*

The role of the medium of drawing in the development of my ideas cannot be overestimated. During the design process, the descriptive power of graphic representation of space has been lost as the drawing has become an invention device more than a descriptive instrument. The conventions of architectural drawing were constantly challenged as subsequent levels of detailed descriptions only revealed greater complexity of the system of systems. Different projections of the structure overlap, inform, or even contradict each other, creating an image of a structure in a state of constant change and metamorphosis.

7 *What is the relation between the topic of the project and the design process?*

Since the beginning of the work on the project, an attempt to find a spatial definition and materialization of the topic of accumulation has been a key design task. All individual drawings except for the traditional descriptive function, were also conceived as formal experiments helping to understand and define the compositional complexity of the designed structure. The structure is the outcome of the process consisting of the gradual build-up and densification of forms, and the constant addition and accumulation of industrial devices and programs. The radical way in which the design theme influenced not only the form of the final product but also the design process itself was unexpected and fascinating.