

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	Abolfazl Puria Mosayebi
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Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3AP100 2024-25 Public Building Graduation Studio "Public Condenser, Copenhagen"	
Main mentor	Henk Bultstra	Project Design
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Sien van Dam	Theory & Delineation
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Designing a public building is an exciting and challenging opportunity because they serve as spaces where people from all walks of life can come together and share diverse experiences. The architecture of these places plays a crucial role in enhancing these experiences by shaping the perception and functionality of the space and context.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Spaces between public and private
Subtitle	Bridging socio-economic divides using dynamic forms of publicness and interaction
Goal	
Location:	Sønderbro - Sundholm, Copenhagen, Denmark
The posed problem,	Challenges in fostering inclusivity, accessibility, and social cohesion in areas with underutilized and socio-economic disparities are more that often found in urban context. In the Sønderbro–Sundholm neighborhood of Copenhagen, these issues are exacerbated by run-down infrastructure, fragmented urban connections and a lack of community-focused spaces. Residents highlight the absence of safe, accessible meeting places and vibrant public areas that can bring people together across social and cultural differences.

	The neighborhood's physical and social disconnection hinders opportunities for residents to engage, share experiences and develop a collective sense of identity and belonging. This has created a physical and metaphorical gap between the community's needs and the resources available to address them. At the same time, Sønderbro–Sundholm is rich with potential. Its vision of becoming a sustainable, green, and lively district packed with human and cultural activity underscores the pressing need to transform its urban landscape. However, achieving this vision requires addressing critical challenges: how to create spaces that bridge divides? How to foster interactions and support diverse ways of life? How to do this all while responding to the neighborhood's environmental, social and economic realities. These challenges highlight the urgent need for thoughtful architectural and urban design strategies that can enhance the neighborhood. The transformation must prioritize adaptable, inclusive spaces that align with the community's aspirations and provide a foundation for long-term social sustainability and resilience.
research questions and	Main question: How can architectural design enable social cohesion by stimulating dynamic forms of publicness and interaction in Sundholm? Sub question: 1. How can architectural design establish inclusive spaces that challenge disconnection, balancing the public/private divide to enhance well-being? 2. What adaptable, personality-based, design elements can foster physical and mental well-being? 3. What sustainable architectural strategies contribute to resilient, sustainable and healthy urban public spaces?
design assignment in which these result.	The research goal is to formulate a design strategy for a new Public Condenser in the Sundholm neighborhood of Copenhagen, guided by the conceptual pillars of multiplicity, hybridity, resilience, sustainability, and health. By integrating gradations of publicness—ranging from public to private and active to passive—the project aims to foster diverse forms of

	social interaction and publicness within a physically and socially fragmented urban context. Through diverse architectural interventions and hybrid programmatic solutions, this approach will illustrate how a Public Condenser can serve as a vibrant community catalyst, bridging neighborhood divides while promoting inclusivity, ecological responsibility, and overall well-being. By balancing these pillars and through research-by-design the project will explore how adaptable spaces can stimulate meaningful encounters, cultivate a sense of shared identity, and contribute to a more cohesive, resilient, and healthy urban fabric of Copenhagen.
Process	
Method description	
This research focuses on developing a Public Condenser in the Sundholm neighborhood of Copenhagen incorporating gradations of publicness—ranging from public to private and active to passive—to foster social cohesion in a fragmented urban context. To achieve this, a multi-phase methodology will be implemented. - Literature review of foundational works on urban publicness, hybrid buildings, and community resilience. This review will help identify core principles related to the conceptual pillars of multiplicity, hybridity, resilience, sustainability, and health. Building upon this theoretical grounding, a site analysis will be conducted to document existing physical conditions and social dynamics in Sundholm. This phase includes collecting data on current patterns of use, accessibility issues, and underutilized spaces to pinpoint potential areas for architectural intervention. This also means analyzing spatial fragmentation and opportunities for re-use (social, environmental, and economic) at both district and building scales. - Case studies of comparable hybrid public buildings will be examined, focusing on their capacity to accommodate diverse functions within a single structure and facilitate meaningful social interactions. These precedents will highlight best practices in programming, spatial organization, and material choices. Site visits to relevant projects in Copenhagen and beyond will further illustrate how real-world designs integrate sliding scales of engagement. - Design prototypes—both digital and physical—will be developed. These iterative models will explore various ways of layering within a public condenser (e.g., public vs. private, active vs. passive) and how it can spur interaction while addressing user needs and environmental factors. Finally, the research will conclude with design recommendations aimed at creating a vibrant public condenser in Sundholm that not only strengthens social cohesion but also advances resilience, sustainability, and well-being in the neighborhood.	

Literature and general practical references

This project draws from a range of literature on publicness, urban sociology, and architectural design to inform the concept of a Public Condenser in Sundholm. At a theoretical level, works such as Richard Sennett's discussions on public / private life and the significance of social interaction, as well as Jan Gehl's observations on the interplay between built environments and pedestrian behavior, will establish a foundation on how spaces can encourage or hinder human engagement. Additionally, Henri Lefebvre's idea of the "production of space" provides insight into how social relations are actively shaped by physical environments, supporting the notion that architecture can serve as a catalyst for diverse user interactions.

Building on these theoretical underpinnings, the concept of sliding scales of publicness—ranging from public to private and active to passive—will be explored through case studies of hybrid buildings and community hubs. Projects such as MVRDV's KU.BE offer inspiration on how multiple programs can be layered in a single structure to foster various degrees of interaction. Closer to the Danish context, the Culture Yard (Kulturværftet) in Helsingør illustrates how an existing structure can be transformed into a lively public space integrating cultural and social activities.

In addition to iconic precedents, contemporary local initiatives focused on reuse, mixed-use programs, and social inclusion—like the Lendager Group's work on upcycling materials and Jan Gehl Architects' urban interventions—will serve as practical references for resilience, sustainability, and health-oriented design. These examples exemplify how a project can adapt existing resources, create welcoming "in-between spaces" and integrate active ground floors or transitional zones, thus aligning with the multiplicity and hybridity pillars of the studio.

Ultimately, these theoretical and practical references will shape the design approach for a public condenser that embraces flexible, inclusive spaces, catering to various social and sensory preferences. By synthesizing insights from both seminal architectural theory and real-world precedents, the project aims to demonstrate how gradations of publicness can be integrated to create a cohesive, resilient environment in Sundholm—supporting social cohesion, sustainability and well-being in a fragmented urban setting.

Sources:

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Roy, Parama. "'Welcome in My Backyard'...but on My Terms: Making Sense of Homeless Exclusion from Renewed Urban Spaces in Copenhagen." *GeoJournal* 83, no. 2 (March 11, 2017): 289–304. doi:10.1007/s10708-017-9769-8.

Sennett, Richard. *The Fall of Public Man*. Penguin UK, 2003.

Gehl, Jan, and Birgitte Svarre. *How to Study Public Life*. Island Press, 2013.

Elden, Stuart, Eleonore Kofman, and Elizabeth Lebas. *Henri Lefebvre: Key Writings*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2003.

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)?

This projects aims to explore the strategy of a public condenser within the context of a fragmented and isolated neighborhood; the public condenser strategy is the main studio topic. This is done to revitalize the area and be a physical catalyst for improvement of social, economic and sustainability challenges. This is relevant for Sundholm but also for lots of urban areas around the world facing the same challenges of our time. This research can contribute to broader exploration of public building strategies within the field of architecture, specifically within urban contexts. Since the building fundamentally connected to the direct context and the broader city of Copenhagen it also relates to the connected field of urbanism.

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

This graduation project addresses a pressing social challenge: the need for inclusive, multi-layered public spaces that strengthen community bonds in fragmented urban neighborhoods. By applying the concept of a Public Condenser in Sundholm, the design demonstrates how sliding scales of publicness—ranging from public to private and active to passive—can create more flexible environments. Such flexibility accommodates a wide spectrum of activities and personality types, ultimately fostering social cohesion and well-being.

From a professional standpoint, the project contributes actionable strategies for architects, planners, and policymakers seeking to integrate multiplicity, hybridity, resilience, sustainability, and health into their designs. The methodology—combining literature reviews, site analysis, case studies, and iterative prototyping—offers a structured approach to understanding and shaping complex social and spatial relationships. This framework can guide practitioners tackling similar challenges of urban density, reuse, and mixed-use programming.

Scientifically, the research adds to the growing body of knowledge on how architectural design can respond to evolving urban needs. By examining how public condensers integrate various social, environmental, and economic factors, it provides a reference point for future studies aiming to optimize community engagement and resilience. In doing so, it underscores the value of interdisciplinary collaboration—merging architectural innovation with social sciences, urban ecology, and public health—to create healthier, more sustainable cities.