

Reflection

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What is the relation between your graduation project topic, your master track (Ar, Ur, BT, LA, MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

The topic of my project is the design of library-type spaces, based on the renovation of the existing Stockholm City Library. My track of study is Architecture, and my programme is Architecture and Urbanism. The thesis studio I have chosen is Interiors Buildings Cities. The methodology of this studio involves iterative examination and research across different scales, from the urban level to the architectural level, and down to the interior details level.

Therefore, although my design is an architectural one, it begins with research and problem-solving from an urban perspective, addressing issues not only at the scale of the original small site but also at the larger urban scale. As the design progresses, it also reflects on whether the urban issues identified in the initial research phase are effectively addressed.

The integration of building technology and details with the urban environment influences all aspects of architecture, especially interior design. Hence, while the final outcome of my design is architectural, the thinking and research process encompasses multiple scales, extending to urbanism.

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

Regarding the research question, based on the theory of William H. Walters, I propose a strategy to integrate e-media with traditional library spaces. To achieve and highlight this theme, my research is mainly divided into two parts: one is the study of the space and construction history of existing libraries, and the other is the typological study of contemporary libraries.

The construction history of the Stockholm City Library helps me better understand the typical construction methods and spatial organization patterns of Stockholm's architecture. The typological study of other contemporary libraries helps me better allocate different types of spaces and inspires me to construct my spatial sequences and structures in a more contemporary manner.

Inspired by these studies, I gradually build my space, and my design profoundly influences my research on building technology. To better ensure the constructability of my design and to better integrate it with natural conditions such as wind, light, and heat, I have conducted extensive research and comparisons in the area of building technology.

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

In the first phase of the project, we worked in groups to create a large-scale site model and conduct research on architects and related architectural types. Through the detailed site model-making process, we studied the structure, construction methods, materials, textures, and spatial atmosphere of the original building by recreating it. During this process, we consulted a large number of archival materials, achieving research across scales from architecture to furniture.

We conducted studies on Asplund's buildings from different periods and representative libraries designed by different architects at different times in smaller sub-groups. Through horizontal and vertical comparisons, we deepened our understanding of the library designed by Asplund.

In the later stages, we mainly carried out in-depth design and research individually, but there was some cooperation and exchange among classmates in certain historical research areas. In my personal design, I primarily refined my design through online literature searches and model-making. By reading and searching online literature, I was inspired to formulate my research question. Based on this, I iterated and deepened my design using a combination of hand-drawing and digital drawing, as well as handmade and digital models.

However, during this process, I felt that I gradually became more focused on the space itself and occasionally neglected whether my research question remained the main thread. Although the final results still showed considerable relevance, I sometimes felt a slight deviation in the design process.

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

My proposed design is a renovation and addition to the Stockholm City Library. Throughout the design and research process, I discovered that the existing library lacks diversity in terms of the population it serves and its response to the urban natural environment. Therefore, I propose to renovate and construct a new library as a supplement.

At the academic level, I propose integrating e-media, a new medium, with traditional reading methods to create a distinctive local library. This aims to broaden and explore the boundaries of interaction and functionality of libraries in the new era. I critically consider whether this new element can better stimulate people's ability and efficiency to absorb knowledge and enhance the user experience of library buildings.

On a larger social and ethical level, my design aims to better bring together diverse groups of people by setting up a series of different types of spaces that allow them to perceive the building and society through wandering and potentially engage in unconscious interactions. This proposal

addresses the issue of population diversity, which is especially relevant given the increasing diversity of Stockholm's population.

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

In the current architectural design results, I reinforced the connection between the original library and the new library, as well as the spaces using e-media in the new library, through the design of highly playable paths. I believe that the spatial sequence effectively responds to the research question.

Additionally, by introducing green roofs at different levels, I better integrated the building with the man-made landscape and natural environment, enhancing the quality of the space and strengthening its role as an urban living room. At the level of building technology, I adopted a series of measures to improve the sustainability and feasibility of the building.

Finally, I would like to raise two new questions:

1. In our research, we base our questions on the current known conditions of the city and existing buildings. But when our design is completed, how can we verify the impact on the buildings and the city in an unknown future?
2. During the process of recreating a very detailed model of the existing site buildings, we gained a deep understanding of the existing structures. However, once this process is finished, the large model serves more as an exhibition piece. Are there other ways or forms to utilize it in different stages?