

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examenscommissie-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	Silvia Pencheva
Student number	6047645
Studio	
Name / Theme	Explore Lab
Main mentor	Eytan Mann
Second mentor	Rufus van den Ban
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Teachers of Practice / AE + T The possibility to explore a personal fascination for my graduation project.
Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Anti War Architecture
Goal	
Location:	Bunker Park Oostduinlaan, the Hague
The posed problem,	To challenge our preconceptions regarding political crises and our roles as citizens in them. I believe that through education, empathy, and willingness, people have the potential to civicize their everyday lives and, together, discover how to bring about change.
research questions and	What urban, architectural, and art means are there to challenge the individual's role in, and responsibility toward, seemingly unrelated global conflicts?
design assignment in which these result.	I aim to create a space that allows people to feel the presence of warfare in other parts of the world and serves as a backdrop for discussions and debates among individuals with different beliefs and backgrounds.
[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.]	

The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

Process

Method description

1. Project Studies

Projects that deal with the notions of space and conflict are deemed appropriate for the project studies. They will not be limited to urban and architectural scales. This approach will ensure a rich variety of examples, which have the potential to broaden my perspective on what is possible. Examples of projects that do not stem from the built environment might include schools for conflict history education or video games. All the selected examples will be studied in a matrix, which will be split into two parts. The first part will have a descriptive approach, showing the title, location, format, etc., of each project and will serve as a background for the second part, which will be purely analytical. In this section, the research question will be answered through the lens of each project, using photos and a short text. By analyzing these projects, I aim to outline key design characteristics for each category and understand the position of their designers. This will allow me to position my project in relation to what has already been done and implement relevant design principles in my own work.

2. Survey

Conducting a survey with the target audience will be an essential step in creating a meaningful intervention. I want to create a simple and quick-to-fill-in survey that people can complete online. The goal is to receive many responses from a diverse group of people. The survey itself will be split into two parts. The first part will include general questions such as the age, nationality, occupation, etc., of the respondent. This is necessary to see whether the pool of responses is not skewed toward a particular population. The second part of the survey will be where I extract the needed information. It will consist of two or three questions, as well as an optional open-ended question for comments and remarks. The questions will be along the lines of: "What do you associate X with?" and "What would convince you to visit X?" where X represents the type of space I would like to design. The aim of this survey is to understand what preconceptions people have about the type of space I would like to design and what would attract them to visit it. This will serve as a guide for establishing the program of requirements for my design.

Literature and general practical references

- Memorials, Counter-memorials, Peace Memorials
 - o Schreiber, 2022
 - o Memory Wound by Jonas Dahlberg, project from 2014; unbuilt
 - o Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park by Kenzō Tange, 1954
 - o United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by James Ingo Freed, 1993
 - o Peace Monument in Morokulien by Lars Johan Lehming, 1914
 - o The Monument Against Fascism by Esther Shalev Gerz and Jochen Gerz, 1979
- Architectural Forensics
 - o Forensic Architecture

- Killing Architects
- The Center for Spatial Investigation
- Digital Space and War
 - Video Games
 - FPV Drones Footage
- Anti-War Literature, Movies, Music, Exhibitions
 - Prophet Song by Paul Lynch, 2023
 - Sag mir Wo die Blumen Sind by Anselm Kiefer, 2025
 - The War Up Close

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 graduation project is closely related to my Master programme in Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences. It begins with an exploration of the site and the potential for change at the urban scale, then moves to—and focuses on—the architectural scale, which aligns with my master track. The project is developed in detail, incorporating elements from building sciences as well.

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

With my graduation project, I aim to address the need to bridge people's everyday lives with the global political realities unfolding around them. I seek to reimagine architecture as a foundation for civic empowerment. On a social level, the project is an exercise in radical empathy; on a professional level, it raises questions about the role architecture plays in shaping society; and within a scientific framework, it aims to propose methods for engaging with global issues.