Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Yifei Zhang
Student number	5294134

Studio		
Name / Theme	Borders & Territories	
Main mentor	Negar Sanaan Bensi	Architecture Design&Research
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I deeply enjoy Studio B&T's approach to research, which does not just use architecture as a functional solution, but brings politics, society and culture into urban reality by exploring specific, even often ignored, themes. The physical representation of architecture and the reflection on space are projected in the city. In the studio I want to design architecture with a nature that lies between design and theory, where construction and the building itself can reflect and feed into the projective thinking of the study of space and specific conditions. The interplay between logic and intuition in the studio also results in an architecture that is at times serendipitous and surprising. It will also be a challenging and exciting project for me.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Architecture of the Gaze - Spatial Mapping of Control and Power in Marseille

Goal	
Location:	Marseille, France
The posed problem,	As a result of early colonial influences, Marseille was originally built and developed as a port city by local inhabitants and Italian and Algerian labourers, and has become the third largest city in France today, and a place where different races, groups, etc. converge and divide to live. The top-down gaze of the city, such as the video surveillance and the police patrols, as well as the "occupants" of the space sitting, lying down, looking down from above, gazing from different directions at the "other" who enters, has to some extent changed the way the invisible space is used and felt in terms of the formation of pressure. This gaze changes to a certain

	extent the way in which the invisible pressure is used and felt in the space. The difference such a gaze makes may mean that this public space - or at least the spontaneous social behaviour within it - will be forced to 'die', or that mistrust, suspicion and ambiguity will increasingly become the dominant emotions experienced in such spaces.
research questions and	How the gaze interacts with the urban space of Marseille as a means of spatial control - What are the elements that carry the gaze in Marseille's urban spaces? - How the gaze is implemented in the complex urban spaces of Marseille - The changing spatial nature of urban space under the gaze - How the gaze is used as an instrument of spatial control - How urban space provides the conditions for the implementation of the gaze as a tool of control - The impact of the architecture of the gaze on the city - How the gaze in the city of Marseille can in turn contribute to urban integration and communication
design assignment in which these result.	The theme of my graduation project is to create a place of exception to the mistrust and anxiety in the city because of the gaze in Marseille, to change the spatial nature of the loss of trust and connection in the city, and the architectural strategy to address this is likely to use the nature of the gaze to spatialise and substantiate these structures of the gaze so that people can directly engage with the gaze, rethink it and have the opportunity to reflect on themselves and the other. Therefore the aim of the proposal may be a kind of glue that connects different people, trying to reorganise this blurring of changing but existing impenetrable boundaries between the inhabitants of the city and the people who enter it.

Process

Method description

Art historian Margaret Olin argues that the term gaze is not limited to the act of looking per se but highlights both the person gazing and the person being gazed at and that the gaze requires us to use the entire visual field that

constitutes a given viewing as a framework for analysis, rather than just the image itself. In other words, the gaze points not to an object but a field, and this paper also attempts to analyze the gaze as a system and a framework, not just the value of the gaze as a look or as an image. This framework encompasses the object of the gaze, its process, and the relationship between gaze and space, and its related parameters. The study hopes to combine gaze theory with Marseille's urban condition and provide a comprehensive analysis of the spaces and elements of Marseille within the framework of gaze.

The subsequent study attempts to analyze how the 'gaze' is conceptualized and understood, how it contributes to producing a specific urban space, and how the gaze occupies public space as a negative part of the community by contrasting and understanding the complex urban space. The interaction between Marseille's space and the gaze is analyzed through people's behavior, the use of space, the impact on sociality. In order to analyze the relationship between gaze and urban space systematically and holistically, three scales are chosen for the analysis: the monolithic scale (the implementation and carriers of gaze); the street scale (the interaction between gaze and space); and the urban scale (the network and system of gaze). Each element and system is analyzed microscopically at the most miniature scale of the monolith, then expanded to the scale of the street space, and then studied at the scale of the macroscopic urban network and bird's eye view.

1. The classification and analysis of categories and constituents.
2. An examination of the relationship between sight and space
3. An examination of the gaze system at the urban scale

The research first analyses and classifies the different individuals and elements of gaze, then moves on to the specific urban space, discussing the complexity of sight, body, and space through different perspectives (the first perspective of the source of gaze, the perspective of the gazed upon and the perspective of third party objective observation) and spatial presentation, then forms a connected system, analyses the urban areas and perceptual differentiation of the city due to gaze through the gaze network, and finally analyses the gaze behavior and the spatial and social impact in a comprehensive way through mapping.

Literature and general practical preference

Literature preference

Regarding the understanding of the gaze and related philosophical discussions:

Manlove, Clifford T. "Visual" drive" and cinematic narrative: Reading gaze theory in Lacan, Hitchcock, and Mulvey." Cinema Journal (2007): 83-108.
Krips, Henry. "The politics of the gaze: Foucault, Lacan and Ž iž ek." Culture Unbound 2, no. 1 (2010): 91-102.
Gornykh, Andrei. "Trait, Identity, and the Gaze in Jacques Lacan." In The Palgrave Handbook of Image Studies, 295-312: Springer, 2021.
Mirzoeff, N. (1999). An introduction to visual culture: Psychology Press.

Regarding the theorization of the spatial relations of the gaze:

McKinlay, Alan, and Ken Starkey, eds. Foucault, management and organization theory: From panopticon to technologies of self. Sage, 1998.
Martin, Brian. "Antisurveillance." (2007).
Calvino, Italo. Invisible Cities. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1978.
O'Neill, John. "The disciplinary society: from Weber to Foucault." British Journal of Sociology (1986): 42-60.
Koskela, Hille. "'The gaze without eyes': video-surveillance and the changing nature of urban space." Progress in Human Geography 24, no. 2 (2000): 243-265.
Vertov, Dziga. Kino-Eye: The Writings of Dziga Vertov. Univ of California Press, 1984.

Regarding the physicalisation and spatialisation of the architecture of the gaze:

Panopticon
Foucault, Michel. Panopticism. Routledge, 2020.
Bentham, Jeremy. The panopticon writings. Verso Books, 2011.
Galič, Maša, Tjerk Timan, and Bert-Jaap Koops. "Bentham, Deleuze and beyond: An overview of surveillance theories from the panopticon to participation." Philosophy & Technology 30, no. 1 (2017): 9-37.

Architecture and space in film by Alfred Hitchcock
Jacobs, Steven. "Architecture of the gaze: Jeffries apartment & courtyard." In Toward a New Interior: An anthology of interior design theory, pp. 546-558. Princeton Architectural Press, 2011.
Leonard, Gary. "Keeping our selves in suspense: The imagined gaze and fictional constructions of the self in Alfred Hitchcock and Edgar Allan Poe." Suspense: Theoretical Analyses, and Empirical Explorations (1996): 19-36.

The House for the Inhabitant who Refused to Participate
Hejduk, John, Alvin Boyarsky, and Howard Shubert. The Lancaster/Hanover Masque. Architectural Association, 1992.

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 proposal will be about how architecture and space can respond to and change the alienation of the nature and experience of space brought about by the gaze in the city. For example how the urban experience in some areas can be subverted through architecture, spatialising and substantiating the gaze. Then allowing the inhabitants of the city to experience and utilise the gaze, turning it into a catalyst for communication in the city. Therefore the aim of the

proposal may be a kind of glue that connects different people, trying to reorganise this blurring of changing but existing impenetrable boundaries between the inhabitants of the city and the people who enter it. And in B&T Studio, the social contextual issues I am concerned with and these places full of potential are the focus of the investigation. Through an architectural approach, I wish to concentrate on and emphasise the spatial transformations and long-term diffuse effects that a specific theme, the 'gaze', can produce in the places where it is located. Finally, through a critical study of the term and phenomenon of gaze, I hope to map these design processes onto feedback on materials, constructions and spaces in order to reflect on and understand where architects are and can be located in contemporary contexts.

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

The development of the city is led by technology. At the same time, the historical value and solid nature of architecture makes the city move much slower than the speed of technological development, which makes it unable to keep up with the speed of the changing times in terms of spatial iterations. But these time lags provide architects and urban planners with more time to think about the relationship between the city, the environment and people. I have tried to understand and hypothesise some of the terms in the context of the present time and reality, in the hope that architecture can provide some reflective and scholarly research ideas for urban development.