

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	Gabriël Sabrinus Bani
Student number	5671469

Studio		
Name / Theme	City of the Future	
Main mentor	Joran Kuijper	Architecture
Second mentor	Piero Medici	Building Technology
Third mentor	Maurice Harteveld	Urbanism
Argumentation of choice of the studio	This was one of the only studio's where I have the freedom to pursue a possibility of a new future.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Reclaiming Bab al Bhar
Goal	
Location:	old harbour area Tunis, Tunisia
The posed problem,	<p>The general problem is the lasting impact of French colonization in Tunis, for instance the divisions of space or worldviews. Resulting in consequences that continue to shape the city's identity and its socio-cultural landscape, such as the division in societal perspectives, the development of a dual identity among Tunisians and the erosion of Tunis's Port-city identity.</p> <p>The division caused by colonial rule is still visible today, with areas where the colonial power established French schools fostering a more secular perspective, while areas without these institutions remained more religious and conservative (Blackman, A. 2019).</p>

	<p>Even though the colonial era ended, the influence of the colonial period continues to show in the city's identity. The consequences of this colonial history reach beyond the physical transformation of the urban environment. The consequences even extend to socio-cultural aspects, such as the erosion of the Port-city Identity, which had been integral to Tunis's cultural fabric from the Carthaginians to the Arabs.</p> <p>The city now is set up in a way which divides people, representing a big contrast with its cohesive and vibrant port-city identity of the past. The diverse identities of port-cities around the world, as highlighted by Carola Hein's extensive research, contribute to the unique challenges that each of these cities faces. In Tunis, this erosion has been intensified by urban and economic changes, particularly those triggered by the legacy of French colonialism.</p>
research questions and	<p>What is the relation between urban & economic changes and the loss of "the Port-city Identity" in Tunis?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the identity of the city of Tunis? 2. When did the port city identity fade away? 3. Why is there no interaction with Lac Tunis? 4. What cultural aspects and traditions are associated with being a Port-city? And which traces of a Port-city identity can be seen in Tunis? 5. How did the construction of the new city centre by the French alter the identity of the city and it's citizens? 6. What can Tunis learn from other port-cities in the Mediterranean who moved their harbour out of the city? 7. What if the port-city identity is not reclaimed, what is the actual loss?

<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The goal of this study is to investigate the relationship between urban and economic changes and the loss of the Port-city Identity in Tunis. This will help recognizing the complex aspects of Tunis's identity, its historical and cultural features, and the impact of the French-built new city centre on this identity. Ultimately, this research aims to provide a comprehensive framework for reimagining the waterfront connection in Tunis to help reclaim its Port-city Identity.</p> <p>The research objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine and define the current identity of Tunis as a city, understanding its historical, cultural, and economic context. • To discover the cultural aspects and traditions associated with being a Port-city, identifying any remaining traces of this identity in Tunis. • To analyse the effects of the construction of the new city centre by the French on Tunis's Port-city Identity. • To learn from other Mediterranean port-cities that relocated their harbours out of the city, offering valuable insights for Tunis's urban development.
<p>[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.]</p>	
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p> <p>For this research three primary categories of methods will be used, which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical-interpretive narratives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature analysis: a thorough review of existing literature, including works on the history of port cities, and the impact of urban changes on their identity • Legal documents and media review: this will give a understanding of the context and the views at a specific point in time. • Photographic research: searching and get a better sense of context, documented changes. 	

2. Ethnographic site study

- Site mapping: a qualitative site mapping and analysis of the current elements still visible from the maritime past would be done. This will give a better understanding of the context and sheds light on the opportunities.
- Observational fieldwork: to document the current use and life on and around the lake
- Photographic research: visual ethnography, documenting use and life around the Lac Tunis

3. Case study analysis

- Case study of mediterranean Port-cities: this will give a view on how other port-cities dealt with the location change of the port.
[A description of the methods and techniques of research and design, which are going to be utilized.]

Literature and general practical references

1. Amodei, M. (1985). "Tunis 1860-1930: The formation of a colonial town." In *Environmental Design: Journal of the Islamic Environmental Design Research Centre 1*, edited by Attilo Petruccioli, 26-35. Rome: Carucci Editions, Retrieved 6 November 2023, from <https://www.archnet.org/publications/3180>

This source contains historical and architectural information about the impact of French colonization on the city, which can be valuable for analysing the changes brought by colonial rule.

2. Brahmi, M. (2017) *Water Bodies within the Metropolitan Cities: Understanding the Urbanization Process around Lakes & Lagoons 'shores in Greater Tunis, towards sustainability*. Master of Science in Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design, University of Stuttgart.

Understanding the urbanization process around lakes and lagoons of Tunis can shed light on the specific challenges and opportunities related to the reimagining of the waterfront.

3. Broeze, F. (1985). Port Cities: The Search for an Identity. *Journal of Urban History*, 11(2), 209–225. <https://doi.org/10.1177/009614428501100204>

This source offers a historical perspective on the complex relationship between port cities and their identity.

4. *Climate Change, Loss of Agricultural Output and the Macro-Economy: The Case of Tunisia*. (n.d.). Retrieved 6 November 2023, from <https://www.afd.fr/en/ressources/climate-change-loss-agricultural-output-and-macro-economy-case-tunisia>

Climate change can have direct implications for a port city's economic activities and development and therefor might be interesting to read.

5. Coslett, D. E. (2020). Preservation and tourism in Tunisia: On the colonial past in the neocolonial present. *The Journal of North African Studies*, 25(5), 727–752. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629387.2019.1644900>

Coslett's research on preservation and tourism in Tunisia, with a focus on the colonial past and its impact on the present can help analysing how the colonial past continues to influence the city's identity.

6. Dai, T., Hein, C. M., & Baciú, D. C. (2021). Heritage Words: Exploring Port City Terms. *European Journal of Creative Practices in Cities and Landscapes (CPCL)*, 4(2). <https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2612-0496/12149>

This research may offer insights into the terminology and language used to describe and understand port cities.

7. De Martino, P. (2021). *Land in Limbo: Understanding path dependencies at the intersection of the port and city of Naples*. 21#09.
<https://doi.org/10.7480/abe.2021.09>

This source could be particularly relevant for understanding the complexities of urban and economic changes in a port city context.

8. De Martino, P. (2022). Towards Circular Port–City Territories: Rotterdam and the Port Back to the City. *Regenerative Territories*, 128.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-78536-9_10

This research offers a comparative perspective that can help draw insights and lessons from other port cities' experiences.

9. Harteveld, M. G. A. D. (2021) Images of Port-City Rotterdam, Through the Mental Mapping Methods, <https://portusonline.org/images-of-port-city-rotterdam-through-the-mental-mapping-methods/>

Authored by M. Harteveld, this article, published in *Portus*, explores the use of mental mapping methods to document the images of Port-City Rotterdam. It offers a visual and cognitive perspective, providing a methodological approach to understanding the city's identity. Which could be done for Tunis as well

10. Harteveld, M. G. A. D. (2021). Mental Maps; The Image of Port-Cities. TU Delft Research Portal. Retrieved 22 January 2024, from
<https://research.tudelft.nl/en/activities/mental-maps-amp-the-image-of-port-cities>

This source is a presentation by M.G.A.D. Harteveld on the topic of mental maps and the image of port cities. It provides additional insights into the cognitive mapping aspect of understanding port-city identity.

11. Harteveld, M. G. A. D. (2021). The Port-City Portrayed in its Public Spaces: Introducing Micro Biographies of Places. *PORTUSplus*, 11(11).

This article in *PORTUSplus* delves into micro biographies of public spaces in the port city. It seems to focus on how public spaces contribute to the portrayal of the port-city identity. this could be an interesting way to portray the changes happening in Tunis

12. Hein, C. (Ed.). (2020). *Adaptive Strategies for Water Heritage: Past, Present and Future*. Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-00268-8>

This source may discuss strategies for preserving water heritage, which could be connected to cultural identity and urban planning in Tunis.

13. Hein, C. M. (2019). The Port Cityscape: Spatial and institutional approaches to port city relationships. *PORTUSplus*, 8(Special Issue).
<https://repository.tudelft.nl/islandora/object/uuid%3A3e518ac3-5646-4dc8-bb69-116ec3bed422>

This source can provide insights into the spatial and institutional aspects of port cities.

14. Hein, C. M., & Schubert, D. (2020). Resilience and Path Dependence: A Comparative Study of the Port Cities of London, Hamburg, and Philadelphia. *Journal of Urban History*, 47 (2021)(2).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144220925098>

This research offers a comparative perspective that can help draw insights and lessons from other port cities' experiences

15. Hein, C. M., & van de Laar, P. T. (2020). The Separation of Ports from Cities: The Case of Rotterdam. *European Port Cities in Transition*.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-36464-9_15

This research can provide insights into the consequences of relocating ports away from city centres.

16. Hein, C., Luning, S., & Laar, P. van de. (2021). Port City Cultures, Values, and Maritime Mindsets: Defining What Makes Port Cities Special. *European Journal of Creative Practices in Cities and Landscapes*, 4(1), Article 1.
<https://doi.org/10.6092/issn.2612-0496/13378>

This source can help understand the cultural aspects and values associated with port cities, which is relevant to your exploration of Tunis's port-city identity.

17. Lefaivre, L., & Tzonis, A. (2005). *Architecture in focus Critical regionalism: Architecture and identity in a globalized world* (Eerste editie). Prestel Publishing.

This book explores the concept of critical regionalism in architecture. And might provide inspiration on the identity change of a city and reforming it to counter globalization.

18. Norberg-Schulz, C. (1991). *Genius Loci: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture*. Rizzoli.

This book explores the concept of Genius loci and helps define the importance of this phenomenon.

19. Stambouli, F. (1996). Tunis city in transition. *Environment and Urbanization*, 8(1), 51–63. <https://doi.org/10.1177/095624789600800117>

This source offers a historical and environmental perspective on the changes that Tunis has undergone.

[The literature (theories or research data) and general practical experience/precedent you intend to consult.]

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)?

The studio City of the Future is a studio focusing on the growing population living in an urban environment creating certain challenges such as the transformation of our cities towards attractive and inclusive future urban environment. The important part is to not create general cities but keep the uniqueness of these cities. The architecture track encourages students to develop creative and innovative building projects that use design as a means to deal with the technical, social and spatial challenges encountered in the built environment and this topic finds itself right in the middle encountering all these aspects some more than others. Reclaiming bab al bhar is more than just reclaiming a port of the city but trying to reconnect the city, which is gradually becoming generic, with its roots as a port city.

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

At the university there is a lot of groundbreaking research towards waterfront development and port city heritage. Researching Tunis with this in mind could bring more knowledge on regions which usually are undiscussed. This could broaden the lens to other port cities outside of Europe. It could also be a reminder for the locals participating through talks to reconsider their city and maybe have an impact on their views.