

Graduation Plan Laura Maasry
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Personal information

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Studio

Interiors, Buildings, and Cities
Mark Pimlott, Jurjen Zeinstra
Social and historical relevance of buildings

Title

Academic Library University of Amsterdam
Roetersijland, Amsterdam
Main contents: Study spaces, open & closed collections, offices, public functions, underground car/ bike park

Problem Statement

In its simplest words, the problem I have posed for myself is how to design a meaningful library in the 21st century.

To design a meaningful library, my design research has been based on the following three problem statements. Each problem statement falls into a specific academic category (see bold).

1. **Post-modern condition:** What are the consequences of the digitalization of information on the library user, and what stance can the library take herein?
2. **Library typology:** How does the function and the social role of the library today relate to the historical role of the library?
3. **Urban context:** Can a semi-public building belonging to the University of Amsterdam partially restore the university's presence, through history, in the city of Amsterdam?

Goal

To address the above questions, a combination of literature study and research-by-design has been carried out, and will continue to be carried out over the course of the final graduation semester. So far, the design has addressed the posed questions by the following methods:

1. Literature studies drew out the conclusions that the digitalization of information has led to the loss of Autonomous thinking. A research project regarding the theme 'Autonomy' has been carried out, parallel to the design studio, whereby the term is operationalized and spatial and organizational conclusions have been drawn regarding library design. To address this question, the graduation design incorporates spaces with the theme 'intimate monumentality'; to be demonstrated during the P2 presentation.
2. Inspiration has been drawn on traditional typologies of reading spaces. Design by research, in particular model making, has been used to research traditional typologies, including long spaces and circular rooms. These typologies have been tested on the site and tested in their possibilities of becoming public spaces. Their place in the building and in the urban context will be presented in the P2 presentation.
3. An in-depth literature study on the history of the University of Amsterdam has revealed that the university has had a vital presence in the city of Amsterdam, including the production of public spaces for learning. Today the University of Amsterdam press, and certain buildings still play an important cultural role in the city, but the general urban presence of the university has been lost, in particular during the last 30 years. Research by design has addressed this question, by testing the possibilities of connecting the designed building to its urban fabric as much as possible, and providing a public interior that could restore the physical presence of the university in the city.

The goal of the P2 presentation is to demonstrate a 'work in progress' that addresses the above three problem statements, in the design of the academic library for the University of Amsterdam.

The post-P2 goal is two-fold: to absorb criticism from the P2 and to produce a P5 presentation which will clarify the three problem statements in the architectural refinement of the project as well as to achieve a functional, spatial academic library in its given context, that has reached a sufficient technical and design level according to the studio requirements from *Interiors, Buildings, and Cities*.