

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	Iason Stathatos
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Studio	
Name / Theme	Explore Lab
Teachers / tutors	Tom Avermaete (Design), Ype Cuperus (BT), Patrick Healy (Research)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Explore Lab gave me the chance to focus on a vague personal fascination which was initially formulated while studying in Paris (Bachelor Degree); the crucial role of the unbuilt in architecture. The commitment to carry out a research project on that particular theme (which was on the meanwhile further elaborated in the framework of the history thesis and the design studios of TU Delft) determined the choice of the studio. Explore Lab provided the necessary "freedom", like the possibility to simultaneously collaborate with tutors of different backgrounds, which I considered as an important precondition for multidimensional, serious and eventually valuable conclusions.

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Void Capital
Goal	
Location:	Les Halles, Paris
The posed problem,	The raison d'être of Koolhaas' "Delirious New York" was to understand the mechanisms according to which the overabundance of programs that resulted from the advances of technology (achieved within the capitalist economy), is accommodated to architectural forms. However, in his attempt to map the articulation of metropolitan delights with the built masses, the Dutch architect has fundamentally rejected any notion of interstitial space as a place where exciting events may occur, particularly

	horizontally, between the Manhattan blocks. It is clear that reducing the role of the "in-between spaces" to the level of blank space is a hindrance to our attempt to understand the interest that they may still present in the dynamic, fluid and finally exciting assemblage of the contemporary city.
research questions and	"Void Capital" analyses the variability of the Parisian urban thresholds and focuses on the different ways that the satisfaction of metropolitan desires takes place within the city's unbuilt fabric.
design assignment in which these result.	For the design assignment, a central neighborhood (Les Halles) has been chosen to host a new World Exhibition, a large unitarian building which has the impossible mission to present all the world's knowledge. This building is conceived as a continuous working site, capable to reconfigure itself constantly, thanks to a strategy of intervention on the existing voids and solids (demolitions and light-weighted structures).

Process

Method description

The first three chapters of the research project present (mainly in the form of text) the findings of an essentially bibliographic study, carried out during the last four months (Some accompanying drawings are included as well). Here, the texts are organized according to different scales (rooms, blocks, patterns). Those correspond to the featuring references, each one of them presenting a particular aspect of the "void". The fourth chapter, "The Cabinet of Curiosities" synthetizes a primarily historical study of the Parisian thresholds. It regroups momentary events of an exceptional interest and presents each one of them with the help of a short text, drawings (isometric projections) and images drawn out of a variety of historical documents. I intend to extend and complete the findings of the research project by making use of the already selected means.

So far, the design project made use of drawings (plans, sections, axonometrics) to retrace the changes happened on site since the beginning of the 19th century, but also to explain the much more typological strategy adopted for the actual proposal. By the p5 presentation, this section will be enriched I with a wider variety of communicative tools, including perspectives and models.

Literature and general practical preference

- 1.Rooms: Le Corbusier's Musée à Croissance Illimitée, Mies' National Gallery
- 2.Patterns: Hooke's and Wren's reconstruction plans for London
- 3.Blocks: Koolhaas' Delirious New York and Deleuze's notion of assemblage

Reflection

Relevance

The Void Capital research project addresses an important question: How to overcome the usual tendency to conceive the Void as exclusively hetero-determined (as if the Void is ontologically inferior), as a residuum of the surrounding built context (with all the possible impacts that this may cause to public space)? Furthermore, the project aspires to prove that the revitalization of an urban core (devastated by the changes of the 20th century) can be achieved far from a mere muséification, and only by the re-arrangement of the experiences found in-situ.

Time planning

Weeks 1.1-1.4

Definition of the "void"/Choosing Design and Research mentor/Elevator pitch (24.09.2015).

Weeks 1.5-1.7

Bibliographic research/Further definition of the topic/Identifying the appropriate references which present a particular interest/p1 presentation (16.10.2015).

Week 1.9

Reorientation of the project according to the p1 review/Re-organisation of the research project/adoption of the Grid strategy (4th chapter)

Week 1.10-2.04

Development of the "The cabinet of Curiosities" through drawings and images/First written paragraphs of the research project.

Week 2.05 - end of December:

Site historical and typological analysis/ Completion of the "The cabinet of Curiosities"/completion of the written essays.

Weeks 2.07-2.08

Submission of the research thesis (draft)/further development of the design proposal, plans, sections/finalization of the p2 report/ p2 presentation (14.01.2015)

Week 2.09

Project reviewing after the p2 presentation

Week 2.10-3.01

Perform field research

Weeks 3.02-3.04

Preliminary design/floorplans, sections, sketch models.

Weeks 3.05-3.07

Development of Sections, Plans and Elevations (1/100), sketches of details

Week 3.08

Sections (1/50) development of details, façades (1/10), sketches of detail (1/5)

P3 presentation

Weeks 3.09-4.02

Finalizing drawings, work on the model, solving printing issues.

Week 4.03

Situation drawings, floorplans, sections, elevations, façade vertical and horizontal section (1/20), detail 1/5, final report

P4 presentation

Weeks 4.04-4.09

Complete review, construction of additional models and frontal perspectives

Weeks 4.10

Public p5 presentation