

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	Ramona Paula Buia
Student number	5832217

Studio		
Name / Theme	Architectural Design Crossovers Graduation Studio	
Main mentor	Joran Kuijper	Architectural Design (Architectural Design Crossovers)
Second mentor	Georgios Karvelas	Technical Building Design (Teachers of Practice / AE+T)
Third mentor	Alper Alkan	Design Research (Architectural Design Crossovers)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	This studio appealed to me given the challenging and constructive nature of this research-intensive setting in which I would be able to develop some of my personal fascinations further during the last year of my studies. Lastly, the site location proposed by the studio has driven me to prioritize it as my main choice in the selection process.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Caring matter. Collective performative acts of maintenance as forms of urban care
Goal	
Location:	Numancia, Puente de Vallecas, Madrid
The posed problem,	Madrid as a caring adoptive entity of its human and non-human inhabitants. The concept of critical care is an activator in the relationship between human and non-human actors, exploring innovative ways in which they can support each other. This can then inform the formation of creative forms of collective engagement in the common

	<p>spaces of a city, eventually strengthening citizen responsibility and integration between different social groups. Maybe if our spatial systems could accommodate different forms of maintenance involving collective engagement there would be more equitable common spaces and activities in the city.</p>
research questions and	<p>What if notions of critical care could be addressed in the formation of equitable common spatial infrastructures?</p> <p>How can these accommodate performative acts of maintenance as a form of collective responsibility?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The design proposal aims to introduce a network of educational and communal facilities within the neighbourhood mentioned. This system of hybrid structures would be initiated with the support of district and municipal institutions, active NGOs in the area, and engaged residents. The first intervention serves as the initial step in expanding the proposed network. This would take the form of an educational atelier where local residents can come together to learn from skilled local craftsmen about working with various construction materials and maintaining them. The goal is to establish a foundation of knowledge and skills that will empower the community to self-construct future neighbourhood centres, contributing to the growth of the network of caring structures. The proposed buildings are designed to remain open to public spaces, as well as to natural elements and phenomena, fostering a harmonious environment for both human and non-human processes. In addition to the workshop, the main communal centre will house a variety of functions to keep it active throughout</p>

	the day, energizing the surrounding public areas. The building will be taken care of one or two residents who commit to the responsibility in exchange for housing within the same complex.
Process	
Method description	
<p>The topic of care extends over multiple scales and networks. To get a grip on the complexity involved in this in Madrid it is essential for this research to study the historiography of care in its specific context. Therefore, an actor network analysis as described by Bruno Latour¹ and John Law² will be performed in which the relations between physical and non-physical, human and non-human are investigated in the context of the changing institutions, places or elements of care in Madrid. In the context of my research the non-human actors are spaces where actions take place, materials, objects and animals. They can be further arranged in a matrix of care elements to ease comparison, deepening and extension. (see Figure 6)</p> <p><u>Historical analysis</u></p> <p>Literature study</p> <p>Primary sources:</p> <p>Jesús Roberto Escobar, The Plaza Mayor and the Shaping of Baroque Madrid³; Jules Stewart, Madrid: The History⁴.</p> <p>Secondary sources:</p> <p>Antonio Pasies Monfort, Tabernas Antiguas de Madrid⁵; Enrique Fidel, Mercados de Madrid, cuestión de supervivencia⁶; Carlos Osorio, Las Tertulias de Madrid⁷ Titinet, Los Mentideros de la Villa y Corte de Madrid⁸.</p>	

¹ (Latour 2005)

² (Law 2009)

³ (Jesús Roberto Escobar 2009)

⁴ (Stewart 2012)

⁵ This is a blog with different articles published in the period 2013-2016 in which information about many historical taverns of Madrid is provided. The author of this blog uses many archival and literary references as well as knowledge from people that really used, owned or interacted in some way with these places. Thus, the articles of this blog help in understanding what taverns meant in the evolution of the life of Madrid, both formally and informally.

⁶ (Fidel 2007)

⁷ (Osorio 2023)

⁸ (Titinet 2014)

Visual study

Historical maps

Photographs

Drawings

Paintings

Precedents analysis

Sargfabrik Wien

Haus der Statistik

Makoko Neighbourhood Hotspots

Edna Walling's Collection of Annotated Photographs

Grasslands 2014

Kullurk/ Coolart: Somers Farm and Wetlands

Featherston House

Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust

Friendship Centre

Unidad de Vida Articulada Orfelinato

Lari Octa Green Shelters

100 Classrooms for Refugee Children

Volontariat Home for Homeless Children

R-Urban

Synopel Architecture

Cartographic mapping

Exploration through walking and resting

Photography

Details

Overall setting of city life

Audio-visual recordings

Sketching and writing

Informal conversations

Asking questions

Documenting

Sketching

Writing

Literature and general practical references

History

Books

Covarrubias Horozco, Sebastián de, and Luis Sánchez. 1611. Tesoro de La Lengua Castellana O Española. Madrid, Spain: Luis Sánchez
<https://archive.org/details/A253315/page/n1099/mode/2up>

Escobar, Jesús Roberto. 2009. The Plaza Mayor and the Shaping of Baroque Madrid. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Stewart, Jules. 2012. Madrid: The History. London; New York: I.B. Tauris

Blogs and Articles

Fidel, Enrique. 2007. "Mercados de Madrid, Cuestión de Supervivencia." Urban Idade: Memorias de Las Redes Urbanas, May 31
<https://urbancidades.wordpress.com/2007/05/31/mercados-de-madrid-cuestion-de-supervivencia/>

Monfort, Antonio Pasies. 2013. Tabernas Antiguas de Madrid. 2013.
<https://tabernasantiguasmadrid.blogspot.com/>

Osorio, Carlos. 2023. "Las Tertulias de Madrid." Caminando Por Madrid - Visitas Guiadas Por Madrid, May 2
<https://caminandopormadrid.com/las-tertulias-de-madrid>

Titinet. 2014. "Los Mentideros de La Villa Y Corte de Madrid." De Rebus Matritensis - Episodio I, April 4
<https://vramon1958.wordpress.com/2014/04/04/los-mentideros-de-la-villa-y-corte-de-madrid/>

Theory

Books

Baracco, Mauro, Louise Wright, Linda Tegg, and Biennale Di Venezia. 2018. Repair. New York, Ny: Actar Publishers.

Dardot, Pierre, and Christian Laval. 2019. Common: On Revolution in the 21st Century. London; New York; Oxford; New Delhi; Sydney: Bloomsbury Academic

Fitz, Angelika, Elke Krasny, Brian Dorsey, Timothy Savage, and Architektur Zentrum Wien. 2019. Critical Care: Architecture and Urbanism for a Broken Planet. Vienna: Architekturzentrum Wien; Cambridge, Massachusetts

Latour, Bruno. 2005. Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Nord, Catharina, and Ebba Högström, eds. 2017. *Caring Architecture: Institutions and Relational Practices*. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Oldenburg, Ray. 1989. *The Great Good Place: Cafés, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons, and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community*. Philadelphia: Da Capo Press

Ogletree, Thomas W. 1985. *Hospitality to the Stranger*. Augsburg Fortress Publishing

Puig de la Bellacasa, María. 2017. *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More than Human Worlds*. University of Minnesota Press

Scholarly Articles and Thesis

González-Fernández, Irene. 2024. "The Impact of Ethics of Care on Spanish Architecture and Urban Designers: The Cases of Izaskun Chinchilla and Blanca Gutiérrez Valdivia's Writings."

Graham, Stephen, and Nigel Thrift. 2007. "Out of Order: Understanding Repair and Maintenance." *Theory, Culture & Society* 24 (3): 1–25
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263276407075954>

Gutiérrez-Mozo, María-Elia, José Parra-Martínez, and Ana Gilsanz-Díaz. 2021. "Extending the Architecture of Collective Housing: Towards Common Worlds of Care." *Buildings* 11 (4): 166
<https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings11040166>

Law, John. 2009. "Actor Network Theory and Material Semiotics." In *The New Blackwell Companion to Social Theory*, edited by Bryan S. Turner, 141–58. Blackwell Publishing Ltd

Mattern, Shannon. 2018. "Maintenance and Care." *Places Journal*, November.
<https://doi.org/10.22269/181120>

Tomaselli, Gianpaolo, Sandra C. Buttigieg, Aldo Rosano, Maria Cassar, and George Grima. 2020. "Person-Centered Care from a Relational Ethics Perspective for the Delivery of High Quality and Safe Healthcare: A Scoping Review." *Frontiers in Public Health* 8 (44).
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00044>

Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Other

Books

Havik, Klaske, and Carlos Machado. 2023. Repository. Nai010 Publishers

Blogs and Articles

Pascual, Alfredo, Emma Esser, and Marta Ley. 2024. "Una Calle, Dos Mundos: 'Vivimos a 60 Metros, Pero No Votamos, Ni Comemos, Ni Vivimos Igual.'" Elconfidencial.com, October 17
https://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/madrid/2024-10-17/valderribas-vallecas-retiro-pacifico-madrid-numancia_3984206/

Scholarly Articles

Gutiérrez Sánchez, Isabel. 2014. "Madrid between the Global and the Ordinary." London: UCL
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucqbiig/pfds%20articles/Madrid%20between%20the%20global%20and%20he%20ordinary.pdf>

Martín Sainz de los Terreros, Jorge. 2018. "Welcoming Sound: The Case of a Noise Complaint in the Weekly Assembly of El Campo de Cebada." *Social Movement Studies* 17 (3): 269–81
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2018.1456328>

Movies

Charlotte's Castle. Directed by Simon Gilberg. France: Seaside Productions, 2017

Perfect Days. Directed by Wim Wenders. Japan: Mastermind Limited and Office Kitano, 2023

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 work focuses on developing equitable communal structures for implementation in urban residential neighbourhoods, specifically Numancia in Puente de Vallecas, Madrid. The project aligns with the goals of the Architectural Design Crossovers studio, exploring urban commons while addressing the repair of social frameworks alongside material and physical ones.

The project aims to bridge disciplines within the built environment, spanning urban planning, public spaces, buildings, technical details, materials, and living beings. By proposing a system that both draws from and influences these scales, it strives for a holistic approach. I believe that carefully considering the diverse factors shaping urban life can lead to more thoughtful and integrated design interventions. For me, care is central to the architectural design process. It involves taking the time to observe, understand, and respond to external stimuli, enabling deliberate, empathetic, and considerate reactions. This approach seeks to benefit all affected actors—human and non-human alike—by addressing their interconnected needs with sensitivity and thoughtfulness.

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

Through this research, I aim to contribute to a broader understanding of urban care by integrating social, material, economic, and ecological perspectives. By challenging traditional notions of care as a hierarchical power structure, my work explores more equitable and empathetic approaches to designing and interacting with shared spaces. This shift seeks to foster communal practices that bridge social divides, promote collective responsibility, and empower communities to engage more deeply with their environments.

The project draws on theories of repair, maintenance, and critical care in architecture to propose a rebalancing of agency—encouraging humans to reconnect with the non-human realm and create more inclusive urban ecosystems. Grounded in a thorough theoretical framework, the research further combines case study analysis with a site-specific historical and material investigation of, both Madrid, and Numancia, a peripheral residential neighbourhood in the district of Puente de Vallecas.

By envisioning scenarios that challenge current paradigms, this work aims to inspire professionals, researchers, and communities to rethink urban design as a tool for equitable and sustainable transformation, addressing both human and non-human needs in contemporary cities.