

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	Veronica Danesin	
Student number	6081282	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities / Palace	
Main mentor	Jurjen Zeinstra	Architecture
Second mentor	Amy Thomas	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>After having followed the studio during MSc1 and the MSc2 elective, I think it has helped me understand the approach I would like to develop in the future. I've gained insight into different scales, from the city level, exploring the relationship between the building and its surroundings, to the connection between the interior and the exterior. The complexity and public nature of the design assignment, combined with the studio's focus on socio-political and societal issues, have been essential in shaping my perspective.</p> <p>In addition to the aspects mentioned above, the studio's methodology—developing a design based on the spatial experience from the user's perspective—has been instrumental. The integration and continuity between public interior spaces, the building itself, and the city have particularly influenced how I envision my future design approach.</p>	

Graduation project		
Title of the graduation project	A new edge for DeSingel : outdoor spaces in relation to the highway	
Goal		
Location:	DeSingel, Antwerp, Belgium	
The posed problem,	<p>The brief given by the studio is based on the existing brief provided by the Flemish Architecture Institute (the VAI), addressing the reduced amount of space for the archive in its current location. The VAI had initially intended to partially</p>	

	<p>move the archive into an existing church, thereby reusing it. However, due to multiple issues, including a limited budget, the small size of the space, and its non-ideal configuration, it became impossible to construct the winning project.</p> <p>Currently, the VAI is located in DeSingel, a 1960's building designed by Léon Stynen that was originally planned to be the Royal Conservatorium. However, the building now hosts multiple institutions: DeSingel, the Royal Conservatorium, the Flemish Music Study Center, the VAI, and other smaller organizations.</p> <p>What was initially envisioned as a Conservatorium has evolved into an art and cultural center located on the edge of the Ring road. This transformation has been made possible through various phases of construction, during which different alterations to the original building have introduced multiple issues in the circulation and the perception of spaces as they were intended by Stynen.</p> <p>Currently, DeSingel primarily hosts performative arts. However, architecture is also considered one of the arts it supports. In fact, architecture exhibitions and conferences are regularly hosted within the building.</p>
research questions and	<p>Considering the relevance of DeSingel as a cultural center in the city of Antwerp and the existing presence of the VAI as part of the arts, it seems almost a natural consequence to try to give the architecture archive the opportunity to be hosted there. This would make the Architecture archive—an almost unknown entity in Antwerp—more accessible to a larger public.</p> <p>What interests me is not only the initial intention of Stynen when building DeSingel as an element on the edge of the city but also how this has been modified, both by alterations to the</p>

	<p>building and the increasing importance of the highway as a major connecting point between Belgium and the Netherlands. This is especially true for the South façade of the building, where the back terraces are located, altering the original intention of the relationship between the building and its surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Therefore, the following questions emerge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would it be possible to reintroduce the original intention of the terraces in DeSingel by Léon Stynen? How can we frame the key moments in the landscape to give the public an understanding of what the relationship between the site and the building was originally intended to be? • How can the new building be attached to the existing one while preserving its historical significance and adding a new function? • How can the VAI find its own place in DeSingel while coexisting with the other institutions in the building?
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The VAI will be moved from its original location in DeSingel and placed as part of the new addition. This will help the VAI establish its identity as part of DeSingel while at the same time providing new space for the people already living in the building to experience it from another perspective. To archive this result, multiple interventions will be required, including the demolition of part of the low Beel building, which is already a non-functioning in-between space connecting Beel to DeSingel. This will allow for the creation of a third courtyard facing Stynen's 1st phase building and closing the connection of</p>

the building to the highway. Additionally, part of the back façade of the Léon Stynen building, an intervention from the 2nd phase, will be demolished to repurpose some unused levels as part of the archive.

Process

Method description

To answer posed problem, I tried, and I will continue to investigate different research directions, that will help gather theoretical ground from which to build my design upon. This research will be conducted through the means of fieldwork, model making, mapping, drawing, archival material study and literature study.

Surveying other Architectural Archives

- Understanding on what an Architectural archive is and what it requires.
- Understand the different layers of public/private relations to the depot.
- Designing the scale of the room, spatiality requirements, used furniture and how they can be reused as means for the archive.

The VAI

- Understanding the functioning of the VAI; its history, and its attitude towards the Public
- Situating the VAI in the Flemish culture: the heritage of Flemish Architecture
- Defining the Architecture institute

DeSingel

- Historical and geographical development (of the city and the site)
- Historical development of the building, different phases and how they modified the building.
- Current situation; tenants of the DeSingel and non-used spaces.

VAI Brief Analysis

- Analysis of the brief and classification of the spaces
- Understand how the brief relates to the current facilities at DeSingel

Literature and general practical references

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Yaneva, Albena (2020). Crafting History: Archiving and the Quest for Architectural Legacy. Cornell University Press. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctvv4142j>

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Reflection

The chair of Interiors Buildings Cities' graduation studio focuses on the concept of the Palace. The term Palace refers to prominent public buildings that have played a significant role in shaping cities and societies. These buildings reflect the complexities of societal values through their architecture, infrastructure, and organization. A Palace acts as both a symbolic and functional space for collective public life, where people gather, interact, and engage with one another.

The Archive is an interesting example in this context. It's a place where society, science, and research are both shaped and stored. However, the relationship between archives and the public is still a challenging one. Archives often remain enclosed spaces, with a disconnect between what is preserved and the people who it serves. This presents a unique challenge for designing and researching its future—how can archives be developed to better integrate the public within it?

For an archive to truly fulfill its purpose, it must be accessible, inclusive, and adaptive. Its architecture plays a crucial role in shaping this relationship by creating spaces that are welcoming, functional, and capable of evolving with society's needs. An archive should not feel like a static, distant institution but rather become an active part of the public realm—offering spaces for dialogue, education and interaction.