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	Daiana Mario Ristanova (graduation project in collaboration with Paraskevi Vryza)
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Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Spolia	
Main mentor	Paul Vermeulen	Architecture
Second mentor	Aurélie Hachez	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	In my previous studios I have dealt with different forms of heritage, existing traces that needed to be interpreted and re-combined in order to preserve their values. I see the Urban Architecture studio as a perfect ending of my path, which, shining through the archeological idea of *spolia*, allows me to understand the different characters of a complicated reality, looking at the past but at the same time sew narratives together to create a truthful vision of the future.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Between production and community
Goal	
Location:	Anderlecht, Brussels, Belgium
The posed problem,	Brussels is a city of fragments. This characterization is not only given in terms of its physical fabric but also in the social reality of the city. Apart from the distinct character this fragmentation attributes, there are also some negative outcomes that are mirrored in society and include the segregation of the different nationalities, the lack of interaction between them but also sometimes the lack of integration to the Belgian reality. The high crime rate in Anderlecht is also a problem for residents who claim that they feel unsafe, especially during nighttime. Further problems include the lack of adequate housing and employment, problems that are intensified with the continuous influx of newcomers in the area.

research questions and	How can we enhance the interaction between different social groups with an urban regeneration? How can we create a stronger sense of community that promotes the communication between different cultures but at the same time aids their integration to the Belgian reality? How can we develop a new model of working and living, activities that have had a close interaction through history and which should be the boundaries between them in terms of privacy? How can we enhance the feeling of a community through the design of residential developments?
design assignment in which these result.	Our eagerness to address wide range of problems identified in the area as well as the size of our site urged us to collaborate in developing a project of a significant size in a team of two. In this way we are aiming to develop a more complete and coherent outcome. The tasks are equally divided in order to assure an equal amount of work from both of the parts. The project will be comprised of the landscape design of a square and the four buildings surrounding it, including: - a community centre (new building-Daiana) - a working-living development (new building-Vivetta) - the renovation of the ground floor of an existing residential tower and connection to the square (team work) - the renovation of a part of an existing industrial building facing the square (team work)

The goal is to design a square that provides Anderlecht with a public space with natural surveillance, a place where local residents and workers interact in an attempt of building a community. The community centre will enable locals to engage with group activities such as dancing, arts and crafts making and learning languages. The appreciation of different cultures through these activities will be the key. Furthermore study spaces, a library and a lecture room/performance space will also be provided. The working and living development will create new jobs and dwellings and will enable a direct connection to the square. The goal for this design is for the two uses to coexist and interact to a limited extent to provide the needed privacy, as does the existing successful model of Brussels. The other two facades of the square will adopt a public character in order to attract locals.

Process

Method description

- analyses (architectural: site and urban context, anthropological)
- case study analysis (program and form)
- literature consultation and study
- model making
- diagramming/ sketching / test-drawing (different scales)
- 3D modeling

Literature and general practical preference

- http://urbisdownload.gis.irisnet.be/ maps
- http://statistics.brussels/figures/key-figures-by-municipality/anderlecht statistics about the Anderlecht municipality
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General Research:

- Hannerz, Ulf, Transnational Connections: Culture, People, Places, Edited by: Routledge, 1996
- Whyte, William, The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces, Edited by Project for Public Spaces Inc, 1980
- Lofland, Lyn, The Public Realm: exploring the city's quintessential social territory, Edited by Rutledge, 1998
- Sennett, Richard, Building and Dwelling: Ethics for the City, Edited by Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2018
- Gehl, Jan. 1971. Life Between Buildings. Washington, DC: Island Press.
- Newmam, Oscar. 1978. Defensible Space. New York: Collier Books.
- Jacobs, Jane. 1961. Death and life of great American cities. [S.l.]: Random House, New York.
- Bobic, Milos. 2004. Between the Edges. Bussum: THOTH Publishers Bussum.

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)?

   Our graduation project in Anderlecht ultimately seeks to improve the integration and interaction opportunities through a network of public and private spaces made up of community activities. In the present day context of globalization, the disappearance of the public life involves also a loss of identity of the city and its neighborhoods. Our graduation project, like a bricolage, wants to reconnect the fragments of the society and of the built environment. In doing so, we are aiming to touch upon different topics and scales: from the material reuse to the anthropological study, from the technical understanding to the human perspective.

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

The Urban Architecture studio has taught us that the physical forms of a city are the visible metaphor for the society that inhabits it and, in the same way, society places its attention on the urban environment as a powerful tool for transformation. Our narrative and research presents the conditions of multiculturality and marginality in a city where different colors coexist but never fully blend. In this framework we try to highlight the value of the public realm as a melting pot which can help not only to strengthen but to materialize community values. Therefore, our graduation work is aiming at highlighting the important of a multitude of shared spaces as the best way for transforming peripheries into settings for urban opportunities.