

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	Sepehr Asadi
Student number	5786584

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explorelab / -	
Main mentor	Jorge Mejía Hernández	Architecture
Second mentor	Pierre Jennen	Architecture
Research mentor	Elise van Dooren	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The openness, and freedom of choice in Explore lab provide a perfect environment to follow the fascination I have which is a subtle, merely visual interpretation of Surrealism visible in the cinema of David Lynch and their coexistence with banal environments. From then, having the freedom to choose the mentors, and the suitable, desired situation and location, was extremely helpful to define the symbiosis of surrealism and architecture in one project and to curate the most convenient method, and practices to explore the fascination.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Banal Dreamscape: reimagining everyday spaces of suburbia
Goal	
Location:	Parelmoervlinder 53, 7534 MB Enschede, The Netherlands
The posed problem,	As an architect, I often have found myself concentrating on the sublime, extreme architecture, with a shift in focus toward everyday architecture, I found the underdevelopment of everyday dwelling solutions in architectural academic environments. Through an architectural investigation of the mundane, I found the banal suburbs are often accompanied by a sense of uncanny empowered by the rigidity of these environments. Vinex

	<p>neighborhoods, the Dutch suburban scheme from 1991, with their repetitive patterns, and mass-produced houses became the field of study for this research. Moreover, on a broader scale, the hypernormal, and mechanical encrusted upon the living, became the main research subject to explore the ordinary and extraordinary.</p> <p>With the initial fascination being surrealism, I found the existing situation of Vinex neighborhoods, as an already surreal one. Thus, the intention was to introduce alternative forms of interaction and a certain degree of elasticity within these rigid environments, through the use of Surrealism, and Defamiliarization as the main tools. To make what is familiar slightly unfamiliar and by doing so challenge the human perception regarding these suburban, everyday, and normal situations.</p>
research questions and	How can a blending of surreal assemblages and unforeseen, potential environments into the mundane, ordinary context of Vinex neighborhoods, reinforce their rigidity with an alternative elasticity and resilience?
design assignment in which these result.	Defamiliarization and spreading of the familiar program of an ordinary Dutch house, into an urban, public site with a collective function.
<p>The design assignment revolves around studying, problematizing, and defamiliarizing the program of a suburban Dutch house in the Vinex neighborhood of Eschmarke in Enschede, Netherlands. The design brief is to transform the spaces of a house into collective, urban spaces for the use of the public, through slight adjustments that make such ordinary, spaces defamiliarized and eventually extraordinary. Through this practice, the process of perception of such notions is prolonged and they are faced with novel questions, while simultaneously an architectural space for each one is being created that moves toward elasticity and resilience, instead of dictating a pre-determined program and expected behavior associated with it.</p>	

Process

Method description

Theoretical background:

An investigation of the banal, everyday, normal, and mundane is the first part and the defining chapter of this research. To achieve alternative responses to mundane situations, first, the theories associated with the normal and mechanized are studied and related to the field of architecture with a general scope.

Theories, like Henri Bergson's *Laughter*, and *Objects of Art in the Age of Mass Production* and art moves like Dadaism and Surrealism also, the cinematography of David Lynch are allegories for a better understanding of the mechanism and motivations behind the normal, quotidian, banal, and to get a reference on how we can encounter what is considered normal with alternative approaches. Increasing the robustness, and resilience of a territory through the design of Indeterminate, potential, influential, and latent environments by Stanford Anderson is another theory that helps reinforce the elasticity of these neighborhoods and challenge their rigidity. The mentioned theories are studied and categorized as the theoretical background of the research in the form of an essay accompanying the project.

Site visit and scrutiny of Vinex:

Vinex neighborhoods as the architectural manifestation of a normal, habitual situation are the context for this project. The specific chosen neighborhood is the Eschmarke in Enschede, the Netherlands. In the second phase of the investigation, the dwelling, situation, patterns of everyday life, and everyday spaces within this neighborhood are studied and investigated to find a suitable situation for alteration and defamiliarization.

Study of the ordinary objects of suburbia:

The study of the components of a house and investigation of the methods that can alter ordinary objects and introduce them to the public with new spatial and functional relations is the third part of the graduation project. Through use of the studies conducted in the first phase, the everyday spaces will be studied and metamorphosed in order to create collective, alternative interpretations of them and to make room for unforeseen events to happen within these banal environments.

Alternative approaches toward everyday spaces:

Finally, the found spaces and visual languages visible in the site will be used as a starting point to make what is familiarized in the context of Eschmarke, more elastic and even more extraordinary. The aim is to keep the normal, existing situation and add another layer to the already available situation of the neighborhood, using the already functional, valid spaces of everyday use and imposing a second layer of events and potential environments on them.

Literature and general practical references

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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)?

This research in its essence is a practice to challenge human perception and as users, and creators of architecture, creating priorly unrealized, or less developed alternatives in the architectural discourse is fundamental. The banal environments and everyday objects surround us throughout most of our interactions with the environment. Thus, questioning, problematizing, and studying the everyday objects of architecture is a practice not only relevant to the Master of Architecture track in this faculty but also is a necessity for making room for improvement in a broader sense. Although the definition of ordinary suggests that it is, derived from order, and the normal is the conventional and habitual, they both need questioning like any other matter or subject that one encounters. Through rational questioning, alternative approaches can be derived from what is taken for granted and this makes the question proposed in research valid and a very important one.

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

The question of human perception and our understanding of phenomena have been one of the fundamental questions that humans have asked themselves throughout history. Thus, what we found as ordinary is the subject for questioning in this research, and the suburban environments as the context for this study is one of the outnumbered typical unnoticed topics that can be taken for granted easily. The public dissatisfaction with the quality of suburbs is the result of a lack of questioning and the market's need for achieving fast results for huge numbers

of people is the main reason behind these dissatisfactions. Thus, the act of questioning such so-called normal situations is the intention of this paper and a dominant factor in any research project that introduces an alternative to the underdeveloped questions. The underdeveloped subject of Vinex and a tendency for architecturally analyzing them is the main motivation behind this research. Hoping to find solutions to reduce the rigidity of such environments in favor of more elasticity and introduction of more potential into them as one environment that is less developed by architects and is usually under the dominance of the building limitations instead of architectural, investigation.