

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	
Student number	4736303
Telephone number	
Private e-mail address	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture/Spolia	
Main mentor	Paul Vermeulen	Architecture Design
Second mentor	J.W. Lafeber	Architecture Engineering
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Personally, I'm interested in how a building can respond to a specific urban context and create a coherent relation with urban space in addition to satisfying the required functional and technical needs. This is exactly what Urban Architecture Studio focuses on. Our studio is aimed at medium-scale urban issue which is closely related to the design of architecture involved in the specific context. Such architectural research and design assignment are attractive to me.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Urban Working Cluster
Goal	
Location:	Anderlecht, Brussels

<p>The posed problem,</p>	<p>Traditionally in Brussels, a mix of living and working especially on the scale of urban block contributed to distinct urban tissue and lively urban life. However, industrial activities have been expelled from urban area in the last decades. As a result, the mix of diverse programmes and lively urban life gradually fade away. Therefore, a call for productive city arises in recent years.</p> <p>As for the site of our studio, it is on the edge of the urbanized area, close to the canal and port, whose industrial area is being redeveloped in ZEMU Plan. The block itself is characterized by fragments from different eras standing separately due to historical development without considering the block as whole. But some of these fragments, namely the leftover piece of traditional urban tissue and the former factory building in the west half of the block, still accommodate productive activities. In other words, the mix of working and living are preserved, though in a fragmentary way. Thus, the essential problem is how the block can be redeveloped in order for a coherent inner structure and well-defined urban space and how the working space could be shaped or reshaped in order for synergy inside the working cluster and coexistence with outside living space which will contribute to a lively urban life.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Which kind of working programmes are suitable to be arranged together in the cluster and by which means a healthy collaboration and synergy will be generated?</p> <p>Which kind of housing is suitable to arranged with working programmes and how to achieve the coexistence?</p> <p>How can the traditional mixed tissue as urban spolia be referred and adapted in the architectural intervention?</p> <p>How can the existing industrial building as structural spolia be redeveloped and integrated in the urban tissue?</p> <p>How can the remaining building elements and materials be interpreted and reused in order to contribute to the quality of new intervention?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design will deal with a new infill structure and redevelopment of an existing industrial building. The two structure will be physically and functionally connected and intended to be as a single working cluster comprised of Rotor's storage and processing space, ateliers in different sizes, a craft/technique school and shared facilities not only between working spaces but also between working spaces and living spaces such as a canteen. Furthermore, the working cluster</p>

	<p>will respond to conditions of three directions as an integral part of the whole reshaped block. First, to Rue des Bassins, the new infill structure will refer to traditional urban tissue and seek for a proper way to restore the edge of the block as well as the coherent street façade and urban experience. Secondly to Rue Prévinaire, the transformation of the existing Rotor building and yard is aimed for a flexible and lively working street. Finally, towards the inner courtyard, attempts focusing on shared programmes and the interface will be made to contribute to a healthy coexistence of working and living and peaceful community atmosphere.</p>

Process

Method description

Literature Inquiry and Case Study. Precedents will be analyzed and referenced for inspiring and practical suggestions on design.

Field Investigation. It's necessary to get better understanding of what is there on site and how they work. Analysis and evaluation will be made on the basis of P2 in order for proper design choices. Moreover, it would be better if I could visit the selected architectural case in person.

Sketching and Model Making. Thinking by sketching and making are useful to push the design forward.

Literature and general practical preference

Productive Metropolis and final reports of Research by Design Programme.

"Re: work" Master Class.

P1 research "Living & Working"

Cities of Making, Cities Reports. Brussels, 2018.

Aplus (278). 2019.

Planned or on-going projects in Brussel.

Reflection

My graduation project, Urban Working Cluster, is not a single and brand-new building. It incorporates a new infill structure referring to traditional mixed urban tissue and transformation of an existing industrial building. In this way, it corresponds to the studio's topic of spolia, as which I take not only building material and remaining elements, but also urban tissue and valuable building structure. Furthermore, the project is not a structure free-standing in nature. Instead, it's an intervention in an existing urban context, based on specific conditions. As an integral part of the block, it will contribute to a coherent inner organizational structure inside the block as well as well-defined urban space outside the block. And this responds to the focus of our studio on addressing urban space from the perspective of architecture design.

Within a larger framework, the exploration of mixed structure of working and living responds to the social demands and expectation. The results might help with the attempt for a lively productive city. On the other hands, spolia is actually a concept with a long history and tradition. It involves reuse out of economic demands and endeavor to establish connection with history and context. And the investigation on

spolia and its application in my project are actually an attempt to interpret the concept of spolia personally and contribute to the long history of exploration.