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	Matijn Kroes
Student number	5936500

Studio		
Name / Theme	Complex Projects	
Main mentor	Benjamin Groothuijse	Architecture
Second mentor	Joost Woertman	Building Technology
Third Mentor	Maria Finagina	Architecture
Delegate	Julia Schönwälder	-
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I completed Complex Projects in MSc1 and thoroughly enjoyed the variety of building typologies explored in the studio and the focus on a public building relating to the broader context of the city. Additionally, I appreciate the structured organization of the studio and the opportunity to engage with the design of complex buildings, which are not commonly part of standard architectural projects.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	JUST Milano Justice, Understanding, Solutions, Transparency
Goal	
Location:	Milan, Italy
The posed problem,	The traditional image of courthouses has often been one of monumental; imposing, closed-off structures to express power and authority. These buildings were mainly built to reflect the seriousness of the justice system and are typically characterized by closed-off façades and restricted access, separating the public from the inner workings of justice. This physical and symbolic separation between the public and the justice system has made it feel disconnected and unapproachable to the people it serves, leading to diminished public trust in the system.

research questions and	How can the design of a contemporary courthouse transform traditionally closed-off spaces into areas that mediate between different user groups and the city to rebuild trust and openness in the justice system?
design assignment in which these result.	Designing the 'Inside-Out' Courthouse as a Catalyst for Future Courthouses: A courthouse model that facilitates mediation case proceedings while also serving as a mediator between the building and the city's context.

The graduation project will explore how the design of an 'Inside-Out' courthouse can address the disconnection between the public and the justice system by transforming traditionally closed-off spaces into areas of openness, mediation and engagement. The project will focus on the following objectives:
-   Reconfiguring Spatial Typologies: Redefining the courthouse as a transparent civic building that mediates between the justice system, the public, and the city, moving away from its traditional role as an isolated structure symbolizing power and authority.
-   Addressing ADR and Mediation: Integrating Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Mediation as a more approachable way towards justice and actively contributing to reducing case backlogs and courtroom congestion.
-   Site-Specific Design: Responding to the unique cultural, historical, and urban context of Milan, particularly given the site's fully occupied plot of approximately 37,500 m2.

Process

Method description

The design brief will be informed by a thorough analysis of the client, program, and site. These aspects form the foundation of the project, ensuring a clear understanding of its context and requirements. In addition to that, research into Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation will provide further insights to shape the design approach and programmatic additions.

The literature review will establish the theoretical framework by examining contemporary courthouse design, transparency in public architecture, the concept of the 'public sphere' by Habermas, theories on transparency, the role of the courthouse as a civic institution and Alternative Dispute Resolution and mediation. Case studies will explore how courthouses incorporated their program, spatial layout, public engagement and transparency. Site analysis of the current Palazzo di Giustizia in Milan, and a site visit will provide contextual insights. Furthermore, a guided tour and interview with a project leader (courthouse in Zwolle) will deepen the understanding of courthouse functionality. At last, the cultural lens will examine how the design of the courthouse can respond to Milan's temporalities.

Literature and general practical references

01. Amadi, Felix. (2019). Alternative Dispute Resolution Processes and the Structure of Multi-Door Courthouses in Nigeria. 8. 16-26.

02. Habermas, Junger. (1991). The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere, Cambridge,The MIT Press, pp. 301.

03. Hardenbergh, D. E. (2004). Trends in courthouse design. National Center for State Courts. In Future trends in state courts. https://www.ncsc.org

04. IBA (z.d.). The Italian model of mediation: an update. https://www.ibanet.org/the-italian-model-of-mediation-an-update

05. Kang, E., & Park, E. J. (2021). Phenomenological Transparency through Depth of "Inside/Outside" for a Sustainable Architectural Environment. Sustainability, 13(16), 9046. https://doi.org/10.3390/su13169046

06. Mulcahy, L. (2011). Legal Architecture: Justice, due process and the place of law (1st ed.). Routledge

07. OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions 2024 Results - Country Notes: Italy. (2024, July 10). OECD. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-survey-on-drivers-of-trust-in-public-institutions-2024-results-country-notes_a8004759-en/italy__ec745ba3-en.html

08. Project for Public Spaces. (n.d.). Courts in a new paradigm of place. https://www.pps. org/article/courts-in-a-new-paradigm-of-place

09. Rethinking The Future (2023). Community-Centric Architecture: Designing the Future Together. https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/architectural-community/a11847- community-centric-architecture-designing-the-future-together/

10. Roman Law Firm. (2023, 12 oktober). Alternative Dispute Resolution: Arbitration and Mediation - Roman Law Firm. https://romanattorney.com/practice-areas/arbitration-and-mediation/

11. Tellman. (2018, 19 oktober). Due Process and the Enclosure of Justice - Urban Omnibus. Urban Omnibus. https://urbanomnibus.net/2018/01/due-process-enclosure-justice/

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 graduation project aligns with the Complex Projects studio topic, which emphasizes designing architecture that addresses societal complexities and future challenges. The relation within my Architecture (A) track, my project pushes the boundaries of design by developing innovative solutions that integrate the spatial, functional and symbolic aspects of architecture. The connection to the MSc Architecture, Urbanism, and Building Sciences (AUBS) is the emphasis on critical thinking and addressing global architectural challenges.

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

There is an increasing need for courthouses to adapt to contemporary expectations of transparency, public engagement, and the rebuilding of trust in the justice system. As societal perceptions of justice evolve, courthouses worldwide are trying to balance the power and authority of the legal system with the growing demand for accessibility, openness and civic involvement. This shift toward transparency in judicial architecture is not just an issue within the legal sector, but part of a broader trend in public spaces, where communities demand more inclusive, open, and responsive institutions. This project aligns with a global movement towards "public-centric" architecture that values civic engagement, transparency, and accountability in state institutions