

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



| Personal information | |
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| Name | Aleksandra Kozicka |
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| Studio | | |
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| Name / Theme | Complex Projects / Hotel New York | |
| Main mentor | Dr. M. Triggianese | History & Complexity |
| Second mentor | Hubert van der Meel | Building Technology |
| Argumentation of choice of the studio | Interest in migration as an aspect of time in architecture. | |

| Graduation project | |
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| Title of the graduation project: | Permanent Transitions: migration of idea of temporality in architecture |
| Goal | |
| Location: | Pleinweg, Rotterdam |
| Problem: | Extremely divided, decaying urban environment in the middle of metropolis of Randstad. It is characterized by high vacancy of housing and growing lack of liveability within the area. Its historical importance cannot be noticed anymore, and connection to highly prosperous cluster around Ahoy Arena nearby is impermeable. |
| Research question: | Research question: How to achieve optimal stability in permanent temporality state? Subquestion: What creates the permeable design at different urban scales? |
| Design assignment: | The goal of the project is the creation of an intervention that will act as a catalyst, and therefore attract the external parties to invest in the region, as well as create an inclusive environment for the communities and a sense of belonging. Thus, a solution which will combine the characteristics of the global event center and local, historical commercial area is required. Specifically, it is necessary to find a balance between intervention of varying time frames, and act towards the permeable middle ground. Accordingly, the chosen location for the intervention was the crucial partition of the border itself, which has the potential to provide a fluent and cohesive environment of global character between the Ahoy district and the developing park around the harbor. Functionally, combination of the exhibition and commercial features was included, while maintaining inversed scales in comparison to the existing functions. |

Process

Method description

To create a response towards current state of researched area, the analysis of historical background, as well as future plans was necessary. Moreover, several studies of temporary architecture and permeable solutions in urban planning have been conducted in order to understand the factors involved. Thus, temporality in architecture, as an aspect of time and space became a focal point of the research. Consequently, multiple mappings and data about the analyzed location were gathered and compared with the global references in order to find similarities and differences.

Literature and general practical preference

In understanding the phenomena of temporality in architecture, the crucial researches were the experiences of an architectural company ZUS, presented with the challenges of migration in the urban context. These were described and concluded in the book "City of Permanent Temporality". Moreover, the origins of the urban decisions that were the causes of said effects are explained in the book "Town planning in the Netherlands since 1800: responses to enlightenment ideas and geopolitical realities", and were used as a reference for the historic background. Combined with archival materials from National Archive and Rotterdam City Archives, it was possible to build a realistic image of life in this area many years ago. Photographs from Ahoy events, local newspapers and postcards with Pleinweg as central area of south of Rotterdam were vital in this process. Likewise, crucial for the analysis process were the city visions and plans for the future, thus multiple documents defined by the Municipality of Rotterdam were evaluated. Their scope ranges from general ambitions and very futuristic goals for the whole city, to specific directives for the traffic on Pleinweg street.

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)?

The graduation project investigates the migrations of temporality and therefore is one of the threads of studio research about migration of ideas. Likewise, the issues of impermeable and decaying architecture are directly related to the search for solutions for social and spatial matters tackled in the master track of Architecture.

Reflecting on the previous projects within the master studies, the relation with the complexity of design solution as a way of bridging the borders between several factors can be clearly noticed. In a previously conducted studies, the search for architectural answer for a political border was defined. Similarly, the intertwining of social and technological needs in resilient architecture after natural disasters was resolved.

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

The research precedent is of global relevance. In August 2010 the exhibition Vacant NL opened on the Venice Biennale, to make a statement about the sheer number of vacant properties. Exhibition curated by RAAF NL overwhelmed the visitors by gathering the shapes of all vacant buildings in Netherlands. This architectural

statement proofed that the issue of vacancy is still relevant globally, and especially in the Netherlands. Architects question the vacancy of the exposition pavilions themselves, by pointing out the fact that except for a few weeks of exhibitions biyearly, the building is vacant. So far, no visible or significant improvements have been made to tackle this situation, hence the necessity of highlighting the problem is genuinely important.