

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

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Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Quan Phitakraxanti
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Studio	
Name / Theme	Methods and Analysis: Analysis and Intervention in the Afropolis
Teachers / tutors	Prof. Dr. Tom Avermaete Ir. Jorge Mejia Hernandez Ir. Pierre Jennen
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Opportunity to experiment on different design strategies and a challenging site.

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Charging walls: The Weaving City
Goal	
Location:	Le Oasis, Casablanca, Morocco

The posed problem,	<p>Casablanca is the second city of Morocco that adopted tram lines to connect people all over the city. There are two existing lines that run from the east to south right through its city center which undoubtedly create social interaction opportunities for different kind of people. However, the infrastructural elements also cut the urban tissue by difference in hardness, speed, scale, shape and etcetera which negatively effected the surrounding neighborhoods. The city turns its back at the infrastructural tracks, leaving behind the opportunities to sewn back the disconnecting urban fabric.</p> <p>Le Oasis area is an extreme case of such problematic area caused by the infrastructural seams in Casablanca. Since not only there are tram line cutting through its neighborhood but also the train tracks and its surrounding area are completely walled off from the public, the seam is evident.</p>
research questions and	<p>How to articulate city and infrastructural element in a less traumatic way by incorporating architectural elements that create a space where the two realms that retain their individual integrity overlap.</p>
design assignment in which these result.	
<p>The project area will become an in-between space where the seperation between the rail and tram tracks with their neighborhoods become less obvious and less problematic, thus becoming a new potential centrality for people to use the area not only for travel means but also for social interactions. With spatial quality capable of sustaining a meaningful public domain and turning neighborhood's attention back to the project area.</p> <p>In order to achieve that, the project would focus on the fundamental architectural elements and shapes to perform an active mediating role between different urban grains, degrees of hardness or speed, which will be deliberately designed responding to the differences from its context.</p>	

Process

Method description

The research phase includes the following;

1. Site research: By a two weeks site visit trip including collaboration with local universities (Ecole Nationale d'Architectue de Casablanca) and Casamemoire organization. The in-situ research by investigation through debates, participatory observation and interviews.
2. Theoretical research: By literature reviews, analysis and reflections from the tutors.
3. Case studies research: By literature reviews and analysis

After the research phase, individual proposal for intervention will be developed, taking into account the findings of the research phase. Also, incorporating the technical building design aspect along the designing phase.

Literature and general practical preference

Eyck, Aldo van. 1986. Niet Om Het Even, Wel Evenwaardig. Rotterdam: Stichting Rotterdam-Maaskant.

Eyck, Aldo van, and Vincent Ligtelijn. 1999. Aldo Van Eyck, Works. Basel: Birkhäuser Verlag.

Feireiss, Kristin, and Oliver G Hamm. 2015. Transforming Cites. Berlin: Jovis.

Hung, Ying-Yu. 2013. Landscape Infrastructure. Basel: Birkhäuser.

Koolhaas, Rem. 2014. Fundamentals. Venice: Marsilio.

Newman, Oscar. 1961. CIAM '59 In Otterlo. Stuttgart: K. Krämer.

Raxworthy, Julian, and Jessica Blood. 2004. The MESH Book. Melbourne: RMIT Pub.

Ruby, Ilka, and Andreas Ruby. 2006. Groundscapes. Barcelona: G. Gili.

Secchi, Bernardo, and Paola Viganò. 2009. Antwerp, Territory Of A New Modernity. Amsterdam: SUN.

Solà-Morales i Rubió, Manuel de, Kenneth Frampton, and Hans Ibelings. 2008. A Matter Of Things. Rotterdam: NAI Publishers.

With further research on the walls as an articulating elements using by several architects such as Aldo van Eyck and Louis Kahn.

Reflection

Relevance

The infrastructural seams within the city are problematic issues that have been occurring in many countries. Several urban interventions have been dealing with the neglected areas surrounded or even the infrastructures themselves and they proved to be successfully embraced by the city and its people. The project not only will respond to the pressing issue and trends but also would be able to use parts of the design in other areas facing the same conditions too.

Time planning

Msc 3

Week 4.9

Non-educational period

Week 5.1 - 5.8

Msc 4

Week 1.1 - 1.3

Week 1.4 - 1.5

Week 1.6 - 1.10

Week 2.1

Week 2.2 - 2.3

Week 2.4 - 2.5

Week 2.6

February 2015 - June 2015

P2 - Research and design strategies

July 2015-August 2015

Design and performed research assessment: definition of additional research and studies necessary for the final design stage.

September 2015 - January 2015

Continuation of design development:

- Spatial, aesthetic and programmatic studies
- Materialisation
- Structural design and building technology (consultation with expert)
- Additional research through design and studies (consultation with expert if applicable)

P3 - Complete design presentation

Finalization of design:

- Definitive solution for spatial, aesthetic and programmatic studies
- Elaboration of definitive materialisation and technology solutions

P4 - Definitive design presentation

- Final model
- Final posters and presentation

P5 - Conclusive final presentation of the graduation project