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	Sam Haverhals
Student number	5232716

Studio	
Name / Theme	Complex Projects – Bodies & Building Milan
Main mentor	Hrvoje Smidihen	Architecture
Second mentor	Dr. B. Lubelli	Architectural Engineering + Technology Heritage & Architecture
Third mentor	Martin Grech	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The Complex Projects studio caught my attention due to the scale and ambition of the projects undertaken. During my Master's program, I primarily focused on the technical aspects of architecture, choosing courses in architectural engineering to deepen my expertise. I see this studio as an excellent opportunity to apply the technical knowledge I've gained to the design of a challenging and innovative building. What also excites me about this studio is its research-through-design methodology. This approach not only enhances the design process but also provides valuable insights that can be directly applied in practice. My architectural interests span both the technical and social dimensions of design. I am particularly intrigued by how architecture can foster social interaction within a building. Designing a "one of Milan" building offers the perfect context to explore this intersection, balancing technical innovation with social impact.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The connecting Library From collection to connection

Goal	
Location:	Feltrinelli, Milan (Viala Pasubio, 11)
The posed problem,	Human well-being relies on three pillars: mental, physical, and social health, all of which are interconnected (Api, 2023). In Italy, social bonds play a vital role, with public spaces like squares, cafés, and markets fostering a culture of togetherness. Italians often score high on social health, with 89% reporting strong support networks (OECD Better Life Index, 2020).

	In Milan, however, this culture of togetherness is shifting.
	Individualism
	As a hub for education and careers, Milan attracts many young adults, resulting in 52% of households being single-person well above the national average of 30% (Statista, 2024). Many live far from family, prioritizing careers over community, leading to reduced social interaction.
	Fragmentation
	With migrants making up 20% of the population, barriers like language, limited services, and social isolation exacerbate fragmentation (Council, 2024). This weakens connections between locals and newcomers, undermining community cohesion.
	Public Spaces
	Milan also lacks accessible, inclusive public spaces; 52% of residents are beyond a 15-minute walk from such spaces (Systematica, 2020). Existing spaces often fail to encourage interaction, worsening social disconnection.
	Consequences
	These factors have significantly weakened Milan's social health, with 51% of residents reporting loneliness, particularly among younger people (Brennecke, 2023). Addressing these challenges is essential to fostering a more connected and healthy urban community.
research questions	To enhance social interaction in Milan, this research will explore how the design of a public library can address these issues. The central research question is as follows:
	How can the architectural design of a public library boost social interaction?
	This central question will be addressed through the actual design of a library in Milan. The design process will explore this question by investigating the following sub-questions:
	- How can architecture make a library more accessible to everyone?
	- What architectural elements promote social interaction in libraries?
	- How can a library design contribute to the well-being and comfort of its users?
design assignment in which these result.	This research aims to transform the Feltrinelli Library into Milan's 'living room'; a welcoming space that not only provides access to knowledge but also acts as a

	vibrant community hub, revitalizing the traditional Italian culture of togetherness. The current Feltrinelli complex consists of three separate buildings, each serving a different purpose: a library, a Microsoft office, and a museum. This project explores how these functions can be integrated into a single cohesive building. At the heart of the design, a central space will serve as the city's living room, fostering connection and interaction among its diverse users to encourage social interaction and combat loneliness.

Process

Method description

The goal of MSc 3 is to develop a design brief for the new Feltrinelli complex. This design brief consists of three key elements: the site, the client, and the program. The methods used for each of these elements are outlined below.

Site: The site investigation includes a site visit, followed by an analysis of key factors such as green spaces, pedestrian flow, nearby buildings, climate, and other relevant aspects at various scales.

Client: A literature review is conducted to gather insights on the different ambitions and expectations of each client involved in the project, allowing for a clear understanding of their needs and visions. Subsequently, the focus shifts to how these functions can be integrated into a single building and whether new clients are needed to ensure the success of the project.

Program: The current program of the Feltrinelli complex is analyzed and compared with other public buildings that focus on encouraging social interaction. Based on this analysis, a proposal for a new program is developed, along with a relationship diagram to illustrate spatial connections. Additionally, the elements within the program that can foster social interaction are identified, and design principles are established to support these interactions.

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)?

a. Relation to the Studio: This research aligns with the theme of the Bodies & Building studio, as it investigates human behavior in relation to architectural environments. The focus is on how architectural design can encourage social interaction, which is integral to the overall well-being of individuals. By exploring this relationship, the project seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of how physical spaces can foster positive social dynamics.

b. Relation to the Master Track (A): The research question is addressed through architectural design, utilizing a design-based approach within this studio. This approach allows for the integration of theoretical research with practical design solutions, enabling a direct application of architectural principles to tackle the identified challenges.

c. to the Master Programme (MSc AUBS): This project spans multiple scales, addressing themes within urban, architectural, and interior design. By analyzing the broader urban context alongside detailed architectural elements, the project bridges these different fields. Additionally, attention is

given to the technical aspects of building construction, ensuring that the design is not only conceptually sound but also feasible in terms of its physical realization.

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

The research will result in a toolbox for stimulating social interaction through architecture. This toolbox will be used in the design of a library as the living room of the city. Additionally, it can also be applied to encourage social interaction and connection in other buildings. This makes it highly relevant to the field of architecture.