

Reflection Paper P5

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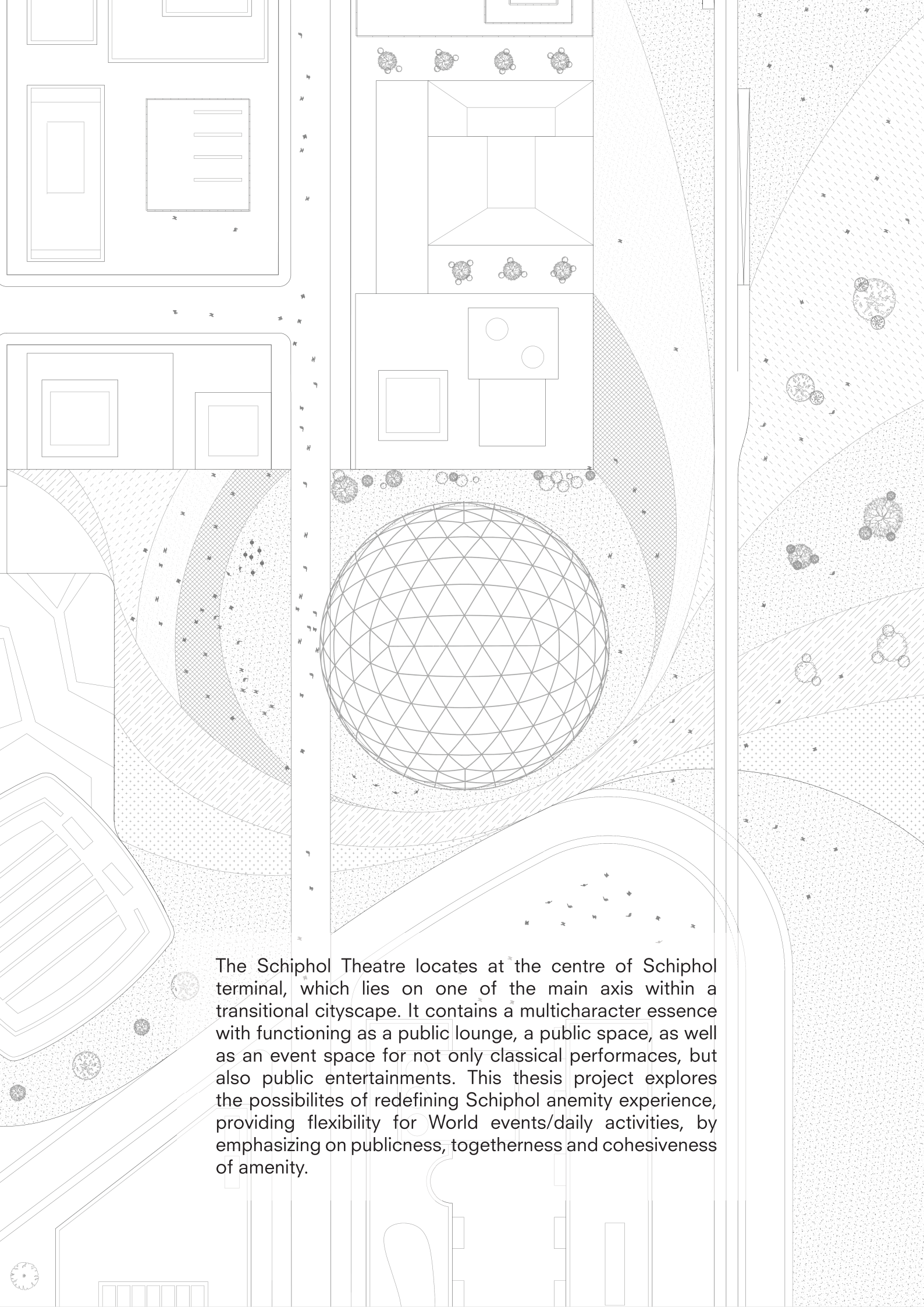


PROJECT TITLE : SCHIPHOL THEATRE

Master Track : Architecture

Studio : Complex Project - AMS 2050 MID CITY

Group : Schiphol Terminal



The Schiphol Theatre locates at the centre of Schiphol terminal, which lies on one of the main axis within a transitional cityscape. It contains a multicharacter essence with functioning as a public lounge, a public space, as well as an event space for not only classical performances, but also public entertainments. This thesis project explores the possibilities of redefining Schiphol amenity experience, providing flexibility for World events/daily activities, by emphasizing on publicness, togetherness and cohesiveness of amenity.

Aspect 1

The relationship between research and design?

In this studio, research phases are systematically organized in a way that provides different lens and hierarchy of vision towards not only the current conditions of Schiphol, but also the foreseeable future conditions with group strategies. On reflection, the result from different lens are of significant purposes and meanings as follows:

For the lens of site data on landside, airside, central business district, together with the public space research based on different scale of focus, four conclusions are drawn (as shown below) which provide a design potential in response to these current factors of Schiphol, coupled with the group future conditions strategies.



Idling while waiting



Poor Public Space Quality

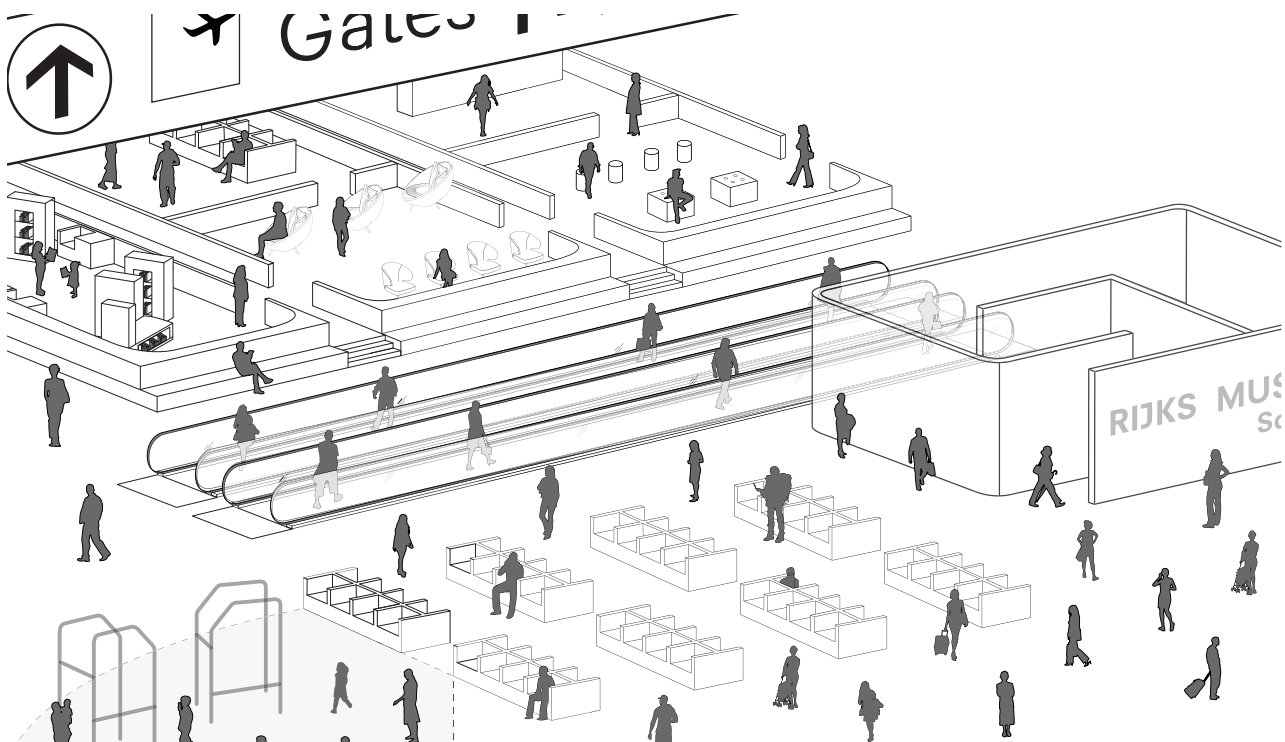


Diminishing Human Element

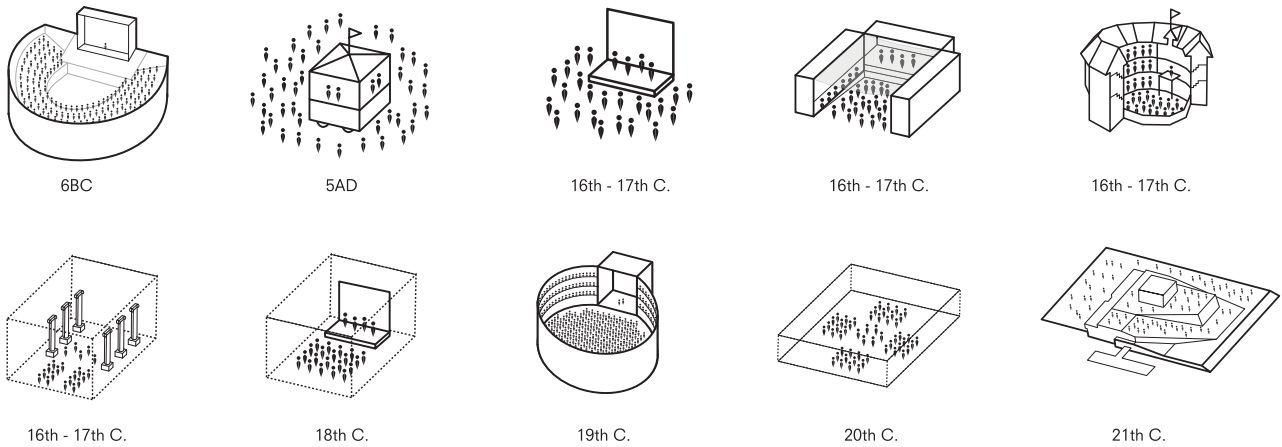


A lack of cultural amenity

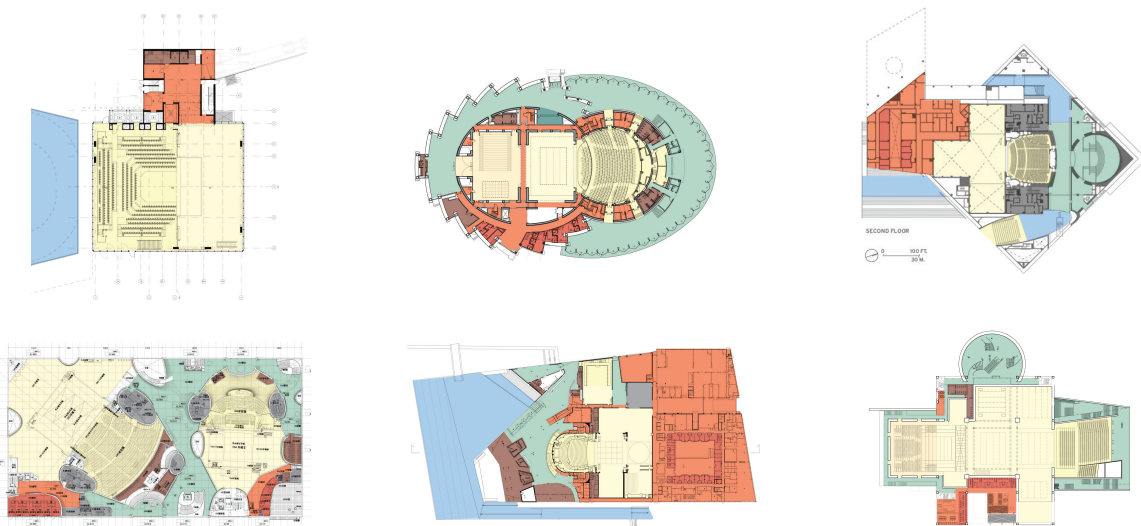
These research conclusions give a solid background of what is currently happening within Schiphol and provide challenges and potentials for design strategies in response to these factors. Eventually, it determines my choice of designing a 2050 Schiphol theatre following my research question of : what role will amenities play in development of public domain of landside?



For the research lens of space data, different lens of theatre typologies research not only provide a solid framework of the spatial configurations of theatres itself, but also in research for what are the essence of theatres within previous centuries mainly focusing on relationship between amenities and public domain. For instance, the 5AD theatres are submerged into the public domain whereas 19th C. performances are within an enclosed space. These data help to rethink what and how should performance link to public domain within 2050.



For the research lens of precedent studies, the transformational and atmospheric characters are studies with respect to the considerations of Schiphol future conditions. This programmatic and spatial research of theatre characters helps to figure out the pros and cons per conditions. In the course of designing an airport theatre, those characters remind me of what are the potentials and what are the challenges on such a specific site. For instance, the highly-desified land of Schiphol cannot directly apply what Toyo ito has done in providing a huge public space surrounding the theatre. This challenge has reinterpreted in my design of introducing publicness within the Schiphol Theatre itself. Thus, in a bigger picture, research and design are interlinked as a reference of what has been done in the past, as a mirror of reflecting the current challenges/potentials. It also serves as a reminder to what can be further achieved, improved, or reinterpreted within the design of 2050 condition theatre. Personally, this research approach works for my choice of architectural topic and to the extent of integrated enhancement of my project development.

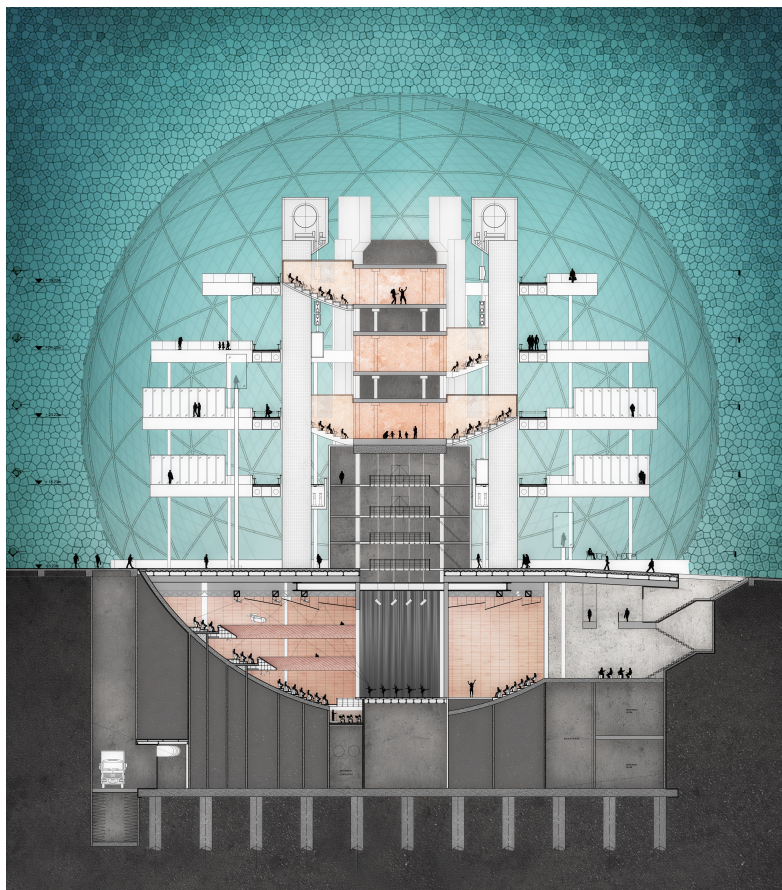


Aspect 2

The relationship 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 topic is Schiphol Theatre, which is in pursuit of the redefinition of amenity experience in Schiphol, which is aligning with the timeline and theme of studio topic : AMS Mid-City 2050 Studio, particularly focusing on the dual character of Schiphol as a transit hub and as an airport city.

My master track of Architecture within MSc Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences, has included the focus on spatial, technical and social challenges within the built environment, and to make innovative projects. Within referene to these criteria, my project has invented a new typology of future theatre, in which different from the classical typology of moving stages and static auditoriums, instead I have designed an active moving auditorium system for scene changing within a show, as well as providing flexibility of various sizes of public entertainments. Such design strategy of project is to innovatively seek for solutions in response to a redefinition of amenity expereince.



Schiphol Theatre Section

Aspect 3

Elaboration on research method and approach chosen by the student in relation to the graduation studio methodical line of inquiry, reflecting thereby upon the scientific relevance of the work.

Starting from day one, the learning of working process and research method is one of the most influential factor for my choice of Complex Project Graduation Studio. For Complex Project Graduation studio, inter-disciplinary research on different scales, including urban scale, city scale and building scale, are of high importance. A huge amount of supporting data has to be digested within a tight time frame, and summarized in the Site book and also Personal Research Book.

Besides data analysis, methodologically, model analysis is also carried a heavy weight for concept testing as well as design developments. For instance, throughout the conceptual model analysis, one of the options is a spherical shape. When the shape is attached to the site context, numerous questions arise such as does it fit the site context and how much proportion should the sphere be existing on site. All these can be tested and analyzed.

Scientifically, the model testings of design development include how the moving auditorium system works and forces distribution. The studio focus of modelling enhances my energetic testings of how the model is structurally viable.



Site Model Testing

Aspect 4

Elaboration on the relationship between the graduation project and the wider social, professional and scientific framework, touching upon the transferability of the project results.

From the project results, a new typology of theatre is tested which creates an effect of blurring the boundaries between auditoriums, lounges and public space. A more active welcoming of publicness and togetherness, without sacrificing traditional performances (which is on the underground part of my design). A dual characterized theatre typology is thus created which has a high potential in rethinking the fixed boundaries between programming and how blurring the border conditinos transfer boundary into potentials in nurturing the public atmosphere with a new lens.

Based on the result of design development, I opine that the approach for blurring boundaries and unveiling the enclosed character of theatre is working. Similar principle can be applied for site conditions which contain the need for flexibility and entertainment sharing a simliar airport condition like Schiphol.



Collage of Public Entertainment Part of Schiphol Theatre

Aspect 5

Discuss the ethical issues and dilemmas you may have encountered in (i) doing the research, (ii, if applicable) elaborating the design and (iii) potential applications of the results in practice.

After discussions and conversations with both design and structural tutors, a number of dilemmas as challenges and potentials has come to light as follows :

When doing the research, one of the biggest challenge is to reflect on the current condition of non-place within Schiphol, specifically linking to the amenity experience and the surrounding public spatial quality. To map and define the 'fake experience' is challenging and I am really appreciated that my design tutor has discussed with and guided me towards the interpretation of the public spatial quality within Schiphol, and eventually becomes one of the key design strategies of my final project. On reflection of the research process, the feedback from tutor has a significant effect on sharpening the focus of my research on non-place, as well as the afterwards design interpretation.

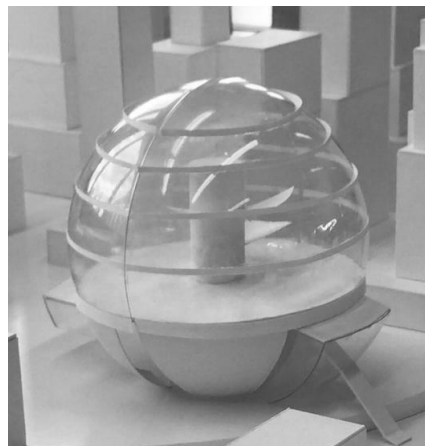
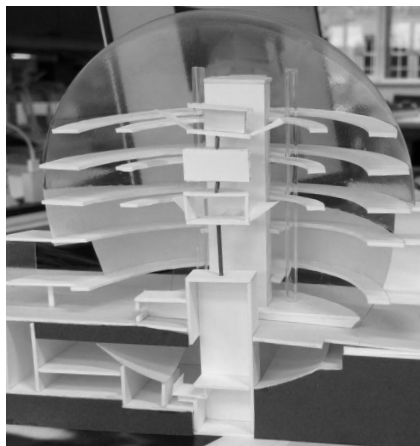


Towards the criteria of elaboration of design, there are a number of discussions among design tutor and structural tutor on the choice of sphere as form, including how and why this form can reflect my design strategies and elements. During the course of discussion, particularly I have re-written all my thinkings so as not to be obsessed with the spherical form itself but to think back and question myself what is the essence of my project beyond form expression. Finally, the spherical choice is reinforced by a number of supporting reasons directly related to my research result, my design approaches, as well as the testing typology of the new type of cohesive theatre with publicness, blurring boundaries and public entertainment.

For the spherical approach, the dilemma towards how much proportion of sphere should be above ground, is it a complete sphere, what if not a total sphere, these kinds of questions has been raised by both tutors and it helps me a lot in stepping back and selecting my choice with concrete, sensible reasonings.



Model Analysis



Towards potential application of results in practise, the structural problem raised in P3 which is dealing with the underground theatre has been resolved with model testing and various options in minimizing those columns which affecting the spatial quality of the underground theatre. Solutions are given, but there should always be a possibility for improvement.

Thus, structural performance is one essential part that I will be further investigate in the final period of the graduation. Besides, facade performance with respect to geometrical performances (for instance, there is always a pentagon among a number of sub-panels within the diamond grid) is also one esential topic for further investigation afterwards. These studies can further polish the new emerging of 2050 theatre typology - the Airport Theatre.



Structural Performance Analysis Model