

# 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](mailto: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	Aiste Rakauskaite
Student number	5347912

Studio		
Name / Theme	Adapting 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Heritage	
Main mentor	Lidy Meijers	Design mentor
Second mentor	Frank Koopman	Building Technology mentor
Third mentor	Hielkje Zijlstra	Research mentor
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>I believe that adaptive reuse will be one of the main challenges and possibilities to build more sustainably in the future. However, before repurposing a building for new uses, I would like to learn how to embrace building values and keep special and unique characteristics.</p> <p>I genuinely believe that this gained practice would be helpful in the Lithuanian context where I'm from. The majority of districts in Lithuania were built after the Second World War. Those buildings are unlisted heritage, and many of them are being redeveloped in a budget way without embracing any of the values.</p> <p>This is why I decided to choose Adapting 20th Century Heritage studio where I can work on Post-War period architecture and learn from the Dutch approach to heritage which I believe has a lot of solid examples in a nowadays global context.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Connectivity creates livability
Goal	
Location:	Groningen, Rademarkt 12, The Netherlands
The posed problem,	Even though Groningen's centre is the most vibrant and attractive place in the municipality, a massive modernist style police building urban block forms an

	isolated island in the most attractive historical part of the city. Connectivity between the building and its surroundings does not exist.
research questions and	<p>By studying the importance of the connection between buildings, I want to answer the following research question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How does the interaction between buildings and residents influence the livability in the inner part of Groningen?</li> </ul> <p>After primary research of the Politiebureau Rademarkt, the three focus points as scale, function and street life were chosen to analyze:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How does the scale of the Politiebureau Rademarkt influence the livability of its surroundings?</li> <li>- How does the function of Politiebureau Rademarkt cause the isolation of buildings and their surroundings?</li> <li>- How specific design tools can help to create active streetlife in Politiebureau Rademarkt surroundings?</li> </ul>
design assignment in which these result.	Transformation of Police building in Groningen.
<p>The quality of life of every square meter in a city is a crucial topic of architecture and urbanism nowadays. Rapid urban sprawl brings various problems such as higher pollution in the cities, increased traffic fatalities or increased car dependency. By 2050 close to 70% of the global population will live in cities (United Nations, 2018). In the midst of this, densification appears to be one of the main solutions. Every square meter and quality of the urban environment matters.</p> <p>The transformation of the National Police in the Netherlands in 2013 brought new possibilities for urban redevelopment of the particular city areas. Around 700,000 square meters of real estate of National Police will be divested in the upcoming ten years (Weessies, 2017, n.p.).</p> <p>One of the redevelopment cases are related to the inner part of Groningen city. Groningen is growing very fast: according to the statistics, the municipality of</p>	

Groningen has grown by more than 50.000 inhabitants in the period of 10 to 15 years (Data Commons, 2020). It means that the redevelopment of National Police real estate could become one of the examples how to deal with rapid urbanization and increase the quality of densified city.

The city grows faster than ever and it puts the living environment under pressure. As the municipality of Groningen states the main challenge nowadays is to find a good balance between various functions, interests, wishes and quality of the living environment (Gemeente Groningen, 2018, p. 1). In other words, the livability of a city is a focus point.

The quality and livability of the living environment are crucial topics to the area where Police building is located. The oldest inner part of the city is the most densified area surrounded by historical fortifications and canals. Even though Groningen's centre is the most vibrant and attractive place in the municipality, a massive modernist style Police building urban block forms an isolated island in the most attractive historical part of the city. Connectivity between the building, its surroundings, historical context and layers of the building does not exist.

## **Process**

### **Method description**

The research aims to understand why space can either isolate or connect its residents or community members. Moreover, one of the goals of this research is to prepare the theoretical and empirical argumentation for redesigning proposals of the Police building in Groningen.

Firstly, the research starts with a group work: eight different case studies of Police buildings in the Netherlands were selected for the SBT (Spatial Building Typology) research. Buildings were analyzed in four scales: city centre, urban block, building object, facades and roofs.

Historical research will also play a major role for the Police building which is located in Groningen old town's urban structure, formed and surrounded by a defensive wall from the XIII century. Today this part of the old town is the centre of Groningen city. Built in 1971, the massive Police building represents the Post-War architectural period and contrasts with its old town urban fabric. The outcome of this research is to understand the historical development of the area and how it can influence the design strategies. Interview with Jurjen van der Meer, the founder of De Zwarte Hond, will be performed. It would help to understand development of the project and its contrasting expression to the old town of the city.

Together with interviews of neighbourhood residents, the emotional mapping will be used as one of the main tools for the design proposal. This research method helps to understand the urban context of the building and its connection to it. As well, residents can help to understand how the location functions 24/7. All of this information will be significant for making the value assessment which will reflect on design proposal.

My fascination to architecture photography is a method to analyze the Police building. First of all, historical pictures from the archives will be analyzed. Then together with the interviews, residents will be asked to share their personal images of Politiebureau surroundings. Thirdly, pictures will be taken from residents apartments towards one of the Politiebureau facades. Afterwards, all of them will be combined structurally and analyzed. By using photography as a tool, I want to explore the perception of Police building from the residents perspective. Also, this research method helps to understand the visual connections to the surroundings.

The previously mentioned research part will influence the design proposal and storyline of the project. Each week different aspects of the building will be analyzed and redesigned, or the existing values will be maintained. In addition, sketches, physical models and reference projects will elaborate on the proposed ideas.

### **Literature and general practical preference**

"Finding lost space" by Roger Trancik

"Life between buildings" by Jan Gehl

"Cities for people" by Jan Gehl

"How to study public life" by Jan Gehl and Birgitte Svarre

"Soft city" by David Sim

Lecture "How urban spaces can preserve history and build community" by Walter Hood

Lecture "How public spaces make cities work" by Amanda Burden

Lectures by Mikkel Frost on communities and architecture

Children book "Windows" by Julia Denos

The sociological analysis by Richard Sennett on the "Open city" topic

### **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)?

Transformation, intervention and elaborated design are interconnected with different aspects of MSc AUBS as history, values and technology parts.

Specifically, the chosen topic and the master programme aim to analyze the contexts and zoom in to the specific location and details of the project, which could influence the relation between architecture and people.

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

My master thesis proposal aims to combine different groups of people and create a self-sufficient and sustainable community. Understanding how societal relations can be influenced by architecture and urban is a crucial point of a design proposal.

The design proposal aims to show that a deep analysis of the sociocultural environment of the area has to be researched. It helps to understand what functions or activities the site needs and why. Another important aspect is to show how human behaviour can influence architectural spaces and design. All in all, the main idea is to

show how the project can be developed starting from the minor human scale factor and what a significant influence it could have on a more prominent city-scale environment..