

# 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	<b>Nadya Chabayuski</b>
Student number	4445295

Studio		
Name / Theme	Design of the Urban Fabrics	
Main mentor	Els Bet	Urban design
Second mentor	Ana Petrović	Urban studies
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Design of the Urban Fabrics studio attracted me the most because of the approach of research and analysis through design it implements already at the earliest stages of projects, as well as the importance and consideration of the human scale and perspective, not only during the design stage, but throughout all phases of a project as well. These two aspects had the biggest influence on my choice of the studio, since the methods and approaches the studio offered seemed to correlate and most importantly be able to support and further develop the idea I had for my graduation project.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	<b>Welcome, home</b>
Goal	
Location:	1. Oud Crooswijk, Rotterdam (Netherlands) 2. Kedyshko-Tolbukhina-Knoryna streets neighbourhood, Minsk (Belarus), further referred to as Kedyshko neighbourhood
The posed problem,	With the progressing housing shortage, there is a need for affordable and accessible housing to accommodate the vulnerable population whose number steadily increases every year. Commuter towns, or, referred to in this project, "sleeping neighbourhoods", a deprived, outdated, unmaintained, but culturally and sentimentally significant urban typology could become a solution for this problem. By regenerating sleeping neighbourhoods in a considerate way, they have the potential to become not only areas offering affordable housing and comfortable living conditions for the vulnerable population, but become places which feel like home and provide the support to help the residents eventually be less vulnerable and grow further. Informed urban regeneration of public spaces of sleeping neighbourhoods would accommodate the need both

	for housing and community, while also helping the neglected typology become a place that truly becomes a home for its residents in all possible meanings of the word.
research questions and	How can internal public space aid in the regeneration of sleeping neighbourhoods in a way that strengthens social cohesion and sense of belonging and security for the residents while avoiding gentrification, maintaining affordability and improving the quality of living environment?
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The final design assignment for the project is developing a framework for the regeneration of sleeping neighbourhoods which focusses on public spaces within the neighbourhoods and (re)developing them in such way that improves and encourages social cohesion and provides a sense of belonging and support for the residents, which, in return, will also aid in improving the living quality of the sleeping neighbourhood residential typology and, hopefully, result in the residents becoming less vulnerable socioeconomically as well. The goal for this framework is quite ambitious, since it aims to provide guidelines and design and planning solutions which would suit more than one specific context, being applicable to practically any sleeping neighbourhood of Europe.</p> <p>To make this happen, other secondary design assignments will have to be completed first, such as creation of state-of-the-art context-specific masterplans, design principles, guidelines and smaller scale tactical design interventions for each of the two locations, based on which it would then become possible to develop a broader and more inclusive regeneration framework.</p>
<p>The sub-questions to complement the main research question and inform the research and design approaches and directions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What causes sleeping neighbourhoods to become spatially vulnerable deprived neighbourhoods: cases of Oud Crooswijk and Kedyshko neighbourhood?</li> <li>• What are the main spatial factors and elements to be identified from sub-question N°1 that could aid in improving the current situation of sleeping neighbourhoods?</li> <li>• How does deprivation manifest itself spatially?</li> <li>• How is deprivation perceived and experienced by the residents and what implications does it have for them?</li> <li>• Do social cohesion, sense of belonging and the feeling of being "at home" contribute to the way residents use the inner public space of sleeping neighbourhoods?</li> <li>• How different is the "feeling at home" experienced and defined among residents?</li> <li>• What measures need to be put in place to ensure that gentrification does not occur?</li> <li>• What design and planning interventions are needed to transform sleeping neighbourhoods, with all the analyses, constraints and goals in mind?</li> </ul>	
<b>Process</b>	
<b>Method description</b>	
<p>Research and analysis methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of academic literature and articles</li> <li>• Fieldwork and location observation (location visits, ethnographic mapping, activity and use of space mapping, urban biographies, drosscape (potential for transformation and (re)appropriation mapping)</li> <li>• Study of maps and other visual or written location-specific documents and data</li> <li>• Mapping and projecting</li> </ul>	

- Pattern making
- Permanency mapping
- Qualitative surveys and interviews

Design methods:

- Research by design
- Location-specific scenario making
- Guidelines, policies and toolkits
- Masterplanning and strategy making
- State-of-the-art design and planning proposals
- Pattern making
- Library of references

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

The theoretical underpinning for the project is centered around the topic of deprivation, its main factors, quantitative and qualitative, and the topic of home and what it includes in itself. Both "deprivation" and "home" are not only looked at as theoretical concepts, but it is intended to investigate how these subjects are perceived, understood and manifested both socially and in space. This not only makes the project sound theoretically, but provides insights on how exactly to approach the deprivation of sleeping neighbourhoods; in which way and based on which criteria can the framework for assessing and recognising spatial deprivation of sleeping neighbourhoods be put together based on both elements that can be measured objectively and elements that can only be subjective. Aside from quantitative factors, such as the social deprivation index of a location and all kinds of objective data it uses, deprivation, both social and spatial, can be explained through the main factors, being stability, security, safety, support, comfort, and belonging. These, however, are experienced more subjectively and cannot be easily measured, therefore, their spatial manifestations will have to be investigated both theoretically and practically. Aside from that, these same six factors are also related to the topic of home, containing the feelings the word "home" evokes and the qualities a home is meant to offer. Thus, with help of these theories and their practical manifestations it is possible to not only investigate the topic of deprivation, but the topic of home as well, applying all the findings to the context of the sleeping neighbourhood typology and its current and possible future residents, shaping a strong backbone for informed further investigations, methodological tools and design exercises.

### **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)?

#### **Studio: Design of the Urban Fabrics**

The project utilises the approach of research through design starting from the early stages, when mapping becomes not a purely analytical or documenting tool, but a way to project and understand the challenges and the potential for change, which is definitely in line with the main principles of the studio. The project also focusses and deals with human perspectives and perceptions of space, the scale fitting the studio well, and it investigates a residential urban typology not purely spatially, but including social aspects, public life, sentimental and cultural-historic value, and spatial identity, which are the topics the Urban Fabrics studio deals with as well. And, lastly, this year's topic of the studio is "At home", and my project attempts to investigate what feeling at home is and how it can be used in urban design and planning both for the benefit of the space and its residents.

**Master track: Urbanism**

The project approaches the defined problem scope from several scales, not limiting itself to just one, reflecting one of the main principles of urbanism, where each scale represents specific aspects, but all these aspects are always connected and cannot be examined without considering one another. It also does not limit itself to design only, utilising tools like planning and strategy and policy making, and focuses heavily on social, economic, and even (a bit) political topics, trying to understand what their spatial implications and manifestations are and what can be done to reflect, integrate and improve those in space, so the social issues could become alleviated as well.

**Master programme: MSc Architecture and Building Sciences**

The MSc AUBS programme focusses on the multi-disciplinary way to create integrated and sustainable solutions for the built environment, which is what this project essentially strives to be as well with the inspiration and knowledge it borrows from social and spatial fields and the solution it aims to create for an urban typology which is usually overlooked, attempting to give it a new future and possibly even open new opportunities for considerate regeneration of deprived neighbourhoods.

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

With housing shortage, social and spatial deprivation, affordability, and social cohesion and belonging as central topics of the project, the societal relevance of the project is quite obvious, since the main issues it tackles, aside from the spatial ones, are all from the socioeconomic field. Hopefully, this project would really be able to offer new perspectives and insights regarding how socio-spatial issues are approached not only by the fellow urbanists, but people from other fields as well. Regarding the professional significance, the project focusses on a typology which rarely gets the chance to become redeveloped without being gentrified or demolished, so this experience gap could hopefully be addressed and covered at least in some way with help of this project. And, lastly, the scientific relevance mainly lies within the topics of deprivation and home, identifying and investigating the ways spatial and social deprivation are linked, and how the feeling of home, belonging and security within the public spaces of a neighbourhood one resides in could both improve the living environment quality of a place and help the residents who are a part of the vulnerable population become less socially vulnerable.