

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencosmissie-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	Sofia Paias
Student number	6098223

Studio		
Name / Theme		AR3AP100 2024-25 Public Building Graduation Studio "Public Condenser, Copenhagen"
First mentor	Antonio Cantero	Project Design
Second mentor	Ger Warries	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Sang Lee	Theory and Delineation
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Public buildings act as crossroads where diverse functions and communities intersect; therefore, the design of a public building is a complex process that can touch upon diverse topics and theories. It is a great opportunity to explore, focusing on context and human experiences. A Public Building studio provides a convenient framework and a certain degree of freedom, allowing for the inclusion of personal interests and points of view.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Resilience Rooted in Traces: Cultivating life from neglected heritage
Goal	
Location:	Copenhagen: Haraldsgade area
The posed problem,	Historically, Haraldsgade was an industrial area, and today we can observe clusters of remaining industrial buildings from the 1920s–1940s. Many of these structures are now vacant, neglected, and repurposed by local communities and creatives. This process can be described as the emergence of an urban crack—an undefined space within the city fabric where alternative cultures thrive due to a reduced level of control. Artists' workshops, rehearsal studios, parkour spaces,

	<p>cross-fit gyms, and nightclubs have occupied the area, contributing a new layer of subcultures.</p> <p>The residents, small businesses, and diverse communities have shaped the area and its buildings organically, much like the forces of nature—like waves sculpting a rock. These organic transformations allowed the clusters of buildings to age naturally, grow extensions, change façades, and become canvases for graffiti and street art. However, the lack of maintenance combined with the ad-hoc modifications has left many of these aging buildings vulnerable, rendering them ineligible for heritage protection. This situation has resulted in current development plans that threaten these buildings with demolition. Needless to say, the destruction of capital and contribution to a waste mountain is indeed harmful. Besides as cities conform to a standard of international development, distinctive architectural styles, cultural heritage, and vernacular traditions are often sidelined. This results in the erasure of local identities, making cities feel interchangeable, with little connection to their historical, social, or cultural roots, which weaken the sense of belonging of its residents. It is especially true when it concerns big-scale projects aimed to represent the technological advancement and progress of large corporations or a country.</p> <p>The triangular block located between Titangade, Sigurdsgade, and Vermundsgade streets in the heart of the neighborhood is an excellent example of a cluster of smaller industries from the 1930s. Although still standing, it now faces the threat of demolition. Composed primarily of durable materials such as brick and steel, the block holds significant potential for redesign in a way that honors and continues its historical narrative.</p>
research questions and	<p>How can neglected heritage become a framework for the life, growth, and development of human and non-human species?</p> <p>How can we maintain the uniqueness of the area while strengthening the sense of belonging of its residents?</p> <p>How can current functions and communities be activated and combined with new users and functions?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	The research goal is to develop an alternative approach for the triangular area, introducing new functions into the existing fabric while maintaining continuity and

	<p>valuing its multilayered past. The aim is to illustrate how ambitions, innovations, and progress are deeply rooted in the area's history, showing that everything created or produced leaves an impact and remains part of an interconnected system.</p> <p>The proposal seeks to foster connections among the area's residents, community members, subcultures, local artists, craftsmen, university students, new companies, and startups. This strategy aims to enrich the area's existing diverse character while preventing the displacement of the current public in favor of a new one. Another crucial aspect of the strategy is the creation of a biodiverse environment. Spaces abandoned or neglected by humans are often reclaimed by nature, and cultivating new life from neglect is seen as a valuable part of the desired continuity.</p>
Process	
Method description	
<p>As the proposal can only be developed in close relation to the context the site visit will play a crucial role, incorporating observation photography, lectures, and interviews.</p>	
<p>Simultaneously site analysis with close attention to history will be performed, as the next step toward understanding the processes and influences. Archival research will be mandatory as it is the only available source of some valuable information about the buildings located on the plot and their modifications. Therefore all the documents will be requested from the digital archive of Copenhagen and translated.</p>	
<p>Additionally, literature research is performed in order to learn diverse points of view on the topic of memory in relation to architecture, weathering, decay, sense of belonging, and ruination. It will help to strengthen the position and argue it.</p>	
<p>Additionally, case studies will be analyzed and used for inspiration and argumentation.</p>	
<p>Based on collected data design principles will be set to prevent contradictions and maintain continuity of the design, which will combine diverse approaches and strategies. Experimentation with materials and their weathering will also be part of research in line with the models sketches and collages to experiment and communicate ideas.</p>	

The research will be concluded by summarizing the research's findings and the development of a strategy for the triangular block that would be a modern and resilient alternative to demolition.

Literature and general practical references

- 1.Harbison, R. (2015). Ruins and fragments: Tales of Loss and Rediscovery. Reaktion Books.
- 2.Schubert, H. (2018). Tweede natuur: een langzame, natuurlijke transformatie als alternatief voor sloop.
- 3.Forty, A. (2000). Words and Buildings: a vocabulary of modern architecture.
<http://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA48420756>
- 4.Minkjan, M. (2019, February 18). Maybe modern ruins are just the kind of failure we need - failed architecture. Failed Architecture. Retrieved October 13, 2024, from <https://failedarchitecture.com/maybe-modern-ruins-are-just-the-kind-of-failure-we-need/>
- 5.Jo, S. (2003). Aldo Rossi: Architecture and memory. Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering, 2(1), 231–237. <https://doi.org/10.3130/jaabe.2.231>
<https://www.re-thinkingthefuture.com/architectural-community/a5941-the-architecture-of-neoliberalism/>
- 6.Ruskin, J. (2010). THE COMPLETE WORKS OF JOHN RUSKIN. In Cambridge University Press eBooks (pp. iii–v). <https://doi.org/10.1017/cbo9780511696466.001>
- 7.Woudstra, J., Boukema, E., & McIntyre, P. V. (2002). Louis G. le Roy: Natuur, cultuur, fusie/Nature, Culture, Fusion. Garden History, 30(2), 267. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1587263>

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)?

The topic of the studio is Public Condenser and the design of a building that combines diverse functions and users strongly correlates with the history of the area seeking foundation and attention to the context. Working with diverse public functions together with reuse and other sustainable strategies is a valuable part of education.

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

The following research and its representation in design explore topics of significant importance to the development of contemporary architecture, including sustainability, resilience, context, identity, and memory. This work aims to offer a fresh perspective on neglected architecture, highlighting the value not only in historical structures but also in the processes of aging and decay, as well as in the passage of time reflected through human traces, art, and weathering.

The approach presented here is adaptable, capable of being applied to various locations while remaining rooted in context and open to diverse interpretations. Moreover, the research touches on multiple valuable topics that offer opportunities for further investigation.