Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	**M.F. Hercules**
Student number	4168046 (wordt gebruikt voor koppeling met student file)
Telephone number	06 4249 0821
E-mail address	M.F.Hercules@student.TUDelft.nl
Studio	
Name / Theme	**Complex Project - Chicago Studio**
Teachers	Mick van Gemert (main tutor), Hubert van der Meel (Building Technology), Peter Koorstra (External examinator),
Argumentation of choice of the studio	**As a soon to be professional in the field of architecture I need to be capable of dealing with a wide range of problems in contemporary society. Complex Projects facilitates challenging social, economical and spatial layers that carefully need to be taken into account while intervening with an Architectural design strategy.** **I am particularly motivated in developing a strategy that affects the different scales of a place, from region to building within the complex urban fabric of Chicago.**
Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Midcity's Integrated Institute of Culinary Arts (MIICA)
Goal	
Location:	Galewoods industrial area in Mid City.
The posed problem,	Chicago's industrial layout and buildings have not changed over time, although production demand has largely disappeared since the 1970's. Jobs have been vanished and many buildings became deserted. The outcome is a twofold: urban decay and social issues as a result of economic downfall. Due to a lacking social system and

	moderate prosperity in Chicago's Mid City, is has to deal with a racial segregation. By interpreting demographic data in a spatial manner, we now better understand Tripoints: the areas where at least three different racial communities come together. Not only ethnicity, but a variety of administrative and demographic parameters contribute to the spatial and social separation. The aim of this research is to reveal hidden potentials in order to formulate projects that sustainingly enrich these locations. Built upon it's production demand, Chicago's urban layout and buildings were built in an effective industrial layout. The spatial tissues have not changed, although industrial demand has largely disappeared. This means that since the 1970's, jobs have been vanished and many buildings became deserted. The outcome is a twofold: urban decay and social issues as a result of economic downfall. The areas where industry is located, are nowadays laying between the central Loop and the large suburbian areas outside Chicago, and they are therefore called the Mid City. Due to a lacking social system and moderate prosperity in this in-between area, Mid City is dealing with a slightly decreasing racial segregation. By interpreting demographic data in a spacial manner, we now better understand Tripoints: the areas where at least three different racial communities come together. Not only ethnicity, but a variety of administrative and demographic parameters contribute to the spatial and social separation. The aim of this research is to reveal hidden

	potentials in order to formulate projects that sustainingly enrich these locations. Former industrial areas, as found out are always lying on Tripoints, are experienced as hard and anomynous borders often next to residential areas. The challenge this research brings forward is to either soften the borders or to strengthen them in order to create a more pronounced identity, much more suitable to its contextual needs.
research questions and	How can a single intervention trigger an attractive production neighborhood to facilitate economic growth in a decaying industrial area?
design assignment in which these result.	The strategy applicated after p2 exists of: 1. Elaborating one building or site design, out of the revision plan for the entire Galewood area, replacing the old industry or vacancy by contemporary required programme that provide much needed jobs for directly surrounding communities; 2. Strengthen production-identity of industrialized area by reprogramming the area from the inside, redefining its border and stimulating the collective memory by design; 3. Perforating the 'border' of industry, allowing socio-economic activity to take place in two directions and to become a distinct transition from one community to the other.

This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.
The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.

Process

Method description

A spatial analysis was the first step in understanding the existing physical conditions of Chicago's Mid City. Visiting the city and doing field research on different sites helped a lot in understanding the cultural, educational and economical differences of different districts.
After P1, the borders between these districs were analysed in depth to understand the demographic differences and spatial potentials. This has led to a masterplan, intervening on the nodes of Mid City's industrial borders.

Literature and general practical preference

Brenner, N. (2009), 'What is critical urban theory' in City, volume 13 (Journal), pp 199-207
Cresswell T. (2015), Place: An Introduction, Blackwell Publishing, Chichester.
Klimt, A. (2014), 'Searching for a continuity and connections: Narratives of belonging from a post-industrial city' in City, Culture and Society 5 (Journal), pp 31-44
Loures, L. (2015), 'Post-Industrial landscapes as drivers for urban redevelopment: Public versus expert perspectives towards the benefits and barriers of the reuse of post-industrial sites in urban areas', in Habitat International 45 (Journal), pp 72-81
Loo, Chen, Chan (2010), Rail-based transit oriented development: Lessons from New York City and Hong Kong, in Landscape and Urban Planning 97 (Journal), pp 202-212.
Nealon J.T (2012)., Post-postmodernism, Stanford University Press, Stanford.
Ng A. (2006), Adding value to public buildings and public spaces, in Post 97 public architecture in Hong Kong, Architectural Services Department, Hong Kong.
Norberg-Schulz C. (1980), Genius Loci. Towards a phenomenology of architecture, Academy Editions, London.
Welsh F. (2010), A History of Hong Kong, HarperCollins Press, London.
Xue, Hui, Zang (2013), Public Buildings in Hong Kong: A Short account of evolution since the 1960's, in Habitat International 38 (Journal), pp 57 - 69.

Reflection

Relevance

The economic downfall has led to many problems including urban decay, specially in Mid City as a former industrial area. Chicago is build on a model of economic freedom. This means the city performs at its best when a healthy economic climate returns.

This project proposes a way of solving the many problems by intervening in a larger area, but creating quality in a chosen fragment. Therefore it contributes to a larger masterplan that can help eventually help to solve many of the stated problems.

The different research districts around borders indicate an economic hidden potential within the existing communities. The people involved are currently struggling to get around and providing the right conditions for them to get work will solve many private issues that contribute to the social weakness of the city.

Time planning

Kick off Msc 3:
Group separation between Midway, Lime Line, Garfield Park. Research of locational context in terms of physical environment, transportation and programme.
P1: Presentation of the physical built environment of Lime Line, that later became the Mid City. Historical context, buildings and urban profiles were made.
P2: Presentation of strategy and master plan, go/no go. The design concept will proposed according to a conditional analysis of the site.
After P2:
Using references for literature study to relate to the transformation topic. Continue developing conceptual design towards specific program to develop the first Programme of Requirements and constructional design.
The design will be elaborated in to 1:200 scale and 1:100 scale models and drawings. Technical diagrams and details will be made according to the constructional, climatic and facade challenges
P3: Presentation of current design.
After P3: research materialization of the building, elaborate on the building in a zoomed in scale: 1:100, 1:5 details, 1:20 facade section.
P4: Presentation of the final design, go/no go
After P4: improve drawings, models and details, finalize project.
P5: Final presentation and graduation.