

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), 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	Julia Kudła
Student number	6078354

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Low Town Down Town	
Main mentor	Elsbeth Ronner	Architecture
Second mentor	Jos Lafeber	Building Technology
Third mentor	Chiara Pradel	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The 'Low Town Down Town' studio offered a complex, thus exciting, location in a transitional, post-industrial area in Hoboken, Antwerp. The studio's emphasis on integration of industry, urban facilities and residential functions to create a new identity for the neighbourhood, which I consider as highly inspiring and related to my interests in socially responsive and sustainable design solutions. The Urban Architecture approach of making the best use of site resources is aligned with my personal perspective on architecture, which stems from contextual research and is oriented towards resource-conscious design. In addition, studio focuses on incorporating interdisciplinary approaches to architectural design in an urban context, integrating urban planning practices, landscape architecture, ecological and socio-economic considerations. Diverse tasks and methods provide not only valuable experience, but also allow for the development of skills that are crucial in the architectural profession.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Traces of Place Production
Goal	
Location:	Antwerp, Belgium
The posed problem,	(Post)industrial landscapes, shaped by historical events, economic change and socio-political dynamics, once vibrant centres of activity, are now disconnected from the

	city and detached from urban life. The process of deindustrialisation has not only affected the physical environment, but has also transformed the social and cultural fabric of the neighbouring communities, resulting in fragmented identities, both physical and symbolic. However, these places, often seen as decaying, are not mere relics of a bygone era. In fact, they are dynamic, multi-layered spaces which embody memories associated with production and living near these centres, tangible remnants of the past, as well as multiple transformations that have occurred over time. In districts like Hoboken, Antwerp, such landscapes present a unique challenge of how to adapt and revitalize former factory sites, such as those around Lageweg, while preserving their historical and cultural significance.
research questions and	The problem outlined above naturally leads to a series of issues that need to be considered when approaching the topic. The following research poses key questions about identity, transition and memory in (post)industrial landscapes. They are as follows: How do past experiences, memories, and remnants shape the identity of a place? When does production change the character of the landscape? How does industrial history influence contemporary perceptions and uses of post-industrial sites?
design assignment in which these result.	The design assignment started with developing a masterplan proposal for area surrounding Blickfabriek, former can factory, and Lemmerz, former rim factory, located in Hoboken, the southern district of Antwerp. Drawing inspiration from the fabric of the factory warehouses, the proposed urban plan incorporates a mix of public, industrial and residential functions. The design proposal focuses on facilitating functional redevelopment, aiming to revitalize the area while preserving its historical context. It will integrate both residential and production spaces, responding to evolving social needs.
Process	
Method description	
The research will employ a mixed-method approach to investigate how post-industrial terrain is understood and valued.	

With an exploratory mindset the research process focuses on zooming in and out in the shape of the ethnographic landscape over time to collect narratives of different entities, people, materials and nature. This involves conducting site visits in Hoboken, with focus on Lageweg to delve deeper into the characteristics of this location, as well as, in other places affected by deindustrialisation. During these visits, I observed how this place is used to document remnants of industry and their relations with the space through photographs and field notes.

In addition, archival research about Hoboken district informs about values of past production. Without understanding the past, it is hard to interpret current conditions and speculate about future solutions.

This research also integrates interviews with individuals related to industry on what is/was industry for them and what are their memories related to working and living in the industrial region. Their words would help me understand how production shapes their life and their image of an industrial city.

To provide a broader context for the study, I analysed the representation of themes related to transition, memory and industrial activity in photography, which deepened my understanding of how processes affect landscape perceptions. Similarly, literature offers valuable insights, further enhancing the contextual framework of the study.

Literature and general practical references

Bole, D., Kumer, P., Gašperič, P., Kozina, J., Pipan, P., & Tiran, J. (2022). Clash of Two Identities: What Happens to Industrial Identity in a Post-Industrial Society?. *Societies*, 12(2), 49.

Braae, E. (2015). *Beauty redeemed : Recycling post-industrial landscapes*. Birkhäuser.

Dymnicka, M., & Starosta, P. (2018). Identity and Belonging to the City in the Era of Globalisation. *Miscellanea Anthropologica et Sociologica*, 83-100.

McLean, R. (2019). *Transformative Ground: A Field Guide to the Post-Industrial Landscape*. Routledge.

Schama, S. (1995). *Landscape and Memory*.

Shore, S., & Sante, L. (2007). The nature of photographs. *Aperture*.

Spanedda, F. (2023). Postproduction. architectural design and the landscape of de-industrialisation. *City, Territory and Architecture*, 10(1), 17

Springer, F. (2023). *Mein Gott, How Beautiful. Karakter*.

Tofilski, M. (2017). The influence of spatial forms on local identity of inhabitants living in Upper Silesian settlements Giszowiec and Nikiszowiec. *Border and Regional Studies*, 5(1), 27-48.

Felix Archive. Antwerp Archive

Heemkundige Kring Hobuechen. Hoboken Archives

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)?

My graduation project topic and studio theme share the same focus on the sustainable redevelopment of urban areas. Topic that I am investigating corresponds to the "Low Town Down Town" studio objectives by analysing the unique character of the site and factors that have shaped it over time from a broader perspective that informs design decisions. The masterplan for the Blikfabriek in Hoboken integrates production and residential functions, aligning with the studio topic by addressing urban reintegration and adaptive reuse. Following an interdisciplinary approach to connect historical analysis, design innovation, and urban strategies, lines up with MSc AUBS programme.

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

My graduation work addresses the broader social, professional, and scientific challenges of post-industrial landscapes by exploring their fragmented identities and potential for regeneration. Socially, it emphasizes reconnecting these neglected spaces with urban life, fostering cultural and ecological revitalization. Professionally, it provides strategies for integrating interdisciplinary approaches to create resilient urban environments that address future needs. Scientifically, it contributes to understanding how memory and transformations shape industrial landscapes character, offering insights for practical applications in similar contexts.