# 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 | |
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| Name | Filippo Barbarisi |
| Student number | 5863783 |

| Studio | |  |
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| Name / Theme | Design of the Urban Fabric | |
| Main mentor | Gerdy Verschuure | Landscape architecture |
| Second mentor | Maurice Harteveld | Urbanism |
| Argumentation of choice of the studio | This atelier is focusing on the design of the urban and landscape tissue, and I'm really interested in the relationship human- urban landscape and to public life and the movement of people in the urban environment. I subscribe that landscape architecture, architecture and urban design cannot be split into three different categories if we want cities to be livable in the future. I want to underline the need for new, improved public spaces as we are facing major urbanization trends in the next fifty years, as well as climate change and cities risking getting more and more grey and built. This atelier is the best choice to tackle these issues. | |

| Graduation project | |
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| Title of the graduation project | A common carpet for Selinunte.<br>Designing public life in a disadvantaged neighborhood in Milan. |
| **Goal** | |
| Location: | Selinunte. Milano, Italy.<br>An unprivileged area inside the privileged neighborhood of San Siro. Characterized by a particular layout of alternating indoor and outdoor public spaces, repeating continuously. The outdoor spaces are the Milanese type of the courtyard. |
| The posed problem, | Selinunte, an area inside the neighborhood of San Siro, in Milan, is one of the lowest scoring areas in almost every field of life quality measurements among the metropolitan |

| | city of Milan. Living here is hard for the citizens as the area lacks quality and quantity of public spaces, inclusivity, safety and identity. The neighborhood faces threats of an even worsened situation if the current trend of negligence persists in time. These problems, that are the four main ones tackled in the thesis project, lead to severe physical and social issues that damages the life of citizens. The afore mentioned issues are all together visible in the poor public spaces, as the stage of public life and therefore where life happens and social dynamics evolve. For this reason working on the public space itself by improving it and creating new ones is a logical starting step from the design point of view. The qualities and opportunities are there to be exploited, aiming for a more public, secure, and green neighborhood. |
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| research questions and | *How to improve the spatial quality in the marginalized and unprivileged neighborhood of Selinunte, Milan, in order to enhance the public life?* |
| design assignment in which these result. | The vision for the design phase is to strengthen the **web of public spaces, composed both of outdoor and indoor ones**, **at the ground floor of the neighborhood** by strengthening the courtyards, making them public and connect them.<br>The central topic, and the most visible opportunity, is that of the Milanese courtyard space, one that is naturally there by layout, but currently heavily underused as private, shared parking and circulation space. I see possibilities in restoring these public spaces and strengthening their identity. These pockets will be connected, even through the ground floor of the buildings, where lots of abandoned spaces lie right now, in order to enhance inclusivity and integration inside Selinunte, as well as connecting it to the outside in order to fight the closure of the moment. Outside |

| | the courtyard spaces, the design assignement will also focus on the public axis of the neighborhood, connecting the metro stop to the former public market, to be reactivated, and the parking space behind it. Finally, the two different environments, with a different degree of publicness, will have to work together during the market days, when the city is supposed to enter the neighborhood. Through a strong design language, through paving, colors, planting, wayfinding and urban furniture, a new, healthier identity and recognizability of the neighborhood is aimed for, one that is created starting from the superdiversity of the area, rather than drawing inspiration from its context, the Milanese one, in order to have an identity that is tailored on the inhabitants. |
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[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

The project starts with a consistent phase of analysis, mainly based on satellite observation and fieldwork, along with the study of online documents, especially from the group 'Mapping San Siro' from the architecture faculty of Politecnico di Milano, data and numbers. Finding issues and opportunities through this combination of fieldwork, desktop research, historic and social issues investigation, interviews with locals is the crucial node to lay down a starting ground for the projects; The issues that must be addressed and the opportunities that will be enhanced throughout the design process. Afterwards, references related to similar Urban Landscape approaches will be considered and deeper analyzed, as I believe it is pivotal to evaluate results of projects focusing on the topic, in order to learn successes and failures after a certain amount of years from realizations of designs. What kind of design is the outcome?
 The design stage is furtherly split in two main different tasks; 1.The first is to design and connect the Milanese courtyards and create a web of public intimate/less intimate public spaces while the second is about activating and reinforcing the central spine going from the Metro stop in the north to the parking in the south, crossing the main square, transforming it in the great public alley of the neighborhood, living the

most during the market days. Finally, the challenge is that of orchestrating these two different systems to work together and to alternate.

## Literature and general practical references

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-Rete Sansheroes (2019) "Istantanee di San Siro. Presente e futuro del quartiere", Documento pubblico

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-Matan, A., & Newman, P. (2016). *People Cities: The Life and Legacy of Jan Gehl.* https://espace.curtin.edu.au/handle/20.500.11937/61701

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-Barriere, P., Lavín, S., Brown, D. S., & Venturi, R. (1997). Interview with Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi. *Perspecta, 28,*126. https://doi.org/10.2307/1567197

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## Reflection

My graduation topic is deeply embedded in that of the studio, or the accessibility in the urban fabric; The envisioned goal is that to unlock the spatial potentialities of an urban environment which is currently very much disadvantaged. The addressed level is only that of the ground floor of the neighborhood, which is considered, in the philosophy of this work, to be the only real possible stage for public life and interaction, and therefore, well being of cities and their citizens.

Landscape Architecture will be the main tool used when designing, after setting out a solid understanding of the background out of the analysis. The knowledge

gathered, thanks to the education in this master track, especially in terms of spatial understanding, public space designing, and designing with nature and processes, will define the quality, the aesthetics, and the logics of the project.

I believe the work is relevant as it tries to tackle the lacking public spaces of a neighborhood as a unique system, and afterwards, to design those eventual solution all together, as one project. The capability to think in terms of connected systems, when thinking about public life, is as crucial as when talking about ecosystems. On the other hand, this project tries to highlight how, in modern times, where space is shrinking ever more and solutions are to be found in the existing or the leftover, it is no more possible for the different design practices, architecture and landscape architecture, along with urban designers, to work separately, as the one is too interwoven with the other.