

# 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:

| <b>Personal information</b> |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Name                        | Haoyu Wang |
| Student number              | 5797489    |

| <b>Studio</b>                         |   |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Name / Theme                          | Interiors Buildings Cities / Palace   |                           |
| Main mentor                           | Daniel Rosbottom  | Architecture              |
| Second mentor                         | Matthijs Klooster   | Architectural Engineering |
| Third mentor                          | Jurjen Zeinstra   | Architectural Research    |
| Argumentation of choice of the studio | The graduation studio of Interiors Buildings Cities 'Palace' poses an opportunity to look closely at representative public buildings that accommodate our everyday lives and rethink their roles in contemporary society. It involves multiple layers of understanding towards the meaning of an architectural project: How does a physical space support the operations of a contemporary institution? How do people use it and how different could it be? How to conceive a project that precisely responds to its historical, social, and cultural context? How to build poetically, at the same time, sustainably? Those are topics in a graduation project that I am attempting to venture into. |                           |

| <b>Graduation project</b>       |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Title of the graduation project | Stockholm City Library Enlargement  |
| <b>Goal</b>                     |   |
| Location:                       | Stockholm, Sweden   |
| The posed problem,              | Asplund's design encouraged developments that made Sweden and Denmark's libraries among the world's most advanced by the 1950s. Scale and flexibility have always been issues for the building since its inauguration. Even in 1931, the new building was too small. His son made modest physical changes that densified his building and altered how the public and staff used it. In the more recent past, the library has fought for almost two decades to define what a library should be to serve a varied community in the digital era. |

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|--|--|
|  | <p>The library does not have sufficient space for all its activities and parts of the collection are combined in the separate annexe buildings. A large amount of assets is imperative for restoration and maintenance. The 2014 brief required a doubling of the number of seats to allow the integration of the international library collection into the main building, the extension of the children’s library, and a renovation of the rotunda and historic rooms.</p> <p>The mismatch between building form and operating condition diminishes the quality of the experience, reduces the efficiency of the institutional work, and essentially creates a great deal of waste.</p> |
| research questions and                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the responsibilities and expectations of a contemporary public library now?</li> <li>• Who is the library for?</li> <li>• What is an appropriate response to the existing building?</li> <li>• How can a monumental building inclusively accommodate the modern everyday lives of a highly diverse society?</li> </ul>   |
| design assignment in which these result. | <p>An architectural programming proposal for the library which strategically response to its current predicament; A renewing design project for the Stockholm City Library, which address an architectural dialogue between old and new.</p>   |

**Process**

**Method description**  
Combining collective and individual investigation, our method emphasizes “thinking and doing” and “learning through making”.

Collective research:

- Investigation on Gunnar Asplund's oeuvres – analyze 8 precedents with architectural drawings and selected photographs.
- Study on 1:25 physical models for Stockholm City Library interior spaces to grasp the building's architectural shell, composition, surface treatment, and furniture and compare them to the library's current condition.
- Investigate 8 modern public libraries, document them in monochrome 2D drawings, and create analytical drawings on different aspects.
- Documentation of Stockholm City Library with 2D sketches and computer models.

Individual research:

- An abstract design proposal for a hypothetical room in an unspecific library, which is an exploration for a personal attitude to the expectations and possibilities of a contemporary library.
- Cross-sectional study on the composition and percentage areas of each function of several contemporary library precedents.

## Literature and general practical references

Cornell, Elias. "The Sky as Vault. Gunnar Asplund and the Articulation of Space." In *Asplund : a book*, 23-33. Corte Madera: Ginko Press, 1997.

Eriksson, Eva. "Gunnar Asplund and his Works in the Context of Time and Place" Lecture at the 2nd International Symposium on the Architecture of Erik Gunnar Asplund, recorded at the Skandia Theatre, Sweden, Sep 1, 2023.

Koch, Daniel. "Architecture as Material Discourse: On the spatial formulation of knowledge and ideals in four library extensions." *ITU A/Z* 12 No.3 (Nov 2015): 7-22.

Lundvall, Nina. "On public building." Lecture at TU Delft, Netherland, Jan 12, 2024.

Pimlott, Mark. "Learning from Asplund." Lecture at TU Delft, Netherland, Oct 3, 2023.

Rosbottom, Daniel. "Five libraries." Lecture at TU Delft, Netherland, Nov 23, 2023.

Schwartz, Martin. "Light from All Around. Gunnar Asplund's Stockholm Library." Conference paper from 6th Velux Daylight Symposium London, London, Sep 2015.

Sternheim, Joyce, and Rob Bruijnzeels. *Imagination and participation, next steps in public library architecture*. Rotterdam: Nai010, 2021.

Stewart, John. *Nordic classicism: Scandinavian architecture 1910-1930*, London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

Wilson, Colin St John, "Gunnar Asplund and the dilemma of classicism." *AA files*, No.18 (1989): 88-96.

Woollen, Malcolm. "Observatorielunden and stadsbiblioteket: intensifying the present." In *Erik Gunnar Asplund: landscapes and buildings*, 45-79. Abingdon: Routledge, 2018.

Wrede, Stuart. *The architecture of Erik Gunnar Asplund*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1983.

### Collective Analysis of Asplund's Precedents:

- Villa Snellman, 1917–1918
- Woodland Chapel, 1918–1920
- Lister County Courthouse, 1917–1921
- Skandia Cinema, 1922–1923
- Stockholm Exhibition Main Entrance & Exhibition Hall for Transport, 1930
- Bredenberg Department Store, 1933–1935
- Göteborg Law Courts Annex 1934–1937
- Woodland Crematorium 1935–1940

### Collective Analysis of Modern Libraries:

- Salle de Lecture, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Henri Labrouste, 1875
- Viipuri Library, Alvar Aalto, 1935
- National and University Library, Joze Plecnik, 1943
- Beinecke Library New Haven, SOM, 1959
- Berlin Statsbibliothek, Hans Scharoun, 1967
- British Library, Colin St John Wilson, 1962–1997
- Exeter Library, Louis Kahn, 1972
- Seattle Public Library, OMA, 2004

### **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)?

Having participated in design studios focused on small-scale spaces such as 'House' and 'Salon', I have chosen the 'Palace' studio for my graduation project, marking a transition from academic exploration to the professional arena. Each year, the studio selects large-scale public buildings with distinctive architectural typologies, spatial features, and cultural significance as research subjects. These projects typically involve real clients, allowing the research to go beyond the architectural autonomy and root itself in practical contexts. A design, in this context, thrives through dialogues and interplay with real constraints, societal conditions, and construction technologies. This graduation design, occurring at the epilogue of my master's program, serves as a moment of self-positioning and reflection within the industry and the broader world.

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

My graduation project undertakes exploration and experimentation with the present condition of the Stockholm Public Library through precise observation and inquiry. It seeks to reflect, experiment, and imagine both the contemporary significance and future potential of the modern library as the epitome of urban communal space. As a representative architectural heritage of the 20th century, this library not only deals with specialized challenges but also shares universal dilemmas in contemporary public spaces. A series of architectural topics will unfold throughout this project, including considerations of architectural heritage, reprogramming, publicness, urban relationships, topographical engagements, sustainability, and adaptive reuse. This graduation design aims to establish a point of reflection within this complex and diverse context by actively addressing specific issues and gradually shaping an architectural intervention that goes beyond conventional expectations.