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	**Michael Funke**
Student number	5841852

Studio		
Name / Theme	A Matter of Scale	
Main mentor	Willemijn Wilms Floet	Design
Second mentor	Niels Tilanus	Building technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I chose this studio for its freedom of choosing an own topic and design task in a specific context that is explored collectively. This gives me the possibility of exploring my interests based on problems existing in this context, and to be guided in the 'how' to contribute to this problem. Additionally, the context itself, I have not worked in yet, was a crucial aspect of my choice.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Dynamic Spaces – An Exploration of Strategies for the Uncertainty in Architecture

Goal	
Location:	Lasnamäe, Tallinn, Estonia
The posed problem,	The Soviet-modernist architecture of the district of Lasnamäe appears to be disconnected from Estonia's building traditions of the pre-soviet era and the later development of the society. The architecture was determined by the ideology of external influencers, creating this abrupt discontinuity in the internal logic of the architectural development, and ending up in the homogeneity that dominates Lasnamäe's urban appearance as yet. The built environment was made for the time of the Soviet occupation but missing the capacity for future development. Society changed but the rigidity of the built environment hinders its development parallel to the societal changes, to adapt to new needs and standards of living. Additionally, the unfinished general plan of Lasnamäe from 1979 resulted in the lack of cultural and public spaces and functions. Indoor places for social

	exchange and gatherings are rare, which leads to a lack of spaces, especially in cold seasons, that can be freely used by users.
research questions and	How to design public indoor and threshold spaces with the possibility of appropriation by (unknown future) users, societal development and social and cultural exchange?
design assignment in which these result.	The general design assignment is to design a community centre in Lasnamäe that is filled with initial functions (e.g. catering, library, youth centre, rentable spaces) but that is inclusive to other functions as well and designed in a way to support yet unknown societal needs of the future.

Process

Method description

Beginning to answer the research question and to be able to build my design decisions on a foundational body of knowledge about the topic, I started a literature research about the general connections between people and the built environment, partially with the focus on adaptable and open building strategies. Following this, I want to answer sub-questions on the topics of participation and appropriation to see how much the individual should be able to participate in the constant production of public space, temporality to be able to create a successful balance between permanence and impermanence, and lastly, technology to answer the question how the building can still adapt to societal developments even after the end of its life cycle.

Parallel to this, I use references to see what strategies were used to create similar projects and to see how the researched theories can be translated into reality. The used references shift during the research but especially during the design process as well. Using the method of analysis and synthesis makes it possible to judge the researched strategies in the design practice and if necessary, shift my research and the used references in a different direction.

Additionally, to find a site and to identify initial functions that can be integrated into the design, I carried out a series of morphological maps that allowed me to identify imbalances between the west and the east part of Lasnamäe, planned and actual centres and focus points in the district, and connections and links between those. Combined with visits to the area, I was able to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the district's spatial organisation and its effects. These and further thoughts were discussed with two members of the Lasnamäe-based NGO LASNA!DEE to gain further insights into the citizen-driven processes of social events and projects, and the needs and problems of the district.

Literature and general practical references

Brand, Stewart. How Buildings Learn: What Happens after They're Built. New York, NY: Viking, 1994.

de Certeau, Michel. The Practice of Everyday Life. Berkeley, Calif.: Univ. of California Press, 1984.

de Vylder, Jan 'The Berlage Keynotes: Jan De Vylder/AJDVIV'. Delft, 14 September 2023. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DRT3OlVd3I&t=4917s.

Gehl, Jan. Cities for People. Washington, DC Covelo London: Island Press, 2010.

Genua, Alberto, and Claudia Mainardi. 'Contextualising Liberté d'Usage'. In FOOTPRINT 31 - OPEN ARCHITECTURE. S.l.: JAP SAM BOOKS, 2023.

Heisel, Felix, Dirk E. Hebel, and Ken Webster. Circular Construction and Circular Economy: Fundamentals, Case Studies, Strategies. 1st ed. Boston: Birkhäuser, 2022.

Hess, Daniel Baldwin, and Tiit Tammaru, eds. Housing Estates in the Baltic Countries: The Legacy of Central Planning in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Urban Book Series. Cham: Springer Open, 2019.

Martínez, Francisco. 'Tallinn as a City of Thresholds'. Journal of Baltic Studies 46, no. 2 (3 April 2015): 127–55. https://doi.org/10.1080/01629778.2014.981673.

Saricayir, Ecem. 'Architect of Nothingness: Frank van Klingeren's Open Architecture'. In FOOTPRINT 31 - OPEN ARCHITECTURE, 145–65. S.l.: JAP SAM BOOKS, 2023.

Schmidt, Robert, and S. A. Austin. Adaptable Architecture: Theory and Practice. London, New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2016.

Sennett, Richard. Building and Dwelling: Ethics for the City. London: Allen Lane, an imprint of Penguin Books, 2018.

van Rooyen, Xavier. 'Free Plan versus Free Rooms. Two Conceptions of Open Architecture'. In FOOTPRINT 31 - OPEN ARCHITECTURE, 85–103. S.l.: JAP SAM BOOKS, 2023.

Precedents
Centre Pompidou, Paris – Richard Rogers, Renzo Piano
De Meerpaal, Dronten - Frank van Klingeren
Maison du Peuple, Clichy – Jean Prouvé
Nantes School of Architecture, Nantes – Lacaton & Vassal
Prinsenhof, Delft
Salk Institute, San Diego – Louis Kahn
Zollverein School of Managment and Design, Essen - SANAA

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 main aspect of the graduation studio of Methods of Analysis & Imagination for me is the way of how to position oneself. I see my task to critically reflect on the current state of Tallinn to find occurring problems in the built environment and position myself with an architecture that reacts to the stated problem and contributes to the development of the built environment in its specific context.

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

   My Project criticizes architecture that is meant to serve only a specific function and lacks possibilities for re-use in manners that were not intended in the initial design. Working in a time where adaptive re-use becomes more and more important it should be as vital to highlight the initial state of the building as just a first phase in a long and unforeseeable process of change and adaption.