

# 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	Weiming Yin
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<b>Studio</b>		
Name / Theme	Borders and Territories Graduation Studio	
Main mentor	Negar Sanaan Bensi	Design mentor, Borders & Territories
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Building technology mentor
Third mentor	Marc Schoonderbeek	Seminar & design mentor, Borders & Territories
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The main reason I chose the B&T graduation studio was the chair's focus on the crucial emerging border conditions of our time and its emphasis on the techno-socio-political context, a theme that has always interested me in the process of my education. In addition, in terms of site, the fluid and transient nature of Marseille as a key gateway to the Mediterranean and the New Silk Road makes it an object of study rich in possibilities for multiple and alternative interpretations.	

<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	Reclaiming the landscape: an alternative understanding of the waste cycle in Marseille
<b>Goal</b>	
Location:	Marseille, France
The posed problem,	As a major transit city on the Mediterranean, Marseille's urban history and landscape are largely defined by the continuous flows of matter and energy over time. Amongst these interwoven flows, the waste flow is one of the striking focal points. This is not only because the city of Marseille has historically struggled to escape its "dirty" reputation, but also because of its urban landscape today, which has been constantly reshaped by waste as a result of various natural and social events. The waste cycle in Marseille

	today covers two tracks: the official recycling system run by the authorities and the "homeless" waste that has escaped the authorised system. The former is in a dangerous situation that is approaching its load limit; the latter is silently taking over the streets. The two are constantly witnessing and directing the socio-environmental conflicts that are emerging in Marseille today.
research questions and	How do these cumulative waste flows shape and reshape the urban landscape of Marseille? How to step outside of the existing recycling systems on the edge of collapse and reconceptualise the meaning of waste in the city of Marseille so as to re-project their social and ecological impact?
design assignment in which these result.	Under the assumption of revisiting the city as an organism of material and energy flows, the design will create a waste complex or series of complexes in the border areas of the city, in which the original binary and fragmented notion of recyclable-unrecyclable will be challenged.

## Process

### Method description

1. Preliminary mapping  
Urban studies conducted prior to on-site research. Understanding the flows of matter, energy and ideas and their relationship in Marseille at the urban scale by a series of mapping.
2. Literature study & Position paper  
A theoretical understanding within a techno-socio-political framework is built up by examining the literature related to the space-time transformation of waste and its flow of process. On this basis, a further position paper is written to focus on the theoretical foundations and directions for future design proposal.
3. On-site research  
During the on-site research in Marseille, the actors, spaces and processes of the waste cycle at various scales are documented and reconstructed through a combination of sketches, photographs, interviews and archival visits.
4. Urban analysis mapping  
Based on the results of the on-site research, a reconceptualised understanding of the processes of movement, distribution and transformation of waste was developed through a series of mapping of the Marseille waste cycle.

5. Modi Operandi workshop

In the Modi Operandi workshop, the transition between the research and design phases is established through three model experiments from site, form and program using waste materials and reflecting on their potential as resources.

6. Design project

Through theoretical research, the existing definition of waste as disconnected from the urban ecosystem will be challenged. Through the urban mapping mentioned earlier, the current waste recycling facilities in Marseille and their connections will be reflected upon and further conceptualised. Based on an understanding of the city as an organism in constant material and energy exchange, the next stage of the design will explore the possibility of generating alternative waste complexes in the border areas of Marseille in response to the increasingly prominent social, political and environmental conflicts over the waste cycle in Marseille.

## Literature and general practical preference

### Literature

Crinson, Mark. "Mediterranean Crossroads: Marseille and Modern Architecture." *H-France Review* Vol. 13, no. 84 (2013): 1–4.

Easterling, Keller. *Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space*. London, United Kingdom: Verso, 2016.

Harvey, David. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*. Cambridge, USA: Blackwell, 1990.

Kwinter, Sanford. *Architectures of Time: Toward a Theory of the Event in Modernist Culture*. Cambridge, USA: The MIT Press, 2003.

Shields, Rob. "Cultural Topology: The Seven Bridges of Königsburg, 1736." *Theory, Culture & Society* 29, no. 4-5 (2012): 43–57.

Shields, Rob. *Spatial Questions: Cultural Topologies and Social Spatialisations*. Los Angeles, USA: Sage, 2013.

Teyssot, Georges. *A Topology of Everyday Constellations*. Cambridge, USA: The MIT Press, 2013.

Virilio, Paul. *Negative Horizon: An Essay in Dromoscopy*. Translated by Michael Degener. New York, USA: Continuum, 2008.

Virilio, Paul. *Speed and Politics*. Translated by Mark Polizzotti. New York, USA: Semiotext(e), 2006.

### Precedents

The Eco-House by Graham Caine, London, England.

Zabbaleen recycling community, Cairo, Egypt.

## 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)?

As a major transit city along the Mediterranean and the New Silk Road, Marseille's fluidity is one of its most important qualities, and the waste cycle is an important but often overlooked part of that fluidity. In this sense, revisiting this topic coincides with the marginalised border situation that is one of the focuses of the B&T graduation studio. In the context of the architectural profession and other related fields, the enormous impact of the waste recycling chain, from a single building to the entire ecosystem, is increasingly emerging as an infrastructure that is rarely or reluctantly talked about. The research on this topic in this studio is therefore also relevant to the built environment at different scales and levels.

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

The waste disposal facilities in Marseille emphasise the intersection of technical, social, political and ecological concerns. Therefore, if the common partial understanding of waste is to be transcended, it can only be done by bringing in knowledge from the larger field of social, professional and scientific domains. On the other hand, the impacts of waste treatment also permeate these interdisciplinary fields' own discussions, and the perspective from the built environment is a valid starting point for facilitating the exchange of interdisciplinary insights on this topic.