

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	Jenny Fang
Student number	4773489

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors,Buildings & Cities / Palace	
Main mentor	Sam de Vocht	Architecture
Second mentor	Matthijs Klooster	Architectural Engineering
Third mentor	Amy Thomas	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	This studio emphasizes coherence and connection across various scales of the built environment, ranging from furniture to the city. It has helped me deepen my understanding of what a space or building means for the human body and mind, as well as its relationship to the physical and cultural context it inhabits. I am particularly drawn to the studio's focus on using physical models and other analog tools in the design process, as this is a skill I find crucial in practicing architecture. Additionally, the studio's interpretation of durability—viewing buildings as timeless structures capable of adapting to different uses and eras—aligns closely with my own values.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Architectural Archive of the VAI
Goal	
Location:	Antwerp, Belgium
The posed problem,	<p>Archives have remained exclusive even as libraries and museums became more accessible, facing growing pressure to balance preservation with public engagement. Architectural archives, in particular, have historically shaped design and culture. How can these archives evolve to remain relevant, dynamic, and accessible while safeguarding their collections?</p> <p>The Flemish Institute of Architects (VAi) collection in Antwerp has outgrown its current building in the city's historical center, which no longer meets the needs of the collection, staff, or public visibility. VAI is exploring the</p>

	<p>possibility of relocating and uniting with its counterpart, the VAI office, at deSingel—a modernist cultural campus designed by Leon Stynen and expanded by Stephan Beel. Currently home to multiple institutions, including the Royal Conservatorium and deSingel Art Campus, this fragmented site on the city’s outskirts offers an opportunity to reimagine its state.</p>
research questions and	<p>How can deSingel be adapted to enhance accessibility for all visitors?</p> <p>How can deSingel’s layout and organization be reimaged to foster more meaningful and productive interactions among its occupants?</p> <p>In what ways can a new structure be designed to establish a dialogue with the existing architecture?</p> <p>How can an architectural archive be designed to engage a wider public audience?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>Introducing a new architectural archive at deSingel provides an opportunity to revitalize the complex while creating an archive that aligns with contemporary expectations and needs. I will develop a proposal to reorganize, adapt, and extend deSingel, enhancing the performance of this cultural campus, respecting its architectural qualities and integrating a 4,000m² architectural archive along with its affiliated programs.</p>
Process	
Method description	
<p>The research involves both collective work with the entire studio and individual tasks, focusing on the program and site—architectural archives and deSingel.</p> <p>Initially, we studied eight exemplary architectural archive buildings from different periods and settings. Each group analyzed one building, producing a set of drawings, photos and texts that related its spatial configurations and aesthetics to the institution, collection and intention behind. This was to understand how archives worked in a specific context and why archives were built certain ways. We also created a 1:15 scale model to replicate a space from one archive, gaining a detailed understanding of its dimensions, materials, and textures.</p> <p>To further imagine the possibility of a contemporary architectural archive for the VAI, we individually researched the VAI’s collection of a Flemish architect and designed a space to store and display this material, represented through a 1:15 model and line drawings.</p>	

Next, we collectively shifted our focus to deSingel. We analysed its plans and sections, made physical models at various scales, read into its history and explored its relations with the surroundings.

The individual aspect of the research involved testing design proposals within the existing building through plans and initial massing, which raised new questions and prompted additional research. Every design decision was documented in a project journal throughout this process.

Literature and general practical references

Literature:

- Beel, S. (2000). *Stephane Beel Architect*. Ludion.
- Bekaert, G., & de Meyer, R. (1990). Léon Stynen, een architect. deSingel.
- Bosman, J., Balau, R., Kieckens, C., & Gerets, K. (1997). *Christian Kieckens : de plaats en het gebouw*. deSingel.
- Çiçek, A., Grafe, C., & Mandias, S. (2018). A Conversation with Daniel Rosbottom. Quotidian Monuments. *Microcosm. Searching for the City in Its Interiors*, OASE, (101), 105–112. Retrieved from <https://oasejournal.nl/en/Issues/101/AlledaagseMomenten>
- De Caigny, S., Ertas, H., & Plevvoets, B. (2023). *Gevonden architectuur : experimenten in conservatie*. Vlaams Architectuurinstituut.
- Evans, R. (1997). Figures, Doors, and Passages. In *Translations from Drawing to Building and Other Essays* (pp. 54–91). MIT Press.
- Form is one function too : Christian Kieckens arch. 1990-1993. (1993).
- van Gerrewey, C., & de Kooning, M. (2011). *Stéphane Beel Architecten. New Works & Words*. Lannoo.
- Huyghe, M. (2015). *deSingel International Arts Campus: A Conservation Study*.
- John Harris, 'Storehouses of Knowledge: The Origins of the Contemporary Architecture Museum' in Larry Richards (ed.) *Canadian Centre for Architecture: Buildings and Gardens*. CCA/MIT Press: Montreal/Cambridge, MA, pp.15-32
- Kieckens, C. (2001). *Zoeken - denken - bouwen*. Ludion.
- Mbembe, Achille. 'The Power of the Archive and Its Limits'. In *Refiguring the Archive*, edited by Carolyn Hamilton, Verne Harris, Jane Taylor, Michele Pickover, Graeme Reid, and Razia Saleh, 19–27. Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands, 2002. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-010-0570-8_2.
- Richards, L., & Centre Canadien d'Architecture. (1989). *Centre Canadien d'Architecture / building and gardens*. MIT Press.
- Yaneva, A. (2020). *Crafting History: Archiving and the Quest for Architectural Legacy*. Cornell University Press.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctvv4142j>

Precedents:

- John Soane Museum, London, 1808-1812, Sir John Soane
- Beinicke rare books and manuscripts library, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, 1963, SOM
- Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal, 1989, Peter Rose

- Ungers House extension, 1990, OM Ungers
- Drawing Matter Archive, Somerset, UK 2014, Hugh Strange
- Herzog de Meuron Kabinett, Basel, 2014, HdM
- City Archive, Bordeaux, 2015, Robbrecht en Daem
- Ark Des, Stockholm, 2024, Rafael Moneo (conversion), Arhov Frick (redesign)

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 project's focus on adapting and extending an existing building of historical and cultural importance into a contemporary public interior with social responsibility aligns with the master program's goals. It directly addresses a critical and practical challenge architects face today. By reimagining the cultural role of an architectural archive, the project not only explores the societal and historical dimensions of architecture but also fosters a deeper understanding of the discipline's dynamic relationship with society, allowing us to critically position ourselves within it.

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

The studio works with realistic projects involving real clients and sites. Following a failed design competition and another feasibility study initiated by the VAI several years ago, our research and proposals aim to offer both the VAI and deSingel new perspectives for developing an architectural archive on the site. Hopefully, this work will encourage deSingel to rethink the cultural complex as a whole, recognizing the value of its architectural heritage and maximizing the potential of interaction among its occupants. At the same time, the VAI and other archival institutions could gain a clear vision of future archive models that are more accessible and welcoming to the public.