

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	[Lea Kayrouz]
Student number	[5863295]

Studio	
Name / Theme	[ExploreLab]
Main mentor	[Mieke Vink] [Form Studies]
Second mentor	[Rufus van den Ban] [Architectural Engineering]
Third mentor	[Stavros Kousoulas] [Architecture Philosophy and Theory]
Argumentation of choice of the studio	[I come from a small village in the lebanese mountains that witnessed multiple conflicts in its history, a place that I found myself documenting unintentionally throughout the years, a possible intuition for the underlying potential. Having studied Athens for the <i>Architecture Philosophy and Theory</i> design elective, the approach used resonated with me and I'd like to think it would help me navigate said potential. The specificity of the site, coupled with the intricacy of the potential theoretical framework informed my decision.]

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	[Gaseous Cedar Tree]
Goal	
Location:	[The Cedars (or Arz), Lebanon]
The posed problem,	[Recurrent conflicts in the area are symptomatic of the discordant nature of land division, an ideology reciprocated on and by private property, a mode of desiring that takes precedence over community and solidarity, impeding the flows of "resources" by understanding them as such. Reading the territory from within, understanding its entanglements and

	the constraints that both produce and are produced in said territory could unhinge the desiring machine and suggest a desiring otherwise]
research questions and	<p>[What affordances can be actualized by conceptualizing territorial production as acts of weathering?</p> <p>Can context-dependent constraints prompt a novel interpretation of appropriation through which architecture can operate?</p> <p>How can we foster practices of granularity, and in that situated knowledge, can architecture subvert resource ownership?</p> <p>When can we afford to make kin with the territory and its non-human actors?]</p>
design assignment in which these result.	[In an effort to promote agriculture and diversify Lebanon's economy, the ministry of agriculture encourages individuals and farmers to cultivate fallow lands to claim joint ownership on said land. In the context of the cedars, a considerable portion of the land was acquired many generations ago, resulting in ownership dispersed among numerous descendants. The value of these lands is often so low it's not worth selling, especially since most proprietors are often expatriated. This act of requisition might alter the landscape, at least momentarily, and recover an agricultural knowledge that can be transferred and improved.]
Process	
Method description	
[In the early stages of the research, through literature review I was able to construct a theoretical framework that I carry with me to better inform my scope and intuitions. I delved into notions of weathering, constraints and situated knowledge - to name a few - in reading and writing. I found moving images to be the right medium to respond and think-with the place and the acquired framework, an attempt at moving beyond static representation to better understand weathering.	

The motion transcribed into operative models to meddle with constraints and forecast intensive differences, which then allowed for conjectures that better define the design assignment, a set of enabling constraints that then materialize in the proposed design.]

Literature and general practical references

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- Sharpe, Christina. In the Wake: On Blackness and Being. Duke University Press, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1134g6v>.
- Braidotti, Rosi. "Posthuman Critical Theory" In Journal of Posthuman Studies Vol. 1 No. 1 (2017): 9-25. The Pennsylvania State University Press
- Kousoulas, Stavros, 2022. Architectural technicities, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003278078>.]
- Legal documents and legislations
- Forensic documents used in the case against Sir Ed Denniye such as eyewitness testimonies
- Archival maps from the lebanese army's Directorate of Geographic Matters
- Archival maps from my father's personnel collection
- Archival maps from the municipality of Becharreh
- Reports form the FAO
- Low relief orthostate from the Louvres
- Collection of materials taken from the site
- Interviews with farmers and gardeners

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)?

In the past year spent in TU Delft, I witnessed practitioners and theoreticians give lectures about the practice of Architecture that constantly redefine the scope on which we can operate and the praxis we choose to engage with. This research, and the project that comes out of it, is a direct response to these teachings. Inspired by Haraway or Braidotti's posthuman thoughts and their call for interspecies attunement, or by Mai Taha's lecture on non-traditional archives and her understanding of archiving as a creative practice, and many more

professionals recognizing that "vision is better from below". I set out to understand the place and respond to it from below, maintaining receptivity to allow for flexible, context specific interventions.

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

The project challenges modes of possessing that are inherent to the built environment. Conceptualizing a desiring otherwise entails unhinging calcified thought regimes to catalyze actions around resource justice.

In recent conversations around sustainability, multispecies design, circularity and the likes, situated knowledge from the global south are often overlooked despite their inherent ecological sensitivity and responsibility. Using my skills as an architect and my subjective intimacy with the site, I aim to tap into these rich knowledges, forging connections that are intrinsic to the field of architecture to hopefully address political and social practices, on a micro scale.