

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	Kalina Yanakieva
Student number	5149916

Studio		
Name / Theme	Borders & Territories / Emerging Border Conditions in Eurasia	
Main mentor	Nishat Awan	Architecture and Urbanism
Second mentor	TBD	Building Technology
Research mentor	Oscar Rommens	Architecture and Urbanism
Argumentation of choice of the studio	In our day and age, it seems that the field of Architecture expands far beyond its origin of a 'master builder' and investigating space cannot be done with no consideration to the global political developments, environmental anxieties and societal changes. Therefore, I have chosen the graduation studio of Borders & Territories which focuses on urban and territorial sites where 'other' spatial conditions have emerged but are rarely discussed and investigated in contemporary architectural discourse.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Latent Potentials of Reterritorialized Landscape
Goal	
Location:	Gwadar, Pakistan
The posed problem	Global urbanization led by infrastructural development and the logistical supply chain diminishes indigenous cultures and spatial identities.
research questions and	<p>What are the latent potentials in the frictions between local communities and such economic free zones?</p> <p>How they can be mobilised while taking into consideration the spatial identity of a place?</p> <p>How can indigenous cultures strengthen the model of the free zone?</p>

design assignment in which this result.

An architecture that acts as an 'infrastructure of possibilities' allowing local people to sustain their position in the town. A series of spatial interventions developed over time in scale, facilitating local's heritage and knowledge of boat-making.

The graduation project investigates the power-relations that produce the contemporary urban space of the free zone – a formula that generates Shenzhens and Dubais all around the world. The project is based on a phenomenological view of Gwadar, Pakistan and its indigenous population. The project criticises the monotonous manner with which the zone is developed and how this deterritorializes and diminishes existing practices within a local context. It argues that only the urbanization concerned with the spatial identity of a place would enrich the landscape, that is otherwise doomed to become a non-place. It raises the concern of the placelessness in recent architecture discourse.

Process

Method description

Gwadar is a militarized city and the access to data online is limited or refracted through the lens of the Pakistani and Chinese government. Therefore, the first part of the research has been carried-out by getting a first-hand information from my tutor, Nishat Awan, who has visited the town on multiple occasions where she met and interviewed locals. Next step was to analyze Pakistan, Balochistan and Gwadar by reading through a series of articles and papers covering the history, current situation of the project location and the human involvement in the city. The gathered data was processed by comparing it to the images on sites as Google Maps, Google Earth Pro, Zoom Earth and YouTube videos made by locals, and also comparing the new developments in Gwadar to already existing free zones examples. Screening the truthfulness of the information led to visualizing it in a Territory and Borders maps on a regional and city scale to frame the base of the project.

Relating to my research, and the theme of spatial identity and indigenous practices, through a series of visualization techniques, I established spatial narratives of human flows in the city and mapped out the processes of boat-making craftsmanship and fishing practices to try to conclude their spatial qualities and identities to further the design. An architectural position was formulated through three small-scale workshops focused on establishing a strategy to 'organize' the landscape as such: mapping of the landscape through narratives and flows of a different character (formal and informal) and exceptions on the urban tissue. (Fig. 1) Followed by assembling a

strictly organized grid, using techniques known to the locals of Gwadar, and being able to recognize the 'unregulated' relations that are borne. (Fig. 2)

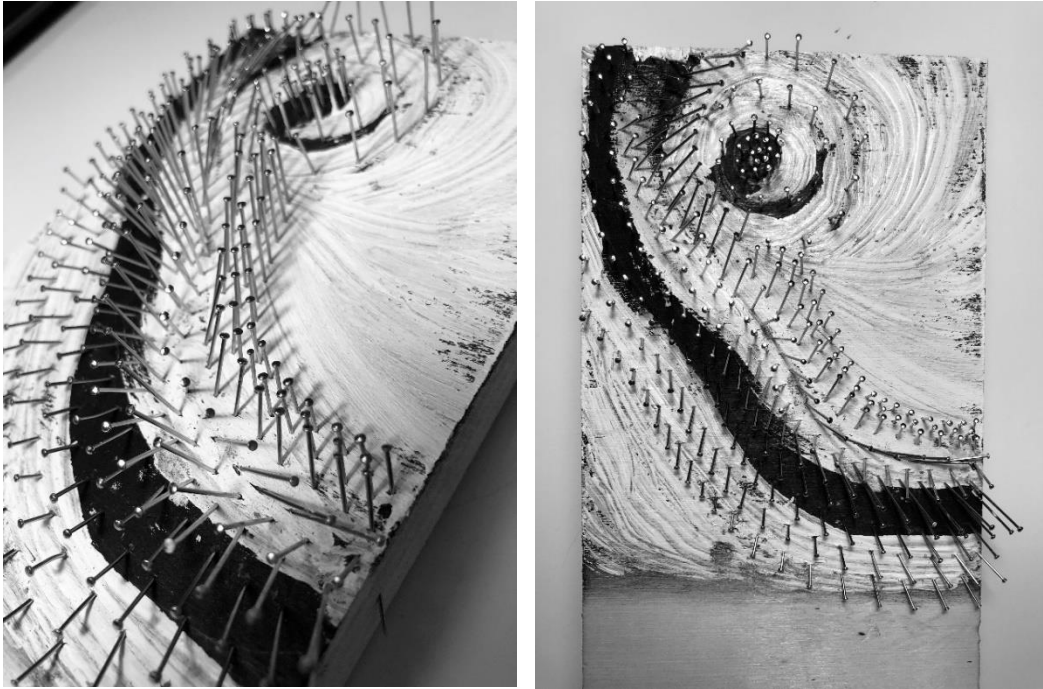


Fig.1

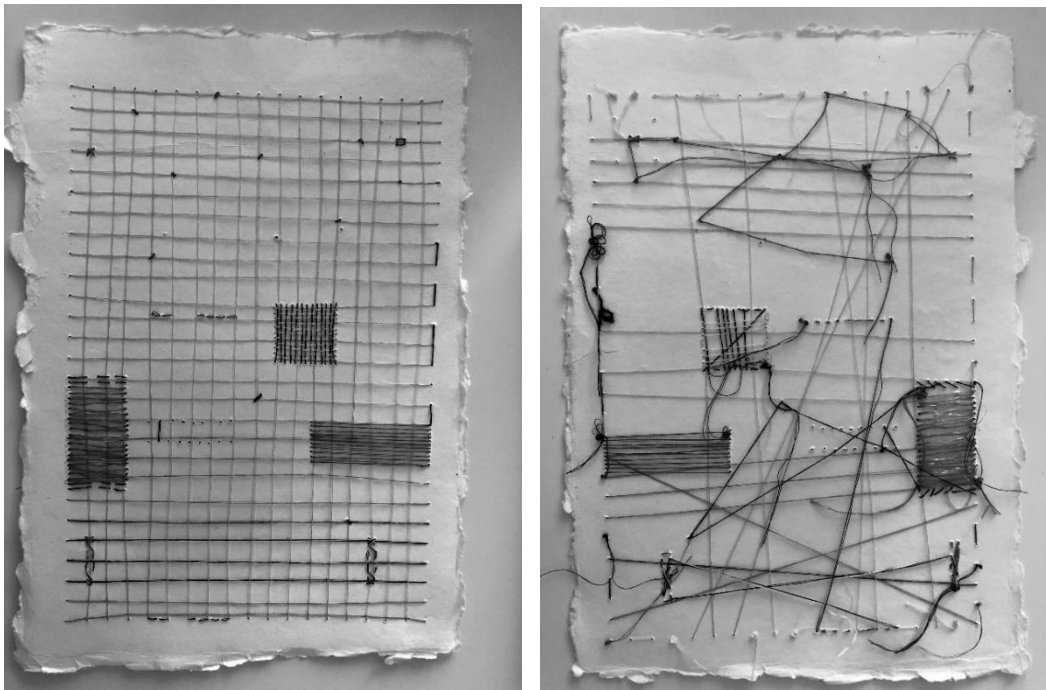


Fig. 2

Literature and general practical preference

Literature:

1. Deleuze, Gilles, and Félix Guattari. *A Thousand Plateaus*. University of Minnesota Press, 1987.

The concept of Smooth and Striated by Deleuze and Guattari frames the nature of differently operating processes like indigenous practices and flow of logistics and capital. Reaffirming that they cannot exist independently but always in mixture.

2. Gómez-Barris, Macarena. *The extractive zone: Social ecologies and decolonial perspectives*. Duke University Press, 2017.

Understanding indigenous practices.

3. Easterling, Keller. *Extra-Statecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space*. Verso, 2014.

Concept definition of Extra-Statecraft underlying the way the economic free zones operate.

4. Povinelli, Elizabeth A. *Geontologies: A requiem to late liberalism*. Duke University Press, 2016.

Understanding indigenous practices.

5. Ryle, Gilbert. *The concept of mind*. Routledge, 2009.

Setting up a strategy to design on the practices of 'knowing how' (intelligently understanding the mechanisms of the zone and the processes in Gwadar and being able to transform them to produce spatial intervention) rather than 'knowing that' (simply knowing what the result of urbanization in Gwadar).

Reflection

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

From the largest infrastructural project at present, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), emerge in-between territories that are being deterritorialized from their context and resulting in the materialisation of new 'spatial' conditions. My graduation project explores the latent potentials of the overlapping and frictions between the free zones and the local indigenous landscape. Such landscapes are viewed as a source of knowledge to learn from the town's vitality and liveability that precedes the establishment of the new economic zones. It is closely related to the larger, urban and territorial scale with emphasis on the geo-political context of architecture. Beyond the scope of architecture practices, the graduation project investigates the perseverance of human culture in an economy driven by logistics and capital. Architecture is used as a medium with its intrinsic capability of creating space to communicate relations that otherwise are not tangible, and especially those of human culture.

