

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:

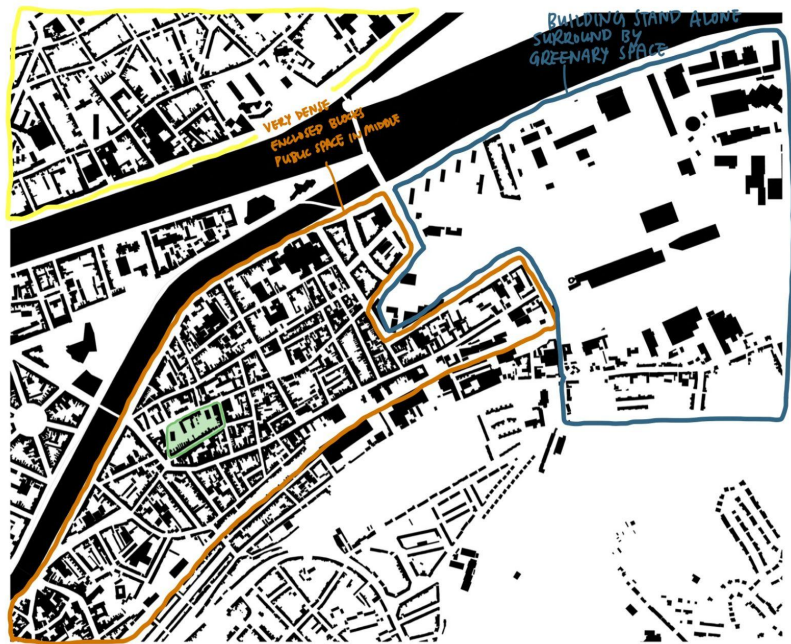
Personal information	
Name	Wong Hei Wai Stephanie
Student number	5291224

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture	
Main mentor	Paul Vermeulen	Design Mentor
Second mentor	Rosie van der Schans	Design Mentor
Third mentor	Eireen Schreurs	Research Mentor
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The reason why I choose urban architecture because we both hold similar values, both are fascinated toward socially oriented architecture. I believe the most vital elements in architecture are the people perse, not merely the building. Therefore, I would like to gain support and inspiration from the tutors in urban architecture to design an architecture that truly facilitates the people and neighborhood.</p> <p>Also, this year the studio theme is 'scar', which I also think will be an interesting exercise to explore how to design architecture that fosters a healing function in the city involving the trace of history.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Urban Reinterpretation: Translate Emptiness as a productive element into the neighborhood
Goal	
Location:	Liège, Belgium
The posed problem,	Both urban voids and Bressoux are facing the same issue - exist in the city but do not belong to it. The voids are the by-product of urban planning, and the relationship between positive space (massing buildings) and negative spaces (voids) is barely included in design consideration. Generally, these spaces are perceived as a phenomenon of emptiness, neither productive in the

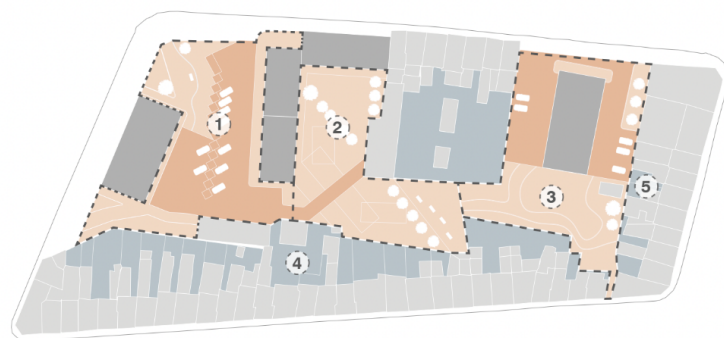
	<p>urban fabric nor possessing a recognizable role in the neighborhood. Therefore, they never truly integrate into the neighborhood and indeed exist as urban segregation.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the cityscape of Bressoux looks dissimilar from other parts of Liege and appears out of space with the city image. On the urban scale, the contradictory urban fabric in Bressoux and Drohixie collide with each other, which induces a disconnection between the city and the neighborhood. On the other hand, the neighborhood perse in Bressoux is dispersed by incoherent facades and hard boundaries (e.g fences, shutters, walls). There is barely any sense of belonging being discovered in the community. In my research and design, I would like to investigate how to translate emptiness as a productive concept to resolve the current issues that occur in the neighborhood.</p> <p>An urban void is a representational space, which is not an abstract space conceived through planning and design (López- Piñeiro, 2020a). It is a lived space that emerges within social life, which possesses a substantial correlation with the neighborhood and could be associated as a bottom-up urban ingredient. These spaces are hidden and scattered around in the neighborhood, and people encounter them every day, yet neglected the values and potential in them. By envisaging to reconnect the city, the initial move shall be exploring the potential to patch up the dispersed neighborhood by conceiving voids as an alternate public space, transforming space into a place that belongs to the local commonly.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p><i>Primary Question:</i></p> <p>How can “emptiness” endow the neighborhood of Bressoux with urban significance from a social perspective, and thereby paraphrasing the notion of urban voids as alternate public spaces to reconnect the city?</p>

	<p><i>Sub-question:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where are these urban voids located in Bressoux and when do these spaces emerge? - What are the (dis)similarities of the urban voids in terms of the level of emptiness? - What are the hidden values in the urban voids and how to translate these into a productive concept for the urban fabric, neighborhood, and everyday life? - How could we strike a balance between actualizing the architectural intervention on the urban voids and preserving the characteristics of voids (indeterminacy and emptiness, etc.) simultaneously? - How could architecture facilitate as a prop to provoke self-determination of publicness out of "emptiness"?
<p>design assignment in which these results.</p>	<p><i>Site Selection</i></p> <p>The urban fabric circled in orange and blue obtained the most contradictory relationship: the orange circle demonstrates a dense row house neighborhood with enclosed courtyard space, meanwhile, the blue circle illustrates the stand-alone modernism building pattern with greenery space surrounding aside. The selected site is highlighted in green, the urban block is unique since it concurrently collages with both paradoxical urban settings - modernism and terrace houses, in which resemble as a miniature of the conflict between Bressoux and Drohix.</p>

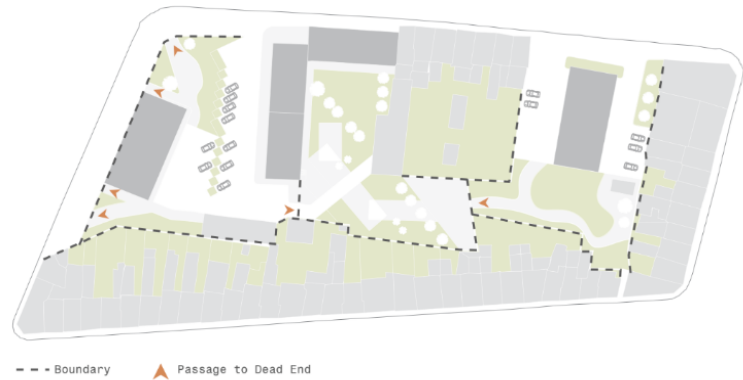


Design Statement

The neighborhood is dispersed due to the boundary between the two housing typologies. The voids are adjacent, yet segregated by tangible boundaries (walls/fences/ gates). Hence, the passage in the public space (voids from the social housing apartment) leads to a dead-end. This evidence reveals there is barely any interaction/correlation between the two housing typologies, while the voids located in the middle could potentially be the key element to break the boundary in between. Therefore, in my design, voids are no longer a by-product of master planning nor a neglected space, it is considered as a vital element to patchwork the dispersed neighborhood.



- Traditional Houses
- Modernism Apartment Building
- Private Courtyard for Houses
- Leisure Zone for Apartment Building
- Parking Zone for Apartment Building



In my research, I would like to extract the potential and spatial quality of urban voids scattered around Liège, utilize this information to recreate an urban void that truly belongs to the neighborhood, and facilitate as an alternative public space for both the locals and residents. The new urban void is envisaged to be an urban element to soften the boundaries between the paradoxical urban fabric as well as foster a sense of belongings between the residents from the two housing typologies. Consequently, I propose to design a community cluster (daycare center, book cafe, repair cafe, and communal kitchen) inside the urban block, catering to the everyday needs of the residents and the locals, as well as offering opportunities for communal activities. The voids and the massing will be considered equally important, hence the design will be exploring the potential, movement, and interaction between the negative and positive space. Since positive and negative spaces obtained a strong correlation, the positive space could also become a parameter to define various layers of voids, which facilitate different users.

Process

Method description

The research will be constructed in three parts: (1) understand the phenomenon of urban voids through a theoretical framework and literature review, (2) investigate the potential of urban voids with three different research approaches (historical, morphology, and praxelogy), and (3) explore the potential to translate 'void' as a productive concept into practical situation through precedent studies.

(1) First Phase: understand the phenomenon of urban voids through literature review

(2) Second Phase: investigate the hidden value and its relationship within the neighborhood of Bressoux

(a) Historical Approach

Gathering and comparing the maps from the archive, investigate the how the change of architecture over time influence the formation of urban voids.

The selected site had experienced both constant changes in the urban fabric as well as voids configuration.

(b) Morphology Research

Analyzing the spatial quality and accessibility from the existing urban voids through nollu map and voids modeling. The nollu map demonstrates voids as individuals, indicating their location, boundaries in between, and correlation with the adjacent positive spaces. Meanwhile, the void model inverts the positive and negative space, aiming to capture the absence of space in the urban fabric as a collective component, visualizing the urban voids in a tangible form. The different height level of voids illustrates the density of activities, hence assessing the level of emptiness.

(c) Praxeology Research

Understand the urban voids and neighborhoods through a social lens. By creating social-spatial mapping and drawings, the following four major research items could be detected:

- i. decoding the multiplicity identity of voids derived from the correlation between positive and negative spaces and investigating how it affects the appropriation of the space
- ii. identify the level of emptiness and ruin through human activities and surrounding elements
- iii. reveal how the people appropriate the voids and review any potential self-initiative publicness involved
- iv. comparing the selected case studies of voids in Bressoux, understand the dissimilarity in spatial qualities which enables to foster as an alternate public space

(3) Third Phase: explore the potential to translate 'void' as a productive concept through precedent research

Literature and general practical preference

First Phase Research Reference:

Carmen Díez Medina, MonclúsF. J., & Springerlink (Online Service). (2018). Urban Visions : From Planning Culture to Landscape Urbanism (pp. 247–255). Springer International Publishing.

Gust, Ghent Urban Studies Team. (1999). The Urban condition: Space, community, and self in the contemporary Metropolis. Uitgeverij 010.

López-PiñeiroS. (2020a). A glossary of urban voids. Jovis Verlag GmbH.

López-PiñeiroS. (2020b). The Limit Toward Emptiness: Urban Voids As Public Space. Landscape Architecture Frontiers, 8(5), 120. <https://doi.org/10.15302/j-laf-1-030020>

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Sola de Morales, I. (1995). Terrain Vague. In Anyplace (p. 120). Cambridge, MA:MIT Press.

Second Phase Research Reference:

Trancik, R. (1986). Finding lost space: theories of urban design. Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Third Phase Research Reference:

Hans Van Dijk, A Geuze, Nederlands Architectuurinstituut, & West. (1996). Colonizing the void : Adriaan Geuze, West 8 Landscape Architects ; [editors, Hans van Dijk ... [et al.]. Nai Publishers.

Lu, X., Trumpf, S., & Valin, I. (2021). Interstitial Hong Kong : Exploring the Miniature Open Spaces of High-Density Urbanism. Jovis Berlin.

Other Reference:

Berger, A. (2007). Drosscape : wasting land in urban America. Princeton Architectural.

Akkar, Z. M. (2005). Questioning the "Publicness" of Public Spaces in Postindustrial Cities. Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review, 16(2), 75–91.

Boeri, S. (1998). Les paroles des habitants: où les codes entrent en conflit. In A moving city. Studio Open City.

Deusen, R. V., & Mitchell, D. (2001). Downsview Park: Open space or public space? In Downsview Park Toronto. Munich : Prestel.

Greenberg, M. R., Popper, F. J., & West, B. M. (1990). The TOADS. *Urban Affairs Quarterly*, 25(3), 435–454. <https://doi.org/10.1177/004208169002500306>

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Spector, T. (2014). Publicness as an Architectural Value. *Journal of Architecture and Urbanism*, 38(3), 180– 186. <https://doi.org/10.3846/20297955.2014.960199>

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)?

My graduation studio topic - urban voids could be investigated in multiple scales, starting from the perspective of urban planning to understand where these voids are located, then shrinking into the architectural scale, exploring the correlation between voids and programs. Designing a community cluster, is not merely designing a public building for the locals, but it is also an opportunity to rethink how to incorporate voids in the design system, enable them to both exist and belong to the neighborhood, and eventually facilitate as cohesion to reconnect the city.

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

I see architecture as a catalyst to provoke opportunities and improvement, rather than a solution for a problem in society. Generally, in the case of Hong Kong, the architecture is often a top-down implementation aimed to solve problems in the most efficient way, neglecting the existing urban fabric and the history of the places. Voids will be filled up, and abandoned buildings will be dismantled to construct new buildings in order to match the productive image of the city. In my project, I would like to investigate the potential of using the notion of voids and emptiness to create an alternative public space for the neighborhood, demonstrating that neglected spaces have the potential to foster better living quality in the neighborhood, hence it could improve and evolve gradually with other existing architecture over time.