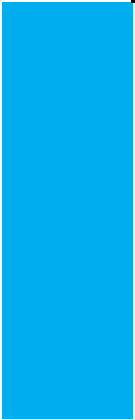


Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Salima Benaissa 4109279 - ExploreLab 20



Personal information

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Studio

Name / Theme	Explore Lab
Teachers	Robert Nottrot Nelson Mota (Research/Design Mentor) (Third Mentor) Jan van de Voort Daan Vitner (External Examiner)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Explore Lab gives me the possibility to turn my fascination into my graduation project, one that is not available in other design studios.

Graduation project

Title of the graduation project	Critical Regionalism: Creating Sustainable Housing in North-East Morocco
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Goal

Location:	Berkane, North-East Morocco
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The posed problem, | My fascination for housing in Morocco started by noticing that architecture that is detached from its context is becoming more common each year, especially in the large scale projects where copy-past building blocks are shooting out of the ground and the fast unplanned urbanisation on the outskirts of towns is increasing each year. Not only do they have no relation with their climate and region, but these projects are a threat to the local culture and way of living. This problem is not only common in Morocco, but it is happening in most African countries and countries that are positioned in the 'periphery', what makes the scale of this problem worldwide. The lack of sustainability is a result of projects not being designed for a specific context, resulting in an universal problem. After a rich history of (colonial) influences, architecture in non-western countries is the result of modernization where the West is seen as an example, materials and building types are implemented in a region for which they were not initially planned. If this conduct of copy pasting architecture holds forth in the future, the risk of losing culture and identity of a place is enormous. In order to prevent this from happening we need to look for a solution as soon as possible. This tension between designing for a region and becoming modern is a crucial part to understand, because finding a balance between the two can create an architecture that is not only up to date, but also designed for its region.

research questions
and

See scheme on last page
How can a Critical Regionalist approach contribute to the creation of sustainable housing in Morocco?

Sub questions problem statement:

- What is the relevance of Critical Regionalism for this research?
- Why do we need an adapted design approach for present-day Moroccan architecture?

Sub questions Critical Regionalism:

- What are most important events and aspects that made the notion of Critical Regionalism relevant?
- Is this term outdated and if so, what can we do to adapt Critical Regionalism to present time?
- Why and how is Critical Regionalism used in non-western countries? (centre and periphery)

Sub questions Case Study Morocco:

- How has the architectural discourse in Morocco dealt with modern external influences and what was the position of tradition?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What aspects remain relevant in the 21th century Moroccan architecture? -What are the positions of influential Moroccan architects towards an approach that balances modernism and tradition? - Why is it important to know the vernacular in order to build a relation with the site? - What aspects in vernacular architecture in Morocco can be implemented in an innovative way in the 21th century? - Does modern housing provide answers to social problems and to what extent do they fit in the context? - What is the most common housing type in Morocco and how does it interact with the context? - Which design guidelines can we set up to make sure that current Moroccan architecture will be integrated in the context in an innovative way? <p>Sub question design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can we translate the chosen guidelines into a housing project in Morocco?
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The research products will be designs guidelines/pattern languages that will enable architects to create a project that is balanced between fitting into the region and using modern and universal techniques. This should be visible in the largest to the smallest scale. Next to these design guidelines the results of the typological analysis will help me in retrieving information on living patterns. This in combination with a site analysis will eventually result in a position that I will take towards creating sustainable housing in the North-East of Morocco. The choice of design project is a housing project, since my fascination started by seeing the problematic issues, particularly in housing projects in Morocco, I will design a group of dwellings and public space to address the issues of undersigned public spaces and urbanization in small/medium size Moroccan towns. After a thorough analysis of the term critical regionalism and its meaning in 21th century Morocco, and analyzing different housing types in the region, I will develop a design that tries to answer these issues and can have a positive influence on the way Moroccan architects deal with the architectural discourse.</p>

Process

Method description

I will start by doing a literature study to understand the impact of the notion of critical regionalism and the importance of its use to create architecture that is related to a particular region. While reading and writing about this notion I will understand what the criteria are of projects that are balanced between embracing the region and using universal and modern techniques. Afterwards this will be made relevant for the case study of Morocco, where I will examine influential works by

Moroccan architects on their search for modernity and tradition. This will help me to develop a position towards a new approach to Moroccan architecture in the 21th century. Afterwards, knowledge about the context will be retrieved by making a typological analysis of the different types of housing in Morocco, particularly in the North-East region. The theoretical part and the typological analysis will eventually help me to create my own viewpoint on critical regionalism in a Moroccan context, and will enable me to turn this into design guidelines. To make sure that these guidelines are realistic and work while designing a project, I will be using them while creating my own design.

Literature and general practical preference

I will start my graduation project by researching the notion of critical regionalism, therefore I will use literature of writers that are involved with this notion for example Kenneth Frampton and Liane Lefaivre & Alexander Tzonis. Not only discussing the notion itself but also similar thoughts and influential writers, for example literature that is based on the impact of universalization in the world, like Paul Ricoeur. In the second phase of my project I will focus more on the case study of Morocco, I will look for literature that focuses on the tension between modernism and tradition in Morocco, not only history but also contemporary Moroccan architects that speak their minds on this phenomenon, books but also exhibitions and interviews provide information for this. Next to that the term critical regionalism asks for a complete understanding of the site, in the first phase this will be done by search for typologies and analysing them to understand local ways of doing, next, this requires reports and facts that explain the local circumstances of the region I choose to build in. This information can be retrieved from local people and government documents on the Oriental region in Morocco.

Reflection

Relevance

The main goal of this research is to understand why Moroccan housing projects often lack a relation with the context, and how we can help, as architects, to contribute to the sustainability to improve the living conditions of the future generations. At the end of my graduation I would like to be a motivation for (Moroccan) architects to have a critical way of thinking towards 21th century housing projects in Morocco (and the periphery in general), and to eventually create a building environment in Morocco that embraces the local identity and culture while using the modern developments and innovation as an util. The problem is not only relevant in Morocco, most non-western countries experience the same problems with contemporary housing projects. Making a change does not happen overnight, it is a process of trying and learning and even if the step forward is a small one, it can always inspire people to take the next steps together.

Time planning

See added scheme

WEEK	IMPORTANCE	MEETINGS	RESEARCH TASK	DESIGN TASK	PRODUCTS
Week 3.1			Preparing elevator Pitch		Elevator Pitch presentation
Week 3.2		Tuesday: John Heintz	Literature search		
Week 3.3		Tuesday: John Heintz	Literature search, reading		
Week 3.4		Thursday: John Heintz Nelson Mota	Literature search. reading, development research scheme		Research Scheme
Week 3.5	Research Mentor: Nelson Mota	Tuesday: Workshop group discussion Thursday: 14.00 Tom Avermaete 15.20 John Heintz	Literature search. reading, development research scheme, writing the Graduation Plan	Possible sites search	Research Scheme Site proposal
Week 3.6		Thursday: 10.00 Nelson Mota	Literature search. reading, development research scheme, writing the Graduation Plan		
Week 3.7	Preparation P1 presentation	Send introduction to Nelson	Finishing the graduation Plan and time planning	Visualizing the P1 presentation	Draft Graduation Plan P1 Powerpoint
Week 3.8	P1 presentations Friday: Good Friday	Monday 11.30 P1 presentation Explore Lab			-Draft Graduation Plan - Thematic research -Preliminary choice of context
Week 3.9	Monday: Easter		Searching literature on the second part of Research	Looking for site	
Week 3.10	Hand in History-Thesis before P2		Writing Reading	Site Analysis	
Week 4.1	Final registration date P2 24th april		Writing Reading	Site Analysis Modern types analysis	
Week 4.2	Monday: Kings Day		Writing Reading	Site Analysis Vernacular types analysis	
Week 4.3	Monday & Tuesday: Liberation Day		Questions critical regionalism ready		
Week 4.4	Thursday & Friday: Ascension Day		Finishing up first chapter CR	3D Model urban dwelling	
Week 4.5	Send thesis to Nelson	Thursday: Nelson Mota	Graduation plan	3D Models different building types	Chapter CR draft finished
Week 4.6	Monday: White Monday		Typological analysis	Booklet building types analysis First design	

Week 4.7	Hand in the research and graduation plan at the Board of Examiners, mentor and external	Thursday: Nelson Mota BT Tutors presentation		Visualizing P2 presentation Booklet building types analysis	- Finish Graduation Plan - Booklet typological analysis
Week 4.8			Finishing up the thesis - chapters about CR and first part of Case Study Morocco	Visualizing P2 presentation	- P2 Powerpoint - Thesis - Drawing necessary documents (Autocad enz.)
Week 4.9	P2 presentations GO/NO-GO				
Week 4.10	P2 presentations GO/NO-GO	Monday 15th of June! 10.15			- Graduation Plan - urban draft 1:1000/500 - Programme - List of requirements - Draft Design
Week 4.11					
Week 5.1	Summer vacation	Possible Site visit	Possible Site visit	Possible Site visit	Possible Site visit
Week 5.2	Summer vacation				
Week 5.3	Summer vacation				
Week 5.4	Summer vacation				
Week 5.5	Summer vacation				
Week 5.6	Summer vacation				
Week 5.7	Summer vacation				
Week 5.8	Summer vacation				
Week 1.1	Documenting site visit		Documentation of site visit	Visualizing site findings	
Week 1.2			Determine design guidelines	Continue designing	
Week 1.3			Writing last chapters	Continue designing	Booklet Typologies
Week 1.4			Writing last chapters	Continue designing	Site model
Week 1.5			Writing last chapters	Continue designing	
Week 1.6				Continue designing	
Week 1.7				Continue designing	
Week 1.8			Re-reading writings, finishing up	Producing products P3	Final research thesis, Final Booklet typologies
Week 1.9				Preparation P3 presentation Posters, models etc.	
Week 1.10	P3 presentations				- Plans/ facades/Cross-cuts, 1:100/200 - Part of the building plans and cross-cut 1:50 - Facade fragment 1:20 - Details 1:5
Week 2.1	P3 presentations				
Week 2.2				Continue designing	
Week 2.3				Continue designing	
Week 2.4				Continue designing	
Week 2.5				Continue designing	
Week 2.6				Continue designing	Final products finished for evaluation teachers
	Winter vacation			Models, Posters, Presentation	

	Winter vacation			Models, Posters, Presentation	
Week 2.7				Finishing up all products	Final presentation materials
Week 2.8	P4 presentations				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theoretic and thematic support of research and design + reflection on architectonic and social relevance - Site 1:5000/1000 - Floor plans/elevations and sections - - Facade fragment 1:20 - Details 1:5 - reflections based on template
Week 2.9	P4 presentations				
Week 2.10					

How can a Critical Regionalist approach contribute to the creation of sustainable housing in Morocco?

