

12. FINAL 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)?

For me, architecture is fundamentally intertwined with human experience and social life. Buildings, especially public buildings, intend to be inherently designed with people in mind, accommodating diverse groups and facilitating varied social interactions. Understanding how architecture shapes, disrupts, and facilitates these interactions is therefore central in my interest, not only within public buildings but also across architectural practice more broadly. My graduation project intends to integrate themes (.....) from the Public Building studio and draws extensively on knowledge and methods acquired throughout my master's track and the broader MSc AUBS programme. Moreover, it reflects an interdisciplinary approach, applying insights gained from courses ranging from urban-scale interventions to detailed architectural solutions by taking inspiration from more theoretical courses going beyond the scope of architecture, as well as the more classical design courses. Ultimately, my project represents a synthesis of my academic interests and skills developed across various scales and disciplines within architecture.

How do you assess the value of your way of working (your approach, your used methods, used methodology)?

My project has fulfilled my initial ambitions to a certain extent. It has allowed me to explore the core themes I set out with - especially the notion of exhaustion and how it manifests spatially, addressing in unique ways how the design of the public condenser could serve as tool to generate new possibilities. Still, I believe there is some potential left to uncover different angles and push the investigation further, exploring more speculative or unconventional design approaches than currently my design proposal taps into. For the moment, my project turns out to be quite grounded and realistic. This has been part of an ongoing dialogue with my tutors, where we often reflected on when the design might shift toward something more unexpected. Given my theme and initial literature research, this could have potentially led to a more utopian proposal. At the start of my research, I had imagined doing more literature studies and writing. In practice, my process shifted, and I found myself relying more heavily on research by design - a method that is strongly encouraged within the Public Building graduation studio. By using this method, designing itself become a way of discovering: by drawing, modelling, iterating, and exploring alternatives. This enabled me to research the spatial implications of my design solutions to let the design process generate new insights. My tutors encouraged me to move beyond the conventional, to be more radical in the design. And while I did see the value in that direction, I also struggled with letting go of a certain realism. This tension - between staying grounded and imagining something more speculative – has been a core part of my design process. Looking back, I think embracing that friction has been productive but also where I see room for further development.

Academic and societal value, scope and implication of your graduation project, including ethical aspects?

Despite the challenges I've faced, the early phase of my theoretical research has proved to be essential, as it enabled me to formulate a clear and specific problem statement and to come up with two core conceptual frameworks. Translating these frameworks into spatial strategies and concrete architectural interventions remains a challenge - and is arguably the most complex part of the work - but I perceive this project as a first step in researching how this can be established. My graduation project explores the intersection of architecture, sociology, and philosophy, bridging the gap between theoretical notions and their practical applications. By situating these ideas within a specific Danish context, the project tests and expands upon existing theories, contributing to a deeper understanding of the relationship between social structures and urban and public design.

How do you assess the value of the transferability of your project results?

A central concept in my research is Deleuze's notion of "the exhausted." Applying this idea to architectural and urban contexts offers a valuable insight and approach that could also be beneficial to more generic contemporary social issues, particularly the widespread sense of stagnation, polarization, and loss of imaginative capacity seen across the globe. Today's society shows clear signs of exhaustion: the lack of creativity, an inability to imagine alternative social realities, and a growing sense of division are dominating public discourse. My project addresses this challenges by demonstrating that new forms of collective living can be still possible. Through concepts like the "spectacular everyday" and the reconsideration of "borders and boundaries," I propose strategies that encourage reimagining everyday life and social interactions. Although rooted in the specific conditions of Sundholm in Copenhagen, the issues my design proposal address are widely recognizable also elsewhere. While my design proposal is not intended as a immediate prototype, it could act as a guide for designers, communities, and policymakers facing similar challenges. By offering innovative ways to think about public spaces and social life, the project contributes both to the academic discourse and the professional practice of architecture.