

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	Jiaxinchen
Student number	5480361

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3AI100 Interiors Buildings Cities	
Main mentor	Daniel Rosbottom	Architecture
Second mentor	Matthijs Klooster	Architectural Engineering
Third mentor	Jurjen Zeinstra	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	interiors studio works on design of buildings at different scales, from a room to a whole building, and to a community to an urban scale. At the same time interiors studio's in-depth study of interior spaces and materials is something I am not so good at and I wish to practice in this area.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	New M HKA museum- construction of a Flemish Museum of Contemporary Art
Goal	
Location:	Waalsekaai 35A, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium
The posed problem	The museum MHKA hopes to create a new building that will meet the needs of its own contemporary art museum while adding research functions and more public character. Moreover, it will become a key building in the south of Antwerp.
research questions and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transformation of the Museum of Contemporary Art 2. Renovation design of new and old building 3. A response to the public and social character of the museum <p>It was clear from the research seminar on museums that exhibition spaces and approaches have been changing over time. Exhibition styles are becoming more diverse and the addition of new media has created more requirements for space. Old architectural forms of exhibition need to be changed to adapt them to changing exhibition styles. And how to create a future-oriented building while maintaining the continuity of the building's history requires adapting to the historical texture</p>

	<p>of the building itself. Therefore, there is a need to pay close attention to the history, culture and materials existing in the building. At the same time, as Richard Rogers says in <i>A Place for All People: Life, Architecture and the Fair Society</i>(2017), "We know that the whole idea of the library will change in the next few years, we cannot predict the future, but we can create a space in which the future can begin." Considering the current needs of the building while keeping some flexibility for its future use may be a way of dealing with the future.</p> <p>In the meantime, Museums and art institutions describe themselves less and less as exclusive spaces dedicated to art, but rather as inclusive and social spaces. Different types of visitors and users actively participate in the museum story. In a large complex, how to ensure that the museum functions while going as open as possible?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design will produce building spaces that are reasonably responsive to needs and find appropriate construction methods and materials to create rich spaces for museums. In my project, I chose to retain most of the existing building due to my agreement with the design language of the existing building and the consideration of sustainability, which at the same time posed some design challenges. I chose to build the new building in the middle of the old one, creating a large space through the truss structure and taking the weight of the new building above the old one. At the same time, I will try to increase the openness and accessibility of the public spaces in order to meet the public and social needs of the museum.</p>
<p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]</p>	
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical background of the building <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The history of the building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> M HKA: background Zuidersas in site: industrial character, existing building in site b) The urban context of the building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale river infill texture around the building Dams under the existing building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes the transition horizontally between the Scheldt quays and the metropolitan square and city park 2. The current situation and needs of the building 	

a) the space required for the art gallery

the collection, the library/archive, exhibitions, and the forum

b) The shortcomings of the current museum building

hardly communicates with the city

little room for public outreach (workshops, children's workshops, school visits) and for rather discursive or social activities (lectures, film screenings or sponsor events, for example)

a shortage of quality office space and good workplaces for its staff members

3. The future of the building

a) The strategy for the future of the museum

the future museum explicitly wants to disseminate an idea of 'publicness'

Museum & anti-museum : How to choose the style of the new museum

(the current M HKA building's ambivalent appearance: combines a representation of a monumental museum with modernist white cubes (as a conversion project it is a faint reminder of the Alternative Spaces movement, an anti-museum avant-garde movement driven by artists, Gordon Matta-Clark being one of the protagonists))

b) Additional needs: flexible spaces corresponding to different possibilities

Sustainable possibility

4. A combination of old and new

a) How does the new building connect to the old one while preserving part of it?

b) How old buildings can be modified to accommodate new needs (e.g. adding insulation)

In solving these themes, I will use digital models, handmade models and drawings of different scales, from 1:500 urban plans to 1:20 structural large samples to study the design and add details little by little.

Literature and general practical preference

Literature

Richard Rogers, *A Place for All People: Life, Architecture and the Fair Society*, Canongate Books, 2017

Meurs Paul, *Heritage-based design*, 2016

Charlotte Klonk, 'The Dilemma of the Modern Art Museum' in *Spaces of Experience: Art Gallery*

Interiors from 1800 to 2000 (New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 2009)

Mark Pimlott, 'Visibility, Spectacle, Theatricality and Power: the problem of the museum', *OASE*, 2021

Brian O'Doherty, *Inside the WhiteCube*, 1986

Dirk De Wit, Simon Leenknecht, Valerie Verhacq, *Contemporary visual art in Flanders: the past history, up to 2006*, 2022

Design Brief of M HKA, 2019

general practical experience/precedent

a renovation and expansion of The Museum of Modern Art, Diller Scofidio + Renfro & Gensler, 2019

MAS Antwerp

KMSKA Antwerp

MOMU, fashion museum in Antwerp

Hong Kong Design Institute by CAAU, 2006

PORT HOUSE, ANTWERP, XAVEER DE GEYTER ARCHITECTS

100 Het Steen Antwerp, 2016, noAarchitecten

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)?

I think this project is a very large and complex public building project that involves the city and the community, public and social, and highly specialised architectural spaces, while at the same time such a large scale building needs to be considered sustainable. The theme of my studio1 was architectural heritage, in which I learnt a lot about the protection and renovation of old buildings, which will help me to deal with the relationship between old and new buildings in my graduation project. For my studio 2, the theme was architectural engineering and we worked on a small public building design on the site of a refugee camp in Jordan, which required low-tech and sustainability, and I realised the importance of sustainability in this project. Therefore I think my final project is relevant to my studies in the studio and master process and I will use what I have learnt in the master process to complete this complex large scale public building design.

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

The aim of this graduation project is to achieve different levels in the context of its design. Socially and culturally, as a large local art museum, M HKA will become a leading representative for the cultural dissemination of Flemish Arts after its renaming as V MKA. Together with the surrounding docks and city park, it will become a new urban centre of attention, consolidating the development of the fast-growing southern part of Antwerp and promoting social interaction and cohesion. On a professional and scientific level, the project will explore the creation of a large multi-functional public building with a museum, library, collection centre and public centre on a small site and on the basis of existing buildings. The building can be used as a model for similar projects in different communities.