

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	Alex Buijsman
Student number	5943086

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3AP100 2024-25 Public Building Graduation Studio "Public Condenser, Copenhagen"	
Main mentor	Henk Bulstra	Architecture - Project Design
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Sien van Dam	Research - Theory & Delineation
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>During my technical bachelor degree and work experience, I have focused mainly on different dwellings in all shapes and sizes. During Msc 1 (heritage) and even more in Msc 2 (High Rise Culture) the public aspect of buildings was more present. I got more intrigued with the public side of buildings and want to explore this side of architecture more. When walking in a public building I get a feeling that everything is placed exactly where it should be. A functional building where the architecture on the outside completes the function that is present inside. A place where people want to be instead of need to be. This is something I want to accomplish in this graduation studio.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Well-being within all scales
Goal	
Location:	Sundholmsvej
The posed problem,	<p>Good access to basic public functions is essential for quality of life. Public buildings, such as community centers, libraries, and health facilities, serve as hubs for social connection, provide access to key resources, and foster a sense of community and belonging. Such spaces improve individual and collective well-being, promote healthy</p>

	<p>behaviors, and are shown to reduce social isolation. In Sundholm, opening a public condenser, if done correctly, can be essential for futureproofing the neighborhood. Clashing groups and individuals account for a lot of problems in the area. Confrontations happen between certain groups, which shows not only the tension between individuals and/or ethnic groups, but also a lack of understanding for one another. Because of these clashes within only a small portion of the neighborhood, other residents feel unsafe in Sundholm despite not experiencing any dangerous situations them self's. Furthermore, the narrative of an unsafe neighborhood sticks, and the bad reputation gives people who don't live there a negative image of the area and with that a reason to avoid it.</p> <p>The social, physical and mental well-being of individuals is lacking in this neighborhood. By implementing design features focusing on the social, physical and mental well-being of the residents, the public condenser can create a secure and inclusive environment that encourages community use that stimulates different groups (especially the youth) to connect in a safe environment. The research thus focuses to design a public building that integrates well-being within all scales of the building including landscape, architectural design, function, and sustainability</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>MAIN QUESTION</p> <p>How can architectural design in the Sundholm Neighborhood foster physical, mental, and social well-being across diverse communities?</p> <p>SUB QUESTION</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What design strategies contribute to safety and well-being in a neighborhood with diverse and vulnerable populations? 2. Where are the implementation of specific design features related to well-being the most effective? 3. What habitats need to be included to create a healthy environment?
design assignment in which these result.	[Design Assignment]
<p>This research aims to demonstrate how the social, physical and mental well-being of the residents can be improved within Sundholmvej Copenhagen, an area that faces social and economic challenges,. By including different well-being principles, the project seeks to create an architectural approach that fosters inclusivity and comfort, stimulating both individual and community growth. It addresses socio-economic challenges in a troubled neighborhood where negative perceptions, social tensions and economical challenges impact the community. The Public Condenser is part of, and contributes to, a healthy environment in the broadest sense, highlighting the need for clean air, a stable climate, adequate sanitation, safe spaces, and preserved habitats. This project explores how thoughtful design focused on well-being can transform this area into a safe spaces that encourage positive social interaction and forms an escape as well as an extension of their limited space at home.</p>	
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>Desk research</p> <p>To start of the research process, an analysis will be done on the available data on the site that is gathered through the different graduation groups within the public building studio. It is essential to fully understand the area. Multiple studies about the focus on well-being in the built environment will be researched. In which '5 ways to well-being' will lay the foundation for the study. (Steemers, 2021). Besides this, research will be conducted on how neuroarchitecture can be used to improve well-being. These topics form the base of my research and are a good foundation to further expand on. Also looking into books will enhance the knowledge for these topics and how to use them in a public setting like 'Life between buildings' From Jan Gehl.</p> <p>Case Studies</p> <p>In urban design and architecture, for instance, case studies allow for the analysis of spaces that have ,knowingly or unknowingly, successfully incorporated design strategies for well-being principles. By studying the successes and limitations of these examples, I can identify best practices and potential pitfalls, helping to refine and improve my own design solutions.</p>	

Interviews and surveys

The case studies are connected to the people who incorporate the design principles. These professionals hold a big amount of knowledge that give insight into their own design methods but also can give feedback on my own design method. Think of studios like Jan Gehl who emphasizes health in the cities (Brammer 2015). Besides interviewing professionals, surveys will be done to understand better what are the different perspectives of well-being amongst different people. This to find if there is a certain way to go or maybe even introducing multiple techniques to include different opinions.

Literature and general practical references

The literature will be mainly focused on how different principles focused on physical, mental, and social well-being can be integrated within the build environment to positively influence the life of the residents of Sundholm.

The 5 ways to well-being will be used as a foundation as well as a guideline through the research (Steemers 2021)

Neuroscience will also be a big research topic as it shows how the brain interacts with different architectural aspects. Neuroarchitecture shows that well-being can be improved by using certain colors, light, and shapes. (Matoso 2022)

<https://www.daylightandarchitecture.com/architecture-for-well-being-and-health/>
<https://www.archdaily.com/982248/neuroarchitecture-how-your-brain-responds-to-different-spaces>

Useful Links

<https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/five-ways-to-wellbeing-1.pdf>
<https://www.cuubstudio.com/blog/power-of-neuroscience-in-architecture/>
https://www.architectmagazine.com/practice/designing-for-health-and-wellness-the-next-great-challenge_o

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)?

When making architectural design choices, It is essential to make decisions based on the direct surroundings involved. The goal of this graduation studio is to design a public condenser in a neighbourhood with socio-economic challenges. This context is specifically chosen to enhance the design challenge. The implementation of well-being can be woven into the fabric of the public condenser as stated by the syllabus which includes the 5 thematic pillars of the studio: hybridity, resilience, multiplicity in design, sustainability and healthiness.

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

Well-being is relatively new topic within the build environment. In combination with Sundholm being a neighbourhood with socio-economic challenges, the conclusion of this project can be a blueprint on how to implement well-being principles within architectural design. With that, if proven successful, it can be an example for equal neighbourhoods where socio-economic challenges play a role.

