

# 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](mailto: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	Kelly Gumbs
Student number	5421691

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors, Buildings, Cities MSc3/4 Palace	
Main mentor	Pietsch, Ir. S.	Architecture
Second mentor	Karanastani, E.	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Last year I took a gap year to do two internships. One of these internships was at a firm that focuses on designing from the inside out. This way of design thinking has interested me more in the interiors of buildings and user experiences. I think it's fascinating that architecture can be used to evoke feelings, different moods and unique experiences. So I chose this studio to learn more about how interiors work, and what their relations are with the exterior and the urban surroundings. And I was very excited about the idea of designing a library as I also wrote my history thesis about libraries. Here I already noticed a change in the function of a public library in modern society. With this studio, I can continue to explore this topic.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Intertwined library
Goal	
Location:	Stockholm
The posed problem,	<p>The role of public libraries has been expanding over the years. From traditional book repositories with places devoted to reading and studying to inclusive open spaces that allow for social gatherings and provide new ways of knowledge development. The Stockholm Library has already changed compared to when it was built in 1928,</p>

	<p>but in its current state, it will not be able to keep up with modern society and the growth of the city. Past design competition briefs already addressed this issue, but no project continued. By studying the Stockholm Library, the architect's work, and the social and historical context and by critically going through these past design briefs, a new proposal for the redesign of the Stockholm Library has to be developed.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>How can the new library design facilitate a better routing between the street Odengatan, the park and the observatory hill?</p> <p>What will be the appropriate response to change the Stockholm Library, considering the 2006 and 2014 competition briefs and current ideas of what a public library should be?</p> <p>How can the new library become an open, inviting and inclusive environment that provides spaces for both learning and leisure activities?</p> <p>In an era of increasing digital information, how can the library strike a balance between embracing digital technologies and maintaining the significance and accessibility of physical books?</p> <p>How can the new library be designed as an ensemble with the Stockholm Library while respecting its monumentality?</p> <p>How will the new library building relate to the Stockholm Library and its urban context?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design assignment aims to respond to the changing role of the public library and how this change would be translated into the design of the new Stockholm library. The design will focus on different scales, from the urban context to the experiences of interior spaces and how these scales relate to</p>

each other. Which results in a considerate design that meets the design brief.

## **Process**

### **Method description**

#### Collective research

As part of the research seminar, collective research has been done with the whole studio. This research explores the work of Erik Gunnar Asplund, the architect of the Stockholm Library, to get a better understanding of the context in which he designed the Stockholm Library. This research focused on four themes: spatiality, ornaments, urban setting and composition. In parallel, we worked in groups to make a 1:25 model of four key spatial themes of the Stockholm Library to get to know every single detail of the building. These models are based on how the library was built. So then we could later compare these spaces with their current state. In the fifth week, we went to Stockholm to experience the city, learn more about its architectural history and explore the Stockholm Library and its surroundings. By sketching, recording and photographing I got an idea of how the library is used, what is great about it and what it is missing.

The second part of the research seminar was about modern public libraries. Again we collectively researched eight precedents to learn more about the history of public libraries and to get familiar with the program of a library building. All the collective research has been collected and published in separate booklets.

To learn more about new libraries we visited the Lochal in Tilburg and the Predikherenklooster in Mechelen. Both libraries are designed in buildings that already exist. Which is similar to the assignment of this graduation studio.

#### Individual research

Aside from the collective research I also analysed other libraries that I found interesting. This is to get some inspiration for my design and to get a better understanding of how to design a library.

The site visit in Stockholm made me interested in the history of the location. Therefore I also researched the history of the site and I went through many of Asplund his drawings he made for the Stockholm Library and its surroundings.

#### Design

To develop a proposal for a new library I already used design tools like sketching, drawing, making physical models, modelling digitally and making analytical drawings and diagrams. This will be continued throughout the design phase.

## Literature and general practical references

Literature used for the 16 precedents we collectively researched as part of the research seminar is listed in the research booklets.

The other precedents:

OODI, Helsinki, ALA Architects

Deichman Library, Oslo, Atelier Oslo + Lund Hagem

Lockhal, Tilburg, CIVIC architects + Braaksma & Roos architectenbureau + Inside Outside + Mecanoo

Het Predikherenklooster, Mechelen, Korteknie Stuhlmacher Architecten

Literature:

Arkitektur- och designcentrum. (n.d.). Archive material of Stockholm Library.

Retrieved October 2, 2023, from

<https://digitaltmuseum.se/search/?q=stadsbibliotek&aq=owner%3F%3A%22S-ARK%22&o=0&n=60>

Stadsarkivet, Stadsmuseet, Medeltidsmuseet, Stadsbibliotheket, &

Utbildningförvaltningen. (n.d.). Old maps of Stockholm. Retrieved October 2, 2023,

from <https://stockholmskallan.stockholm.se/sok/?map=true&alternatemap=true&x=59.34387668546614&y=18.055095963165495>

Stadsmuseet. (n.d.). Digitala Stadsmuseet. Retrieved October 2, 2023, from

<https://digitalastadsmuseet.stockholm.se/fotoweb/>

Mattern, S. (2014). Library as infrastructure. *Places-a Forum of Environmental Design*, (2014). <https://doi.org/10.22269/140609>

*Librarians, E. (2020, March 30). ECHO and the radical history of libraries. Retrieved from https://www.versobooks.com/en-gb/blogs/news/4631-echo-and-the-radical-history-of-libraries*

FitzGerald, E. (2019, August 1). Palaces for the people - 99% invisible. Retrieved from <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/palaces-for-the-people/>

Sternheim, Joyce and Rob Bruijnzeels. 2021. *Imagination and Participation: Next Steps in Public Library Architecture*. Rotterdam: nai010.

Maak, Niklas et al. 2022. *Deichman Bjørvika: Oslo Public Library : Lundhagem and Atelier Oslo Architects*. edited by Müller Lars, Lund Hagem Architects, and Atelier Oslo (Architectural practice). Zurich, Switzerland: Lars Müller.

Stuhlmacher, Mechthild and Joeri de Bruyn. 2019. *Het Predikheren Mechelen : Herbestemming Van Een Kloosterruïne Tot Stadsbibliotheek = the Predikheren Mechelen : Transformation of a Monastery Ruin into a City Library*. Mechelen: Public Space.

Worpole, Ken. 2013. *Contemporary Library Architecture : A Planning and Design Guide*. London: Routledge.

Dijkstra, Rients, Huib Haye van der Werf, Christine Gardner, Nederlands Architectuurinstituut, and Architecture of Knowledge, TAOK (2009 : Rotterdam). 2010. *The Architecture of Knowledge : The Library of the Future = De Architectuur Van Kennis: De Bibliotheek Van De Toekomst*. Rotterdam: Nai Publishers/Uitgevers.

Romero, Santi. 2008. *Library Architecture: Recommendations for a Comprehensive Research Project*. Barcelona: Col.legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya.

## 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)?

The graduation studio Interiors Buildings Cities is a studio that focuses on the relationship between interiors, buildings and cities. The project will be an architectural project that will zoom in and out on the different themes of the studio (interior, buildings, cities) to create a considerate design for the new library. The library is situated on an interesting site. It is on a corner of two main roads, it is close to a metro station and on the edge of a park with a hill. It will therefore also touch on other master tracks within the MSc UABS.

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

Public libraries play an important role in the social, cultural and economic vitality of communities. Everyone is welcome in a public library, which makes them the most visited public facilities. It's a place where people can meet each other and more importantly, exchange knowledge. As people are becoming more isolated because of digitalization and social media, it is even more important to stimulate social interactions so people can learn from each other. This way people will get to understand different perspectives and develop their own ideas. The redesign of the Stockholm Library embraces this important social role by providing spaces that stimulate social interactions and exchange of knowledge in different forms. It is not only books that provide knowledge, it is also the people.

This project is based on an actual design competition from 2006, and the revised brief of 2014. The design process and research will therefore be similar to how an architectural office would approach it.

As there are no guidelines on how to design a public library. This project is a study of what a public library could be. It is also a project that works with existing buildings of monumental value, so it will also investigate how you could approach a project like that. Knowledge gained from this project can be used for further studies on public libraries.