

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	Josine Catharina Vos
Student number	4208749
Telephone number	
Private e-mail address	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities / Palace - City Halls	
Main mentor	Sam De Vocht	Architecture
Second mentor	Mauro Parravicini	Architectural Engineering and Technology
Third mentor	Daniel Rosbottom	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	My main motivation for this studio were the tutors that are part of the chair of Interiors Buildings Cities, as well as the applied working method which lies closest to my previous experiences. Within this chair, I appreciate the care and coherency on detail, materiality and quality throughout scales, ranging between the public interior and the intimate city. Furthermore, the studio deals with issues that are relevant and real in present-day that allow me to find meaning in what I do.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	City Hall Brussels
Goal	
Location:	City of Brussels, Belgium
The posed problem,	<p>The city of Brussels wishes to realise a new administrative centre in the centre of Brussels, in order to bring various services together in one single building to increase accessibility for citizens as well as work efficiency among employees.</p> <p>In broader context, it can be critically questioned how and why an office building should be built, in this urgency of climate crisis, as</p>

	<p>office buildings in Brussels often know a short lifespan. However, when building yet another office building, how can this be done in a responsible way?</p> <p>Next to this, biodiversity in the city is increasing. Species driven from the countryside are finding themselves permanent homes in cities. Some have become entirely dependent on buildings for their survival. For that reason, it is important to understand the inhabitants of the city and their requirements within it and how newly built buildings can possibly be part of their habitat.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>How can the building contribute to the city as a dynamic and diverse habitat, to not only people, but also animals and plants? And how can the defined users enrich the architectural expression of the new city hall?</p> <p>How to build in a responsible way, using materials with little environmental impact, during production, construction, usage, and/or dismantling/demolishing?</p> <p>How can other aspects of design besides geometry, like materials, light, smell, humidity or temperature steer the design (process) or articulate space for the city hall? And how do these outcomes affect its representational character?</p> <p>How to deal with the plots dimensions (of 33 meters deep) in relation to comfort and requirements in terms of daylight in office spaces?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Design of a city hall/administrative centre for the city of Brussels on the former site of the parking 58. Besides providing 1700 employees a workspace, and being a centre for Brussels citizens, the new city hall will additionally provide a home to various other species, like birds and insects.</p> <p>With the given design brief and my own addition to it, I wish to explore to what extend such a large public building with its representational character by nature, can answer questions of environmental responsibilities, nature-inclusiveness, sensitivity to material properties and how this will translate in program as well as architectural qualities.</p>

Process

Method description

Research

Precedent Studies: studies on political buildings or places of gathering and representation in history. Resulted findings are combined in a collective book for the studio to use throughout the year.

Research on Brussels: Documenting and mapping of spatial, and political structures of Brussels at scales; Direct political action: participation in and documentation of the Worldwide Climate Strike in The Hague; Research on events of a political nature taken place in Brussels and converted into drawings; Design of a political space, realized in a physical model in order to address issues that the research of Brussels or within a wider scope, has raised. The outcome of this research will too be a collective book for studio usage.

Formulating the Project

Analysis of the existing brief for the planned new administrative centre of Brussels. Together with previous conducted research on the site and structures of Brussels, and personal developed ideas of a political space, a brief for the city hall is defined.

Model Making: Site models 1:500, and later on 1:200, to develop urban strategies; Model making at various scales to develop different aspects of the building, these could be interior spaces, façade elements, construction details or material usage; Photographing of these models to visualize the design proposal.

Model making has been an important part and intuitive method for the formulation of the design project so far. Materiality in particular has been an approach to design. Through understanding and working with a material to learn its qualities, a space or architecture itself can be formed. This approach stimulates me to think beyond designing with standardised materials.

Literature and general practical preference

Aicher, F., Eberle, D. (2016). *Be 2226 The Temperature of Architecture; Portrait of an Energy-Optimized House*. Basel: Birkhäuser

Goslar, M. (2012). *Victor Horta; Leven – Werk – Art Nouveau*. Brussel: Mercatorfonds

Kennedy, J.F., Smith, M., Wanek, C. (2015) *The Art of Natural Building: Design, Construction, Resources*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers

Pimlott, M. (2016) *The Public Interior as Idea and Project*. Jap Sam Books

Richardson, M., Stevens, M. (1999). *John Soane: architect, master of space and light*. London: Royal Academy of Arts

Schubert, J., Schutz, E., Streich, L. (2010) *Something Fantastic; A Manifesto by Three Young Architects on Worlds, People, Cities, and Houses*. Berlin: Ruby Press

Stanwix, W., Sparrow, A. (2014) *The Hempcrete Book; Designing and Building with Hemp-Lime*. Cambridge: Green Books

Vollaard, P., Vink, J., De Zwarte, N. (2017) *Stadsnatuur Maken/Making Urban Nature*. Rotterdam: Nai010

Reflection

This year's topic within the chair of Interiors Buildings Cities focuses on Brussels; Capital city of both Belgium and the European Union and considered as a heterogeneous city with its tensions arising from different identities and needs of a diverse population. Next to this, cities are changing. Whereas once nature and the city were seen as opposites, today new requirements or desired qualities of the city are emerging. My graduation project tries to respond to these issues and to see the city hall as a component of both nature and the city.