

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	Nino Vogels
Student number	5166144

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture 'Last Green in Town'	
Main mentor	Rosie van der Schans	Design
Second mentor	Leeke Reinders	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The Urban Architecture Graduation Studio is research-driven with a site-specific focus on the physical, social, cultural, historical, and political dynamics. Besides that, it asks for an inquisitive, creative, and sensitive approach towards the site. I appreciate that the studio adopts a socially oriented (anthropological) approach, aligning well with the individual research and design interests of the students.	

Graduation project		
Title of the graduation project		From Humus to Human A repository of remembrance
Goal		
Location:		La Friche Josaphat, Brussels, Belgium
The posed problem,		The problem statement revolves around the complex dynamics of the La Friche Josaphat site in northeast Brussels, a former marshaling yard that transformed into a wild environment. The site faces conflicting perspectives and interests, primarily between ecological preservation and human occupation. The property, under the ownership of a development corporation, is on the edge of changing into a densely populated residential zone. Situated in Schaerbeek, a multicultural municipality, it is crucial for this upcoming neighborhood to seamlessly integrate with the existing community. There is a need for the current residents to feel represented, a sentiment that is currently missing.

research questions and	<p>I will explore the profound connection between individuals and their environment by delving into the meaning of 'soil' and its relationship with humans. This investigation examines how the connection with soil influences a fundamental aspect of human identity and belonging.</p> <p>The following research question is:</p> <p>How can soil, especially in cultural or religious contexts, express the connection between La Friche and human identity, and what impact does this have on the preservation of flora and fauna?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The aim is to create an architectural proposal that addresses this relationship between La Friche and human identity, reflecting the profound importance of soil in shaping identity and the sense of belonging.</p> <p>The design proposal will result in a repository of remembrance. This place can be used for the preservation of stories and artifacts as a remembrance of loved ones who passed away or remembering the country in which a person was born and raised. The project will be a serene and contemplative environment providing a peaceful setting for reflection and solace.</p>

Process

Method description

The methodology I intend to employ will encompass a blend of various research approaches. The direction may vary depending on the specific path during my research process. My research will start from a large universal scale going into detail towards the specific location and design proposal.

The three main parts in my research:

The meaning of soil in a cultural and religious context

The meaning of soil and sense of belonging

The meaning of soil and La Friche

This will be conducted in:

- Precedent studies/reference studies
Artworks, texts, movies, stories etc.
- Interviews, stories of individuals
- Cartography and mapping

- Historical analysis

With the use of:

Photography, drawing, mapping, writing.

Literature and general practical references

John Dixon Hunt. *World of Gardens*. London, Reaktion Books Ltd, 2015.

Riccetti, Alessandra. *BiodiverCITY. A Matter of Vital Soil! Creating, Implementing and Upscaling Biodiversity-Based Measures in Public Space*. Rotterdam, Nai010 Uitgevers, 2021.

Dee, Catherine. *To Design Landscape : Art, Nature & Utility*. London ; New York, Routledge, 2012.

Manacorda, Francesco, and Art Gallery. *Radical Nature. : Art and Architecture for a Changing Planet, 1969-2009 ; [Published on the Occasion of the Exhibition ... Barbican Art Gallery, London, 19 June - 18 October 2009]*. Köln, Koenig Books, 2009.

Lichtenstein, Claude, and Thomas Schregener. *As Found : The Discovery of Ordinary*. Zürich, Lars Müller Publishers, Cop, 2001.

Alongside this shortlist of books, there will be many practical references, as case studies, reports, articles, etc.

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)?

My graduation project addresses the role of 'the architect', positing that architects function as mediators between social, political, and cultural concerns. With our research-based approach and design capabilities, architects possess the unique capacity to address issues. This is especially crucial in tackling the intricate dynamics in this case of La Friche Josaphat site outlined in the problem statement. The architecture of a 'repository for remembrance' involves more than just the physical structures; it embodies the overall design, symbolism, functionality, and cultural sensitivity to create a meaningful and serene environment for reflection and remembrance.

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

My graduation project has the potential to make valuable contributions to disciplines such as cultural studies, and anthropology within architecture. The project promotes interdisciplinary perspectives, emphasizing the interplay between human activities, cultural traditions, and the natural environment. Additionally, this project brings attention to the significance of adopting sustainable and culturally sensitive strategies in addressing matters such as repositories, remembrance spaces, and burial grounds.

