

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	Daan Wierikx
Student number	5662079

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture / Last Green in Town	
Main mentor	Elsbeth Ronner	Architecture
Second mentor	Jos Lafeber	Architectural Engineering + Technology
Third mentor	Leeke Reinders	Anthropology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Before starting my master's in architecture, I had doubts whether to choose Urbanism instead. I had interest in both the scale of architecture and urbanism. The interest in urbanism comes from an assignment during the pre-master. The larger scale enables a designer to create sequences of areas and spaces which can be in unison with the architecture of buildings. The combination of both is what creates great neighbourhoods and urban areas.</p> <p>The studio of Urban Architecture is therefore a great opportunity to combine both interests in Urbanism and Architecture.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The Community of the Friche
Goal	
Location:	Friche Josaphat, Brussels, Belgium
The posed problem,	Brussels, the capital of Belgium, stands as a vibrant and diverse city, encapsulating numerous cultures, languages, and traditions. Renowned for its status as an international hub, Brussels has a multicultural atmosphere, with neighbourhoods full of identities. With a population that speaks multiple

languages - including French, Dutch, and English - Brussels embraces its diversity, fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates the unique contributions of its inhabitants. In the north side of Brussel, in the multicultural municipalities of Schaerbeek and Evere, the Friche Josaphat is located.

The Friche is the largest currently unbuilt area in the Brussels Region, with a total area of 25 hectares. The eastern side of the friche is used as an industrial area, while the western side has become a wasteland, not touched since the marshalling yard of the Belgian train company left. This side of the Friche has become a safe haven for almost 300 species of bees, birds, and dragon fly species. This makes the site a unique place in the city of Brussels.

Currently, the city is facing opposition to use the Friche for new development. The first masterplan was introduced in 2014, with several other plans also presented in the years that followed. (*Josaphat | Sau-nsi*, n.d.) All these plans have posed the same problem: the nature that had the chance to grow would all be destroyed again in favour of dwellings.

On the friche, a small community exists. A group of people which can also be called a 'common' regularly comes together to eat, cultivate the land and to have informal gatherings. These people strive to keep the friche as the wasteland it currently is. This idea has a large following within Brussels, since all presented plans have been opposed.

	<p>This poses a problem. On one side, the municipality wants to construct dwellings on the friche, and on the other hand, the inhabitants want to keep the natural area in the middle of Brussels. This leads to the contradiction: How can people live in the friche while also preserving its natural area?</p>
research and design questions	<p>How can a contemporary community be defined and effectively implemented on the Friche Josaphat site in Brussels?</p> <p>Neighbourhood scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where can the new community be situated on the friche? (masterplan) <p>Community scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is an intentional community? - Why are communities created? - What is needed to create a community? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <u>Data analysis intentional communities</u> o <u>Urban analysis intentional communities</u> <p>Building scale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is a communal building and what is it used for? - What does a contemporary common building need? (design proposal?) - How can a building be built flexible? (design question) - How can a building be built to expand easily? (design question) - What dwellings would fit the new community?

design assignment in which these result.	
<p>The research will lead to an urban design of an environmentally conscious community situated on the west side of the Friche Josaphat site in Brussels. Within this masterplan, a communal building, and a dwelling for a group of people will be designed. This will likely be separated across two buildings. Additionally, the design will formulate an expansion plan, that will explore the possibilities for expansion of the community in the near and far future.</p>	
Process	
Method description	
<p>In the research, a comparative case study approach will be used to examine the diverse selected communities. By selecting cases representing varying types of communities, such as ecovillages and intentional communities, this method allows for an understanding of the differences and similarities. This will help to create design elements for the new community. The use of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods will facilitate a comprehensive analysis.</p> <p>This comparative analysis is complemented with a photo analysis, which will be used to generate a visual understanding of multiple aspects of the case studies.</p>	

Literature and general practical references

Bezboroa, I. (2020). What are the Commons? In *Dakshin Foundation*.

https://www.dakshin.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/What-are-the-commons_.pdf

Josaphat / sau-msi. (n.d.). <https://sau-msi.brussels/developpements/josaphat>

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http://repository.cohousing.nl:8080/jspui/bitstream/20.500.12011/342/1/edepotin_t4b913fe3_001.pdf

Leyshon, A., Lee, R., & Williams, C. C. (2003). Alternative Economic spaces. In *SAGE Publications Ltd eBooks*. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781446220825>

Metcalf, W., & Metcalf, B. (2004). *The Findhorn Book of Community Living*.

Parker, M., Cheney, G., Fournier, V., & Land, C. (2014). *The Routledge companion to alternative organization*. Routledge.

Rubin, Z., Willis, D., & Ludwig, M. (2019). Measuring Success in Intentional Communities: A Critical Evaluation of commitment and Longevity Theories. *Sociological Spectrum*, 39(3), 181–193. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02732173.2019.1645063>

Rusu, C. (2019). The ZEGG Intentional Community—Keeping the Spirit Alive. *ProQuest*, ProQuest 13808702.

<https://www.proquest.com/openview/ffbf632243249cefd2c93b5130ab42ca/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>

Sherry, J. (2014). Community supported sustainability: How Ecovillages model a more sustainable lifestyle. *Research Gate*. <https://doi.org/10.7282/t3959fvm>

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)?

Intentional communities have been having a steady growth in the last 50 years, with over a 1000 of these now existing. These communities strive to live a different life than conventional society. A more ecological life is at the forefront at most communities, trying to live with nature instead of using nature for our own good. The theme of our studio is 'the last green in town'. With this project I am trying to conceive a design which would be able to keep a part of the friche as the last green in town, while also creating a community which would be able to live there, educate people about the way of living and live with the friche.

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

The way of living within communities is a more ecological than in normal society. To create a community like this on a location where it would not be expected, since most communities are far from urban centres, could create even more interest in how our society lives.