

# 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	Mikolaj Tomasz Chmiel
Student number	6070167

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3AP100 2024-25 Public Building Graduation Studio "Public Condenser, Copenhagen"	
Main mentor	Henk Bultstra	Project Design
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Sien van Dam	Research - Theory & Delineation
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Public architecture in its nature is interesting to me because of a few factors – its scale and prominence within the urban fabric sometimes allows it to be perceived as an orientation point and helps with creating an identity of the area. Ideally, it contributes to the society by creating an activating space that improves the liveability and safety within a city. The „public condenser” theme of the studio, which implies the complexity and intertwining of the functions, is intriguing as it offers new design language possibilities and experimentation contrary to single-use architecture.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Aksestrøm* - Condensed interactive public space
<i>*in Danish akse - "axis" and strøm - "flow"</i>	
Goal	
Location:	Copenhagen, Denmark
The posed problem,	Amagerbro, located to the south of the centre has historically been a run-down working-class neighbourhood that is now slowly undergoing urban renewal processes enhancing safety and living standards. Sundholm, a deprived quarter within Amager, struggles with bad reputation related to issues such as substance abuse, homelessness, lower average income and societal exclusion contributing to a reputation as a 'dangerous ghetto' (Andersen, 2024). This perception often results in

	<p>outsiders avoiding the neighbourhood, while locals develop an inward-oriented community mindset.</p> <p>Historically, Sundholm was an isolated social welfare institutions district, which current stagnation underscores the area’s needs and complexities in achieving social integration. Physically, it’s urban positioning between two major roads, isolates it from surrounding neighbourhoods and limits accessible east-west connections that could foster a greater pedestrian traffic and encourage social integration (Rasmussen, 2024: interview).</p> <p>A public condenser contributes to the creation of a healthy and inviting environment for the local community. As well as being an economic addition to the area by providing new job opportunities, the project should contribute environmentally by creating a climate positive and a nature inclusive space, linking the human and non-human actors together. However, the main project’s aim is to enhance the social sustainability of the area by triggering interaction and integration between groups from different economic backgrounds.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>MAIN QUESTION: How can the design of the public condenser initiate interaction and inclusivity?</p> <p>SUB-QUESTIONS:  How can the flow and porosity of public design act as a catalyst for invigoration of the urban fabric and promote community engagement?  In which way the morphology and topography of the project can become a tool to shaping the movement paths?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Sønderbro should evolve into a cohesive green district defined by a strong identity and inclusive spaces that foster community and diversity. In the future, it will become a vibrant and lively neighborhood, attracting people with its energy and charm. The area will be interconnected by an efficient path system and enriched by inviting green corridors.</p> <p>This master thesis investigates how incorporating flow and porosity in public space design can enhance the urban fabric and create dynamic, interconnected environments. The goal of the project is a design that can facilitate movement between public and private areas and plays a key role in improving the social integration of</p>

	<p>various economic groups – “building and action interpenetrate (...) to become a theatre of new unforeseen constellations” (Holl, 2009: 22).</p> <p>Effective pathway, physically connecting the site should act as a core for a sequence of different intensities which are essential in encouraging interactions across different socioeconomic backgrounds. Such design should enhance the social sustainability by providing smooth flow between public, semi-public, and private areas which provides natural interactions among the users ultimately revitalizing the area as a dynamic and safe urban environment putting the needed eyes on the street.</p>
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**Process**

**Method description**

In order to holistically understand the needs, challenges and opportunities for the research project, an array of research methods will be implemented. Initially, a qualitative method of interviewing people from and around the site, to understand their subjective perception, needs and challenges will be conducted (*note: this has already been done during the September excursion to Copenhagen*).

Subsequently, thorough literature research will be carried out to identify and explore existing frameworks on research subjects: movement, porosity, morphology and topography as guiding tools for designing flow. The latter method will be supplemented by an array of case-study analyses of already existing projects to understand which design choices have the positive (or negative) impact on the space, flow and interaction. Superkilen Park by a collaboration of Topotek 1 + BIG Architects + Superflex, the High Line by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Luchtsingel by ZUS, Campus Hub in Paris-Saclay by Studio Muoto or the Paris Community Centre by Bruther are only a few examples that will be studied. Lastly, throughout the process, topics of movement and phenomenology of spatial experience will be tested in research-by-design with speculative diagramming, selective mapping, physical & digital modelmaking and visualising.

## Literature and general practical references

Andersen, Rasmus, "Site Area 3 - Sundholm Kvarteret Introduction," presentation, Slide show,(September 24, 2024).

Gehl, Jan, Cities for People (Island Press, 2013).

Hall, Edward Twitchell ,The Hidden Dimension (Anchor, 1969).

Holl, Steven, Parallax (Birkhäuser, 2001).

Holl, Steven; Urbanisms: Working with Doubt (Princeton Architectural Press, 2009).

Holl, Parallax; Pallasmaa, Juhani; Gómez, Alberto Pérez Questions of Perception: Phenomenology of Architecture, 2006.

Pallasmaa, Juhani The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses (John Wiley & Sons, 2012).

Per, Aurora Fernández; Mozas, Javier; Arpa, Javier; This Is Hybrid: An Analysis of Mixed-use Buildings by A+t, 2011.

Rasmussen, Teddy, interview by Bas Jonker, Miguel Borst, Delft - Copenhagen, October 2, 2024.

Sennett, Richard, "The Public Realm," accessed November 5, 2024, [https://intensificantvidesnervioses.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/the-public-realm\\_-sennett.pdf](https://intensificantvidesnervioses.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/the-public-realm_-sennett.pdf).

## 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 project looks at an innovative way in which a public condenser, a typology that is needed more and more in the current era of growing urban density, could operate in an underprivileged neighbourhood. It presents an alternative look at it, by creating an inverse of a condenser – making the open public space be the hybridizing element, with the multiplicity of program organized within it. Additionally, it researches the dichotomy of architecture as a 'final destination' and as a 'passing-through' infrastructure, to create an array of spatial intensities.
2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework. This study contributes directly to strategies for creating environments where diverse social groups feel welcome and engaged. It is especially valuable as cities worldwide undergo rapid urban renewal and seek methods for enhancing community cohesion in areas impacted by socioeconomic disparities. Furthermore, it examines the ways in which spatial sequencing impact social behaviour and experience, informing design approaches that contribute to the resilience and urban health. It addresses not only the physical layout and

aesthetics but also the experiential quality of spaces, helping to inform a future of public architecture that prioritizes inclusivity, well-being, and connectivity across urban landscapes