

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	Sascha den Elt	
Student number	4663748	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab	
Main mentor	R.R.J van der Pas	Architecture
Second mentor	Rufus van den Ban	Building Technology
Third mentor	M.G.A.D Hartevelde	Urbanism
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I chose Explore lab because I wanted to investigate what the contribution of architecture can be in the ever growing field of both rural and inner city (music)festivals. I felt like the field of architecture was not involved in this industry as much as I would have expected and felt that there might be an underexplored gateway into the event industry for architecture considering the field's knowledge on flow of people, materials, building (temporary) constructions and sustainability.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Architecture as facilitator of festival spaces: An exploration of the architects' place in the unfolding of festival spaces

Goal	
Location:	Birrarung Marr, Melbourne, Australia
The posed problem,	Festivals have been around for millennia and are phenomena witnessed globally. People from all cultures put importance on reserving time and space for free time, community, creativity and celebration ¹ . Meaning they are an integral part of being human and satisfy certain needs we have. Their transformative qualities are result of their temporal and cyclical nature: offering a space outside the everyday life which gives people the authority to transgress present societal and spatial boundaries different from their everyday lives. Through spatial appropriation of existing places (either public, semi-public or private) reflecting on the present, remembering the past and shaping the future.

	<p>They strengthen and build (new) communities, give voice to marginalised groups, give a sense of freedom and agency over space - Allowing people to forge meaningful connections with place through play, affective, embodied and playful experiences². These qualities are more and more recognized in contemporary society and the demand for festivals is still increasing.</p> <p>However, the role that spatial elements and architecture play within the creation and unfolding of festival spaces is a topic which is not yet explored within the field of architecture, whilst architects' engagement in this co-creative process can stimulate the beneficial qualities that festivals generate for society, people and place. How architecture could facilitate an ongoing dialogue with space, its users, and its designers within festival spaces is an importance question regarding the role these spaces play in contemporary society and their growing demand.</p> <p>This thesis will explore what the role of space and architecture is and can be within festival spaces and how they can aid the generation of these positive outcomes. How can architecture be implemented to foster these qualities of temporality, agency and play, whilst designing the boundaries in which festival spaces can come into existence?</p> <p>¹ Quinn and Wilks, "Festival Heterotopias." ² Foster, "From Urban Consumption to Production."</p>
research questions and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. What is the relationship between the planned environment, people and its unplanned use? II. How do these elements affect each other? III. How do spatial elements and people relate to each other? IV. How do spatial elements and people relate to each other in festival spaces? V. What aspects of festival spaces can be and what aspects should be designed by architects? VI. What is architecture's place in the facilitation of festival spaces? VII. How can architecture be implemented to foster these qualities of freedom, temporality, agency and play, whilst designing the boundaries in which festival spaces can come into existence? = design proposal
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The outcome of the research will result in both an answer to the question of what the role of the architect is in this design(process) (passive, dominant, offering tools?)</p>

	<p>And an answer to what the relationship is between spatial elements (their use and flexibility) and how these elements influence and guide people's experience.</p> <p>Offering a set of design principles and ways to foster the qualities of freedom, agency, temporality and play that festivals offer</p> <p>This will result in the design assignment to develop a permanent festival space that can be adapted to large, small festivals and other events so it can function all year round.</p> <p>The space will have to be adaptable to their hosts' and user's needs. The location of the design will be the Birrarung Marr (a large public green space in Melbourne, Australia) which is located at a big infrastructural knot where cars, trains, boats, trams and pedestrians can easily come together. It is a large open space next to a river with no housing around, allowing it to be noisy but still being easily accessible in the centre of the city.</p>
Process	
Method description	
<p>The methods used will be a blend between literature studies - to extract existing data and theory on the spatial relationship between the planned environment, it's people and unplanned outcomes - and observational studies at festivals and public spaces.</p> <p>The observational studies will be done through photography, behaviour-mapping (mapping the movement of people at certain times on maps), journalling and interviews with people.</p> <p>A theoretical framework will be set up from the literature studies and previously done observational studies by other scholars to provide a solid backbone to execute these studies and get a better grasp of which elements to focus on.</p> <p>The observational studies also provide knowledge about their (cultural, ecological and social) context, which will help in designing a site in Australia.</p> <p>The theoretical framework will be tested to the observations and questioned through their contexts. This comparison will lead to conclusions on what elements and topics are relevant for the design of a (semi)permanent festival terrain/space.</p>	

Literature and general practical references

Literature:

Stevens, Q., & Shin, H. (2014). Urban Festivals and Local Social Space. *Planning Practice & Research*, 29(1), 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02697459.2012.699923>

Stevens, Q. (2006). The Shape of Urban Experience: A Re-evaluation of Lynch's Five Elements. *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, 33(6), 803–823. <https://doi.org/10.1068/b32043>

Swartjes, B., & Berkers, P. (2022). Designing Conviviality? How Music Festival Organizers Produce Spaces of Encounter in an Urban Context. *Leisure Sciences*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2022.2106328>

Quinn, B., & Wilks, L. (2017). Festival heterotopias: Spatial and temporal transformations in two small-scale settlements. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 53, 35–44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2017.05.006>

Cudny, W. (2016). *Festivalisation of Urban Spaces*. Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31997-1>

Foster, N. (2022). From Urban Consumption to Production: Rethinking the Role of Festivals in Urban Development Through Co-Creation. *Urban Planning*, 7(3). <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v7i3.5371>

Practical Experience:

People I have interviewed at Meredith,
One of the organisers (wants to remain anonymous),
Asked a first nations' person on certain elements regarding the design (Former housemate in Australia, might want to remain anonymous)

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 relationship between this graduation topic and my master track is that I wanted to explore the world of the event industry through the eyes of architecture as I would love to find or make a profession that combines these two worlds. This is also where the graduation topic came from. I think by supplying people with the tools to create their own authentic and (shared) creative experience something beautiful can grow and I would love to help in this process by providing these tools through buildings, materials, constructions and tools.

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

The relevance lies in seeking a balance between designing certain elements and leaving certain elements undesigned. It is in asking what the role is of our profession in designing spaces of a similar nature. It looks at how the environment we design affects human choices and experiences and how we could incorporate design to benefit these choices and experiences. I hope more research will be done regarding the event sector and architecture's role in it as there is not much research on it now. Event studies also not have been around for very long yet and is a field that is getting more and more popularity. I hope it shows the value of the qualities that festivals offer which can be translated into architecture. I hope it shows the role that we can play as architects. Maybe as conversation starters but maybe also as open-ended mediators between places, intentions, and people. Hopefully looking at buildings or sites as ever ongoing discussions that only offer temporary conclusions.