Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Shanice Nur Hajati Soeroredjo
Student number	5933587

Studio		
Name / Theme	City of the Future	
Main mentor	Agnes van der Meij	Architecture
Second mentor	Ruud Kuijlenburg	Building Technology
Third mentor	Marietta Haffner	Urban Development Management
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The studio's flexibility allows me to investigate the connection between Paramaribo's unhoused community and vacant/abandoned properties. The freedom to choose my research topic enables me to develop architectural interventions that can meaningfully contribute to Suriname's urban development.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Urban Voids and Human Needs Bridging Gaps for Paramaribo's Unhoused

Goal	
Location:	Paramaribo, Suriname
The posed problem,	The urban landscape of Paramaribo faces two interconnected challenges: a growing unhoused community and increasing vacant/abandoned properties. The unhoused community struggles with limited affordable housing options and essential services access, a situation worsened by Suriname's economic conditions since 2021. Rising housing costs, declining incomes, and limited social capital create barriers to improving their situation. This leads to unauthorized occupation of vacant/abandoned properties, creating a cycle where properties deteriorate, and

	social tensions rise. While local media documents these issues, there's limited academic research on: 1. The connection between vacant/abandoned properties and the unhoused community. 2. Building social capital for the unhoused community through design transformation of vacant/abandoned properties. This research examines how the relationship between vacant/abandoned properties and the unhoused community can build social capital in Paramaribo's neighbourhoods, addressing both physical infrastructure needs (The Built Environment) and social development (Human Aspects) opportunities.
research questions and	Main Question: How are vacant/abandoned properties and the unhoused community connected in Paramaribo's neighbourhoods, and how can this connection build social capital? Sub Questions: 1. How has Suriname's economic journey (1975-2024) shaped its current economic and poverty conditions? 2. How do Suriname's economic and poverty conditions influence the relationship between the unhoused community and vacant/abandoned properties? 3. How has Paramaribo's urban development influenced the current patterns of neighbourhood conditions and property vacancy/abandonment? 4. Which vacant/abandoned property in the study area shows potential for transformative solutions that support the unhoused community?

	5. What role can architectural design play in transforming vacant/abandoned properties into resilient residential spaces that strengthen social capital for the unhoused community?
design assignment in which these result.	The project aims to transform vacant/abandoned properties into resilient residential spaces that build social capital for the unhoused community. Through architectural design, it will create spaces where the unhoused community can access essential services, develop social connections, and rebuild their lives long-term to prevent returning to street life. The design intervention focuses on: • Creating integrated spaces that facilitate access to essential services and support systems • Designing environments that foster social connections and community building • Developing sustainable housing solutions that promote long-term stability While focused on Paramaribo's specific context, this research-through-design approach contributes to broader urban development strategies, potentially influencing both policy and architectural practice in addressing similar challenges globally.
[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]	

Process

Method description

The research integrates theoretical frameworks with practical analysis and design through three interconnected parts:

THEORY - Economic Development
- Urban Decline Theory examines how economic factors influence urban decline
- Analyses Suriname's economic journey (1975-2024) and its impact on current economic and poverty conditions
- Explores influences on the unhoused community and vacant/abandoned properties

THEORY & RESEARCH - Spatial Development
- Broken Windows Theory analyzes neighbourhood dynamics
- Spatial analysis of Paramaribo's neighbourhoods
- Documentation of vacant/abandoned properties and their conditions

THEORY, RESEARCH & DESIGN - Social Development
- Social Capital Theory investigates community relationships and network building
- Integration of insights from social organizations
- Development of architectural interventions

Research Methods:
1. Literature Analysis
- Urban Decline Theory
- Broken Windows Theory
- Social Capital Theory

2. Location Analysis
- Spatial documentation and mapping
- Site analysis of vacant/abandoned properties

3. Design Development
- Transformation strategies
- Architectural interventions
- Personal communication with social organizations (Social space programming)

This integrated approach examines how vacant/abandoned properties, and the unhoused community are connected, leading to architectural interventions that build social capital through design.

Literature and general practical references

Urban Decline Theory - Examines how economic downfall creates interconnected challenges affecting cities' social and physical infrastructure.
This framework will be supported by various reports analyzing economic and social impact.

References:
- Arteaga, M., Beuermann, D., & Khadan, J. (2021). The Consequences of COVID-19 on Livelihoods in Suriname: Evidence from a Telephone Survey. https://doi.org/10.18235/0003212
- Beuermann, D., De Hoop, J., Cruz-Aguayo, Y., Echeverri Duran, C., Sierra, R., Teixeira Braun, G., Clavijo Torres, L., Uribe Castro, M., Woodly-Sobhie, R., & Ávila Parra, C. (2024). Suriname Poverty and Equity Assessment. https://doi.org/10.18235/0013063
- Friedrichs, J. (1993). A Theory of Urban Decline: Economy, Demography and Political Elites. Urban Studies, 30(6), 907–917. http://www.jstor.org/stable/43195981
- Ooft, G. (2016). Inflation and Economic Activity in Suriname. In Centrale Bank van Suriname (CBvS). Centrale Bank van Suriname (CBvS). https://www3.cbvs.sr/193-publicaties/cbvs-working-papers/1711-cbvs-working-papers-2
- Sobhie, R. and Kisoensingh, A. (2023). Methods and techniques to determine and combat poverty in Suriname Multidisciplinary Working Group on Poverty Line Determination 2020-2023, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Youth Affairs, Suriname. https://ophi.org.uk/Publications/Suriname-2020-23

Broken Windows Theory - Demonstrates how physical deterioration of neighborhoods leads to increased social disorder and criminal activity.
This framework will be supported by various reports examining the relationship between neglect and safety.

References:
- Accordino, J. (2000). Addressing the Vacant and Abandoned Property Problem. www.academia.edu.
- Alexander, F. S., & Powell, L. A. (2011). Neighborhood stabilization strategies for vacant and abandoned properties. Zoning and Planning Law Report, 34(8). Emory Public Law Research Paper No. 11-179
- Doucette-Préville, J. (2015). The Challenge of Homelessness to Spatial Practices. OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development, 8(4), 111-118.
- Goldstein, J., Jensen, M., & Reiskin, E. (2001). Urban vacant land redevelopment: Challenges and progress (Vol. 37). Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.
- Wilkinson, L. (2011). Vacant property: Strategies for redevelopment in the contemporary city [Master's thesis]. Georgia Institute of Technology. http://hdl.handle.net/1853/40778

- Wilson, Q & Kelling, L. (1989, February). "Making Neighborhoods Safe," Atlantic Monthly.
  https://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/politics/crime/safehood.htm
- Schilling, J. M. (2002). The revitalization of vacant properties. ICMA (International City/County Management Association), Washington, DC.
  https://www.readkong.com/page/the-revitalization-of-vacant-properties-6898837

Social Capital Theory - Explores how social relationships and networks influence community dynamics and individual opportunities.
This framework will be supported by various reports analyzing social connections and community development.

References:
- Bourdieu, P. (1986). The forms of capital. In J. Richardson (Ed.), Handbook of theory and research for the sociology of education (pp. 241–258). Greenwood.
- Coleman, J. S. (1988). Social capital in the creation of human capital. American Journal of Sociology, 94(1), S95–S120.
  http://www.jstor.org/stable/2780243
- Plett, P., Gewurtz, R., Oudshoorn, A., Forchuk, C., & Marshall, C. A. (2024). Belonging through meaningful activity in the transition from unhoused to housed. PLoS ONE, 19(9), e0310701.
  https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0310701
- Kwon, S.-W., & Adler, P. S. (2014). Social capital: Maturation of a field of research. The Academy of Management Review, 39(4), 412–422.
  http://www.jstor.org/stable/43699257
- Lancee, B. (2012). Social capital theory. In Immigrant performance in the labour market: Bonding and bridging social capital (pp. 17–32). Amsterdam University Press. http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt45kd4j.6
- McElroy, M. W., Jorna, R. J., & Van Engelen, J. (2006). Rethinking social capital theory: A knowledge management perspective. Journal of Knowledge Management, 10(5), 124–136. https://doi.org/10.1108/13673270610691233

Additional support through:

- Location analysis based on satellite data and photographs
- Personal communication with Mrs. Madjerin Petrusie (Psychosocial worker with organizations supporting the unhoused)

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)?

   As a native of Suriname, this research allows me to examine how architectural intervention can address the connection between Paramaribo's unhoused community and vacant/abandoned properties. The City of the Future Studio's focus on global urbanization provides an ideal framework to explore how architectural solutions can help communities that have been left behind in development. Through the Architecture Track, I can develop innovative design solutions that transform vacant/abandoned properties into resilient residential spaces for the unhoused community. This approach aligns with the MSc Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences program's focus on addressing complex urban challenges through architectural innovation. While Paramaribo faces different challenges due to its economic situation, this research demonstrates how architectural solutions can create meaningful impact in developing urban contexts.

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

   This research contributes to multiple frameworks:

   Social: The project addresses urgent housing challenges while building social capital for the unhoused community. By transforming vacant/abandoned properties into residential spaces, it demonstrates how architecture can support social development.

   Professional: The research demonstrates how architectural intervention can create impactful solutions for both built environment and social challenges in developing nations.

   Scientific: While focused on Paramaribo, this research offers a framework for understanding the connection between the unhoused community and vacant/abandoned properties that could benefit other cities facing similar challenges. It contributes to architectural knowledge by demonstrating how design can build social capital through the transformation of underutilized spaces.