

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:

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Abstract	
Abstract	<p>A tension can be observed between the dynamic nature of migration, and urban policy and housing practices set up by the Dutch government. Dynamic nature implies that people have various motivations to leave or stay, they take various routes, they arrive in many circumstances and communities, and they develop different qualities and perspectives after they have arrived. Institutions however tend to see migration as short-term problem, put emphasis on the sole motivation to migrate –refuge, employment, study, etc.- and often deal with ‘migrant categories’. Entitlements, accommodation and other provisional solutions are organised accordingly.</p> <p>This graduation project argues that a variegated approach and more experimental solutions are needed to address the variety of forms of movement, types of migrants (Van Hear, 2014) and forms of accommodation. Current policies and housing regimes are too rigid and provisional. The formal structures, frames and accommodation solutions implemented are leading to a loss of urban vitality and segregation and often result in not optimal functioning urban spaces.</p> <p>The claim of this research is that the tension between the dynamic nature of migration and the static institutional solutions can be made productive from the perspective of a rethinking of the ‘absorption capacity of cities’. This rethinking is based on the idea that migration has been used historically as an instrument to build up flexible and diverse cities (Lucassen et al, 2015). In conclusion, it will be argued that alternative and experimental forms of private/public urban space need to be developed.</p> <p>KEYWORDS: Mixed Migration, Urban Vitality, Long-Term Approach, Public Space</p>

Studio	
Name / Theme	Design as Politics. <i>A City of Comings and Goings – Designing for Migration and Mobility</i>
Teachers / tutors	Rients Dijkstra Wouter Vanstiphout Michelle Provoost
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The Design as Politics graduation studio challenges students to critically evaluate the impact of design interventions on society. Buildings and public spaces are not only shaped by architects and urbanists, but also by external factors like politics, economy etc. and this graduation studio encourages the opportunity to research this.</p> <p>My project will contribute to the topic of Design as Politics Studio 'A City of Comings and Goings' by exploring an urban strategy that could facilitate the coming and going of people in the 21st century urban space, while at the same time adding to or building up something more sustainable for the long term.</p>

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Rethinking the Absorption Capacity of Urban Space How to Better organise migration in the city?
Goal	
Location:	<p><u>Former prison complex Bijlmerbajes and WPM area</u></p> <p>In the coming 10 years, Amsterdam is planning to build 50.000 houses at locations near the ring road A10. Previously, the zone along both sides of the ring road was neglected, but today this area is considered a place with potential, allowing for experiments and new initiatives. In contrast to the increasingly expensive and saturated city centre, areas near the ring road still provide space to develop new urban and architectural forms. Even more important, these spaces near the A10 have a potential to stich the disconnection between Amsterdam's popular (tourism) and not so popular areas, between Amsterdam's post-war and pre-war city, between Amsterdam's migrant neighbourhoods and the museum core, between the lively suburbs and the somewhat mummified and at the same time overcrowded city centre. One of these sites, the WPM area, is the location chosen in this project to develop new forms of public/private space. Currently, 1000 asylum seekers and 1000 cosmopolitan students live next to each other in an area defined by very problem driven, ad-hoc, temporary accommodation. At the same time, there is a transformation challenge at this site. The famous former prison complex 'Bijlmerbajes' is located at the WPM area and the vacancy of this building from the seventies asks for new solutions and space for experimentation.</p>

<p>The posed problem</p>	<p>Currently, in the Netherlands a tension can be observed between the dynamic nature of migration and urban policy and housing practices set up by the Dutch government. Institutions mostly take migration as short-term problem, and often deal with distinct 'migrant categories'. One is either a labour migrant, an asylum seeker, a marriage or family migrant, student and so on. Accommodation, benefits and other provisional solutions such as language courses are organised accordingly. Thus, different groups of migrants are treated as temporary, and are divided as separate cohorts (Syrian refugees, Polish workers, economic migrants from Somalia, etc). These policies and housing regimes are too rigid and provisional. Migrant housing is often separated and even closed off from the rest of the city – built without considering public space, connectivity or the long-term perspective. This is leading to a loss of urban vitality and segregation and often results in not optimal functioning urban spaces. A variegated and more long-term approach is needed to better organise migration in urban spaces.</p>
<p>Hypothesis and research questions</p>	<p>In response to the problem field, the hypothesis of this project is formulated as follows: the tension between the dynamic nature of migration and the static institutional solutions can be made productive from the perspective of a rethinking of the 'absorption capacity of cities'. This hypothesis is based on the following research questions.</p> <p>To this end, the primary research question is: <i>How to facilitate the integration of mixed types of migrants into society and vice versa, while at the same building a more socially and economically sustainable urban space for the long-term?</i></p> <p>Which is investigated through the following sub-research questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the spatial characteristics of accommodation for migrants in the Netherlands? • Which people are characterised by a coming and going or are in need of temporary and flexible occupation in the Netherlands? • What are differences and common grounds between lifestyles, demands and needs of newcomers and temporary inhabitants? • How can increasing mixed migration be addressed in spatial terms? • In which concentration, composition and on which scale can various temporary and permanent inhabitants be mixed? • How can migrants be 'absorbed' within the heart of cities and communities? • Is it possible to create a more long-term strategy, instead of the very short-term, provisional solutions that are made for migrants today? • How could public space and private needs be combined?

<p>Design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The aim of this project is to avoid simplistic dichotomies, e.g. the expat vs. the migrant blue collar worker, and the refugee vs. the exchange student, and, even more important temporary vs. permanent and public vs. the private. Instead of categorising people and putting them in different boxes, this project explores how different temporary inhabitants could be connected and mixed with permanent ones.</p> <p>Social mixture, a mix of public and private spaces, and a variation of housing typologies are proposed as an urban spatial approach to address mixed migration and respond to new challenges of temporary and permanent inhabitancy. By developing explicit hybrids of public/private space as well connected areas, social interaction, cohesion and dialogue could be stimulated. In this way, migrants could integrate and contribute to our cities and societies. Instead of short-term, provisional solutions developed for migrants today, structures are proposed that develop in time and connect the public and private, communities and individuals, and temporariness and permanence.</p>
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Process

Method description

Approach to methodology

- *Theoretical/ Literature review* – Academic literature will be consulted throughout. An effort is made to integrate literature from a range of disciplines including sociology, history and literature.
- *Research by design* – The design process forms a pathway through which new insights, knowledge, practices or products come into being.
- *Data Analysis* – To give background context, statistics will be used. A main source for this is the local authority website O+S (Onderzoek en Statistiek Amsterdam) and national data provider CBS (Centraal Bureau voor de statistiek).
- *Mapping* – Resources and places of opportunity in context of the Weespertrekvaart Midden will be researched.
- *Document review* – A review of official documents such as policy and development documents from government will be used to understand the intentions of these actors.
- *Case Study catalogue* – Analysis of design examples from practice will be used to provide points of reference deepen understanding and clarify key terms.
- *Matrix* – In order to organise an overload of data, a matrix will be used to give a clear overview. In this way, comparisons and conclusion can be made easily.
- *Migrant Stories* – Literature and personal stories of migrants can give observations as well as in-depth analysis.
- *Design as Politics methodology* – This methodology is supplemented by Design as Politics methodology, which is based on a series of lectures, workshops, and excursion to Berlin for a broader understanding of the spatial consequences of migration in European cities.

Connections to research questions

- What are the spatial characteristics of accommodation for migrants in the Netherlands?

This question will be answered through a combination of **policy document review, case studies** and **data analysis**. Besides, outcomes and spatial analysis of the Berlage seminar on migration (2016) will be used.

- Which people are characterised by a coming and going or are in need of temporary and flexible occupation in the Netherlands? And what are differences and common grounds between lifestyles, demands and needs of these (temporary) inhabitants?
This will be identified by carrying out **document reviews, data analysis** and **literature reviews**. Within the jargon of Dutch immigration policy, temporary migrants are considered as a series of highly distinct categories: asylum seekers, labour migrants, expats, creative migrants, academics, international students, digital nomads etc. By carefully investigating different lifestyles and housing needs of various newcomers and temporary inhabitants and putting this data in a **matrix**, an overview will be given of the variety forms of movement and types of migrants in the Netherlands. Instead of only emphasising the distinction between different inhabitants, the matrix could be used to examine the common grounds and challenge pluralism.
- How can increasing mixed migration be addressed in spatial terms?
This question will be answered through a **theoretical/literature review** about variegated approaches such as 'social mixture' and through **research by design**.
- In which concentration, composition and scale can the various temporary and permanent inhabitants be mixed?
This question will be investigated through **theoretical/literature review**. Besides, the **matrix** with an overview of lifestyles and needs of various temporary inhabitants and newcomers can be used to find common grounds between different people. **Research by design** will be used to 'experiment' with mixture spatially.
- How can migrants be 'absorbed' within the heart of cities and communities?
Is it possible to create a more long-term strategy, instead of the very short-term, provisional solutions that are made for migrants today?
This question will be investigated through a rethinking of the absorption capacity of cities. This rethinking draws on **theoretical/literature review** of research of historian/sociologist Leo Lucassen, who claims that migration is a long-term phenomenon that has been used historically as an instrument to build up cities. **Research by design and mapping** will be used to translate this rethinking into space.
- How could public space and private needs be combined?
This will be investigated through **theoretical/literature review** about the 'porous city', **case studies** and **research by design**.

Literature and general practical preference

Literature:

The Dynamic Nature of Migration

- VAN HEAR, N. 2014. Mixed Migration. From: *Migration: A Compass Anthology*, edited by B. Anderson and M. Keith. Oxford: COMPAS. p.88
- VAN HEAR, N. 2011. Mixed Migration: Policy Challenges. Oxford: University of Oxford.
- VAN HEAR, N. 2009. Managing Mobility for Human Development: the Growing Salience of Mixed Migration. UNDP Human Development Research Paper 2009/20.
- PROVOOST, M. & VANSTIPHOUT W. 2015. A City of Comings and Goings. Blauwe Kamer Jaarboek 2016.

- UPMEYER, B. 2015. *Binational Urbanism, on the road to Paradise*. Tracity/Valiz.
- THE BERLAGE. 2016. *The Berlage Atlas of Comings and Goings*. Delft: The Berlage Seminar on Migration.
- LUPI, T. & VISSER, A. 2015. *Huisvesting arbeidsmigranten: een zorg van iedereen?!!* Den Haag: Platform 31.

Social Mixture

- SENNET, R. 2010 *The Public Realm (Borders and Boundaries)*. Quant.
- GALSTER, G. 2010. *Neighbourhood Social Mix: Theory, Evidence, and Implications for Policy and Planning*. Detroit: Paper presented at the 2009 International Workshop at Technion University.
- VAN DER VELDE, J. & TIGGELHOVEN, P. & WASSENBERG, F. 2015. *De Magic Mix – een verkenning van wooncomplexen waar verschillende doelgroepen gemengd wonen*. Den Haag: Platform 31.

Rethinking the absorption capacity of cities

- LUCASSEN, J. & LUCASSEN, L. 2015. *Winnaars en verliezers. Een nuchtere balans van vijfhonderd jaar immigratie*. 4e herziene druk. Amsterdam: Prometheus.
- VAN HOUTUM, H. & LUCASSEN, L. 2016. *Voorbij Fort Europa. Een nieuwe visie op migratie*. Amsterdam: Atlas Contact.
- LUCASSEN, L. *The Immigrant Threat. The Integration of old and new migrants in Western Europe since 1850*.

The 'Porous City'

- SENNETT, R. 2004. *The City as an Open System*. Paper presented at the Leverhulme International Symposium 2004, London.
- SENNETT, R. 2015. *The World wants more 'porous' cities – so why don't we build them?* The Guardian.
- AMIN, A. 2006. 'The Good City'. *Urban Studies*, Vol 43, Nos 5/6, 1009-1023.
- SAUNDERS, D. 2012. *The Arrival City – How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World*. New York: Vintage Books.

Citizenship, communality

- AMIN, A. 2004. *Multi-Ethnicity and the Idea of Europe*. Nottingham: The TCS Centre.
- BALIBAR, E. 2003. *We, the People of Europe?* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Migrant stories

- DUGAN, E. 2015. *Finding Home, Real Stories of Migrant Britain*. London: Icon Books Ltd.
- GALIDI, R. 2016. *Hoe Ik Talent voor Het Leven Kreeg*. Amsterdam: Jurgen Maas
- SMITH, Z. 2012. *NW*. Amsterdam: Prometheus.

Reflection

Relevance

Social Relevance

In order to address increasing mixed migration, Van Hear (2014) argues that a variegated approach is needed. Current policies and housing regimes are too rigid and too temporary to deal with the increasing diversity of forms of migration and types of migrants. In the Netherlands, migrant housing is often separated and even closed off from the rest of the city - built for the short-term, without considering public space, connectivity or the long-term perspective. This is leading to a loss of urban vitality and segregation. It is therefore important to reassess the organisation of migration in urban space and to rethink the absorption capacity of cities.

Although this research has a specific focus on the Netherlands and in particular Amsterdam, these problems occur in various global European cities. Therefore, the conclusions and designs of this thesis could function as a reference and inspiration for other cities with similar issues.

Scientific Relevance

This research derives from two concepts - the idea that migration is becoming increasingly mixed (Van Hear, 2014) and the notion that cities need to be better equipped to deal with demographic fluctuations caused by migration (Vanstiphout & Provoost, 2015).

Mixed migration is a relatively new term - and defined differently by various entities and researchers. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) have their own definition. While these organisations are using the term 'mixed migration' to describe mixed trajectories of both refugees and economic migrants, Van Hear uses the definition of mixed migration in a much broader sense. According to van Hear (2014), migration is almost always driven by a combination of motivations. Besides, people can shift between different categories of migrants - refugees, students, labour migrants, expats, etc. This cause an enormous variety of forms and types of movement and asks for a variegated urban approach (Van Hear, 2014). In this research, I will use the description for mixed migration of Van Hear.

This project aims to define a framework in order to rethink the absorption capacity of urban space. This rethinking draws on the research of historian/sociologist Leo Lucassen (2015), who claims that migration is a long-term phenomenon that has been used historically as an instrument to build up cities, on the ideas of sociologist Richard Sennett (2016), who argues that urban spaces are needed where different migrants and long-term residents can meet and interrelate, and on the research of Doug Sanders (2010) who claims that the existence of certain networks, amenities and programmes can play an important role in the integration and transition of people. These concepts are translated into an alternative urban development strategy that could build a more vital, inclusive and sustainable city.

Ethical Relevance

This project is questioning the status quo of developments for different groups of migrants in the Netherlands. Accommodation for migrants is often separated and even closed off from the rest of the city, only build for the short-term, without considering public space. This is leading to exclusion and a lack of social cohesion in cities. Urban life and democracy are in decline, when societies are organised based on the inclusion of some and the exclusion of others. It is the role of the urban planner to question issues like this. This project is aiming to offer an alternative to the current form of organisation of migration in urban space.

Time planning



