

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

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## 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.

Personal information	
Name	Louis Valentin Gies
Student number	X

Studio		
Name / Theme	Transient Liquidities along the New Silk Road	
Main mentor	Filip Geerts	Architecture (Borders&Territories)
Second mentor	Oscar Rommens	Architecture (Borders&Territories)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I chose the studio because of its perspective on architecture as a part of a web of global relations (in this case exemplified through the New Silk Road) as well as the transdisciplinary and open approach that gives the freedom posing an own task rather than following a predetermined structure.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	<b>Haydarpaşa Garı: Park of Journeys</b>
Goal	
Location:	Haydarpaşa Railyard, Kadıköy, Istanbul 40°59'52.0"N 29°01'18.3"E
The posed problem	The obsolescence of the Haydarpasa Station, a terminal stop at the shore of the Bosphorus and former major traffic hub, through recent changes of railroad infrastructure. Through the new Marmaray Tunnel, its role as a place of changing between train and ferry and consequently all related serving functions were lost. With the sudden absence of public transport at the site, it is not part of the public ritual of traveling anymore, but remains deeply anchored in the collective memory. As of today, its future remains unclear.

research questions and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can the area of the Haydarpaşa Railyard be made a part of a public ritual again?</li> <li>- (How) can the essential function of the site as a portal, node and place of travel along a continent-connecting network be re-interpreted?</li> <li>- What role does nostalgia play for the rapid transformation of a metropolis like Istanbul?</li> </ul>
design assessment	- see below -

The Haydarpaşa Railyard has been shaped by the dichotomy of arrival and departure, by transition and travel. It is inseparably connected to these aspects in the collective memory, as its wide referencing, but also the big resonance received by citizen movements engaging to preserve the site have shown.

Rapid urban and technological developments pushed its *raison d'être* away from the site. Widely expressed demands to re-introduce the function as a railway station are not facing the new realities of public transport, but show the desire to keep the site alive in the collective memory. Thus, making the Haydarpaşa Railyard a part of a public ritual again under the themes of travel and nostalgia is the task derived from my research.

In the project, the Haydarpaşa Railyard is to be re-invented as a site of traveling and to be turned it into a storage of memory for a rapidly developing city. This will happen in form of a park which includes both existing elements from different time periods (station building, Byzantine ruins), but also the addition of new structures.

First part of the design is the development of a layout for this "Park of Journeys", which will be based on the previously done urban analysis. A specific focus lies on the treatment of the existing heritage buildings, the development of the main entrance of the park on the Southern side (towards the Kadıköy Ferry Pier) as well as a strategy of combining the different architectural elements. This could be done through an axis referring to the rigid linear structure of the former railroad tracks.

The new architectural additions are typologies that support the aspects of nostalgia, memory and traveling through time in one's imagination in a relation to the history of the city and the site. Examples are:

- cinema (the station was referenced a lot in Turkish cinema of the 1970s),
- panorama (Ignaz Mellings views of the Old Istanbul)
- gastronomy (the role of food for creating a nostalgic sentiment in Orhan Pamuk's Museum of Innocence),
- flea market, and more.

As a theoretical starting point for the development of these newly added elements, my essay "Reproduction as an architectural practice of nostalgia" can serve, which was written as a part of the studio.

## Process

### Method description

- analysis of previously made research about the area through the essay collection Haydarpaşa Kitabı (2021). It contains perspectives on urban studies, Turkish railroad history, political and social aspects such as civil activism, built heritage, traffic planning and cultural studies (art projects, Turkish cinema). Also, including the criticism of previously made proposals for the development of the site which mostly followed a thoroughly neoliberal logic.
- further research on post-industrial landscapes and finding appropriate ways of dealing with the heritage elements found on site (station building and archaeological excavations). Study of comparable references.
- Using the imaginative power of nostalgia as a design method for the park to allow visitors to go on a journey through time and atmospheres, replacing the literal journey as it used to be when the station was still active, in order to keep its role as a portal and a site that is inseparably tied to the hinterland of Turkey and the whole world.

### Literature and general practical reference

#### Haydarpaşa Railyard:

- Yüksel, A. (Ed.) (2021). Haydarpaşa Kitabı: Kent, Mekân and Mücadele ("The Haydarpaşa Book: City, Space, Fight"). Kadıköy Belediyesi Kültür Yayınları.

#### nostalgia:

- Pamuk, O. (2005). Istanbul - Memories of a City. Faber and Faber.
- Pamuk, O. (2010). The Museum of Innocence. Faber and Faber.
- Boym, S. (2001). The Future of Nostalgia. Basic Books.
- Halbwachs, M. (1925). On Collective Memory. The University of Chicago Press.
- Benjamin, W. (1935). The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction. Schocken/Random House.
- Trüby, S. (2020). Rechte Räume. Politische Essays und Gespräche. Birkhäuser.
- Baudrillard, J. (1984). The Evil Demon of Images. Power Institute of Fine Arts.

#### design strategies:

- Tschumi, B. and Vidler, A. (2021). Tschumi Park de la Villette. Artifice.
- Riesto, S. (2018). Biography of an industrial landscape: Carlsberg's urban spaces retold. Amsterdam University Press.
- McLean, R. (2019). Transformative Ground: A Field Guide to the Post-Industrial Landscape. Routledge.
- Zimmermann, A. (2009). Constructing landscape : materials, techniques, structural components. Birkhäuser.
- Farrenkopf, M., and Meyer, T. (2020). Authentizität und industriekulturelles Erbe : Zugänge und Beispiele. De Gruyter.
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## 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)?
  - Along the arteries of increasing global connectivity such as the New Silk Road, sites that were outdated through the transformations are left to deal with. In case of the Bosphorus, the old train-ferry-train connection between the intermediate terminal stations of Sirkeci on the European and Haydarpasa on the Asian side can be seen as an interruption of a continent-connecting traffic artery that sooner or later had to be eliminated for the sake of efficiency (which happened through the construction of the Marmaray Tunnel in 2013).
  - The correspondence between the role of foreign influence and imperialism for the creation of continent-connecting networks in the past and today. The rise of the Haydarpasa station in times of the Ottoman Empire was driven from the West by Prussia (Berlin–Baghdad railway), while its fall today is connected to the New Iron Silk Road, initiated from China in the East.
2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.
  - proposal for a transformation of the site for public use rather than for a luxury office and housing district, which has been suggested for the site but blocked by citizen protests
  - re-invention of a post-industrial site as a typical contemporary challenge of urban transformation
  - investigating the role of nostalgia in a rapidly developing metropolis - experimenting with ways of staging history, memory and heritage through architecture