Graduation Plan: Architecture

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Studio
Public building studio: Istanbul 2013-14
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The reason of my choice is a fascination for the resonace that the public buildings have in our society. They represent at the same time the concrete evidence of the past, the protagonists of the present and the designers of the future. The public domain is the sphere of interaction between people and the means thorugh they evolve.

Title
Beyoglu Youth center

Product
The informal settlements are typical in the developing countries, in Istanbul about half of the population is living in such areas called "gecekondus" which means "built in a night". Informal is intended not only as the irregularity of the physical settings but also the absence of the initial formal permission of the government in the appropriation of the land by the immigrants coming from the countryside. At the beginning the gecekondus were perceived by the inhabitants as security island enabling them to have a first contact with the city. The security was given by the strong kinship or friendship ties liking these people. The public space, which usually is only represented by the streets network because of the urban fabric density, is the place where this relationships were daily fed. Moreover, the interaction between private and public sphere is not direct but always filtered by a communal or shared space. Hence initially, these "security island" were leaning towards the city.
The reaction of the government to the informality of the settlements was enshrined by a series of amnesties and subsequently by the starting of the eviction and restoration process. The restoration of the order through the planning. Referring to the statement of Foucault, the regulations are the action strategies of a knowledge that wants to dominate the practices that does not control.
The constant threat of eviction caused the prevalence of the introvert character of some gecekondus, especially the ones located close to the city center. From security island they became means of exclusion and isolation, ending the process of intregration with the rest of the city.
As a reaction the community generated control strategies: on one hand the inhabitants control and keeps away the possible flow of outsiders, on the other end the control is exercised between individuals of the same community, there is more confidence in the neighbor. The outsider and the neighbor are seen as enemies.
As a consequence there is a deleterious emphasis on the fragmentation of the city.
How can a public building turn an isolated and hyper-controlled neighborhood into an attractive point of the city restoring a pleasant social environment?

The project will be located in the area of the Istiklal mahallesi, an old gecekondu under possible eviction, close to the city center. Despite its position, the settlement results pretty disconnected from the city. Following the wave of the renewal process of the government, the public building will offer to the new generation of inhabitants the possibility to restore a positive social cohesion and to open towards the city. The programme of the building will focus on the children and teenagers, their education and their formation, representing at the same time a focal point for the entire area.

Goal
The objective of the project is to use a public building, specifically a youth center, as a mean to avoid the segregation of the gecekondus community working on the cultural and social impact that such building can have.

Method description

After an initial collection of general information, in order to face such a diversified city I decided to structure my research according to different steps any of which based on a different method.
On one hand, the observation through the morphological and typological analysis gave me the possibility to experience a top-down evaluation able to find the peculiarities of the gecekondus and above all to frame my investigation. The current condition of the squatter settlements in Istanbul is the result of an layering process. The typological method allowed me to conceive the gecekondus as a unitary entity, or typology, characterized by specific features so to become aware of its transformations and to set a series of requirements need for my future design.
On the other hand, the interpretation through the phenomenological approach, provided me a bottom-up experience. There is a strong relation between the social dynamics, the everyday life and the built environment, they constantly influence each others. The phenomenology is the tool to investigate this interaction, providing an understanding of the social and spacial conditions.
This stage of the research is really important because it gives the possibility to face the reality and to personally experience the argument of the investigation bu,t above all, allows the research to become accurate checking the truthfulness of the assumptions.
Despite the appearances, the analytical process is far from linear or consequential. Both the research methods often braided themselves completing each other and, the starting point of my research, my own interest, became the guiding line of the entire investigation ensuring its consistency . The use of two main epistemes was simply asked by the nature of my position. Investigating about the social cohesion of a community and the porosity of the environment requires conceptual and material tools, it is matter of the relationship between people and things. It is about facing the uncertainty caused by the constant threat of eviction and the precarious life. The community, or the vivre ensemble, is not a nostalgic naïve idea but it is a necessity for the immigrants, facing the moving in a new reality, but also for the city as a whole, facing the contemporary problem of the fragmentation.
This is the reason I decided to tackle the topic exploiting the cooperation of the typological and phenomenological method, one exclusively dealing with the built environment, the other dealing with the emotional implications related to it.

Literature and general practical preference

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Relevance

The social relevance of the project is pretty evident as stated in the aim of the youth center. Moreover, considering that the informal settlements are an important element of the developing cities all over the world, and are characterized by similar features, the solution adopted in the case of Istanbul can be an example for other interventions.

Time planning
(see appendix)

Guendalina Rocchi 4250419_ Graduation plan

RESEARCH

DESIGN

GRADUATION

P1

The P1 presentation will show the first and general part of the research

WEEK	September				October			History thesis deadline	P1 presentation
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9
	Charette	Introduction of the studio	Collecting data about the arguments sugges-ted by the brief. Group work	First litterature research about the arguments suggested by the brief. Group work	Studio workshop	Reaction on the work-shop. Finding of a pers-onal interest as a guid-eline for the research. Questioning of the studio brief.	Collection of data about the gecekondus. Individual work.	Definition of the position and the research quetion. Collection of data. Preparation of the P1 presentation.	Presentation of the first part of the research and progress. Guidelines for the next steps.

P2

The P2 presentation will show a draft the conclusion of the research and a draft of the design. The program will be stated.

WEEK		November			December		Christams break	Christams break	Jenuary	P2 presentation go-no go
	1.10	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.9
	excursion in Istanbul. Collection data find a site	Reaction on the excursion. Reflecti on on the results.	Mapping of the data collected	Mapping of the data collected	studio workshop about materialization	Mapping the data collected.	Attempt of conclusive mapping. Hand in of the lectures of research methods paper	Conclusion of research. Initial attempt of design	Design definiti on, research conclusion	

P3

The P3 presentation will show the design progress combined with the technical solution adopted

WEEK	Febrary			March				P3 presentation	April
	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9
	Experimentation on the composition of the building and its resonances in the surrounding	Experimentation on the composition of the building and its resonances in the surrounding	3D evaluation of the composition. Technical design	3D evaluation of the composition. Technical design	Architectural and technical drawings. 3D model	Architectural and technical drawings. 3D model	Architectural and technical drawings. 3D model. Preparatic the P3 presentation		finalizing architectu-ral and technical drawings 1:200 1:500. Composition and materialization

P4

The P4 presentation will show the finalization of the design

WEEK	May					June	P4 presentation
	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7
	finalizing architectu-ral and technical drawings 1:200 1:500. Composition and materialization. Physical model	1:50 drawing definition of the drawings. Physical model	1:50 drawing definition of the drawings. Physical model	finalizing the entire process position, composition and materialization in every scale. Physical model	finalizing the entire process position, composition and materialization in every scale. Physical model	Preparation of the presentation	

P5

Final public presentation

June/July

WEEK				
	4.8	4.9	4.10	4.11
	preparation	preparation	preparation	P5 final