

# GRADUATION PLAN

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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## STUDIO

Theme: Graduation Studio Vertical Cities Asia  
Teachers: Laura Alvarez, Mauro Parravicini, Peter Koorstra, Mitesh Dixit  
Argumentation of choice of studio: Interest in Asian context and design on master plan scale  
Theme: Vertical Cities Asia  
Main Tutor: Mitesh Dixit

## TITLE

Title of the graduation project: Exploration of the Clustering Force Through Scale

# PRODUCT

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Vietnam National University Hanoi is moving its faculties to a new satellite city Hoa Lac (40 km from Hanoi). Hoa Lac will become a 750000 inhabitant city by 2030 with the main economic catalyst - The Vietnam National University and a High tech park. Today all the faculties located in Hanoi are dispersed throughout the whole city and don't function as a unity. The problem I have identified lies within the educational system that has aged not only at VNU but also in other places around the world.

My focus is on transition from being a graduate student to becoming a professional particularly in Architecture and Planning.

Architectural profession has become very fragmented (in terms of specialisation) - although this has increased each 'sub-professions' expertise, it has also reduced our own ability to communicate between these professions. This fragmentation in the discipline has also led to fragmentation in architectural education. As a consequence, the problem I see is that not only there is a lack of interdisciplinary learning, but also a lack of communication and exposure to the profession outside the educational institution. This leads to a question - how to bridge the gap between the professional world and the academic world? What are the elements that create diverse and creative environments of interaction and exposure?

## GOAL

The goal is to create an intermediate space of exposure & interaction between the 'university' and 'the practice', between the student and the professional that would promote interdisciplinary learning, communication, cooperation and networking.

The intention is to work on different scales in order to tackle the problem - campus scale (see it as a neighbourhood or a cluster of neighbourhoods) and building scale (in a building cluster context) and to develop a scheme that would integrate all the essential parts of a university campus understanding the complexities of it.

Although education is evaluated by global standards in terms of its quality, the project must be responsive to its contextual condition and to the student demographic.

# PROCESS

## METHOD DESCRIPTION

Analysis & scheme:

- Site analysis
- Master plan VNU campus
- Thematic evaluation - case studies of campuses, typology studies, physical and digital models
- Case studies
- Use of case studies to reference organisational and programmatic schemes
- Development of scheme and adaptation to project
- Simulative scenarios as an evaluation of scheme in the larger context
- Scenarios reflecting user experience within the scheme

Design:

- Physical alterations of the scheme in regards to quality of interior spaces, public spaces, views, access
- Physical alterations of the scheme with considerations of Climate design, Structural design, facade elements, light, shading, materialisation
- Evaluation of the performance and aesthetic aspects of the project

## LITERATURE

Harvey, David, 1990. The Condition of Postmodernity: The Experience of Time and Space. Cambridge MA: Blackwell.

Hertzberger, Herman, 2008. Space and Learning. Rotterdam: 010 Publishers.

Hyde, Rory, 2012. Future Practice. New York and London: Routledge.

Jacobs, Jane, 1961. The Death and Life of Great American Cities. New York: Random House.

Koolhaas, Mau, 1997. SMLXL. 1st ed. New York: Monacelli Press.

Lefebvre, Henri, 1991. The Production of Space. Oxford UK: Blackwell.

Lynch, Kevin, 1960. Image of the City. Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

Mateus, Aires, 2010. VOIDS presented in the Venezia Architettura Biennale

MVRDV, Maas, 2005. KM3 Excursions on Capacities. 1st ed. Barcelona: Actar.

Ockman, Joan, 2012. Architecture School: Three Centuries of Educating Architects in North America. Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

2008. Engineering Society. Volume, No.16. Rotterdam: Archis.

2012. City Box. Volume, No.4. Rotterdam: Archis.

2013. Everything Under Control. Volume, No.35. Rotterdam: Archis.

*Additional literature on Climate design and Structural design.*

## REFLECTIONS: RELEVANCE

No one can identify problems with Architectural Education and the profession itself better than the people who experience them. Having experienced three different schools in three different countries I believe I can contribute to the evolution of our profession through proposing a different or possibly forgotten approach to designing education and profession related institutions.

Within the lingering global social and economic uncertainties, it is important to understand what architectural professionals can contribute, how our role in society is changing and how we can be certain that we are resilient to this change.

## TIME PLANNING

GRADUATION PLAN SCHEDULE						
ALISE JEKABSONE – VERTICAL CITIES ASIA		PRESENTATION	MEETING WITH TUTOR	INDIVIDUAL WORK DURING RECESS	NO EDUCATION	SITE VISIT

### Q1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	11-Feb-13	18-Feb-13	25-Feb-13	4-Mar-13	11-Mar-13	18-Mar-13	25-Mar-13	1-Apr-13
Monday		GROUP SELECTION PHASE I	THEME RESEARCH	THEME RESEARCH	SITE VISIT HANOI	HANOI EVALUATION	SITE ANALYSIS	SITE ANALYSIS
Tuesday		THEME RESEARCH	TUESDAY UPDATE	TUESDAY UPDATE	SITE VISIT HANOI	TUESDAY UPDATE	TUESDAY UPDATE	TUESDAY UPDATE
Wednesday		THEME RESEARCH	THEME RESEARCH	SITE RESEARCH	SITE VISIT HANOI	HANOI EVALUATION	SITE ANALYSIS	SITE ANALYSIS
Thursday		READINGS	READINGS	READINGS	SITE VISIT HANOI	READINGS	READINGS	READINGS
Friday	STUDIO KICK-OFF	GRAPHIC PROPOS. RESEARCH BOOK	LECTURE ON AGRICULTURE	PIN UP RESEARCH	SITE VISIT HANOI	HANOI EVALUATION	FIRST DRAFT RESEARCH BOOK	DISCUSSION

### Q2

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	8-Apr-13	15-Apr-13	22-Apr-13	29-Apr-13	6-May-13	13-May-13	20-May-13	27-May-13
Monday	P1 PREP.	GROUP SELECTION PHASE II	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	PHASE III DESK CRIT	PROGRAM BAR EDUCATION CITY
Tuesday	P1 PREP.	MASTERPLAN CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	ANALYSIS EDUCATION CITY	DESIGN CAMPUS
Wednesday	P1 PREP.	MASTERPLAN CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CLUSTER CONCEPT	CASE STUDIES UNIVERSITIES	DESK CRIT
Thursday	P1 PREP.	MASTERPLAN CONCEPT	READINGS	READINGS	READINGS	POSITION PAPER	POSITION PAPER	POSITION PAPER
Friday	P1 PRESENTATION	SECOND DRAFT RESEARCH BOOK	DESK CRITS	DESK CRITS	DESK CRITS	PIN UP CLUSTER CONCEPT	DISCUSSION	DISCUSSION

## Q2

	17	18	19	20				
	3-Jun-13	10-Jun-13	17-Jun-13	24-Jun-13	1-Jul-13	8-Jul-13	15-Jul-13	22-Jul-13
Monday	DESIGN CLUSTER	DESIGN/ PRODUCTION	DESIGN/ PRODUCTION	CLUSTER CONCEPT		SINGAPORE INSTALL MODELS	-	-
Tuesday	P2 PREPERATION	DESIGN/ PRODUCTION	DESIGN/ PRODUCTION	CLUSTER CONCEPT	DISCUSSION PPT		-	-
Wednesday	P 2 PRESENTATION	DESIGN/ PRODUCTION	REVIEW	FINAL REVIEW	REVIEW		-	-
Thursday	DESIGN CLUSTER	DESIGN/ PRODUCTION	WORK INSTALLATION	ADJUSTMENTS		SINGAPORE FINAL PRESENTATION	-	-
Friday	PIN UP PROGRESS	DESK CRITS	PUBLIC PRESENTATION	ADJUSTMENTS			-	-

## RECESS

RECESS						21	22	23

## Q3

	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	23-Sep-13	30-Sep-13	7-Oct-13	14-Oct-13	21-Oct-13	28-Oct-13	4-Nov-13	11-Nov-13
Monday	STRUCTURE / CLIMATE DESIGN	P3 PREPARATION	P3 PRESENTATION	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN
Tuesday	STRUCTURE / CLIMATE DESIGN	P3 PREPARATION	P3 PRESENTATION	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN
Wednesday	STRUCTURE / CLIMATE DESIGN	P3 PREPARATION	P3 PRESENTATION	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN
Thursday	STRUCTURE / CLIMATE DESIGN	P3 PREPARATION	P3 PRESENTATION	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN
Friday	STRUCTURE / CLIMATE DESIGN	P3 PREPARATION	P3 PRESENTATION	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	ELABORATION OF DESIGN

## Q4

	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
	18-Nov-13	25-Nov-13	2-Dec-13	9-Dec-13	16-Dec-13	23-Dec-13	30-Dec-13	6-Jan-14
Monday	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	P4 PREPARATION	P4 PRESENTATION	MODEL	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	-	-
Tuesday	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	P4 PREPARATION	P4 PRESENTATION	MODEL	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	-	-
Wednesday	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	P4 PREPARATION	P4 PRESENTATION	MODEL	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	-	-
Thursday	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	P4 PREPARATION	P4 PRESENTATION	MODEL	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	-	-
Friday	ELABORATION OF DESIGN	P4 PREPARATION	P4 PRESENTATION	MODEL	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	-	-

## Q4

	40	41	42
	13-Jan-14	20-Jan-14	27-Jan-14
Monday	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PRESENTATION
Tuesday	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PRESENTATION
Wednesday	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PRESENTATION
Thursday	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PRESENTATION
Friday	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PREPARATION	P5 PRESENTATION



**VERTICAL CITIES ASIA - THESIS 2013**  
A TAKE ON ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION  
HANOI, VIETNAM

Studio Leader / Laura Alvarez  
Building Technology / Mauro Parravicini  
Tall Models / Peter Koorstra



HOA LAC, PROPOSED URBAN PLAN AND VNU CAMPUS, VCA STUDIO

## STUDIO BRIEF - THESIS

The past two decades that brought rapid technological and social changes present complex challenges to architectural practice and education globally. In the recent years architecture schools have been undergoing transformations. The field has been influenced most by digital technologies, the debates on theory and practice and the emergence of new interdisciplinary approaches. The new generation of the learners, who want to communicate and collaborate and know more than the traditional role of an architect goes, also partly represent the progressive contemporary or the future practice. In the midst of the changing character of the profession, architectural education should embrace this change.

With one of the highest GDP growth rates in Asia, Vietnam is currently trying to overhaul its education system, with a view to prepare students for the increasing role of English as the language of business, and the importance of internationalizing the education system to maintain the rapid economic growth of the last two decades. Education in Vietnam is still following the Soviet model with outdated curricula, a lecturer-centered method of teaching and learning, a lack of linkage between teaching and research activities, and a large discord between theory and practical training, that leads to a large number of graduates being unable to find a job, while skills shortages drive inflation to double-digit levels.

The aim of the thesis project is to understand the new generation of learners and to put forward ideas for the next generation teaching, learning and research environments.

Instead of trying to revolutionise architectural education as an institution, small interventions and making use of critical tensions would be the approach to this project that could potentially turn 'faults' into possibilities and bring the educational environment a step forward.

## STUDIO SITE

Hoa Lac as proposed new satellite city of Hanoi will house the new Vietnam National University Hanoi campus. The campus is semi-enclosed in the urban setting of Hoa Lac, and rich with lakes and views towards the city and surrounding mountains. School of Architecture and Planning is proposed to be a part of the VNU.

## STUDIO STRUCTURE & METHODOLOGY / SCHEDULE

### **Phase 1 Research:**

Week 1-2 (Sep 2- Sep 13)

1. Research on Architectural Education - recent decades, future projections - essay format
2. Case Studies: Architecture Schools - quality of teaching/learning spaces, program - booklet format
  - Milstein Hall, Cornell University / OMA
  - Umea School Of Architecture / Henning Larsen Architects
  - Waterloo School of Architecture / Levitt Goodman Architects
  - Knowlton School of Architecture, Ohio State University / Mack Scogin Merrill Elam
  - Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Design Hub / Sean Godsell Architects
  - Orestad College / 3XN architects (quality of space)
  - School of Science + Technology, Singapore / WOHA (program distribution scheme)
3. Syllabus research - coop programs (Waterloo, Toronto & DAAP Uni of Cincinnati) & existing Architecture School in Hanoi
4. Higher Education in Vietnam - history, influences, reforms, teaching methods, Vietnamese values
5. Study models - as part of AR3MA070 Materialisation: TALL Models

### **Phase 2 Analysis:**

Week 3 (Sep 13- Sep 20)

1. Detailed analysis of the proposed site & context of the campus and Hoa Lac, including the program, infrastructure, micro-climate, culture
2. Climate study - the 'ideal' learning space
3. Materials study - local building materials & availability in Hanoi region
3. Syllabus development - a scenario: A day in the life of ...
4. Study models: a part of AR3MA070 Materialisation: TALL Models

### **Phase 3 Design Proposal:**

Week 4-5 (Sep 23 - Oct 4)

1. Develop design proposal - building volume, spatial scheme according to the program, circulation
2. Immediate landscape design proposal
3. Study models: a part of AR3MA070 Materialisation: TALL Models

### **Phase 4 Design Production for P3:**

Week 6-8 (Oct 7 - Oct 25)

Develop plans, sections, climate scheme & details - according to P3 requirements

### **P3 Week 9 (Oct 28 - Nov 1)**

plans, facades, cross-cuts, 1:200 / 1:100  
part of the building, plan and cross-cut 1:50  
façade fragment with hor. and vert. cross-cut 1: 20  
details 1:5

### **Phase 5 Design Production for P4:**

Week 10-13 (Nov 4 - Nov 29)

According to P4 requirements

### **P4 Week 14 (Dec 2 - Dec 6)**

theoretic and thematic support of research and design + reflection on architectonic and social relevance  
situational drawing 1:5000 / 1:1000  
plan b.g. in situ 1:500  
plans, facades, cross-cuts 1:200 / 1:100  
part of the building, plan and drawings 1:50  
façade fragment with hor. and vert. cross-cut 1: 20  
details 1:5

### **Phase 5 Design Production & Models for P5:**

Week 15-19 (Dec 9 - Jan 24)

Drawings, renders, collages & models.

### **P5 Week 20 (Jan 27 - Jan 31)**

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

TBA - dependent on tutor availability, preferably once a week.

## P5 DELIVERABLES

### Situational Drawing

Ground Plan in Situation Drawing – 1:500

Plans, Elevations, & Sections – 1:100 / 1:200

Detail – critical to concept – 1:50

Detail – critical to concept – 1:20

Detail – critical to concept – 1:5

Models - scale to be determined

Final Book – including work from both semesters – Professionally bound

600 word essay