

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:

Personal information	
Name	Sandra Jasionyte
Student number	5163668

Studio		
Name / Theme	Cross Domain Studio: City of the Future	
Main mentor	Joran Kuijper	Research/Design
Second mentor	Mauro Parravicini	Building Technology
Third mentor	Maurice Hartevelde	Urban Design/Public Space
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I have enrolled on the 'City of the Future' graduation studio because this research studio emphasizes various contemporary issues and links them with the built environment. This set-up allows me to approach the graduation project from my topic of interest going towards the problem based architectural design solution. In other words, stating the problem, understanding how it reflects on our society and built environment, and then finding the potential architectural solution. Moreover, the studio's multidisciplinary approach allows looking into my research topic from a multidisciplinary lens.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	(re)Displaced in City: Human Rights-Based Architecture to Overcome Newcomers' Marginalization and Degrading Treatment in Paris
Goal	
Location:	Boulevard de la Chapelle, 10 th Arrondissement, 75010, Paris, France

<p>The posed problem,</p>	<p>Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) says that no one should be subject to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment¹. Yet, currently, more than 3,000 newcomers are living in the streets of Paris². During 2015-2019, approximately 53 000 migrants were evacuated from makeshift camps with the largest concentration around the train station Gare du Nord³. Authorities' position is to prevent slum settlements in the city by clearing migrants' camps. Even after the brutal dismantling operations, some newcomers are "lucky" enough to be placed in the shelter it is usually a temporary solution that shortly, sometimes within 24h, puts them back on the street without legal papers, the ability to re-settle, work or have any means of "normal" life.</p> <p>To conclude, social expulsion, violence, and degrading living conditions are what newcomers are facing currently in Paris. This phenomenon highlights the clashes between universal human rights and territorial politics which created a social system that has made this inhuman treatment a reality. It could be theorized that social exclusion and no access to the physical space in the city exposes people to marginalization, physical violence, and violation of their rights. Also, this has consequences of socio-economic and spatial inequality and social unrest in Paris.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Main research question:</p> <p>How can architecture be a framework for fundamental human rights to prevent marginalization, degrading treatment and newcomers' rights violation in Paris?</p> <p>Sub-questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which rights of displaced people are being violated in Paris? 2. How universal rights do relates with the built environment? 3. How can human rights be an output of architecture?

¹ UN, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

² France inter, *Paris: associations point to a "never seen" number of migrants on the street.*

³ Franceculture.fr, *Exilés à Paris, 4 ans de crise de l'accueil*

design assignment in which these result.	Social-mixed-shared community hub
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This research will lead to the architectural intervention in the Boulevard de la Chapelle site, which stretches along the metro viaduct in the 10th district in Paris. The goal of the graduation project is to bring awareness that undocumented migrants always were and will be present in the city and to accept newcomers as a valued and equal part of our society. To achieve this goal, the design proposal is a social-mixed-shared community hubs governed by the local community. The philosophy of the concept is that shared spaces could help prevent newcomers' marginalization, degrading treatment and violation of their rights because shared spaces build communities, values, acceptance and a co-living mindset. The idea is that the concept of the social-mixed-shared spaces could be used through the city stitching its urban tissue. Thus, the research-based project will show the possibility of positioning ourselves into more fair and inclusive cities where newcomers can rebuild their lives with dignity and be part of society.

Process

Method description

To conduct this research is used combination of historical-interpretive, qualitative and case study research approaches. This includes methods such as:

(Historical-interpretive)

- 1. Literature review
- 2. Legal documents review
- 3. News and social media narratives
- 4. Newcomers' demographic statistics review

(Qualitative)

- 5. Mapping current settlements and relationship with urban fabrics
- 6. Capturing current situation (media narratives)

(Case studies)

- 7. Case study analysis.

Historical-interpretative narratives:

To build narratives of marginalization and degrading treatment of displaced people in Paris will be used a historical-interpretive research approach. This includes the review of the literature relating to human rights and the history of migration in France. Furthermore, the review of legal documents such as the UN Refugee Convention Protocol, UDHR, and the Constitution of France to understand what rights newcomers has. Also, this part covers the collection of news, articles, and social media and demographic statistics of displaced people and their position in the city.

Ethnographic site study:

To conduct social-spatial analysis is used a qualitative approach combined from urban capturing, observational and mapping the city. This analysis purpose to draw an overview of the current mistreatment of newcomers and their relation to urban fabrics.

Case studies:

It will be introduced case studies of the currently implemented systems, such as official refugee reception centers, to deal with the large flows of displaced people. These case studies will be critically viewed as being a direct outcome of the current political system. Opposite to this, it will be introduced examples of architectural projects that are designed to correspond to human rights. Also, case studies will cover practical aspects, such as buildability, materials, and construction methods that will directly support the design part.

Design:

The design process is based on the theoretical research part and will consist of site mapping and analysis, massing studies, producing design drawings and details, digital modeling and physical models. Also, it includes the studies of the local architecture and building material, building materials and building system case studies.

Literature and general practical preference

The theories and notions that are introduced to strengthen and frame the research are organized into four parts that become a theoretical foundation of the research.

1. Paradox of contemporary politics

In this part, I introduce Thomas Nail's concept that migrants are not the exception, but rather the constitutive condition of contemporary politics and the need for new political theory *kinopolitics* to give primacy to social motion. Also, his notion on the issue that liberal democracy based on universal equality is limited by territorial, political, legal, and economic borders.

2. Rightless among rights

This part continues the paradox of contemporary politics by focusing on the fact that even newcomers have rights at the same time they are rightless. This notion will be supported by Hannah Arendt's idea of the right to have rights that critique the human rights concept.

3. Abnormal normality of the violence

It addresses the issue of violence used against the newcomers that became a regular phenomenon. Their social status expulsion, inhuman living conditions as well as physical violence against them is based on Giorgio Agamben's '*homo sacer*' concept that people outside the law are reduced to "bare life".

4. Never neutral architecture

The concept that architecture is never neutral and always has a political size is supported by Leopold Lambert “Weaponized architecture” theory and Tiziana Kassahun notions that architecture strongly ties up with human rights and always creates both sides included and excluded size.

Main literature sources:

1. Agamben, Giorgio. *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, 1st ed. Translated by & D. Heller-Roazen. California: Stanford University Press. 1998.
2. Arendt, Hannah. *The Origins of Totalitarianism. Chapter 9: The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man. 267-305*. Florida: Harcourt Brace & Company.
3. Glyn-Blanco, Rebecca; McLintock, Maria & Papazymouri, Danae. *The System of Systems*. Davias. 2017.
4. Kassahun, Tiziana. *Architecture & Human Rights*, 1st ed. Salenstein: Braun Publishing AG. 2018.
5. Lambert, Leopold. *Weaponized architecture: the impossibility of innocence*. Barcelona: DPR-Barcelona. 2012.
6. Nail, Thomas. *The Figure of the Migrant*, 1st ed. California: Stanford University Press. 2015.
7. UN. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Paris. 1948*.
8. UNHCR, *Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*. Geneva. 1951.

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)?

My graduation topic that focuses on the newcomers’ (refugees, asylum seekers, irregular migrants) marginalization and degrading treatment in Paris fits with the ‘City of the Future’ studio because it addresses the current urban issue that the city is facing. Moreover, the continuous increasing irregular migration flows will intensify in the future affecting more people and more cities. Furthermore, the research-based project is aiming to use architectural design as a means to deal with the social challenges making my graduation project relevant in the architecture track of the MSc Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences programme.

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

Irregular migration is a challenge of the twenty-first century. 2015 marked the highest displacement ever since the aftermath of World War II⁴ with the 1.3 million displaced people that flowed into Europe from climate affected, war-devastated and economically shattered Arab and African countries⁵. Moreover, the future forecast is that climate change will put 1.2 billion people in the world at risk of displacement by 2050⁶ increasing the number of asylum seekers in Europe to 188 per cent by the end of the century⁷. Because it directly affects the peoples' lives and their environment it shows the urge for architects and urban planners to explore this matter.

Irregular migration matter is high on the scholars' agenda as seen in the publications, such as *'The System of Systems'* by Rebecca Glyn-Blanco that exposes the political and bureaucratic issues which newcomers are confronted with. *'The figure of migrants'* by Thomas Nail which introduces the need for new political theory 'kinopolitics' and *"Architecture & Human Rights"* by Tiziana Kassahun that draws the link between rights and architecture. However, the rights-based architecture to overcome newcomers' marginalization and degrading treatment in cities such as Paris is underexplored making this research add-on to the existing literature, architecture design approach.

⁴ UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/576408cd7>

⁵ Barlai, *The Migrant Crisis: European Perspectives and National Discourses*, 13-19.

⁶ IEP, *Ecological Threat register 2020*, 7.

⁷ Missirian, et al., *Asylum applications respond to temperature fluctuations*