

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

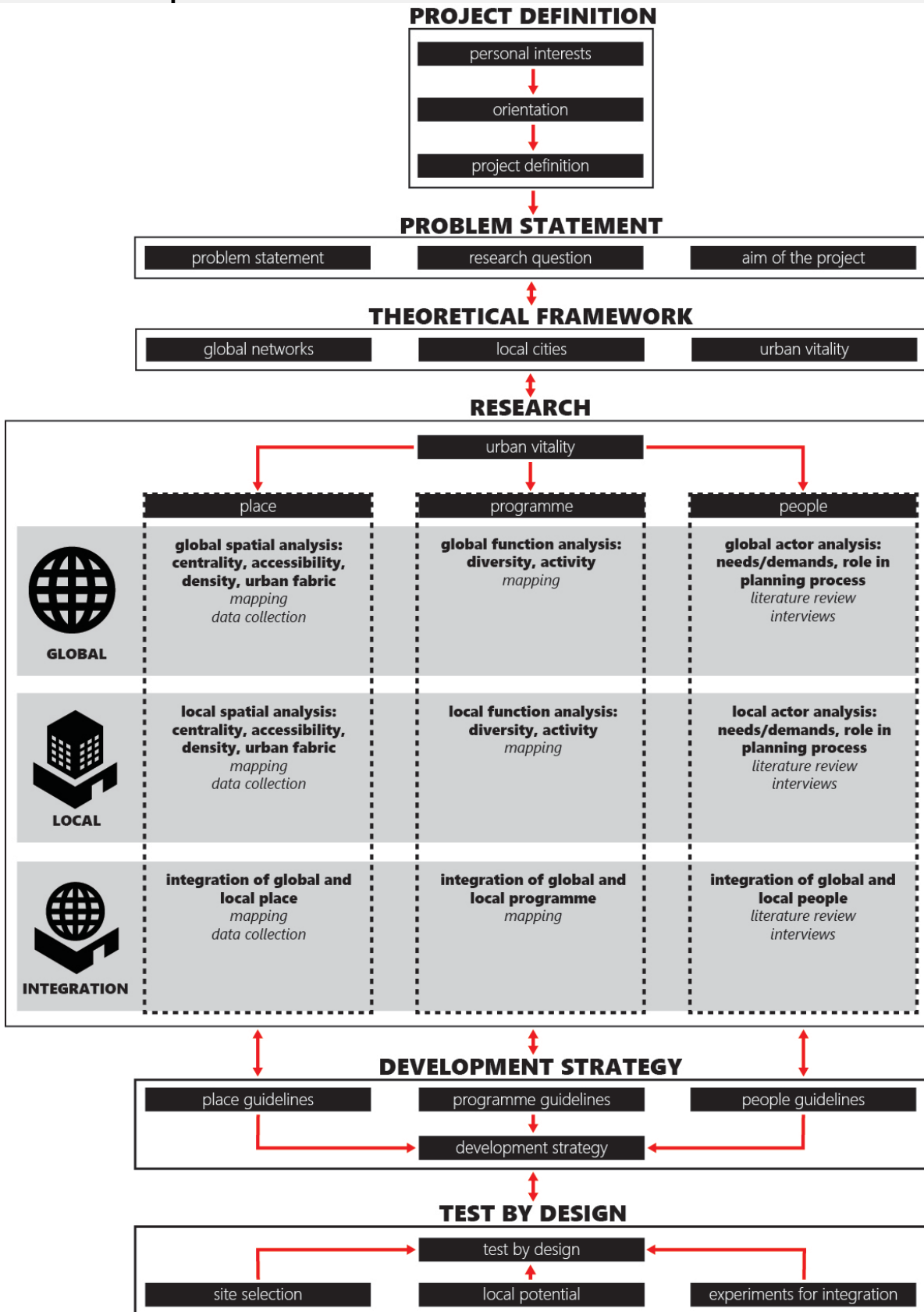
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Studio	
Name / Theme	Global Cities, Complex Cities
Teachers / tutors	Stephen Read, Rients Dijkstra, Arie Romein
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>This thesis will be developed as part of the Complex Cities research group, in particular focusing on global cities. The research group defines the global city as following:</p> <p><i>A global city is a city in a global network of cities, part of a 'network architecture' of global capitalism and a world economy. Its first characteristic is its relation to other cities; a global city is a node in a network that transfers massive flows of assets and liabilities, knowledge and also human resources that accelerate economic growth. A global city competes with other cities worldwide to attract inward investment, businesses and skilled workers. It is a site of capital accumulation and a site where capital is fixed through, amongst other mechanisms, investment in urbanisation, through real estate development and through upgrading living and working environments in serial regenerations-gentrifications, consequently used to 'brand' the city and to exploit its image in order to attract more interest.</i></p> <p>The city of London could be referred to as a typical example of a global city: it functions as one of the main global economic nodes and thus attracts a lot of wealth, knowledge and development, and is therefore, together with New York, rated as an Alpha++ city.</p> <p>This project will research the impact of this global development on the local urban environment. Currently, London is facing particular negative consequences of the global success on the local scale. These local processes are heavily intertwined with the city's globalisation and thus both will be researched.</p>

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	London waterfront, achieving urban vitality through global and local integration
Goal	
Location:	London waterfront
The posed problem,	The increase of large-scale corporate involvement, as well as the absence of a spatial strategy, is dividing London more and more into a city of two separated dimensions: a global city favouring financial gain and economic competitiveness over the needs of local actors and a local city failing to build integrated and vital neighbourhoods. This urban discrepancy is leading to socio-spatial segregation and a loss of urban vitality.
research questions and	How can the potentials of global city development, aimed at economic competitiveness, and local city development, aimed at local communities, be integrated in order to increase the urban vitality of the London waterfront?
design assignment in which these result.	The aim of the project is to explore potentials of a stronger integration of the global and local city, in order to build a more vital city. The project will explore the interrelationship between global competitiveness and local communities and their positive and negative influences. By understanding both the strategic as the spatial dimension of current development, a new set of guidelines will be defined in order to propose an alternative form of urban development. These guidelines should then be transferable to other development projects in London and other global cities.

Process

Method description



Literature and general practical preference

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Reflection

Relevance

Societal

The redevelopment of London's docklands has been described, discussed and criticised in many studies (such as Sue Brownill (1990); Andrew Tallon (2013)). Some of the most discussed issues related to this redevelopment were the increasing role of private parties in the development process and the consequential uneven characteristic of this development. Although these are still highly relevant topics, London is currently facing new issues as well. London is facing a housing shortage, socio-spatial segregation and over-gentrification issues, as well as discussions about foreign investment, privatisation and transformations in ownership. It is therefore important to explore strategies to retrofit older redevelopments and to rethink the way current regeneration projects are taken care of.

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

Scientific

The two main concepts of this graduation project are global cities and urban vitality, in the context of London. About both of these extensive amounts of literature already exist. Literature on globalisation, global networks and global cities (see the theoretical framework) has provided a great amount of knowledge about the transformation of economy and society. Due to the many interpretations of the definition of urban vitality, literature on this topic is quite scattered, ranging from studies on public space to functional diversity.

The influence of a city's global city status on its urban vitality however, is a topic that is relatively unexplored yet. This project aims to define a clear framework of the interaction between these two concepts in order to challenge issues many (global) cities are facing.

Time planning

