

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	Müzeyyen Meriç Kessaf
Student number	4617770

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab / Resilience	
Main mentor	Roel van de Pas	Architecture
Second mentor	John Hanna	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Explore lab gives the possibility to students to explore their own fascination and make it into a graduation studio.</p> <p>From a young age, I've been fascinated by the mountain formation that the city of Antakya, Hatay, lies in between. When walking through the Amanos mountains I used to find a lot of shell fossils and it would make me wonder how these objects that were supposed to be in the sea would be found 500 metres higher in the mountains. This marked the beginning of my fascination, wanting to know how the world works and how mountains are formed. When starting my academic career, I decided that I wanted to know more about this topic, and I decided to study earth science.</p> <p>The initial reason why I started continuing studying architecture after earth science was because of this pressing issue. Writing my thesis about the old and new design code of Türkiye, I learned about the lack of data, trust, financial resources, (urban) planning, and sustainable solutions to make living in earthquake-prone areas in Türkiye difficult. This only deepened my fascination. I wanted to search for a solution to make the existing houses in Antakya safe.</p> <p>But then time overtook, and on the 6th of February, two devastating earthquakes hit Türkiye and northern Syria.</p>	

	<p>The city Antakya is the most affected city after the earthquake and more than 80% of the city has been destroyed. The city can be described as a ghost town. On my second field trip (with the Architectural Recovery Team) to the region, I noticed that within the market spaces life started to revive again. During my explore lab studio I'm investigating what kind of characteristics a place has that makes it attractive for its old or new inhabitants to come back to an area that previously has been destructed, with a focus on the city Antakya. How can the continuity of life take place a again within these ruins?</p>
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Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Meshwork of Hope – Exploring the possibilities of reinforcing the continuity of life in Antakya, Hatay
Goal	
Location:	Antakya – historical part of Antakya city, Hatay in Türkiye. The most destructed city after the earthquake that hit on the 6 th of February in Türkiye and northern Syria.
The posed problem,	After the earthquake that hit Antakya on the 6 th of February, the city has been deserted by its inhabitants. Now a masterplan is presented for the 'new' part of the city. But the old part, the historical part of Antakya has no prospect or masterplan (yet). The inhabitants are afraid that the soul of the city is lost forever, although, there are visible traces of continuity of life within the marketplace, Uzun Carsi.
research questions and	<p><i>'How can architectural intervention reinforce the continuity of life in Antakya, following periods of destruction?'</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current situation in Antakya by analyzing the new master plan? 2. What does the concept of continuity of life mean in the context of a characteristics study of a place? 3. Case study: Which of these characteristics are visible within the marketplace, the 'Uzun Carsi', within the old city center of Antakya?

<p>design assignment in which this result</p>	<p>The assigned design is an exploration into finding how characteristics within a (market)place can reinforce continuity that makes a destructed place revive again. Specifically focusing on the city of Antakya and its old part. This research focuses on finding key concepts that can be applied to the design assignments. These key concept are related to how places are formed within the traces of the movement of people which eventually creates a meshwork. A meshwork is created when more traces are entwined (Ingold, 2011 p.148). This meshwork, consisting of knots and lines, can be seen as an element or character of a place with a spatial constellation (Gordillo, 2014).</p> <p>The research will first look on a bigger scale of Antakya, its history, its current situation, and what the plan is for its future. The masterplan that is made for the city has divided the city into the old and the new parts and has (for now) only decided on the new part of Antakya. However, it's the old part of Antakya that consists of these traces and the meshwork of its inhabitants.</p> <p>Moreover, the research will examine on a smaller scale the closed market, Uzun Carsi, of Antakya. Its characteristics, its rhythm, are investigated and for the design assignment, these characteristics are reinforced. Such a design will consist of a program that includes a market space, where economic activities can take place, and places of movement in the public and collective space.</p> <p>While doing this research it becomes evident that the design of a marketplace, the marketplace itself, is not only a morphological study or the typology of the building within 'Uzun Carsi', but a marketplace is a complex intersection between cultural, social, economic, and political aspects. And the place itself provides confrontations and encounters, every day, day and night. This aspect of the research will be used as a concept within the design focusing on how a market place can be best used to take away the fears of the previous inhabitants.</p>
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p> <p>This research started with already extensive background knowledge of the site and the topic.</p>	

The research method is set up to answer the research question and to come up with design recommendations and key concepts for the design assignment. The research method can be divided into two parts and is as follows:

The first part consists mainly in gathering data, and extracting relevant information, by literature research and talks with experts in the field. The first part consists of understanding certain terminology used within the field and how this research takes its stance within. Defining the *continuity of life* is, what the meaning of a home is, meaning of a place, and if this place is within rubble or ruins. Literature research (see reference list under) have been done to identify what the effects of a disaster on an individual- and community level has and what kind of fears this brings within the inhabitants of a destructed city. On a more philosophical level, the essence of place is defined and compared with the situation on the Uzun Carsi. This brought me to the second part of the research where the Uzun Carsi on is further analysed by understanding how its inhabitants interact with the place, Uzun Carsi, and how the previously defined concept and characteristics are retraceable within this place. Next to the literature research, personal pictures, observations, and recent maps are analysed.

Eventually, this academic research has given more depth, on a theoretical, philosophical and conceptual level. It has helped to understand the challenges faced after a disaster and how this can be used to define a program of requirements for this design.

Literature and general practical references

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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)?

This research started with extensive background knowledge of the site and the topic; writing my BSc Earth Science thesis, at the University of Amsterdam, about the expected earthquake in Istanbul and comparing the old and new building design codes, writing several papers about the expected earthquake that would hit Antakya, writing my MSc Architecture history thesis about the tourism architecture in Antakya, being from the region, and setting up a foundation, Architectural Recovery Team, after the earthquake to design and reconstruct earthquake resilient home for communities within rural areas surrounding the city Antakya. In addition following the MSc 1 studio Extreme where, with the focus on the engineering part the possibilities of building on and during extreme conditions where investigated. The extreme condition for this studio was also Antakya. The design assignment was designing a primary school in the new part of Antakya and within the boundaries of the newly presented master plan of Antakya. Now, working on my graduation project, within the Explore Lab studio, gives me the possibility of investigating the topic that I've already been interested in for a long time now, even further. Finishing my graduation project will also have an impact on a larger social, professional, and scientific field.

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

As stated in the previous question: Finishing my graduation project will also have an impact on a larger social, professional, and scientific field. This is because the topic on its own is still very relevant. It has been more than one year since the earthquake hit East-Türkiye and Northern Syria and these areas are still very much in the recovery process of the disaster. Several important stakeholders within a world scale have and are playing their influence on the region affecting the lives of people in the region. As a becoming architect, it's important to understand how these disasters affect communities and people on an individual level. And how looking at the important stakeholders within this topic, I could take my own position. On a professional and individual note, the graduation project

has a great relevance. After the earthquake hit Antakya, I've set up a foundation called, Architectural Recovery Team. This foundation is involved within the reconstruction and recovery process of the earthquake affected communities and specifically the people from Antakya. This foundation mainly focuses on communities surrounding the city of Antakya and designs and rebuilds long-term, earthquake-resistant, modular houses within rural areas, with a focus on the wishes of the community. Setting up this foundation and working and studying everyday within this field gives me great insight in the challenges that are being faced and the goal that I'm trying to pursue. Which is helping the people within their recovery process.