Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

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	Sanjana Rajendra Habde
Student number	5983711

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3AP100 Public Building Graduation Studio 2024-25: Public Condenser, Copenhagen	
Main mentor	Antonio Cantero	Project Design
Second mentor	Ger Warries	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Sang Lee	Theory and Delineation
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The term "public," which signifies inclusivity, belonging, and connection to all people within a community or neighborhood, carries immense potential for fostering facilities and building robust communal networks. My curiosity about exploring different ways to create overlapping and inclusive spaces for diverse user groups, with the goal of enhancing community bonds and reinforcing communal identity, inspired me to choose this focus.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Shared Grounds	a landscape of Intergenerational Learning and Exchange

Goal	
Location:	North-Ydre Nørrebro, Haraldsgade, Copenhagen
The posed problem,	The spatial and social dynamics of Haraldsgade, a neighbourhood in Nørrebro, reflect its industrial past, with large industrial lands, transformed factories, social housing, and educational institutions. Following the decline of production in the mid-1900s, many factories were closed and repurposed for social housing, shifting the area into a predominantly residential zone. While some factories were converted for other functions, this blend of industrial and residential spaces has contributed to social fragmentation and spatial isolation within the neighbourhood.

One of the main issues in Haraldsgade is the separation of spaces by age group, leading to social fragmentation. Children typically occupy playgrounds, youth gather at places like Bolsjefabrikken, university students are concentrated in dormitories, and the elderly often walk alone in public spaces. According to the owner of Buddha Bikes, a bike shop on site; families tend to leave the neighbourhood once they have children, possibly due to safety concerns or lack of amenities. The elderly, in particular, struggle to find spaces designed for their needs, often resulting in isolation. Studies such as the Loneliness in the Population report |

	highlight the health risks associated with loneliness, especially among older adults, with the risk of illness and early death increasing by 50% for those lacking meaningful social connections. The lack of student housing, coupled with limited public amenities and few opportunities for interaction, contributes to the area's high crime rates and reliance on CCTV surveillance. This highlights the demand for centrally located, engaging student housing and cultural hubs where everyone can connect and spend their time in enjoyable ways. In response to these issues, the concept of "intergenerational spaces" is proposed as a design strategy to promote social inclusion, cohesion, health, and well-being across generations. These spaces would enable intergenerational exchange, where different age groups: youth, elderly, and children can interact, learn from each other, and strengthen community ties. By integrating these spaces into the neighbourhood, it is possible to address issues of social isolation in Haraldsgade.
research questions and	[Main question] How can a public building be designed to foster intergenerational learning and collaboration to build resilient and inclusive communities in Haraldsgade? [Sub-questions] 01. How can Figaro, a building in Haraldsgade slated for demolition, use adaptive reuse strategies to support intergenerational programs? 02. How can Figaro and its surrounding urban landscape be reimagined to create inviting and accessible environment for the public?
design assignment in which these result.	The design goal is to employ adaptive reuse strategies to transform Figaro, a building slated for demolition, into an intergenerational public condenser. The vision is to create inclusive and inviting spaces that cater to all user groups, including individuals with disabilities, while ensuring seamless movement throughout the building. The project emphasizes the integration of urban design strategies to establish a welcoming pedestrian zone for community engagement. By prioritizing key access nodes in relation to surrounding buildings, their pathways, and vertical circulation elements such as stairs, ramps, and lifts, the design aims to ensure accessibility for everyone. A key focus is the creation of "contact zones", dynamic spaces that act as magnets for diverse age groups, fostering interaction and strengthening intergenerational relationships. By thoughtfully integrating the existing with the new, this approach aims to transform Figaro and its urban surroundings into a dynamic, inclusive, and socially connected community condenser.

Process

Method description

The process of creating an intergenerational public condenser through adaptive reuse strategies in Figaro can be approached using the following methods:

01.Site Documentation and Observations
Document and study the existing structure, façade, materials, and urban context of Figaro through archival drawings, photography, and digital tools. Observing pedestrian movement, daily routes, and areas of leisure will help establish zoning patterns and identify active use spaces.

02. Interviews
Engage with government officials and architects to gain insights into the neighbourhood's diversity, interests, and future plans, which will inform urban design strategies. Interviewing individuals from different age groups will help understand their needs, daily activities, and points of communal interest.

03. Literature Review and Case Studies
The literature review will focus on academic research on intergenerational communities, examining the needs of different age groups and abilities in public spaces, and strategies for creating inclusive environments. Further exploration on adaptive reuse techniques, including methods for retaining and transforming existing structures while sensitively working with their façades. Analyzing case studies related to intergenerational living, urban and landscape strategies, and adaptive reuse will provide valuable insights, helping to translate initial concepts into practical design strategies.

Literature and general practical references

Literature Review
Community and Social Interactions

01. Co-Create Copenhagen. (2015). City of Copenhagen Technical and Environmental Administration.
02. Gehl, J. (1996). Public Spaces, Public Life.
03. Gehl, J. (1971). Life Between Buildings.
04. Royo, R. A. (2023). Collaborative Tools for Community Architecture.
05. Whyte, W. H. (1980). The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces.

Intergenerational

01. Gorlitz, D., Harloff, H. J., Mey, G., & Valsiner, J. (1998). Children, Cities, and Psychological Theories: Developing Relationships.
02. Kaplan, M., Thang, L. L., Sanchez, M., & Hoffman, J. (2020). Intergenerational Contact Zones: Place-based Strategies for Promoting Social Inclusion and Belonging. Routledge.
03. Pain, D. R. (2005). Intergenerational Relations and Practice in the Development of Sustainable Communities.
04. Punch, S., Vanderbeck, R. M., & Skelton, T. (2018). Families, Intergenerationality, and Peer Group Relations.

Adaptive reuse

01. Merlino, K. R. (2018). Building Reuse: Sustainability, Prevention, and the Value of Design.
02. Roe, J., & McCay, L. (2021). Restorative Cities + Urban Mental Health Roundtable: Challenges and opportunities for the next decade.

03. Vafaie, F., Remoy, H., & Gruis, V. (2022). Adaptive reuse of Heritage Buildings: A systematic literature review of success factors.
04. Wong, L. (2023). Adaptive Reuse in Architecture: A Typological Index.

Case studies
Intergenerational/Community projects

01. Yusuhara Community Library / Yururi Yusuhara, / Japan
02. The Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Center Renovation / ATELIER XI /China
03. Los Mangos Community Center / Entornoy Contexto / Mexico

Student Housing

01. Stacked Student Housing / Thirdspace Architecture Studio / India
02. St. Andrews Hostel Block / Zed Lab / India
03. Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute Student Housing / MO-OF / India

Adaptive re-use

01. SESC Pompéia Factory Technical Information / Lina Bo Bardi / Brazil
02. Baltimore Design School /Zinger| Snead Architects / United States

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)?

An architectural project achieves its full potential when it responds effectively to its context and the needs of the people it serves. This project enhances the value of a public building by engaging with multiple layers of design. It combines an adaptive reuse strategy for an existing building with the transformation of its surrounding urban landscape to create a more inviting space. In doing so, this project reflects several learnings from the studios I participated in during my first year of master's studies, allowing me to integrate those learnings into a cohesive and meaningful design.

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

A neighbourhood feels safe when its community members know each other, interact, and when the spaces within the neighbourhood are welcoming to all. While each building is designed for a specific function, it should always engage with and open up to its surroundings, creating multiple contact zones where people can interact. These zones foster opportunities for learning, leisure, rest, and activity, thereby enhancing safety and promoting the overall health of the neighbourhood.

This project proposes strategies to adapt an existing building, its urban and landscape context, creating smoother, more interconnected movement that encourages people to explore different levels and spaces. The design envisions a seamless transition from a private student housing through collaborative spaces into an urban landscape, inviting the neighbourhood.

This project provides valuable insights for architects, urban planners, and landscape designers, encouraging them to consider buildings not as isolated structures, but as vital components of the urban fabric that foster interaction and connection throughout the neighbourhood.