

Graduation plan

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AR3AI133 Interior graduation studio - Urban culture and new opennes

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Problem Description

This graduation project is about designing a study center in Amsterdam. The study center consists of different types of study spaces, a collection of books and magazines, meeting rooms, multimedia, offices, gallery, chat café, restaurant and an auditorium. During the design process the following parts must be examined: The shape and size of the building, a grasp of the scale of the building, spatial qualities within the building, division of spaces, the use of materials and the construction.

We as a design group could choose between four different locations. Each location has its own weaknesses and qualities. I have chosen for Frederiksplein in Amsterdam as location for my study center. Frederiksplein consists of a large plot with on one side a bank (in the interest of the design project the bank will be demolished) and on the other side a park. Along the bank and in the park are a lot of trees with an average length of 17 meters. The big challenge for me will be finding a way to combine the surrounding trees with my building. To find a way to make a smooth transition through the park the building and the square without losing the visibility of the building.

Goal of the project

My goal is to design a study center where the user will be taken as starting point. The user must be able to find his way, feel comfortable and have a desire to study in my study center. Not every user is the same. That is why I would like to create several types of study areas where there is a suitable space for each student. The building will have multimedia, individual study areas, group rooms etc.

My second goal is to create a pleasant environment to study. There is scientific proof that a visual connection with nature has a positive influence on people. I want to combine both study spaces with fresh air and nature to create a very pleasant working environment. Plants are able to purify the air of chemicals and provide fresh air. By bringing nature inside the building, the study spaces will become livelier. The presence of plants in buildings leads to a better well-being, less health complaints and a higher productivity. The construction can be made in such a way that it symbolizes trees. Combining those different aspects of nature will provide for a pleasant working environment.

Process (methods and techniques used for analysis and design)

For my design process I use multiple methods and techniques. I have done research to study areas in libraries. I have visited and analyzed several libraries in the Netherlands. Next I analyzed different study areas within a library. My goal for my final project is to design for the users. To do so, I must know and understand what the users want. Within a library I observed the users and I examined which study areas they used. I also interviewed a number of users and asked them about their choice for a study place. For the full research I can refer to report 3 de ideale studieplek written for the course AR1AI132 the research seminar of Irene Cieraad. (The report is written in Dutch).

For the design process itself, I use several methods and techniques. I try to approach my study center from different angles to create an optimal design process. I use autocad drawings, 2d and 3d sketches, sketchup drawings, models, analyzing references, visiting references (libraries in the Netherlands, Dublin and Vienna), site visits, run through the study center as an architect and as an user, Consulting with students and teachers.

Literature (theory and research data)

I have done a study into the development of libraries. How did the library of the past look like? What has changed over the years in a library? What is the library of today? What will be the library of the future? This research is reflected in report 2 de bibliotheek van nu en in de toekomst written for the course AR1AI132 the research seminar of Irene Cieraad. (The report is written in Dutch).

I wrote a position paper for the P1 presentation for the course AR3AI133 Interior graduation studio. In this paper I mention the location with all his qualities. I did a little research of the tree heights and widths to get a clear perception of the nature at the location. For my extension of the paper I explored some books about architecture and nature. This made me better understand the influences of nature on people.

Reflection

At this moment we are working with 16 students on the same design project. 7 of those 16 students are also working with Frederiksplein as their location. In small groups we have done various urban analyses. On the basis of these analyses, each student chooses their ideal building form. These building forms are all different. For example I am working on a building in the shape of a bar or strip, while another student is designing a low plate. The end result of all students can be used to expand my own view on the use of a location. The same applies to the design of a library. It is very informative to understand each individual look on a library.

My study center could be an example of how we think about a library at the moment. A lot of people talk about the future of the library as a study center where the study areas are more important than the books. Only this is not the future but the current time. How will the library, or more precisely the study center of today look like?

Planning

The graduation project started in Februari 2012.

I will be working on the following points for the P1:

- Location analyses (4 different locations)
- Choice of location
- Program analyses
- References visits (the Netherlands and Vienna)
- Reference analyses
- Concept
- Urban context
- Understanding the size of the program
- Position paper

I will be working on the following points for the P2:

- Adjust position paper
- Finishing urban concept
- Concept development
- First design layout building
- Transition from public to private
- Analysing various study places
- Analyses Constructions
- Working on the construction, entrances, elevation points
- First design facade

The P2 presentation will be on June 28th.

I will be working on the following points for the P3:

- Adjust final details of the concept
- Layout building
- Materialization
- Adjust entrances, study places, elevation points, construction
- Routing through the building
- Analyses Facades and designing facades
- Building physics concept development
- Sustainability

I will be working on the following points for the P4:

- Further work on the layout of the entire building
- Finishing the façade
- Finishing building physics
- Making details
- Adjust remaining points

P4 presentation (date unknown)

For the P5 all points discussed at the P4 will be improved and further developed.