

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: Architecture track

Personal information	
Name	Junran Zhao
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Studio		
Name / Theme	Complex Projects Design Studio / Body & Building Berlin	
Main mentor	Benjamin Groothuijse	Architecture
Second mentor	Georgios Karvelas	Building Technology
Third mentor	Maruli Heijman	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The Complex Projects Studio aligns with my understanding of public architecture and complex architecture. Just as Venturi posited in "Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture," architecture possesses deficiency, and outstanding architectural works are inevitably contradictory and complex. The complexity and contradiction in architecture are particularly evident in public buildings and building complex. When they serve the city, they inevitably encounter challenging and complex social issues. At these times, they play a role in generating social value and addressing societal problems.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	DE-AGING EDEN: ELDERLY SCHOOL
Goal	
Location:	Fennpfuhl, Lichtenberg, Berlin
The posed problem,	Berlin is facing an aging population, and there will be more and more elderly in the future. In Germany, approximately 5.9 million people aged 65 or older live alone, accounting for one-third (34%) of the population in this age group. Loneliness is considered one of the culprits of elderly depression.
research questions and	Can intergenerational-knowledge-sharing space help the elderly achieve self-actualization?
design assignment in which these result.	Design an elderly school in Fennpfuhl Park to serve Berlin's elderly people and the surrounding community. It should incorporate age-appropriate design, participatory design, and multi-sensory design, aiming to help the elderly achieve a sense of self-actualization

through intergenerational communication.

Process

Method description

Program

The functional ratios and spatial structures of existing buildings of school can be obtained by using the method of case studies. Furthermore, understanding spatial arrangements can be deduced from observing crowd behavior. Field investigations and interviews with outstanding real-life elderly care projects, enabling face-to-face communication with the elderly and service people, contribute to on-site understanding of the interests, lifestyle patterns, and needs of the elderly.

Client

Browsing healthcare-related websites and literature, using data-driven approaches to understand the age distribution, issues, and future trends of aging in Berlin, as well as the health conditions and disease distribution proportions among the elderly.

Site

An in-depth field investigation was carried out, combining sensory awareness with multidimensional scientific recording to comprehend the actual state of the site's spatial characteristics. Detailed data collection involved studying the activities of the people on the site, the distribution of different types of spaces, the functioning of social activities, and other potential on-site design resources.

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)?

The project of the elderly school focuses on the mental health of the elderly, and its operation also contributes to the physical and social health of the elderly. The theme of our group revolves around reflecting the presentation of "health" in Berlin through different architectural types. This project, starting from the perspective of the elderly and addressing local issues in Berlin's residential areas, responds to the architectural theme. Simultaneously, it delves into the various possibilities of the interaction between human bodies and activities with architectural spaces. I believe this aligns with the theme "Bodies & Buildings - Berlin" that the complex projects studio aims for this semester. Of course, serving as the foundation for all design and research, this graduation project ultimately takes a mono-building design approach, marking the final and most crucial training in the master's stage for the field of architecture.

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

The original intention of this project is to assist and improve the lives of the elderly in Berlin. With a specific regional focus and a strong sense of locality, it holds valuable insights into guiding social issues within the designated area and throughout Berlin as a whole. As an architectural project integrating age-appropriate design, participatory design, and multi-sensory design, it extends the traditional boundaries of architectural responsibility, contributing ontological value to the discipline of architecture.