

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	Jack Pilkington
Student number	4846176

Studio		
Name / Theme	Complex Projects - Bodies and Building Milan	
Main mentor	Olindo Caso	Architecture and Design
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Yağiz Söylev	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The range of diverse typologies, an opportunity to learn about a broad range of building types – the complexity and scale of the building types.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Intermission – Between City and Stage.
Goal	
Location:	Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Italy
The posed problem,	Opera Houses often function as isolated cultural monuments, failing to engage with their urban context thereby diminishing the civic role of Opera and the performance arts.
Research question and Sub-questions	<p>How can a performance centre participate as an extension of the public realm enriching its civic role?</p> <p>Sub Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do people currently behave around cultural buildings, and what spatial conditions naturally support gathering, lingering, and public interaction? • How can architectural thresholds, such as entrances, edges, and transitional zones, contribute to informal public use and civic

	<p>engagement around performance centres?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways can the relationship between performance centres and their urban context be reconfigured to support the appropriation of the buildings threshold and continuous public interaction beyond scheduled events?
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Design a performance centre which engages its urban context by providing accessible thresholds in the envelope, encouraging public use beyond scheduled performances and contributing to the urban realm, thereby elevating the presence of the arts and processes within the building.</p>
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>This project uses a qualitative, design-led methodology that integrates theoretical research, contextual analysis, and observation. Techniques include site mapping, photographic documentation, observation of how people interact with architectural thresholds and public edges. These insights will inform an iterative design exploration through the studio lenses of site, program, and client. The approach is supported by literature on civic architecture and public space, with the aim of developing spatial strategies that reposition the performance centre as an active extension of the public realm.</p>	

Literature and general practical references

The research draws on theories of civic architecture, spatial engagement, and urban memory, referencing Patrick Lynch's concept of civic ground and rhythmic spatiality, Herman Hertzberger's idea of in-between space and form as instrument, Richard Sennett's notion of the public realm as a space for exposure and ambiguity, and Aldo Rossi's theory of urban artifacts and collective memory. These frameworks inform an approach that positions architecture as an active civic interface, capable of fostering public presence through thresholds, appropriation, and spatial openness.

The project will reference precedent studies of opera houses and performance centres to understand how these buildings engage with the public realm, while also drawing on spatial strategies from other architectural typologies where concepts like appropriation, exposure, and civic participation are relevant.

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 graduation project explores how performance architecture can act as a civic interface, aligning closely with the studio topic's focus on Bodies & Buildings, which examines the relationship between spatial form, human experience, and the public realm. The project reflects the master programmes emphasis on contextual, research-driven design that engages with spatial, social, and cultural dimensions of architecture.

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

This project addresses the growing disconnect between cultural institutions and everyday urban life by reimagining performance architecture as a civic interface rather than a closed monument. Socially, it responds to the need for more inclusive, accessible, and participatory public spaces. It contributes to architectural discourse on spatial appropriation, typological evolution, and the role of architecture as a means to address the changing relationship between functions, events, arts and people.