

Reflection P4 and P5

Aspect 1

the relationship between research and design

Complex Projects graduation studio was focusing on thorough research before and during the design phase. In ideal situation research should lead to ultimate design. But it was not so straight forward and my design had to be changed and updated all along the process. Design also helps to reveal unanticipated topics for research so both things went parallel. End project reflects in various stages the research but many things have changed priority during design process.

Aspect 2

the relationship between the theme of the studio and the subject/case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object)

The theme of the Complex Projects, Chicago studio was to develop an alternative proposal for Lakeside development in South Chicago. But the real problem was how to develop an empty territory in the situation of declining and unemployed community all around. Studio was quite open for interpretations how to address this issue. It was demanded to deeply respect the local character of the South Chicago and at the same time look towards the global processes that influence development in American cities. After group research I decided to focus on existing neighborhood. I studied local conditions in South Chicago and urban regeneration case projects in USA. Based on this I developed program for community based vocational school that will address the most crucial points from research. The school proposal is based on most generic American conditions - suburban blocks and can be duplicated in different locations and cities.

Aspect 3

the relationship between the methodical line of approach of the studio and the method chosen by the student in this framework

Studio was structured into common research phase, group masterplan and strategy development, individual project proposal and building design. First studio carried on research about Illinois, Chicago and South Chicago, which was the basis for field trip to Chicago. During field trip we visited location and did interviews with local activists. It changed the way I see South Chicago and helped me to decide to focus on existing neighborhood. The method I chose to work was urban condition studies and case studies from literature as well as visits of vocational schools in the Netherlands. During research process I also developed design proposals based on my topic - community vocational school. My design was constantly evolving and developing through the sketches, program analyzes, modeling and collages.

Aspect 4

the relationship between the project and the wider social context

My graduation project proposal idea of vocational school came from research finding about the most crucial problems of the neighborhood. It is high-unemployment, bad image, food desert, lack of after school activities, high vacancy. One of the source of these problems is extreme racial and social segregation that exists in urban USA. I can't solve segregation but with my project I wanted in a simple and low-budget way to address some of these issues and provide a starting point for wider urban regeneration. The way it would work in real life is impossible to predict but this framework I kept all the way till final design.

Ansis Šinke