

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	Julia Wintersteller
Student number	6082068

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture	
Main mentor	Eireen Schreurs	Design
Second mentor	Sam Stalker	Research
Third mentor	Wido J. Quist	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The decision to choose Urban Architecture for my graduation studio stemmed from the overlap between its approach and design philosophy, and my own architectural values. I resonated deeply with the thorough analysis of the environment and the approach to designing with the urban context in mind. I also appreciated that the project had a clearly defined site, yet the students are free to explore their own interests and apply them to the context of the site.</p> <p>I was also drawn to the specific site of Hoboken and the fragmentation that exists between the industrial heritage of the Blikfabriek, the artists who have appropriated the space, the multicultural residential area and the surrounding polder landscape. This invites an exciting design project that is multi-faceted and addresses many challenges simultaneously.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Werkplaats: The Art of Adaptive Reuse
Goal	
Location:	Lageweg, Antwerp, Belgium

<p>The posed problem,</p>	<p>Hoboken can be described as a '<i>city in the making</i>', a patchwork district in the south of Antwerp with industry, social and middle-class housing and a nature reserve. The Blikfabriek was once an active industrial centre, but today its 30,000 square metres of warehouses are in a state of constant decay, as owners and developers engage in an ongoing debate about its future development. Meanwhile, a community of artists has appropriated the space, partly transforming it into a complex system of artists' studios, workshops and an oasis of creativity and production. While this may be seen as a positive temporary solution, it adds to the existing fragmentation of the neighbourhood as it has become an enclave, disconnected and isolated from the existing Hoboken community.</p> <p>Therefore, two challenges are present. Socially, there is a disconnect between the diverse range of actors in the area, as well as a general lack of social development and sense of community in the area. And architecturally, a site that contains many historic warehouse structures that are currently unused and at risk of complete deterioration.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>The two challenges invite two streams of research.</p> <p>Social: Given Antwerp's artistic past and the existing creative community at the Blikfabriek, how can the integration of cultural and educational spaces foster a sense of community and a strong local identity in neglected neighbourhoods?</p> <p>Architectural: How can a historic structure with the iconic typology of a production warehouse, currently in a decaying state, be restored and transformed into a contemporary, social catalyst for the community.</p>

design assignment in which these result.

My assignment is to design a building that combines both the social and architectural aspects of my research.

On a larger scale, the masterplan incorporates an approach of preserving much of the historic industrial site, while simultaneously introducing the human scale and creating intimate spaces, encouraging spontaneous interaction between neighbours and visitors.

On a building scale, I will restore and transform two of the industrial warehouses into an art academy, with public functions such as a multi-purpose hall and a theatre that can be used freely by the entire community. This is manifested through the creation of the **Werkplaats**.

The word 'werkplaats' highlights that the project is, on the one hand, an art school and a place dedicated to studying, creating and working (with functions such as studio spaces, classrooms, and an exhibition hall). And on the other hand, it is a 'plaats', a place to meet and gather, acting as a catalyst and fostering a greater sense of community in the area.

In the process, I will restore and repurpose two of the warehouses, dealing with their current condition, and transforming them to fulfil the requirements of an innovative space for creating, educating and working in the 21st century.

Process

Method description

Multiple methods will be used to conduct research.

Firstly, research will be carried out to investigate the role that arts and culture play in urban development, through exploring literature and understanding the theoretical discourse.

Additionally, research will primarily be conducted through an analysis of case studies, focusing on three buildings that were restored and repurposed into cultural buildings. Each building features aspects that are relevant to the Blikfabriek and will provide valuable insights for my research. From the analysis of these buildings, I will create a *Toolkit for Reuse*, a guide that will aid me in my design and transformation of the warehouses.

Finally, to accurately and correctly restore and transform the existing warehouses, I will carry out a thorough analysis of the structure and the conditions of the buildings.

Literature and general practical references

Beel, Stéphane, Fernando Márquez Cecilia, and Richard C. Levene. Stéphane Beel, 1992-2005. Madrid: El Croquis, 2005.

Florida, Richard. *The Rise of the Creative Class : And How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*. New York, N.Y.: Basic Books, 2004.

Haar, Sharon, and National Endowment for the Arts. *Schools for Cities : Urban Strategies*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2002.

Mattern, S.C. (2007) *The new Downtown Library: Designing with communities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Zukin, Sharon. *Naked City : The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

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)?

My graduation project explores how the repurposing of a historic building into a cultural centre can contribute to urban redevelopment, by fostering community engagement and preserving cultural identity. This directly relates to the studio topic Urban Architecture, as it focuses on revitalizing a neglected urban site and

integrating it into the surrounding neighbourhood. The project also ties into my track Architecture, as it addresses key architectural challenges like successful design preservation, social impact and the reuse of existing structures.

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

The relevance of my graduation project lies in the fact that it addresses many global challenges simultaneously. It explores how fragmented urban areas can be transformed, and it also contributes to the discourse on balancing architectural heritage with innovative design to meet contemporary needs. It offers a framework for analysing reuse strategies and highlights the importance of reusing historic buildings as a sustainable strategy to address environmental challenges.