

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	Daan Franken
Student number	5062225

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities	
Main mentor	Jurjen Zeinstra	Architecture mentor
Second mentor	Sereh Mandias	Research mentor
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The studio maintains a holistic approach towards designing a building within an urban landscape. I felt that this approach matches my fascination with prioritizing the human experience and finding a balance between the urban scale and the human scale. I am especially interested in the later stages of the process, where the design is optimized on a human scale mainly through the medium of iterative models.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Archiving Architecture Developing an Archive
Goal	
Location:	deSingel, Antwerp, Belgium
The posed problem,	Currently, the VAI is located in two different venues on opposite sides of the city of Antwerp. This highly impacts the employee's efficiency in a negative way. Furthermore, the current depot venue is not catered to the specific needs of an architectural collection and far too small for its potential expansion. This means that the collection cannot be stored to the right conditions which can result in damage or the loss of precious materials. Therefore, the VAI needs to be either relocated or extended in one centralized venue.

research questions and	How can we repurpose and extend deSingel to house the expanding collection of the VAI in combination with additional functions, whilst reckoning with the existing functions of deSingel – and by extension the culture park – and deal with the remote location of the building in the urban fabric.
design assignment in which these result.	Find a way to incorporate the brief of the VAI into the existing building of deSingel. Correlate with the pre-existing notions of Stynen and Beel concerning circulation, logistics, zoning and urban settlement and, when choosing to extend, try to solve potential discrepancies between the several building phases of deSingel. When choosing to extend, the final product should respect the existing situation, amplify the identity of the VAI to a wider public audience and improve the internal efficiency of the VAI.

Process

Method description

The research process started with communal research seminars analyzing archive precedents and discerning what constitutes an architectural archive. From this general analysis, the readings and discussions, personal observations were construed and initial ideas and focusses were formed. The site visit illustrated the specific brief and problems of the site. Conversations with employees of the VAI showed the priorities of the brief and thus the assignment was clarified further.

After the visit the initial design process started with an isolated interior design assignment for the P1 illustrating individual design approaches. Afterwards, a more detailed analysis of deSingel was conducted to understand the building and its motivations within a historical context. This, together with the prior general research of architectural archives as a concept formed the framework and foundation for the individual design concepts.

In the next design stage leading up to the P2, many iterations of floorplans, sections and massing models to different scales are produced. This, in combination with precedent and historical research forms the methodological framework that reflects the design choices.

Literature and general practical references

Theoretical references:

Boesch, M., Lupini, L., & Machado. (2017). *Yellowred on Reused Architecture*.

Mertins, D. (2011). *Modernity Unbound: Other histories of Architectural modernity*.

<https://www.amazon.com/Modernity-Unbound-Histories-Architectural-Architecture/dp/1902902890>

SPACE-[Interview] Hear From the CCA: The Museum is Not Enough. (n.d.).

https://vmSPACE.com/eng/report/report_view.html?base_seq=NjE5

Van Hee, M. (2019). Marie-José van Hee architecten. More Home, More Garden. Copyright Slow Publishing.

Yaneva, A. (2020). Crafting history. In *Cornell University Press eBooks*.

<https://doi.org/10.7591/cornell/9781501751820.001.0001>

Precedent references:

Architecture, C. C. F. (n.d.). *A Primer: In absence of. . .* Canadian Centre for Architecture. <https://www.cca.qc.ca/en/articles/71365/a-primer-in-absence-of>

Bentham Crouwel - RAILWAY DISTRICT DELFT. (n.d.). Bentham Crouwel.

<https://www.benthamcrouwel.com/projects/railway-district-delft>

Bryant-Mole, B. (2021, March 3). *AD Classics: The Barbican Estate / Chamberlin, Powell and Bon Architects*. ArchDaily. <https://www.archdaily.com/790453/ad-classics-barbican-estate-london-chamberlin-powell-bon>

Context references:

Beel, S. (1999). *Stéphane Beel architect*.

Neutelings, W. J. (1991). *Willem Jan Neutelings, architect*.

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 studio Interiors Buildings Cities is a graduation studio within the master track of architecture of the AUBS master programme. The graduation topic is provided by the studio, which is to design an architectural archive.

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

Architecturally designing is never just about designing a standalone building. Especially within an urban context, one has to consider the social implications of a building. Specifically to this project, one of the goals of the VAI is to become more visible to the public, despite being currently housed on the edge of the city. Furthermore, the studio emphasizes the importance of defining what constitutes an architectural archive and how it stands apart from any other archive or an architectural *collection*. The attempt to define this and applying this definition to an architectural design, contributes to the overall narrative of archival architecture.

