

# 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](mailto: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	Yanal Haj Khalaf Allah	
Student number	5295114	
Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3AP100 Public Building Graduation Studio 2024-25 Public Condenser   Copenhagen	
Main mentor	Paul Kuitenbrouwer	Project Design
Second mentor	Elina Karanastasi	Technical Building Design
	Stefano Corbo	Theory & Delineation
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>What makes architecture different from both art and science is the fact that architecture is both experienced and manifested on a daily basis. The day might pass away for the average human without noticing that another supernova took place in our galaxy or the true hidden meaning of Gerhard Richter’s work. However, how buildings, streets, and cities are designed influences every creature and form of life on earth. While architecture is often thought to be a combination of art and science, architecture is, among many academics, considered to be not necessarily a domain itself, but a field of intersections of domains. This last statement is a finding that we have been realizing and understanding more in the last decades in the field of architecture: how well-connected, multifaceted, and holistic this field is. The field’s focus has been massively shifting towards the human scale, health, and nature, with all forms of life in it. This shift in approach is perhaps what defines contemporary architecture.</p> <p>The Public Building studio embeds this multiplicity and holistic approach at its core. Designing a hybrid public condenser means designing a multifunctional space that welcomes different kinds of people together, symbolically defining contemporary architecture and physically bridging gaps in society in an era where xenophobia, polarization, and social tensions are increasingly dominant.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	<b>Ny Mjødhall</b> From Fear to Feast: Countering Xenophobia Through a Food-Centered Public Condenser
Goal	
Location:	Nordvest Bispebjerg Bakke, Copenhagen, Denmark
The posed problem,	<p>Amid the global rise of right-wing political parties, concerns about xenophobia and exclusionary policies are growing. Denmark, known for its strict migration policies, has implemented many measures that echoed broader societal fears and biases, such as the controversial "ghetto plan," which exclusively targets non-Western immigrant communities. These policies exacerbate social divides and fuel discrimination, particularly against 'visible' minorities, thereby hindering impactful and meaningful efforts for true social integration.</p> <p>In this respect, Architecture can play a critical role in addressing these challenges by creating inclusive spaces that foster connection and mutual understanding. Public buildings, through their design and programming, can encourage interaction, celebrate cultural diversity, and dismantle prejudices. Food, as a universal medium of exchange and expression, has the potential to bridge divides and cultivate social cohesion in shared spaces.</p> <p>In Bispebjerg, a culturally diverse and marginalized neighborhood in Copenhagen, these issues converge, making it a critical site for addressing these issues. Ultimately, this project explores how a food-centered public condenser can address xenophobia by fostering inclusivity and interaction in a diverse urban setting.</p>
research questions and	<b>Main Research Question</b>  How can food-centered architectural strategies reduce xenophobia in diverse and problematic neighborhoods?  <b>Sub-questions</b>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- How can xenophobia be described within academic discourse?</li> <li>2- What precedents show how food-centered design fosters inclusivity in public spaces?</li> <li>3- What are the key spatial and architectural features that facilitate social interactions and cultural exchange (around food) in public spaces?</li> <li>4- How can public spaces be designed to accommodate diverse food cultures without alienating any group?</li> </ol>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The design assignment for this project is to create a food-centered Public Condenser in Bispebjerg, Copenhagen, aimed at addressing xenophobia and fostering social cohesion in a diverse and marginalized neighborhood. Having a food-centered approach, the project incorporates different food-centered functions like community kitchens, food workshops, and urban farming, among other functions. The design will create inviting hybrid spaces that promote cultural exchange and inclusivity. It will also explore how architecture can use food as a universal language to bridge social divides, foster integration, and enhance the neighborhood's sense of community and belonging. Ultimately, the project contributes to the broader discussion on inclusivity while specifically enhancing the socioeconomic status of Bispebjerg focussing on its local context.</p>
<b>Process</b>	
<b>Method description</b>	
<p>The research includes a blend of quantitative and qualitative methods of research to gain a well-rounded understanding of the site and its socio-economic profile. On the quantitative side, traditional site analysis examines aspects such as infrastructure, greenery, water and the urban morphology of the site, while socio-demographic studies provide a statistical perspective on the population, age and origin. Complementing this, the qualitative approach delves into the site's heritage and social profile through literature reviews and on-site interviews, capturing the lived experiences of its users. Together, these approaches should create a detailed and nuanced picture of the context.</p>	

In addition, case studies that share a similar design approach have been collected and analyzed to shape and refine the chosen architectural strategy. The chosen case studies include (among others):

- **The Forks Market Food Hall, Winnipeg:** Once a historic rail yard, now a modern food hall that blends industrial heritage with flexible, communal spaces.  
<https://www.archdaily.com/790796/the-forks-market-food-hall-number-ten-architectural-group>
- **Time Out Market, Lisbon:** A vibrant dining destination combining local food culture with a dynamic social atmosphere.  
[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction\\_Review-g189158-d3214902-Reviews-Time\\_Out\\_Market\\_Lisboa-Lisbon\\_Lisbon\\_District\\_Central\\_Portugal.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g189158-d3214902-Reviews-Time_Out_Market_Lisboa-Lisbon_Lisbon_District_Central_Portugal.html)
- **La Cocina Municipal Marketplace, San Francisco:** A space supporting immigrant and women entrepreneurs through its kitchen incubator program.  
<https://www.lacocinasf.org/>
- **Abattoir Foodmet, Brussels:** A multifunctional market featuring public spaces, logistics, and Europe's largest rooftop urban farm.  
<https://orgpermod.com/architecture/projects/abattoir-foodmet>
- **PULO Market:** A community-centric market designed to encourage interaction through diverse functions.  
<https://www.archdaily.com/997299/pulo-market-a9a-architects>
- **Kyiv Food Market:** A historical arsenal repurposed into a food market, balancing modern design with architectural preservation.  
<https://kyivfoodmarket.com/>
- **Archetype Meadhall:** Inspired by traditional English communal halls, emphasizing shared meals as a foundation for social cohesion.

Another component of the qualitative research includes a theoretical literature review, focusing on the broader psychological and social role of public spaces in shaping socio-economic outcomes and addressing xenophobia as a core theme for the project. These literature reviews provide direction for the design, examining how architecture can promote inclusivity and reduce biases in multicultural settings.

The products of this iterative research-by-design process—some of which include diagrams (such as psychological maps and thematic diagrams), the matrix of case studies, and other theoretical findings—have repeatedly informed the development of the design process. Ultimately, by combining these perspectives, the study aims to create a design that is both deeply rooted in its context and impactful in addressing the mentioned social challenges.

## Literature and general practical references

This is a list of used literature that provides a comprehensive foundation for researching how xenophobia can be addressed through architectural design. Coleman et al. (2007) offers practical guidance on designing inclusive and user-centered architectural elements. This is crucial for creating environments that accommodate diverse needs for diverse people. Hervik (2015) provides a theoretical and etymological understanding of xenophobia and nativism, highlighting the societal factors and condition that help exclusion and bias arise. Ibrahim et al. (2019) shows the potential of community kitchens in fostering social cohesion and food security. Having the Syrian refugees in Lebanon as a case study, it highlights the effectiveness of food-centered initiatives in promoting inclusivity in tense and hostile environments. Similarly, Mainland and Batey (2018) delve into the cultural and political significance of commensality, illustrating how shared meals can strengthen social bonds, both research form anchor points for my project design. In Nielsen et al. (2016) the urban fabric and condition are analyzed, offering insights about the urban diversity management in Copenhagen. A study that helps understanding the socio-economic profile of Bispebjerg and other similar neighborhoods of multicultural setting. Addressing the same challenges and providing some solutions Thompson (2009) reviews inclusive urban design strategies, providing actionable ideas for creating equitable and inclusive environments at multiple scales. Oldenburg (2001) emphasizes the importance of "third places" as informal gathering spaces that foster interaction and community building, aligning with the goal of reducing xenophobia through public space design, this study provide a guide for kind and form that the third place, my public condenser should be. Finally, Tulumello (2015) examines how public spaces can become "fearscapes" shaped by social anxieties, Highlighting the need to address perceptions of fear and exclusion in urban design. Together, all these sources form a theoretical and practical basis for developing a food-centered Public Condenser that fosters inclusivity and mitigates xenophobia in Nordvest Bispebjerg Bakke.

Coleman, R., Clarkson, J., Dong, H., & Cassim, J. (2007). *Design for Inclusivity: A Practical Guide to Accessible, Innovative and User-Centred Design*.

<http://publications.eng.cam.ac.uk/324750/>

Hervik, Peter (2015). „Xenophobia and nativism“. In: *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* 2, pp. 796–801.

Ibrahim, N., Honein-AbouHaidar, G., & Jomaa, L. (2019). Perceived impact of community kitchens on the food security of Syrian refugees and kitchen workers in Lebanon: Qualitative evidence in a displacement context. *PLoS ONE*, 14(1), e0210814. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0210814>

Mainland, I., & Batey, C. (2018). The nature of the feast: commensality and the politics of consumption in Viking Age and Early Medieval Northern Europe. *World Archaeology*, 50(5), 781–803. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2019.1578260>

Nielsen, R. S., Beckman, A. W., Blach, V. E. M., & Andersen, H. T. (2016). *DIVERCITIES: Dealing with Urban Diversity: The case of Copenhagen*. Aalborg University's Research Portal. <https://vbn.aau.dk/en/publications/divercities-dealing-with-urban-diversity-the-case-of-copenhagen>

Oldenburg, R. (2001). *Celebrating the third place: inspiring stories about the "great good places" at the heart of our communities*. <https://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA54752127>

Thompson, C. (2009). The inclusive city: design solutions for buildings, neighborhoods, and urban spaces, edited by Susan Goltsman and Daniel Lacofano. *Landscape Architecture*, 99(7), 108.

<https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=6590111>

Tulumello, S. (2015). From "Spaces of Fear" to "Fearscape". *Space And Culture*, 18(3), 257–272. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1206331215579716>

## 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 the potential architecture has for addressing xenophobia in culturally diverse neighborhoods, specifically through food-centered public spaces. The Public Building studio conducts a multifaceted design approach, emphasizing the design of hybrid spaces that address societal challenges through inclusive and innovative architectural solutions. This approach aligns with the goal of my design: creating a hybrid space for societal impact on a globally increasing issue. As part of the Architecture track, my project examines how public buildings can respond to social issues through spatial design, balancing aesthetic and functional considerations with social impact.

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

In an era when we are more connected than ever due to the internet, migration, and globalization, societal interactions have become increasingly complex and multifaceted. This more developing and increasing connection did (surprisingly) not always result in better mutual understanding as one might expect. Exclusionary and xenophobic thoughts and policies are becoming more popular, and the fear is that assessments based on fear will become more common and normalized. Addressing the issue of xenophobia through architecture presents both a challenge and an opportunity to realize tangible and experienced change. Rather than merely reading or hearing about the normalcy of the foreign and the other, architecture holds the potential to tangibly proof or at least interact with the normalcy of the other and otherness as a broader concept.