

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	Zhang Shuyu
Student number	6007759

Studio		
Name / Theme	Method of Analysis and Imagination-A Matter of Scale	
Main mentor	Willemijn Wilms Floet	Architecture Studio Coordinator
Second mentor	Niels Tilanus	Building Technology
Third mentor	Klaske Havik	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	This year, the Methods studio focuses on the city of Tallinn, a beautiful city on the Baltic Sea that has gone through several political and industrial phases that have left their traces. Furthermore, the analysis based studio gives me freedom to explore my own position and architectural design method, enabling me to study the things I really interested in. The studio emphasizing the combination of thesis and practice, which give me a solid foundation for my further architectural practice.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Reimagined Kopli Kaubajaam
Goal	
Location:	Tallinn
The posed problem,	The 1.5-kilometer abandoned railway between Kalamaja and Pelgulinn is a historically significant yet underutilized space, creating a physical and social barrier between the neighborhoods. Its industrial heritage, though valuable, remains neglected, and the surrounding warehouses hinder urban connectivity and renewal. Despite the success of Telliskivi Creative City nearby, the area lacks multifunctional public spaces and

	<p>opportunities for cultural or economic development. Revitalizing the railway corridor could reconnect the neighborhoods, preserve its historical identity, and transform it into an inclusive, vibrant public space fostering community interaction and growth.</p>
research questions and	<p>How to repurpose and reconfigure a forgotten warehouse ensemble next to an abandoned railway into a vibrant urban community center activating the green urban development of a new neighbourhood, connecting Kalamaja and Pelgulin?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>The chosen site is an abandoned warehouse complex in the southeastern corner of Kopli Kaubajaam, valued for its historical and cultural significance and its enduring architectural structure. Rather than demolishing the warehouse and building a new, the project emphasizes sustainable development by preserving and adapting the existing structures. This approach not only supports community and environmental sustainability but also provides a meaningful example of how to harmonize the old and the new, the different scale between industrial spaces and residential spaces, enriching the process of placemaking in Tallinn. The community centre will be composed of different programs for: sports, food, and care.</p> <p>This design project explores extends beyond experimentation, offering a scalable model that could be applied to other parts of the Kopli Kaubajaam area by integrating with the existing urban fabric and encouraging greater community participation.</p>

Process

Method description

The methodology consists of two main components: research and design experimentation.

First, the project begins with literature research and analysis. This includes studying urban voids (Terrain Vague), understanding their definitions, roles within the city, and appropriate design strategies to address these unique spaces. The design of urban voids remains flexible, allowing for continuous adaptation alongside urban development, emphasizing temporality. Urban voids are not blank slates; they carry memories of the past, and these cultural contexts and memories should be preserved. A key principle is harmoniously integrating new order with the existing order.

The focus then shifts to understanding the significance of the existing structures on the site and their underlying relationships and organizational patterns. By studying them, the aim is to uncover their spatial logic and construction principles, which inform a design strategy that respects and builds upon the existing order. The research involves analyzing original technical drawings (provided by the Tallinn Urban Planning Department), conducting on-site investigations, and examining satellite images. This analysis identifies which elements to preserve, how to reinforce and adapt them, and where new interventions can be harmoniously integrated.

The next step focuses on specific architectural interventions, aligning with the concept that urban voids embody both flexibility and contextual sensitivity. A universal architectural model is proposed, capable of accommodating diverse functions and adapting to changes over time. To explore this approach, various configurations are researched and experimented with, integrating them into the existing context. Using the established framework, one of the buildings on the site is selected for a detailed design of a daycare center. This experiment delves into the actual spatial layout and user needs. By testing different models, their potential adaptability to other locations is evaluated, ensuring the design's scalability and relevance in various contexts.

Literature and general practical references

Avidar, A., Havik, K., & Wigger, B. (2007). *Flows and Counter-Flows*. http://repository.tudelft.nl/assets/uuid:9f8b0a2c-f01c-4dcd-b3e9-60d1d9ef3377/OASE_73_001.pdf

Coleman, N. (2014). *Lefebvre for Architects*. In Routledge eBooks. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315736549>

Crafting Tallinn | TU Delft Repository. (n.d.). <https://resolver.tudelft.nl/uuid:19f2d90a-edce-4834-a54f-cff06f864567>

Croxford, B., Domenech, T., Hausleitner, B., Hill, A. V., Meyer, H., Orban, A., Sanz, V. M., Vanin, F., & Warden, J. (2020). *FOUNDRIES OF THE FUTURE: A Guide for 21st Century Cities of Making*. <https://doi.org/10.47982/bookrxiv.9>

Edensor, T. (2005). *Industrial Ruins*. In Bloomsbury Publishing Plc eBooks. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9781474214940>

Jacobs, J. (1961). *The death and life of great American cities*. Random House.

Landry, C. (2012). *The creative city*. In Routledge eBooks. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781849772945>

Martínez, F. (2017). *This Place Has Potential': Trash, Culture, and Urban Regeneration in Tallinn, Estonia*, 42(3), 4–22. <https://journal.fi/suomenantropologi/article/download/60577/30841>

Pastak, I., Kindsiko, E., Tammaru, T., Kleinhans, R., & Van Ham, M. (2019).

Commercial Gentrification in Post-Industrial Neighbourhoods: A Dynamic View From an Entrepreneur's Perspective. Tijdschrift Voor Economische En Sociale Geografie, 110(5), 588–604. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tesg.12377>

T(h)respassing | TU Delft Repository. (n.d.). <https://resolver.tudelft.nl/uuid:96fc0a89-e543-4415-a7ba-91779a7aa312>

Pestova, A. A. (2017). Uzupis (Vilnius) and Kalamaja (Tallinn): "*Cultural quarters*" and the post-Soviet urban space transformation in Baltic states. <https://dspace.cuni.cz/handle/20.500.11956/93093>

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 is centered on exploring how to address urban voids—large, blank spaces that often seem out of scale with the surrounding city. These voids raise questions about what interventions or solutions can help integrate them into the urban fabric. The project involves studying different scales, such as the relationship between public and private spaces, urban design and architecture, the contrast between past and present, and the interaction between commercial and community development.

The studio's theme, "A Matter of Scale," examines these layered issues through various perspectives. The lectures gradually build a knowledge framework around the concept of scale, including contextual and disciplinary analysis, as well as workshops on program development and design interventions, which help me reflect on the topics and the questions.

During my MSc1 studies, my design and thesis research focused on how public spaces influence urban life, residents, and the surrounding architecture. I became particularly interested in how public spaces manage pedestrian flows and stakeholder interactions. This graduation project offers me the opportunity to apply the knowledge I have acquired and put it into practice.

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

As a Chinese, I am concentrating the issues of Chinese city development. The quality of public spaces has long been neglected. One of the major challenges faced by many cities in China today is how to transition from an incremental development model to a focus on the revitalization of existing structures. My graduation project is directly related to this issue—how to create new public spaces within highly gentrified areas using existing structures.

During my master's studies, including my graduation project, I have sought to learn from exemplary public space cases and successful urban developments, gaining insights into methodologies that can be applied to my future architectural practice. The goal is to address the conflict between economic development and public space, particularly in the context of gentrification and high-density urban growth that many cities are currently experiencing.