

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

<b>Personal information</b>	
Name	Bart Dessens
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<b>Studio</b>	
Name / Theme	Heritage & Architecture, Maastricht Belvédère
Teachers / tutors	Lidy Meijers Bas Gremmen
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>I chose the studio Heritage &amp; Architecture for several reasons. Firstly because transforming existing cities and buildings, our cultural heritage, into something new is a contemporary theme in the architectural discourse. It tries to find a balance between the old and the new and are in my opinion the new challenges of the future. Moreover, the studio deals with all the different levels of scales within the different disciplines: urban, architecture and building technology. It's an interdisciplinary work environment which interests me. Another appealing element in this field of architecture is the involvement of cultural value. Buildings often contain a specific character, created by time. It is more than just the form, space, materials, function, site and structure. It are these element together with the story, the cultural value, which attracts to me and motivated my choice for the studio and its project Maastricht Belvédère. The history of Maastricht and the industrial area of the project location depicts a fascinating context. It is, therefore, that I have chosen De Timmerfabriek for my design assignment. De Timmerfabriek is situated at an interesting historic and urban location and reveals a remarkable appearance. There is a story and character enclosed in the building and I want to make these tangible and intangible aspects vivid again in a new design.</p>

<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	De Timmerfabriek, het Podium van Maastricht.
<b>Goal</b>	
Location:	De Timmerfabriek is located at the Boschstraat, situated in the Belvédère area north of the old city center of Maastricht.

The posed problem,

To adapt to future developments and stay relevant, a city and its structures must change and develop. Belvédère is an urban undeveloped area in Maastricht which provide possibilities to grow and promote the city. The municipality has already started with these redevelopments and tries to transform the area around the Bassin into an active urban area. New programs like cinema and restaurants have already been established and future plans for student housing, retail and offices must further stimulate this area. De Timmerfabriek is an essential element in this area redevelopment as it is interlocked within this, forming the link between the old inner city and the new recreational northern Frontenpark. De Timmerfabriek must therefore be transformed in an active urban place in order to further stimulate this area. Currently the building is used by De Muziekgieterij, founded in 2013 as temporarily popstage. De Muziekgieterij is a small to medium provisionally developed popstage (± 500 people) but at the same time one of the few popstages in the area of South-Limburg. The lack of a medium or big stages in the province result in high demands which exceeds the supplies of the building. New developments are therefore necessary to provide a viable future for the building. Furthermore, the building now fails to connect to its surroundings. The public space around the building is abounded and can be seen as a transit space, an area where the provisional and transitory dictate and where people don't have a relationships with other people or the place. This creates a non-place.

It can be stated that the building and this area is now not able to activate this area into a livable urban area and that the building cannot accommodate the

	public needs as a popstage. These problems needs to be solved to create an urban hotspot.
research questions and	How can De Timmerfabriek be transformed into a big popstage which activate and connect the public space of the area around it, while preserving the historic essential characteristics of the site and building?
design assignment in which these result	The design assignment will focus on transforming De Timmerfabriek into the Podium of Maastricht. A big popstage suited for more than 1400 people, focusing on an international scope. A design that will be fitted in a new urban design that will revitalize the area into an active urban place. Stimulating the connection of the old inner city with the new Belvédère developments. Furthermore, the new design will create architecture of place, a place with an identity and meaning, a place where history has been entrenched. This 'sense of place' will ennoble people, makes them feel empowered, important, and exited to be in the places they inhabit.

## **Process**

### **Method description**

To come to a suited design solution it is necessary to take the past, present and the future into account. Heritage offers a story on which the new design can continue. Having all the understanding and knowledge of what the place was, is and can be, should help in the support of the new design. It is a process of design by research starting with analyzing the project on different scales, from city to detail. Eventually the new accumulated knowledge will provide the fundamentals for the design. More details about the specific phases are described below:

#### *Site analysis*

This analysis deals with the past, present and future developments of the city and project area. Every site has a specifics history, morphology, infrastructure, society and functions which needs to be investigated thoroughly. This information will translated into drawings and will give us the essentials which will help to continue the story of the place.

#### *Building analysis*

The next scale deals with analyzing the existing building. In this part, structure, materials, atmosphere and functions are elements which can provide new insight.

The goal of this analysis is to get a grip and understanding of the building. These findings will result in a cultural value of the building and create guidelines and stating points for the design.

### *Design*

The main design research starts when the site and building research are reaching its final form, but it basically started in the first weeks as architectural methodology is overlapping in every phase. With the finalization of the analysis, cultural values and other starting point will become clear. With this, a new function and a program of requirements can be formulated. The formulated guidelines will be used in order to create a spatial concept with model studies and sketching spatial relations in and around the building. This will lead to a preliminary design, based on references, cultural value and program of requirements. Further researching the users, spatial relations and materialization will result in a final design with floorplans, sections, elevations, details, impressions and models.

## **Literature and general practical preference**

### *Literature*

- Augé, M. (1992). *Niet-plaatsen. Inleiding tot een antropologie van de hypermoderniteit*. In H. Heynen & et al (Eds.), *Dat is architectuur sleutelteksten uit de twintigste eeuw*. Rotterdam: Uitgeverij 010.
- Coenen, J. (2006). *The art of blending. Inaugural lecture*. Faculty of Architecture. Delft University of Technology. Delft.
- Gemeente Maastricht (2013). *Het antwoord op de Sphinx*. Maastricht.
- Iersel, F. van. & Dassen, I. (2011) *Onderzoek popinfrastructuur euregio*. Breda: Signo & S Organisatieadviezen.
- Kent, F. (2011). *Toward an Architecture of Place: Moving Beyond Iconic to Extraordinary*. Retrieved December 15, 2015
- Norberg-Schulz, C. (1980). *Genius Loci; toward a phenomenology of architecture*. London: Academy Editions.
- NPR. (2015). *NRP Gulden Feniks 2015, gebiedstransformatie, transformatie, renovatie, low budget, high impact*. De Meern: Nationaal Renovatie Platform.
- Ramakers, E. (2005). *Historische atlas van Maastricht 2000 jaar aan Maas en Jeker*. Amsterdam: SUN.
- Roos, J. (2007). *Discovering the assignment, Redevelopment in practice* (Research centre RMIT faculty of architecture TU Delft Ed.). Delft: VSSD.
- Res Nova (2006). *De Kop van de Sphinx te Maastricht, Waardenstellend onderzoek, Deel 2 Capita selecta*. Maastricht: Res Nova
- Tilman, H. (2006). *Gebouwen voor de muziek; Nieuwe theaters tussen kunst en amusement*. *De Architect*, 37(1), 24-41.
- Timmerfabriek (vml. technische dienst Sphinx) in Maastricht (2014). Retrieved December 2, 2015 from <http://rijksmonumenten.nl/monument/506625/timmerfabriek-vml-technische-dienst-sphinx/maastricht/>.

### *General practical preference*

3XN - *Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ*, Amsterdam  
Diederendirrix architecten - *Patronaat*, Haarlem.

Diederendirrix architecten - *Dynamo*, Eindhoven.  
MVRDV - *Effenaar*, Eindhoven.  
OMA - *Paard van Troje*, The Hague.  
TenBrasWestinga architecten - *Energiehuis*, Dordrecht.  
Van Dongen - Koschuch architecten – *Grenswerk*, Venlo.

## **Reflection**

### **Relevance**

The project will present how to transform a building of cultural significance to a big Popstage, a function which focusses on urban, architectural and technical interventions within a historic monument. It will furthermore show how to make a relation between the historic interior and exterior and how to create architecture of place.

### **Time planning**

See next page.

# Time planning graduation process

