

Final Reflection

This short text serves as a reflection on my design process of a “public condenser” in Copenhagen. To me and according to the exercise, a public condenser means a public building that combines many different functions and target groups in a small area, creating unique challenges such as contrasting functions being close together and trying to conform enough to everyone.

In my case, I wanted to approach this through the lens of indeterminacy. In my opinion, indeterminacy comes down to specific strategy for not fully defining everything in a space, so it in theory lasts longer, allow for natural mixing of functions and people and strengthen the bond people create with the building. Because it inherently calls for less or more flexible determination of space, it can also be used as a tool for sustainability, by assuming the flexibility will make the building last longer.

This was combined with more site specific data, to see what role indeterminacy could play at this specific location.

Urban Collage

1. Relation with master track and programme

The topic of my graduation project consists of a building design, influenced by a more general principle, fitting the Architecture master track. That being said, it also inherently relates to the urban scale and contains technical elaboration. It therefore fits more generally in the AUBS master track.

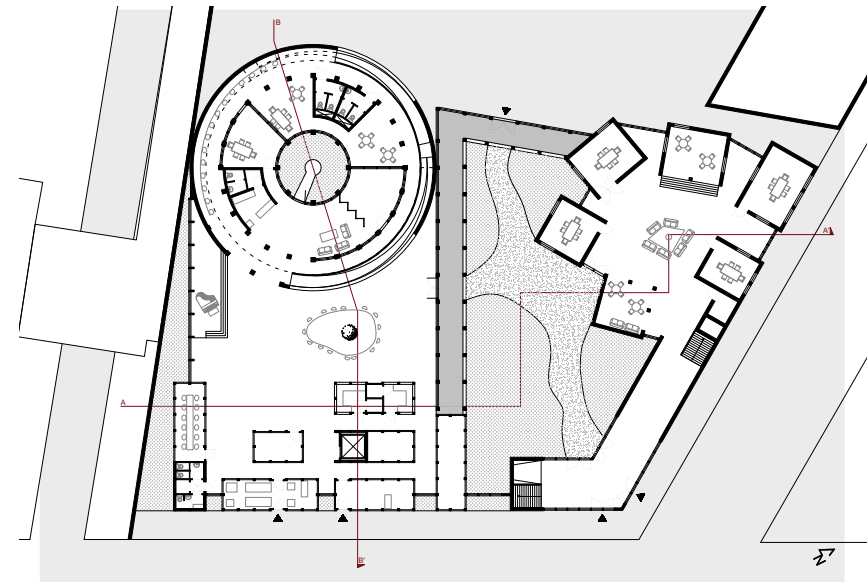
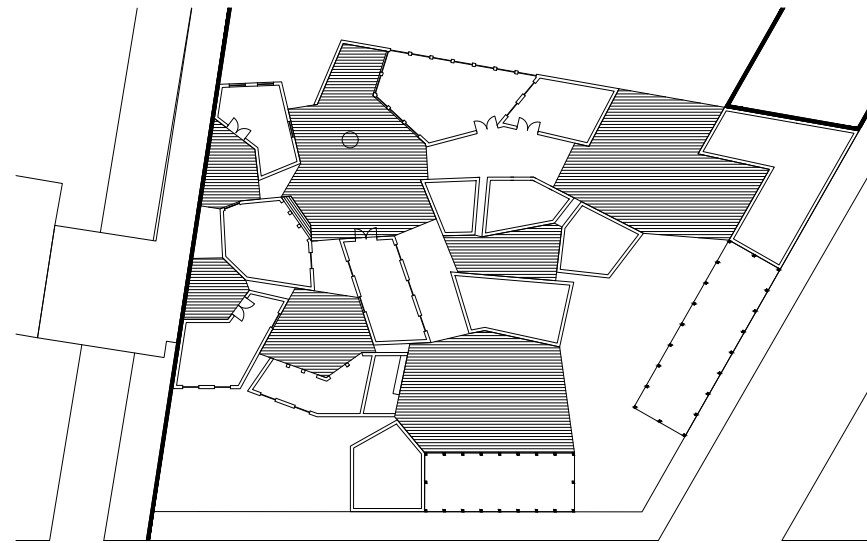
2. How did your research influence your design/ recommendations and how did the design/recommendations influence your research?

My research gave me a goal to work towards, and the large elements of the building. The observation of fragmentation informing the shape and character of the large elements, and the personal interest regarding indeterminacy. Starting designing using these ideas gave a certain result, that was not based on a lot more than the initial research, causing a lot of choices to be founded by intuition. This created an undesirable result, and signaled the importance of more research. Looking deeper into the role each part might serve and how they could be best placed so that things like buildability, accessibility and climate design were taken into account required more research and in the end resulted in an improved version of the design. After this, the research by design cycle started to be shortened, meaning more frequent switches between research and design.

3. How do you assess the value of your way of working (approach, methods, methodology)?

I think I chose to work on something that I found interesting, but was unaware of some issues that prevented me from working smoothly. Because (part of) my approach was quite abstract (the notion of indeterminacy, which in its nature seems to ask for a lack of specificity) I feel that I needed a much more substantial body of data to allow for a smoother process. This would have given me the specificity to allow for a controlled and founded application of something inherently unspecific, indeterminacy in this case. This is not to say that none of my ideas about indeterminacy made it into the building, but I wanted to explore more ways this could be possible and be a more integral part of the building. I think the above (especially the lack of specificity with an inherently unspecific topic) caused me to run into significant dead ends at times, where a quite major step back was necessary to move forward.

In the end, I think the intention of my approach was valuable, also in a larger context, but the application of it did not go as it should have. I think I made reasonably good use of my planned methods, but more modelling and especially impression drawing could have



The evolution of the design through working with more data at every step

helped me design from a different angle. Perhaps a more clear methodology could have paved the way for a smoother process.

4. How do you assess the academic and societal value, scope and implication of your graduation project, including ethical aspects?

I think working with indeterminacy, with the goal to get more clarity about it and to try to see if it could make buildings last longer (more flexible and a stronger connection with its occupants) gives my graduation project some societal as well as academic value. I wouldn't state I have found the answer to the question of how to effectively apply indeterminacy, but I have experienced why it is difficult. This gives someone the opportunity to continue working with it with that knowledge in mind. This automatically means that the scope of the project is increased, because it essentially tries to create both a building and a principle tackling the issue of sustainability in a less-than standard way, which can be used for other buildings.

5. How do you assess the value of the transferability of your project results?

I think because my building is a combination of a principle and more site specific influences, at least the principle is very transferable to other projects.

6. Most important lessons

The most important lesson I learned is that designing is making specific **enough**. Specific enough to be able to make decisions in a founded way, according to a strategy. This, to my understanding is why I got stuck at times and why I ended up working on things too intuitively. If there is not enough constraint, everything is possible, and that is too much.

7. How are the pillars of the studio represented?

The potential I saw with indeterminacy also stretched out to the pillars of the studio. Multiplicity would be achieved by allowing the indeterminacy to have people and functions merge naturally, through a more flexibly interpretable space. Because the building would in theory last longer through being naturally more flexible, it would be sustainable and resilient by nature. The freedom of expression within the building should improve the experience of it, garnering positive emotion as a result of usage. This is the main contribution towards healthiness. Lastly, the spatial concept regarding the volumes makes the building a hybrid, a graft hybrid to be exact. The expression of the different parts fit the different functions placed in them.

Architectural concept (an idea)

→ The goal of the building, what is it supposed to do?, who is it for?, etc.

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Data that is associated with this idea

→ What implications do the aforementioned goals have on the building? What is the influence on the building based on what its function is, who it is for and where its located?
Think environmental, user and spatial data, factual things. Numbers, images, etc.

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Strategy

→ Try to see how the concept and data can be combined to form a way of approaching the building design in a more general sense. This means for example to be able to describe how the building works according to a principle or short sentence.

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Architectural drawings

→ The result of being able to experiment, backed by the previous elements.

Design process as described to me by my main mentor.

What it means according to my main tutor as well as to me based on what I've noticed.