

# 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	Bunyamin Durdabak
Student number	5946883

Studio		
Name / Theme	Cross Domain City of the Future	
Main mentor	Johan van Lierop	Architecture
Second mentor	Florian Eckardt	Building Technology
Third mentor	Maurice Hartevelde	Urbanism
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I was drawn to this studio because of the significant freedom it offers in research and design choices, allowing for a highly personal and meaningful approach. This studio's emphasis on individual exploration aligns perfectly with my desire to create a design connected to my personal experience and perspective.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The catalyst of Almelo central
Goal	
Location:	Almelo the Netherlands, trainstation area
The posed problem,	<p>In many cities, the train station acts as a physical and psychological barrier, dividing communities (Cavallo, 2008). Stations often have a front and a back, with the back frequently being an area that people avoid or view negatively.</p> <p>This division is reinforced by the physical presence of the tracks and station infrastructure, creating a lack of connection both physically and mentally between people living on either side. As a result, communities tend to group themselves on one side of the station, with the station itself serving as a catalyst for this segregation.</p>

	<p>With ongoing developments like the new railway zone of Almelo, more residents will be placed on both sides of the tracks, potentially worsening the disconnection and amplifying the social and spatial separation between the two sides of the station.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>How can architectural and urban design interventions in the Almelo train station area reduce the physical and social disconnection, enhancing opportunities for local development and community integration on both sides of the railway tracks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent have Almelo's railway infrastructure and urban planning decisions around the station contributed to the physical and social disconnection between neighborhoods?</li> <li>• How can the unique identity of Almelo be integrated into the train station's design to foster a shared sense of belonging and strengthen connections between surrounding neighborhoods?</li> <li>• Which urban design strategies from other cities have proven effective in bridging physical barriers around station areas?</li> <li>• How does enhanced connectivity both locally and through potential international rail connections, such as the Zwolle-Münster line affect local development on both sides of Almelo's station?</li> </ul>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>This study aims to transform Almelo's train station area into an inclusive urban hub by addressing its role as a physical and social barrier. The research focuses on identifying and analyzing the existing barriers in the station area, including the physical divisions caused by railway infrastructure and the socio-economic and accessibility challenges that affect neighborhoods like Kerkelanden,</p>

	<p>Indiëterrein, and the city center. It also seeks to explore Almelo’s unique identity, rooted in its textile heritage and multicultural character, as a foundation for creating design strategies that foster connectivity and a shared sense of belonging.</p> <p>The study will evaluate the impact of historical urban planning decisions that prioritized the station’s function as a transit hub rather than a community space, identifying opportunities to shift towards pedestrian-friendly, inclusive public spaces that better serve the city. Drawing lessons from successful station redesigns, such as Rotterdam Centraal and Leipzig Hauptbahnhof, the research will explore strategies that promote connectivity, cultural integration, and vibrant public life.</p> <p>Ultimately, the study aims to propose actionable interventions that transform Almelo’s train station into a central meeting place. These interventions will focus on bridging physical and social divides, enhancing the city’s socio-economic and cultural landscape, and creating a hub that balances mobility needs with community vibrancy. By addressing these objectives, the research aspires to redefine the station area as a space that connects neighborhoods both physically and socially, strengthening Almelo’s identity as an inclusive and integrated city.</p>
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**Process**

**Method description**

**Method Description**

The research and design process will rely on a combination of qualitative and contextual methods to thoroughly understand the challenges surrounding Almelo's train station area and identify effective strategies for its transformation.

First, a **site analysis** will be conducted to assess the current physical, social, and economic conditions in and around the station. This will involve field observations to document pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular flows, as well as spatial mapping to identify barriers, underutilized spaces, and opportunities for improvement.

Photographic documentation will be used to capture the current state of key areas such as the underpass, public spaces, and surrounding infrastructure.

Next, a **literature review** will provide the theoretical foundation for the study, drawing on key urban design concepts such as Social Capital Theory, Spatial Segregation Theory, and Urban Connectivity and Place-Making Theory. Additionally, the review will include case studies from cities like Rotterdam, Leipzig, and Arnhem to identify successful strategies for overcoming similar urban challenges and integrating lessons into Almelo's context.

To ensure the proposed solutions align with the needs and aspirations of local communities, **stakeholder interviews** will be conducted. These will include conversations with residents, local policymakers, business owners, and community leaders. The interviews aim to uncover experiences, challenges, and suggestions for improving the station area, creating a collaborative foundation for the redesign process.

Lastly, **case study analysis** will further inform the design process by examining how other cities have successfully transformed their station areas. Key insights will be drawn from projects like Rotterdam Centraal, where public spaces and green infrastructure were used to bridge divides, and Leipzig Hauptbahnhof, which successfully incorporated multifunctional spaces into its design. These examples will be analyzed to identify strategies that can be adapted to Almelo's unique context. By combining these methods, the study will create a solid foundation for actionable and community-oriented design interventions for Almelo's train station area.

## Literature and general practical references

To support the research and design process for Almelo's train station area, a combination of theoretical frameworks, research data, and practical case studies will be utilized. Theoretical insights will be drawn from key concepts such as Social Capital Theory by Jane Jacobs, which emphasizes the role of public spaces in fostering trust, relationships, and social interactions. This will be particularly relevant in designing inclusive spaces that encourage interaction among Almelo's diverse communities. Spatial Segregation Theory will provide an understanding of how infrastructure can create or reinforce physical and social barriers, a critical perspective for addressing the divisive impact of Almelo's railway tracks. Additionally, Kevin Lynch's Urban Connectivity and Place-Making Theory will guide strategies to enhance accessibility, legibility, and cultural identity in the redesign of Almelo's station area.

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## 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 graduation project on redesigning Almelo's train station area primarily aligns with the master track Architecture (A), while also incorporating key elements from the Urbanism (U) track. The project focuses on the architectural transformation of the train station and its immediate surroundings, addressing challenges such as spatial design, connectivity, and identity. It emphasizes creating a cohesive architectural language that integrates Almelo's historical and cultural identity into a modern, functional, and inclusive design.

At the same time, the project connects with the Urbanism track by addressing larger urban issues, such as neighborhood integration, pedestrian and cyclist mobility, and public space activation. This multidisciplinary approach ensures the project bridges architectural precision with urban-scale challenges, making it a natural fit for both tracks and the broader MSc programme Architecture, Urbanism, and Building Sciences (MSc AUBS). It applies theoretical and practical frameworks to balance architectural detail with urban connectivity, reflecting the programme's holistic perspective.

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

The relevance of this graduation work lies in its contribution to addressing urban divides and promoting inclusive development, which are critical issues in contemporary urban planning. Socially, the project seeks to create spaces that foster connectivity and interaction across diverse socio-economic and cultural groups, enhancing social cohesion in Almelo. Professionally, it addresses the need for transit-oriented urban design, ensuring that railway infrastructure not only serves mobility but also functions as a catalyst for economic growth and community engagement.

From a scientific perspective, the research builds on established urban theories such as Jane Jacobs' Social Capital Theory and Kevin Lynch's Place-Making Theory while applying these to the specific challenges of mid-sized cities like Almelo. By exploring innovative design strategies and referencing international case studies, the work contributes to the broader discourse on sustainable urban regeneration and the role of transportation nodes in creating inclusive and vibrant urban environments. This relevance positions the project as both academically rigorous and practically impactful.