

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: All tracks

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

Personal information	
Name	Sjim van Beijsterveldt
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Studio	
Name / Theme	Public Building: Amorphous spaces
Teachers / tutors	Marc Schoonderbeek, Oscar Rommens, Sang Lee
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Vilnius, being a formal Soviet city, is like the rest of Eastern Europe still unexplored territory for me. As is common within the chair of public building, the studio provides the opportunity to do a thorough research into the city and architecture itself.

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Ad Hoc Conditions
Goal	
Location:	
Inner courtyard situated on 'Pranciškonu Gatve' in the historic centre of Vilnius	
The posed problem,	
<p>The historic city centre of the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius is formed by an urban fabric consisting out of courtyards creating introvert voids within the traditional urban solid. These courtyards contrast the traditional and formal public spaces of the city by the way they operate on the levels of public-private accessibility, spatial compositions and aesthetics. The ad hoc manner by which these courtyards are created gives them an unique harmonic but ambiguous aesthetical quality.</p> <p>A problem within contemporary architectural design is the totality of the designers control over a project which doesn't allow for these unpolished and unconventional spatial, aesthetic and programmatic qualities to come into being.</p>	
research questions and...	
<p>The research focuses on what makes these unpolished qualities and how they could inform a design strategy by trying to answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Can an inquiry by means of drawing and mapping point out which layers make up these unpolished ad hoc qualities which are present within the courtyards of Vilnius?2) By the way these analysis are mapped and drawn, can these create a vocabulary which can inform architectural design in matters of process as well as aesthetics? And so give a more unconventional perspective on the design qualities within the notion of adhocism.3) Can a theoretical inquiry into the notion of adhocism provide a conceptualization of the aesthetics and phenomena at play within the courtyards? And further more provide a design strategy which	

allows adhocism to inform the architectural design without creating a mimicking of stylist aesthetics.

design assignment in which these result.

The research done during the first semester has led to an understanding of adhocism as a modus operandi instead of a stylist phenomenon. By having theoretically established ad hoc principles in correspondence with the courtyards notions such as 'junction', 'urban sediment' and 'Heterotopia' have developed within this context. These theoretically investigated principles will be used to inform the design process and will help to substantiate decisions on levels of aesthetics, program and location.

Apart from this theoretical foundation, the research has informed the project on both location and program. As the research has departed from, and mainly focused on the courtyards, one of these will therefore form the location of the project. The program mainly comes from the understanding of the notion of Heterotopia by Michel Foucault and urban legends which were researched at the beginning of the semester. The program should be a junction re-introducing death as an element within daily life by designing a columbarium which also functions as a public park within one of the courtyards. As will be described with the method description the program as well as the location and the design methodology will evolve further separately.

Process

Method description

The inquiry into adhocism has resulted in an understanding in the way the bricoleur works by framing himself to materials at hand. A designer who works with theory and hypothesizes is in contrast to the bricoleur not immediately restricted by a framed set of possibilities. Because this is essential to the notion of adhocism such a frame needs to be established. The first semester of research has resulted in a certain amount of products which will form the framing device at hand to inform the project.

These products contain:

- 1) An inquiry into the 'urban myths' of Vilnius which inform the project about a strong need for cultural identity, the relationship of death and life within the city and lastly the DIY mentality of the inhabitants;
- 2) A drawn analysis of six courtyards on the levels of spatial composition, shadow and light, imprints and reflections;
- 3) A theoretical understanding of the notions present within the courtyards and adhocism, these include the notion of the junction over the joint, urban sediment, Heterotopia, catalogue or palette, subsystems, parts and fragments, indefinite, collision, myth, objet trouvés, user rights over ownership and coexistence.
- 4) A position, formed during the lecture research seminars, about the presence of two modes within architecture. One is that of design and the other being that of structure or matter. One is the territory of the architect while the other is more occupied with that of the builder. This awareness of the hypothetical character of a drawing in contrast to the material qualities of structure will inform the design process by using material parts at hand to represent the drawings, this way losing total control of the transformation from drawing to model.

Because within adhocism it is about assembling different parts and fragments, these become very important as independent elements. Because of this the design process is being subdivided in the elements of design method, location and program which are to develop separately from but equally to each other. By letting them evolve separately the parts become more important than the whole while they keep being informed by the researched products at hand as established earlier. Eventually the fully evolved parts will be put together and collide with each other. The goal then becomes to create a whole using ad hoc solutions.

Literature and general practical preference

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Reflection

Relevance

The graduation project is an inquiry into developing a method for designing outside traditional conventions. By establishing a fragmented design process the totality of control of the designer is artificially being confined. Thereby it shows how a bottom-up research, starting an analysis from a supposedly insignificant phenomenon present in the courtyards of a city can lead to a sophisticated understanding and position regarding architectural design.

Time planning

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