

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	Carlo Bion Profet
Student number	4342089

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore Lab 39	
Main mentor	Mieke Vink	A: History, Form & Aesthetics
Second mentor	Rico Heykant	AE+T: Building Technology
Third mentor	Stavros Kousoulas	A: Philosophy & Theory
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Since taking the Philosophy and Theory thesis course and design studio during the previous years, I have been exploring my fascination for affective architecture. And having chosen San Nicolas as a potential site already excluded me from applying for other graduation studios. So, I chose Explore Lab, granting me the freedom to explore my own fascination, site, as well as choosing my own mentors.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Fucu di San Nicolas / Specters of San Nicolas: The Hauntings of Colonization
Goal	
Location:	San Nicolas, Aruba
The posed problem,	<p>Caught between the liquid black gold and the white sandy beaches, for decades, Aruba imposed a simulacrum on herself as Aruba: "One Happy Island", negating difference. Always One. Always happy.</p> <p>Similarly, San Nicolas—the second largest city of Aruba—is affected by such oppressive powers. Since the closure of the Lago oil refinery in the late 80s—and the simultaneous acceleration of the tourism industry—the government and stakeholders have lost interest in the city. In the process of enhancing Oranjestad and Palm Beach,</p>

	<p>San Nicolas slowly but surely became a has-been. Always oppressed, othered, and left to decay. During the last five years, San Nicolas has been progressively injected with a dose of branding in attempt to allegedly revitalize and activate the city.</p> <p>San Nicolas remains continuously haunted by the fucus (specters) of colonization. To some the urgency to take on this problem is evident, yet most of us remain oblivious or care-less.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>How can hauntology help foster affective architecture that imbues response-ability towards the resulting injustices of colonization?</p> <p>To answer the main question, the following sub-questions will be investigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ How do we become fucus (specters)? Why does hauntology matter? ◇ How do fucus (specters) express themselves in the material and immaterial flows of the daily dynamics? How do they affect us? ◇ How can we rethink these fucus (specters), refashion their politico-aesthetic potentials and produce architecture ethopoietically? ◇ How can architecture ground itself into the assemblage of a San Nicolas yet-to-come?
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>To reclaim and transform the oil refinery territory in San Nicolas, Aruba.</p>
<p>The design should become an emerging cultural technicity as a place of experimentation: a place to dare (almost) dying, to dare becoming fucus (specters). Through hauntology, it should become a dynamic and poetic landscape, as a form of more-than-human resistance. Going through the wall, carefully situated in the oil refinery territory, working towards a post-industrial heritage site. Starting small and with the adaptability to expand over time.</p>	

Furthermore, the design should problematize aesthetics and ways of living together otherwise in the post-industrial condition. It should spark thought and discussion, and hopefully continue to inspire other potential developments in Aruba.

Process

Method description

Literature study on different philosophical concepts s.a. Hauntology, Death, Flows, Politico-Aesthetics, Response-ability, Ethopoiesis etc. have been conducted as a methodology to help shape the theoretical framework and to understand the reciprocal relation between architectural intervention, the environment and processes of subjectification. That is, that between our technicities, habitats, and habits. Both primary and secondary literature on concepts of Deleuze & Guattari, Simondon, Bergson, Stiegler, Mark Fischer etc. will be used. Given the transdisciplinary, theoretical approach, literature study is crucial and compatible with this research.

In November I travelled to San Nicolas, where I observed the built environment, how it is being used, how it is appropriated, as well as my own experience in the city and how I was affected. I have used a combination of notes, sketches, photographs and audio-recordings to capture the site. During my visit I also had informal conversations with different residents: homeless, sex worker, retirees, shop owners, social workers. Though for many, they were not aware of how they experience the city spatially (or could not express it), nevertheless they could offer useful insights on the bigger political problem.

Hauntology also extends as a design principle, exploring and expressing forms of spectrality in architecture in a playful way. Experimenting with enabling constraints, thresholds, decay, movement and duration. I have also started with challenging the conventional wall that separates and constrains, exploring the potentialities of what a wall can become and do.

Literature and general practical references

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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)?

My topic allows me to approach the site from a philosophical and theoretical perspective, challenging the status quo in architecture: to explore potential ways of thinking as well as living otherwise. I aim at decolonizing hegemonic and oppressive structures that influence our habits and therefore our spatial practices in San Nicolas, Aruba. To decenter the dominant universal image of 'Man of Reason' as the measure of all things. This is not something that is usually addressed in each studio or courses of architecture track at TU Delft... nor in the conventional architecture pedagogy and practices for that matter.

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

This project aims at revealing and acknowledging injustices caused by colonization; reclaiming marginalized, forgotten stories and memories; and providing knowledge on how to produce architecture ethopoietically for a San Nicolas yet-to-come. It is important to disrupt essentialist and transcendental habits, understanding the reciprocal relationship between the environment, architectural interventions, and processes of subjectification. These are relevant problems that are ubiquitous, also beyond San Nicolas. And I believe this makes this project most opportune and worth exploring.