

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	
Studio	
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The studio was chosen due to the interest in the changes happening currently in cities, especially in relation to the historical perspective.</p> <p>The process of urbanization and alterations in cities was happening in the past. In the early XXth century architects and urban planners were trying to redesign urban living being pressured by multiple factors like overcrowding and conditions of living. Problems, however in different forms, are pressuring contemporary designers. Different solutions to those problems are taken into consideration. The studio profile can help to focus on those changes and to understand them not only in one particular scale, but find the interrelations between the multiplicity of scales.</p>
Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Functionalism rendering
Goal	
Location:	Wrocław, Poland
The posed problem,	<p>The paradigmatic shift of society, especially connected to the use of technology in everyday life, seems to influence the everyday needs of users. This relates to the necessary change of contemporary functions of buildings and our change of their use, with a specific focus on the domestic environment as a primary cell of urban structure.</p>
research questions and	What is the relation between social changes and functionalism within the domestic environment?

	<p>SQ1: How does change in society (i.e. use of technology in almost all aspects of life) influence the understanding of 'functionalism'?</p> <p>SQ2: How did the introduction of technology enhance the change and influence our needs?</p> <p>SQ3: What is the understanding of function in time? Why and how do we redefine?</p> <p>SQ4: How do we create spaces which would be functional not just for the 'standard users'? And should we still use that term?</p> <p>SQ5: How did Wroclaw's society change and how did it influence the functionality of WUWA development?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The analysis of the understanding of the XXth century functionalism in the context of contemporary society will help to understand the social changes that happened and how those are influencing architecture nowadays. Observations of those changes will be represented by designing the contemporary version of housing on the same plot.</p>

Process

Method description

The project will consist of two parts. The research, being the initial stage, helps to understand the changes that happened both in architecture and in society. The chosen theories help to frame the criteria by which further research can be conducted and help to limit the spectrum of the exploration.

The case study was chosen to compare the past design with the present and what comes with that, the needs of users in those two timescales (XXth century and XXIst century).

The observations on the site help to understand the use of public spaces happening on the plot of WUWA and the adjustments that happened in comparison to the original design. Those changes will also be analysed and presented in the form of maps, which can potentially help to visualize those observations and further explore the independencies.

The use of the case study is not only on a bigger scale but also on a scale of a particular household. The choice of the house was due to the recent renovation (showing the needs of contemporary users). The primary step was the understanding of the floor plans of the original designs. The interview with the owners and observations internally helped to detect the adjustments made by the owners in order

to best respond to their needs contemporarily.

The case study analysis, parallel with the further literature reviews, as well as further observations of changes happening also around the site are an important part of the design process. The goal of the further design will be to understand the contemporary behaviours of the users but also to anticipate the future of living.

Literature and general practical references

As research aims to explore the relationship between the users and architecture, the fields and the theories used will also be multidisciplinary.

As the starting point, the crucial element is to understand the merit of functionalism in the past century. The biggest focus will be on the particular development in Breslau (currently Wrocław, Poland). Professor Jadwiga Urbanik was involved in the restoration process of some of the buildings in the development. She also created a technical report of the buildings and continuously collaborated with the local government to promote this site.

Despite the practical knowledge about the buildings on site, the theoretical background will be also explored from different perspectives as the multidisciplinary approach is needed in order to understand a bigger part of the complexity of the issue.

On the urban scale, the theories of Henri Lefebvre will be crucial in understanding of the importance of public spaces with the help of Zieleniec analysis. The architectural approach will be explored by the terms of typologies, which are discussed for example by authors like Anthony Vidler or Christopher Lee.

From the field of social sciences, the theories used the most are: Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the theory of behaviour setting by Barker and mere exposure by Zajonc. Those social theories have or should have their reflections in the past or future designs and will be observed through the case study.

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 focus of the chosen studio is on the interdependencies of different fields, like architecture, urbanism, engineering but also other sciences. The studio is highlighting the importance of understanding of the role of the agents within bigger systems and their roles in ensuring that systems work.

The term 'functionalism' could be related to the multiple aspects – touching on urban design, building design, as well as technical aspects. In order to create comprehensive designs all of those factors have to be looked at parallelly, seeing how decision on one scale influences the other factors.

This will also be explored in the "Functionalism Rendering" project. As the concept of Master programme AUBS is important to understand that buildings, especially in cities are becoming part of a bigger system and are impacting it back. Those systems can be understood on multiple levels which are complementary – social, infrastructural, urban, and technical. The understanding of these and the inclusion of all of them leads to successful design and spaces that are positively influencing people.

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

The topic of the project is highlighting the multidisciplinary nature of architecture. The project is focused on the social changes happening and their relationship with the built environment. Those social transformations are an ongoing process. Both research and design are trying to understand and respond to the changes that happened in the past century in order to possibly design for the future. Terms like "functionalism", "efficiency" or "standard user" are used with the understanding established in the XXth century. The project explores whether those terms should be reconsidered or used in the contemporary context. The aim is also to analyze, and possibly direct further designs, in what are the needs of present users and the struggles they are facing at the moment.