

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	Axelle Maassen
Student number	5076587

Studio		
Name / Theme	AR3UA100 Urban Architecture Graduation Studio / Low Town Downtown	
Main mentor	Sam Stalker	Architectural Design
Second mentor	Eireen Schreurs	Research
Third mentor	Anèt Meijer	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>I chose the Urban Architecture Graduation Studio because I've always been interested in how the rest of the built environment and the people living in it affect an architectural project. Architecture does not exist in isolation, it both is shaped by and shapes the urban fabric.</p> <p>This graduation studio gives me the opportunity to dive deep into the context around the given site in Antwerp and work with the people involved as well.</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Hidden in Plain Sight: Reimagining Public Spaces for Adolescent Girls in Hoboken and Kiel
Goal	
Location:	Antwerp, Belgium
The posed problem,	<p>When walking around in Hoboken and Kiel one can see many different people from different backgrounds and different ages walking around in the public space. However, one specific group is notably absent. Adolescent girls aged about 12 to 18 are rarely seen in popular hangout spots in the area. If young girls do not have a place to gather and meet they will miss out on chances to socialize, express themselves, and enjoy recreational activities, adding to the wider issue of gender inequality in public spaces. The current facilities in Hoboken and</p>

	<p>Kiel just don't seem to fit their needs, leaving them without safe and welcoming places to hang out. It's important to address this gap so we can create a more inclusive urban environment where girls feel empowered and have equal opportunities to take part in public life.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Main research question: How can the urban space in Hoboken and Kiel be reimaged to meet the needs of the adolescent girls in the area?</p> <p>Sub questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What cultural, social, or safety factors discourage adolescent girls from using public spaces in Kiel? - Where do adolescent girls meet and gather currently? And why? - What functions and facilities attract adolescent girls to the public space? <p>Design questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What spatial characteristics would make the public and semi-public spaces more attractive to adolescent girls? - How can architecture pose a solution to the absence of adolescent girls in the public and semi-public spaces?
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design starts with a Masterplan that attempts to reimagine the terrain of the Blikfabriek in Hoboken in Antwerp from a big barrier in the neighborhood into a thriving and connecting area. This is done by opening up multiple corridors through the site, all with their own character and function. The site will be transformed in a small new center in Hoboken and will be made to be accessible and attractive to all the different social and cultural groups in the area, including teenage girls. For this there will be a focus on meeting their spatial and programmatic needs in the built environment.</p>
<p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.</p>	

The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

Process

Method description

- Photograph, Sketch and overall document the current state of the urban space in Hoboken and Kiel and the people who can be found in it
- Interview and gather information directly from the target demographic of adolescent girls to gather their needs, prioritizing the tacit knowledge these girls can bring.

Literature and general practical references

Berry, Jess, Timothy Moore, Nicole Kalms, and Gene Bawden. *Contentious cities : design and the gendered production of space*, 2021.

Candiracci, Sara, and Kim Power. "Cities Alive Designing cities that work for women." Arup, October 2022.

Holt, William Grady. "Engendering Cities: Designing Sustainable Urban Spaces for All, Edited by I. Sánchez De Madariaga and M. Neuman." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 46, no. 4 (May 18, 2023): 895–97. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2023.2198459>.

Yücesoy, Eda Ünlü. *Everyday Urban Public Space: Turkish Immigrant Women's Perspective*, 2006.

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 project investigates how architecture can address social equity and community engagement, specifically focusing on designing inclusive spaces for adolescent girls in Hoboken and Kiel. This topic is something that has to be investigated on both the smaller, architectural scale, and the larger, urban scale. In this regards my topic relates to the studio.

As part of the Architecture (A) master track, my work builds upon the foundational principles of architectural design, spatial analysis, and human-centric problem-solving, emphasizing how built environments can shape society.

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

Architecture and the built environment can have a great effect on society and the wellbeing of people. My graduation project and research focus on creating meaningful social impact on my target demographic by adressing the needs of adolescent girls in Hoboken and Kiel. In my project I would like to investigate ways to create space for girls where they can gather, meet and actively take part in the community. By doing so, I hope to contribute to improving their quality of life and promoting social cohesion, while also advancing discussions on equity and inclusivity within the field of architecture.