

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	Mervin van der Heide
Student number	5261821

Studio		
Name / Theme	Urban Architecture Low Town Down Town	
Main mentor	Sam Stalker	[Academic field involved]
Second mentor	Eireen Schreurs	[Academic field involved]
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Urban planning is a discipline I was interested in, but I always missed the architectural elaboration in this field. When I read about Urban Architecture and how this studio focuses on urban intervention through architecture, I was quickly interested. In addition, I have designed a master plan in combination with an architectural design several times in previous studios during the master. This studio therefore fitted well with my interests.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Living the pause
Goal	
Location:	Hoboken, Antwerp
The posed problem,	During one of the first site visits to the Blikfabriek, I observed that people deliberately choose specific spaces for hanging out, such as the backyard, to avoid feeling watched. This behavior raises important questions: Why are certain spots chosen for hanging out? Where are these spots, and how does the physical environment shape these behaviors? Since many instances of hanging out are unexpected and sometimes undesired, I feel we don't fully understand the relationship between this behavior and the physical environment. With this research, I aim

	to deepen my understanding of this connection.
research questions and	How is the behavior of people who are 'hanging out' influenced by the physical space they are in?
design assignment in which these result.	Design a school with an adjoining public space that functions as a schoolyard during weekdays and can transform into a social area during evenings and weekends. This means that the school should be flexible in function to support both the public space and the surrounding residential blocks. The knowledge gained from understanding how the physical environment influences the behavior of hanging out will be crucial in designing a well-defined public space that caters to changing needs and promotes social interaction in both educational and recreational contexts.
Process	
Method description	
To find out where, who and how people hang out I will be doing on-site observations. I will keep track of where people hang, what they are doing at the time and who are hanging out. This information I will document in sketches and diagrams to figure out what physical elements are part of the moment that is captured. The locations will be pinpointed on a 3D map of the area to also see what's happening on a bigger scale.	

Literature and general practical references

J. Gehl (1971) – Life between buildings

William H. Whyte (1980) – The social life of small urban spaces

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)?

This project focuses on the public realm on an urban level. The knowledge gained from this research however, is applicable on architectural spaces as well. In this way the project closely relates to the principles of Urban Architecture

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

This project situates itself at the intersection of social behavior and public space. By looking at how physical environments shape the behavior of hanging out, this project can help understand the relation between hanging out and the physical environment.