

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	Sjors Rob de Haan
Student number	4766156
Telephone number	
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Studio		
Name / Theme	Complex projects, New York Midtown	
Main mentor	H. Smidihen	Design Mentor
Second mentor	H. van der Meel	Building Technology Mentor
Third mentor	J. van Zalingen	Seminar Mentor
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Complex Projects appealed to me because its freedom within the assignment but at the same time the strict organization of the deadlines and products we need to deliver. The large-scale of the assignment is also the scale that interests me. That the project location is New York Midtown was an additional advantage.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	New York grid deviations
Goal	
Location:	Lincoln Tunnel area - New York, Midtown Manhattan; This area in Manhattan is divided and torn apart by all the traffic that comes in from Jersey.
The posed problem,	From the beginning I was already interested in the typical pattern of streets and how New York is organized. Although this grid seems artificial, apparently it is considered efficient. However, quite early I realized the deviations of this grid turned out to be interesting places: Broadway with adjacent squares, (Columbus Circle / Times Square / Herald Square / Union Square / Madison Square), parks and large sized buildings, being too big to fit within the traditional grid. I spotted a trend that new mega developments did not follow the usual New York grid. In Hudson Yards, a large mega development in the west side of Midtown-Manhattan, a new typology of towers has been introduced. These towers are free standing, with a large public space in between / around the towers. The traditional character of New York with its endless straight

	streets and on both sides very high buildings cannot be recognized here anymore. What will the future of the New York grid look like? Will this type or architecture with a deviant grid be a new standard in New York? This clarifies my main fascination: What is the relationship between the New York grid and the typologies (or buildings) it can accommodate?
research questions and	After researching the history of the grid and comparing the New York grid with the grid of other (American and non-American) cities I came to the research question: What is the potential of grid deviations in New York?
design assignment in which these result.	The design question will be: How can the Lincoln deviation have a positive impact on the area? This will result in a coverage of the roads with a recreational zone. This zone will be the new connection between Manhattan and the Garment district. The project will be a building with mixed functions (offices, residential, sports) to help upgrade the area and improve the quality of the public space. To give the area a unique character that responds to contemporary needs a deviation in the grid has to be made. Due to a larger plot size the building can accommodate one of the drives of the mixed building: sport facilities.

Process

Method description

As mentioned before, Complex Projects offers freedom but at the same time a strict organization. The studio focused in the first weeks on gaining as much knowledge as possible: 'hard data'. At first, one should not try to interpret this data, but merely visualize it as clearly as possible. Therefore, we started to build a large scale model of Midtown Manhattan. Thanks to this model it was easier to understand the site, recognize the different characters and areas of this part of New York, value and appreciate the various building heights and building masses.

We divided this team-research in 5 topics: Character, Mobility, Buildings, Environment and Public. Within the group we discussed everyone's interest and divided the people on the topics. In the end we merged all information in an investigation booklet. This booklet is the 'fundament' of further individual research.

Everyone has chosen their own fascination which was the start of individual research. Due to history research, mapping the grid deviations and defining the architectural building typologies the fascination developed further into a research question and design question.

To make the next step to the design, further research will be done into the configuration of the program. References can play an important role in this. Also research towards materials is an important aspect which will be done in the next phase.

Literature and general practical preference

Ballon, H., & Museum of the City of New York. (2012). *The Greatest Grid: The Master Plan of Manhattan, 1811-2011*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Busquets, J. (2017). *Manhattan: Rectangular Grid for Ordering an Island*. Cambridge, USA: Applied Research And Desi.

Christ, E., Gantenbein, C., Easton, V., & Christoph Gantenbein. (2012). *Typology: Hong Kong, Rome, New York, Buenos Aires*. Zurich: Park Books.

Jallon, B., Napolitano, U., Boutte, F., & Boutté, F. (2017). *Hausmann: Paris : modele de ville*. Zurich: Park Books.

Koolhaas, R. (2014). *Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan*. New York: Monacelli Press.

The Official Website of New York State: <https://www.ny.gov/>

Reflection

1. My master track is Architecture, studio Complex Projects. My interest is designing large scale projects where different flows (people, traffic, goods, etc.) come together. In my graduation project this is also the case. Cars and pedestrians flows will cross the site. Designing a large building with different internal flows (offices, residences and sport facilities) will make it even more complex.
2. The research is about how to transform a messy, pedestrian unfriendly and unattractive neighborhood in Manhattan into an attractive area by designing a new contemporary hybrid building that combines almost two un-combinable programs together. This project is an example of an urban intervention that has to be made to give the neighborhood a new impulse. Similar situations occur in Manhattan but also in the rest of the world where a comparable strategy can be applied.