Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

<table>
<tr><td>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.</td></tr>
</table>

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Erkan Sezgin Mestan
Student number	4604229

Studio		
Name / Theme	Architectural Design Crossovers: Heterogeneous City – The Expanded City/Madrid	
Main mentor	Roberto Cavallo	Architectural Design
Second mentor	Freek Speksnijder	Technical Building Design
Third mentor	Alper S. Alkan	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	I had several reasons for choosing Architectural Design Crossovers as a graduation studio. As the name suggests, the studio offers a transdisciplinary approach to architecture, an aspect that resonated with me particularly, because I wanted to involve other disciplines such as sociology and anthropology that would enrich my exploration of the chosen topic. Furthermore, I wanted to initiate my project on a comprehensive theory basis, and I knew that this is the studio's approach. I see this as a crucial step that would contribute to a more thoughtful design process. Lastly, Design Crossovers has fewer constraints which allows us to explore our personal fascinations, which in my opinion, encourages creativity and in turn, innovative interventions for the built environment.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Poiesis of 'Enclaves of Resistance': Reclaiming Community Resilience along a strip as Urban Pilgrimage
Goal	
Location:	Embajadores – a neighborhood with high vulnerability rate in the centre of Madrid, Spain.
The posed problem,	The posed problem delves into dissident pursuits that are manifested in the built environment. Initially, it started from a personal fascination with the dichotomy around graffiti and has gradually evolved into a larger focus on dissent and transgression in the built environment, like

	graffiti, squatting, public space occupation, to name some examples.

These instances often serve as coping mechanisms for struggling communities and thus are indicators of more significant systemic and/or societal issues.

Often, spatial dissident pursuits face repercussions such as cleansing of the public/private spaces and heightened control as a result. However, dissident pursuit can be viewed in a new light, revealing their generative potential, since they address the systemic / societal issues and have inherent characteristics of desired futures. These characteristics, – such as temporality, visibility, etc. - can therefore be utilized and result in new systems and spatial configurations that could result in loosened control that empowers communities.

The aim of the project is not to solve and eliminate dissent from the built environment, but rather to acknowledge its potential and create room for debate. It seeks to address the underlying systemic issues and create possibilities for marginalized communities, while drawing inspiration from the characteristics of the observed dissident pursuit. The objective is to understand whether and how architecture can take on this role as a catalyst for societal change by creating pockets of resistance/resilience and the dissident strategies could be amplified as resilient tools for community empowerment within an ongoing adaptive cycle. |
| research questions and | The research part of the project is divided into two parts, with the last part progressing into design inquiries. The first part is the explorative stage in *research for design* approach, in order to understand the nature of and underlying reasons of dissent. Subsequently, it moves from the observable to the conceptual, in a speculative stage in *research through* design that materializes intentions. So, converting the structure enables this translation between exploring and speculating (see Process for further explanation). |

Structure of the dual set of sub-research questions:

Explorative part:
1. What is there?
2. What it does?
3. What is the effect?
4. What was the intention?

Speculative part:
1. What should the intention be?
2. What should the effect be?
3. What should it do?
4. What should it be?

The main research question:

How can dissent that is manifested in the built environment inform architectural design and in turn generate novel spatial configurations that could empower marginalized communities?

The explorative part:

1. What types of dissent are observable in the built environment within the neighbourhood of Embajadores?
2. How do these instances of dissent manifest in the built environment?
3. What impact do the observed dissidence pursuits have on the daily life of the citizens in the area?
4. What are the underlying motivations and reasons behind the observed dissident pursuit?

The speculative part/experimental nature:

1. How could these intentions be combined with the observed conditions and in turn, inform design inquiries?
2. what ways could architectural interventions have a positive affect the lives of the citizens in the area?
3. How could the observed characteristics contribute to the resilience of marginalized communities?
4. What are the architectural elements and configurations that could contribute to community agency and resilience?

| design assignment in which these result. | The objective of this project is addressing significant systemic issues, particularly observable in the neighbourhood of Embajadores and in turn creating novel ways of spatial configurations aimed at empowering the marginalized communities. The dissident pursuits observed in the existing fabric of the city consisting of different domains of daily life, from public to semi-public to private need interventions that go beyond the capabilities of a typical social centre.

In contrast to static places of gathering, this project proposes new possibilities that contribute to an on-going empowerment. A dynamic strip consisting of interventions, weaving through the existing fabric of the neighbourhood, progressing and reimagining the domains of daily life such as the home, work, leisure and public space heterotopias as pockets of resilience and resistance to hegemonic structures and so suggest novel ways of life for marginalized individuals. This strip might foster community connections by uniting individuals with common struggles creating productive and empowering combinations. It utilizes existing buildings and suggest new interventions since the existing cannot always address the issues at hand.

This strip of interventions was inspired by the progressions of protest, becoming a route of empowerment where different communities are united for a common intention – a form of urban pilgrimage. |
|---|---|

[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.
The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

Process

Method description

The research part is divided into three parts: theoretical, explorative and speculative approaches corresponding to the praxeology of design research. There is a clear distinction between lab-based research and field-based contextualization aiming to create meaningful ways of living at the local level. This division aligns with the praxeology of design research that elaborates on research about, for, and through design, as structured by Frankel & Racine (see methodological diagram).

- The theoretical stage consists of a literature study, layering recent theories that support research within the discourse of architecture.
- The explorative stage involves delving deeper into observed dissident pursuit and their underlying intentions. This exploration dissects these instances of dissidence into their constituent parts, aiming to understand their manifestation in the built environment. In addition to conventional plans and sections, narratives and rituals of dissents will be analysed as new spatial experiences in a threefold transcript, distinguishing the objects/buildings, the movements and the events which aligns with Bernard Tschumi's Manhattan Transcripts illustrating of how architecture scripts spaces.
- The speculative stage concludes with potential architectural elements and configurations that translate and embody characteristics of dissents and desired intentions into the neighbourhood of Embajadores. Since novel ways are the objective, new spatial experiences will be imagined and depicted through urban literacy, a way of 'writing' urban spaces or experiences. One example of such imaginative methods are collages.

For the design part the outcomes of the speculative will be utilized, corresponding with the existing fabric of the chosen strip to incorporate the interventions.

Literature and general practical references

Key words and theories:

Architecture | public space | dissidence | transgression | loose space | indeterminacy | open-ended | experimental | adaptive | heterotopia's | enclaves of resistance | appropriation | tension | discovery | empowerment | agency | common struggles | marginalized communities.

Bibliography:

Spatial Agency: other ways of doing Architecture by Nishat Awan, Tatjana Schneider. Jeremy Til
Awan, N., Schneider, T., & Till, J. (2011). Spatial Agency: Other Ways of Doing Architecture.

- Collated examples of alternative approaches to architecture and design. These are good examples of how architectural practices can become more richer, open and inclusive.

Loose space: possibility and diversity in urban life by Karen A Franck and Quentin Stevens
Franck, K. A., & Stevens, Q. (2007). *Loose space: Possibility and Diversity in Urban Life.*

- The book explores the experimental and informal use of public spaces and how users appropriate these spaces according to their needs. Activities like familiar, unexpected or planned, momentary or long-lasting make urban spaces loose according to the book.

Architecture and disjunction: essays by Bernard Tschumi
La Marche, J., & Tschumi, B. (1995). *Architecture and disjunction*. Journal of Architectural Education, 49(2), 132.
https://doi.org/10.2307/1425404

- Collection of essays written by Bernard Tschumi over the course of 15 years.

The Right to the City by Henri Lefebvre
Lefebvre, H. (1967). *Le droit à la ville. L'Homme Et La Société*, *6*(1), 29–35.
https://doi.org/10.3406/homso.1967.1063

- Expands on the collective right to change and shape the city.

Heterotopia and the City: Public Space in a Postcivil Society
Michiel Dehaene, and Cauter, Lieven De, Taylor & Francis Group, 2008. ProQuest Ebook Central,
https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.tudelft.idm.oclc. org/lib/delft/detail.action?docID=342368.

- Expands and repositions the coined term Heterotopia's by Michel Foucault.

Architecture and Micropolitics: Four Buildings by Frshid Moussavi
Moussavi, F. (2022). *Architecture and Micropolitics: Four Buildings 2011-2022. Farshid Moussavi Architecture*. Park
Publishing (WI).
- Proposes that we abandon determinism and accept subjectivity to ground buildings in the micropolitics of everyday life.

Repository: 49 Methods and Assignments for Writing Urban Places
Repository. (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.nai010.com/en/publicaties/repository/246097

- Collection of visualisations of urban narratives.

The Architecture of Transgression by Jonathan Mosley, Rachel Sara & Can Altay
Sara, R., & Mosley, J. (2014). The architecture of transgression. John Wiley & Sons.

- Examples from the practice that have a critical approach and acknowledge the potential to rethink the architectural profession.

Common spaces of urban emancipation by S. Stavrides
Stavrides, S. (2020). *Common spaces of urban emancipation*. https://doi. org/10.7765/9781526158697

- Exploration of urban experiences and communing.

Architecture and the Paradox of Dissidence by Inez Weizman
Weizman, I. (2014). *Architecture and the paradox of dissidence*. Routledge eBooks.
https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315779942

- This book expands on a spectrum of dissident spatial practices in different contexts.

…

Precedents:
In the neighbourhood of Embajadores some precedents were present but more in the conventional ways such as homeless shelters, community centres and art cities but investigating those might be useful in understanding what the neighbourhood lacks/needs.

Casino de la Reina
community centre

Biblioteca Escuelas Pias
church turned into library

La Tabacalera
old tobacco factory occupied by subcultures.

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 graduation project exploring the generative potential of dissident pursuit fits well within the studio. Architectural Design Crossovers studio has a transdisciplinary approach, starting from a theoretical foundation with existing theories but also extends to analyze how the practice aligns with the discursive exploration of the dissidence and analyzing the practice to understand these dissident pursuits. Additionally, it is also related to the more specific theme of the studio, which is Heterogeneous/Expanded City, focusing on urban commons. Dissident pursuits are often more present in rapidly growing cities where differences grow faster and experiences swift marginalization and common struggles, which these dissident pursuits are indicators of. Within the Architecture track, the project explores how architecture can materialize and amplify these dissident strategies to achieve empowerment and resilience. Within the framework of the MSc program, as a Master of Science, the objective is to produce knowledge, and this aligns exploring uncharted territories such as dissidence and/or critically rethinking these, such as acknowledging their generative potential.

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

The exploration of dissidence and acknowledgement of its generative potential as coping mechanisms shines a new light on the topic. It delves deeper into the actors in existing social structures and their diverging desires. This research delves into underlying systemic / societal issues, systematically observing and depicting dissidence and could draw connection to human studies such as sociology and anthropology and overlays it within the architectural framework. It is a critical approach to dissident pursuits previously deemed only destructive and draws a connection to architectural practice and explores how architecture can amplify heterogeneity within the city.