

# 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](mailto: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	Qiyu Chen
Student number	6016812

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities	Independent Group
Main mentor	Daniel Rosbottom	Architectural design and research
Second mentor	Amy Thomas	Architectural design and research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The studio allows me to develop a project closely related to my hometown. And it looks closely at social impacts and spatial justice engendered by architectural interventions and investigates how design can respond to critical urban context and social-political issues. The method it emphasizes, which inspects design at different scales and angles, is a great tool to explore my topic and create a proper, rigorous design.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	An Ecology of Relations: Transforming the Contested Rural-Urban Ground in Longshui
Goal	
Location:	Longshui Town, Chongqing, China
The posed problem,	The transformation of rural land into urban landscapes not only alters ownership and economic structures but also fundamentally reshapes public space. For Longshui, the relocation apartments lack the communal spaces that once facilitated social interaction among villagers, leading to the dissolution of long-standing social networks. Additionally, the new urban fabric often prioritizes commercial and infrastructural development over preserving local identity and community needs. As a result, the collective

	<p>memory embedded in rural public spaces is eroded, giving way to anonymous urban environments that fail to accommodate the social dynamics of the displaced communities.</p> <p>The spontaneous repurpose of land by residents on the construction site, which situates within my site of interest, revives the country life and peasantry identity by reactivating agrarian practice. This complicates the urban context and forms a conflict between urban and rural lifestyles, top-down planning and bottom-up resistance. The site is on its becoming towards a negotiated ecology of complex relations.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>In the specific context, what design intervention comes to the fore that may help ex-rural residents reclaim their identity and improve their living quality and sense of belonging? And how do we negotiate between the administrative power and the public's wishes and informal adaptation of lands, through a procedural spatial development that engages residents' participation?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Centered around the repurposed construction site that is now a farmland, the design intervention will facilitate the ongoing cultivation and transform the threshold of the site into a complex of community and productive use, engaging leisure, learning, informal trading, and everyday exchange. Specifically, the design outcome would be a people-constructed community-use building complex, and a masterplan for future land development that transitions the site from a farm land to a leisure and agricultural park.</p>
<p>[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.]</p>	

## Process

### Method description

- 1. Preliminary Research:**  
Closely examine the urban condition within and around the site to form an understanding its historical, cultural, economic and politic past and present. I used photographs, films, drawings, satellite images, and local archives of urban development to create a masterplan, a 3D model of neighbourhood (and physical model of a section of it), collages, and diagrams that illustrate my findings.
- 2. Concept Design:**  
Drawing on preliminary findings, I developed a masterplan that maps out design interventions, including their locations and scales. I drew on building methods and materials that are commonly adopted in the area and translated them into an architecture that can invite people's participation in both use and construct.
- 3. Design Development:**  
Furtherly I formed details about my design intervention, focusing on its form, material, and relation to the context, with sustainability and user participation during construction in mind. Also developed drawings and renders of its looks and feels. For P5, I will continue working on improving drawing quality and renderings. I will make minor adjustments if feedback is received.
- 4. Detail Design:**  
Based on the developed design, by referring to precedence and adapting appropriate tectonic details, develop a sound and convincing structural solution that may realize the design. Improve the sustainability in material choice and weather control. For P5, I will keep working on improving the drawing quality and correctness of details.
- 5. Literature and Visual Output:**  
To form a more convincing argument and make understandable the specific context that may be alien to the audience, I will also form a brochure that collects and curates my writings and images that illustrates the problematization and design solution.

## Literature and general practical references

### Literature:

Chen, Ting. *A State Beyond the State*. nai010 Publishers, 2017.

Li, Yang and Liu Zuyun 李焯 刘祖云. "Theoretical Analysis of the Logic Behind Transformations in Relocation Communities" 拆迁安置社区变迁逻辑的理论解释. *Journal of Nanjing Agricultural University (Social Sciences Edition)* 16, no.6 (2016): 34-40.

Liu, Yuyang. "Land-based finance: how revenue concern drives urbanization." In *Handbook on Urban Development in China*, edited by Ray Yep, June Wang and Thomas Johnson, 36-58. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019.

McGee, Terry, George C.S. Lin, Mark Wang, Andrew Marton and Jiaping Wu. *China's Urban Space: Development under Market Socialism*. Routledge, 2007.

Qian, Junxi. "Towards Critical Urbanism: Urban Public Space in Modern China," in *Chinese Urbanism: Critical Perspectives*, edited by Mark Jayne. Routledge, 2018.

Xiao, Ying. "From 'State and Society' to 'Institutions and Life': A Shift in the Study of Social Change in China." *Social Sciences in China* 36, No. 4 (2015): 76-90.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02S29203.2015.1088626>.

Pallasmaa, Juhani. 2012. *The Eyes of the Skin*. 3rd ed. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons.

Koolhaas, Rem, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. *Elements of Architecture*. Taschen, 2014.

Pimlott, M. *The Public Interior as Idea and Project*. (1 ed.) Jap Sam Books, 2016.

Pimlott, M. *Without and Within*. Episode Publishers, 2007.

### Practice References:

Rural Urban Framework  
Austin Maynard Architects  
David Chipperfield Architects  
Wang Shu  
Etc.

## 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 centres around the architectural discourse within the context of a highly regulated and top-down planned urban context in China, with the main target group being peasants, workers, and their families. It resonates with the studios vision on architecture responding to social issues and making designs with good intentions. It positions within the discussion on how to design a piece of architecture that is ethical, responsible and well-situated, and investigates possible tectonic solutions. It hence falls upon my track, Architecture. It involves an active argumentation on architecture, urbanism, social change, construction, and human-centred design, and therefore it is appropriate to place within the Msc AUBS.

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

The project situates in an urban context that witnesses a collision between rural population and industrial urbanization. This context is extremely common in China and some other developing countries. Issues like failed balance between urban expansion and residents' traditional lifestyle, disrupted everyday rituals, identity crisis of peasant populations in cities, are under-addressed and sometimes ignored by public discussions. By looking at these issues and developing a design response, it helps me to further understand the social problem and exercise on designing for these populations. It may also provide an example for others to reference when it comes to similar backgrounds.