

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	
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Studio		
Name / Theme	Methods & Analysis: Positions in Practice	
Main mentor	Jorge Mejía Hernández	Research and Design
Second mentor	Pierre Jennen	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The Chair of Methods and Analysis adopts an open and experimental approach in guiding students to develop their projects based on personal fascination. It allows students to freely develop their thesis in individual trajectories within a general framework.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Dynamic Facades as Agent of Negotiation
Goal	
Location:	Skopje, Macedonia
The posed problem,	<p>The Macedonian government introduced the controversial project of Skopje 2014 by giving its capital a more classical outlook. The erection of these 'out of place' monuments with neo-classical facades sacrificed citizens' meaningful spaces and their quality of life, in exchange for a boost in its national image.</p> <p>As observed, facades used to be an interface that enables citizens' appropriation in adding various tools and devices for their changing needs. These elements extend the depth of the actual space-defining wall to negotiate exterior and interior relationships, such as by providing habitable shades to passer-bys. Yet, the beautification project refurbished or added new facades which flattened the meaningful depth of such interfaces. People in the interior can no longer express themselves and add necessary interventions,</p>

	<p>whereas people in the exterior are being completely segregated from the interior by the solid and oversized walls. These ornamental outer walls fail to establish any organic or meaningful relationship between the inside and outside.</p> <p>Going back to my site, regardless of the strong opposition by residents, the Skopje government forcefully removed meaningful green spaces and erected two 'out of place' commercial buildings with neo-classical facades in proximity to the residential blocks. Due to the lack of consideration of interior and exterior relationships, the solid boundary-defining wall segregated the passer-bys on streets, workers and residents physically and visually. An array of spatial conflicts arose and prohibited social interactions and activities among different stakeholders. Thus, an immense amount of antagonism has been built up by the people towards these buildings, there is a lack of mechanism for these suppressions to be negotiated or contested.</p>
research questions and	<p>How can the facade serve as a medium to mitigate the unresolved in-betweenness and afford grounds of negotiation?</p> <p>How can the capacity of façade inhabit an architecturally active depth that can be experienced and responsive to social needs?</p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>Linking back to the previous discovery in the negotiative ability of façades, it presented an alternative perception of facades. They do not solely function as a static vertical architectural element that delineates exterior and interior boundaries, but it can promote a dynamic depth that changes according to social needs and sunlight etc. Embracing the multiple interpretations of facades, my graduation project aims to remodel the façade of the new commercial building in a way that it provides architecturally 'active' inhabitable or interstitial spaces to the public realm.</p> <p>It challenges the capacity of such facades in fostering a more harmonic and integrated community between these commercial buildings, residential blocks and its surroundings.</p>

Process

Method description

Conceptual Analysis - Research on existing facades in Skopje

The research starts by studying the physical characteristics of existing facades and how people adapt and interact with them in Skopje. The findings enable a broader interpretation of facades beyond a two dimensional and solid boundary between the interior and exterior. For example, the way people attach operable sun shading devices on their facades suggested its potential in possessing a dynamic depth.

Contextual Analysis - Site Analysis

The analysis will look into the daily activities of stakeholders and their respective encounters to the façades. It fosters an understanding on how flattened facades as a mere cover of the interior will lead to spatial conflicts between different parties.

Case Study

To understand fully about the capacity of facades, I would like to conduct an analysis on relevant theories and case studies that variously interpret the discourse of architectural envelope. I believe it will provide insights on how façade can differently perform; hence provide reflection on the wider implications of exterior-to-interior relationships and facilitator of communal life.

Literature and general practical preference

Literature:

Hauser, Susanne. "Skins in Architecture On Sensitive Shells and Interfaces." *Metaphors in Architecture and Urbanism*, n.d. <https://doi.org/10.14361/transcript.9783839423721.105>.

Koolhaas, Rem, Keller Easterling, Irma Boom, and undefined undefined undefined. "Facade." In *Elements of Architecture*. Venice: Marsilio, 2014.

Leatherbarrow, David, and Mohsen Mostafavi. *Surface Architecture*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005.

Richards, Jonathan. *Facadism*. London: Routledge, 2014.

Rowe, Colin, and Robert Slutzky. "Transparency: Literal and Phenomenal." *Perspecta* 8 (1963): 45. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1566901>.

Schumacher, Michael, Oliver Schaeffer, Michael-Marcus Vogt, Müller Andreas, and Julian Reisenberger. *Move: Architecture in Motion - Dynamic Components and Elements*. Basilea: Birkhäuser, 2010.

Venturi, Robert, and Vincent Scully. Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2019.

Precedents:

Porciúncula de la Milagrosa Chapel by Daniel Bonilla Architects (La Calera, Bogota, Columbia)

Los Nogales Chapel by Daniel Bonilla Architects (Bogota, Columbia)

Storefront for Art and Architecture by Steven Holl (New York, USA)

Kindergarten Kekec by Architecture Office Jure Kotnik (Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Urban Podium by Atelier Kempe Thill (Rotterdam, Netherlands)

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)?

The studio "Positions in Practice" encourages us to freely discover and develop our personal ambitions through continuous self-exploration in architectural knowledge. As a master student of Msc AUBS, I believe it is essential for us to be able to position ourselves within the large spectrum of architectural industry as to execute an architect's responsibility in shaping the environment and peoples' lives.

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

The project is relevant to the larger social, professional and scientific framework in a way that it raises the lost awareness on the discipline of façade design. Nowadays, due to economic concerns, facades are often forced to be flattened to the minimum depth for generating maximum monetary benefits. The treatment of façade is often perfunctory and reduced to merely providing pleasant visual impact to the public. For example, the extensive use of curtain wall glass undermine the potential of facades by creating closed systems that create autonomous spaces. We should acknowledge that facades are vital components of the urban fabric that builds up the city that worth our careful articulation.