

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	Jules van der Meijs
Student number	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities: Palace	
Main mentor	Prof. Daniel Rosbottom	Architecture of the Interior - Architecture
Second mentor	Matthijs Klooster	Architectural Engineering
Argumentation of choice of the studio	After participating in the MSc1 design studio 'House' and MSc2 elective 'Figures', both offered within the chair of Interiors Buildings Cities, I have come to greatly appreciate the methodology of the chair. In my opinion, it is one of the few studios in which all aspects of architectural design are held in equal regard. Simultaneously, it is a studio in which extensive models are used as a tool for both study and representation. It steps away from the two-dimensionality of plans and sections, or the often false sense of character presented in digital renders, and expects its students to think in all dimensions of a project.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The Library as a Social Platform for Community
Goal	
Location:	Stockholm, Sweden
The posed problem,	For millennia, libraries have adapted to changing contexts. In the 21 st century, public libraries face a transformative challenge. Confronting privatization and digitization, they shift from book-centric spaces to open, expectation-free environments embracing issues of equality and multiculturalism. The existing Stockholm City Library, designed by Erik Gunnar Asplund a century ago is not able to properly house these contemporary needs within its existing building.
research questions and	- How can the library become a welcoming and inclusive environment to all? - How does it foster both learning and social interaction? - How does the design of the library offer a discernible spatial quality to its users?

	- In what way does the spatial quality of the new library relate to the architecture of the existing Asplund building? - How can the library develop to be more flexible, sustainable, and future-proof?
design assignment in which these result.	Asplund's Library is a monument to the library of the 20 th century. In order for it to successfully fulfil its role as a central library in a major European city, the building must be transformed to house new activities and functions. The project aims to develop and transform the library into a contemporary public library, that serves the needs and aspirations of the complex and highly diverse contemporary society of the 21 st century.
Process	
Method description	
As part of the research done so far, we collectively researched architectural precedents by Asplund, as well as eight modern public libraries. This research concluded in a series of research books, which feature drawings that explore these buildings on the topics of: spatial quality, ornament, composition and organisation. Similarly, Asplund's original design for the Stockholm City Library was recreated as a scale model via archival photographs and documentation. The model thus serves as both a tool of study and representation. An excursion to Sweden provided the opportunity to spend a day in the library itself, as well as visit other culturally significant buildings in the city of Stockholm. Photography was then used as a tool that allowed for comparison between the actual library and its scale model replication. Through lectures and more informal talks given in Sweden, the history of the building, the failed competitions and the position of architectural projects in the (socio-)political sphere were further expanded upon. Followed by a series of lectures and debates on the historical and social relevance of the library were presented, as well as the future of libraries discussed. Through further research into the existing (archival) material regarding the Asplund library, I have come to better understand the library in its current form. Throughout the design process, I plan to further employ the tools of modelling and drawing as a means of synthesizing and analysing my design. This will extend to include photography and collage, which I previously used to develop my initial proposal for a library (P1).	

Literature and general practical references

Previous competition and care briefs – provided as part of the graduation project:

- */Asplund; Architectural Competition, The Stockholm City Library*. Stockholmsstad, 2006. PDF.
- *Stockholm City Library and its park; Care programme 2012*. Stockholmsstad Fastighetskontoret, 2012. PDF.
- *Renewed City Library in Stockholm; Activity programme 2014*. Stockholmsstad, 2014. PDF.

Literature:

- Mattern, Shannon. "Library as Infrastructure." *Places Journal*, June 2014. Accessed November 29, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.22269/140609>

Lectures:

- Hanrath, Jan David, "Libraries: Toolboxes for Participation and Collective Understanding" (lecture, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, December 6, 2023)
- Lundvall, Nina, "On Public Building" (lecture, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, January 12, 2024)
- Pimlott, Marc, "Learning from Asplund" (lecture, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, September 21, 2023)
- Rosbottom, Daniel, "Five Libraries" (lecture, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, November 23, 2023)
- Thomas, Amy, "The Library as (Social) Infrastructure" (lecture, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, November 30, 2023)

Podcasts:

- Mars, Roman. "Palaces for the People." 99% Invisible, March 19, 2019. Podcast, website, 44:07. <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/palaces-for-the-people/>.

Precedent studies – works by Erik Gunnar Asplund:

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| - Gothenburg Law Courts Annex, | 1913-1925 |
| - Woodland Cemetery; 'Skogskyrkogården', | 1915 |
| - Villa Snellman, | 1917-1918 |
| - Lister County Courthouse, | 1917-1921 |
| - Woodland Chappel; 'Skogskapellet', | 1918-1920 |
| - Stockholm Exhibition, | 1928-1930 |
| - Bredenberg Department Store, | 1933-1935 |
| - Woodland Cemetery Crematorium, | 1935-1940 |

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

As the name Interiors Buildings Cities suggests, the studio is focussed on varying scales of an architectural project, considering all as parts within the same order. Whereas the city might inform the building, the interior might just as well address the city. All aspects of a project are thought of as a coherent scheme, in which the elements respond to each other.

The studio addresses a wide variety of questions, ranging from the socio-political to the detail. It addresses not only architecture, but expects design to imagine Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences as a single, coherent whole.

The project is based in the shadow of multiple failed competition briefs. It offers a unique opportunity to explore the potential of the original briefs. Freed from the concerns of social and political

expectations, it stands as an opportunity to redefine and reconsider the fundamental questions posed by previous briefs.

In the design process, it becomes imperative to reflect not only on the expectations set out by its predecessors but also on the evolving nature of the context in which they were set. Questions posed in 2014, now a decade old, have to be answered in a world that has changed fundamentally in many ways. It must address contemporary social urgencies, and embrace inclusivity in its design.

In this context, the design not only anticipates but actively engages with the pressing challenges of our time, and in turn offers a blueprint for the contemporary library of tomorrow.