Reflection

Name: Jia Chen
Student number: 4234715
Email: J.Chen-8@student.tudelft.nl
Studio: Graduation studio for Complex Projects

Relationship between theme of the studio and my project:
The theme of the studio is to develop South Chicago (Fig.1) in order to help the city of Chicago to achieve its global ambitions. The main problem in South Chicago is concluded as follow: After the close of US Steel in 1992 (Fig.2), South Chicago lost its economical anchor that led to serious decline. What is urgently needed here is a new external strength to help the district to establish its new brand.

![Fig. 1 Site location](image1)
![Fig.2 South Works in 1950s and in 2013](image2)

For our team, the strategy is building a healthy city. The idea originated from the recent unveiling of the Healthy Chicago Public Agenda in 2011 by the mayor of Chicago (Fig.3). There are a series of policies to improve the public health environment of Chicago. It is a good opportunity for us to build a new district with the theme of public health in South Chicago. One of the major features of the health city is the health science core. (Fig.4) The campus of health city will provide job opportunities, education and medical support to the neighborhood and promote healthy lifestyle. Each community zone has its community center, including the program of a clinic, sport facilities and fresh food market. Other than education, the health science campus also includes research, hospitals, health business and public services.

![Fig. 3 Healthy Chicago Public Agenda](image3)
![Fig. 4 function division](image4)
For my individual architecture design, I concentrate my work on the medical library, which is the main building in healthy science campus. One major mission of the health campus is to help develop the neighborhood. As the heart of the campus, the medical library is seen as a building with great potential to achieve the mission. The medical library represents the today and future of the neighborhood. At the same time, it also reflects the industrial past, adding a strong cultural atmosphere to the new area. It has the underlying idea of telling people that we will create a better future based on the glorious history. (Fig.5, Fig.6)

Fig. 5 construction to unload Iron Ore  
Fig. 6 medical library reflects industry history

1. short strip and long strips  
2. extend end: better view  
3. connect: less facade, more sustainable

Fig. 7 form generation

**Relationship between research and design:**
In research, we concluded that the south side of Chicago gives people the impression of violence, shooting, drugs, etc. It has problems of unemployment, low quality education, crime and poor health care. With this conclusion in mind, we raised the research question: Why does this area have these problems? How to change the situation? We started our research to understand the problem by studying its history. What we found is that in the contrary, it used to be a friendly neighborhood. South Chicago had its own golden age. In 1901, U.S. Steel opened, which became one of the world’s largest steel factories. It attracted many workers, who immigrated here. Later, due to the shifting market
of steel, the factory closed in 1992. In 1994, all property are demolished and sold. The site became empty. Workers lost their jobs. The South Chicago declined. We carried out further research on the culture, economy, policy and infrastructure to better understand the background.

According to the research, we defined our design direction: South Chicago requires new investment. They need jobs. They need healthcare. They need education and social support. These arguments led to key ideas for our design.

Relationship between methodical line of approach of the studio and the method chosen by me:
The methodical line of approach of the studio is as follow: Firstly, doing research & analysis on Large, Medium, and Small (L, M, S) scales, which is from the scale of country of USA, to the scale of the city of Chicago, and to the scale of the site of South Chicago. Secondly, define strategies/ambitions for the entire site & neighborhood. Thirdly, make urban design in teams. Lastly, design architecture and building technology individually.

The method chosen by me is based on the structure of the. Firstly, we went to Chicago to carry out research and analysis on different aspects. We tried to search information from literature and on the Internet. As a summary to the research, three booklets are developed, respectively referred as L, M, S research booklet. Secondly, we tried to make a good strategy to solve the problems in South Chicago. We chose to build a healthy city on the site. The strategy design dealt with complex conditions. It was more related to policies, social needs, and financial support than just an urban design. We also make case studies to help us have a better understanding of the context and design. For example, the Medellin case is a good example to upgrade the neighborhood according to high standards in the poorest area, which gave us inspirations. Thirdly, we formed a four people group to make urban design depend on our strategies. We analyzed design of many medical colleges as references. Lastly, I designed a medical library, which is in the phase 1 of the master plan. I explored the shape, structure, transport, interior, and climate to emphasis the strategies.

Relationship between the project and the wider social context:
In the past, the southern and western part of Chicago had a bad reputation for its safety. However, according to our strategy, South Chicago will revitalize again by establishing its identity and brand as a health center of Chicago. As a significant part of it, my project of the medical library is the main building in this healthy science campus, which demonstrates the concept of healthy city, showing the mission to develop the neighborhood. Conducting our strategy, Chicago will regain its fame as a harmonious multi-racial metropolis.
Graduation Plan: Architecture 2013-2014

Personal information
Name: Gloria Chen
Student number: 4234715
Address: Bastiaansplein 97, Delft
Postal code: 2611DC
Place of residence: Netherlands
Telephone number: +31644724688
E-mail address: J.Chen-8@student.tudelft.nl

Studio
Name of studio: Complex Project
Teachers: Roberto Cavallo, Henri van Bennekom, Hubert van der Meel
Argumentation of choice of the studio: The project is from research to urban design and then to architecture, which attracts me.

Title
Title of the graduation project: SouthChicago Health City – Medical Library

Graduation Project
Problem Statement
The main problem in South Chicago is: After the close of US Steel in 1992, South Chicago lost its economical anchor and declined, which needs some new external strength help the district to form its new brand.

In 2011, the mayor of Chicago unveiled the Healthy Chicago Public Agenda. There is a series of policies to improve the public health environment of Chicago. It is a good chance to build a new district with the theme of public health in South Chicago.

The above is the urban design part, which is group work. Then for the architecture part, my individual fascination is the medical library. Medical library is the heart of campus, said by William Osler, who is the father of modern medicine in North America. The question is: What is the relationship between individual design and the group master plan? Where should be the library located? Through research and case study about Yale Medical Library, which is a successful example, I locate the library in the center of the campus.
The medical library has cooperation with hospitals, medical college and research. Besides, the library is between the Ore wall, which provide a quiet world for the library. The center positioned medical library will be the core for the campus as well as the healthy city.

**Goal**
Create a new brand to activate the South Chicago. Attract new investment into this area. Design a suitable central position library for the medical college as well as hospital, research and companies.

**Process**

**Method description**

a. Do research and analysis on different scales: Large - Country & state, Median – Chicago, S – Site.

b. Urban design: strategy design, grid design, typology design

c. Architecture design & Building Technology design

**Literature and general practical preference**

  http://geo.data.gov/geoportal/
- United Stated Census Bureau - United States Department Commerce.
  http://www.census.gov/
- National Agriculture State Statistics, United States Department Agriculture.
  http://www.nass.usda.gov/
  http://www.csu.edu/cerc/maps.htm
- Healthy Chicago Annual Report Feb 14 2013
- Ma, Xiaomin.(2012). Organization and Design of Library Subject Services: Case Study of Yale Medical Library

**Time planning**

**Week 01-08:** Do research and analysis

**P1** (08/11/2013): research booklet, research essay

**Week 09-22:** Strategy design and urban design:
**P2** (23/01/2014): urban draft 1:1000, program of requirement, draft design (plans, cross-cuts, facades) 1:500, Graduation plan

**Week 23-42:** Individual architecture design and building technology design:

**P3** (04/2014): plans, facades, cross-cuts, 1:200/1:100, part of the building, plan and cross-cut 1:50, façade fragment with horizontal and vertical cross-cut 1:20, details 1:5

**P4** (05/2014): theoretic and thematic support of research and design + reflection on architectonic and social relevance, situational drawing 1:5000/1:1000, general plan 1:500; plans, facades, cross-cuts 1:200/1:100, part of the building, plan and drawings 1:50; façade fragment with horizontal and vertical cross-cut 1:20; details 1:5

**P5** (06/2014): theoretic and thematic support of research and design + reflection on architectonic and social relevance; situational drawing 1:5000/1:1000; general plan 1:500; plans, facades, cross-cuts 1:200/1:100; part of the building, plan and drawings 1:50; façade fragment with horizontal and vertical cross-cut 1:20; details 1:5