**Personal Information**

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**Studio Information**

Theme: Materialisation SADD  
Teachers: Engbert van der Zaag (1st), Peter Koorstra (2nd)  
Project Title: United Nations Environmental Council, New York

**Studio Choice**

I have chosen this studio because I wanted to have the chance to fully design a building, from the urban context all the way to the detailing of the construction and sustainability strategies. The SADD studio provides such an opportunity with the design of the UNEC and at the same time adds a very complex building program together with the research and development of a large scale master plan together to form a complete and convincing design solution.
**Problem Statement & Goal**

The brief for the graduation project is the design of the so called United Nations Environmental Council - or Headquarters for Sustainability in New York City adjacent to the existing United Nations complex. Thereby this project poses two main challenges; first the need to create an iconic building for not only more sustainable architecture but also a more sustainable way of living and relationship with our environment. Secondly, due to its location and post 9-11 security demands the program also challenges the relationship between the public and private, between the everyday world and the secure and often hidden realm of politics.

In order to address these issues, the design project will research ways to create a building(s) that diminishes the tension between the public and private realm and thereby result in a proposal that integrates itself into its public context and allows for constant interaction so as to become not only an architecturally, environmentally but also socially and culturally sustainable proposal. In addition the design will include a proposal for an urban farm, in order to address the issue of modern day food production, that is one of the biggest challenges in creating a more sustainable society.

**Method Description**

The main research and design means will be the analysis and study of a variety of building typologies and in particular the research into the composition of different volumes within an urban volume, to create an architectural route or experience allowing for a close relationship between the public outside and private inside spaces. Hereby much of the research is performed using a variety of plan drawing techniques (e.g. the nolli plan) as well as by utilizing 3 dimensional computer models / imaging to analyse and explore the character of the sequential experiences created from eye level.

Furthermore, more scientific research will be done with regards to the urban farm. Hereby technologies such as hydroponic and aquaponic farming will be analysed and potentially integrated into the design proposal.

**References**

In addition to references regarding sustainable strategies - mainly the urban farm / food production integrated into the building design - such as hydroponic and aquaponic systems, much of the literature research will deal with the idea of the sequential architectural route / phenomenological experience of the architecture, in order to create a meaningful integration into the public context of the design proposal. This literature research includes amongst others the following works:

- **Juhani Pallasmaa**, *The Eyes of the Skin, Architecture and the Senses*, (Wiley Academy, John Wiley & Sons Ltd), 2005
- **Peter Zumthor**, *A Way of Looking At Things In Thinking Architecture*, Transl.: Maureen Oberli-Turner (Birkhauser, Basel), 1999
- Designing for ‘Delight’? - The aesthetic experience of walking Ian Napier
- **Stefania Petridou**, *A sensory architectural experience in a modern ‘ocularcentric’ world*, 2009
Relevance

I believe that this graduation project will be an interesting reference both for the social and scientific larger framework, as its design is very much based on addressing both these issues very specifically.

Socially, the building attempts to create a very innovative and in a sense courageous proposal in that it tries to break up or eliminate the conventional solid boundary between the open public space and the secure inside of the building by splitting this boundary up into a number of specific events or segments create a route or in a sense semi-urban space that becomes a gradual transition from outside to inside space.

Furthermore scientifically, rather than addressing the issue of sustainability with the mere implementation of modern technologies, the design attempts to present a solution for a more sustainable way of life overall, in that it deals with our food production - one of the major challenges in creating a more sustainable world - by the implementation of the latest advances in urban food production directly as a key design feature.

Therefore, the design project should hopefully act as an innovative and forward thinking example of how to approach sustainability - socially and environmentally in the future.

Time Planning

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<td>Break</td>
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- **Design Process**:
  - **Building Design**
    - **Concept**
      - **Foundation**
        - **Laying Slab**
          - **Design**
        - **Structure**
        - **Structure Finished**
      - **Frame**
      - **Frame Finished**
      - **Detailing**
      - **Detailing Finished**
    - **Facade**
      - **Facade**
    - **Roof**
      - **Roof**
    - **Park**
      - **Park**
    - **Landscape**
      - **Landscape**
    - **Urban Space**
      - **Urban Space**
    - **Tower**
      - **Tower**

- **Sustainability**
  - **Urban Farming System**
  - **Energy & Ventilation**
  - **Storage**

- **Presentation Preparation**
  - **All issues finished**

- **Budget**
  - **Project Overview**
  - **System & Technical Design**
  - **Technical & Architectural Design**
  - **Future Facility Envelope**