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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Personal information</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
<td>Lydia Polykandrioti</td>
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<td><strong>Student number</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Studio</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name / Theme</strong></td>
<td>Explore Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers / tutors</strong></td>
<td>Heidi Sohn (main), Hubert van der Meel (BT), Stavros Kousoulas (research)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Argumentation of choice of the studio</strong></td>
<td>Explore Lab graduation studio provided me with the opportunity to investigate the topic of my personal interest, whose site and format did not fit one of the other existing studios. Specifically, it concerns how desire functions as the driving force for the production of the city, using Athens as a case study.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Graduation project</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Title of the graduation project</strong></td>
<td>Folding: From the desire of the city to the city of desire</td>
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<th><strong>Goal</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>Athens (Sepolia neighborhood)</td>
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<td><strong>The posed problem,</strong></td>
<td>The production and the capacities of space in societies powered by desire, is the main framework of this research. More specifically, it focuses on the production of the city driven desire. Athens is an example of a not pre-planned city where individual and collective desires played a crucial role in its development. How can the production of urban actions in Athens change from being driven by private interests to be driven by social? What are the type of in-between spaces that</td>
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emerge when public and private spaces no longer fulfill their pre-defined role, when the dichotomy between private and public fades?

**research questions and**
- How was Athens transformed, and, as an extent, the chosen neighbourhood of Sepolia, based on a desire, as expressed in both collective and individual forms, throughout the 20th century, and what are the capacities of social space?
- How is urban life developed in an urban area with seemingly zero public/communal space?
- What can we learn from studying the process on which a city was created extremely productively?
- How can architectural practices introduce a process, where desires and territories are indeterminably re-singularised?

**design assignment in which these result.**

The project aims to investigate the potentials of desire-based processes of the production of space and trace new forms of cohabitation within the urban environment of Athens. The following questions that arise will lead the design assignment:
- What are the characteristics of the third spaces that exist beyond the dichotomy of private and public?
- What kind of structures can accommodate existing desires but also enable new ones to be emerged?
- What is the role of the technical and material embodiment involved in the production of the neighbourhood?

**Process**

**Method description**

The multi-scalar questions mentioned above that arise at the intersection between architecture, urban planning and philosophy, of material and non-material practices,
are examined through systematic analysis, design experimentation, theoretical speculation and critical writing on the contemporary city. First of all, a historical-theoretical framework in the form of an academic paper is developed, parallel to the analysis of Athens as a case study. The diagram is used as an analytical tool that also functions as the main aspect of the design process. The assemblage theory, the concept of the rhizome and the diagram as an abstract machine by and related to the theory of Deleuze and Guattari are the main theoretical-analytical references in order to analyse the notion of desire, how it relates to the production of the city, as well as how the diagram can be understood as a research/design tool.

The developed diagram examines the relationship between collective and individual desires through a study on tangible and intangible “machines” that are part of how the assemblages of desire are transformed into the assemblages of the city. The elements of the diagram are organised based on the distinction between habits, or rituals that take place in everyday life, habitus, structures that these habits produce and are produced by and habitats, or territories that are de-co-re-constructed by those habits and their habitus which reciprocally affect them back.

A series of interviews with inhabitants and photographic documentation of the chosen neighbourhood are conducted in order to investigate the individual and collective desires in the neighbourhood, habits and habitats.

The diagram is at the same time product of the research and the design proposal for the neighbourhood. The design proposal thus, does not concern the search for an optimized solution but rather, revealing and intensifying existing structures. Design experimentation, mainly involving further research on building technology and possible material practices related, enables to test how the neighbourhood can be reconceived as an assemblage of successive spaces that find themselves in-between the public and private realm, revealing the virtual desires and habits of the city dwellers and hosting the existing ones.

**Literature and general practical preference**

The following approaches are used as theoretical-analytical references in order to analyse the notion of desire and how it relates to the production of the city as well as the diagram as a research/design tool:

- The assemblage theory
- The concept of the rhizome by Deleuze and Guattari
- The affect theory by Seigworth and Gregg and by Massumi
- Writings on individuation by Simondon
- The diagram as an abstract machine by DeLanda
- The production of space and the right to the city by Henri Lefebvre
- The distinction between the habit-habitus-habitat by Pierre Bourdieu
- Various writings on the development and current status of the Greek capital
Analytical and visual references for the development of this diagram:

- The assemblage theory and the diagram as an abstract machine of Deleuze and Guattari
- The Atlas of Novel Tectonics by Reiser and Umemoto
- Time Drills by Spurse
- Prints of machines/ biological organisms’ diagrams by scientists and naturalists of the 19th century

References for the material practices and design experimentation:

- Arakawa and Gins
- R&Sie(n)
- amid.cero9
- Haus-Rucker-Co
- Aristide Antonas

**Reflection**

This project suggests that architectural practices, instead of looking for optimised solutions to problems, can rather analyse the current structures of a certain ecology in order to offer critical understanding of what the becoming of that ecology can be. The choice of Athens as a case study was not merely made in order to use a site or a testing ground for ideas but rather as an example of how the analysis of certain cities or places can offer an understanding of the structures of productive processes and how they affect the urban life. Since the production of the city and its capacities affect each other in a reciprocal way, architectural practices can offer a problematized thinking on how the built environment can facilitate inclusiveness, or in other words, generate spatial preconditions for the development of individuation. Technical and material embodiment is inextricably related to the socio-spatial and ecologies of urban environments and is examined under the light of the same analytical tools. In this project the diagram is introduced as an analytical tool of the structures of an urban environment and at the same time is presented as the product of the practical assignment, which has as purpose to reveal and intensify certain aspects of it.

**Time planning**

**Weeks 1.1-1.4**
Exploration of the topic and specification of the problem statement and the research questions that emerge
Selection of the main tutor and the research mentor

**Weeks 1.5-1.7**
Literature study and further exploration and definition of the topic
P1 presentation (08.11.2018)
**Week 1.8-1.9**
Reflection on the P1
Further development of the research

**Week 1.10-2.04**
Research draft submission and feedback
Preparation for the field study

**Week 2.05 - end of December:**
Site visit, interviews, photo documentation
Organising the field study material to incorporate them in the research

**Weeks 2.07-2.08**
Research thesis draft submission
Conclusions of the research/ specification of the guidelines for the practical part
Preparation of the P2 presentation
P2 presentation (18.01.2018)

**Week 2.09**
Reflection on the P2
Re-organisation of the program of requirements

**Week 2.10-3.01**
Further development of the diagram
Research on the technical and material aspects of the chosen site through history and the current ones and look for possibilities to incorporate in the design and the diagram
Finalising of the research document and submission

**Weeks 3.02-3.04**
Preliminary design, floorplans, sections

**Weeks 3.05-3.07**
Finalizing the diagram
Development of Sections, Plans and Elevations (1/100), sketches of details

**Week 3.08**
Sections (1/50) development of details, façades (1/10), sketches of detail (1/5) presentation

**Weeks 3.09-4.02**
Finalizing drawings

**Week 4.03**
Situation drawings, floorplans, sections, elevations, façade vertical and horizontal section (1/20), detail 1/5, final report
P4 presentation
**Weeks 4.04-4.09**
Construction of models, impressions and preparation of the presentation

**Weeks 4.10**
P5 presentation