Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Personal information</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></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>
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<td><strong>Teachers / tutors</strong></td>
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**Argumentation of choice of the studio**
The choice for this studio comes from the relation of the subject with the contemporary situation in my hometown of Venice in Italy. Because of the growing tourism industry, many citizens in Venice have had to leave their former homes and the city, due to increased house prices and the related loss of daily services. Today the city’s economy rotates around tourism and the needs of the citizens are left in the background. The Msc3/4 Graduation Studio, Heritage and Housing gives us the chance to develop an intervention for a dwelling in the inner city of Amsterdam (Binnengasthuis), which in my opinion can be seen as a new start for tackling the museumification and gentrification process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Graduation project</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Title of the graduation project</strong></td>
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**Goal**

**Location:** [Location]

Amsterdam, Binnegasthuisterrain

This part of the city of Amsterdam houses a 19th century hospital complex, a rarity where many famous Amsterdam architect their have contributed to. The spatial structure of this part of Amsterdam is unique, the location is the result of a layered construction in which the buildings have been fitted in combination with green structures (courtyards, streets and squares).

**The posed problem,**

Gentrification is dividing Amsterdam into economical levels and as a consequence the cost of living and housing in particular is becoming progressively more expensive. The lively mixture of population present in Amsterdam’s city center is becoming
increasingly threatened by this process. The current housing stock is no longer in accordance with the residents’ aspirations and the City (Amsterdam) is therefore seeking to shift the emphasis on social rented housing (which started in 1902 with the housing act) to more privately owned housing. For this reason, many inhabitants of Amsterdam continue to live in social rented housing, causing stagnation in the housing market. Furthermore the opportunities for the younger sector of the population (young couples, apprentices, graduates, etc.) are more and more jeopardized and many struggle to find suitable accommodation. The risk is that Amsterdam will completely lose the identity and the liveliness of its local communities, the socially produced spaces in its urban environment and also the attention for human individuality and the spontaneous, diverse and natural side of the city which had been hugely praised by some prominent (and socially active) Dutch architects of the 1970s and 80s.

Research question

For my graduation research I decided to look at some examples of housing architecture of the 1970s and 80s in order to find out what were the positive architectural outcomes and lessons which could be learnt by studying some case studies in detail and which in the future could be used as a basis and inspiration for the design intervention of my graduation project.

Research Question:

How do the built structures in these two examples of affordable housing of the 1980s (the Nieuwmarkt project by Theo Bosch and Aldo van Eyck and the Binnengasthuis by Paul de Ley) translate into social structure and are these projects suitable to fit a contemporary housing project?

Design assignment in which these result.

The results of my research report led me also to also choose the Binnengasthuisstraat affordable housing block designed by Paul de Ley as the site for my future intervention.

The reasons for this choice are based on the fact that the Binnengasthuisstraat project presented itself with some significant architectural challenges in terms of its transformation into a contemporary housing project. Furthermore my choice was also driven by the fact that this particular building was mentioned in an advice from the BMA (Bureau Monumenten & Archeologie) which said “removing the detonating social housing would historically desirable”. Stating that appearance of the building which is probably the most significant architectural challenge of all, has created a huge contrast with the other historic brickwork buildings on the site.

My intervention aims to solve these issues together with the proposition of new public and private functions for the site. In order to tackle the gentrification process which is happening in Amsterdam, I chose to target towards not specific type of users but rather a more homogeneous and balanced mix of target groups: young and old, middle class, startups etc. which eventually will correspond into different housing types such as studios, apartments, and maisonettes. The intervention also aims to incorporate other functions than living, for example a kindergarten, small grocery shops and a café or a study space for the university in order to add to the diverse and balance mixed which is typical of Amsterdam.

Process

Method description

The research for my graduation studio project developed through different steps.

Firstly, I explored through literature study the development of the social approach which led Amsterdam to become one of the most egalitarian cities in the world so I have looked into not only the development of the city’s policies, but also the architectural ideologies which flourished in the post World War II period.

The second step of my research which was done by site visit, looked at the possible urban and architectural elements from two case studies (The Nieuwmarkt by Theo Bosch and Binnengasthuis by Paul de Ley) which were adopted by the architects and that might identify the specific reasons why this 1980’s architecture could still be considered by many architects as a reference today. The focus of my research has been on those elements and architectural characteristics of the buildings that were thought to reestablish the human dimension and which are essential to enhance the quality of life of the inhabitants of large scale projects.

Finally I evaluated both projects from a contemporary perspective in order to see if they are suitable to adapt to present day need for of a mix of program and to introduce new dwelling types. I did this by exploring the plot size, the structure of the original, the
grid (if based on a grid) and the original concept which the architect had in mind.

**Literature and general practical preference**


3- Smithson, Alison; (1968) Team 10 primer, Studio Vista: London

4- Bergeijk, H; (1998) Notations of Herman Hertzberger, NAi Publishers

**Reflection**

**Relevance**

The reason why I chose to concentrate my research on the topic of housing architecture of 1970s and 1980s is because it is a contemporary challenge today. What do we do with these buildings? How can we adapt them to our contemporary lifestyles, in terms of function, materialization etc.? Or do we just demolish them and build new one that fits contemporary needs? Only in Rotterdam between 1970-1989 more than 40,000 homes have been added to the housing stock and which roughly corresponds to 15% of the current housing stock. In Amsterdam the number is not as specific but based on maps I have calculated that buildings built between the 1960-1980 could amount to around 10-12%.

Sources: City of Amsterdam [http://maps.amsterdam.nl/bouwjaar/?LANG=en](http://maps.amsterdam.nl/bouwjaar/?LANG=en)
Rotterdam70 (rotterdam70.nl/)

**Time planning**

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<td>Week 01</td>
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<td>Week 02-03</td>
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<td>Week 03-04</td>
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<td><strong>Q2</strong></td>
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<td>Week 14-18</td>
<td>May-June</td>
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### Week 19 | June

Elaboration for the concept design, focusing on plans, section, elevation and atmosphere drawings

**P2 PRESENTATION** (assessment of the design concept)
- Urban draft / 1:500
- Program / list of requirement
- Draft design
  - (plans, sections, elevations)
  - 1:200

### Week 20 | June

**P2 PRESENTATIONS** (other members of the group)

### Q3

**Week 21 - 22 | September**

Prepare urban physical (1:500/1000) and elaborate digital models of the site

**Week 23 - 27 | TBA**

Revise the concept design, progress with the planning of the maisonette and apartments. Work on structural drawings, façade composition and detailing 1:50 to 1:5

**P3 PRESENTATION**
- Plans, facades, cross-cuts, 1:200 / 1:100
- Part of the building, plan and cross-cut 1:50
- Façade fragment with hor. and vert. cross-cut 1:20
- Details 1:5

### Week 28 | TBA

Revise the design, progress with the planning dwellings, public functions and contexts. Materialization façade and interiors composition and detailing 1:20 to 1:5 – Atmosphere drawings

**P4 PRESENTATION**
- Theoretic and thematic support of research and design + reflection on architectonic and social relevance
  - Site 1:5000 / 1:1000
  - Plan ground level 1:500
  - Plans elevations, sections 1:200 / 1:100
  - Part of the building, plan and drawings 1:50
  - Façade fragment with hor. and vert. cross-cut 1:20
  - Details 1:5
  - Reflection based on template

### Q4

**Week 29-33 | TBA**

Revise the design and building technology aspects, make physical model 1:100/200

**Detail Model 1:50 (Façade Segment)** – Atmosphere drawings, in preparation for P5 presentations

**P5 PRESENTATION**