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:

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<td>Student number</td>
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<td>Telephone number</td>
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Urbanization in China is an on-going process that leads to formation and transformation of cities with large amount of migrants, calling for a people centred approach of urban development. This happens especially in regions like the Pearl River Delta that have experienced rapid industrialisation in the past decades, while currently is in the process of industrial upgrading. Such context implies challenges for urban development, namely, accommodating socio-economic transformation in the built environment spatially. Besides, Chinese cities are experiencing a paradigm shift on urban development, focusing more and more on regeneration of existing built-up areas than construction of new towns/districts. Urban regeneration is therefore playing an increasingly important role in reshaping spatial structures at the city-regional level and urban form at the neighbourhood level. It brings opportunities to improve liveability and urban vitality, making better places for people living and working in the transforming Chinese cities.

What Chinese cities are now experiencing is radical and
dramatic. Many of the phenomenon that we see is not only driven by the external influence of globalization. It is more an endogenous process by traditional Chinese ideology and modernization. Therefore, there is much to be understood in the transitional time in China, which needs more theoretical support from both Chinese and international researches. What this research can offer is exactly the right combination of these two ideologies.

**Graduation project**

<table>
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<th>Title of the graduation project</th>
<th>Achieving livable neighborhood for elderly and young migrants in 80s-90s housing in Guangzhou</th>
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**Goal**

**Location:** Guangzhou

**The posed problem,**

The old residential courts from 1980s to 1990s comprised a large proportion of housing in Chinese cities. The typical housing form was built mostly for Danwei, which were initially built as welfare for employees in a working unit. With the introduction of market mechanism, commodity housing replaced Danwei housing as the housing supply for the public. Lack of maintenance has resulted in environment deteriorating in most Danwei housing. New social groups moving in has brought in new demand to the public space. However, the good location and convenient facilities of Danwei housing have attracted investment in these residential areas, which caused extensive demolishing. Finally, the simple housing typology and pursuit of grand image have narrowed the options towards housing.

**research questions and design assignment in which these result.**

How can the old residential courts from 1980s to 1990s in Guangzhou aim at livable neighborhood, and respond to diversified demands for elderly and young migrants?

These project aims to explore alternative approaches to improve the livability of old residential courts from 1980s to 1990s in China through planning strategies, institution construction, and spatial interventions that can adapt to the changing demand of diversified social groups in the context of intensified development pressure.

**Process**

**Method description**
date. The University of Melbourne: Melbourne.


and demarcation of concepts; a literature study. Landscape and Urban Planning 65 (2003): 5–18

Reflection

Relevance

Social relevance:

1. Housing from 1980s to 1990s in China—the most common but unvalued residential form

First of all, it is notable that how general this housing typology had once dominated Chinese cities, and are still a common housing form that massively existing in the time that commodity housing has been built in such an enormous amount. Although the housing market and urban renewal schemes might differ from cities to cities, the amount of people and housing that are involved in the Danwei housing in China is beyond estimation. That is why it can never be seen simply as an unwanted housing typology that can be ignored and demolished whenever the capital takes a fancy to a certain location. According to an article in Economists in 2013, there were proximately 185 million square meters of housing being demolished from 2005 to 2010, which comprises 16.2% of the housing stock. With on-going urban renewal and development pressure, it is unstoppable that each year, old housing areas are being demolished in all Chinese cities mostly due to their economic value. Thus, it is worth discussing about it as a general urban issue in China.

2. Danwei is a typical type of post-war public housing—a universal phenomenon

Despite of cultural, political and economic context, the spatial form and government reaction on the social problems of residential areas built in post-war time are very similar. One of the essential discussions is about the impact of modernization and how the concept has taken controlled of the decision making of the built environment
in that period of time. In this sense, the discussion on Danwei housing can also contribute to the discussion of urban renewal of post-war housing world-wide.

Scientific relevance:
In the thesis, I have reviewed modernization, urbanization, urban renewal, livability, industrial transformation and their related terms. The core topic in the thesis is to explore measures to improve the well-being of residents living in the old neighborhood. Thus it is a people-oriented approach. In the Chinese context, it is also very important to analyze the historical and current institution and planning system in the first place to understand what is really going on in the Chinese urbanization process.

Time planning