

Graduation Plan

Architecture P2

Personal Information	
Name	Maciej Jan Abramczyk
Student number	4254899
Address	Akropolishof 23
Postal code	2624 NJ
Place of residence	Delft
Telephone number	0687253717
E-mail address	maciej.abramczyk@gmail.com
Studio	
Theme	Architecture & Dwelling Graduation Studio: <i>At Home In the City, Van Der Kunbuurt, Amsterdam</i>
Teachers	Birgit Jürgehake, Paul Kuitenbrouwer
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Facing the growth of global population and accelerating trends of migration to the cities, architects' urging responsibility is to formulate relevant and progressive solutions for dwelling in the city environment, responsive to social and economical change, to take a stance in a discussion about future of the cities.
Graduation Project Title	
Personality & Anonymity: Dwelling in Public-Dominated City Environment	
Product	
Problem Statement	
Introduction Development of cities throughout the history has been paralleled by emergence of new dwelling typologies striving to respond to evolving conditions. Ever-increasing population of cities led to gradual compression and densification of dwelling environment into uniform, large-scale ensembles comprised of hundreds of apartments, which often comes at expense of dwelling's fundamental trait - personality. Such dwelling implementations into central parts of cities have to confront the pressure of anonymity characteristic to public domain, which can further suppress the personality of dwelling. Reciprocally, the presence of dwelling within the public domain severs its performance by disrupting public programming and restraining accessibility, exactly as it is currently happening at Van Der Kunbuurt. Subsequently an expansion of public domain in downtown areas supersedes dwelling to more remote locations, counteracting the sustainable growth of cities. Furthermore, pace and unpredictability of social and economical transformations exceeds the capabilities of urban tissue adjustments, resulting in vacant buildings, unavoidable demolitions and financial strain in city development sector, as it was rendered explicitly during the recent economy crisis. The swift shift of demands from building sector has proven the spatial, programmatic and economical flexibility of contemporary built environment to be insufficient.	
Problem Statement The existing dwelling typologies are incapable of simultaneously satisfying the requirements and needs of dwellers (personality), public domain (continuity, accessibility) and market (flexibility) under circumstances of implementation into intensively used, public-dominated city environment.	

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Research Question
How can implementation of dwelling into intensively used, anonymous public space provide personal environment for inhabitants, while contributing to public domain's performance and providing spatial, programmatic and economical flexibility?
Assignment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dwelling programme implementation and transformation of the existing buildings in order to improve the performance of public domain by spatial and programmatic integration of Station Amsterdam Amstel and Amstel waterfront area in order to overcome monoprogramming, hybridise the spaces and mutually exploit the existing potentials.• Introduction of an urban gesture capable of sustaining a meaningful public domain and reversing the sides of the Amstel Station (commuting infrastructure at the side of Wibautstraat, representative front at the waterfront).• In order to provide personal dwelling environment and flexibility under given circumstances, a development of relevant dwelling typologies will be pursued – on a scale of a building as well as a single dwelling unit.
Goal
<p>Site contribution: The research and design process is to provide solutions resulting in well-performing coexistence of private and public domains at Van Der Kunbuurt, utilizing the potentials of the area. The goal is to provide safe and personal dwelling environment, while revitalising location's public space by means of integrating Station Amsterdam Amstel with Amstel waterfront. Simultaneously, the provided solutions are to offer spatial, programmatic and economical flexibility, to ensure sustainable and successful performance of the site in the future.</p> <p>Academic contribution: The design assignment will lead to transformation or development of new dwelling typologies, destined for implementation in dense, public-dominated city environment, challenging functionality and flexibility of typologies available at present. Also, the design process is aimed to outline new possibilities of coexistence, interaction and integration of dwelling environment and public domain. The goals point the graduation project towards reengaging the theories of mutability and flexibility explored by structuralism and metabolism movements, and examination of their relevance to the contemporary city environment.</p>
Process
Method Description
<p>Site analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Available data and literature study: Site history; future plans; social and demographic structure; environmental factors.- Morphological analysis: Architecture; typologies; programme; routing- Field research: Spatial character; routing; interviews; mind mapping.

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Thematic research

- Typo-morphological analysis: routing and access; programme; public, collective and private space distribution; scale and proportions; visual connections.
- Semiotic analysis (spatial expression and character): Public, collective & private space; access points; scale; visual connections.
- Field research: Performance assessment via structured interviews.

Design:

- The priorly collected data and theoretical knowledge constitutes departing points for design assignment and will also serve as design solution assessment tool throughout the design process.
- Research through design will critically implement the collected data and theoretical knowledge into practical solutions.
- Additional problems and topics emerging or implemented in the design process will be investigated via relevant literature and case study, as well as expert consultations.

Literature and General Practical Reference

Primary theoretical and methodological premises:

- Jan Gehl, *Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space*, The Danish Architecture Press, Copenhagen, 1986.
- Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Vintage Books, New York, 1961.
- Alexander Christopher, *A Pattern Language*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1977.
- Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, MIT Press, Cambridge, 1960.
- Bernard Tschumi, *The Manhattan Transcripts*, London Academy Editions, London, 1994.

Additionally, the design will reengage the theories of *flexibility* and *mutability* developed by *structuralism* and *metabolism* movements, via critical assessment and implementation of predecessors experience into contemporary practice.

Reflection

Relevance

The graduation project engages the following ongoing and preceding academic discourses:

- Sustainable growth of the cities: city densification, spatial and programmatic morphology.
- Structuralism's and metabolism's discourse on flexibility and mutability of built environment.
- Dwelling typologies for city environment.

The graduation project engages the following social and economical issues:

- Economical sustainability of built environment in face of unpredictable economy.
- Bottom-up project founding and process.
- Position of individual person within the city environment – personality of dwelling.

Time Planning

MSc 3

February 2013 – June 2013

Week 3.1

- Studio kick-off
- Amsterdam excursion – visiting sites
- SWOT analysis – site selection

Week 3.2

- Site analysis kick-off
- Thematic research kick-off

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	- Studio tutorial kick-off
Week 3.3 – 3.5	- Site analysis, Thematic research progress - Development of design strategy - Development of concept urban situation alternatives
Week 3.6	- Conclusion of site Analysis - Definitive design strategy - Definitive concept urban situation
Week 3.7 – 3.8	- Thematic research and design progress
Week 3.9	P1 – Group Thematic Research
Week 3. 10	P1 – Individual
Week 4.1	- Thematic research and design progress
Week 4.2	- Studio tutorial: Excursion to Copenhagen
Week 4.3	- Thematic research and design progress
Week 4.4	- Conclusion of thematic research
Week 4.5 – 4.7	- Elaboration of individual design concept
Week 4.8	- Definitive urban situation - Definitive programme disposition - Dwelling typologies concept - Structure concept
Week 4.9	P2 – Design concept with relation to thematic research
Non-educational Period	July 2013 – August 2013
Week 5.1	Design and performed research assessment: definition of additional research and studies necessary for the final design stage.
Week 5.2 – 5.8	Design development: - Dwelling typologies - Spatial, programmatic and economical flexibility - Volumetric studies - Materialisation - Structural design and building technology (expert consultations) - Additional research through design and studies (expert consultations if applicable)
MSc 4	September 2013 – December 2013
Week 1.1 – 1.2	Continuation of design development
Week 1.3	- Definitive dwelling typology solutions - Definitive solution for spatial, programmatic and economical flexibility - Definitive volumes and structural design - Concept materialisation and building technology solutions - Concept of interior spaces
Week 1.4 – 1.5	P3 – Complete design presentation
Week 1.6 – 1.10	Finalization of design: - Elaboration of definitive materialisation and technology solutions - Elaboration of interior spaces
Week 2.1	P4 – Definitive design presentation
Week 2.2 – 2.3	- Final model
Week 2.4 – 2.5	- Final posters and presentation
Week 2.6	P5 – Conclusive final presentation of the graduation project