Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
# Graduation Plan: All tracks

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

## Personal information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pieter van Hall</th>
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## Studio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name / Theme</th>
<th>Complex Projects: Border Studio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers / tutors</td>
<td>Stefan de Koning</td>
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**Argumentation of choice of the studio**

Complex Projects’ scale of intervention (building scale as well as urban scale) appealed to me very much, as I already have experienced CP's Msc1 Landmark Studio. Besides this, The Border Studio also discusses social, economic, and geopolitical implications within the very contemporary topic of borders. The pairing of CP's large scope of intervention and analysis to the very interesting border region between the USA and Mexico made me choose the Border Studio.

## Graduation project

**Title of the graduation project**

Border Institute for Water Management and Recreation

## Goal

**Location:**

El Paso, USA & Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

**The posed problem,**

Water scarcity is a global problem already affecting all continents of our world. For twin cities El Paso, USA and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, water scarcity is becoming a problem. Due to unsustainable water management for the twin cities and a negative experience of the border, the border region has become an inhospitable place to live. These problems come from the imbalanced relationship between the US and Mexico and the lack of long term planning for both twin cities.

**research questions and**

How can an architectural intervention improve current unsustainable water management for twin cities El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, while also facilitating recreation and culture along the USA/Mexico border, the Rio Grande.
<table>
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<th>design assignment in which these result.</th>
<th>Design a hybrid building that combines facilities for sustainable water management research with educational and recreational facilities, improving the negative image of the physical border between the USA and Mexico, whilst providing a place for cooperative sustainable water management system for both twin cities.</th>
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[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

**Process**

**Method description**

The design process begins with a month of group research on the border region with a special focus on El Paso, USA and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, after which we will travel to the border region for 2 weeks to continue our research. During the research trip, we had scheduled appointments and debates with professors, architects and students in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, as well as San Diego and Tijuana. After group research, individual research will follow in which we expand upon our own findings and fascinations while possibly still working on joint research topics with students with similar fascinations.

During the individual design process we will often jump scales to work on both the building, as well as the larger social, infrastructural, economic and political scales, while working with the analysis of reference projects, physical and digital models, and diagrams.

**Literature and general practical preference**

Working on different scales also requires references on many different scales. Besides literature, I will work with physical and digital models and hand drawings. Furthermore, my own research will be complemented by many reference projects of similar building type and size, preferably from the border region.
**Reflection**

**Relevance**

Border are present all over the world, and more often than not, they are not only geopolitical borders. These borders are very interesting in itself, but they are often seen as unwanted or unpleasant areas since they usually only serve the purpose of separating instead of uniting. Architects can contribute to improvement of these unwanted physical borders by intervening and changing these borders into a more pleasant place which provides benefits to both its sides. Such is also the case with the US/Mexico border between the twin city of El Paso/Ciudad Juarez.

**Time planning**

**P2** - *Position, Concept, Program and provisional plans and sections.*

Q3
Summarizing initial responses to P2 critique & Spring break. Continue further development of design while switching scales between: plans, sections, materialization, construction and detailing. Also, start working on detailed climate, safety, border control schemes and plans.

**P3** - *Detailed design concepts on all scales*

Q4
Working towards the completion of the design process.

**P4** - *A complete and coherent architectural intervention on all scales*

**P5** - *The final presentation representing my architectural intervention on all scales.*