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), 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:

**Personal information**

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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**Studio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name / Theme</th>
<th>Dwelling / Dutch housing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers / tutors</td>
<td>Pierijn van der Putt, Theo Kupers</td>
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**Argumentation of choice of the studio**

My previous master studios were also in the dwelling track. I interest myself in the daily living environment and see architecture as a tool to shape the living environment to make life pleasant. I like to investigate complex floorplans and sections which are coherent with the studio of Dutch Dwelling. This studio gives the opportunity to investigate a specific target group and to break with the traditional floorplans in which we are used to dwell. I see this studio as a realistic study before starting in the field.

**Graduation project**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the graduation project</th>
<th>“Kinderen van de rekening / The children who pay the price” Modern families in the city of Amsterdam.</th>
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**Goal**

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<th>Location:</th>
<th>Minerva haven Amsterdam. Masterplan: De Lammellen.</th>
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The posed problem, Families are leaving the city. The housing price is a frequently mentioned reason. However families are driven out also by the space of the dwellings, the safety of the neighbourhood, the playing spaces and the privacy of the outside spaces and the dwelling itself. Yet many of the families want to stay in the city for its facilities and its community. Besides that, families are important for the city, they occupy the street of playing and leisure instead of using them for transport. Families bring money to the city and bring different generations together. Families are the backbone of the city. Amsterdam opened different open design challenges to develop housing projects for families like the Lyordpier and the Houthavens in Amsterdam Nood-West. However the city forgets one of the most vulnerable types of families, the modern families. The modern families exist out of single parents, stepfamilies and blender families. These
families have a dynamic social life and an unclear future. In contrast to the traditional families, the modern families have a need for different dwellings and a different living environment. Architecture has the opportunity to provide a stable foundation for these families to develop well and to find a new place in the city in which they are supported by the high density of other modern and traditional families. The problem statement linked to this opportunity is: *The modern families want to live in the city but are not able to find the environment and the dwelling which fit in their social and financial life.*

**Research questions and**

"How can architecture form a living environment for the modern families in the urban setting of Amsterdam in which they are supported in their dynamic life?"

Sub questions:
- Why do families leave the city and why do they want to stay?
- How to make affordable houses for families inside Amsterdam?
- How to provide a safe environment for children to play and develop?
- How to make a flexible design to adapt to the flexible structure of the modern families?
- How can architecture provide support for the modern target group?

**Design assignment in which these result.**

Design a building block in the new masterplan of the Lammellen in the Minervahaven in Amsterdam. The block should be a child friendly living environment with flexible dwellings to adapt to the ever changing structure of the modern families. The block should seek a balance between integration with the surrounding & the support of the community and the balance between space and affordability. The dwellings in the plan should be affordable but at least contains 2 or more bedrooms.

**Process**

**Method description**

The research is build around 3 sections. The democratic literature study, the architectural literature study and the case studies. The first study examines the literature of families and the reason they leave the city. Also, it goes in depth about the special needs of traditional families. The architectural study uses different scales to find design tools to counter the problems found in the democratic study. These tools are tested in the third study inside 4 different case studies designed for families and families in the city. The theoretical research is supported by some personal reflections, research in virtual reality and a kick start design to test and combine the outcomes of the case studies.

**Literature and general practical preference**

**Books:**

ANA, BPD. (2017). Family plan,
Dunbar, R. 2010. How many friends does one person need? Dunbar's number and other evolutionary quirks. Faber & Faber.

Film:

online publications:

Case studies:
- Toren van Babel
- Justus van Effenblok
- The Malings
- The Family

Reflection

1. Relevance: 1 out of the 3 families ends up in a divorce. More and more children grow up in these broken families and are unsure about their future. We as architects should help by designing the build environment for them who struggle with their life after the divorce. These families prefer the city due to its amenities and community which support them, but cannot afford the high dwelling prices. These families move away from the city. If we want to keep the city vibrant and young we need to keep the families inside the city. These modern families are a good opportunity because they prefer facilities and grouping above privacy and status. The topic of this graduation is limited to architecture itself. Besides the architectural value the research overlaps with a social and planning approach of family status and financial income. Design itself touches closely to the track of urbanism due to the designed masterplan of the new Minervahaven. I expect the planning and economic approach will further be used during the design of different technical elements of the design.