

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		
Name	[Yanchen Wang]	
Student number	[5085136]	
Studio		
Name / Theme	[Borders & Territory]	
Main mentor	[Marc Schoonderbeek]	[Architecture & Research]
Second mentor	[Pierre Jennen]	[Building Technology]
Third mentor	[Stefano Milani]	[Research]
Argumentation of choice of the studio	[I think Borders and Territories is the best platform to understand the relationship between space and society from different scales, and to learn how to integrate theory and practice. Secondly, The scope of the studio's research responds to a life full of conflict and uncertainty today, which is important for thinking about how to design architecture in complex contexts.]	
Graduation project		
Title of the graduation project	[Negotiating Entities: Bazaar in Modernization]	
Goal		
Location:	[Barakholka ,Almaty, Kazakhstan]	
The posed problem,	<p>[Barakholka, one of the largest bazaars in Central Asia, is in the collision between tradition and modernity]</p> <p>Barakholka has been put in the process of demolishing and transformation to achieve a "civilized path. "While these measures have improved traffic and cleanliness issues, they have also created several problems :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some traders have lost their trading places and homes, trade networks established over the past decade are affected. 2. A growing number of conflicts appeared, mainly between traders and administrations, landowners, and users. 	

	3. As an important economic corridor of the New Silk Road and a city, Almaty faces a transformation of its entire city. Barakholka are considered outdated by some locals.
research questions and	<p>[What kind of bazaar space can accommodate conflict and heterogeneity while maintaining dynamic stability]</p> <p>-How the bazaar builds social connections and shapes urban space</p> <p>-What is the difference between a traditional marketplace and a modern shopping mall</p> <p>-How infrastructure and objects impact human practices</p> <p>-What kind of space can accommodate formal and informal practices</p> <p>-What are the criteria for defining a modern space</p>
design assignment in which these result.	[An inclusive bazaar complex]
<p>[In my design, I believe that each existing practice and spatial field has its reasons for existence. Modern shopping malls bring a more comfortable experience, clean spaces, and more efficient logistics networks; while traditional bazaars are essential for local employment and cross-border trade contributions. Therefore, the transformation aims not to solve conflicts but to design a place of negotiation where heterogeneous entities and activity networks can coexist. The project should meet the following characteristics: inclusive, open, flexible, and resilient.</p> <p>Besides, in this design, all kinds of activities and practices often bring multiple flows that might affect the space's stability. Therefore, the project should consider the relationship between the different flows and the entities included as well as the combination of spaces of different scales to meet the usage of multiple groups(e.g.human, goods, vehicles, infrastructure)]</p>	
Process	
Method description	
Research Methods and framework	
<p>The central part of my research examines the transformation of the form, character, and spatiality of Barakholka. Because it is impossible to visit the site this year physically, the collection of information or data is mainly achieved by literature survey, online interview, online map website (Yandex & Google), and GIS platforms.]</p> <p>There are four main topics/ phases in my research :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The agglomeration and transformation of Barakholka This includes a study of the existing building and forms of architecture, and I will establish a timeline to identify patterns of transformation and influencing factors. 2. The topological network(logistic&retail) Since cross-border cooperation has become an essential part of Barakholka, the study's geographical scope will not be limited to Almaty. However, it will include trade 	

and logistics spaces and networks in the countries or regions associated with Barakholka.

3. Conflicting interests or activities

This refers primarily to the competition for space between informal and formal trade, the 'contract' between users and landowners, as well as the relationship between human and non-human entities in logistics networks .

Design Methods :

Based on the research and three MO models, I will examine the degree of transformability of space and activity networks. Meanwhile, I will evaluate the site's spatial quality to see what is worth learning from and what needs to be changed. I will reconstruct the activity networks and spatial relationships by incorporating four groups : people, goods, vehicles, and infrastructure. The design will mainly develop through spatial narratives and flows organization and tested through experimental drawing or model making.

Theoretical Basis:

Actor-Network Theory (ANT) will be applied as a theoretical tool to guide my research and design. The main distinction between ANT to other social theory is that ANT considers both human and non-human actors equally and advocate for a decentralized network.

ANT considers existence is actively built through a process of translation between actors and the heterogeneous networks they constitute. Space, in this view, either as an actor or as a network, depending on the context in which it is placed. Understanding socio-material relations make ANT a unique tool to better think of the complexities of heterogeneous urban spaces and well suited for studying environments in transition or facing dramatic changes. This is exactly the dilemma faced by Barakholka.

Literature and general practical preference

1. Attia, S., Shabka, S., Shafik, Z., & Ibrahim, A. (2018). Dynamics and Resilience of Informal Areas International Perspectives. Cham: Springer International Publishing.
2. Beaugard, R. A. (2015) Planning Matter. Acting With Things, Chicago: University of Chicago Press,
3. Clare Lyster(2016), Learning From Logistics: How Networks Change Cities Basel: Birkhäuser
4. Franck, K. A., & Stevens, Q. (2007). Loose space: Possibility and diversity in urban life. Abingdon: Routledge.
5. Gleason, G. 2003. Bazaars and Politics in Central Asia: Structural Reform and Political Change. London: Routledge.
6. Latour, Bruno (1993) We Have Never Been Modern. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press
7. Latour, Bruno (2005) Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory . Oxford: Oxford University Press .
8. Latour, Bruno (1987) Science in Action: How to Follow Scientists and Engineers through Society. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
9. Latour, Bruno (1996). On Actor-Network Theory: A few clarifications. Soziale Welt, 47, 369–381. Law, J. (1991). A sociology of monsters: Essays on power, technology and dominion. London: Routledge
10. Lefebvre, Henri. (1991). The production of space(Donald Nicholson-Smith, Trans.). Oxford: Blackwell

In this project, in addition to the inclusive public space, I will also look into projects that combine different traffic flows and spaces that combine various scales of use .

Reflection

Studying and designing market spaces allows me to better understand the uncertainty and heterogeneity of everyday life and the importance of borders and territories in shaping urban environments and human activities.

Meanwhile, the transformation of urban space is an everlasting and challenging issue. Instead of thinking about designing a modern space, we should think about what holds the space not obsolete and stable to be used. For example, in this project, the Logistics network and informal trade network are the backbones of this bazaar, and both of them rely on the circulation of goods and infrastructures. Hence, a transformation of commercial space only is not the way to improve the existing problems.

The power that influences the world today has become the relational effects of objects and their interaction with human beings. It shapes the city and engenders the space. It is time to appropriately shift our gaze from the human-centered aspect to the material aspects of the built environment, focus more on artifacts and technology and their impact on space production and human behaviors.