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:

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The posed problem,

Brexit was a vote to preserve a historic and fixed identity of the United Kingdom, as well as to reestablish itself as an island distinct from Europe, within the world and global market. Globalisation and the commercialisation or branding of space and cities is only going to intensify post-Brexit.

This current political context has not only put the United Kingdom’s relationship with Europe into question, but also Scotland’s relationship with England, further highlighting the disparities and disconnect between the north and south of the United Kingdom. Scotland unanimously voted to remain part of Europe and is now striving for another referendum for independence.

Physical lines in a landscape and the architecture that enhances or acknowledges them, have a role in defining one place from another. This ‘fixed’ distinction between places is an aspect of the production of national identity, and what in turn regularly produces prejudice and xenophobia. Natural land forms, bridges and walls in different ways have a role in fixing an identity of place. Spatially, they all define a relationship between places in a concrete, physical and generally unadaptable way. Throughout the history of the United Kingdom, the relationships and dynamics that have manifested within the union have been influenced and then made tangible via ‘lines’.

In order to contextualise this narrative more specifically, Glasgow becomes an appropriate case study. Located on the north-west edge of the UK, Scotland’s largest city has historically had a role in maintaining a relationship with the rest of world, as opposed to with Europe due to its location on the River Clyde. The ongoing Clyde Riverside Regeneration scheme is an example of the effect of globalisation on the built environment as well as a case study of ‘lines’ that distinguish or connect north and south, as well as east and west. The Clydeside Regeneration programme intends to bring more tourism to the city of Glasgow by imposing a generic and ‘global’ identity on the city. Through the creation of exclusive and commercially-orientated spaces along the rivers edge as an attempt to reconnect the city with the river, Glasgow is being forced to reposition itself within the global market, at odds with its existing multi-layered, multicultural and socially-inclusive character. Creating an exclusive, generic and metropolitan strip through the city does little to connect the north and south, nor does it develop a stronger relationship between the city and river.
| research questions and design assignment in which these result. | What is the role of architecture in unfixing predetermined identities that are imposed on the city? What is the role of architecture in disrupting regeneration timelines that attempt to rebrand places as generic and economically exclusive? How, by unfixing and disrupting, can architecture facilitate the accumulation of inclusive spaces in the city that are characterised by an accumulated and evolving identity? |
In terms of ‘lines’ and the unfixing of the identities these enforce, the design assignment will deal with the quay walls of the River Clyde and the timeline of the Clydeside regeneration process. In various places along the Clyde river's edge, the quay walls are collapsing. At these points, the regeneration process is being stalled as nothing can happen to the associated or affected land until the walls have been structurally reconfigured. The project will explore these moments of fragility and a type of architecture that can exploit this stalled phase as an opportunity to curate edges and spaces within and from the wall that can evolve and accumulate over time. Since their original construction in the early 1800’s, the quay walls have been deteriorating and collapsing and then redesigned and repaired. This is a process that will continue to occur along the riverbanks: the thesis proposes a network of social spaces that can evolve as part of this ongoing changing state of the walls. Inhabiting the wall will facilitate a socio-spatial relationship between the city and river and attempt to influence what happens afterwards, or at least oppose what happens next in the regeneration process. These spaces will draw on local history and rituals, focusing on the social spaces that used to exist at these specific sites where the walls are deteriorating. Currently, there are limited community spaces and public space is underused, confusing and inaccessible along the river front.

The type of architecture this thesis proposes searches for points to intervene, at moments of fragility within an inflexible process, in order to interrupt or disrupt a timeline as well as physical lines that have a role in fixing something that is predetermined and exclusive. It will explore how processes of deterioration and evolution can work together simultaneously, in order to allow for the accumulation of place. In terms of land ownership, the quay walls are intervenable ‘land’ or space within the regeneration project. It is unspecified who actually owns the walls, but Glasgow City Council is funding their regeneration (in order to make an income from the land that they retain), blurring the distinction between public and private. The fact that public money has already been allocated to the walls’ regeneration, could support a project to inhabit as well as rebuild - what can be added as infrastructure is public, and instigates a process of un-privatisation.

The thesis will focus on three or four sites that have been highlighted by the council within the River Corridor Strategic Development Framework, due to be formally released in February 2018, as key sites that require urgent attention. The quay walls at these locations are retaining sites where some of the largest parts of the regeneration scheme are proposed. All of these proposals however do nothing with regards to a spatial strategy for how connections with the river could be strengthened, nor provide spaces / amenities that could support local communities.

The interventions this thesis will propose for each of these sites will look to emphasise the importance of north and south connections, facilitate the movement from east to west or at least create a sense of a destination at locations where land ownership prevents accessibility. Each intervention will support junctions and bridges as destinations that have potential to be inclusive and lively places in the city.

In all scenarios these interventions will in a more direct and spatial way, use the quay wall to develop a relationship with the water through inhabitation, which in turn attempts at a relationship between the north and south, as well as between the east and west along the river. Each intervention will also be sustained by the use of water as a common resource - whether that’s in terms of generating energy or the recycling and use of water. The original quay wall line will be an architectural feature in each proposal and will also control water in some way that enables a function of each intervention, allowing for the river to become an agent of social change and through doing so also empower the wall as an agent of associations and social integration.

The interventions will develop an architectural language and become a network of spaces that give a coherence to a series of places that have a relationship with and that support each other in terms of role and function. Due to the fact that there has never been a wholistic strategic plan for the Clyde river front, the river banks are lined with fragmented spaces and places that do not have meaningful relationships with each other. This becomes another parallel to the broader situation of Brexit and Scotland's relationship with England (the north and south divide). Alternative pathways / access, will deal with land ownership issues of the rivers edge.

The physical architecture that these ideas will manifest as, will draw reference to the ‘sheds’ and workshops that lined the river's edge during the Clyde's era of shipbuilding and when it functioned as one of the world’s largest ports. Using the wall as a point of intervention, each proposal will project into the water, re-choreographing the width of the river that has been artificially widened and curated throughout its history as a global port, claiming new public land for social intervention.

**Process**

**Method description**
Identifying that Brexit does not only concern the United Kingdom’s relationship with Europe but also the relationship between Scotland and England, informed the first phase within the research. Through analysing different historical maps, ‘fixed’ lines that determine and visualise a relationship between Scotland from England were exposed. These lines, whether natural or man-made, were of a permanent nature and both spatially and symbolically distinguished north from south. This was a process that commented on the extent of timeline that architecture and ‘lines’ have had a role in fixing ideas about national identity. Making this type of concrete distinction between places, regularly underpins prejudice and xenophobia. This was a process of mapping a timeline from Scotland’s physical and spatial binding with England during the continental drift, to Brexit: Scotland and Englands prospective political divorce. Theoretical research into ‘lines’ was carried out simultaneously.

Timeline - Brexit and the global city - Glasgow Riverside Regeneration project

Focusing on Scotland, Glasgow historically has had a role in connecting with the world as opposed to with Europe. The Clydeside regeneration scheme is a result of globalisation and a type of process concerning the built environment that will intensify as a result of Brexit. Identifying this context informed the next stage of the research process. Firstly, this was a case of studying Glasgow and Clydeside planning and regeneration documents in order to understand the longer term proposal and strategy for ‘reconnecting’ the city with the river. Alongside this, detailed research of the historic role the Clyde river has maintained in building the city of Glasgow was carried out. Through the study of archival material, understanding the spatial development of the river and its associated identities was part of this investigation.

Site analysis of the river followed this and was research into what currently exists along the waterfront in relation to the uncovered history. This was also an assessment of the constraints and detriments of the regeneration programme of the Clyde that have been carried out to date. Spaces and relationships were identified that have a role in characterising a disengaging and underused vital artery through the city. All of this was understood in more detail through the analysis of land ownership.

Line - quay wall - sites - interrupting a timeline

In parallel to this, research into quay walls has supported this investigation. This again was a mixture of archival, theoretical and site analysis in order to understand the spatial, symbolic and technical role of the of quay wall as a line that determines relationships between places / spaces and the potential it has in creating a stronger spatial relationship between the city of Glasgow and the river, the north and south and then the east and west.

Where the quay walls are collapsing in relation to strategic planning documents, informed the selection of a series of sites. For each of these sites, archival and site analysis was carried out, recording the type of socially inclusive spaces and / or rituals that occurred in these places. Documentation of what is there now, what is proposed by the regeneration scheme alongside the current state of the wall was also simultaneously collected.

Intervention - unfixing - connections between north and south / east to west

Precedent and theoretical research has initiated an exploration into the type of architectural interventions that could ‘unfix’ these lines in these different scenarios through inhabiting the quay walls.
### Literature and general practical preference

**Brexit / Identity / Globalisation**

Poetics of Relations, Edouard Glissant  
Four Nations Approaches to Modern ‘British’ History: A (Dis)united Kingdom?, edited by Naomi Lloyd-Jones, Margaret Scull  
Transeurope Express, Owen Hatherley  
Politics and nationalism in Scotland: a Clydeside case study of identity construction, Tristan Clayton  
The Right to the City, Henri Lefebvre  
The Making of Political Identities, Ernesto Laclau  
The Domestic and the Foreign in Architecture, edited by Sang Lee and Ruth Baumiester  
Cities in Transition, edited by Arie Graaffland and Deborah Hauptmann  
Rollercoaster, Ian Kershaw

**Lines**  
Life of Lines, Tim Ingold  
History of Lines, Tim Ingold

**Glasgow**  
A Guide to the New Ruins of Great Britain, Owen Hatherley  
Glasgow and the Clyde, Rough Guide  
Glasgow’s River, Brian D Osbourne, Ian Quinn and Donald Robertson  
The Clyde: The Making of a River, John F. Riddell

**Walls**  
Walls: Enclosure and Ethics in the Modern Landscape, Thomas Oles  
Wall, Fundamentals, Rem Koolhaas

**Unfixing / unbinding / disrupting / interrupting**  
Rebel Cities, Urban Resistance and Capitalism: a Conversation with David Harvey  
Disrupted Cities: When Infrastructure Fails, Stephen Graham  
On Boundaries, Nikolaus Hirsch  
The Social (Re)Production of Architecture: Politics, Values and Actions in Contemporary Practice, edited by Doina Petrescu and Kim Trogal  
The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study, Stefano Hardey and Fred Moten  
Anthropology and/as Education, Tim Ingold  
Bodies, identity, urban design, Akil-Scafe Smith  
Now, The Invisible Committee

**Glasgow city planning and strategic documents**  
Glasgow City Region City Deal- Programme Status Report, August 2018  
Clydeplan: Strategic Development Plan, Strategic Development Planning Authority, 2017-18  
Clydeplan Green Network Spatial Strategies, Green Network Delivery Study, 2016  
Clyde Waterfront, Area Overview leaflet  
River Corridor Strategic Development Framework, Draft November 2018  
Development and Regeneration of River Clyde Corridor: Quay Walls Strategy Progress Report, Glasgow City Council  
Articles  
https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/50m-to-fix-quay-walls-along-clyde-w5hhvmyrw  
https://www.glasgowlive.co.uk/news/glasgow-news/councils-quay-walls-project-moves-15209178  
https://www.scotsman.com/business/companies/glasgow-pledges-50m-to-fix-crumbling-clyde-quay-walls-1-4534596  
https://www.scottishconstructionnow.com/article/artisan-unveils-90m-hotel-leisure-quarter-plan-glasgows-
<table>
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Brexit is a catalyst for socio-political change that is speculated to probably start to happen across the EU. Globalisation of British cities will intensify, whilst so will nationalism, prejudice and xenophobia. It is our role as architects, designers and people who are engaged with the built environment, to make visible the forces and processes that regularly go unnoticed or misunderstood at times of a political vote, when the people affected have a chance to say something. Brexit was partly a vote by the disgruntled, marginalised population of people who were voting to re-fix or preserve a historic and problematic, multi-layered idea about their identity and who will ultimately be affected most negatively by the decision to leave the EU. Architecture and the built environment makes the effects of these larger political processes and decisions tangible, and so action should be taken to also make visible our means of stalling, interrupting and intervening within these processes. In turn we can become better informed about our surroundings, how politics affects our lives, how we can act and the benefits of learning from and maintaining relationships with other people and places and 'unfixing' predetermined identities.
**Time planning**

42 week structure in terms of what I intend to have for each assessment:

**P1**
- Presentation of broader socio-political context of project - how Brexit, Scotland and Europe and their relationships throughout history have been represented through cartography
- Narrative of lines and the fixing of national identity in relation to architecture

**P2**
- Presentation of how initial research into lines and national identity has located a site and then translated into a design proposal
- How Glasgow and the Clydeside Regeneration Project as a case study represents the bigger ideas explored concerning Brexit, national identity and unfixing and interrupting 'lines'
- Drawings and images that represent the narrative that sustains the site analysis and design proposal
- Site and quay wall analysis (archival and current material / documentation)
- Design and technical principles that will be applied to each site
- Schematic 'counterplan' of proposal (network of places along the rivers edge - 4 sites)
- Schematic plans, sections and axos of rough spatial proposals and program for each site of intervention (3/4 sites)

**P3 research submission:**
- A book of lines (document of the overarching narrative: unfixing lines and identities - Scotland and England, Glasgow, Clydeside Rengeration project timeline, overview of the situation of the quay walls and north/south divide of Glasgow)
- A catalogue of walls (analysis of quay walls, their associated / affected spaces and how this translates into the design proposals and an architectural vocabulary that is applied to each site)

(each document will contain a mixture of drawing, academic and informal writing)

**P4**
- Concise research narrative
- Finalised designs for interventions for each of the 3/4 sites
- 'Counterplan' of network of 3/4 sites
- Plans, sections, axos and elevations for every site
- Sketch model(s)
- Outline visualisations - overall network and for moments at each point of intervention
- Printed research booklets

**P5**
- Concise research narrative
- Final drawings
- Final model(s)
- Final visualisations
- Printed research booklets