Graduation Plan

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Personal information</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student number</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone number</strong></td>
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<td><strong>E-mail address</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Studio</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Name / Theme</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Argumentation of choice of the studio</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Graduation project</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of the graduation project</strong></td>
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<th><strong>Goal</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The posed problem,</strong></td>
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the inner city slums of Addis Ababa. On the other hand it brings opportunities to improve the poor living conditions in these informal settlements as well.

The current solutions carried out by the government in the form of relatively mono functional condominiums lack to meet the needs of the former people living on such locations regarding themes of affordability, social interaction, on-plot income generation. In the light of these topics the design of those apartment blocks is rigid and does not provide room for adaptation or growth, something that is very common for people to do in the informal settlements. Therefore the apartments do not cater for the always-changing needs of the inhabitants.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>research questions and</th>
<th>Regarding the previous topics this graduation project tries to find strategies to answer the following question: To what extend should an architect design a building that can be used as a support providing the proper flexibility for the inhabitants to accommodate for self-built expansion? And to which extend can this support provide general strategies, rules or elements and/or which parts can be considered site-specific solutions?</th>
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<td>design assignment in which these result.</td>
<td>This results in a design assignment for a specific site that is part of the informal settlements in Addis Ketema, just adjacent to the Merkato market area and the new metro line. Both these developments increase the land value and make the redevelopment of this</td>
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</table>
particular very dense informal settlement more pressing. The goal is to densify the existing informal settlement by the design of a building that is suitable for accommodating future expansion by the owners regarding the outcomes of the research done on the socio-spatial context and culture of Addis Ababa. Therefore the intervention should touch upon the themes of creating communities, on-plot income generation, and the improvement of living conditions, especially regarding hygiene and sanitation.

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**

A description of the methods and techniques of research and design, which are going to be utilized.

Literature research – sources about the situation in Addis Ababa, articles of practitioners in the Ethiopian context, and literature about architectural theory and literature about practical references

Research on urban development using satellite image data for change of the city over time

Mapping socio-spatial patterns of the site by analyzing photos/videos we took at the site survey and that are available via the EIABC (Architecture faculty in Addis Ababa)

Conceptual collages to visualize ideas

Written text about the project to create a clearly connected narrative

Design explorations through physical models

Design explorations through hand drawn drawings

Testing and concretizing ideas through digital drawings and 3D modeling
Literature and general practical preference

Literature:


Graduation Studio research: site survey (2014)

Practical references:


NDSM Kunststad (2006). Dynamo architecten. Amsterdam, the Netherlands


Reflection

Relevance
The theoretical topic of freedom for individual needs and creativity and finding a fitting architectural form can be found in post-WWII architectural thinking in the work of the Situationists, Cedric Price and Constant, who theorized about these topics. In the same time John Habraken explicitly rethought about the limits of the architect regarding time and use of buildings by separating the support (the communal) from
the infill (the personal). Habraken his distinction between support and infill he creates room for the individual and for adaptation to peoples needs in different contexts, because the division in support and infill is a method that can be used in different local building cultures instead of being a general solution. The Torre David in Venezuela is a contemporary example that proves that the theory of open-ended design is relevant in our time and in cities with cultures and climates similar to that of Addis Ababa. This graduation project adds to the architectural discourse in the debate of providing freedom for inhabitants in the line of Habraken, and to find out if this could be a solution on housing the urban poor in cities in the global south.

**Time planning**

Week1.1: Phase 1 (group): research on housing figures: Ras Palaces - collect bibliographic references and sources  
Week1.2: diagrammatic synthesis of key aspects in each housing figure  
Week1.3: elaborate draft version of contents  
Week1.4: elaborate presentation of the research output  
Week1.5: Phase 1 presentation  
Week1.6: Intro Phase 2 – research thematic issues towards problem statement: Infrastructure  
Week1.7: presentation with main topics related to infrastructure  
Week1.8: preparation for P1 presentation + research on fieldtrip  
Week1.9: P1 presentation (Phase 2 round-up) + preparation field trip  
Week1.10: Field trip to Ethiopia: getting to know the country  
Week2.1: Field trip to Ethiopia: visiting housing figure in Addis Ababa  
Week2.2: Field trip to Ethiopia: research and data collection on site + presentation first design idea’s  
Week2.3: sharing collected material + preparation site survey  
Week2.4: presentation draft version of site survey + draft version of video phase 2 research  
Week2.5: elaborating on site survey  
Week2.6: presentation site survey + start synthesizing research into the individual design hypothesis  
Week2.7: elaborating the design hypothesis + urban strategy  
Week2.8: finalizing design hypothesis, urban strategy and draft design for P2 presentation  
Week2.9: finalizing P2 presentation  
Week2.10: revising of Design Research and Projective Mapping towards the exhibition + processing on comments and suggestions of P2  
Week3.1: design explorations + physical model (incl site and inclination)  
Week3.2: design explorations 1:100
Week 3.3: design explorations on dwelling level 1:50  
Week 3.4: writing a project article + synthesizing previous explorations  
Week 3.5: synthesizing and elaborating on 1:20 & 1:5 and building technology  
Week 3.6: modelling and preparing first renderings and other images/diagrams  
Week 3.7: synthesizing & refining design for P3 presentation  
Week 3.8: preparing P3 presentation  
Week 3.9: processing comments and suggestions after P3 presentation  
Week 3.10: Reflecting on the general and specific aspects of design + preparing a ‘toolbox’ of design elements  
Week 4.1: refining the design  
Week 4.2: refining the design + renders/images/diagrams  
Week 4.3: reflecting upon design process + argumentation  
Week 4.4: preparing P4 presentation  
Week 4.5: P4 presentation  
Week 4.6: processing on comments and suggestions of P4 presentation + refining presentation for P5 + making a schedule for physical modelling  
Week 4.7: refining 3D model, rendering and polishing imagery  
Week 4.8: making models, renders + presentation  
Week 4.9: finishing presentation +  
Week 4.10: P5 graduation presentation  
Week 4.11: (eventual extra week for finishing models/images/drawings/presentation, depending on P5 schedule)