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>LI YU WAI</th>
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<tbody>
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## Studio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name / Theme</th>
<th>Complex Project - Border</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers / tutors</td>
<td>Stefan de Koning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argumentation of choice of the studio</td>
<td>I had one semester experience in the complex project studio last year (Vertical Cities Asia 2015). And I was very convinced by the studio’s approach that designs throughout all scales, from global approach to urban design, building design and detail design. The project could usually be developed with full complexity and depth as a result. Another reason for choosing is my interest in the border topic. Border is a complex global issue and there are so many ways to interpret it. I want to address the tension but opportunity here and hope this could turn into a challenging and inspirational graduation project.</td>
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## Graduation project

| Title of the graduation project | Binational Border Market |

## Goal

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>El Paso- Ciudad Juarez</th>
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<td>The posed problem, Binational Relationship- Contrast</td>
<td>The current El Paso- Juarez border share lots of <strong>contrast</strong>. Their economy, labor force, and resources. (For instance, the maquiladora industry deprives on the imbalance condition on both sides for a transnational division of labor across the borderline. The trans-border trade is derived from their differences in resources.) But these are all built on mere relationship on mutual economic benefits. And these do not involve any human contacts between the two sides. So what I am interested is what they share beyond economy. Specifically, the market on both sides. El Paso and Juarez attracts each other on their different varieties of products. But Market is not simply a place for</td>
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purchases, more importantly, it is a traditionally key public interactive ground where cultural activities take place, i.e. performance, worship, food culture etc. It is a place that provides daily necessities and constitutes sociality. There is a need to bring up this relationship at the twin cities.

**Border Crossing**

Many people cross the border because of their contrast. However, border is being a hard line. Crossing is basically time-consuming and therefore discouraged. In normal case, waiting time at the border checkpoint is in average 1 hour, and up to 2 hours at peak hours. Commuters and shoppers spend 1/12 of their daily time getting struck at the congestion. It is actually a lot of time and cost wasted and there should be solution that the border crossers can have alternative use of their crossing time.

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<tr>
<th><strong>research questions and design assignment in which these result.</strong></th>
<th>Border is a line at which one stop. Instead of being an obstacle, can the border crossing turns into a meaningful bi-directional platform that the border crossers can better use their congestion time for the commercial, social and cultural exchanges? Binational market at border crossing</th>
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**Hybrid Typology: Market (Culture) + Border Crossing + Car Park**

**Design goal:**

1. **Building level:** The building design **re-conceptualizes** the existing border condition for a shared market, a third space that both sides could equally use and share. By managing the vehicular and pedestrian flows at the border crossing, the building design alleviates the congestion problem so that border crossers could double-use their time for commercial, social and cultural exchanges.

2. **Masterplan level (Urban Design):** The site lies on the main axis of the dis-linked commercial spine between the El Paso-Juarezese downtown districts. The masterplan aims to **Reconnect** the interflows on two sides by reorganizing an uninterrupted pedestrian and vehicular flow. And to re-engage the building design into the existing urban fabric.

3. **Vision Plan level (Strategy):** The Vision Plan outlines all important market points based on accessibility, nearby facilities and characteristics. Together with the building design, it **Re-activates** the existing markets forming an ecological loop of commercial and socio-cultural exchanges.
Process

Method description

The thesis will be based on intensive research studies consisting of three parts:

The first part is researching on general problems along the US-Mexican border for identifying different border issues. The research will stretch from global scale of system to local scale of phenomenon. This will be done through mappings of hard and soft data, personal trip investigation, interviews, videos, news articles for the latest issues on the border. And from which it will develop my own personal interest and outlines my design project.

The second part is analyzing case studies related to my own design project. It will first look at similar program at other border around the globe. And then it will analyze built projects with similar programs for the typological and morphological studies. It gives an understanding of defining the program areas and spatial organization.

The third part is related directly to design proposal. This includes site analysis, massing studies, iterations of forms and spatial arrangements that can appropriate my design approach on the building level and urban level.

Extra: The New Urban Question Essay is made complementary to the studio design on the topic of trans-border market. The essay titled “Capitalism and Border: the Contradictory unity” manifests how capitalism arises as a new de-territorializing power and becomes a contradictory coexistences with the political territorial separation. And how border communities live on such contradiction, that turns the border an unifying line on the socio-cultural levels.

Literature and general practical preference


Reference Projects: Mercat Encants, Markthal, Mercado Juarez, Automobile Museum, 1111 Lincoln Road, Mercedes Benz Museum

**Reflection**

**Relevance**

Border is a political line of security and most countries choose to fence it up. And I hope my project can challenge this and suggest an alternative way of seeing border besides walls and defenses.

**Time planning**

Week 1-4: Research on soft and hard data
Week 5-8: Site investigation and interviews
Week 9-10: Development of design statement
Week 11-12: P1 Presentation
Week 13-18: Development of design strategies
Week 16-17: P1.5 Presentation
Week 17-18: Development of design strategies
Week 19-20: P2 Presentation
Week 21-30: Consolidation on structural feasibility and façade, interior design
Week 31-35: Design detailing
Week 36-38: Final detailing
Week 39-42: Production