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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Student number</td>
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<td>Telephone number</td>
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<td>Private e-mail address</td>
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<th>Studio</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name / Theme</td>
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<td>Teachers / tutors</td>
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<td>Argumentation of choice of the studio</td>
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<th>Graduation project</th>
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<td>Goal</td>
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<td>Location:</td>
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<td>The posed problem,</td>
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Hong Kong urban immigrant neighborhood in old town area is not only a room for newcomers but also a supportive space for immigrant’s economic and social integration, though with unpleasant and limited living environment. However, these urban areas in Hong Kong, as an immigrant city, are undermined by dramatic demolition and gentrification resulted from current property-led urban renewal, in terms of affordable living space and neighborhood-based social network.

**Economic Issue**
By intervention of capital and politics, old town area in Hong Kong is being undertaken large-scale re-configuration, in terms of introducing economy and housing product for middle or higher class. Yet, this transformation is walking along with demolishing economical housing and relocating small-scale business when bring in commerce upgrading. They squeeze the affordable room for immigrants and also deprive the income source from immigrant groups. Therefore, with immigrant neighborhood’s shrinking, entrance to Hong Kong become less and less economically feasible.

**Social Issue**
Due to cost of transportation and limited social connection, immigrants’ social network is more relied on neighborhood, which is close to their accommodation and daily life. Constructed and redesigned by immigrant community, the flexible public spaces in Hong Kong old town areas, like street with temporary markets and multi-functional park, provides public rooms for immigrants to expand their relationship network. However, these flexible and multi-functional open spaces are occupied or transformed by monotonous public spaces provided for middle class. Besides, the lack of immigrants’ participation on urban renewal also lead to the absence of immigrant’s community identity.

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<td>How to use a comprehensive urban approach to both maintain, as well as improve, the supportive mechanism of Hong Kong central immigrant neighborhood, in terms of better affordable living, accessible job opportunity, sense of community and cultural identity, and fulfill urban renewal’s economic, social and environmental goal, in Sham shui po, an old town neighborhood of Hong Kong?</td>
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This question can be separated into 4 sub-questions:

1. How to contextualize the theory of immigrant integration in Hong Kong old town district’s immigrant neighborhoods?

   Objective: Possible vision
2. What is the opportunity and challenge for immigrant community and urban renewal to collaborate in Hong Kong old town districts.  
Objective: Planning positioning

3. How to introduce immigrant community-based planning in urban renewal procedure to achieve synergy of immigrant community improvement and urban revitalization?  
Objective: Planning approach

4. What socio-spatial environment could contribute to collaborative goal of immigrants integration, urban regeneration in Hong Kong old town district?  
Objective: Spatial planning tools

design assignment in which these result.  

The design assignment comprises of an **immigrant-involving planning procedure and spatial intervention guide** in terms of immigrant-friendly urban design.

The immigrant planning procedure would be proposed as a participatory procedure **document** and a **guidebook** for immigrant community organization to trigger immigrants participation. Then a **spatial design guideline** and a **tool kit of spatial design patterns** will be formulated as tool for this participative planning.

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<th>Process</th>
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<td><strong>Method description</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Literature review</strong>: by searching the related literature online or from library to help build up a theoretical framework; The academic literature to be consulted will be from interdisciplinary fields related to history, sociology, immigrant integration as well as urban planning and design.</td>
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<td><strong>Practical/Report Review</strong>: This process will be done by critically analysing the reports produced by public sector, including Central Policy Unit and Legislative Council, as well as social foundations like UN Habitat, Society for Community Organization, to understand the living condition of immigrant and the ongoing urban renewal strategy.</td>
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<td><strong>Collection of Data</strong>: Recording data by mapping from the information accessed by open data. Statistics will be obtained from Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department and Government Records Service.</td>
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<td><strong>Historical analysis</strong>: by keeping into the specific way it formed responding to its the unique quality of Sham shui po and community-based social bonding could be conserved better in the future.</td>
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<td><strong>Spatial Analysis</strong>: An analysis of the city and classic maps are made to understand Hong Kong urban development and its morphology, and therefore to understand the</td>
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site selected; It is also to investigate the spatial bonding between site selected and Hong Kong context in terms of immigrants movement and materials movement.

- **Interviews**: Interviews will be in 3 categories:
  1. Expert Interview
  2. Immigrant residents Interview
  3. Local residents Interview (in selected site)
  4. Urban renewal developer

- **Mapping**: Behavioural mapping as explained by Jan Gehl is used to plot people’s movement, sitting, standing and chatting, etc. marked with symbols

- **Site Visits**: Identify immigrants’ need on community in terms of space and social network. Clearly picturing, sketching, mapping different activities of immigrant on dimension of time and space, in order to understand the relationship between immigrants’ behaviour and built environment.

- **Case study**: by viewing the existing transformation examples of other immigrant neighborhood in Asia to gain experience for further planning approaches and design guidance as well.

- **Metaphor/analogy**: object to adapt the same principles or qualities when the complexity of the original one are hard to tackle;

Connection with Research question:

1. How to contextualize the theory of immigrant integration spatially in Hong Kong old town district’s immigrant neighborhoods? This question will be answered by Literature review, Collection of Data and Interviews on immigrant community to understand the process of Hong Kong mainland immigrant integration; *Historic analysis* will be used to understand the transforming profile of mainland immigrant groups and the shifted approaches for immigrant integration.

2. What is the opportunity and challenge for immigrant community and urban renewal to collaborate in Hong Kong old town districts. This question will be answered by empirical researches, including Site Visits, Mapping on Sham shui po and Interview on immigrant residents, to find the spatial elements of immigrant neighbourhood supporting their integration and their mechanism; Interviews on urban renewal project participants, Report Review and Case study on other old town urban renewal projects will be used to explore the spatial and social intent and impacts of current Hong Kong urban renewal strategy on immigrant community.

3. How to introduce immigrant community-based planning in urban renewal procedure to achieve synergy of immigrant community improvement and urban revitalization? The answer will be explored by Case study and Metaphor/analogy on other neighborhood renewal practices sharing similar characteristics, including community-based planning to find possible approach to include wider participation in planning procedure. This will be tested and modified based on Interviews on Sham shui po mainland immigrant community organization and experts focusing on this topic.
4. What socio-spatial environment could contribute to collaborative goal of immigrants integration, urban regeneration in Hong Kong old town district? The environmental method will be based on the participatory framework of urban renewal discussed on the third sub-question. It will be also explored with research on existing spatial quality by mapping and spatial analysis of existing immigrant neighborhood and the Interview on immigrant residents’ evaluation on them. Reference from other cases will also be study and adopted to address similar problems.

Diagram:

**Literature and general practical preference**


CSD (2012). "Thematic Report: Persons from the Mainland having resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 Years."


**Reflection**

**Relevance**

**Social relevance**

Hong Kong is a typical immigrant city for its latest century. The immigrant influx nourish the city’s prosperity but also the growing polarization. The social ladder is getting more and more difficult to reach for immigrants and low-income groups in the last decade. The soaring housing price and liberalistic policy made the gap between social classes. The social imbalance and segregation attribute to the bias and criminal problem. This research is aiming to find spatial strategy and policy that can alleviate the tension and maintain the access for immigrants to upward social mobility in Hong Kong.

**Scientific relevance**

*Arrival city* indicates that immigrant community has its mechanism to transform rural people to urban middle class and also mentions that affordable house, dense neighborhood, access to city, opportunity to start small enterprise, public education and possibility to get citizen right are elements that ensure the success of arrival city. Using this framework, my research try to understand how this spatial work as a spatial system and how this variables can be measure for evaluation and monitoring. Besides, the high density city is supposed to be with higher housing price that is considered as a major hinderer of immigrants’ urbanization. This is somehow contradict to Doug’s opinion that density can enhance arrival city’s function. This
research is based on Hong Kong, one of the most dense and intense city on earth to text how this two theories effect on immigrant community.