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>
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### Studio

| Name / Theme | Global Housing (AR3AD132)  
Architecture & dwelling / Methods and Analysis |
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<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>Klaske Havik, Nelson Mota, Dick van Gameren and Tom Avermaete</td>
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### Argumentation of choice of the studio

I was introduced to the topic of global housing in my Msc2 architecture & dwelling studio global housing in Addis Ababa. When learning about the housing situation in Addis Ababa I realized how urgent the need for housing in Addis Ababa. An interesting challenge for a Msc2 and even more interesting to continue the research and design for my graduation. Besides that I have a great interest in the sub-Sahara part of the African continent. In the near future there will be all kinds of challenges in this part of the world. Housing in cities is one of these great challenges because more and more people are moving to the cities to find a better life.

### Graduation project

| Title of the graduation project | The missing layer, rethinking and upgrading social housing projects in Addis Ababa |

### Goal

#### Location:

Social housing neighborhood ‘Jemo I’ in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

#### The posed problem,

When the government started their social housing program around ten years ago, they started planning so called condominium blocks all over the city. Because the city center is full of buildings there where only small plots available where a couple of these condominium blocks could fit in. To realize the wanted quantity of housing units the government decided to start building large condominium neighborhoods in the periphery of the city.

In these peripheral neighborhoods there was enough land, so it was not a problem to leave some open space in between the condominium blocks. But what happened is that, in many cases, there is to much open space that is undefined and not used properly. Vast open spaces, in some cases bigger than others, create an unpleasant atmosphere when walking through these neighborhoods and that while walking is the number one means of transportation in Addis Ababa.

Another problem arises when the architecture of the housing blocks is analyzed. These housing blocks are designed to be cost effective and that is what they are. But the Social and architectural needs or constraints are not considered and this might lead to problems in the near future. The government already acknowledges this problem and starts to think about
the prevention of ghettoization. The large scale condominium neighborhoods in the periphery of the city are considered as the most vulnerable for this problem of ghettoization.

**Research questions and (field) research question:**

What is the current state of the transition between the public and private realm in the condominium projects in Addis Ababa and how are these transitions experienced by the condominium tenants?

Sub questions for the field research are:
- What are positive and negative experiences of living in a condominium site?
- What are the current qualities of the transition between the public and private domain?
- How can this transition be improved and what does that bring for the condominium tenants?
- How are the condominium tenants involved in arranging the public space around their dwelling?

**(design) research question:**

What kind of structure can be build around the condominium blocks to improve the living quality within the block itself and the space around it?

Sub questions for the design research are:
- How will the building process be organized and financed?
- Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the structure and how will this be financed?

**Design assignment in which these result.**

Design a structure around and in between the condominium blocks, in the neighborhood Jemo I, that changes the inside-outside relation and the rigid monotonous architecture of the condominium blocks. Besides that the open spaces between the blocks should be reconsidered and a suitable function or infill should be designed.

In the periphery of Addis Ababa large scale neighborhoods are developed by the government to provide affordable housing for their inhabitants. To make this social housing economically feasible similar types of building blocks are designed and build with the same cost effective construction scheme. This resulted in a rather boring and monotonous architecture that doesn’t respond to the existing culture and housing conditions in Addis Ababa.

The goal of my design is to create a layer that fills the gap in scale that is in between the dwelling and the neighborhood. This layer should make upgrading of the existing housing blocks possible in two ways. First the existing houses should be transformed to more suitable houses that respond to the culture and climate in Addis Ababa. Second the many open spaces should be filled in to upgrade these areas and give the neighborhood a more pleasant feeling.

**Process**

**Method description**

In several groups we did research on housing and other themes that play a significant role in the
urbanization of Ethiopia. After this research that has been done from our university in Delft we will travel to Addis Ababa for the field research. The outcome of this field research will form the basis for my design proposal. During the field research I will visit several sites where condominium blocks have been build. These sites vary in size (small, medium and large) and location (inner-city and peripheral).

During the field research I will use photographs and sketches to map the sites, this can be seen as the hard analysis that shows what is there that can be seen directly by passing by. To gain more insight information I want to stay in these sites for at least a couple of hours and do some short interviews, this can be seen as the soft analysis of things that are there that can't be seen when passing by. A critical part of the field research is the guide/translator that will help me to get around and find the sites. I will use my contacts in Addis Ababa to be sure to have a good guide/translator for the days of my field research.

**Literature and general practical preference**

*Literature to be used:*


Gehl, Jan, Cities for People. Washington: Island Press, 2010


*Precedents and practical references:*

George Candilis & Shadrach Woods - Cité Verticale (Casablanca, 1952)
Reflection

Relevance

In Addis Ababa and in other cities in Ethiopia the government has initiated the construction of a large amount of these social housing blocks. By now more than 400,000 housing units have been built with all most half of them in the capital town, Addis Ababa. When constructing these large amounts of houses subsidized by the government the economic constraint is a strong objective that informs the possible architecture. But the social aspects of housing and the influence of architecture on that have not enough been taken into account. Mainly in the large developed neighborhoods in the periphery of Addis Ababa these social aspects start to become an issue that the government is getting aware of. The problem of ghettoization in these peripheral condominium neighborhoods is becoming an issue on the agenda of politicians, planners, architects and inhabitants of Addis Ababa.

With my research I want to try to understand the different condominium neighborhoods from small to large. This will give me more insight information about these places, how they operate and what the positive and negative aspects are when living in one of these condominium neighborhoods. With this knowledge I will try to come up with a design strategy to improve the living conditions in these condominium neighborhoods.

Time planning

Week 01, 01/09/2014: Introduction to the studio theme and research topics
Week 02, 08/09/2014: Research on housing figures: modernist experiments in Addis Ababa
Week 03, 15/09/2014: Research on housing figures: modernist experiments in Addis Ababa
Week 04, 22/09/2014: Research on housing figures: modernist experiments in Addis Ababa
Week 05, 29/09/2014: Presentation of the research on housing figures in Ethiopia
Week 06, 06/10/2014: Research on themes: The infrastructure of mobility in Addis Ababa
Week 07, 13/10/2014: Research on themes: The infrastructure of mobility in Addis Ababa
Week 08, 20/10/2014: Research on themes: The infrastructure of mobility in Addis Ababa
Week 09, 27/10/2014: P1 Presentation: problem statement, research question and research methods
Week 10, 03/11/2014: Field research on social housing projects in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Week 11, 10/11/2014: Site visit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
Week 12, 17/11/2014: Site visit in Addis Ababa and presentation of the site survey and first sketches.
Week 13, 24/11/2014: Work on video about infrastructure and the section of the site survey
Week 14, 01/12/2014: Work on video about infrastructure and the section of the site survey
Week 15, 08/12/2014: Presentation of the video about the infrastructure of mobility in Addis Ababa
Week 16, 15/12/2014: Presentation of the site Survey Section
Week 17, 22/12/2014: Christmas holiday
Week 18, 29/12/2014: Christmas holiday
Week 19, 05/01/2015: Work on individual design proposal
Week 20, 12/01/2015: Work on individual design proposal and preparation for P2 presentation
Week 21, 19/01/2015: **P2 Presentation:** conclusion of the research and site survey and design proposal
Week 22, 26/01/2015: Evaluate and discuss P2 comments
Week 23, 02/02/2015: Holiday
Week 24, 09/02/2015: work on the design proposal (conceptually and spatially)
Week 25, 16/02/2015: work on spatial drawings and models of the design
Week 26, 23/02/2015: work on spatial drawings and models of the design
Week 27, 02/03/2015: Work on detailed drawings of the design (plans, sections, fragments and details)
Week 28, 09/03/2015: Work on detailed drawings of the design (plans, sections, fragments and details)
Week 29, 16/03/2015: Preparation for the P3 presentation (organize materials produced)
Week 30, 23/03/2015: **P3 Presentation:** detailed sketches/drawings of the design connected to the research
Week 31, 30/03/2015: Development of the design (detailed plans, sections and models)
Week 32, 06/04/2015: Development of the design (detailed plans, sections and models)
Week 33, 13/04/2015: Development of the design (detailed plans, sections and models)
Week 34, 20/04/2015: Development of the design (detailed plans, sections and models)
Week 35, 27/04/2015: Development of the design (detailed plans, sections and models)
Week 36, 04/05/2015: Development of the design (detailed plans, sections and models)
Week 37, 11/05/2015: Preparation for P4 presentation
Week 38, 18/05/2015: **P4 Presentation:** presentation of the final design (plans, sections, details, models, etc.)
Week 39, 25/05/2015: Finalize material for the P5 presentation
Week 40, 01/06/2015: Finalize material for the P5 presentation
Week 41, 08/06/2015: Finalize material for the P5 presentation
Week 42, 15/06/2015: **P5 Presentation:** public presentation of the research and design