Graduation Plan

New University library at historic inner city campus of University of Amsterdam

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Studio Heritage & Architecture graduation plan semester I 2014-2015
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New University library at historic inner city campus of University of Amsterdam

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Product

Problem Statement
The University of Amsterdam (UvA) has four campuses in the city Amsterdam. One of these campuses is located in the city centre. This site has a long history back to the Cloisters and former Hospital (Gasthuizen) and the buildings on this site have become the monuments and they are listed. They have cultural and historical values. At other hand university has spatial and programmatic plans to ensure the future function within the city and at this site. The policy of UvA is to decrease of buildings while increasing number of students in the future due to economic forces. The need for a new library for the faculties of humanity located on this site is one of the considerations of UvA. The difficulty is to find a solution which answers the need of the university to ensure durability on this site and preserve the cultural, historical values of the existing buildings. The need for a new library for the faculties of humanity located on this site is one of the considerations of UvA. The difficulty is to find a solution which answers the need of the university to ensure durability on this site and preserve the cultural, historical values of the existing buildings. The graduation studio consist of two parts the group analysis of urban and architecture of the site and an individual research theme and analysis on urban, architecture and building level. The group analysis could be a base for my interpretation of the assignment toward my design strategy.

Possibilities
The site as a university campus could be the heart of interaction with the city and getting more involved with the society and not just being a place to study and graduate. It needs in my opinion a better and clear readability and more inviting to the surrounding city and people of the city. My personal motivation for this site is to explore the potential of the existing buildings and then find out after analyzing and research in which architectural way the new architecture could be added to the old one? I am interested in this relationship of old and new and the architectural ways to combine them. I think this is a major question when dealing with this kind of urban sites because we have to build next to the historical old buildings which have cultural values.

Research theme/question
The thematic research report is about a generic theoretical framework, followed by a site specific analysis. The site specific analysis will be compared and reflected to the theory. Based on this reflection and personal interpretation, a value assessment will be constructed. The value assessment will be the basis for a set of design principles and position that can be used in the design process.
The research is based on the observations and fascinations, formed in the first weeks of the quarter. The subject is more specific to the site and the architectural scale. The main focus of my thematic
research is about new addition in a historic site. The research question is what are the criteria when dealing with designing a new architecture addition into an existing (historic) context. The relevance of this theme is coming out of the first week’s analysis of the site. There have been always additions to the existing context during the history. Last examples are between 1980 and 1990 and the process will be going on because of the change of user’s demands and changing functions within this site. I want to find out a set of criteria for the design of the new addition in this site and try to take a position as architect in this assignment. The answer to these questions helps me to define a set of principles for designing the new addition within this historic context.

**Literature:**
Jäger, F.P. 2012. Old & New

**Method**
My research approach is based on theoretical framework and the case studies. I will use the literature and theoretical framework to find out the criteria for my analysis of the case studies as well as the analysis of the site. The case studies are chosen because they are all about addition of a new piece of architecture within an existing context.

**Diagram 1: method of research and analysis (own illustration)**
**Reflection**

**Relevance**

“Whereas, in the twentieth century, architects preferred the task of designing new buildings and only a handful of trailblazers had discovered the allure of interweaving historical and modern architecture, today the work of these pioneers has borne fruit; working with existing buildings has long since developed into an independent architectural genre.” Frank Peter Jäger

The UvA campus is a unique site exist of many monumental buildings which have cultural and historical values and are listed by authorities like BMA and World Heritage Committee of Unesco. Respond to the changes is the challenge. So before add something new to old we need insight of decision-making factors like harmony or contrasting, scale and material. They are elements which could ensure the durability of this composition of old and new to a sustainable future and pass this values to the next generation.

Research on this topic is important because we are dealing with the monuments and every addition or change is related to the interaction of old and new.

**Time planning**

I have completed all courses of Msc1 and Msc 2. It means that all of my study time will be expended on graduation project. As guide I
Research

Research seminar 1  My assignment 10 min presentation
Choosing research topic
formulate Research question
Lecture series Research methods

Research seminar 2


Analyse

Architecture  My assignment 10 min presentation
Start making group analysis
Technology


Design

Program  My assignment 10 min presentation
concept
Proces
design process formulation

RR  Research Report
GP  Graduation Plan
PoP  Program of Possibilities

10 min Presentation personal concept and design direction
Writing abstract  PP

Architectural analyses of chosen building

Technical analyses of chosen building

Start designing first concept

final version PP

Concept Design

AD  Analysis (to Design)

PP  Position paper

CD  Concept Design
Architecture Elaborated

Technology Elaborated

Architecture final

Technology final

Process

Design

CD  Concept Design

OD  Overall Design

ED  Elaborated Design Architecture

FD  Final design Architecture

ED  Elaborated Design Technology

FD  Final Design Technology

RP  Reflection Paper

GR  Graduation Report