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>Ayelt van Veen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student number</td>
<td>1539450</td>
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<td>(wordt gebruikt voor koppeling met student file)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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## Studio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name / Theme</th>
<th>Complex Projects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>Mick van Gemert, Olindo Caso</td>
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**Argumentation of choice of the studio**

I have always tried to deal with projects in their broader urban context. The chance to do this in a thoroughgoing way is provided by the studio of Complex Projects. I was also attracted by the idea that the project would be in Chicago, a city that is very interesting for its architecture, size and problems.

## Graduation project

| Title of the graduation project | Complex Projects Chicago Studio: Revitalizing Chicago’s Mid-City |

## Goal

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>Chicago</th>
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**The posed problem,**

Chicago’s Mid-City - the older suburbs within the western part of the city - is hopelessly decayed and lacking a vision that provides a positive identity and the possibility to regenerate.

**research questions and design assignment in which these result.**

- What can we learn from correlations between various statistical data in order to define projects that revitalize Chicago’s Mid-City?
- How can we generate economy and social coherence with the help of common memory (industrial heritage, landmarks, and so on)?
- How can we define a new programme that utilizes characteristics of different communities in order to enrich both?

For P2, a masterplan has been developed that is mostly based on thoroughgoing statistical demographic research. This masterplan initially
focuses on three of the most polarized area’s in the Mid-City. These three locations function as case studies that helps us to formulate a future strategy for the whole of Chicago’s Mid-West. This process was done together with my colleague student Maarten Hercules.

Individually I focus on the area around W. Ave station. This location contains a huge industrial site, as well as very distinctive communities around it. Also, this site contains industrial heritage that will be used to trigger the common memory of the surrounding communities. The aim of the masterplan is to reconnect people to their industries. Extending an existing enclave of entrepreneurial people around the industrial corridor is the first step to do this. The entrepreneurial qualities of these “industrial enclaves” are used to provide jobs for the surrounding communities, bringing these people closer to the industries that used to separate them from other communities. Zooming in more, the aim is to develop an “Industrial Experience Centre” that puts central the label “Made in Chicago”. This experience centre is mainly located in two industrial heritage buildings that are built on two sides of a railway track that uses to function as a hard community border. This way, the first step is made to establish a new industrial enclave on the other side of the railway track.

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**
Methods and techniques of research and design:

Masterplan Phase)) Thoroughgoing data analysis was done during the process of making the masterplan. This way, demographic contradictions were found. Also, a deep physical analysis of the Mid-City is done before P1. The research for the masterplan was mostly done digitally. In order to place the design of the masterplan in a broader context, literature studies are done in which for instance Cerdà, Burnham and Unger are studied.

Building design phase)) For the coming phase, a more three dimensional approach is necessary. This can be done by making physical or 3d models. A continuous analysis of the building and its surroundings can help to understand the building. This analysis will lead to abstractions, mostly explained by diagrams, in both 2d and 3d. Moodboards, hand drawings, reference images and various other sources will be used to create the right mood and atmosphere for the design. Reference projects will also be gathered to place the design into context and to gain ideas for design solutions.

**Literature and general practical preference**

Architectural literature:


Philosophical background:


Reflection

Relevance

Scientific and social relevance:

The graduation project provides new strategies to deal with heavily polarized and non-communicative spots in Chicago. These strategies are developed from a scientific method based on demographics and physical research. The provided strategies deal with the existing urban fabric in a rather gentle way and gives bottom-up solutions. Therefore the project is relatively close to what could happen in reality and hence relevant for learning.

The project that will be further developed after P2 does not create a utopian or idealized society, but is based on the theoretical framework of “complementary places”, originally introduced by Ungers. This framework shows the idea that new urban projects should add to the city in various layers. The new programme, atmosphere and functionalities have to create value in combination with its context (synergy). This can only be done by introduction the earlier mentioned scientific analysis. The building that will be designed towards P5 shows how a single urban project can be used to create identity for a greater area (the industrial enclave), making use of industrial heritage and hence common memory. By these means the project potentially helps other future designers to formulate strategies for comparable areas.

Time planning

Q1:
Physical research book
Site visit
P1

Q2:
Statistical analysis
Global masterplan development
Redefining masterplan locally
P2 Formal assessment preparation

Q3:
Building site analysis
Precedent analysis
Architectural Design & Building Technology
(Redefining masterplan locally)
P3
Q4:
Architectural Design & Building Technology
(Redefining masterplan locally)
P4 Formal assessment preparation
P5 Public presentation preparation

A scheme of the division of the workload of the graduation project in the 42-week timeframe. Compulsory in this scheme are the examinations at the middle and end of the semester, if required, the minors you intend taking and possible exams that have to be retaken. The submitted graduation contract might be rejected if the planning is unrealistic.