

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

M
as
te



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:

Personal information		
Name		
Student number	4712161	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Explore lab	
Main mentor	Roel van de Pas	Architecture
Second mentor	Rufus van den Ban	Building technology
Third mentor	Elise van Dooren	Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The possibility of exploring my own fascination with designing for the physically disabled, life from the perspective of the wheelchair	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The architectural challenge for physically disabled people

Goal	
Location:	Utrechtse Heuvelrug
The posed problem,	1,4 million people in the Netherlands have a physical disability. The adults (18-65) have no place where they can spend time away from home to relieve themselves and their informal caretakers besides hospitals and clinics for the mentally disabled. There is a need for such a place where they are seen as customers instead of patients

research questions and	How is a place perceived from the perspective of the physically disabled? In what way can architecture influence this experience? How can a building provide for the physically disabled without becoming a clinic? Can such a building integrate the disabled world with the able world?
------------------------	---

design assignment in which these result.	To design a completely adjusted building where physically disabled people can spend time away from home and be relieved from the stress that their disability causes them and make them feel able bodied. A building that creates a 'vacation' feeling.
--	---

Process

Method description

One of the important methods for this graduation project is the use of interviews. People who have a physical disability and are dependant on a wheelchair and daily care are questioned. Their informal caretakers and professionals caretakers are also part of these interviews. Observation of existing places is also an important method, rehabilitation facilities and day care facilities will be visited and observed focussing on their spatial qualities and deficiencies. Experimenting with spatial shapes and elements to come to a design will also be a method (research by design)

Literature and general practical preference

I work in healthcare myself and especially with physically disabled. My work environment is where I will gather most information from. Colleagues that work in hospitals en clinics can be approached. Those contacts can show me around in all the facets of healthcare. My clients and their social circles can provide me information first hand of things that work and things that do not. What is currently missing and what their needs are they can perfectly make clear to me. They will participate in my graduation project. That together with my knowledge gathered during my study at TU Delft will create a graduation project that will contribute to society.

Reflection

With this graduation project I hope to develop my skills as a designer further and to push myself to come up with ideas that are not yet thought of. I want to break away from 'regular' architecture and dive deeper in a specific topic, in this case healthcare and architecture. My personal fascination is what drives this desire, in my work I see the problems that disabled people struggle with every day. With my education to become an architect I can, in some ways, make their lives a little easier. To design a building focussing on the physically disabled is a real design challenge on its own and close to a real existing project. The aspect of sustainability is something that has fallen behind in the healthcare sector mostly because of high costs. Whereas as a student I can still design and come up with ideas without the direct limitation of budgets. Because this is a specific topic I find that among architects there is a lack of knowledge. This is something that I think should play a bigger role in our society since the demand for healthcare and healthy living will only grow larger in the coming years. With this graduation project I also hope to discover if being an architect is something that I want to achieve as a profession or if I want to go in a different direction.