Graduation Project – Reflection

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Graduation Studio: Tall Building
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Aspect 1: The relationship between research and design.

Research is very important and helpful for design progress. It is the base of design concept. By using different research methods, a lot of hidden information will be found out, inspiring and assisting the architect to do the designing according to practical elements. For instance, in my design, I did the research of EU working mode, it came out EU people mostly need individual offices and a lot of meeting space which encourage me to get a loop shape building that can easily satisfy this requirement.

Aspect 2: The relationship between the theme of the studio and the subject/case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object).

Case study is very significant for designing. As our studio theme is designing a hybrid office building for EU which is going to be the headquarter of EU. A lot of information is needed to get to know the theme. I searched online and went to the library to find cases about skyscraper (especially the ones in Europe), EU building, hybrid high-rise building, High-rise buildings in Brussels and so on. All these case studies help me know what kind of building do EU need and how a hybrid building could be functional and what type of building could be the headquarter of EU.
Aspect 3: The relationship between the methodical line of approach of the studio and the method chosen by the student in this framework.

From the beginning of the design, the tutors made a frame for our weekly progress update and all the required stuff for the final presentation which help me have a clear goal for this designing. The weekly update requirement really push me to work hard all the time, and it is very fast to get a clear idea of the designing progress which is helpful each time when I was preparing for the presentation slides. Except talking to the tutor once a week, we can also easily communicate with them by email that is really efficient to get feedback and move on fast. I feel the methodical line of approach of our studio really makes my design progress on track.

Aspect 4: The relationship between the project and the wider social context.

From the requirement of our studio, this EU headquarter should be higher than 225m which is going to the highest building in Brussels which definitely will affect the looking of the city skyline. Therefore, we should be careful for creating the shape of the building, as it is an iconic high-rise. There should be some special feathers of it to make people easily remember it. Because it could be the represent of Brussels if it is well designed.

For the neighborhood, such a huge building will cause very big people and traffic flow, so the ground floor design is very important. In my design, I use the height difference of the site to create separated entrances for different people flow to organize the exterior public space. Also a lot of public functions are added to serve non-EU. So from one side, it’s a semi-public space for EU, the other side is open to public.