Graduation Plan
Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
**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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student number</td>
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<td>Telephone number</td>
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<td>Private e-mail address</td>
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<tr>
<th>Studio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name / Theme</td>
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<td>Teachers / tutors</td>
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<td>Argumentation of choice of the studio</td>
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<tr>
<th>Graduation project</th>
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<td>Title of the graduation project</td>
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The posed problem,

I would like to start off with a general statement about contemporary cities. I tend to feel that in the first place cities revolve around economics. Cities are designed according to economic interests and need to be well accessible. Due to the ever growing tourist interest in (historic) cities, cities are becoming busier every day. The extensive car usage and tourist interest leads to urban congestion.

This way of organizing cities feels somewhat outdated, especially when looking at the big picture. Our global environment is getting worse every day. I think we should all change direction into a more sustainable direction. Focus on sustainable urban development. Design for the pedestrian instead of for the car user. Diminish commuting and create greener living environments.

Unfortunately, the issues I just raised also apply to Prague. I would like to distinguish two types of Inner Prague: The city center (which is the historic core, the Nové Město and the castle district) and the surrounding neighbourhoods (Holesovice, Letná, Karlin etc). They both face different but intertwined problems. In the city center, there are some car free zones where tourists can wander freely. However it is overcrowded and there is no space for greenery. There are not enough car free zones and the ones which are there are not well connected. The surrounding neighbourhoods have a more relaxed atmosphere with enough greenery. However they lack a good physical connection with the city center (they are disconnected and there are too many barriers) and are in need of densification.
The area I have chosen to work with is in the northern part of Prague, above the Moldau river (just outside the city centre). There is a vast undeveloped area with huge potential. There are two neighbourhoods adjacent to the undeveloped area. Those neighbourhoods are currently disconnected from each other. Letná on the western part and Holesovice on the eastern side are two upcoming areas with lots of interesting activities on both an urban as well as a local scale. There are cultural centres, galleries, a variety of museums, a market and a big event space for festivals and parades.

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

- In what way can the city of Prague diversify, to create a greener living environment for inhabitants and tourist?
- There is a missing link between Holesovice and Letná, what is the best solution for this problem and how should it be designed?
- What kind of amenities do the people of Holesovice and Letná need?
- Which location is most suitable for a cultural centre?
- How can I increase the inviting character of the cultural centre and which people do I want to attract at certain times?

GROW, Cultural Centre Holesovice

The cultural centre will provide the city of Prague with a community centre combined with several large scale amenities (a cinema, a club, a big event hall and a skybar) to complement and, at the same time, relieve pressure on the inner city. The building is situated in a green, livable, accessible and diverse new area (outside of the clogged inner city) for both tourists and Praguers to experience and enjoy. Pedestrians are placed on a pedestal and find themselves in an unprecedented new inviting and exiting public space.

The cultural centre will work on a city scale and a quarter scale. The goal should be to bring together different social groups. It will function as a community centre for the to be developed urban area as well as the existing neighborhoods (Letná and...
Holesovice). A place where they can meet, relax and use the wide variety of amenities. Concomitantly the building will give the Praguer an additional place to relax/go out during the weekend.

**Process**

**Method description**

- sketching
- modelling
- reading (literature studies)
- analyzing
- drawing (architectural drawings)
- photograph
- interview

**Literature and general practical preference**

A couple architects/firms which inspire me:
- Peter Zumthor
- Neutelings Riedijk
- Herzog & de Meuron
- UNStudio/Ben van Berkel
- Cepezed
- Renzo Piano
- Wiel Arets

Bibliography:
- Biard, G. (2011). *Public Space: Cultural/Political Theory; Street Photography*. Amsterdam: SUN.
Reflection

The main topic of my graduation project is a very contemporary problem: urban livability. Cities are becoming more and more crowded and start to ‘overflow’. They can’t keep up with economic trends, tourism and overpopulation. It is evidently crucial to densify cities, at the same time we must ensure urban livability for its inhabitants. Move towards more sustainable urban developments. Public buildings should be the first buildings to adapt to new ‘greener’ environments.

Time planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2.8: P2: Go/No Go Design strategy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finishing urban plan/analyses/schemes/diagrams</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:500 building &gt; sections, plans, facades.</td>
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Weeks 2.8-3.4: design phase, testing, modelling, construction, start of BT/climate system.
Weeks 3.4-3.7: finalizing first design (1:200/1:100/1:20), integrating BT/climate system.
Weeks 3.8-3.9: producing drawings/3D model

Week 3.9: P3: Design proposal
1:200/1:100 building > sections, plans, facades.
1:50 > close up part of the building, most crucial floor. Transition public/private, routing system etc.
1:20 building > (façade)fragment
1:5/1:2 building > details

Weeks 3.10-4.4: finalizing design (spatial articulation), integrating BT/climate/architecture and urban plan.
Week 4.5: preparing presentation.

Week 4.5: P4: Go/No Go Design presentation
Thematic, urban plan, architectural and social relevance
1:5000/1:2000/1:1000 site plan
1:200/1:100 building > sections, plans, facades.
1:50 > close up part of the building, most crucial floor. Transition public/private, routing system.
1:20 building > (façade)fragment
1:5/1:2 building > details
1:500 volumetric model
1:200/1:100/1:50 other models

Weeks 4.6-4.10: producing: models, drawings, impressions, schemes, booklets etc.
Week 4.11: preparing presentation.

Week 4.11: P5: Final presentation
Presentation with all of the abovementioned products.