

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:

Personal information	
Name	Lucie Castillo-Ros
Student number	5441560

Studio		
Name / Theme	Methods of Analysis and	Analysis / Position in Practice
Main mentor	Jorge Mejía Hernández and Aleksandar Staničić	Architecture, Studio Coordinator
Second mentor	Pierre Jennen	Building Technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	This studio was chosen in order to challenge myself to think critically about the work we do as architects, and perhaps the different ways I can approach my professional work following the end of this master.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Re-integrating the city A cooperative housing development for the re-use of abandoned Public Estate
Goal	
Location:	Ruzveltova 39, Hadžipopovac, Belgrade
The posed problem,	<p>The research of the Old Sava Bridge as well as the other groups of the graduation studios highlighted the appropriation on many levels of seemingly disused or mal-functioning building/spaces by the population of Belgrade in order to respond to their needs. Many of these spaces' location struck me as unusually central.</p> <p>This observation led me to wonder just how many of these abandoned/empty locations existed within the fabric of the city, why they were in this state, and what was their future. This research revealed the presence of many mid-scale government-owned properties (whole buildings but also smaller facilities) which the government is looking to get rid of. Often dis-used public amenities or left-over from the nationalization process, these buildings are too small and dilapidated to be interesting within a speculative system, but their value is</p>

	<p>(from their location and size) too great for individuals to purchase and renovate.</p> <p>On the other hand, Serbia is currently experiencing a housing crisis. With prices of land increasing and the stagnation of income, and with the majoritarian privatization of housing, many inhabitants find themselves deprived of adequate housing. Whether young professionals, cultural workers, or elders whose income does not allow them to properly take care of their home, all have one thing in common: the current housing system does not fit their needs and financial situation. This difficulty to find affordable housing within this individual ownership system questions whether other options, perhaps more collective ones, could be a solution to the crisis. In a country where home means a place you own, what could be the home of those who cannot be individual homeowners?</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>How can this existing public estate be re-invented in order to provide adequate housing solution, responding to the housing crisis?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>Using Ruzveltova 39 as a case study, the design will respond to the existing occupation of the site by a cultural non-profit, while proposing additional housing program. The design will reinvest parts of site which are not yet occupied and propose a symbiosis between existing and a new building.</p> <p>The project will on the one hand question the idea of re-use and propose different strategies to assess and re-invest the existing property. On the other, it will propose an exploration of collective housing as a typology to re-invest such sites. The concept of agency and ownership will therefore guide the design in order to promote an active action of the group over the additional parts of the design.</p>
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>In order to develop this project, I carried out literature research in the field of ownership and management of space in order to gain knowledge on how properties can be in such in-between state of ownership, but also research ways that they have been in the past re-integrated into the urban fabric and market.</p>	

This was re-enforced by discussion with actors of the illegal cultural scene of Belgrade and their impact on these properties.

The research into commoning was also a pivotal tool in my understanding of the way one attributes value to a place based on its occupation and the agency of its users. The research of urban commons and their dynamic as precedents will help me to develop strategies of design based on strong user-agency; to this end I will use a mix of Belgrade-based case studies, like the Magacin center, and other locations throughout the world.

Extensive research on the themes of re-use and adaptation will also be carried out, finding different strategies and methods of re-use in order to on the one hand lower cost, but also provide the best spaces possible for the future users. The question of assessment of existing building will be explored in order to understand how to strategically retain or amend the existing building.

To understand better kvaka 22 and the site, I initially reached out to the group, which unfortunately has yet to respond to my proposal of collaboration. In waiting for this response and potential interview of individuals of the collective, a study of their publicly available material was carried out (using their social media, actions and website).

Literature and general practical preference

Literature

Awan, N., Schneider, T., & Till, J. (2011). *Spatial agency: other ways of doing architecture*. Routledge.

Čukić, I., & Pekić, M. (2019). *Magacin: A model for a self-organised cultural centre* (I. Čukić, A. Dimitrijević, L. Gunjić, L. Strika Knezević, J. Mijić, M. Pekić, A. Popović, & S. Radulović, Eds.). Association Independent Cultural Scene of Serbia.

Čukić, I., Timotijević, J., Stojić, B., Dragusha, N., Rexha, O., Dragović, S., & Rajić, T. (2020). *Spaces of Commoning: Urban Commons in the Ex-Yu Region* (I. Čukić & J. Timotijević, Eds.). Ministry of Space / Institute for Urban Politics.

de Certeau, M. (1984). *The Practice of Everyday Life*. University of California Press.

Fromm, D. (2012). Seeding community: Collaborative housing as a strategy for social and neighbourhood repair. *Built Environment*, 38(3), pp. 364-394.

Lefebvre, H. (1991). *The production of space*. In *Space and Culture* (Issue 1). Blackwell.

Stavrides, S. (2016). *Common space: the city as commons*. Zed Books Ltd.

Stavrides, S. (2019). *Common spaces of urban emancipation*. Manchester University Press.

Utmani, R (2021). *How can Circular Strategies be Implemented in Real Estate Valuation Practices*. TU Delft Repository

Precedents

Stad in de Maak Project, Rotterdam, Stad in de Maak

Vinzirast Mittendrin, Vienna, gaupenraub+/-

House for artists, London, Apparata Architects

Buitenplaats Brienoord, Rotterdam, Superuse

Kraftwerk 2, Zurich, Adrian Streich Architekten

Pamentnija zgrada, Belgrade

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

The graduation studio of methods of analysis and imagination promotes at its core the idea of positioning one-self as an actor of the built environment. I see this project as a way to position myself as a promotor of community-led actions over the built-environment, and of adaptive-reuse as an valuable option when attempting to cope with the housing crisis.

2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

My project wishes to react to the debate on the re-use of existing estate; arguing that upon the environmental sustainability debate should be superimposed a social-sustainability debate. This project also wishes to question the way we value buildings, and to propose the re-valuation of an estate in a bottom-up manner.

