

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	
Name	Zhujun He
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Studio	
Name / Theme	Complex cities
Teachers / tutors	Lei Qu; Birgit Hausleitner
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The research group 'Complex cities', which is concerned with the role that Urbanism has in resolving problems under complex spatial and societal circumstances and in the context of internationalization. Through this studio, I got chance to get to know more about how transformations of metropolitan structures enhance sustainability, how regional planning, governance and design facilitate democratic decision-making and territorial cohesion and how spatial planning contributes to the diminishing of poverty, extreme environmental threats and societal conflict in developing countries around the world.</p> <p>My thesis focuses on integrating cities by strategic urban plans. To be more specific, what can people do in relation to the built environment is the starting point. Driven by the new demands arising from industrial structure adjustment and competitiveness of other industrial clusters, new ways of urban redevelopment seems more and more pressing for Shenzhen. Responding to current trend in the knowledge era, knowledge-based development deliver prosperity and growth to cities worldwide. Consequently, urban areas are being radically altered by dynamic process of industrial and societal restructuring. In this way, knowledge-based development can be seen as a crucial opportunity for Shenzhen in the global context.</p>

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Another Shenzhen: Towards an urban regeneration model for intercultural integration
Goal	
Location:	Dalang, Shenzhen, China
The posed problem,	The current physical conditions and policies of urban redevelopment in Shenzhen's urban villages do not well support integration in a multicultural context.
research questions and	How can physical conditions facilitating social learning of multi-groups (children, migrant workers, graduates and young parents) support community building in Dalang, with the partnership of communities, government, voluntary sectors and enterprises?
design assignment in which these result.	<p>A strategic plan on district scale and even city scale about what kind of network formed by different actors can facilitating integrations between multi user groups.</p> <p>Design proposals of pilot projects on neighborhood scale focusing on new approach towards an effective urban renewal will be presented.</p>
<p>[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.]</p>	
Process	
Method description	
<p>In order to answer the research questions, a set of methods will be used: literature review, case studies, mapping, observations and interviews. These research methods are linked to each question, and they will be the catalysts to draw conclusions, hence the strategies and design will be lead to in such way.</p>	

Literature and general practical preference

Over the last decades of urban regeneration, problems in terms of physical and socio-economic perspectives have changed considering the context of multicultural and industrial transition. Seeing physical condition as the key element for integration in the city, this paper provides a theory research varying from

multiculturalism (Burayidi, 2000),
diversity (Jacob, 1961); Comedia, 1991),
identity, (Relph, 1976),
movement (Hillier, 1987) ,
community building (Briggs, 2002) ,
social learning (Bandura, 1977),
and participatory design (Sanoff, 1999).

Cases drawn from Asian cities such as Taipei, Shenzhen, with similar context, borrowing lessons such as bottom-up management (Nanjing Village), culture revitalization (Ximending District), mixed-use development and working with different actors closely (Tianmian Village and Dalang Youth Dream Center). The case of La Vallée Village is relevant concerning the partnership between the village and global enterprise, from the very beginning of land use plan to the service cooperation. All these factors become very essential when envisioning a desirable future for Dalang.

Reflection

Relevance

1. Social relevance

According to surveys, urban villages are commonly inhabited by young migrant workers and graduates, and as such they are associated with overcrowding and social problems. At the same time, there is also a risk of losing job under the background of industrial restructuring. Multi-groups including young graduates, migrant workers, children, adolescents and their parents, as participants of community building in urban village areas, have a rising demand for self-advancement.

During the process of urbanizing the urban villages, lots of identities shaped by history and spatial experience are erased. Cultural value of urban villages is not well considered in existing redevelopment plans. For original villagers, the social connection inside the village is broken down; for tenants, the urban village is lack of cultural attraction. Learned from successful cases worldwide, the sense of community – a powerful sense of place and its importance – has always characterized a livable community.

The project intends to provide an alternative bottom-up redeveloping way of urban villages that introduce informal social network which would help to hear the voice from the vulnerable group and provide them more opportunities for interactions and self-advancement, in order to make the interaction within communities stronger.

2. Scientific relevance

In order to comprehend challenges urban regeneration facing, it is urgent to search for new insights on urban planning and design in Shenzhen. Though there are already some research about the importance and influence of culture diversity and community building, however, not many discussions focusing on relations between built urban form and integration in the context of multicultural society. Moreover, the recent urban village regeneration practice emphasizes social values and enhancement of spatial innovations, as social wellbeing lacks enough concern during the transforming period. The project explores the possibility of urban reform to balance effectiveness and equity in the time of knowledge economy.

All these driving factors makes me realize the importance of understanding the significant role played by cultural diversity and place identity, and considering them in design process in the context of societal and industrial restructuring. "Complex city" offers a new way to think about the position of urban designer shall take in urban planning and leaves great freedom in defining and developing my own consideration. An urban designer, in contemporary society, who becomes more like a negotiator instead of a pure designer, has the advantage of capturing a bigger picture including enterprises, government, citizens and voluntary sectors. Therefore this research and design project aims to promote multicultural interaction as well as place making in communities, form a networked partnership within the district as one step further.

Time planning

