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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name</strong></th>
<th>Robbie Gerbrandij</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student number</strong></td>
<td>4366387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone number</strong></td>
<td>0638382692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private e-mail address</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:robbger@gmail.com">robbger@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Studio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name / Theme</strong></th>
<th>Dutch Housing Graduation Studio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers / tutors</strong></td>
<td>Theo Kupers, Pierijn van der Putt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Argumentation of choice of the studio</strong></td>
<td>Throughout the course of my bachelor, the projects that interested me the most were all dwelling related. However, for my MSc1 studio I chose Architecture &amp; Heritage because during the bachelor I had not done anything concerning this topic in Architecture thus far. Even though I learned a lot and enjoyed this studio, I came to the realization that I take more pleasure in designing for dwelling related projects. As a result, I chose Dwelling for the MSc2 and as my graduation studio. My plan/goal is therefore also to start working in an Architecture firm in the Netherlands that is mainly oriented in the residential building industry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Graduation project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title of the graduation project</strong></th>
<th>Urban Families in Dense Cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Goal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Location:</strong></th>
<th>Minervahaven Amsterdam, Netherlands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The posed problem,</strong></td>
<td>With the population growing worldwide and the ideal number of squared meters used per person increasing, cities such as Amsterdam are facing new expansion challenges; needing more dwellings whilst less buildable space is available. This dichotomy causes several groups in our society to move out of the cities. One of these migrating groups are families. Recent research has shown that many young families in Amsterdam are dissatisfied with their homes and with their living environment and as a result many of them move away from the city. As a consequence, the diversity within cities decreases, resulting in the segregation of the population. However, families indeed want to stay living in the city, but the problem is that the housing supply is not sufficiently tuned to their needs. In other words, the right housing is missing. Families with a modest income are usually dependent on the outdated housing stock. As a result, they either stay dissatisfied in their current dwelling or move away from the city. A straightforward solution is building enough suitable dwellings for families. However, building dwellings with gardens for everyone is not feasible due to the lack of space and the high land prices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
research questions and design assignment in

How can we design affordable and good quality family apartments in dense areas such as in a city?
How can we design dwellings with the right size, the right layout, the right number of rooms and the right costs?
What are the reasons for families to leave a city such as Amsterdam?
What are the reasons for families to stay in a city such as Amsterdam?
How can we make neighborhoods in cities attractive for families?

A new approach has to be explored in which families have the adequate environment to live in and which is at the same time is affordable. This will result in safe and family friendly building block or neighborhood. Introducing a second street life above the ground level will cater for a type of outdoor spaces as extension of the private domain that allow children to safely play outside. Different dwelling sizes will ensure that different family sizes and families with different cultural or economic capital can get a place to live. The larger houses provide financing for the smaller houses.

Process

Method description

The research has been done using several methods and techniques of research and design. First, using the study of precedents, analysis has been done on different scales; the scale of the urban plan and the scale of the residential building. Subsequently, with the result of this analysis, an urban plan has been made to eventually make an analysis of the location. In addition to the case studies an extensive literature research has been done. In the next phase, on the basis of the results of this research, a final graduation design will be made.

Literature and general practical preference

Reflection

Relevance

According to several sources from 2017, many young families in the Netherlands are leaving the big cities. Since 2013 this number has increased. Amsterdam has the biggest percentage of emigrating families, whilst it already has a relative low number of families living there compared to the rest of the country. Of all households in Amsterdam, only a quarter are families compared to 33% in the Netherlands. The main reasons given by families to leave the city are; small houses, none or limited outdoor space, too much traffic, a sense of insecurity and high dwelling prices. Nearly three quarters of the families in Amsterdam are not happy with their current dwelling and would like to move. Although at the same time, three quarters of families absolutely want to stay or prefer to stay living in Amsterdam. Only one in five families look for a dwelling outside Amsterdam.

Families have an important influence on the quality of living in urban areas. They are the glue of the city, providing strong social networks thanks to encounters between parents at, for example, schools and kindergartens but also extracurricular activities such as sports and hobbies. Besides, families provide social cohesion and involvement in the neighbourhoods and they have an important influence on the urban economy due to their use of many facilities. They are good for the shops in their neighbourhood, but also pay for childcare, the sports club, the music school, etc. And with that they create jobs.