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>
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<tr>
<th>Personal information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Student number</td>
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<td>Private e-mail address</td>
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<th>Studio</th>
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<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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<th>Graduation project</th>
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<th>Goal</th>
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<td>The posed problem, research questions and design assignment in which these result.</td>
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[Problem Statement] With the rapid development of the ‘New Silk Road’ involved cities in recent ten years, problems and weird urban scenarios appear in those cities. The relating factors should be taken into considerations including but not limited to politics, economic, social issues, historical backgrounds, transportation, energy, etc., especially in the case of Baku, the urban evolution are under the influence not only of international logistics but also oil energy business and centralized political environment, which lead to even more weird reality of juxtaposed radically different urban textures. These cities provide urban and territorial sites where ‘other’ spatial conditions have emerged, ones that are teeming with suggestive meanings and unexpected potential but which have hardly been analyzed and discussed within the contemporary architectural discourse.
[Research Question]
Today's standard spatial experience of the contemporary city is like one of a continuous sequence of small homogeneous functional enclaves via thresholds and leftover spaces, which can be summarized as the 'margins' - being mostly ignored, but still, have great potentials. My research is mainly focused on the marginal spaces, the spontaneous informal practices they host, and the corresponding effects, considering aspects including urban structure, human involvement, its spatial quality and characteristic.
Dealing the specific case of the marginal spaces in Baku, especially those along the railway infrastructure, my concerns are not only about the analysis of reality itself but also the possible further improving intervention to be made.

[Design Assignment]
The marginal spaces are amorphous and unpredictable. Through the people's occupation and inhabitant, the margins can generate meaningful and unique 'places within the spaces', while outwards expansive and influential. Those margins in a closer relationship will gradually share some similar qualities and even form some linkages. In the meantime, they are probably starting to be in the process of diffusion, gradually taking over the areas in between the others and themselves, setting up physical connections in order to form a bigger whole and keep expanding outwards. Along with the spatial evolution and the diffusion of demarcation, there are new margins emerge on the edge of the former marginal space. And the new marginal spaces will continuously carry out their own evolution process and produce more sub-layers.
My intervention will take place in this kind of diffusion process, which also generates new marginal spaces - the thresholds between the former margins and the urban fabric. I will try to build up connection and communication in these critical areas, retaining the chrematistics of the former marginal space and giving new interpretations relating to context. The intervention and the structure are also in a dynamic process, in constant change along with the change of the needs of the inhabitants and the influential surroundings.

**Process**

**Method description**

The research-design process will be conducted in a phenomenological view, carrying out the study of the city's marginal spaces. The process-oriented investigation into the specific characteristics of contemporary border conditions and the larger, urban and territorial scale, with a special emphasis on the socio-political contexts of architecture. By investigating, tracing and mapping contemporary spatial conditions, through a series of visualization techniques, establish a particular set of spatial narratives and drawings, try to conclude their spatial characteristics as heuristic materials and translate the research results and findings into further architectural construct.
Literature and general practical preference

Cupers, K.; Miessen, M., *Spaces of Uncertainty* (Wuppertal: Müller und Busmann, 2002)
Doron, G., *The 'dead zone' and the architecture of transgression* (PhD thesis in TU Delft, link: http://dx.doi.org/10.4233/uuid:177004e0-68fe-430b-a085-3ba7c57fd47)
Urban-Think Tank, *Torre David: Informal Vertical Communities* (Lars Müller Publishers, 2013)
Urhahn, G., *The Spontaneous City* (Consortium Book Sales & Dist, 2011)

Reflection

Relevance

The topic of the city’s marginal space has always been a meaningful target for research and design. As the world’s contemporary reality, there are a huge amount of marginal spaces along with informal practices existing almost everywhere, not only in those ‘underdeveloped’ areas but also in those developed countries. The background situations and issues of this topic are the conflict and contrast of the rich and the poor, the lack of freedom in standard cities, the side effects of the superpowers and infrastructures to the existing city, etc. It is not only architecture or urban topic but also a social concern. There are already many pieces of research and proposals about this topic, for instance, researches of Urban Think Tank in Havana, conceptual projects of Lebbeus Woods. But the situation happens, and that is the reason why the research and design of the marginal space should keep carrying on.
**Time planning**

**MSc 3**
- Week 37-39 pre-visit research basically on the overall level of the New Silk Road and decide on the cities to be visit
- Week 40-42 field trip
- Week 43-45 collective site research: mapping and analysis based on the materials from the field trip
- Week 46 P1 presentation: collective mapping and personal topic
- Week 47-49 the develop of personal research: drawing, mapping and literature study
- Week 50-52 ‘Modi Operandi workshop’: the translation from 2D drawing to 3D model
- Week 2-3 the further develop of personal research and design concept
- Week 4 P2 presentation: personal concept and theme

**MSc 4**
- Week 7-8 developing a draft design by taking into a count P2 results and reflections in presentation
- Week 9-10 Development of architectural setup, clarification of spatial program by concerning the research. Building an argument
- Week 11-12 Detailing architectural design, developing spatial qualities. Working on the level of plans, sections, elevations and details
- Week 13 Concluding drawings, strengthening the argument and proposal
- Week 14-16 Preparation for P4 Finalizing drawings, models. Working on representation. Introducing all relevant material from the research to build up a clear argument and to fill the P4 requirements
- Week 17-18 working on the project by considering problems, remarks and suggestions reflected during P4 presentation
- Week 19-22 Final stage, detailing the project (plans, sections, elevations, models). Working on all materials needed for P5
- Week 22-27 Working on presentation and representation for P5