Reflection

After making great effort in graduation project for the several months, I gradually built up the complete structure for the project. Different with the projects before, the graduation project doesn’t have its fixed process especially for urbanism. As for me, I always tend to choose design focused project which doesn’t very emphasis the research and analysis. Therefore, the planning and research base graduation project would be a great challenge and practice for me.

Aspect 1
The relationship between research and design
Right at the moment to make the design strategy and guideline, I have a fresh understanding about the relationship between research and design. The title of my project is Night and Fog of Hong Kong – Balancing development and poly-centric urban model exploration of Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta, Urban regeneration strategies in search for improving cohesion at Tin Shui Wai new town within the Hong Kong extended region. According to the title, it’s not difficult to find that the front part and the starting point of the project is a very research related topic. Up to now, in the six months journey of graduation project, I spent over three months to fix the structure of methodology (mainly for the theory, research and analysis). It’s a very special experience which I hard to imagine before, because most of the project its own specific purpose. But for my own graduation project, I need to find out the method and output to achieve the aims and the whole thesis. Then the research process gradually guide me to the way to my goal and finally become the strong basis of the design.
Aspect 2
The relationship between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track, and your master program.

The topic of my graduation project is Night and Fog of Hong Kong – Balancing development and poly-centric urban model exploration of Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta, Urban regeneration strategies in search for improving cohesion at Tin Shui Wai new town within the Hong Kong extended region. And the topic of my research group is complex city-the transform of Chinese mega city. Therefore, the topic of my graduation project and the topic of research group are highly matched. The project will explore the transform of the most special city of China, with traditional Chinese culture and background but separate with Chinese mainland for over a century and have different social system. The new town of Hong Kong is also a very interesting point for the obvious unbalance development and morphological poly-centric urban model. The transformation of the famous Tin Shui Wai new town and the surrounding area will become a great research object to observe and analysis the transform of Chinese mega city. For bigger scale, another young mega city Shenzhen which is located at the north of Hong Kong will integrate with Hong Kong so to become a new Shengang region. The Pearl River delta is also one of the biggest mega city agglomeration of China. The highly matched of the topics gave me great reference cases as well as the research base for my project, which guaranteed my work is going on smoothly.

Aspect 3
Elaboration on research method and approach chosen by the student in relation to the graduation studio methodical line of inquiry. Reflecting thereby upon the scientific relevance of the work.

As the image above, I define my research scale into five different scales. Also, I organize And the
theoretical frameworks are organized also according to the scales. Here I will emphasize an important paper from Burger and Meijers about the morphological and functional poly-centricities. “Empirical research establishing the costs and benefits that can be associated with polycentric urban systems is often called for but rather thin on the ground. In part, this is due to the persistence of what appear to be two analytically distinct approaches in understanding and measuring polycentricity: a morphological approach centring on nodal features and a functional approach focused on the relations between centers.” According to my understanding, the morphological poly-centricities are mono-functional and single-direction connect with the main city centre. The functional poly-centricities are mix-used as the main centre and multi-direction connect with both the main centre and each other. This theory laid the foundation of my analysis of Hong Kong’s urban model.

Aspect 4
Elaboration on the relationship between the graduation project and the wider social, professional and scientific framework, touching upon the transferability of the project results.
the dilemma situation of Hong Kong’s urban structure as well as the isolated new town. But from the Hong Kong urban scale to the specific new town, we need to add another scale to well link them. Therefore, the inter-medium scale will become the core scale for the strategy making part to provide the regional thinking which could connect the link between the preceding and the following. Also, the inter-medium scale area contain three different new town – an old and integrated one, an newer but isolated one, as well as a proposed new town. These different new town could bring us the thinking of the development of Hong Kong’s new town policy in a critical vision. Therefore, the most important transferability of my project to other urbanism project is the specific definition of research scale according to different project. The inter-medium scale which consist by several smaller scales could help us to better understand the relationship between the research object to its surrounding environment so to make reasonable integrated strategies.

Aspect 5
Discuss the ethical issues and dilemmas you may have encountered in (i) doing the research, (ii) elaborating the design and (iii) potential applications of the results in practice.

(i) The contradiction of my project about the peripheral new town is the dilemmas of the development and the Land price appreciation. Because the residents of Tin Shui Wai new town are mainly the medium and low income citizens. Once the regeneration of Tin Shui Wai new town operating, the land price as well as the living cost will increase. So that the original residents may not afford the higher living cost.

(ii) When doing the design, I start to consider the relationship between the urban planning and the design for the detail part. In this project I try to make a structure of design pattern and design guideline. In my opinion, urban planner should be clear for the structure and strategy of bigger scale and also the atmosphere which you proposed in the target location.

(iii) This thesis proposal is design as a starting point on the construction of an effective functional and morphological poly-centric urban structure of Hong Kong projected towards 2030, considering the possible annexation of Honk Kong towards the new planned region of Shengang. After the Analysis and spatial strategy for the proposed poly-centric model, the selected area which will consist by re-considering 3 different new towns into one stronger cluster as a proposed sub centre within the new expanded Shengang region. The implementation and operability of the planning process towards its implementation reality and the cooperation between different involved decision making units are the next step for the implementation of the strategies.

As the new towns cluster will become a sub centre within a proposed new poly-centric model of Hong Kong region in itself and then also will became an important part of Shenzhen Bay area, defining the preliminary plan where will be consider within the cooperation between both Hong Kong and Shenzhen’s governance departments. A strategic joint alliance is also need to be established for the whole management of these projects. And then is developer, mediator as well as transport involvement. At the same time the community participation could be the most important feedback for the proposal process.

After the preliminary plan, the construction project could employ local residents. The big project could provide the employment for local residents who couldn’t afford the long trip work at the main city centre of Hong Kong. Some small project such as smaller public space as well as street furniture design could also take good advices from local residents.
Maintaining after the construction is also very crucial, especially for the public space and public buildings such as library, youth centre as well as some indoor meeting points. The maintaining of these space by local residents could strength the relation between the residents especially in such huge new towns. All these maintaining could also provide job opportunities for residents especially for house wife or some new migrants from main land, which could help them to better integrate with the community.

![Diagram of Process and Stakeholder]

All in all, I am very grateful for this graduation project which give me a fully chance to arrange a brand new project. I mastered lost of different skills to do the research, analysis as well as design, which will be great benefit for my upcoming professional career. Also, the research group and my mentors gave me unselfish assistance to carry forward my project during the last months. This thesis will become an happy ending for my 2-year master experience.