Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
**Personal information**

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<thead>
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**Studio**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name / Theme</th>
<th>Heritage and Architecture: Disclosing the Military City Lisbon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers / tutors</td>
<td>Job Roos, Wido Quist, Marieke Kuipers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argumentation of choice of the studio</td>
<td>The possibility of working with heritage was always my driving force behind the choice of studying architecture. I was particularly enthusiastic about history and history of art especially and, at the same time, I appreciated the strict logic of building technology and more scientific subjects.</td>
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**Graduation project**

| Title of the graduation project | Between sense and attachment: Meanings of Narrative and Aging in Beato |

**Goal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>Lisbon, Portugal</th>
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<td>The posed problem, research questions and design assignment in which these result.</td>
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The military complex is situated on the northern bank of the Taju river in Lisbon. On the one side the border of Manutenção Militar Complex is marked by the industrial harbour and on the other we have Beato neighbourhood and the Bairro de Madre Deus - a purely residential settlement.

The whole complex can be divided into three parts which in total give us 80 thousands square meter area. Our subject is located in the south area. Several buildings dating from different times used to be responsible for confection and distribution of food to the Portuguese army.

There are two fascination which had a significant impact on the research question and the design assignment. The first one is connected to the impression MMC left after the first study trip. With its undeniable industrial character, it stood out in the urban fabric of Beato but, at the same time, it wasn’t really connected to anything in the neighbourhood. It existed as an island protected by multiply boundaries: walls, fences and impenetrable façades of vacant buildings. The additional layer of separation was created by the difference between spirit of the street and the complex itself. It was, in many aspects, a fascinating entity, but at the same time it lacked the sense of place. The potential of Beato was clearly visible. Not only in the complex itself but in the whole district. However some problems one could face immediately: the emptiness and decay of the streets, small amount of facilities and the considerable number of elderly people walking around. The second one is related to the issue of growing aging population and a necessity to adapt design to this new condition.
Posed problem:

The urban regeneration in the typical understanding is a process of transforming the places within their social and cultural settings. Hence the significance of the emotional attachment of the users which the transformation will evoke. In the era of globalization and the raising problem of rapid aging of the population, there is a need to rethink the notions of place-making and adjust them to the new context. Places (...) are also interpreted, narrated, perceived, felt, understood, and imagined claims Gieryn in 2000 in his paper. The MMC has to be remade in a spirit of the notions which will bring the attachment and the new identity into the place. What key ingredients one has to use to achieve the best results within the Beato where the decay and aging process are so advanced.

The research question:

What are the meanings of place and identity in the urban regeneration for the aging population?

The additional questions:

What influences people’s sense of belonging and how one can create sustainable development in MMC?
What does it mean to design age – friendly today?

Design Assignment:

The strategy of the design assignment on the masterplan level stresses the importance of the age – friendly design and the sustainability of the development. The main users (target groups) will be local residents (of various age) and the newly discovered social group: Active Third Age Generation - so called Young Seniors. The place of the planned intervention was chosen carefully and it reflects the major ideas of the proposed masterplan and, in my opinion, can also serve as the catalyst of the whole project.

The Supermarket building is facing Rua do Grilo, one of the main streets in Beato district. It’s also one of the first building of MMC when the site is approached from the city centre side. At the same time its history goes back even to the XVII century therefore Supermarket is one of the most interesting structures on the site. The empty plot next to it poses another interesting challenge of the future design.

The function of the new development is combining two target groups mentioned before. Respecting the notions of place making, the main space of the upper floor of the building will consist the public garden which at the same time will connect the street level with the level of the MMC. In the volume above there will be an open school for elderly where they can learn or teach improving their skills and learning new ones. It will be mainly addressed to the local residents and it will aim to improve the condition of their lives: creating the meeting space and opening opportunities for the second jobs. In the basement more profitable function will balance the social character of the school. The new apartments for elderly will secure the sustainable relationship between the buildings.
The used methods started with the Bradley Jorgensen’s diagram showing the three critical dimension for changing space into place: emotional dimension which refers to meaning or one’s attachment to the place, cognitive dimension – that is understanding the form, geometry and orientation of the space and the behavioural dimension which we can simplify as the function of the space.

To understand the notions better another dimension was added: users. Without them space will never actually become the place.
In order to gather information on all of the elements from the diagrams the research was conducted during which a multiply tools were used. For Meaning and Form the value assessment was invaluable method. It was combined with the other specific approach, namely, it was decided to focus on the particular time periods and related to them time layers which can be found in the buildings of MMC and their surroundings.

The overall narrative of the MMC and Beato district can be divided into three periods: Religion & Discovery (from XVI-XVIII century), Industrialisation (from XIX century until 1970) and the period which can be called Concession (from 1970 until now). Each period is characterised by different features and the impact, which each one of them had on the structures of the site, is also various. Currently MMC and its buildings are a collage of these time layers, but through careful recognition of the components, the picture of this heritage will become much more comprehensible and therefore it will be easier to create value assessment which has strong impact on the transformation framework.

Thanks to the multiply resources like written stories from books or online blogs, archive photos, drawings and maps, it was possible to gain the sufficient knowledge in order to conduct the process of separating the, mentioned above, components. The key tool was the Riegl – Brand matrix which combines potential heritage values with (mostly) tangible elements of the site.

The Human and Function factors were defined thanks to the other sources like:
- literature about place-making and notions of belonging and identity
- research papers and socio economic studies about Lisbon and Beato
- research papers and literature about the growing ageing population problem and strategies of approach
- study cases
- observations in situ.

They allowed to create the transformation framework for the design based on combination of the potential values of the complex, the personal value assessment and the brief written with the help of the studio manual and my own observations and explorations.
The solid colours are showing the notions already existing in the complex. The blank space are the potentials of the planned development which need to be addressed.

**Fig. 4 Dimensions of place creation - existing notions and potentials**

**Literature and general practical preference**

**Place-making:**
- A Space For Place In Sociology by Thomas F. Gieryn, Indiana 2000
- Urban Identities: Influences on Socio-Environmental Values and Spatial Inter-Relations by Ali Cheshmehzangi and Tim Heat, 2001

**Socio-economic data about Lisbon and Beato:**
- The Age-Old Problem of Old Age Poverty in Portugal by Carlos Farinha & Isabel Andrade, Lisbon 2013
- Ageing in Portugal: regional iniquities in health and health care by Paula Santana, Coimbra 2013

**Designing for aging population:**
- Volume 27: Aging, NYC 2014
- Volume 29: The Urban Conspiracy, NYC 2014
Reflection

Relevance

The conviction that ageing has to be first and foremost addressed within the city was demonstrated by WHO’s introduction of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities, whose requisite set of commitments have already been welcomed by number of municipalities. The concept of Age-friendly city was formulated endorsing new spatial and social guidelines. Age-friendly city is defined as policy to develop supportive urban environments as a way of encouraging active ageing by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. (WHO, 2007). The change of the structure of society, combined with the growth of population, means that architects will have to face the new challenges. The change of the structure of society, combined with the growth of population, means that architects will have to face the new challenges.

The MMC site in Lisbon is perfect example of the situation where it can proved that the more age-inclusive design can be a solution for creating more sustainable spatial and social relationships.

At the same time MMC is a great representative of industrial style and modern heritage. Typically adaptation of these kind of spaces are directed to much younger groups of people. To test how the structures of MMC will respond to different target groups is another great challenge which hopefully will be achieved.

Time planning

Please see attached as separated pdf file.