GRADUATION PROJECT
Open Ended City
Yongsan, Seoul, South Korea
Jan Maarten Mulder
august 2012
PERSONAL INFORMATION

My name is Jan Maarten Mulder and I started my master study on the TU Delft after I finished my bachelor at the Technical University in Groningen. My first master studio was a public building in Casablanca, Morocco. The project design consisted of a mediatheque, in which a library, gallery, café and theatre was housed. My second master project was a small architectural school combined with two architectural firms, in this project I did a typological research on combining the school with the two firms. The Jan de Vylder project was located in Brussels, Belgium. For my graduation project I choose a project that could give me the experience of a large-scale project and a supervision of a professor, which had international knowledge in the architectural profession. This is what I experienced as very pleasant in my Jan de Vylder studio.

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Studio: Vertical Cities Asia
Theme: ‘Everyone Ages’
Teachers: Mitesh Dixit (Urban design and Architecture)
         prof. ir. Henco Bekkering (Urban design till P2)
         xxx (Building technology)
My gradation project comprises an urban master plan, which I did together with four other students, an architectural research and an architectural design which I will do my self, within the urban master plan. The project is located in the city-area Yongsan in the metropolitan city of Seoul, South Korea. The urban master plan was part of an international student competition, where our project won a shared first place.

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URBAN MASTER PLAN RESEARCH P1

URBAN MASTER PLAN DESIGN P2

GRADUATION PLAN: ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH P2'

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN P3, P4, P5
VERTICAL CITIES ASIA

The first semester of the designstudio is part of the Vertical City Asia Competition. This international competition is organized for five successive years - 2011 - 2015 - by the School of Design and Environment of the National University of Singapore, financially supported by the World Future Foundation. Every year the competition content a new location with a different kind of theme, this year - 2012- the location is Yongsan, Seoul, South Korea. The main theme of the competition is “Everyone Ages”. The competition brief: “Every year a one square kilometre territory will be the subject of the competition. This area, to house 100,000 people living and working, sets the stage for tremendous research and investigation into urban density, verticality, domesticity, work, food, infrastructure, nature, ecology, structure, and program - their holistic integration and the quest for visionary paradigm will be the challenges of this urban and architectural invention. In the second of this series of competitions, the theme of “Everyone Ages” will be explored. Population aging is unique in Asia given the speed at which it is occurring and the immense social and economic changes that the region is experiencing at the same time.

All across Asia, the number of people age 65 and above is expected to grow dramatically over the next 50 years. For the region as a whole, the population in this age group will increase by 314 percent - from 207 million in 2000 to 857 million in 2050. Changes that occurred over 50 years in the West are being compressed into 20 to 30 years in Asia.

The competition seeks innovative design solutions for a balanced environment for urban life addressing and anticipating the challenges of a rapidly ageing society. It encourages new positive approaches to ageing society that identify opportunities for maintaining capacities and well-being over the life course. Concepts such as “active ageing” and “ageing in place” with new approach to accessibility, social care and support for elderly are expected to affect design solutions and programs which exceed the standard community club repertoire and incorporate a range of opportunities to activate the elderly and bring them back to workforce, and to develop appropriate environments, especially the built environment, for both older and younger generations, which is crucial to successful ageing within the community."
Additional information:
A competition for the masterplan of Yongsan was won by Daniel Libeskind in 2009.

US Military base located directly next to Yongsan will be transformed into a park designed by West 8 & Iroje Architects

The participating teams are design studios from schools of architecture in:

Asia
National University of Singapore
Tsinghua University, Beijing
Tongji University, Shanghai
University of Tokyo
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Europe
Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule/eth, Zurich
Delft University of Technology

North America
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania
University of California at Berkeley

Each participating school can nominate two competition entries. One teacher and two students are invited to the award seminar in Singapore, with lectures by the five members of the international jury and the ten international teachers. Each year, the proceedings of the seminar will be published together with the twenty students projects.

The TU Delft multidisciplinary studio will involve students in the last year of their Master studies in Urbanism, Architecture and Real Estate & Housing. The start in January 2012 will be an intensive design workshop where the competition entry has to be sent in by the 30th of June 2012. The design workshop consisted of four groups of four or five students. Our project, The open ended city, contained five students:

- Claudio saccucci (Architecture)
- Samuel liew (Architecture)
- Stef bogaerds (Urbanism)
- Erjen prins (Urbanism)
- Jan marten mulder (Architecture)

During the second semester students will finish their Master thesis in their chosen discipline of Urbanism, Architecture or Real Estate & Housing.
THE OPEN ENDED CITY

Architecture is by its very nature a product of its broader socio–economic in which it is commissioned and designed. It plays the key role in providing a culturalised framework for economic transaction as is the case in most large scale developments which aim to redevelop areas with the aim to create surplus land value. Spurred by what has been dubbed the Bilbao effect, developers and city planners have come to see iconic architecture as playing a central role in attracting such investment in the form of tourism and big money. Resulting in the production of architecture that is in favour of visually consumable forms.

The architect is often depicted as the middleman or mediator between the client intent on maximising profit; and the citizens of the city, who are unable to discern what is truly ‘meaningful’ or ‘good’ for them. As such, the architect’s role is one that is as much about satisfying many different parties with just as many different agendas; as it is about materialising a vision for a piece of architecture.

“Our aim is to propose a strategy that is able to retain the authenticity of the city while extending the dialogue between what is existing and what is to come. The design primarily focusses on creating conditions and rules that will guide the growth of the city.”

By uncovering and intensifying what is already existing. The contextual fabric of the city remains as the main driver for our strategy.
Community
The idea of community is being explored through the programmatic circles which are not a formal gesture, but rather a means to organize programs in a meaningful way which would provide for the needs of an ever-ageing population in a walkable 400m radius. The potential of these communities is that they disperse functions as opposed to creating agglomerations of one particular kind of activity. At the heart of the communities are the hybrid centers which cater for elderly healthcare, schooling and community functions. The archetype of the ‘public square’ in European urban planning was present in Korea in the form of the school yards, which amidst a sea of tight knit developments, were the only open plots. This was an interesting overlap because it was not just an opportunity for a new form of integrated/mixed program utilizing the existing open space, but also because of the high priority that Korean society places on education; which really made a case for it to become the heart of these communities. Serving as a catalyst for urban regeneration and growth, these centers will attract more people to live in surrounding areas while serving the people and facilitating exchange.

Leisure
Among the different user groups that Yongsan is aimed at, the leisure seekers going to the newly formed park and surrounding museums and waterfront will liven the whole area and create a buzz that most residential neighbourhoods do not have. By creating easy connections to the park and the waterfront from the station, Yongsan will become a conducive place for outdoor activities too.

Open Endness
As opposed to having a masterplan defined by grand and formal gestures, one of the cornerstones of our project is prioritizing the long term growth of Yongsan in the design process. How exactly do cities grow? They usually contract or expand as a result of the flow of people in and through a certain area as a result of the program of that place. The sizes of developments and resulting urban conditions are a result of the policies and rules that are set in place by municipalities. By clearly defining a broad set of rules and regulations we aim to preserve qualities that make cities interesting and at times unpredictable and unique places. By doing so, we allow the city to take on a life of its own whilst gently preserving the qualities that make Asian cities interesting and at times unpredictable and unique places.
GRADUATION PLAN: ARCHITECTURE

My gradation plan will offer me a structure to frame my architectural theses. The main target of this structure will be to go from an urban master plan, scale 1:10.000, to an architectural design, final scale 1:5. This pragmatic way of organising my theses give me an overview of the direction I will go, all so because a large-scale project like this is totally new for me. In practice this will not main that my architectural design will be so pragmatic, contrary I will switch scales throughout the whole design process.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

“The posed problem, research questions and design assignment in which these result. 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.”

“This section has to include what the intentions are of the graduation project.”

PROCES

“A description of the methods and techniques of research and design, which are going to be utilized. And the literature (theories or research data) and general practical experience/precedent you intend to consult.”

SCHEDULE
PROBLEM STATEMENT

“To speak of architecture and its complexity, of its richness, of the questions it seeks to answer – concludes President Baratta - can be useful to everyone, first and foremost because it may enhance a more qualified culture on the part of the clients, lacking which we are in danger of losing the meaning of things, of history and of real needs.” Paolo Baratta, President of the Venice Biennale

THESES

In line of our urban master plan I want to create a cohered story to my architectural theses. In this way I want to avoid that those two parts become a speared story in my overall graduation project. In our urban master plan we proposed a strategy that is able to retain the authenticity of the city while extending the dialogue between what is existing and what is to come. The urban design primarily focuses on creating conditions and rules that will guide the growth of the city.

In a sense this goes against most present architectural and urban planning designs and frims, where most projects become a cacophony of architectural creations to announce it self or to be sensationalised. In my theses I will focus on how I can create an architectural design that is keeping the authenticity of his place, in particular Yongsan, Seoul, South Korea. Therefore the aim of my architectural theses is to design a project that tries to reaffirm the uniqueness and the preservation of a single place. As Adolfo Natalini, the founder of Superstudio notes; to preserve ‘the memory of those who have been here before us’ (Byvanck, 2005, p. 28) I think this will help us to keep a ‘sense of place’ that can become a regarded value in our globalizing world.
RESEARCH
My architectural research will focus on traditional Korean typologies and architecture, such as the traditional Korean home; the Hanok. Out of this research I will give an outline on what are the important Korean elements in as well architecture, society and urban relations. This outline will be the base of my architectural design. This does not main that I literally copy Korean elements into my design, but I want to use or transform my Korean research into a modern and nowadays design located in Korea.

DESIGN
For my architectural design I will finally design an urban block located in our urban master plan. The strategy to come to this urban block is to progressively zoom in on this block, the starting point is the urban master plan scale 1:10 000. My final result will be a design of an urban block on the scale of 1:200 and a worked out building within that urban block, this I will do in the scale of 1:100, 1:50,1:20 and 1:5. The design process of the building will be design from the interior space to the outside of the urban block and the city itself.

The urban block will have a mix-use program and will have around the 100 000 square meter. The worked out building, within this block, will contain a part of this program and square meters

GOAL
To design a modern architectural project that is keeping the authenticity of his place, in particular Yongsan, Seoul, South Korea. The project herefore tries to reaffirm the uniqueness and the preservation of it place.
METHODS AND TECHNIQUES
My ambition will be to make an overall book of my graduation project; this will contain the urban master plan, architectural research and architectural design.

For my architectural research I will use the literature, diagrams and drawing. To finalise my architectural design I will use models (on different scales), diagrams, plans, sections, elevations and technical details.

LITERATURE
Hanoak Traditional Korean Homes, Jin-Hee Chun et al. and Jai-sik Suh, Seoul, 2010

Korean Traditional Landscape Architecture, The korean Instute Traditional Landscape Architecture, Seoul, 2008

The Limits of the City, Murray Bookchin, 1986


Tower and Office, Joan Ockman, 2005

Delirious New York, Rem Koolhaas, 1994
SCHEDULE

Week 0 10.08.12 - 02.09.12
- Graduation Plan: Architecture
- Research/ design book urban design

Week 1 03.09.12 - 09.09.12
- Literature research
- Urban model 1:10 000

Week 2 10.09.12 - 16.09.12
- Literature research

Week 3 17.09.12 - 23.09.12
- Literature research
- Delft Exhibition
- Location 1:1 000

Week 4 24.09.12 - 30.09.12
- Literature/ program research
- Delft Exhibition

Week 5 01.10.12 - 07.10.12
- Literature/ program research

Week 6 08.10.12 - 14.10.12
- P2'
- Research finished in booklet
- Location urban block
- Program

Week 7 15.10.12 - 21.10.12
- Biennale Venice

Week 8 22.10.12 - 28.10.12
- Urban model 1:500
- Program study
- Massing study

Week 9 29.10.12 - 04.11.12
- Drawings 1:500/1:200
- Diagrams
- Program/ massing study

Week 10 05.11.12 - 11.11.12
- Drawings 1:500/1:200
- Diagrams
- Program/ massing study

Week 11 12.11.12 - 18.11.12
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50
- Diagrams
- Program/ massing study
- Building in urban block

Week 12 19.11.12 - 25.11.12
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50
- Program/ massing study
- Model 1:500/1:200
- Interieur model building 1:100/ 1:50

Week 13 26.11.12 - 02.12.12
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50
- Model 1:500/1:200
- Interieur model building 1:100/ 1:50

P2’
- location in urban plan
- urban block
- architectural research book
- program urban block
**P3**
- plans, facades, cross-cuts, 1:200
- part of the building, plan and cross-cut 1:50
- façade fragment with hor. and vert. cross-cut 1:20
- details 1:5

**P4**
- situational drawing 1:5000 / 1:1000
- plan b.g. in situation 1:500
- plans, facades, cross-cuts 1:200 / 1:100
- part of the building, plan and drawings 1:50
- façade fragment with hor. and vert. cross-cut 1:20
- details 1:5
- model

theoretic and thematic support of research and design + reflection on architectonic and social relevance

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**Week 14** 03.12.12 - 09.12.12
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50
- Diagrams
- model 1:500/1:200/1:100/1:5

- P3

**Week 16** 17.12.12 - 23.12.12
- New York

**Week 17** 24.12.12 - 30.12.12
- New York

**Week 18** 31.12.12 - 06.01.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50
- model building 1:200/1:100/1:50

**Week 19** 07.01.13 - 13.01.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50
- model building 1:200/1:100/1:50

**Week 20** 14.01.13 - 20.01.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50
- model building 1:200/1:100/1:50

**Week 21** 21.01.13 - 27.01.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50/1:20/1:5
- Diagrams and model

**Week 22** 28.01.13 - 03.02.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50/1:20/1:5
- Diagrams and model

**Week 23** 04.02.13 - 10.02.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50/1:20/1:5
- Diagrams and model

**Week 24** 11.02.13 - 17.01.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50/1:20/1:5
- Diagrams and model

**Week 25** 18.02.13 - 24.01.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50/1:20/1:5
- Diagrams and model

**Week 26** 25.02.13 - 03.03.13
- Drawings 1:200/1:100/1:50/1:20/1:5
- Diagrams and model

**Week 27** 04.03.13 - 10.03.13
- P4

**Week 28** 11.03.13 - 17.03.13
- P4

**Week 29, 30, 31** 18.03.13 - 07.04.13
- presentation
- drawings, diagrams, model

**Week 32** 08.04.13 - 14.04.13
- P5