

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:

Personal information		
Name	Annasophie Abbassi	
Student number	4698991	

Studio		
Name / Theme	Public Building Graduation Studio: Public Condenser, new urban lounge & commons	
Main mentor	Ir. Paul Kuitenbrouwer	Project Design
Second mentor Third mentor	Ir. Ger Warriès Dr. Sang Lee	Building Technology Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The public realm plays a significant role in people's daily life and it brings people with different background together. I always have been interested in the socio-cultural aspects of architecture. Previously in my studies, I came across different issues regarding public functions and spaces as well indoor as outdoor within different urban contexts. During this studio I would like to find out how to design a public building which reflects a city's identity and create an ensemble including outdoor and indoor spaces on different scales.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Urban Oasis – A Communal Hub & Sanctuary for Socio-cultural Integration and Interaction.
Goal	
Location:	Near Ostbahnhof, Andreasviertel, Friedrichshain (Berlin, Germany)
The posed problem,	<p>The Assigned site in Friedrichshain, Berlin, with its three neighborhoods, located in Berlin consists of variety of contrast. Diversity and multiplicity regarding architecture, functions, gentrification, atmospheres, users, and cultures give a unique quality to the area.</p> <p>Berlin has a history of migration and has been experiencing a high refugee inflow in recent years. After 2015's refugee crisis in Berlin and Germany, according to the Berlin Senate in April 2022 there was another influx of around 60 thousand Ukrainian refugees (Berlin.de, 2022). Consequently, society have faced social and academic integration challenges. Moreover, data from 2018 shows, about 126,650 residents (44%) in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg have migration backgrounds (Bettina, 2020). Therefore, this study aims to investigate to what extend architecture of a public condenser can contribute to sociocultural integration.</p> <p>This project intends to generate a central and accessible place to escape from daily chores amidst the hustle and bustle of the city. A sanctuary to bring refugees, migrants, and locals together for integration with a main function of sports/event hall for the whole community. A space that contrasts within its urban context and therefore is visible and attractive for visitors and the neighborhood to stay while entering the district by its diverse functionality. Functions that attract specifically</p>

	<p>newcomers and guide them by providing legal help, labour market integration, language classes and workshops to explore skills and talents. A save haven with multi-cultural and physical activities to create a sense of belonging for all in the neighborhood.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<p>Since the theme and the problem of the project focus on the specific target groups and the interaction between them, during this project research need to be conducted on what the history of Berlin’s integration is; how these different groups can be brought together; and what is needed to provide for social and cultural integration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to create a center of the district that attracts displaced people and locals for social interaction, and over all contribute to the integration of the refugees and migrants within the local community? - Who are the refugees and migrants in the community? - What are the present experiences in terms of integration and governmental policies? - What architectural functions are needed for good integration in Berlin? - How can the architecture of public condenser include both displaced people and locals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What architectural typology can provide sanctuary or an Oasis for the target groups?

<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>By creating a communal hub and providing as well specific activities for newcomers and more general cultural activities a sense of belonging will be accomplished since people with different backgrounds will be addressed and interacting with each other. This will contribute to the inclusivity within the multi-cultural and ethnical demographic diversity within the district. Displaced people interact with locals through interaction by intellectual, cultural, religious and food related activities. Therefore the cultural mosaic of the community comes together at the heart of the district. By creating this central 'Oasis' the district gets a defined public center. Connecting as well outside the neighborhoods with the district, since the project location is next to the station.</p> <p>Regarding the influx of refugees and migrants within the district and larger scale within the city, the integration of the newcomers within the community will benefit on long terms. Economically the neighborhood and the city will benefit of integration of the target groups since after they can meet the needs in terms of staff shortage, and the crime rate will be reduced as a consequence of integration.</p>
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Process

Method description

Through this research I gathered quantitative and theoretical information by means of literature research. To gain insight into the numbers of refugees and migrants in the district and in Berlin, I examined political quantitative data.

To test the usability of different building functions I did research by design, and this lead the research by answering the suitability of certain functions for integration.

Through testing design strategies and investigating case studies, I questioned planned and existing projects. I investigated case studies as Absalon Community Centre in Copenhagen and the Integration Hub by Robert Bosch Stiftung. I conducted research on displacement and architecture by investigation the book by Andrew Herscher: Displacements, Architecture and Refugee.

Literature and general practical preference

Arcgency. (2015). Arcgency. ABSALON. <https://arcgency.com/absalons-kirke>

Around 60,000 Ukrainian refugees in Berlin. (n.d.). berlin.de. <https://www.berlin.de/en/news/7423035-5559700-around-60000-ukrainian-refugees-in-berli.en.html>

Fairs, M. (2017, December 18). "Don't design yet another shelter" for refugees, say experts. Dezeen. <https://www.dezeen.com/2017/12/18/dont-design-shelter-refugees-kilian-kleinschmidt-rene-boer-good-design-bad-world/>

Bettina, Q. (2020). Broschüre: Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg - Kleinräumige Daten (2019). <https://digital.zlb.de/viewer/metadata/34830330/1/>

Boake, T. M. (1999, June). CSA Annual Meeting, Technology Conference Montreal, June 1999. ACSA Annual Meeting, Technology Conference Montreal: OASIS : The Experiential Dimension of Architecture. Retrieved December 28, 2022, from <https://www.tboake.com/pdf/Oasis.pdf>

Fratzcher, M. (2015). EconStor: Integrating refugees: A long-term, worthwhile investment. <https://www.econstor.eu/handle/10419/123102>

Herscher, A., & Fast, O. (2017). Displacements: Architecture and Refugee. Amsterdam University Press.

Integration Hub. (n.d.). Robert Bosch Stiftung. <https://www.bosch-stiftung.de/en/project/integration-hub>

International Data. (2022). Migration Data Portal. https://www.migrationdataportal.org/international-data?i=refug_host

Landesamt für Flüchtlingsangelegenheiten. (n.d.). Berlin.de. Retrieved November 9, 2022, from <https://www.berlin.de/laf/>

Maghularia, R., & Übelmesser, S. (2019). Do Immigrants Affect Crime? Evidence from Panel Data for Germany. CESifo Working Paper, Category 4: Labour Markets(7696), 1–28. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334825677_Do_Immigrants_Affect_Crime_Evidence_from_Panel_Data_for_Germany

Panis, D., & Rummens, S. (2019, February 13). 'Ik hoop als gewone Berlijner door het leven te gaan, zonder het label van vluchteling.' MO*. <https://www.mo.be/wereldblog/lange-termijnpolitiek-loont>

Refugee and migrant health. (2022, May 2). <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/refugee-and-migrant-health>

Thrive Agency. (2022, March 25). What are the Economic Benefits of Refugees and How do they Grow the Economy? LIRS. <https://www.lirs.org/economic-benefits-refugees/>

Webb, M. D. (2013). Urban Community Center [Master thesis]. The university of Minnesota.

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?

The relation between my graduation project topic and the studio topic is the aspect of bringing different people together, by creating a multifunctional building that attracts not only 1 group of society. My project tries to not only focus on existing groups in the community, but also focus on new arrived people or people that will arrive in the future, to create a building that can adapt to future needs and changes in the community by migration and displacement. To help these people feel safe, and find a place in the community and get a sense of belonging by getting in touch with the people of the community. The field of Architectural design which is my master track (Architecture) is a tool to create this. By creating a visible building which gives the people of the neighbourhood and new people a direction and a reason to meet. The master program in general consists of all fields in the Built Environment, which are related to the topic, since creating this community centre for integration required more than just an architect. The larger scale such as the urban scale need to be taken into consideration.

2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

By researching the opportunities for architecture to create this center for the commons, the social aspects of inclusivity and diversity and the sense of belonging will be investigated. This research can contribute to the discipline at large since the theme of integration and migration is a worldwide issue and therefore the findings can be adapted to several cities elsewhere, especially in Europe, with similar situations of multiplicity and multiculturalism in society. In terms of a larger social framework, my graduation work can be relevant since change in society need to be taken into consideration while designing in the field of Architecture. In terms of a larger scientific framework, further research can be conducted in terms of political and social and architectural impact and influence on integration within communities, related to for example housing. In terms of benefits on the larger scale, by contributing to the integration of groups into the community, the hosting country in general in addition to the advantages for the displaced people, will benefit from this in terms of criminality, economically and socially.

