Graduation Plan (P2)

Personal information

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<tr>
<td>Studio</td>
<td>Materialisation TALL</td>
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<td>Theme</td>
<td>communication in interior public space</td>
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<td>Teachers</td>
<td>Darrel Ronald, Tanner Merkeley</td>
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Argumentation of choice of the studio

High rise is a building type where an ultimate integration of architecture, structure and building services takes place. The architectural question is to transform the ‘machine of technology’, the technical skyscraper, into an elegant building. The skyscraper has an enormous mass, but forms a vertical gated community within a urban area. This has a big social impact on the direct context of the building. The integration of the building in the city, or the city in the building, is a very important topic because of the impact such an enormous building has on it's context.

Title
The European Debate

Product

Problem Statement
The problem statement consists of four parts that relate to one problem:
There is a clear gap between the political layer of the European union and the inhabitants of the union. Since the start of the political collaboration that lead to the current European union, there has always been a populist protest against the power in Brussels. Many laws have effect on the national politics in the Eu countries, while the inhabitants do not feel a connection with European political layer.
The same gap seems to exist between the city of Brussels and the European quarter in the city. The staff working here does not leave the neighborhood much, while the inhabitants of Brussels have no reason to visit the mono-functional european quarter.
The third part is regarding interior public space. It is supposed to be a semi-public space that makes the journey between outside to inside more fluid. Most interior public spaces though lack a connection with both the inside and the outside.
The EC-staff is used to work in private offices in long corridors. The building design should bring an elastic solution for the office interior that makes it easier for the workers to communicate, while still making it possible to have separated privacy.

These four problems can be summarized in this research question: 'How can the new building design force communication within different scales?'
The design should create opportunities for informal meetings between the European commission and people that do not work inside the building. It should be an added value to the city of Brussels, not just to the European quarter. Also the idea of forced meetings should be continued in the design of the office interior, where employees should have the chance to have accidental informal contact.

Goal
When finished, the designed building should be an elegant representation of the European Commission, that closes the gap between the European political power and the inhabitants of the European union.
The student should do research on high rise typology and come up with a design based on a progressive high rise typology.
The student should be able to design a high rise tower based on an efficient core, with energy efficient facade technology. The student should make it plausible that interior public space has a connection to the city.

**Process**

**Method description**

Precedent studies will be done on design components like facade, structure, interior public space, core, entrance etc. These studies will help solve design problems and can be used as proof for decisions in the project. Literature studies on context and typology will help gain knowledge on the context, society and the skyscraper typology. This research is also shown in essays written during MSc3 courses. Both physical model studies and digital representations of the design will help designing the form and interior spaces of the building. Materialization will also be done by producing scale models.

**Literature and general practical preference**

**Literature:**

Harvey, David, The condition of post-modernity, 1990 Oxford
Scott, James C., Seeing like a State, 1998 Yale
Koolhaas, Rem, S,M,L,XL, 1995 New York
Aureli, Per Vittorio et. al., Brussels: a manifestio, 2005 Delft
Pimlott, Mark, Without and Within, 2007 Rotterdam
Meyer, Han, De beheerste stad, 1979 Rotterdam
Merrifield, Andy, Metromarxism, 2002 London
Conway, Donald J, Human response to tall buildings, 1977 Florida

**Excursions:**

Multiple visits to the location in Brussels
A visit to interns in the European Commission (December 2012)
Site visits to relevant precedent- and reference projects

**Reflection**

**Relevance**

The result of the project can be used to incorporate public space in large urban buildings. If the project would be used as a precedent for all new high rise buildings, it would mean the end of the traditional skyscraper. The city would be extended in all taller buildings, extending the city's street level into the higher regions of the city. On social level, the project creates very much public space inside the tall building that before was known as the capitalist skyscraper. By creating this public layer, interaction can be forced between the private function of the building and the urban context. This is not only a solution for governmental organizations, but could also work for commercial functions that would like to make a gesture to the urban context.
Graduation project
- Drawings scale 1:500
- Drawings scale 1:200
- Drawings scale 1:100
- Building part 1:50
- Facade design
- Facade sections 1:20
- Details 1:5
- Theoretical & Thematic support
- Reflection details
- Development structural design & building technology

Other open courses
- MSc3 TALL Models
- Finalize course (on track)
- MSc1 Retake Exam: Lectures on Architectural Design (on track)

P2 application deadline

2nd possibility