Reflection graduation project

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Studio
Name / Theme: Complex Projects – AMS MID CITY studio
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Summary graduation project
The focus of the graduation studio AMS MID CITY is creating future scenarios through architectural design with as a testing ground the city of Amsterdam in 2050. The posed problem I encountered during my research on work in the future and the city is that the pace of the revolution of works grows faster than ever. So individuals have been forced to adapt to social progress and technological development. A lot of new business will
start during the transition period. However, a lot of people working in traditional, low-skilled jobs will lose their job because of replacing by robots.

However, Those who have/are going to lose their jobs, especially among the middle-aged, single-skilled, lower-paid population, will find it hard to re-employ themselves. There is a lot of barriers for them financially, educationally, socially and mentally. They cannot afford to be re-educated in a college; They can hard to get access to job opportunities that they can take; They are not confident to start a new carrier; They will be distressing failing in achieve self-actualization; Then finally they gradually become disconnected with the society.

The ambition of my project is to help people adapting to the new age in terms of the job (re)start-ups.
Our group site location is on Zeeburgereisland, the outskirt of the central Amsterdam, isolated to the mainland for decades. In our group vision we are going to make it isolated but well-connected, a pilot and self-sufficient. In our site, there are 40% of social housing out of the whole housing amounts. It means a lot of people living on the island are lower-class. They are mainly engaged in low-skilled jobs (about to be replaced by technology in the future), due to their limited educational resources. In 2050, a large proportion of people will need the occupation transition.

Analysis about target groups

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Restart-ups
- Transition-needed people

Start-ups
- Newly-emerging-field Start-ups
- Small Company's entrepreneurs
- College Students
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The design brief resulted in the design of “an [Re]startup Hub”. A future [Re]start-up hub, which works on educating and integrating the skills and abilities of different people, so that they can learn from each other, and create job opportunities. The value of places will shift to the promotion of networking, socializing, collaboration, hyper-individualized learning, and will be spaces where serendipity, unplanned encounters, unanticipated opportunities, and coincidences can occur, encouraging diversity activities, communication, and creativity.

Method description
During the MSc 3 phase of the graduation project, the site (Amsterdam Central) was analyzed collectively within the studio group on current and future conditions. The whole studio divides the whole semester into 5 different phases, XL, L, M, S, Softdata. The conclusions derived from this collective research resulted in a future scenario for Amsterdam Central in 2050 with new urban development and individual projects integrated.

The methodology on the topic is based on both literature and data analysis, while typology on building form.

The initial literature and data analysis are mostly based on ‘How will people work in the future?’ and ‘What will be the changes of jobs in the future?’. Then comes to my topic ‘Helping people adapting to the AI Age in terms of the job (re)start-ups’. Then, I
researched what I can make use in the future, to help people adapting easily. Which is firstly about ‘the factors that lead to work obsolete’ (defining the jobs and occupation groups that can easily be replaced). Then ‘the characteristic of working-mode in 2050’, and ‘what will the obsolete workforce work for under 2050 scenario’. Then comes to my solutions: Education(life-long learning/skills) + Integrating the skills and abilities of different people. And then defined my architectural theme, Encounter and collaborating, as well as my target people, transition-needed people, startups, college students.

Typology research for office buildings

Program bars and organization of my building
After defining main functions and target people, I did a lot of typology research for architectural design. My building typology research goes into two ways, the research for a specific time period for defining the transitional tendency, and research about current buildings to define the specific programs and spatial organizations for my building.

To support my architectural theme, I take ‘city morphology’ as the spatial precedents to build the connections between different groups of people (start-ups, restart-ups, students) and spaces (private, semi-public, public spaces) in the building.

**Potential description**
Graduation design studies the employment issues that humans have to face after entering the era of artificial intelligence. Research started from social issues, trying to solve problems in society from the perspective of architecture. The thing has the transferable potential in the graduation project could be person-to-person skill trading could work on both creating new job opportunities and opportunities for self-improvement. There is potential for further research to relief the unemployment problem.

**Reflection**
The graduation program provides me an opportunity to fully experience the process from research to final architecture design.

The most precious lesson for me from the whole process really understood the importance to work with the principle I like instead of spatial things in the beginning.

I got stuck for a long period while transiting my research into a real building because I didn’t know what I really want in my project. The project I stick to processing was just because of one image flashes in my head. I beautify it in my own mind with keep working on the part I like while ignoring other things. However, once the project being produced in depth,
I found myself always have to make some compromise in the part I like in order to solve the part I ignored. Then usually I gave up it and started to try a new one.

Finally, I started to try different massing project to define the principle I want. Then I found decisions became easier, and I know more about what to stick in mind while making the decisions. It helps a lot to make a project that you can like from the beginning to the end.

Massing models I tried during P2.5

It is also important to produce depth in steps. The key point that we have to figure out in each step phase could be totally different. The concept part is only about trying new things, “how will the building affect the surrounding?”, "how will the building different from others". Then comes to the massing organization, the way the programs function together. Then the specific plan layout and spatial quality. By keeping the steps in mind, the design process will be produced steadily.