**Graduation Plan: All tracks**

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Personal information</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Studio</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name / Theme</strong></td>
<td><strong>Design as Politics – Let’s work! Industry, Architecture and the City</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Teachers / tutors**     | Design tutor: Eireen Schreurs + Robert Gorny  
                           Research tutor: Leo van den Burg  
                           Building Technology: Bas Gremmen  
                           Delegate: Sisi Zlatanova |

**Argumentation of choice of the studio**

Design as Politics studio meets my expectations because of my interest in architecture and urban planning as a broader issue than only a quest of form. The spatial phenomena that we experience are determined by many complex factors like politics, economy, social issues, ecology and so on. To become conscious designers, we should be aware of all these interdependences, being sensitive observers of the local and global issues. Within all of these determinants, work and industry are one of the most important that influence our lifestyles and by extension – cities, buildings and houses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Graduation project</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of the graduation project</strong></td>
<td><strong>Towards Post-Carbon Society of Silesia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>long-term strategy for the new sustainable urban and industrial model of post-mining cities / ruralization of cities as a practice for the new model of life and work</td>
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### 1.1. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

**Fall of the Carbon Society – today’s Bytom as a transition city**

The Upper Silesian aglomeration is an area currently facing numerous phenomena which are a legacy of the formerly extremely well-prospering mining industry. The rise of the empire, which emerged in the beginning of the 19th century, was based on the rich amount of coal deposits, which being exhausted today make an area in need for search of new models of labour and living. The political transformations of the 1989 were also not fortuitous for Silesia. The ineptitude of the authorities as well as the unsuccessful restructuring and privatization gradually brought about the decline of the industry. **The mining used to create not only workplaces but the whole community with its own identity.** The mine or steelworks, usually located within the city borders, used to provide a center of work, friendship and celebration. Moreover, the trade unions of the miners enjoyed numerous privileges, often criticised by the other associations. The model of work in times of the industrial grandness used to be very linear – the day rhythm of a worker was based on a cycle home-mine-home.

Nowadays, the cities like Bytom, which is one of the most specific and problematic of the area, faces the problem of high, constantly increasing unemployment and shrinkage.

The Shrink Smart reaserch group as well as URBACT – European programme for sustainable development of cities – presents Bytom as one of the most problematic medium European city in terms of shrinkage. Bytom is also one of the three Polish cities under the programme of areas of strategic intervention, within Wałbrzych and Łódź. It means that the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development has decided to focus on them because of the highest necessity of the economical development and revitalization. In the upcoming years Bytom will get 100 millions euros from the European Union for the realization of the plan – which is still not specified.

The current economy is based on the medium and bigger private enterpreneurs, often from other countries of Europe. However, the hardscrabble market forces young people to move abroad in search of the employment. Former miners are usually condemned to stay unemployed.

**Post-industrial Heterotopias as a spatial potential**
In Bytom, 14 mines and a few steelworks used to work. This year, the last of them – KWK Bobrek mine is planned to be decommissioned. This brings about not only a loss of income source for thousands of people but also a big spatial problem for the area. The areas remaining after the former industrial plants are usually located in the middle of the city. In case of Bytom, they literally divide the city into pieces, cutting out the heterotopic holes within the urban fabric. There areas are very often excluded, unplumbed and chaotic. The post-industrial architectural heritage seems to be the only field of the interest of the officials. And indeed, many of these buildings are architecturally attractive and worth maintaining but they are not the main problem, rather the value. The vast areas around them are infiltrated with numerous overlapping layers and meanings – industrial leftovers like expansive coal mounds, old railway tracks, smaller and bigger infrastructure mixed with the frantic, uncontrolled nature and the initiations of the new human interventions. These heterotopias, with their own character and rules, constitute the urban holes in the middle of the city – in a way autonomous, entirely differing from the urban tissue. They could become the main value of the city, with their landscape potential. Unfortunately, for now, most of them remain forgotten and inaccessible.

Some revitalizations already started to occur but here we face another problem – the Disneyification of the post-industrial heritage. The new use of a space, very often does not refer at all to the existing situation and purpose or what is the most important – to the realities of the area. Most of the new purposes of the post-mining buildings/spaces are touristic and entertaining. As an exemplary absurd, emphasizing the social differences I would evoke the goal field on the recultivated area of Szombierki mine’s coal mounds. The field is surrounded by post-worker colonies where the extreme poverty is the main problem.

Allotment gardens and patchwork urbanism – the potential of boundaries

The post-industrial areas are not the only heterotopias of Silesian cities. Analysing the urban conditioning of Bytom, it is possible to gather that the allotment gardens typology is very popular and seems to be used as a filler for the ‘insuperable’ areas. Besides the housing and other typical urban functions, Bytom appears as a patchwork of industrial plots, allotment gardens and labour housing settlements. Moreover, the allotment complexes, are inaccessible at all to the inhabitants not having a plot there. They are tightly fenced and only the owner of the key can enter the area. It is a big problem of the contemporary Polish cities. On the one hand, the allotments can be seen as the green lungs of the city and a place of the leisure and outdoor activity. On the other, they cover hectares of the valuable spaces in the middle of the city. Being far from the ideas of the neoliberal parties to decommission the allotment communities, I would rather think about the reinterpretation of their typology – how to keep their current character, offering an open space and a new quality for the other inhabitants.
The allotment gardening culture that emerged in Europe in the mid-18th century, very fast gained ground in Poland. During the both wars and the interwar period, in Europe and the United Stated, the function of the allotments, called then Victory Gardens, was based on the literal production of food – in the name of fight with the financial crisis. On the contrary, in the People's Poland, the return to the initial idea of the allotment gardening, formulated before war, gained ground again. The so-called labour allotments (Pracownicze Ogródki Działkowe - POD) did not have a purpose of production anymore. It was even defined by the act that they should provide the space of leisure, recreation, multigenerational family integration, assurance of better social conditions, natural environment and health protection and the community meeting place and only the additional source of food for a family.

Any commercial or service activity is forbidden. Due to it, the place that has a potential to be used as a catalyst of the small private business, remains the leisure area only.

The amount of the allotment communities in Poland is the highest in Europe – 5000 complexes. The main target groups are the retirees and pensioners (46,9%) and the labour workers (24%).

Till 2014, when the new Act on allotment gardens was introduced, the Polish Union of Allotment Gardeners – peculiar state within the state, part of the communist legacy – had a total monopoly to lead and maintain the allotments. It has changed and now, the urban gardens complexes are much more controlled by the local authorities. The name also has changed because of the negative semantic associations of the most of the society with the former political system – now they are called Family Allotments (Rodzinne Ogródki Działkowe – ROD).

What is interesting, allotment gardens are usually associated with the community, integration, collaboration. In Poland this aspect is also important but not as much as in other European countries like for example the Netherlands or Sweden. The desire to stand out is very strong in Poland – we are real individualists. So even though the family allotment gardens entails collectivity – administration meetings, mutual problem solving etc – most of the users are really attached to their own peace of land, diligently cultivated and cherished.

1.2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Need for the new labour identity

The overlapping spatial, social, economical, political and environmental issues create a complicated and complex situation, which make the region not ready for the revolutionary steps in terms of the industry and labour. Silesia is simply not prepared for the construction of the new industrial revolution on the
ruins of the former one which still burns out. Moreover, the inhabitants are used to be unified by the strong identity that was provided by the mining industry.

Right now, the city of Bytom is in limbo between the ashes of the old local industrial model of work and the new capitalistic realities that does not perfectly work in this complex context of a transition mid-scale shrinking city. The new labour model should be created, based on the abilities and skills of the former miners and steelworkers as well as the potential of the young professionals (for example alumni of the Silesian University of Technology). All the inhabitants should have a possibility of being engaged in the new, circular and self-sufficient economy of post-mining towns.

The forgotten craftsmen of Silesia could also be involved in such a collaboration. For now, they often stay in their tiny, dark basement workshops, not having access to the new technologies and tendencies.

Even Richard Florida states now, that the idea of the creative class has divided the society and that the main goal, leading to the success of the today's cities should be to recognise the creativity in the members of every social group and facilitate the development of their skills.

People in the difficult financial situation, used to different realities that they irrevocably lost, are very often left to themselves. The painless assimilation on the capitalistic market is not easy for a person that used to work for years in a public enterprise, especially when the city does not offer any new workplaces. The centrally steered system of the People's Poland had its advantages but only for the big public associations. However, the inflated capitalism and free market is equally pitiless for the rookies as for the big privatized plants.

There is a need of creation of the new model of the organization of labour, the sort of a new socialism, giving a lot of freedom to the recipients but based on trust that them, by their own professional development, will also change the character of their area - the city hall has financial means to prop up such economical revitalization abreast with the urban development.

In general, Silesians look for the integration, not only on the field of work. Urban gardening is a good example. It can seem surprising but in this contaminated, highly-industrialized region, this urban-rural phenomenon has many supporters. What I find missing in this highly propitious idea is the good urban planning, making a zone integrated with the urban fabric and accessible for all the inhabitants. Moreover, the allotment garden typology has a potential to be developed, even as a tool of the overall planing, with the emphasis on the industrial work and urban farming.

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS
How can the ruralization of the city – in terms of work and life model, habits, planning system - could lead to the new urban model, free of the division for what is urban and what is rural, the model of post-carbon society?

How to benefit from diversity, patchwork and boundaries?

How can the reinterpreted allotment typology along with reused mining heritage enable the economical development of the region, where the industry, manufacturing, innovations and urban agriculture could coexist and moreover provide workplaces, city’s selfsufficiency and be the catalyst of the constant development without the spatial division for material and immaterial work?

How to program a new LONG-TERM, GROWING planning/spatial as well as economical strategy – using the idea of the OPEN PLANNING, coherent with the natural and cultural landscape, based on the idea of allotment plots, where each small entrepreneur would have a possibility to RENT A PIECE OF LAND FROM THE CITY AND BUILD THEIR OWN SMALL FACTORY/COMPANY? – need of a catalogue of modular (or not?), functionally diversified, cheap and easy to build pavillions.

Could this way of planning allow to implement also different urban functions, maybe even giving a possibility to create an autonomous cities

Need of solutions for the recultivations of the contaminated land.

3. ASSIGNMENT

MODEL SITE – INDUSTRIAL RING BYTOM

As already mentioned, Bytom used to constitute an industrial empire with its numerous mines (Rozbark, Szombierki, Bobrek, Karb, Łagiewniki, Paryż and so on) and other industrial plants – for example Huta Zygmunt. Some of them were located more on the edge of the city, while the others in the tight proximity of the city center or the housing settlements. A very specific, perfectly circular industrial area has been created to the South of the exact city center of Bytom. It can be described as Foucault’s heterotopia as it is an excluded area where many meanings, layers, spaces overlap. It is almost entirely separated from the housing function, excluding two small colonies – heritage Kolonia Zgorzelec on the South and a small settlement around Św. Małgorzaty church on the North (facing the railway station). Among fallen industrial development of this area, we can list: Szombierki mine (with picturesque Krystyna mineshaft), Łagiewniki mine, Zygmunt steeloworks, Bytom rubber factory... There are also sport facilities – GKS Szombierki stadium but also a new proposal – golf course on a former mine. Some parts are also used for family allotments – charming legacy of communism – tiny cultivation plots where specific community is formed. The whole area in
between is not really accessible to newcomers, moreover divided by a stripe of coal mounds, along which former narrow railway line and Bytomka river go on both sides. The natural values are quite rich here – with numerous post-mining lakes, ponds and moulds. The company which has its headquarters here – Haldex – producing Biocarbohumus – mixture of post-carbon waste and local sewage that can be used as a successful fertilizer for recultivation areas. The heterotopia is not a simple starting point for a project – but maybe there is a simple solution how to combine the forces of different industries – public and private, smaller and bigger, small-scale agriculture and heavy engineering in a one place, taking into account all the users of the city.

This model area, as many others in the post-mining cities of Upper Silesia needs to be defined by a long-term strategy. The plan should assume the social, economical, spatial development and revitalization. This kind of enormous forgotten plots could become the new catalyst for the regional industry. As the big, centralized model is gone, this is the time for the more balanced, dismembered solutions, providing new workplaces and a possibility of the professional development of the inhabitants of Bytom and the whole region.

Study and reinterpretation of the current family allotment typology, which is very popular within Silesia, could lead to the new urban planning solutions – open for the public and coherent with the diversified landscape of the post-industrial areas. City could divide the public territories by a flexible, varied grid (opposite to the current existing allotments) and propose a cheap temporary rental to the small entrepreneurs. An allotment would become a place of work and technological development, still keeping its green and leisure character.

Moreover, the allotments complex would become much more open to the inhabitants of the city who could treat it also as their own leisure space. This would define a new model of work within the city – not within the dense fabric of the exact city center but on the open, green, areas.

The catalogue of the various model workshop/manufacture/enterprise temporary pavillions should be provided to the users. The building technique and structure should be simple, easy to build and the material used cheap and accessible in the area.

City authorities should also think to provide an extra technological supply base with bigger machines, not affordable for the small-scale manufacturers and a place of meeting and ideas exchange. It could be realized in one of the vacant post-industrial buildings.

The vacant areas, remaining after the fallen industry can become vibrant but in a way autonomous parts of the city. The means used for their development and revitalization can entirely vary from these used within the dense city.
## Process

### Method description

The research methodology is based on the analysis of numerous factors, creating the current image of post-mining towns of Silesia. I started in August, with a short site excursion, during which I have tried to grasp as much as possible of the atmosphere, problems and potentials of the area by visiting formerly selected sites. Conversations with locals – miners, former miners, workers and inhabitants in general was a fruitful contribution in my searches.

The next step was a broader analysis of the urban conditions and how where they created during the years – especially the influence of the industry on the cityscape. Numerous articles and books that I had a possibility to borrow from Bytom's libraries during the next excursion gave me a clearest overview on the whole conditioning of social and historical aspects. Conversations with members of NGOs taking care of social/spatial/economical revitalization on Bytom introduced a lot of trustworthy information on the current situation of inhabitants and their needs. I also participated in public open debate with the inhabitants about the spatial development of their area – it was the first time I had a possibility to see how the participation design works in reality.

The exploration of unplumbed plots and visits to the allotment gardens of Bytom gave me the biggest overview in terms of spatial conditions and possibilities.

Analysing literature – in the field of geographical and historical conditioning, but also about pattern/grid designing and current tendencies of sustainable urban planning and situation of post-industrial areas clarifies my spatial ideas.

The research attempts to find a new model of work and life within the specific post-industrial areas. The carbon age is gone, now Bytom is in a transition moment of chaotic and clumsy capitalism. My searches focus on the new typology of work which could provide long-term spatial and social strategy.

## Literature and general practical preference

### Literature – books, articles

Foucault, Michel *Of other spaces, Diacritics 16* (Spring 1986)


Alexander, Christopher, *Notes on the Syntesis of Form*, 1964, Oxford University Press


Philippe Vandenbroeck, Michiel Dehaene, *Cityscapes for the Post-Carbon Age. The Small City as a Localised Utopia*, Oase – Medium, 89


Harris, Richard, *Building a Market*, 2012, Chicago


Kuhn, Rolf. Scholz, Brigitte, *Bergbau Folge Landschaft / Post-mining landscape*. 2010, Jovis


Miazzo, Francesca. Minkjan, Mark, *Farming the City – Food as a Tool for Today’s Urbanisation*, Edited by CITIES, trancity*valiz

Żakowska, Marta, *Interview with Richard Florida – Do diabła z klasą kreatywną / Fuck the creative class*, Magazyn Miasta, 2(10)/2015

Crary, Jonathan, *24/7 Późny kapitalizm I koniec snu /Late capitalism and the end of the sleeps*, 2015, Karakter, Kraków


**On allotment gardens culture**

Wilczyński, Stefan, *Ogródky działkowe jako zagadnienie społeczne / Allotment gardens as a social phenomenon* (1926)

Pawlikowska-Piechotka, Anna, *Tradition and contemporary meaning of the allotments as a recreation space* (2012)

Pawlikowska-Piechotka, Anna, *Ogrody działkowe w rozwoju zrównoważonym współczesnego miasta / Allotment gardens in the sustainable urban development* (2009)

https://sidewalksprouts.wordpress.com/ *Sprouts in the sidewalk – it's all about urban agriculture*
On history and realities of Bytom and Silesia


Visits and talks

*Bytom MDM Miasto dla Mieszkańców / City for Inhabitants NGO*

*Napraw sobie miasto / Fix yourself the city* – Katowice

Visit to open debate on planning organized by City Council of Katowice

Site visits in Bytom, Gliwice

Municipal Council of Bytom

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**Reflection**

**Relevance**

The project attempts to explore solutions which could be implemented in the global context. The phenomenon of post-mining cities does not only affect Upper Silesia. Numerous post-industrial areas of the world could benefit from the solutions developed on the basis of a model city of Bytom. The ruralization tendency, in terms of work and life habits or spatial solutions, in my opinion, will be soon the main tendency of the cities. The global economy brings too many problems like costs, pollution and in general stressful and tyring model of life and labour. We should go back to the roots but on the new terms. The city does not need to be divided from the countryside nor immaterial from material workers. The post-carbon
society will be based on the accumulation of small and local instead of global flows.

**Time planning**

1.1. Kick off meeting – presentation of the graduation project ideas  
1.2. individual work – research, urban analysis, literature  
1.3. individual work – research, urban analysis, literature  
1.4. Pin-up presentation – design goals more clarified  
1.5. individual work – research, urban analysis  
1.6. individual work – research, urban analysis, individual tutoring  
1.7. studio group workshop  
1.8. individual work – research, urban analysis, individual tutoring  
1.9. **P1 presentation**  
1.10. site visit – excursion to Bytom

2.1. individual work– excursion conclusions and material  
2.2. individual tutoring – excursion conclusions and material  
2.3. work on first spatial ideas  
2.4. work on spatial ideas and details of strategy /individual tutoring  
2.5. work on spatial ideas and details of strategy /individual tutoring  
2.6. Pin-up presentation – spatial ideas for the implementation of research

Christmas week 1  
Christmas week 2

2.7. continuation on research on spatial possibilities of the implementation of research  
2.8. BT studio workshop and polishing the structure of the project’s story, representation drawings etc  
2.9. **P2 presentation** / Lecture Series Research Methods final position paper  
2.10. Capita Selecta elective course final assignment

Springbreak - continuation on spatial design/experiments/options

3.1. continuation on spatial design/experiments/options/ individual tutoring  
3.2. continuation on spatial design/experiments/options  
3.3. spatial ideas development/individual tutoring  
3.4. spatial ideas development – plans, details, 3D  
3.5. spatial ideas development – plans, details, 3D /individual tutoring  
3.6. finetuning of spatial ideas of every scale (urban, plans, details)  
3.7. **P3 presentation**  
3.8. developing spatial image of the project and fine-tuning the whole strategy/individual tutoring  
3.9. developing spatial image of the project and fine-tuning the whole strategy  
3.10. drawings/3D view / work on a booklet and presentation/individual tutoring
4.1. drawings/3D view/ work on a booklet and presentation
4.2. work on a booklet and presentation/individual tutoring
4.3. work on a booklet and presentation
4.4. **P4 presentation**
4.5. fine-tuning plans/facades/sections/details
4.6. polishing of graphic design/representation/presentation structure + models
4.7. polishing of graphic design/representation/presentation structure + models
4.8. polishing of graphic design/representation/presentation structure + models
4.9. **P5 presentation**
4.10.