Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
Graduation Plan

1 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 PERSONAL INFORMATION
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1.2 STUDIO
Theme: Public Building
Istanbul: Palazzo Enciclopedico
Teachers: Prof. M. Riedijk
Argumentation of choice of the studio: The main argument for choosing this studio was the location of the assignment. Studying the city of Istanbul was appealing since I had never been there before. I was curious about the challenges a “new” city would bring as well as the working method of the studio.

1.3 TITLE
Graduation project: Framing Istanbul: Nature versus Urbanization

2 PROJECT

2.1 PROBLEM STATEMENT
At the end of 2013 the conflict between governmental urban developments and the needs of the Istanbulites got global media attention when ‘Gezi Park’ was about to be replaced by a shopping mall.

The vastly growing city is getting denser and is expending into the remaining areas of nature surrounding the city. Green areas can be a big quality for an urban environment but in Istanbul they are losing ground to the urban fabric, both on the perimeter and the inner city.

In the center of the city close to the street Istiklal there used to be the ‘Pera park’ which has fallen to urban development over the last decades. On the edge of this former park, bordering the dense urban fabric surrounding Istiklal, there is a large open area in use as a car parking lot. This situation made me wonder whether it is necessary to remove all the green spaces in the city to make space for urban growth.
2.2 GOAL
The goal of this studio project is to design a ‘Palazzo Enciclopedico’ in Istanbul. After defining my personal take on this term in relation to my research I started the design of my palazzo on the previously mentioned site. This will be a public building with a function that relates to the research.

3 PROCESS

3.1 METHOD DESCRIPTION

This graduation started with the analysis of the given term palazzo enciclopedico. It resulted in a specific approach of researching Istanbul. The studio was split into groups and each started investigating a different theme. Each investigation was done to understand a specific fascination in relation to the city. All combined these gave a new understanding of Istanbul and were leading us towards a design theme and location for the palazzo. This research can be reviewed in our combined book for course AR3AP020.

The initial research was followed up by an on-site analysis. This visit to Istanbul gave new insights and fascinations towards Istanbul and architecture in general. My focus from the initial research turned to the relation between open en closed spaces in the city fabric and how architecture can play a role in framing these spaces. This theme and fascination also led to the site described in the problem statement.

Further analysis of the theme ‘framing’ and the design location follows. Morphological, programmatic and historical research will be done for the site. This analysis leads to an initial design proposal for the palazzo. Initially with diagrams depicting the conceptual design, followed by 2d drawings, plans and sections. The spatial qualities of the design will be studied using 3d sketches and models. Next to this a programmatic study will be done when a fitting program is decided. This program will both strengthen the ideas of the research, the site and the concept of palazzo enciclopedico.

3.2 LITERATURE AND GENERAL PRACTICAL PREFERENCE

To be used in this graduation project is:

Unpublished

Plans, sections, elevation acquired through personal communication, on site analysis and provided by the studio.

Regarding the theme ‘framing’


4 REJECTION

4.1 RELEVANCE

Istanbul is not the only city that is experiencing rapid growth and expansion. The available non-urban areas, often used for agriculture, are slowly taken over by the ever-expanding urban fabric. This is a large scale, global issue related to living in a consumer-focused region versus living on production-focused land. This conflict is similarly visible on a smaller scale inside the already established urban areas. Its presence can be seen through the growing interest in for instance urban farming and guerilla gardening.

This graduation project is going into a small-scale conflict of urban fabric versus nature. The design that will come from this project will show a case in where these two can meet and blend together instead of clashing as two opposites.

5 TIME PLANNING

Planning starting from 2015 to graduating at P5

The design studio is the only course that I’m following so there is no need to mention any minors or other programs in this planning.

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Patrick Stijger
Public Building, Istanbul
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15/1/2015