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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Personal information</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Studio</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name / Theme</strong></td>
<td>Architecture and Public Building, Public Realm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers / tutors</strong></td>
<td>Susanne Komossa, Stephan Verkuijlen, Niklaas Deboutte</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Argumentation of choice of the studio</strong></td>
<td>As both a historic and a future global city, Prague becomes an interesting setting where the old and the new function in harmony, where new technologies and architecture practices can be integrated into the historic fabric and where the definition of public realm can be reinterpreted.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Graduation project</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Title of the graduation project</strong></td>
<td>Interwoven</td>
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<th><strong>Goal</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>Prague, Czech Republic; Land strip between the area of Florenc and the Masaryk Station</td>
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<td><strong>The posed problem,</strong></td>
<td>Discontinuity in the city caused by the motorway passing along the former city wall</td>
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<td><strong>research questions and design assignment in which these result.</strong></td>
<td>How can a new masterplan connect the city center with the district of Karlin? In the case of tabula rasa, can the site accommodate new functions for the city, relevant for the 21st century? How can the project be a pioneer in integrating “serving” jobs into the public stage? Hybrid building combining a local distribution center (using drones) with a train station and with a promenade</td>
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passing through it, for the city’s *flaneurs*, following the typology of the urban palace

With the business of e-commerce expanding every day, the expectations of customers for fast deliveries is constantly growing and the industry must respond. Amazon has already implemented the “Same-day” and “One-day” delivery programs and more companies are expected to follow. This demands the careful planning of a new infrastructure system in cities, one that would be in line with the current environmental goals set up by Paris Agreement.

The city of Prague acts in this project as a pioneer in the European context, where a new kind of distribution center can be implemented. By redesigning the strip of land along the current motorway, the city makes space for a series of interventions. If one takes the example of Vienna, the area of the fortification wall became the site of new functions for the city in the 19th century – the parliament, the city hall, a museum park as well as a theatre, opera house and a university. In Prague, in the 21st century, the space can accommodate a modern distribution center, a data center, an indoor farming center or others. The challenge is to design them in such a way that they can act as connectors between the currently divided districts, but also to rethink the boundaries between the workers and the city flaneurs, the serving and the served.

**Process**

**Method description**

- On site photography
- Literature
- Serial drawings
- Study of precedents
- Podcasts and newspaper articles
- Physical models

**Literature and general practical preference**

**Literature:**


Articles and Podcasts:


General Practice:

Stations – King’s Cross and St. Pancras Stations in London
Distribution centers – Amazon, XPO, Massimo Dutti

Relevant architects for the work:

- Jan Gehl Architects
- Peter Zumthor
- Louis Kahn
- Oswald Mathias Ungers
- Aldo Rossi
**Reflection**

**Relevance**

Distribution centers and warehouses are often seen as the followers of the 19th century factories – disconnected from the vibrancy of the city and with sometimes poor indoor qualities for the workers. These jobs are less appreciated in our society, partly because most of them do not require a higher degree of education. Also, because these workers operate outside of the online shopper’s sight, we often dehumanize them, as we only perceive the surface of the delivery process and expect the best results at all times. As a result, the aim of the project is to design a distribution center where light is casted upon these jobs and where the serving and the serve can see and interact with each other, much like the actors who interact with their spectators.

**Time planning**

**W1.1** Introduction to theme, site & method; Organising Prague trip; Forming design teams; Literature overview

**W1.2** Introduction, starting to formulate a research hypothesis: Speculations on the possibility of a hybrid urban palace

**W1.3** Preparing excursion: Work of Loos and Plecnik; Mapping of the arcades & urban palaces of Prague

**W1.4** Field Trip

**W1.5** Documenting findings visit to Prague, re-positioning of preliminary design hypothesis and design strategy, definite site choice + start work on research book

**W1.6** Presentation Analysis of the site, definite design hypothesis for a future urban palace, finalizing research and proposed design strategy + research book

**W1.7** Defining definite theme, building program and size

**W1.8** Defining definite theme, building program and size

**W1.9** No teaching

**W1.10** P1 MIDTERM PRESENTATION: research results & conclusions; design hypothesis/ program design strategy

**W2.1** Site, Theme + Preliminary Design (Strategy) Hybrid Building
W2.2 Site, Theme + Preliminary Design (Strategy) Hybrid Building
W2.3 Site, Theme + Preliminary Design (Strategy) Hybrid Building
W2.4 Site, Theme + Preliminary Design (Strategy) Hybrid Building
W2.5 Preliminary Design, Defining sections + plans
W2.6 Preliminary Design; Defining material quality
W2.7 Preliminary Design; Definite design round up on all scales 1:500/1:1000
W2.8 P2 FINAL PRESENTATIONS; Site, Theme + Preliminary Design, Design (Strategy)
W2.9 Reflection P2 feedback
W2.10 Articulate design strategy
W3.1 Elaborate the theme and its integration into the design
W3.2 Design definition and program integration 1:500
W3.3 Design definition and program integration 1:500
W3.4 Relationship inside-outside; Relationship with nature
W3.5 Relationship inside-outside; Materials; Atmosphere
W3.6 Materials; Atmosphere; light concept
W3.7 Building technology concept; 1:500
W3.8 Building technology concept 1:500
W3.9 P3
W3.10 Building technology; Structure; Materials 1:200
W4.1 Building technology; Physics; Climate 1:200
W4.2 Building technology; Details 1:50
W4.3 Building technology; Details 1:50
W4.4 Building technology; Details 1:50/10/5
W4.5  P4
W4.6  Preparation of model and presentation
W4.7  Preparation of model and presentation
W4.8  Preparation of model and presentation
W4.9  Preparation of model and presentation
W4.10 Preparation of model and presentation
W4.11 P5