

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:

Personal information		
Name	Snigdha Ray	
Student number	5710359	
Studio		
Name / Theme	Interiors Buildings Cities Msc.3/4 Palace	
Main mentor	Sam de Vocht	Architecture
Second mentor	Elina Karanastasi	Architectural Engineering
Third mentor	Sereh Mendias	Architectural Research
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Interiors Buildings Cities as a studio focuses on the intersection between the totality of a city's exterior and interior experiences. My interest lies in the thresholds that explore and elaborate on such intersections and the role of architecture in defining experiential and transitional brackets of space. In the context of the theme of 'Palace', the typology of a Public Library as a multi-faceted, evolved institution is the ongoing theme for the studio this year. The term palace refers to representative public buildings that shape our cities and societies.</p> <p>The library is one such public institutional building, that is now required to serve an updated purpose. Its current role resolves itself as a knowledge source, a workspace, and a multimedia learning environment that reinforces long-term cultural roles. In addition, it also serves as a critical source for facilitating a shared space for a larger public. <u>The complexity of rooting the upcoming demands of the Stockholm City library within the constraints of existing heritage fabric and constructing new adjacencies</u> is an inspecting position I would like to undertake as an arena of research and design.</p>	

Graduation project

Title of the graduation project	Library as the Epicenter of Campus: Stockholm City Library and its Future Anterior
Goal	
Location:	Stockholm
The posed problem,	<p>The public library as a type has found a new social and political purpose. In recent times, the way we live and work has changed. The traditional notion of libraries as privileged reading rooms is replaced by a society awaiting modern and accessible civic institutions. Rapid digitization, shared politics, and notions of agency dictate the newly evolved typology of the Contemporary Library.</p> <p>The set of parallels between preservation regulation, and public agency poses a challenge for exchange at the junction of institutional architecture for the existing Stockholm City Library.</p> <p><u>The site</u></p> <p><u>The proposed site is of historical and monumental importance which weighs critically on its conditions and impositions relating to the city.</u> The building's collective cultural and heritage value is enhanced by the relationships between the buildings and the topography that lies in between.</p> <p>The brief sets an expansion of the overall premises of the library, which includes, an increase in current programmatic capacity and a new social role while upholding the values and vision set by the architect, Gunnar Asplund, for the site.</p>

research questions and

Role of a Contemporary Library:

1. What are the existing relationships between the city and the library?
2. How does the Modern Library act as a social navigator in a city? What is the agency of architecture in the city?

Engagement with the city:

3. How can the existing library function as a piece of social infrastructure? What are the macro and micro components (themes) within a library that enable its socio-political engagement in society?
4. In the larger network of public services, how might towns, cities, and regions assess and deploy the potential of their educational resources, in the spirit of social responsibility?

Specific inquiries to the building:

5. Where do the spatial and architectural hierarchies of monumentality present themselves in the building and where do they not?
6. How will the existing building incorporate a new extension technically as well as functionally (in terms of shell, structure, services, and stuff) taking into consideration the change in circulation patterns, difference of structural loads, and requirements of precise interventions that are required for the new building?

	<p>7. If existing rigid infrastructures could be essentially broken down, how and where does the library support round-the-clock activities? How can the exclusivity of space be dissolved within public interiors?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>An architectural project for a library in Stockholm, led by developed responses to an existing site, intervening in the context and the design for an extension of the public library.</p> <p>To propose an intervention that aims to continue to resolve the aspects of dissemination of knowledge, access, and information to society.</p> <p>Individual positioning:</p> <p><u>Devising a clear set of strategies to incorporate the existing structure and Observatory Hill, along with the School of Economics and Annexes (Spelbomskan 13,3 and 6) and access from Odenplan as a unified public campus with Asplund's library as an educational epicenter.</u></p>
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>Collective study and research is carried out by conducting a careful study of the existing building, undertaken as part of a process of design research that also</p>	

collectively examined the oeuvre of Gunnar Asplund and the history of the public library as a type. Analyzing the current state through methods of detailed drawing and reproduced physical models of the archival and current state of the city library.

This was followed by a site visit, research into the Modern Library, and initiating proposals of our findings through building a Room for a Library.

In addition, specific research material on building library extensions and certain evidence-based proposals from previously held competitions allowed for a higher contextual awareness.

As a collaborative document, 'Asplund I' is a document on our research on the methodologies, theories, ethics, and disposition used by Gunnar Asplund in Woodland Crematorium and Hans Scharoun in Berlin Staatsbibliothek which further inform the intricacies of our project.

Literature and general practical references

Practical references:

The project by its nature would be a restoration and well as extension strategy. For restoration and retrofitting of an interior in its intricacies, it can be studied from the archives of the Stockholm City Library, a competition project by Caruso St. John Architects. Since the plot deals with the significant influence of its surrounding landscape, topography, and aspects of the existing plinth, I would consult Gunnar Asplund's Woodland Crematorium as well as Hans Scharoun's Berlin Staatsbibliothek, in contrast with one another, on creating landscaping flows and intersectionality within a building. In addition, the building also deals with the merging of old and new structures, and I would consult the extension projects such as the James-Simon-Galerie and Morland Mixitié Capitale by David Chipperfield, and Z33 by Francesca Torzo and institutional projects such as the Bodø Library by DRDH Architects and Campus Cadix by KSA.

List of collective precedents studied:

Villa Snellman, 1917–1918
Woodland Chapel, 1918–1920
Lister County Courthouse, 1917–1921
Skandia Cinema, 1922–1923
Stockholm Exhibition Main Entrance & Exhibition Hall for Transport, 1930
Bredenberg Department Store, 1933–1935
Göteborg Law Courts Annex 1934–1937
Woodland Crematorium 1935–1940

Salle de Lecture, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Henri Labrouste, 1875
Viipuri Library, Alvar Aalto, 1935
National and University Library, Joze Plecnik, 1943
Beinecke Library New Haven, SOM, 1959
Berlin Staatsbibliothek, Hans Scharoun, 1967
British Library, Colin St John Wilson, 1962–1997
Exeter Library, Louis Kahn, 1972
Seattle Public Library, OMA, 2004

Literature:

1. Foster + Partners. "Architectures of Knowledge: Designing the Library." Accessed January 12, 2023. <https://www.fosterandpartners.com/insights/plus-journal/architectures-of-knowledge-designing-the-library>.
2. HDR Inc. "Libraries: The Epicenter of Campus." Accessed [insert the date of access]. <https://www.hdrinc.com/insights/libraries-epicenter-campus>.
3. [Author(s)]. "Architecture as Material Discourse: On the spatial formulation of knowledge and ideals in four library extensions." ResearchGate. Accessed [insert the date of access]. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289229676_Architecture_as_Material_Discourse_On_the_spatial_formulation_of_knowledge_and_ideals_in_four_library_extensions.
4. Worpole, Ken. *Contemporary Library Architecture*. Accessed 02 January 2024. Taylor & Francis. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9780203584033/contemporary-library-architecture>.
5. Wrede, Stuart. *Landscape and Architecture. Classical and Vernacular by Asplund*.
6. [Author]. *Imagination and Participation, Next Steps in Public Library Architecture*.
7. Hilliard, William. *Stockholm Public Libraries: Essential Public Spaces*. MSc Thesis.
8. Mattern, Shannon. "Library as Infrastructure." *Places Journal*, June 2014.
9. Words in Space. "Knowledge Production: Infrastructural Poetics – I'm Going to Sweden & Austria." Words in Space, December 8, 2014. Accessed January 02, 2024. <https://wordsin.space.net/2014/12/08/knowledge-production-infrastructural-poetics-im-going-to-sweden-austria/>
10. Wrede, Stuart. *The Architecture of Erik Gunnar Asplund*. MIT Press eBooks, 1980.
11. Woollen, Mary. *Erik Gunnar Asplund: Landscapes and Buildings*. Routledge, 2018.

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master's track (A, U, BT, LA, MBE), and your master's program (MSc AUBS)?

The task of situating a new Library, against a heritage piece of building, addresses the importance of urban continuity that current cities are trying to execute. While playing an urban role, and a social role, it also plays the role of forming the future estate as an essential component of the sustainability concept. Using developed strategies for expanding spatial thresholds wherever possible and concerning the existing fabric it addresses notions of repair and intervening within the existing built environment, with

found sensitivity. The project also offers insight into the possibilities of re-envisioning approaches/ strategies of contemporary buildings.

2. *What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional, and scientific framework?*

On Reuse, Heritage Conservation, building extensions, social infrastructure, and contemporary architecture:

Stewart Brand quotes that, "The idea of architecture is permanence." (Brand 1995, p.2) Elaborating on the notions of permanence and firmitas, the idea of permanence now is under review concerning demolition and rebuilding practices.

Permanence in Contemporary Architecture is undergoing a changing notion, one dominated by adaptive reuse and building competent cities. The notion of durability of a construction not only relies on its material strength but also on its ability to extend that strength into accommodating additions of time and age. Dynamic relevance adds durability to the existing structure while adding lifespan to its history. This project aims to reassess building tendencies of present architectural reuse in public buildings.

Infrastructurally, aiming to combine resources of the current library with neighboring private institutions also allows for rebuilding a stronger social educational infrastructure. This way, it creates affinities of an urban level which allows for sustainable restructuring of the larger institutional network of Swedish libraries.