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Complex cities is a MSc Urbanism graduation studio at the Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology. Graduations combine knowledge from the fields of planning and design for a built environment that is appreciated by many, in a democratic and open society.

For more information, see <https://complexcitiesstudio.org/>

Map: locations of Complex cities graduations since 2010; Photos: 2018/19 Complex cities graduation students, photographer: Roberto Rocco



Thursday, 10 January 2019

09:45 - 10:45
Room BK-IZ X

FRANKA VAN MARREWIJK

The AFROPOLIS of tomorrow: Mediating splintered networks through Transit Oriented Development in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Transit Oriented Development (TOD) ought to be the answer to the contradictory demands of keeping rapidly urbanising African cities competitive in an arising globalised economy, while also meeting increased responsibilities for social problems and for making local economic development less exclusionary. TOD promises increased accessibility, safety and economic growth with relatively low resources. It may, however, have unexpected and detrimental consequences, pushing the local and already segregated even further out. This project aims to understand, integrate and bring together the polarised local socio-spatial networks of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for an inclusive and resilient future city.

Tuesday, 15 January 2019

08:45 - 09:45
Room BK-IZ Y

SIMIN CHEN

Tomorrows rural land: Vitalizing Chinese rural idle homestead land through leisure agriculture industry.

Nanjing, China

The rapid urbanization process in China has caused the emergence of plenty idle rural homestead land (housing land), which constitutes a huge waste of land resources and brings about wicked problems, such as social segregation, environmental damage, rural-urban polarisation, and real estate bubbles. This project takes leisure agriculture as a promising development direction for a better use of this resource. It aims at an institutional and spatial framework that involves new conceptual principles adding ecology and landscape aspects to the current rural-urban dual model. It thus intends to offer a sustainable environment-rural-urban integration strategy and invigorate idle homestead land.

09:45 - 10:45
Room BK-IZ V

NINAD SANSARE

[UN]WAR: Spatial planning and strategies for social integration in the Kashmir valley, India.

Kashmir, India

Planning in a conflict region is considered as one of the challenging discourses of urbanism due to extreme geopolitical and societal conditions. This research-design project addresses spatial planning, policies, and design in the contested areas, through the case of Kashmir which is a disputed geopolitical region between India and Pakistan. Due to this, political and cultural conflict emerge in the region resulting in underdevelopment and social fragmentation. Current planning practices are economic development-oriented ignoring the cultural identity of the region, which may assist in the conflict resolution. This project aims to create a strategic framework to achieve social cohesion in the region by altering the current planning practices and giving design interventions.

10:45 - 11:45
Room BK-IZ Q

ZUZANNA SEKUŁA

An alternative African New Town paradigm: Filling gaps of New Towns' exclusive design towards social cohesion.

Tatu City/Nairobi, Kenya

New Towns are a relatively recent phenomenon in Africa. Ideologically, they should be the solution for accommodating economic and population growth. Instead they often create more social, economic and spatial problems. This research investigates the reasons why New Towns deepen socio-spatial polarisation and lead to socio-spatial exclusion. On the grounds of these insights the project will propose alternative solutions for inclusive New Towns design.

13:45 - 14:45
Room BK-IZ Q

ANNIKA VAN DEN HEUVEL

A strategy for cross-border regional development in Europe, taking regional identity as foundation: The case of the Maas-Rijn Euregio.

Maas-Rijn Euregio, the Netherlands/Belgium/Germany

Europeans are losing their faith in the current system of cross-border cooperation, which is considered to be too top-down governed by "Brussels", and focused only on internationalisation and Western modernisation. This has contributed to a dangerous rise of nationalism across Europe. Against this background, this project proposes a new approach to cross-border development, focussing on the case of the Maas-Rijn Euregio. By using local strengths - in this case the landscape and cultural history - a spatial strategy will be developed, focussing on the relation between the built environment, natural landscape and identity. In addition, how bottom-up initiatives influence governance structures will be explored.

14:45 - 15:45
Room BK-IZ Q

LISA-MARIE LAUB

Arrival Cities in Europe: An integrative development strategy beyond accessibility.

Germany, Europe

The processes and dynamics of migration and migrant integration in Europe have increased in complexity over the last decades. This complexity and the attitude of governments towards migration have enhanced cultural, economic and spatial conflicts between the migrants and the receiving society. One of the spatial phenomena that migration causes is called 'arrival cities'. This project explores to which extent this phenomenon is part of the problem and can become part of the solution for more integrative neighbourhoods with higher social mobility. By taking Germany as a case, the project designs a desirable concept and strategy as an approach to the processes involved in arrival cities.

15:45 - 16:45
Room BK-IZ Q

VERA VAN MAAREN

Transformations for a circular future: An exploration of potentials for circular waste systems and processes in Dandora, Kenya.

Dandora/Nairobi, Kenya

This thesis addresses the problem of waste management in Dandora, Nairobi. The current inadequate waste management throughout Nairobi remains a spatial challenge as it contributes to health concerns, threatens local ecologies, and degrades public space. The Dandora Transformation League is catalysing challenges between courts to enhance community-participation, however not yet on the urgent matter of waste. The aim of the studies is to set out a roadmap towards circular waste processes, to be possibly extrapolated to a larger scale, with potential implications for Nairobi's future circularity. Research will incorporate the current work of DTL, TUK and the Placemakers, reaching out to local communities and their existing networks.

Wednesday, 16 January 2019

08:45 - 09:45
Room BK-IZ Z

GABRIELA THERESA WALDHERR

Inter-relational territories: A new interplay between pre- and inner-alpine areas for future sustainable water use.

Alpine region, Germany/Austria/France/Italy/Slovenia/Switzerland/Liechtenstein

The Alps, also called the 'water tower' of Europe, are one of the biggest freshwater reserves of the continent, extending over seven countries. However, due to climate change, resulting in melting glaciers and more frequent dry periods, the availability of fresh water is decreasing in the future. This conflicts not only with the growing demand provoked by ongoing urbanization processes in and around the Alpine Arc, but also a rising interest in economic sectors like tourism and hydro power. This project proposes a new interplay between pre- and inner-alpine areas by giving particular consideration to the natural environment. It seeks to coordinate the use for water as a resource under the framework of institutional thickness.

09:45 - 10:45
Room BK-IZ Z

DIEGO REINALDO MOYA ORTIZ

Contesting metropolisation by neoliberalism: Activating vulnerable areas through inter-municipal spatial planning in Santiago de Chile.

Santiago, Chile

The introduction of neoliberal policies profoundly influenced the process of metropolisation in Santiago de Chile. A complex interaction between the forces of the urban land market, national-global trends of capital agglomeration and weak governance led to a highly segregated urban structure in socio-economic terms. This process has generated the eviction and exclusion of the most vulnerable social groups to municipal areas unable to compete within the current model of urban development. This graduation thesis investigates the evolution of this phenomenon and proposes a collaborative planning strategy for vulnerable municipalities, based on models of value capture and transfer of development rights.

10:45 - 11:45
Room BK-IZ Z

RASHID AYOUBI

Global Island Paradise: A spatial vision exploring a balanced transformation of the built environment of the island state Curaçao.

Willemstad, Curaçao

Curaçao and its built environment can be seen as the consequence of the island's attempts at competing in a global economy, undertaken throughout history. Regardless these attempts, the island's economy remains vulnerable. However, historic development has left its people also with a rich identity and unique lifestyle, embedded in the island's built environment. While the future transformation of this built environment should contribute to bettering the island's position in the global economy, it should not put its cultural heritage at risk. This project aims to use research and design to explore a balanced such transformation.

11:45 - 12:45
Room BK-IZ Z

PREETIKA BALASUBRAMANIAN

Geographies of power: Spatial strategies for a 'socially just' energy transition in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu, India

The era of energy transition has brought to the front the incredible potential of designing the reciprocal relationship between energy and space. The transition to renewable sources of energy like wind, solar and geothermal energy, uses space in a different way - its altered spatial qualities have blurred the boundaries between technical space (shunned by planners) and 'non-technical' space (coveted by planners). This spatial dimension of energy transition is the focus of this graduation project. Taking the case of Tamil Nadu, India, the project proposes a re-imagination of emerging energy geographies through regional design and spatial strategies, to create a framework for a humanised socio-technical transition.

12:45 - 13:45
Room BK-IZ Z

MARIEKE DE BODE

Unaffordable London: How to plan towards a future housing demand in the global city.

London, England

Thanks to its economic attractive power and an increasingly commodity-based housing market, the global city London currently faces a growing housing unaffordability. This graduation project investigates how the city can respond to the future housing demand, influenced by the possible after-effects of the Brexit. It delineates possible future scenarios, exploring thinkable changes in international migration and future housing demand. The project proposes a spatial and policy strategy to contribute to a more balanced and affordable housing market for the citizens of London.

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14:45 - 15:45
Room BK-IZ Z

ASMEETA DAS SHARMA

Accommodating the stateless: An inclusive regional preparedness strategy for climate refugees in the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta.

Ganges/Brahmaputra Delta, India/Bangladesh

An increasing number of people are losing their land and livelihood due to the adverse effects of climate change, inducing mass migration as an adaptive strategy for survival. These 'illegal migrants' are pushed towards the vulnerable informal settlements with limited hope for upliftment. Caught in this negative cycle of vulnerability, the environmentally displaced lack visibility and a basic definitive legal category which makes it impossible for them to seek refuge or claim national or international aid. This research investigates the role of spatial planning and strategy as a tool to address this humanitarian crisis and proposes an inclusive preparedness development strategy for areas subject to high climatic risks. It uses the sinking Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta in India and Bangladesh as a case.

15:45 - 16:45
Room BK-IZ Z

FELIPE CHAVES GONZALEZ

Permeable borders: Addressing multidimensional conflicts between polarized communities in Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro has become a 'broken city' (Ventura, 1994): rapid urbanization processes, wealth concentration, market oriented development, governmental neglect and socio-spatial segregation have been enlarging the societal gap between rich and poor in Brazil. Those processes have shaped the fragmentation of the city, where multidimensional borders and conflicts construct a division between formal and informal settlements. Borders transcend institutional, administrative, spatial, economic, environmental and social aspects. In continuous growth, the societal gap and the real estate pressure on favelas are concerning issue for future development. This project proposes a collaborative strategy to integrate both settlements of the city, by creating an alternative adaptive process of regeneration, to satisfy local demands and promote integration.

16:45 - 17:45
Room BK-IZ Z

QIYAO HU

Stay, live and participate: Towards a new urban regeneration model for ethnic enclaves in Chinese cities.

Guangzhou, China

Usually it are the high-end globalization processes, driven by big brands, big capital and high-quality resources, that gain attention during today's continuous advancement of globalization. Simultaneous, low-end globalization processes are easily overlooked by society. This latter phenomenon is accompanied by some tags, like low-quality goods, self-employed households and informal settlement and flows around some important global cities. For example, in Guangzhou, several African enclaves have been formed. These communities are isolated from the local social space due to cultural differences. This project attempts to explore the mechanism of such community formation and its current operation, through theoretical and empirical research. Final results will be in an urban regeneration model that emphasises on more public participation and a spatial perspective. The model can be used as an example for other Chinese cities to deal with similar issues.

Friday, 18 January 2019

11:45 - 12:45
Room BK-IZ J

ANNE VAN BERGEN

The dialogue of the city: Implementing a citizen participation method for innovative area development in Delft, the Netherlands.

Delft, the Netherlands

Participatory processes know a long history in the Netherlands and the 'participation society' is applauded in politics and facilitated by (upcoming) policies and regulations. The execution in practice, however, leaves much to be desired; sometimes it works even more antagonizing than constructive. Participatory processes are used for the wrong reasons and urban planners are not fully equipped to steer decision-making towards an effective dialogue. This thesis looks at why we should engage in a dialogue with citizens in collaborative planning. It researches the process benefits and product outcomes, and how the urban planner can seize all opportunities at the table.