Open Invitation
PhD Proposals
Academic year 2019 – 2020
Session # 6
Thursday, June 2018

Architecture and the City, Modus and Experiment:
Public building / public realm, composition & tectonics

Under the auspices of the Graduate School of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, the research group ‘Architecture and the City; Public building / public realm, composition & tectonics’ (A&C) invites candidates to submit PhD proposals aligned with the group’s research agenda.

The A&C group takes part in the Department of Architecture’s research program, and is chaired by associate prof. Dr.ir. Susanne Komossa. This research group includes researchers from the department of architecture and urbanism and is based within the chair of Architectural Composition / Public Building lead by Prof.ir. Michiel Riedijk.

The A&C group invites interested academic and/or professional candidates qualified to pursue research work on PhD level to prepare a proposal.

The A&C program offers a challenging research environment that includes facilities within the Delft Faculty and the Graduate School of Architecture and the Built Environment. The research group consists of researchers from the fields of Architectural Composition / Public Building, Complex Projects, Methods & Analysis, Urbanism and Landscape Architecture, and is part of a large international network

For this round of PhD-candidacies the A&C program will accept proposals that contribute to the A&C research portfolio.

The A&C research and education portfolio focuses on questions regarding the mutual relationship between the city and its public realm. Due to the nature and ever-changing character of the public realm, this relationship can only be seen in socio-cultural and economic context. The idea of the public realm refers to an intermediate “space” be it virtual or physical, which facilitates and mediates between different groups of inhabitants and individuals. Therefore, the architecture of the city and its actual qualities form the main framework of this research. Within this context urban blocks, as interface between architecture and urbanism, and public buildings form crucial architectural elements. Their functioning and organization are physically, symbolically, socially and economically fundamental to the city. Additionally, they are crucial for the city’s physical sustainability and socio-economical inclusiveness. As such they form a domain both of architectural convention and experimentation, i.e. of modus and experiment. In terms of research and design methods building typology, typo-morphology and research-by-design hold a central position in the A&C program's approach. The program has
recently started a special focus on the theme of urban green and water systems.

The theme ‘**Water Sight; Challenging the re-design of former harbour areas and river banks**’

It is becoming obvious that European architects need to take environmental challenges very seriously, especially regarding to reduction of the use of fossil energy. Therefore, notwithstanding continuous migration to cities, the unlimited growth of cities’ surface is no longer an option. Thus, urban transformation of former industrial areas, often located in the vicinity of city centres, densification of the urban tissue and the re-use of the current building stock will be some of the important future tasks of architects and urban planners. Due to climate change, future designs will also require innovative solutions for sustainable water- and green systems. Changes in economy also demand new ways to activate the city’s public realm to provide space for the new, often creative industries. The Water Sight program assumes that the challenges of environmentally sustainable, economically vital and socially inclusive cities will have to be met in the future by interlinking new and re-used buildings, water and green systems and the public realm. To investigate this hypothesis, we invite candidates to prepare and submit PhD proposals on this topic. Through this research we aim to increase the research and design capacities of future academics, architects and urban and landscape designers. By combining specific research methods centring around research-by-design, we aim to develop and test novel architectural and urban models.

**Position**

The PhD candidate will conduct academic research and related activities. The candidate will be integrated into the A&C research group, working closely with members and international partners. The A&C program will provide a platform for the development of research skills and experience.

For a successful application the candidate must be able to:

1) Situate his/her proposal within the A&C research and Water Sight theme,
2) Illustrate clearly the hypothesis, theoretical framework, methods and approach of the research that the dissertation will aspire,
3) Demonstrate the proposed dissertation’s value and contribution to existing discourse
4) Document qualified design experience and research skills.

The PhD trajectory will commence with a one-year probationary period, at the end of which the candidate will submit to the peer-review process. The review panel of both external and internal jurors will evaluate the research work for its quality and scientific rigor. In case the research work will prove to be satisfactory, the hospitality will be extended for an additional period of three years expecting completion of this PhD thesis during four years in total. Prof.ir. Riedijk will be the promoter, and a staff member from A&C group holding a PhD degree will be the co-promoter/daily supervisor.
Please note that TU Delft does **not** provide financial support and that the candidate has to demonstrate the availability of funding to financially support her/himself during the PhD research and the ability to pay the mandatory tuition fee. All specific conditions will be determined according to the TU Delft’s Doctorate Regulations and the Graduate School rules, to be found on: [https://www.tudelft.nl/bk/onderzoek/graduate-school-a-be/phd-at-a-be/](https://www.tudelft.nl/bk/onderzoek/graduate-school-a-be/phd-at-a-be/)

Additional Graduate School requirements are described online: [https://www.tudelft.nl/bk/onderzoek/graduate-school-a-be/finding-a-position/](https://www.tudelft.nl/bk/onderzoek/graduate-school-a-be/finding-a-position/)

**Submission Requirements**

**Motivation letter**, one A4. The applicant should elaborate personal motivations, interests, and aspirations in pursuing a PhD degree and describe his/her qualifications. The applicant should explicitly argue how the proposal is closely aligned with the A&C’s research interests. Specify the area of focus and indicate how the applicant’s research proposal pertains to those areas.

**Full C.V.** The C.V. should contain comprehensive chronological information of your academic and professional experience, as well as a record of publication. The C.V. should also include the names and contact information of three referents or recommenders. Also mention in which capacity these are familiar with your qualifications and capabilities (e.g. teacher, employer, colleague, et cetera).

**Research Outline,**

the outline should include the following:

1. **Provisional Title**: A general introduction to the project, framing it conceptually, thematically, indicating research methods and strategies and the time table for a year research period.

2. **Abstract**: Short summary (300-500 words), including keywords.

3. **Question(s)/Hypothesis, Aims and Goals**: Clearly formulate the question(s) or hypothesis that drive the research and carefully articulate the aims and ambitions of the proposed study.

4. **Preliminary outline**: Describe the overall structure of the PhD research and explain in which ways it will address your question(s)/hypothesis.

5. **Disciplinary Approach**: Introduce your research methodology and position it in its larger disciplinary framework.

6. **Research significance**: Explain why this research is relevant and original. (Comment may be included as to who you believe is your ‘audience’.) Position the proposed research within the framework of the research programs as spelled out by the A&C group and other subprograms of the ‘The Architecture
7. **Preliminary Annotated Bibliography**: This has to distinguish primary and secondary literature and will provide short summaries of each source regarding topic, disciplinary/methodological/theoretical framework used and the relevance to the research.

8. **Addendum**: This can include anything the candidate finds relevant advancing a clear picture of him/herself as a potential PhD candidate – for example a published text.

**Document Length**: This first draft research should be limited to +/- 2500 words (exclusive bibliography & addendum).

**Submission specifications**

All the above-mentioned information must be consolidated in one single PDF file of no more than 30 pages and 20 MB. Please name the PDF file as: `Lastname_keyword.pdf` (e.g. Paul Smith_Water Sight_date.pdf).

**Submission**: The deadline for submission is 22 March 2018, 12PM (CET).

**Questions and proposal submission:**

Susanne Komossa, mail address: s.komossa@tudelft.nl

**Selection Process**

The senior members of the A&C research group and a representative of the departmental research council will first screen the proposals for qualification. After the initial screening, the reviewers will assemble a short list of the selected candidates and invite them for a presentation. Based on the results, the A&C research group and a representative of the departmental research council will decide whether they will accept the selected PhD candidate or not. In certain cases, the Department of Architecture may ask the candidate to answer additional questions and revise the proposal for a follow-up meeting before a decision is made.

**Schedule**

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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invitation</td>
<td>01 July 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline Submission</td>
<td>12 December 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview and Presentation</td>
<td>12 April 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of Acceptance</td>
<td>26 April 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Start of Research Work</td>
<td>June or September 2020</td>
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(Subject to meeting our Graduate School)

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WEB:
For further information on the Architecture & City program: http://www.tudelft-architecture.nl/chairs/public-building/research/architecture-and-the-city
For further information about the Graduate School A+BE: http://phd bk tudelft nl/