ANNUAL REPORT

17 October 2022 – 30 September 2023

Annual Report

17 October 2022 – 30 September 2023

Contents

A. Organization & Management 4
Study programs offered by the Department 5
B. Resources 5
Finance 13
IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources 14
C. The Curriculum 28
Graduate Teaching 30
D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research 3
Graduate Students' List of Theses .....
List of Incoming & Outgoing Students 18
Research Areas and Research Groups 18
List of Publications 19
Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events .....
Projects 27
E. Support, Resources & Representation 28
List of Students' Internships 29
Participation in Academic Events 29
Student Best Success Stories 31
Office Holders 33
Acknowledgements 33

A. Organization & Management

Introduction

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa
Head of Department

General

The Department of Architecture offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Architecture. The undergraduate program is based on a fifth-year study leading to the bachelor's degree with emphasis on architectural design studios. Prepares students for critical engagement with practice and ensures readiness for professional responsibilities. Our department's vision is to offer a leading Architecture program in Albania and the Balkan region. We teach sustained evaluation of principles, traditions, and requirements of building in all its aspects. Our goal is to advance the profession of architecture by combining artistic talent, technical proficiency, and social engagement in pursuit of excellence.

Our programs seek to multiply insights and abilities of students, including sensitivity to the aesthetic and social responsibilities of environmental design; the cultivation of a broad, humanistic, world view; commitment to research; respect of innovation; an advanced understanding of the culture of practice; and sophisticated graphic skills and technical vocabulary. The education of students in sustainability is a major focus of the curriculum. Our programs are interdisciplinary and taught in English.

Mission

Our institutional vision is to be in an association that develops the architectural consciousness in society, to play a facilitating role to increase the quality of life, become a leading institution at the national and international architectural arena, and a reference and preferred institution in terms of academic activities.

Our programs seek to multiply insights and abilities of students, including sensitivity to the aesthetic and social responsibilities of environmental design; the cultivation of a broad, humanistic, world view; commitment to research; respect of innovation; an advanced understanding of the culture of practice; and sophisticated graphic skills and technical vocabulary. The education of students in sustainability is a major focus of the curriculum. Our programs are interdisciplinary and taught in English.

Vision

To train professionals those are equal in national and international criteria of education; qualified in theory and practice areas; design environments which meet esthetic, technique, ecologic, economic, cultural, historical, social, environmental and other necessary requirements; and train intellectual and expert architects who are innovative, creative, ethical, have the ability to work in interdisciplinary projects.

Architecture Department at Epoka University has about a decade that prepares students to address complex design, cultural, social, environmental issues through conceptual, thoughtful, and creative inquiry.

Our department continues to grow with the number of undergraduate intakes as well as graduates. We have more than 200 students in the department and about 20 staff members, composed of full time and part time staff from

highly successful schools of Europe. The Architecture Department cultivates design education through a variety of experiences which include learning through doing, acting as a team and community collaborations.

Department provides rigorous design education that trains students as professionals in art, science and built environment. We have many graduates who work in important national and international institutions, as well as graduates that continue their studies in well-known European and American Universities.

Study programs offered by the Department.

The Department of Architecture offers three study programs:

- PICD ARCH – integrated second cycle study program in Architecture, which is a five-year Second Level Integrated Diploma (Master + Bachelor) in Architecture program.
- MSc ARCH – two years Master of Science in Architecture program

Epoka University Integrated second cycle study program in Architecture (PICD ARCH Program) is the second level study program offered by the Department of Architecture. PICD ARCH prepares students for critical engagement with theory and practice and ensures readiness for professional responsibilities. The program duration is 5 academic years or 10 semesters. Students are required to complete 44 courses (270 ECTS in total or 30 ECTS per semester) during the first nine semesters and work on the Master Thesis (30 ECTS) during the last semester, which makes in total 300 ECTS.

B. Resources

Department Staff

Full time Academic Staff

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa
Edmond holds the PhD degree in Architectural Design from Istanbul Technical University, Turkey. He has been awarded the 3rd Best Foreign Student Prize in Graduation Year 2002 for Bachelor Level at Istanbul Technical University. From 1 August 2002-1 March 2007 he has been part of Zambak Architects where the main activities and responsibilities consisted in: Team Manager for Construction Projects, Preliminary Project Proposal Design, 3d Works Drawing Construction Project and Supervision of Architectural Projects as:
Turgut Ozal Educational Complex-Tirana/Albania September 2002- March 2002

Petkim Siteler Mosque and Landscape Requalification in Körfez/Kocaeli/Turkey November 2002- January 2003
Gaziantep Cargo Transfer Center-Şehit Kamil/Gaziantep/Turkey March-June 2003
HA-Korça High School Project and Supervision in Kavaja/Albania January-February 2004 A+B Block, C Block January-February 2007
Akbulut Textile Factory in Malatya/Turkey September 2004-January 2005 Baku High School – Azerbaijan September December 2005

YK Educational Complex in Struga/Macedonia March 2006-June 2006 Karahan Quarter Dormitory in Bursa/Turkey July 2006
Private University Preparatory School Interior Design and Courtyard Landscape Design Istanbul/Turkey August – September 2006
Liria-High School Project Proposal in Elbasan/Albania October 2006
Küçük Yalı Mosque and Annexes Architectural Project Proposal in Küçükyalı/Istanbul Turkey,
November 2006
Hotel Building in Spille Kavaja/Albania March 2007-May 2007 Apartment Block in Lushnja/Albania Summer 2009 Apartment Block in Durres/Albania Summer 2011
He has four years of teaching experience as Senior Instructor in the following Courses:
Basic Design Course, Architectural Application Project, History of Architecture I, History of Architecture II, History of Architecture III.
On March 27, 2023, he has been conferred the Academic Title Assoc. Prof. Dr. by the Commission on the Promotion of Academic Personnel of the Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania.
Currently he holds the position of Head of the Architecture Department and at the same time is a full-time lecturer.

Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi
Mr. Sokol has been graduated from Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey.
2004-2006 (MSc) Postgraduate studies at Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria.
2006-2010 (Dr. technicae) Doctoral studies at Building Physics and Building Ecology Department, Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning, Vienna
University of Technology, Vienna, Austria
2010-2014 Venia Docendi – Habilitation, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna,
Austria, ("Priv. dozent" / Associated Professor)
2014 – present Habilitation (venia docendi) – A.o Prof. Dr. at Vienna University of Technology (Building Physics)
2011 – present Professor of Epoka University, Tirana Albania
2013 – 2014 Professor of Polytechnic University of Tirana, Tirana Allbania 2007 – 2014 Lecturer at Vienna University of Technology,
(Courses – Visual and Acoustic Performance, Advance Studies in Building Science)
2007 – 2014 Senior Scientific Researcher at Vienna University of Technology,
Scientific Research / Faculty

- Epoka University, Tirana-Albania
- Vienna University of Technology, Vienna-Austria

- Polytechnic University of Tirana, Tirana-Albania
- Ozeyegin University, Istanbul-Turkey

Honours, Prizes and Awards

1 . "University Award for Excellent Students", Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey
2 . Diploma with High Honour Award for Academic Achievement, June 2004, Istanbul, Turkey (published in Sabah Daily Turkish Magazine)
3 . "University Award for Best Foreign Student", Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey
4 . "Istanbul Educational Institute Award for Best Foreign Student in all universities in Istanbul", Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey
5 . Best Master of Science Diploma Thesis Award, Building Science and Technology Postgraduate MSc program, June 2006, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria
6 . Doctor of Science Thesis with Excellence Award, November 2011, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

Important Industrial Projects I EU projects

Multifunctional Plug & Play Facade "MPPF" at the COMET program (Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies).
Funding: Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG),

Project: "Naturally Cool" Project-Nr: 817575).
Period: 2008 – 2010
Funding: Österreichischer Klima- und Energie-Fonds

Self-updating models for sentient buildings
Funding: Austrian Science Foundation (FWF), project numbers P15998-N07 and L219- N07. Period: 2006-2008

People as Powerplant
Period:
2005 - 2008
Funding:
BMVIT (Initiative: "Energiesysteme der Zukunft")

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa

Mrs. Odeta Manahasa has been graduated with bachelor and master's degree from Middle East Technical University in 2005 and 2008 respectively. She has been graduated with a PhD degree in Architecture from Istanbul Technical University in 2017. She is a senior lecturer at Epoka University, teaching Basic Design course since 2008. In her dissertation, "Children Participation and Post Occupancy Evaluation in Developing a Communicative Language to (Re)Design Educational Environments", she uses the children space experience as a tool for participation, to offer a new perspective to the participatory design discourse on the levels of participation.
In addition, she has a long-standing interest in understanding environmental psychology in its larger context, particularly in relation to child and child space perception. She is developing this interest as two lines of inquiry: (i)

child space perception knowledge, with a focus on a systematic structure for thinking on environmental behavior phenomena from different methodological perspectives, and (ii) improve the quality of learning environments.

Thus, her areas of expertise and research interest include Architectural Education, Children and Architecture (e.g. Children's participation in architectural design), Participatory Design, and School Design., environmental psychology, post occupancy evaluation, environmental behavior and design. On March 27, 2023, she has been conferred the Academic Title Assoc. Prof. Dr. by the Commission on the Promotion of Academic Personnel of the Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania.

Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

Mrs. Anna has completed State Technical University in Vologda, 6-year diploma of Architect with honors also she has completed the master's in architecture program (in English) in Dessau Institute of Architecture, Germany. During

the education was granted with 2-year DAAD scholarship for postgraduate studies. She has worked as architect at project institute Archangelsk Civil Project in Archangelsk. She is Awarded by a title PhD at Czech Technical

University in Prague where the research topic is "Flexible housing - Universal space in dwelling". Since 2010 – working as lecturer in Epoka University. During the work have participated in the following activities:
April 2012 – member of the Organizing Committee of the 1st International Conference on Architecture & Urban Design
May 2014 – member of the Organizing Committee and reviewer of the Scientific Committee of the 2nd International Conference on Architecture & Urban Design Addition Candidate member of Russian Union of Architects. Holder of professional architectural license in Albania.

Dr. Fabio Naselli
Fabio Naselli gained his Master Degree on Architecture at Palermo University (Italy) on March 1989 and received his PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from Palermo University (Italy) on February 2002, and he currently is a full-time Lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Epoka University. He got six yearlong post-doc grants from Palermo University (Italy) from 2003 to 2009 and he was Assistant Professor at Kore University of Enna (Italy) Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, during the years 2010-2016. He was the Scientific Director of IEREK (Egypt) international research institute (from 2014 to 2018) and currently he is the Director of Spa.Re.Life International Winter School (since2012) and the Scientific Responsible of DAC (Design at the Center) International Network for Integrated and Multiscale Design (since 2015).

Dr. Egin Zeka
Egin Zeka is a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Architecture and the director of Center of Research and Design in Applied Sciences [CoRDA] at Epoka University, Albania. He teaches courses of "Urban Design" and "Advanced Design Studios". Furthermore, he does research with master students in the field of urbanism. Zeka received his bachelor degree in Urban and Regional Planning [2009], Master degree in Urban Design [2012], and PhD degree in Urban and Regional Planning [2020] at Istanbul Technical University, Turkey. His research interests are in: urban design, generative design, urban morphology, traditional settlements and urban revitalization. Projects: `DURANA, International Urban Design Competition, 2nd prize (teamwork), 2014; National Design Competition: "Tourism into Tradition, B&B project, 1st Prize (teamwork); La Biennale di Venezia, part of the team representing Albanian pavilion in Biennale Architectura [2018]; Team leader in "100+ Villages Academy", Lot 10 [2018].

Dr. Ina Dervishi
Mrs. Ina Osmani has been graduated with bachelor's degree from Middle East Technical University in 2012 and and master's degree from Epoka University in 2014. From that time, she is teaching at Epoka University Basic Design course. Her areas of interest are: sustainable urban development, environmental design of cities, urban heat islands. Dr. Ina Dervishi has been conferred the PhD degree in Architecture from Sapienza University at the PhD Programme in Ingegneria dell'Architettura e Dell'Urbanistica, in Rome, Italy.

MSc. Kreshnik Merxhani
Graduated in Architecture at the Polytechnic University of Tirana. He is generally focused in Traditional Architecture and is distinguished for his writings, artistic photos and for restoration and re-implementation projects. Since 2008, he is committed as a co-author in restoration projects of several monuments of Ottoman and Communist period mainly in the City of Gjirokastër. In 2014- 2016 (March) he was the Head of the Technical Sector of DRKK (Regional Directory of National Culture) - Gjirokastër, a terrain office at the Ministry of Culture. In addition, some project that he was co-author and some activities of former organization that Merxhani was part of, are nominated and be short listed for Aga Khan award (GCDO) the 2010 Cycle and are winner of Europa Nostra Price (CHwB). His work as a co-author has been part in Biennale in Venice "Common Ground", in the Albanian Pavilion. He has visited various Universities in Albania such as the Faculty of Architecture and City Planning, UT, and Epoka University. He has been part of different exhibition and online illustration with his photography and graphic art like "Martin Parr" (2010), EVOCED (2016), Photos from Spaç (World Monument Fund – 2015), CHwB publications etc. Some of the articles are being published at different scientific journals and are presented at some conferences inside and outside Albania.

MSc. Nerina Baçi

Ms. Nerina Baçi was awarded a Master of Science degree in Architecture from Epoka University in 2021. From that time onward, she has been teaching at Epoka University Architectural Design course. Her areas of interest involve performance-based architectural design, environmental design, and building construction technology.

Part time Academic Staff

MSc. Teuta Kodra
Teuta Kodra holds a degree of Master of Science from Polytechnic University of Tirana and has been part of different trainings regarding her field of study. She has been part of different projects as: Project Design for the Reconstruction of Librazhd Hospital - Funding/Client: Librazhd Municipality. Project Design for the Reconstruction of Burrel Maternity Hospital - Funding/Client: Burrel Municipality, Reconstruction of Bulqiza Health Center - Funding/Client: Bulqiza Municipality.
Bulqiza Hospital Rehabilitation Project- Funding/Client: Bulqiza Municipality.
Laç Kindergarten. Rehabilitation Project- Funding/Client: Ministry of Education and Sports. Project Design for the Reconstruction of Strikcan Primary School - Funding/Client: Strikcan Commune. Project Design for the Reconstruction of Radomire Primary School - Funding/Client: Radomire Commune. Currently she teaches Digital Visualization & Presentation Coursein Epoka University and at the same time is part of the "Accademia"- Autodesk Training Center Albania and Kosovo.

MSc. Julian Beqiri
Julian Beqiri is an architect, urbanist and independent researcher. He holds a master's degree in Architecture from Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania and a master's degree in Urbanism from Delft University of Technology, Netherlands. From 2016 to 2020 Julian worked as an architect at Office for Metropolitan

Architecture (OMA) in Rotterdam, and in November 2020 joined the academic staff of Epoka University, Albania. Apart from teaching and writing, Julian leads the design office DISPACED (Dialectics of Space Design) which investigates the realm of design through the lens of philosophical thinking. His architectural design and writing concern the intersection where these fields meet and overlap.

MSc. Dritan Bratko

Mr. Dritan Bratko is a high qualified engineer who graduated from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Hydro-Technical branch with 11 years of experience in the relevant field. In 2010 Mr. Bratko has attended a B.E. Degree and in 2015 have completed the – M.Sc. Degree in Hydro-technical Engineering, in 2018 - 2019 has completed a Professional Master in Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety in civil Engineering and in 2019-2021 has completed a M.Sc. in construction Management. Hydro-technical engineer and project coordinator with 11 years of local and international experience in the fields of hydrology, hydraulic modeling, highway drainage, water supply, sewerage water, wastewater treatment plant, hydropower project implementation and optimizing solutions. He has been mandated by the Ministry of infrastructure and Energy as the Team Leader for drafting the new law “For Water Supply and Disposal Sector, Wastewater Collection and Treatment”.He is the author of two studies regarding the Water intake structure for hydropower and Peak flow transposition of Ishmi and Erzeni River Basins. Mr. Bratko has been part of various and multidimensional.

MSc. Artemis Hasa

Artemis Hasa has a bachelor’s in architecture and Master of Science degree from Epoka University, Tirana, Albania and currently is conducting his PhD studies at Istanbul Technical University under the Faculty of Architecture, Field of Construction Sciences, in Istanbul, Turkey. The focus of his research is on Building technologies and performance. His teaching experience had been on building technology courses and main design studio courses.

MSc. Gilserena Mirashi

Gilserena Mirashi holds an Integrated Diploma in Architecture- EPOKA University and was also awarded a Master of Science in Interior and Spatial Design at Polytechnic of Milan.

MSc. Ervisa Ndoka

Ervisa Ndoka is an academic staff at the Management Department, Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana. She is engaged in teaching the subjects "Human Resource Management" and “Business Communication”, at this faculty. At the same time, she is a PHD student in the field of management.

She has been part of the Organizing Committee of the CEI (Central European Initiative) International Conference and has participated in two teaching programs in Italy and Poland. At the same time, she works as a part-time lecturer at Epoka University. She graduated in 2013 as the best student in the Business Administration Program, Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana. In 2015, she graduated with a Master of Science degree in Finance, where she received the "Excellent Student" certificate and Silver Medal from the University of Tirana for the results achieved. During the period of the faculty, she conducted various trainings at the Ministry of Finance and the General Directorate of Taxes. After finishing her studies, she worked as an economist both in the state administration and in the private sector.

Ervisa Ndoka has a 7-year career in positions in which she has shown human values but also ambition and a lot of will move forward. She has always asked the best not only for her position at work, but especially for the students she works with and tries to transfer the best teaching practices.

Academic Visitors (2022-2023)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mariateresa Giammetti

Mariateresa Giammetti is Associate Professor at Department of Architecture of Federico II University, where she teaches Architectural Design and Theory and Technique of Architecture at the Bachelor of Science in Architecture. Her academic studies cover a field of knowledge on architectural design, particularly the study of the sacred spaces of the three Abrahamic religions, due to the multicultural character of European cities and the transformation of the liturgical space after the Second Vatican Council. She pursues a line of research related to urban design issues with special reference to the revitalization project of drosscape, including brownfield sites with soil contamination problems, from the major themes promoted by the New European Green Deal.

Administrative Staff

MSc. Edona Gerbeti

Edona Gerbeti is the Coordinator of the Department. She holds a Bachelor and a Master of Science Degree in English Language and Literature. Since October 2021, she has been working as Coordinator of Architecture Department. She exercises her duties in coordination with the Faculty Administrator and Head of Department. The Coordinator of the Department is responsible for management of the department activities with administrative character and incoming and outgoing correspondences.

Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

Income and various financing for **Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture** during the 2022-2023 academic year:

Income (in Euro)	
Tution fees for and during studies	
TOTAL	

Expenditures for **Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture** during the 2022-2023 academic year:

	2022-2023		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investements
Tuition and other student fees			
Total			

IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO) provides informatics services needed in the University. It plans the informatics infrastructure of the University, provides its security and ensures the continuation of its functions. ICTCO works on the project for effective, legal and extensive usage of the informatics services for students and personnel.

The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO) provides:

Teaching Services:

- **Turnitin** software helps you to understand and avoid plagiarism and develop your understanding of how to cite sources as part of an academic argument. ICTC office manages the users and train the staff about how to use Turnitin.
- **Learning Management System (LMS)** – A service based on Moodle offered for students and instructors in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials online. Students and instructor can login on LMS using the provided official email account.
- **Library Automation System (Koha) -** Koha is an open-source Integrated Library System in use today by hundreds of libraries worldwide. Koha is web based, so there is no software to install on desktop computers. Users can check the books online and reserve them via web. Its features are more than enough to manage the Epoka Library effectively and efficiently.
- **DSpace** – The institutional repository of Epoka University: DSpace is an open source repository software package typically used for creating open access repositories for scholarly and/or published digital content. The proceedings of the conferences which are organized by Epoka University can be accessed from this repository. Epoka University is the only university who has digital repository in Albania (http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/Europe/Albania). We also give services to other international journals to publishtheir publications (http://dspace.epoka.edu.al/handle/1/1378) in our digital repository.

Google Services:

- **Webmail (Google account) –** Epoka University is using Google Apps for Education services and all students and academic and administrative staff are provided with an email address under epoka.edu.al domain which is a Google account. Beside official communication, which is done through this email address, this account can be used for authentication to other online systems offered by university.

- **Google Classroom** – A more interactive service offered by Google as part of Google Apps for education to access, coordinate and organize course materials on cloud. By using Google Classroom, course materials can be integrated with other Google services where

assigned users can collaborate. Students and instructors can access this service using the provided account.

Education Information System (Curriculum) – a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum, and course syllabi.

Smart Card: All students and staff are provided with Smart Card identification cards. The Smart Card is put as an e-ID application at three buildings, two PC labs, one Electronics Lab, and campus gate entry turnstiles and barriers.

Help Desk: ICTCO is also responsible for the maintenance of personnel and PC Lab computers in respect to software and hardware. Its staff monitors the personal computers within the frame of distribution of duty and authority and brings the issues to a conclusion. At the same time, ICTCO plans servers and cabling services of the University. Staff can open ticket via help.epoka.edu.al for their ICTCO related problems and follow the process from here. You can share your opinions on every subject related to information technologies and informatics with help@epoka.edu.al and you can also write your complaints and suggestions for a better campus life.

Software Opportunities

Epoka University has a subscription of Microsoft Program which is called DreamSpark. It supports technical education by providing access to Microsoft software for learning, teaching and research purposes. Epoka family members can download software through www.dramspark.com website at no cost. Epoka University also provides Office 365 accounts to all staffs and students which includes all office applications for free.

Network

Wireless: Epoka University provides wireless internet connection to all Epoka members in the campus. As ICTCO, we ensure that the wireless signal is strong and covers everywhere in campus. **Wired:** Besides wireless, there are three PC labs, one Civil Engineering lab, one Electronics lab, one PhD study room, and library where PCs serve students and staffs with wired internet. In the Epoka Library and one of the classrooms, there are plug and use stations next to each table where students and staff can use for wired internet and electricity for their laptops.
Digital Signage: There are four TVs in the campus, they are used to inform EPOKA members about latest news and announcements.

Epoka Interactive Systems (EIS)

Recognizing the needs of campus community, EPOKA has made a strategic decision to replace its aging, cumbersome, and vendor-supported student, instructors, and staff systems with a modern, nimble and effective internally built system that includes admissions, enrollment, registration, financial aid, student, instructor, and staff accounts, and advising in one platform.
EIS is developed by ICTCO at EPOKA University. From the user interface, EIS is an online interactive system where users can log in using the provided official email account. It is a modular system organized by roles and respective units at the university and the information is stored in a centralized database. All users have access to their personal information, can update general details and CV and they can manage job related tasks and activities according to their role and job position.

- **Students:** Students in their profile can access their personal information and information related to their study program. Course registration is done through the system and after that,

students can view the ongoing academic activity of the registered courses during the semester. They can check attendance, exam dates, interim grades and final grades. Also in the system, they can access the program curriculum, transcript, grade calculation, weekly schedule, requests and notifications. The EIS prompts students when they are in the "warning zone" for financial or academic issues. It empowers students to create course plans to ensure timely graduation.

- **Instructors:** Academic staff including full-time and part-time lecturers, can have access to their courses assigned in the current semester and can also view previously assigned courses. Lecturers can update the syllabus, complete student attendance, assign and finalize grades. Advisor lecturers can have access to academic information of the students assigned for advisory and they can approve student course registration.

- **Coordinators:** The opening of courses according to course appointment in each semester is done by department coordinators and approved by faculty coordinators. Coordinators can monitor the academic activity of the lecturers under respective department.

- **Admissions and Registrar's Office:** Admissions Office enters all pre-registered student information and assigns scholarships. After the student has completed the registration, all the related information entered by Admissions office, is managed by Registrar's office.

- **Finance:** Finance office can manage and follow up all student financial information related to tuition fees and scholarship.

- **Human Resources:** Human resources office can manage all staff information data and assigns roles and job position for each staff.

- **Curriculum:** a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum and course syllabus.

All users have access to their personalized reports according to their roles and respective units. Faculties and units are liberated from tedious manual tasks. EIS supplies them with new and most updated information that will empower them to make informed decisions based on data.
EIS can be continuously updated with new modules according to the university needs. EIS can be accessed via: https:// eis.epoka.edu.al and users can log-in by their EPOKA Mail account credentials.

Measurable indicators:

Number of PCs for students	217
Number of PC furnished labs for students	9
Number of PCs for academic staff	88
Number of PCs for administration	53
Number of printers	19
Number of photocopying machines	19
Number of head projectors	1
Number of video-projectors	30
Number of scanners	19
Number of TV Screen	10

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

EPOKA University is located on the Tirana-Rinas road, on the 12th kilometer. The campus extends over a total area of 67,000 m2. The 2017-2018 academic year is being conducted regularly in the premises of two buildings with a total area of 14352 m2.
The E-building has a modern infrastructure and a central heating and cooling system. The classrooms are equipped with video projectors and smart boards that enable the normal conduct of the learning process.

On September 2013, the construction of A-Building the "Cultural Social Object of EPOKA University" was completed. In addition to classes, there are plenty of recreational facilities for students such as cafeterias, libraries, Wi-Fi, facilities for the Student Council and student clubs, sports facilities, etc. Below are shown current picture of the building.

Measurable indicators:

Premises of the Faculty

Faculty facilities/responsible for the faculty	**Number**	**Square (m^2)**
Auditorium for Lectures	3	752
Classes for Seminars	9	1604
Auditorium for promotional activities	1	128
Auditorium for course practice/ professional practice	2	258
Laboratory for courses	5	233
Informatics Laboratory	4	174.6
Internet rooms	2	151.8
Library rooms	1	322
Rooms for photocopies, bookstore etc.	1	33.6
Information office for students	2	71
Corridors/halls	25	2707.4
Sports facilities	5	2100
Service facilities for third parties	1	56
Facilities for student government activities	1	30

Recreational facilities like cafeteria/ fast-food/etc.	1	1471
Toilet sanitary wares for students	54	327.2
Normatives m^2/per one student	**10419.6 m2 / 1254student = 8.3**	
Facilities for staff:	**Number**	**Square (m^2)**
Offices for the Dean/Vice-Dean	1	102
Office for the Administrator	1	25.4
Office for Vice Rector	1	31.5
Offices for the Department Coordinators	1	58
Offices for departments/research centers	12	328.5
Offices for the academic personnel	20	334
Office for the Finance Office	2	37
Office for the Internal Quality Assurance Unit	1	12
Meeting rooms	2	129.3
Premises for service personnel	11	30.2
Premises for the activities of the Student Council	1	30
Recreation premises such as cafeteria/fast-food/ restaurant	1	337
Toilet sanitary wares for academic staff	23	140
Normatives m^2/per one person	**2157 m^2/ 90 person = 23.97 m^2/person**	

Premises for the Faculties	**Quantity**	**Surface**	**m^2/student**
Auditoria/Classrooms for lectures	5	752	0.40
Classrooms for seminars	17	1545	0.82
Premises for promotion activities	1	128	0.07
Classrooms for course/professional practice	2	258	0.14
Laboratories for courses	3	233	0.12
Informatics laboratories	2	174.6	0.12
Internet Room	2	151.8	0.12
Library Hall	1	322	0.17
Premises for photocopying, bookshop etc.	1	85.2	0.05
Student information office	2	71	0.04

Corridors/halls	25	2707.4	1.44
Sports premises	5	463	0.25
Premises for service to third parties	1	56	0.03
Restrooms (WC) for students	54	327.2	0.17
Restrooms (WC) for academic personnel	35	212.1	2.16
Premises for personnel:	**Quantity**	**Surface**	**m^2/person ratio**
Offices for the Dean/Vice-Dean	5	285.5	40.79
Office for the Administrator	1	25.4	25.40
Offices for the Department Coordinators	2	60.6	20.20
Offices for departments/research centers	12	328.5	27.38
Offices for the academic personnel	40	620	6.33
Office for the Finance Office	2	37	18.50
Office for the Internal Quality Assurance Unit	1	50	50.00
Meeting rooms	2	75	0.77
Premises for service personnel	11		30.33
Premises for the activities of the Student Council	1	30	1.30
Recreation premises such as cafeteria/fast-food/ restaurant	1	337	0.17
Total	234	9335.3	

During the academic year 2022-2023, in the EPOKA University Campus, are in use:

24 classes: (E-B31, E-B32, E-B33, E-211, E-311, E-312, A-118, A-119, A-120, A-127, A-128, A-129, A-130, A-131, D-101, D-102, D-103, D-104, D-201, D-202, D-203, D-204, D-301, D-302.

10 Auditories: E-012, E-110, E-212, E-213, E-214, E-313, E-314, A-005, A-117, A-212) and one conference room (E-B01).

5 Computer laboratories (E-011, E-015, E-B30, D005 and A-126).

5-Laboratory for courses: Electronic laboratory (E-010), Architecture laboratory (A-120/1), Projects laboratory (A-027), Panbiora laboratory (E-B02) and Civil Engineering Laboratory (I-001).

There are 2 internet rooms as it is reflected in the table above, but the University offers wireless internet all over its space. The capacities used are given in the table below.

Table 12: Classes used during the 2022-2023academic year.

No.	Name of the Class	Surface (m2)	Capacity
1	E-B31	75	40
2	E-B32	75	40
3	E-B33	75	40

4	E-211	64	36
5	E-311	63.46	35
6	E-312	81.32	60
7	A-118 Studio II	138	35
8	A-119 Studio III	138	35
9	A-120 Studio IV	138	35
10	A-127	72.41	56
11	A-128	73.53	56
12	A-129	73.71	56
13	A-130	72.02	56
14	A-131	72.02	56
15	D-101	72	47
16	D-102	66	40
17	D-103	50	33
18	D-104	52	24
19	D-201	72	47
20	D-202	66	41
21	D-203	50	26
22	D-204	52	27
23	D-301	94	67
24	D-302	66	45
total	**24**	**1851.47**	**1033**

Auditoriums used during the 2022-2023 academic year.

No.	Name of Auditorium	Surface (m2)	Capacity
1	E 012	131.54	70
2	E 110	130.82	136
3	E-212	51.32	72
4	E-213	81.72	72
5	E 214	154.32	150
6	E-313	81.72	70
7	E 314	154.32	134
8	A-005	145.2	70
9	A-117 Studio I	138	35
10	A-212	85	72
total	**10**	**1153.96**	**881**

The facilities are equipped with heating-cooling systems and video projectors. The construction materials and laboratory tools found in the Civil Engineering Laboratory are also being used in the teaching and research process. The capacity of the laboratories used is given in the table below.

Table 14: Laboratories used during the 2022-2023academic year.

Name	Laboratories	Surface (m2)	Capacity
E 015	Computer Laboratory 1	77.9	40
E 011	Computer Laboratory 2	96.6	42
E B30	Computer Laboratory 3	123.7	47
A-126	Computer Laboratory 4	72.4	42
D-005	Computer Laboratory 5	95.0	36
E 010	Electronic Laboratory	132.0	50
A 120/1	Architecture Laboratory	27.6	12

I 001	Civil Engineering Laboratory	283.0	40
A-027	Projects Laboratory	39.0	25
D-104	Courtroom (salla e gjyqit)	52	25
E-B02	Panbiora Laboratory	15.0	12
Total	**11**	**1014.3**	**371**

EPOKA University has a conference hall with a surface of 128 m^2 and a capacity of 99 persons. The conference hall is used more for social, cultural and various national and international conferences. The hall is equipped with central heating-cooling system, video projector, sound system and two cabins for simultaneous translation. Also in the premises of the "Cultural Social Object" building is a conference hall with a surface of about 400 m^2 and a capacity of 300 persons.

LIBRARY

The EPOKA University Library, which is located on the first floor of A-Building, was founded to support the education and research activities of the university by providing and organizing the needed documents.

With its 100-seating capacity, our library has 400 square meters area of use. Our University Library is composed of entrance, book and reading hall. In the entrance, there is a check out desk and research center. The periodicals, including the exhibition of new arrivals, are also shelved in this section. The reading hall is equipped for students to study and to do research.

EPOKA University is a member of Balkan Libraries Union which was founded on 29 July 2009 with the participation of 10 institutions from 6 Balkan countries.

EPOKA Library collaborates with academic staff to help students and faculties with vital content by reducing costs and increasing opportunities for better and more practical study, providing independent researchers with free and low-cost access.

Our library collection is enriched by purchases and donations. The books to buy are chosen in accordance with the needs and requests of the students, administrative and academic staff. Under the Department of Library and Documentation, the library has a total of about 7500 printed books.

Digital Databases

Epoka University has full membership in JSTOR, a shared digital library created in 1995 that includes more than 12 million academic journal articles, books and primary sources in 75 disciplines. JSTOR helps to explore a wide range of scientific content through a powerful research and teaching platform. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a non-for-profit-organization.
JSTOR was founded to help libraries and academic publishers transition their activities from print to digital operations, to expand access to scholarly content around the world and to preserve it for future generations. JSTORE is offered for free for our students and academic staff.
Every member of EPOKA staff can access to JSTOR's collections by going to http://www.jstor.org/
and searching or browsing for content.

Using the Library

Our library works on the open shelf system enabling you to reach the books directly. The books in the open shelves are topically sorted in the book hall according to LC classification method. To find the book you are looking for, you should follow these steps:

1. Through the catalog search computers in the library; you can search author name, book name, and publisher, topic, or keyword areas.
2. To get the book, you can go to the shelves with the classification and location numbers of the books appearing on the screen as a result of your search.

Example of LC number for the book: "Exchange rates and international finance", Laurence S. Copeland / Financial Times, 2008

HG
3821
.C78
2008

The first part of the LC number "**HG**" represents the category of the book by its topic. In the LC system, the first letter **H** stands for **Social Science** class. Each subsequent letter indicates next level of sub categories of the main topic. In the given example **G** stands for **Finance**, **3821** indicates subcategories included between 3810-4000 (Foreign exchange, international finance, International monetary system), C78 indicates the first letter of authors surname, **2008** indicates book publication year.

Regulations

Students of PHD, Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree and Master Students and academic and administrative personnel are the members of the library. They can borrow library materials in accordance with the rules.

Researchers coming from outside the university are not lent books, they are only allowed to use them in accordance with the rules.

Readers in this group are requested to fill up the related form Lending Service.

Circulation Rules

Resource	**Patron**	**Loan period(days)**	**Maximum number of check-outs(items)**
Book	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students	15	3
	Graduate students	15	5
	Staff	20	5
Bound Journal	Graduate students Staff	5	2
Visual/Audio Resources	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students Graduate students Staff	3	3

C. The Curriculum

Undergraduate Teaching

First YEAR

First Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 101	Basic Design	A	Compulsory	4	8	0	12	8	64	128	0	108	0	300	12
ARCH 105	Graphic Communication I	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 121	Introduction to Architecture	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
MTH 125	Basic Mathematics	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ENG 103	Development of Reading and Writing Skills in English I	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
Semestral Total				15	10	0	25	20	240	160	0	350	0	750	30

Second Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 102	Introduction to Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	4	8	0	12	8	64	128	0	108	0	300	12
ARCH 108	Graphic Communication II	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 124	History of Art and Architecture I	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	0	52	100	4
ARCH 106	Free Hand Drawing	A	Compulsory	1	2	0	3	2	16	32	0	52	0	100	4
ENG 104	Development of Reading and Writing Skills in English II	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
Semestral Total				13	12	0	25	20	208	192	0	298	52	750	30

Second YEAR

Third Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 201	Architectural Design I	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 253	Building Construction Technology I	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH 231	Statics and Strength of Materials	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 261	Building Materials	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 223	History of Art and Architecture II	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 211	Digital Graphics I	A	Compulsory	1	2	0	3	2	16	36	0	13	10	75	3
Semesteral Total				16	8	0	24	20	256	132	0	352	10	750	30

Fourth Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 202	Architectural Design I	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 224	History of Art and Architecture III	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	48	0	0	52	100	4
ARCH 232	Structure Analysis	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	48	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 240	Landscape Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	48	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 254	Building Construction Technology II	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	4	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH 218	Digital Graphics II	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	75	3

Third YEAR

Fifth Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 301	Architectural Design III	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 311	Urban Design I	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	77	0	125	5
ARCH 380	Environmental Control Studio	B	Compulsory	2	4	0	6	4	32	64	0	54	0	150	6
ARCH 320	Theories of Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	0	52	100	5
ARCH 381	Structural Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	77	0	125	5
Semesteral Total				16	8	0	20	20	240	128	0	330	52	750	30

Sixth Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 302	Architectural Design IV	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 312	Urban Design II	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	90	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective Course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 332	Building Construction Management	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 331	Building Systems	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4

Fourth YEAR

Seventh Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 401	Advanced Design Studio I	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10

ARCH 419	Advanced Detailing in Architecture	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	36	0	100	4
ARCH 411	Studio of Conservation and Restoration	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH 332	Building Construction Management	D	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				15	8	0	23	19	240	128	0	382	0	750	30

Eighth Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 402	Advanced Design Studio II	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 410	Research Methods	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 414	Architect's Market Structure and Real Estate	D	Compulsory	3	4	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semesteral Total				16	4	0	20	18	256	64	0	430	0	750	30

Fifth YEAR

Ninth Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 505	Special Topics in Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 515	Thesis Research	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	0	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	4	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semesteral Total				14	2	0	13	15	224	32	0	494	0	750	30

Tenth Semester

COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						
Code	Course Name	Type	/Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
ARCH 310	Summer Practice at Construction Site	D	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	125	5
ARCH 409	Summer Practice at Architectural Studio	D	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	4
ARCH xxx	Non-Technical Elective	D	Elective	3	0	3	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 500	Master Thesis	E	Compulsory	2	0	2	2	2	32	0	0	342	0	375	15
Semesteral Total				5	0	5	5	5	80	0	0	670	0	750	30

Graduate Teaching

Faculty of Architecture and Engineering															
Department of Architecture															
Proposed Curriculum of M. Sc. In Architecture															
First Year															
First Semester															
Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 401	Advanced Design Studio I	**B**	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	172	0	300	12
ARCH 461	Urban Planning	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	3	64	0	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 493	Elective course	**C**	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 495	Planning Theories	**B**	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				12	6	0	18	15	224	64	0	462	0	750	30
First Year															
Second Semester															
Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 402	Advanced Design Studio II	**B**	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	172	0	300	12
ARCH 418	Case Studies in Architectural Criticism	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 410	Research Methods	**A**	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 496	Elective course	**C**	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				14	4	0	18	16	224	64	0	462	0	750	30
Second Year															
Third Semester															
Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 501	Supervised Independent	**B**	Compulsory	3	2	0	5	4	48	32	0	220	0	300	12

	Study and Research														
ARCH 561	Special Topics in Urban Planning and Design	B	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 415	Landscape Research	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 577	Elective course	**C**	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				13	2	0	15	14	208	32	0	510	0	750	30

Second Year

Fourth Semester

Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 500	Master Thesis	E	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	0	450	18
ARCH 598	Professional Practice at Construction Site	D	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	150	6
ARCH 599	Professional Practice at Architectural Studio	D	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	150	6
Semestral Total				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	750	0	750	30

List of Elective courses

Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 413	Housing Systems	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 417	Architecture And Film	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 421	Design Methods	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 431	Advanced Structural Systems	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 432	Sunlighting In Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 452	New Building Technologies	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 456	Urban Microclimate	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 462	Housing Systems	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6

ARCH 463	Gis Applications For Planners	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 474	Theories Of Architectural Design	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 475	TRESHOLDS OF 20-Th CENTURY	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 476	Forecasting In Design	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 477	Architecture In Context	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 478	Architecture And Identity	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 479	Psychology In Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 480	Evaluation In Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 481	Housing For Low-Income Groups	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 482	Environmental Aesthetics	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 483	Architecture And Technology	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 484	Computer Applications In Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 485	Home And Culture Studies	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 486	Digital Visualisation And Presentation	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 487	Introduction To Hidrology	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 491	Architect`S Market Structure	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 492	Design With Climate	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 493	Remote Sensing And Cartography	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 496	Assessment Methods	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 505	Special Topics In Architectural Design	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 511	Social And Cultural Themes In Urban Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 531	Special Topics In Building Technology	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6

ARCH 539	Housing And Change	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 571	Architecture And Utopia	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 572	Methods And Techniques In Housing Research	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 574	Geometry In Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 570	Design With Prefabricated Building Elements	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 502	Computational Design: Theory And Applications	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 504	Special Problems In Architecture Studies	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 506		C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 507	Building And Human Ecology	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 508	Interior Design Research Workhop	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 509	Readings In History Of Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 510	Ottoman Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 512	History Of Contemporary Italian Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 513	Modeling The Idea	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 514	Research On Fabrication	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 515	Museology	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 516	Urban Sociology	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 517	Modern Architecture In Albania	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 518	Vernicular Architecture	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 519	Traditional Dwellings In The Balkan Region	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 520	Traditional Dwellings In Albania	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6

ARCH 521	Environmental Psychology	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 522	Directed Studies In Environmental Design	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 524	Architecture, Design And Theory	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 526	Housing Issues In Contemporary Society	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 527	Water Urbanism	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 528	Green Urbanism & Ecological Infrastructures	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 529	Transdisciplinary Research Practices	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 530	Nature Driven Urban Planning And Design	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 532	Building Production Systems	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 577	Governance In Planning Processes	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6

CURRICULUM OF PhD STUDY PROGRAM

Year I - First Semester		**T**	**P**	**C**	**ECTS**
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
Total:		**12**	**0**	**12**	**30**

Year I - Second Semester		**T**	**P**	**C**	**ECTS**
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
Total:		**12**	**0**	**12**	**30**

Year II+III		**T**	**P**	**C**	**ECTS**
ARCH 800	PhD Thesis	0	0	0	120
Total:		0	0	0	**120**

Notes: T – Theoretical hours
P – Practical hours
C – Credits according to American System
ECTS – Credits according to ECTS System

ELECTIVE COURSE LIST

Course List Code	**Course Name**	**T**	**P**	**C**	**ECTS**
Arch 801	Environment - Behavior Theories	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 802	Informal Housing	3	0	3	7.5

ARCH 803	Discussions on Futuristic Architectural Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 804	Culture and Space Studies	3	0	3	7.5

ARCH 805	Theories, Process, And Language Ratio in Architectural Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 806	Aesthetic Phenomena in Architecture	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 807	Paradigms on Architecture	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 808	Interpretation of Meteorological Data in Urban and Architectural Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 809	Cultural Diversities in Construction Sector	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 810	Solar Radiation and Building Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 811	Energy Management in Lighting	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 812	Building Performance Simulation Methods	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 813	Solar Architecture	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 814	Urban Planning Law	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 815	Transportation Planning	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 816	Urban Historic Preservation	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 818	Special Topics in Urban Design And Planning	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 819	Advanced Planning Techniques	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 820	Special Topics in Urban Design And Planning	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 821	Effects of Climate and Energy on Settlements Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 822	Day lighting System Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 861	Urban Design and Planning Theory	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 862	Landscape Urbanism	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 863	Real Estate	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 864	Research Methods	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 865	Special Topics in Architectural Design	3	0	3	7.5

ARCH 866	Space Theories and Criticism	3	0	3	7.5

D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

Undergraduate Students' List of Theses

Name, Surname, Title of Thesis, Thesis Supervisor, Thesis Summary (150 words max)

Student: *ANISA CENAJ [Spring 2022-2023]*
Thesis Title: *INTERCONNECTING ACROSS TOOLS AND DESIGN PROFESSIONALS THROUGH A SPATIAL LAYOUT OPTIMIZATION PROCESS*
Supervisor: *Dr. ANNA YUNITSYNA*
Thesis Summary: Architectural design is in particular interesting for the fact that it involves not only quality of layout-use, esthetics and overall performance and cost but also massively depends on usage of computer capabilities. Computation based approaches in design have been increased in the last decades and rapidly became popular among architects and designers. The programs and their implementation can be beneficial for the design problems which are complex. Computer automation is efficient in terms of both productivity and time consumption. Consequently, it should be taken in consideration as one of the possible and powerful architectural tools of the future.
This study presents an automated computational design process for achieving satisficing spatial layouts for detached houses across pre-defined parameters. The proposed method is based on computation algorithms integrating human-scale inputs to configure adequate spatial configurations using Python programming language. To achieve generative design automation, this research demonstrates a unique algorithm (centrum) prepared from scratch based on the centroid of spaces. The centrum algorithm proposed in this study, is capable of generating several layouts in a short duration of time based on a set of local or user-defined constraints. Additionally, there are integrated a set of criteria to depict the efficient layouts based on goodness value.
As a last step of the workflow, the proposed method incorporates the AutoCAD script modelling to prepare an individual project file which is then imported into the CAD package. The proposed generative design constantly enables the user to interact with it from an early design stage. Moreover, it illustrates the interconnectivity between different computational tools and techniques for a participatory feedback loop across interacting actors like designers and non-designers. Finally, the entire automation procedure is provided to the user in the form of web-application. This Graphical User Interface (GUI), not only allow the user to interact with each of the automation phases, provide inputs, modify constrains but also gives highest flexibilities in updates as well as usage. Consequently, the user can use any device and operating system to run the application locally or server based.
Keywords: Architectural Design Optimization, AutoCAD script modelling, Computer Graphics, Detached Houses, Generative Design, Python programming, Spatial allocation.

Student: *KLEDINA SALLAKU [Spring 2022-2023]*
Thesis Title: *URBAN MORPHOLOGY GENERATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PUBLIC SPACE INDICATORS*
Supervisor: *Dr. ANNA YUNITSYNA*
Thesis Summary: The application of parametric tools based on the big data assessment allow to study the city's organization in a qualitative way. Urban morphology is a complex subject that may be characterized by its spatial relationships, built typologies and dimensions. Urban Morphology Indicators (UMIs) and Open Space Indicators (OSIs) help to define and evaluate the built environment. The present studies within the framework of analysis have already generated efficient urban morphologies, but mainly consider Building, Plot and Street indicators, with very few acknowledging OSI and almost none take them into account. This study establishes a framework by integrating different UMIs and OSIs that are most suitable for simulating urban generative design from the perspective of public spaces. Classification of the necessary indicators is a crucial step in receiving the data from the urban context. The developed framework is applied in the urban context of Tirana, at the site of Astir which is located at the southwest periphery. The existing urban development is used to calculate the UMIs which are used as a reference for the further generation of the public space scenarios. The urban analysis is performed using QGIS while the development scenario is generated using GH (grasshopper). The evaluation of the scenarios based on the calculation of various morphological indicators and visibility analysis help to define the best performing scenario. The proposed strategy aids urban planners and architects in developing public space-based sustainable strategies and efficient urban planning.
Keywords: urban morphology, generative urban design, parametric tools, public space, open space, indicators, evaluation

Student: *GJERGJI LLUSHKAJ [Spring 2022-2023]*
Thesis Title: *APPLICATION OF VR TECHNOLOGY IN THE ARCHITECTURAL VISUALIZATION OF A SAMPLE PROJECT*
Supervisor: *Dr. ANNA YUNITSYNA*
Thesis Summary: Recent developments in visualization technology feature the emergence of virtual reality (VR) application. In the field of architectural design, the implementation of such technologies pushes realism to new extents, making it more engaging to demonstrate to the viewer and to discuss ideas with them easily. The importance of this implementation lies on the fact that it aids the viewer in getting the feel of the space, the human dimension and the atmosphere of the interior.
The aim of this study is to demonstrate the effectiveness of virtual reality in architectural visualization. In order to achieve this aim, there is conducted a detailed study of previous literature on the field of virtual reality to examine its origin, recent developments, tools and the features that it can offer to the user.
The following step consists of producing a VR application and a test project, using "Unreal Engine 5", which exhibits the features that virtual reality can provide. This process is presented as a suggestive guide in VR development and optimization. The produced scene was presented to a group of architecture students. By allowing them to experience it in VR, data was gathered through their reactions and feedback. This information was further administrated via two questionnaires, aimed at gauging their perceptions and opinions regarding the use of virtual reality, identifying

aspects they found useful, impressive, or problematic.
In conclusion, the findings of the study demonstrate the effectiveness of VR technology in architectural visualization in terms of a deeper understanding of the project, as well as a superior visual quality.
Keywords: Virtual Reality, Architecture, Interior Design, Visualization, Application, Unreal Engine, Meta Quest 2.

Student: *KEVIN HASA [Spring 2022-2023]*
Thesis Title: *A MULTILAYERED ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPMENT OF IN-BETWEEN PUBLIC SPACES OF SOCIALIST AND POST-SOCIALIST RESIDENTIAL COMPLEXES*
Supervisor: *Dr. ANNA YUNITSYNA*
Thesis Summary: Over past several years, there is a massive growth in the movement of people toward major cities including Albania. During the socialism period the neighborhoods of Tirana were not very dense. Most of the building houses were standard, low flats and mostly prefabricated while the city had large public spaces. Moreover, from that period until today, Tirana has expanded a lot. The city has significantly grown, become much denser, more diverse in terms of building types, taller, and relatively lacking in public areas.
This study addresses the in-between public spaces, by analyzing the theory and importance of spatial configuration relating to urban morphology and social interaction. It is focused on six different residential complexes in different neighborhoods in Tirana, Albania. The chosen complexes are similar in size and in morphology. The socialist and post-socialist urban blocks are chosen based on the buildings typology in order to find the differences in the two political approaches of urban design.
The study uses a mixed-approach in order to comprehend the dynamic relationships and socio-spatial organization of the neighborhoods using the spatialmorphological analysis, site surveys and observations. The overlap of the pattern of activities, syntactic measurements and the sites' survey allow to find out the urban morphology which facilitates the development of in-between public spaces.
By comparing socialist and post-socialist building typologies, the study reveals that socialist designs, particularly the tower, promote higher activities and a more socially dynamic environment. However, the post-socialist slab and courtyard perform better in specific spaces, demonstrating potential for facilitating social interaction. The findings emphasize the importance of considering visibility, activity, and density in urban design for effective in-between spaces that foster social engagement.
Keywords: contemporary housing, in-between space, neighborhood development, Spatial-morphological analysis, Space Syntax, socialist housing, social activity, QGis .

Student: BRISILDA CANI [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title:
Supervisor: *Dr. Anna Yunitsyna*
Thesis Summary:
Keywords:

Student: ESI SULAJ [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: *BIOMIMICRY AND PARAMETRIC DESIGN: DAYLIGHT OPTIMIZATION OF BUILDING FACADES USING BIOMIMETIC PRINCIPLES*
Supervisor: *Dr. Anna Yunitsyna*
Thesis Summary: The design of the façade determines a building's distinctiveness, as well as its interactions with the micro-climate components, such as sun exposure. Integrating biomimicry and parametricism can lead to an optimal solution to reduce heat gains and visual discomfort.

Parametric design tools are the new design methods that emulate Nature's algorithm. This paper provides an understanding of the principles of natural system and develop a design concept outlined by biomimetic principles.
This study applies the biomimicry principles to the interactive and adaptable building facades. The proposed shading system is based on the geometric shape of plants' pollen and the movement of earwigs' wing fold. It is applied at the architectural studio classrooms (of campus building) of Epoka University in Albania. The windows in the classes are located on the south side, which makes it essential to provide the comfortable lighting and to control it due to the complexity of the window system.
The evaluation of different concepts and scenarios of the parametric shading system is based on the simulation of lighting conditions inside of the studios. Based on the analysis, the study proposes the optimal solution which reduces the energy reduction for cooling and heating, increases the use of the natural light and provides the visual comfort facilitating the artistic environment of architectural classes.
Keywords: Biomimicry, parametric design, kinetic building façade, optimization, visual comfort, shading system, light control

Student: SABRINA SADUSHI [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: USING QGIS-BASED ANALYSIS TO ESTIMATE THE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF URBAN GREEN SPACES IN TIRANA
Supervisor: Dr. Anna Yunitsyna
Thesis Summary: Tirana in the last 30 years has experienced a constant urban densification. This has been translated into a complex urban fabric with a densely built area that had resulted in the shrinking of urban green spaces. The latter has also been encouraged by the lack of focus on urban planning initiatives. A new future sustainable plan foresees the creation of a green ring on the outskirts of the city but there are little to no plans for making greenery a factor in the inner fabric of the ring where the life of the city resides.
The aim of this study is to conduct a quantitative research to find the next appropriate areas in need of green spaces in the city of Tirana. This will be done by first documenting all the existing green areas in Tirana based on thematic categories. With the use of QGIS software will be done the evaluation of all the indicators of the urban greenery, their location, and availability. Finally, based on service area network analysis, evaluate their accessibility by studying their geographical coverage in regards to the city area and producing maps of the isolated areas. In the last stage a weighted overlay suitability will be tested to find areas with the potential for green spaces and parks in Tirana that are within standards and easily accessible to residents near them.
Keywords: *Urban Green Spaces, QGIS, urban scale, city scale, thematic mapping,NDVI, accessibility, walkability, suitability analysis, Tirana, green network*

Student: KLAUDIA DEMIRAJ [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: A STUDY OF PLACE ATTACHMENT AND PRIVACY IN A RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX IN TIRANA
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. EDMOND MANAHASA
Thesis Summary: This study examines the intricate connection between place attachment and privacy in the setting of residential complexes. Understanding what influences people's connection to their living locations becomes increasingly important as urbanization continues to change our

living settings. Living in multifamily housing is perceived as fundamentally dependent on privacy, affecting people's feelings of safety, independence, personal identity, and attachment there. However, little research has been done on how issues with privacy impact someone's perception of a place throughout a residential complex.
Therefore, the current study has examined the relationship between place attachment and privacy. To achieve this aim, the residential complex of "Mangalem 21" in Tirana is selected as a case study. Place attachment, defined as the emotional connection or relationship between one person and a certain location is measured on three levels of attachment: apartment, residential complex, and city. To measure privacy in different spatial qualities, the study has selected three types of apartments positioned in: the outer perimeter, the semi-closed courtyard, and the closed courtyard, by interviewing 201 residents, 67 per each of the typologies. Privacy, as a feeling of isolation from excessive social interaction, is measured only for the level of apartment attachment.
The results overall, in the three examined courtyard typologies, residents feel attached mostly to their apartment and city, and feel less attached to the whole residential complex. For the privacy aspect, resulted that a considerable number of respondents were affected by the issue of privacy when asked if their negative answer related to attachment to the apartment was influenced by the lack of privacy. Finally, the study found that interviewers living in the closed courtyards apartments reported lower attachment due to privacy issues. In addition, the results were higher in semi-closed apartments and highest in outer perimeter apartments.
Keywords: place attachment, privacy, outer perimeter, closed courtyard, semiclosed courtyard, attachment to apartment, attachment to residential complex, attachment to city.

Student: KATJANA BORIÇI [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: UNVEILING THE URBAN IDENTITY OF GDAŃSK IN THE CONTEXT OF THE URBAN TRANSFORMATION OF HISTORICAL INNER CITY
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. EDMOND MANAHASA
Thesis Summary: The focus of this thesis is on defining urban identity, in terms of both the physical and phenomenological components, in a historical context marked by urban development and urban regeneration driven from a modern perspective, which encourages discourse on the idea of urban identity in the city and determines whether it has been preserved or lost. The study which utilizes the case of Gdańsk is based on three main components: a review of place identity at various scales, urban transformation, renewal, and regeneration, exploration of the historical development of the city of Gdańsk and the Granary Island regeneration project, in particular its transition from the pre-war development to its actual modern concept. Lastly, it considers the identifying factors of residents toward the neighborhood and the city.

The methodology used in this research includes data collection, data analysis through clustering, sampling, survey, in-depth interview, and visual documentation. This study assesses urban identity and looks at factors of identification using a survey that has 30 respondents from each of 7 selected neighborhoods within the city. The results showed that the self identity, the feeling of place, social connections and sense of community are crucial for the dwellers to reach identification with their neighborhoods, followed by the outcome that the old dwellings with historical significance are essential to a city's identity and help people identify with it more strongly. The newly developed region, Granary Island, in contrast, offers less identification since residents find it more difficult to accept a modern approach that is somehow different from that of the rest of the city, the closer they live to the Gdańsk's historical district.
Keywords: Urban identity, identification factors, urban transformation, Granary Island

regeneration project, Gdańsk.

Student: ARTEA ZERA [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: A STUDY OF PLACE IDENTITY IN A HISTORICAL NEIGHBOURHOOD SUBJECT OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION IN TIRANA
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. EDMOND MANAHASA
Thesis Summary: Tirana, the capital of Albania, has witnessed complex and interesting changes. Various ruling regimes have influenced its physical and socio-cultural landscape. During this turbulent process of urban transformation, the city is in danger of losing its historical fabric and its identity. In this context of urban change that threatens urban identity, this study investigates the place identity of residents of the pre-socialist, socialist and post-socialist urban layers, in a historical neighborhood in Tirana, in the neighborhood and city scale. It answers two questions: Is place identity different for the residents of each layer? Is place identity different in the neighborhood and the city?
The methodology used in this research includes visual documentation, sampling of 201 different-layer residents, surveying through a questionnaire that investigates place identity, mapping of physical elements of identification, data collection and analysis. In the end, this research reveals that there are differences in place identity of different-layer residents, as well as in neighborhood and city identity for each layer. Pre-socialist residents identify the most with the neighborhood and the city, while post-socialist residents the least. All residents identify more with the city than the neighborhood and they do so through identificatory relations more than physical elements of place. All in all, these findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics between urban changes and conserving place identity in Tirana.
Keywords: Sense of Place, Place Identity, Urban Identity, Urban Transformation

Student: FABJO BRACAJ [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: A REVITALISATION PROPOSAL IN AN INDUSTRIAL POST-SOCIALIST TOWN: CASE OF BALLSH ALBANIA
Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. EDMOND MANAHASA
Thesis Summary: This study focuses on an industrial post-socialist town in southern Albania, the town of Ballsh. The industrial city was the main symbol of the socialist regime. Their construction began rapidly after the end of World War II and ended with the change of regime. The focus of socialism was the heavy industry and the massive extraction of natural resources, where these cities played a key role in achieving the objectives of socialist ideology.
The post-socialist period had a drastic impact on industrial towns as many state enterprises were not compatible with the capitalist reality. The aim of this study is to propose a revitalization project using elements of memory in order to provide a new recreational facility.
The methodology used in this case consists of archival research, in local and central archives, literature review, and examples followed by the Eastern Block countries for the same topic and in concept design of the proposed space.
This thesis consists of a revitalization proposal regarding the town of Ballsh, Albania by giving a different approach from the industrial one. Finally, the proposed revitalization park is supposed to bring better spatial vision and heritage qualities to the town of Ballsh.
Keywords: socialist city, industrial town, shrinking cities, ghost towns, revitalization

Student: REI GOGA [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: SIMULATION-ASSISTED URBAN MICROCLIMATE EVALUATION OF VERTICAL GREENERY ON HOUSING DESIGN MORPHOLOGY IN TIRANA, ALBANIA.
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi
Thesis Summary: Greenery use in buildings has become a trend and a topic of discussions amongst the built environment community and abroad. One of the major elements affecting the dispersion of modern environmentally friendly building envelopes is the need to better the performance of the targeted buildings.
With cityscapes expanding both horizontally and vertically, green washed buildings seem to appear more often on the scene of recently permitted buildings even though the evidence to back up their claims on environmental performance lack strong backing from scientific studies. As a result, the early design evaluation process on these large parts of urban fabric is critical. While many studies have analyzed and evaluated, different scenarios that consist of different types of greenery use there is a gap in literature regarding whether greenwashing relates to outdoor thermal comfort, and if so, how much of an impact it has. This paper will attempt to answer this question by analyzing a real case scenario, using simulations to obtain data on two different optimization scenarios that follow greenwashing techniques based on literature. The goal of this paper is to guide and assist planners in Tirana and other cities with similar climate circumstances to make the right decisions when planning new neighborhoods.
Keywords: morphology, thermal comfort, courtyards, macroscale, microscale, impact, optimization, sustainable, early-design, planning, UTCI

Student: MARINELA PJETRI [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: THE IMPACT OF TIMBER SINGLE HOUSING MORPHOLOGY ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND EMBODIED CARBON
Supervisor:Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi
Thesis Summary: Contemporary society, in recent years has shifted its focus toward more sustainable solutions in the building sector, since it has become a significant component in the global energy consumption and greenhouse (GHG) emissions. The growing interest for passive housing can reduce the carbon footprint of the building, pushing the development of more efficient schemes and sustainable materials. The benefits that a sustainable material such as timber, has to offer to the environment are crucial to evaluate the energy performance of low-rise single housing from the lifespan aspect. The present research aims the assess the impact of timber single housing morphology on energy efficiency and embodied carbon. This research is carried out in three different climate contexts: Mediterranean, continental and tropical. Design variable incorporate timber construction systems, building morphology, glazing (window-to wall ratio), presence of the roof and courtyard. The generated low-rise housing models are simulated and estimated via Design Builder software. The 372 simulated results stress the efficacy of morphology in two timber construction systems and transparency have in reducing up to 13.84% and 24.95% of the annual energy consumption for both construction systems. Propositions are made on the suitability level of each house morphology for each considered climate context. A novel set of guidelines for design decision-making stages is generated through performed simulated result of each timber single housing morphology.
Keywords: *single housing, morphology, timber, WWR, simulation, energy performance, thermal comfort, climate*

Student: DESARA VERJONI [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: EARLY DESIGN EVALUATION OF HOSPITAL BUILDING MORPHOLOGY ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE IN DIFFERENT CLIMATES OF EUROPE
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

Thesis Summary: Globally, sustainability is gaining importance in the construction industry, driven by environmental and economic factors. European directives prioritize improving energy performance in buildings, including hospitals, as they serve as examples of implementing green building principles. Hospital design now focuses on creating a healing environment rather than just functionality. However, limited research exists on thermal requirements of patients in hospitals, necessitating further exploration. The energy performance of buildings is significantly influenced by their geometry. While hospital building morphology has been studied, the impact of climate and orientation in these buildings remains unexplored.
To conduct a thorough analysis of the overall energy performance of the buildings, specific design variables like building shape and orientation are thoughtfully selected. The findings highlight the effectiveness of optimizing the building's geometry in achieving a considered reduction in annual energy demand and enhancing thermal comfort inside the building. Additionally, recommendations are provided regarding the appropriateness of different building typologies for various climate contexts. Simulations using the Design Builder interface for Energy Plus generate a framework for early design decisions, aiding the decision-making process.
Keywords: morphology, energy optimization, simulation, climate, hospital

Student: KATERINA LIKA [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: THE IMPACT OF HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING MORPHOLOGY WITH
CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE (CEA) OF VERTICAL FARMING ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi
Thesis Summary: The incorporation of CEA systems into building design has emerged as a rapidly rising trend as a result of the growing urgency to address global food security and urbanization challenges. Given the significant energy demands associated with these systems, the impact of incorporating them into building design is a critical area of investigation that is yet under-researched. To fill this knowledge gap, this study will provide significant contributions to the field by presenting numerous key findings: Firstly, the primary focus of the research seeks to evaluate the energy efficiency of high-rise residential buildings equipped with controlled environment agriculture (CEA). Secondly, it aims to identify optimal morphological alternatives associated also with food production, which could potentially reduce consumption required for heating, cooling, ventilation, and air conditioning. Finally, the study intends to highlight critical design factors, such as building shape, transparency, and envelope design that have the potential to improve energy performance in three climate contexts. Furthermore, the study endeavors to develop energy simulation and analysis by incorporating meteorological data input parameters and considering different climate settings while providing assumption scenarios about future greenhouse gas emissions. By encouraging creative solutions that meet numerous UN SDGs, the project aligns with its mission to accomplish goals such as affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, and climate action. This study employs simulation tools, such as Design Builder, Energy Plus and Meteonorm, to analyze the energy efficiency of such structures and to demonstrate the potential of computational approaches in furthering sustainability practices. The findings indicated a statistically significant correlation between morphology and energy performance. The results underscore the efficiency of implementing geometric design strategies, which could potentially lead to a substantial reduction of up to 42.5% in annual energy consumption. Additionally, shading optimization techniques were found to have a significant impact capable of reducing the demand by a maximum of 25%. By identifying the most suitable building morphologies and design components that maximize energy performance for the right conditions, this study provides valuable insights for building designers,

architects, and engineers pursuing to improve the circularity of high-rise residential structures through CEA integration. As a result, this research has significant practical implications given the potential to address global food security, urbanization, and environmental sustainability concerns.

Keywords: *Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA), Energy efficiency, Vertical Farming, High-Rise Residential Building, Temperature, Shading Optimization, Morphology.*

Student: KLEA MEÇAJ [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title*:* DESIGN - BASED OPTIMIZATION STRATEGIES OF URBAN PUBLIC MICROCLIMATE IN MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT. THE CASE OF TIRANA, ALBANIA.
Supervisor: Prof.Dr. Sokol Dervishi
Thesis Summary: The quality of life in urban areas is greatly affected by the comfort and health of the environment there. As a result, the issue facing urban design and planning studies that attempt to improve the outdoor thermal comfort and microclimate conditions of urban areas is expanding. Comparing urban thermal comfort analysis to indoor thermal comfort study is more complicated since outside surroundings have a greater variety of dynamic analysis. While several studies have suggested, assessed, and analyzed residential blocks, high rise buildings, neighborhood patterns, or the performance of inner courtyards with regard to various elements, there is a gap in the literature addressing public squares and how they are connected to the thermal comfort of their users. In order to evaluate whether or not morphology significantly affects outdoor thermal comfort, this study will analyze those public squares and their surroundings through literary examination, followed by data analysis utilizing simulation tools. The purpose of this paper is to provide urban planners in Tirana and other municipalities with comparable climatic conditions with guidelines to help them make the most effective decisions possible when creating open spaces that are crucial to the city. This study will additionally provide design-based strategies for the optimization of these open places following evaluation, conveying improved microclimate but also alternative user experiences.
Keywords: *morphology, thermal comfort, open spaces, public squares optimization, sustainability, design, ideas, urban planning, simulation.*

Student*: KLEDISA PUFJA [Spring 2022-2023]*
Thesis Title*: PERSPECTIVES ON THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL OF SHKODRA: PERCEPTION OF NEARBY RESIDENTS*
Supervisor*: Assoc. Prof. Dr. ODETA MANAHASA*
Thesis Summary*:* For the last decades, environmental education has shed a light into how psychiatric hospitals resonate into the neighborhood, not only in what they add to the particular aesthetic of a neighborhood, but also what they add to the collective psyche of the neighborhood. According to public perception and quite intuitive conventions, the presence of a psychiatric hospital resonates in its surroundings.

This study aims to analyze the perception of the Psychiatric Hospital of Shkodra by the residents of the neighborhood and understand better the community attitudes towards both the mental health and mental health facility. The focus of the study are the neighbors' perceptions (N = 100), which are gathered and analyzed employing a quantitative approach through random sampling door-to-door surveys.

By using questionnaires, it aims to determine the relation this built environment has with the people of the surrounding neighborhood. Presently, mental health is stigmatized, so the general perception of the environment is highly colored. However, this research aims to define the factors contributing to the attitudes, how they are tethered to the built environment and social components. Results of the analysis highlighted the relationship between facility characteristics and community attitudes towards mental health — to name a few, homeowners and residents who have lived longer in the

neighborhood are more likely to perceive the facility as a factor decreasing property values; residents that had children at home tended to fully agree with the statement "There should be guards at the facility"; and respondents who found the facility ordinary preferred that the facility be situated in the outskirts of the city, not in the neighborhood.

Finally, the study provides a baseline for future research into community participation, and Not-In-My-Backyard (NIMBY) attitudes towards the inclusion and exclusion of mental health facilities. Keywords: *citizen's attitude, mental illness, NIMBY, community participation, stigma, perception of community health facilties. interaction*

Student*: Edon Piperku [Spring 2022-2023]*
Thesis Title: EMOTIONS IN BUILT ENVIRONMENT: DESIGNING A MUSEUM BASED ON THE EMOTIONAL JOURNEY OF ALICE IN ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND BY LEWIS CARROLL
Supervisor*:* Assoc. Prof. *Dr. Odeta Manahasa*
Thesis Summary: The aim of this Master Thesis is to explore the connection between emotions and architecture by designing an emotional journey through a museum inspired by Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". The research argues that architecture plays a crucial role in shaping our emotions, and architects should focus on creating designs that elicit specific feelings and sensations. Drawing on insights from neuroscience and psychology, the study proposes a model for designing emotionally impactful architecture that emphasizes the importance of sensory experience and storytelling. The proposed museum will showcase the ways in which architecture can manipulate our senses and recreate feelings, leaving room for nostalgia or experiencing the same emotional journey of someone else. This innovative project reimagines a museum by ingeniously infusing the distinct emotions of Alice in Wonderland into diverse spaces, offering visitors an experiential journey through her emotional landscape. Beyond its immersive storytelling, this versatile museum serves as a dynamic community hub, seamlessly transitioning into a multi-functional center that fosters creativity, engagement, and connection among its visitors. The study will appeal to cinematography students, film and design enthusiasts, and anyone interested in the potential of architecture to evoke emotion and create meaningful experiences.
Keywords: Museum, Emotions, Storytelling, Wonderland, Psychology, Sensory experience, Architecture, Cinematography.

Student*:* Pamela Kalluçi, *[Spring 2022-2023]*
Thesis Title: USER PARTICIPATION IN THE EVALUATION AND DESIGN OF THE ORAL HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTS
Supervisor*:* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa
Thesis Summary: Oral Healthcare plays a vital role in overall health and well-being, and the design of oral healthcare environments significantly impacts the quality of care and user experience. This research explores the significance of involving users in the evaluation and design processes of oral healthcare environments, aiming to improve patient satisfaction, enhance treatment outcomes, and ensure the provision of patientcentered care. It analyzes end-user satisfaction and design approaches centered on their requirements. In terms of psychological perception and behavioral action, it is also important to look into how dental physical elements might be designed to promote a good transition and flow of users through the various spaces in the dental clinic.
Integrating the multidisciplinary knowledge of patient comfort, privacy, and staff-patient interaction into the design of the physical environment is a challenge that requires extensive research analysis and integration. For this purpose, the thesis evaluates and compares three dental

clinic environments based on their importance for oral health settings in different contexts, designs, and typologies. The literature on users' perceptions of physical surroundings in the context of oral healthcare is limited. Furthermore, the relationship between care services and facility architecture is frequently overlooked, in part because there isn't enough data. This study attempted to fill the gap by examining outpatients' perceptions of design elements relevant to the dental center areas they frequently visited.

To achieve this, participatory design techniques were utilized in this study to encourage the user's involvement right from the outset of the design process. In the user evaluation group of 97 users, 94 patients and 3 dental professional staff of the 3 respective selected clinics in Tirana, Albania participated. The process took place from March to May 2023. These included surveys, interviews, open discussions, group meetings, and the walking-through method. Some general concepts were discovered through analysis: personal experience, dental anxiety, physical environment, and physical features, regarding their perceptions, preferences, and needs. However, it was observed that there is a lack of public awareness regarding the value of user involvement in the design decision-making process. The variation in users' needs was found to be influenced by the frequency of usage and duration of stay, leading to differences in design priorities between patients and dental staff. Understanding these factors can aid in reducing patient anxiety and creating a patient-centric strategy. Design interventions, such as enhancing waiting areas, improving lighting, creating private consulting rooms, and incorporating biophilic elements, can contribute to a more positive and calming dental environment.

The thesis provides specific design suggestions and recommendations for dental clinics as a whole and offers proposals for dental settings within each clinic type. By implementing these design recommendations, dental clinics can be transformed into more comfortable and effective spaces for both patients and staff, ultimately promoting user satisfaction and social sustainability for oral healthcare environments.

Keywords: oral healthcare environment; healthcare design; participatory design; users' participation.

Student*:* Arona Muja [Spring 2022-2023]

Thesis Title: INTEGRATING HUMAN SCALE DEVELOPMENTS IN LARGE SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE: "NEW RAILWAY DURRES-TIRANA-TIA"

Supervisor*:* Dr. Fabio Naselli

Thesis Summary: Urbanization and city growth have managed to change the physical and socioeconomic landscape over the centuries, as well as the interactions between its rural, urban and natural components. This urbanization process has accelerated over the last century as a result of an expansive economic structure due to technological advancements that allowed different parties to transform the landscape and the territory decisively using strong and globalized methods (Saskia, 2004). Any such strategies being implemented have drawn criticism for prioritizing efficiency and cost effectiveness over the needs and concerns of the neighborhood, which has resulted in social and environmental problems (Max-Neef, 1989). In order to lessen the use of topdown approaches, this thesis explores the integration of human scale developments in significant infrastructure projects. To tackle these problems, the study suggests to include human scale developments into major infrastructural projects. This strategy emphasizes involving local communities in the planning and implementation processes while taking into account their needs and concern (Ibem, 2009). Smaller scale infrastructure projects such as a bike lines along the rail path or in between the stations, are required necessary to satisfy the demands of the local communities. The study presents international and local studies that demonstrate the benefit of this strategy, such as improved environmental and social outcome, increasing project sustainability as well as increased engagement of the community. According to the results of this research, by

incorporating smaller scale infrastructure projects can result in overall more inclusive and environmentally friendly infrastructure developments. To effectively integrate developments of the two natures, the current top-down approach must be altered to an approach which prioritizes inclusiveness along with the engagement of the community. (Li Y. , 2021). This strategy will be beneficial to the nearby communities by resulting in introduction and requests of more resilient and sustainable infrastructural implementations.

Keywords: human scale, infrastructure, cycling networks, rail networks, inclusivity, community, transport, adaptability.

Student*:* Ketjona Bullari [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: MAKING TIRANA CHILD-FRIENDLY: CO-CREATING A NETWORK OF SUSTAINABLE CHILD-FRIENDLY ROUTES. Supervisor*:* Prof**.**Dr.Sokol Dervishi
Thesis Summary: Children have the right to grow up in an environment where they feel safe and included. It is important for a healthy city to allow various generations to meet and interact daily. As young citizens, they have the equal right to be part of the cityscape and to access basic services and public spaces, all these fundamental rights based on the Convention of the Child Rights. But this is not always the case on our cities. Especially in Tirana, children are deprived of most urban spaces, as they have not been taken into consideration during the urban design process. This thesis aims to bring out the playfulness in our urban city and make place for children into it. To make them feel integrated into the chosen urban context, it is important to understand the current conditions of their day-to-day spaces.
An analysis of relevant literature concepts will be conducted to gain knowledge on how we can create a network of urban spaces that are safe, socially and physically more inclusive and sustainable. The analysis focused on identifying the principles of a successful child-centric city, co-creation, and participatory methods to understand children's perspective as young citizens and sustainable design solutions for improving independent mobility.
Today, just from an urban-scale observation of Tirana the majority of open spaces have the same expression. Children recognize them because they have seen them before. Only a ten-minute walk from the city centre, the site was chosen due to its contrasting urban fabrics and lack of safe open spaces that cater children needs. Two meso-zones are selected according three main criteria including school zone, mixed used street and historically underserved neighborhood. The purpose of this study is to provide an answer to the research question of how the selected urban context can support a network of spaces, beyond playgrounds, that are purposefully designed to create a system of "children's infrastructure" that is sensitive to the physical and mental development and changing needs and behaviours of children as they grow. Within the framework of this thesis, it is proposed a set of solutions that capture the results from literature, desktop and on-site analysis and participatory questionnaire where the urban playscape is reconsidered. By doing so, we will be able to reintegrate children into the urban space and transform it into a vibrant space that celebrates flexibility and livability.
This thesis suggests at the end a set of interventions that could be adapted to similar contexts, and with the help of Children's Participation, evaluates its generalizability of research-based data and designing methods, to provide continuous methods and referential design strategies for building child-friendly networks in urban Tirana.
Keywords: *Child-Friendly City, urban playground, co-creating, independent mobility, playing streets, sustainable solutions.*

Student*:* Krisneva Zaimi [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: THE POTENTIAL OF AN ELEVATED GREEN ROOF TO SUPPORT URBAN BIODIVERSITY, A CASE IN TIRANA CITY
Supervisor*:* Dr. Paolo Camilletti
Thesis Summary: Biodiversity urbanism is an innovative concept that has been gaining traction in recent times. It aims to bring more nature into our cities and create healthier and more resilient living environments by promoting sustainable development in cities. The idea behind this protocol is to create a city that is both biodiverse and urban. To do this, green infrastructure is the key; it can provide habitats for wildlife, reduce air pollution, and absorb stormwater. In addition, green infrastructure also contributes to the aesthetics of the city and can provide recreational areas for people to enjoy.
This research communicates the concept of designing an elevated green roof in an urban context. It elaborates on a solution for those cities to be able to address the issue of communities with a severe lack of common and green space but sufficient space for building parks by greening the roofs of the existing buildings as the greatest solution to the urban biodiversity concept and giving them life. It is a design-based research project developed on one of the most prominent sites in Tirana City, "Rruga e Durresit" street.
Keywords: *urban biodiversity, green rooftops, green infrastructure, connectivity, parasite structure, common spaces, sustainability, social activities*

Student*:* Melissa Vuthaj [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: STRATEGIES OF IMPLEMENTING BLUE-GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN COASTAL LANDSCAPE PLANNING. THE CASE OF THE LAGOON OF PATOK.
Supervisor*:* Dr. Paolo Camilletti
Thesis Summary: Blue and green infrastructure are two different types of environmental infrastructure that serve different purposes. Green infrastructure refers to the network of natural or semi-natural areas, such as parks, forests, wetlands, and green roofs, that provide a range of ecological, social, and economic benefits. Green infrastructure helps to improve air and water quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce flood risk, provide habitat for wildlife, and enhance the aesthetic and recreational value of urban areas. Blue infrastructure, on the other hand, refers to the network of water-related infrastructure, such as rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs, and wetlands, that provide a range of benefits related to water management and use. Blue infrastructure helps to regulate the water cycle, provide drinking water, support fisheries, and other aquatic life, provide recreation opportunities, and support transportation and trade. While green infrastructure and blue infrastructure serve different purposes, they are often complementary and can be used together to achieve multiple benefits. For example, wetlands can serve as both green and blue infrastructure, providing wildlife habitat while also helping floodwaters and improving water quality.
Keywords: *Blue infrastructure, green infrastructure, climate-adapted infrastucture, Blue-green infrastructure, ecology.*

Student*:* Adelina Mëhalla [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: THE IMPACT OF VERTICAL VEGETATION ON MICROCLIMATE GRIMSHAW-TIRANA NORTHERN BOULEVARD
Supervisor*:* Dr. Ina Dervishi
Thesis Summary: Currently, sustainability is one of the most important objectives in architecture and urban design. Sustainable design strategies reduce energy consumption of buildings and environmental pollution. Moreover, these strategies improve the microclimatic conditions of urban spaces. In this regard, vertical vegetation design is an efficient sustainable strategy to improve

thermal and microclimatic conditions of urban spaces. For 5000 years, the greenery have been developed to adapt to severe climatic conditions, particularly in hot and arid climates.
This study investigates the influence of greenery on the microclimate and air quality in the context of Northern Boulevard by Grimshaw, located in Tirana, Albania. The research employs the ENVI-met program to simulate the microclimate conditions and assess the impact of different design strategies. The study includes an analysis of the climate description in Albania, a case study description of the Northern Boulevard in Tirana, including three sites with different typologies of the buildings, courtyards and orientation in masterplan. Scenarios of proposed design strategies have explored: a site without greenery and other scenarios with different vertical greenery including the height and density of vegetation. The simulation software, ENVI-met, is described along with the inputs, parameters, and the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI) used for analysis. Taking into account that the highest temperatures reach the summer season and the need to increase human thermal comfort is extremely important, we have taken July 21, 2021 as the date for performing the simulations.
The research also examines existing literature related to the definition of urban microclimate, the urban heat island effect, the impact of greenery on urban microclimate, types and characteristics of greenery in urban areas, and previous studies on the impact of greenery on urban microclimate.
Keywords: *Urban Microclimate, Air quality, Vertical vegetation, ENVI-met, Northern Boulevard.*

Student*:* Vangjel Sylari [Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title: STREET DESIGN FOR ALL: TURNING "DIBËR" STREET IN TIRANA INTO A LIVABLE STREET
Supervisor*:* Dr. Egin Zeka
Thesis Summary: After 1990, there were considerable modifications in Tirana's urban infrastructure in many different elements and periods. All of these changes and developments have resulted in an automobile-dependent culture in which walking has become increasingly difficult and dangerous. This thesis tries to redefine walkability in one of Tirana's major streets, such as "Dibër" Street anD to turn it into a livable street. Many studies and case studies have determined that livable streets benefit the environment, the economy, health, and social life. This street has a number of issues with pedestrian mobility and circulation, including narrow sidewalks, a lack of public areas, and a lack of urban furniture, because the street, like many other streets in Tirana, was constructed mainly for motor vehicle circulation and more recently, bike lanes are added. The goal of this study is to examine the current conditions and accessibility criteria on "Dibër" Street. The research will conclude in a project proposal that will convert "Dibër" Street into a commercial shared street, taking into consideration street's livability, urban sustainability and people's quality of life in the neighborhood.

Keywords: *Livable streets, Pedestrian mobility, Urban furniture, Accessibility criteria, Commercial shared street, Urban sustainability.*

Student*:* Enxhi Pepa[Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title:
PHYSICAL CHANGES OF THE MONUMENTAL AXIS OF TIRANA AND THE IMPACT ON ITS MONUMENTS
Supervisor*:* Dr. Egin Zeka
Thesis Summary: In Tirana we see the presence of 20th century architecture, alongside new development, and with no doubt the most important part of it is the monumental axis. This thesis aims to gather all existing data about the architectural character of Tirana's monumental axis identity and make the proper identification and documentation of it. Nowadays the city is experiencing a rapid urbanization process. High rises made an appearance after demolishing old buildings of the totalitarian regime or even precious city artifacts, to build what now we can call

new and advanced. This phenomenon has taken Tirana by storm and has caused major changes in its urban identity. Various important city landmarks containing years of cultural history have been lost during this rejuvenation process. Tirana's everyday spaces have been occupied by many unique buildings, too close to the existing monumental axis. This threatens the relation between the commemoration heirlooms and the residences alongside other establishments that have started to tackle the spaces around the axis not following important urban rules regarding the monuments.
Keywords: Urban identity, Tangible heritage, Scanderbeg Square, Mother Theresa Square, Urban development.

Student*:* Deborah Bushati[Spring 2022-2023]
Thesis Title:
KOLË IDROMENO AND ITS DETAILS.
Supervisor*:Assoc. Prof.* Dr. Edmond Manahasa; Co-supervisor: MSc. Kreshnik Merxhani
Thesis Summary: This study focuses on a traditional dwelling in Kala neighborhood of Berat. This house belonged to Kurt Ahmet Pasha, who was the feudal lord that reigned Berat in the last quarter of 18th century. This house nowadays is known as Haxhistasa house.
The aim of this study is to re-evaluate/re-explore one of Berat's most important architectural assets, the Kurt Ahmet Pasha's house, which lacks maintenance and preservation. In order to achieve this goal, the study proposes adaptive reuse as a tool that can impact its building maintenance by transforming it into a tourist attraction. It could also serve as an example for conservation and adaptive process model for other buildings with similar historical and architectural merits.
The methodology used in this research includes archival research on the building's historical growth and overview of architectural characteristics through redrawing and visualizing. The archival research is used to provide original conditions and drawings of the building, from National Institute of Cultural Heritage (IKTK) and National Technical Construction Archive (AQTN). Redrawing covers the reproduction of the original work through plans, sections and facades based on archive. Visualization includes the exterior condition of the actual state of the building, based on site survey, as well as 3D presentation of the interiors with the new functions given.
The adaptive reuse proposal adheres to the building's repair criteria as well as its distinct architectural character. Based on this, two scenarios are conceptualized to the proposing new spatial configuration of the house. The first one includes the permanent adaptation of the spaces with certain characteristics and the second one, the temporal adaptation for public or private events.

Keywords: Kolë Idromeno,architecture,details,Shkodra,elements.

Graduate Students' List of Theses

1. *Name, Surname, Title of Thesis, Thesis Supervisor, Thesis Summary (150 words max)*

-

List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

(Student Name, & Surname: Name of Home & Host University, Country, Duration of Stay)

-

Research Areas and Research Groups

Research Areas and Research Groups

- Housing theory, housing design, evaluation of housing, energy efficient housing, sustainable residential environment
- Space Syntax analysis from urban to building scale
- Digital fabrication, parametric modelling, algorithmic modelling, 3D printing, computer-aided design

Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

Building Physics and Building Ecology

MSc. Nerina Baçi

Focused on ongoing research in the area of social sustainability.

MSc. Manjola Logli

List of Publications

The Academic staff of the EPOKA University, during this period of functioning (2022-2023) has published articles in different scientific journals, proceeding books, newspapers, etc.

No	Name Surname	Scientific Publications and Academic Activities
1	Dr. Anna Yunitysna	Bici, A., Yunitsyna, A. (2023) ANALYSIS OF 3D PRINTING TECHNIQUES FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION: A REVIEW Construction Robotics, Vol. 7, No 1 Print ISSN: 2509-811X Online ISSN: 2509-8780 https://doi.org/10.1007/s41693-023-00108-4
2	Dr. Anna Yunitysna	Shtepani E., Yunitsyna A. (2023) EVALUATION OF THE SPATIAL QUALITY OF APARTMENTS FROM DIFFERENT PRICE CATEGORIES USING THE VISIBILITY GRAPH ANALYSIS: A CASE OF TIRANA, ALBANIA International Journal of Real Estate Studies, Vol. 17, No 1, pp. 83–92. E-ISSN: 2231-7643 https://doi.org/10.11113/intrest.v17n1.268
3	Dr. Anna Yunitysna	**A. Yunitsyna,** A. Toska, Evaluation of the Visual Comfort and Daylight Performance of the Visual Art Classrooms, Journal of Daylighting 10 (2023) 117-135. https://dx.doi.org/10.15627/jd.2023.9 **About the journal** **https://solarlits.com/jd/index** **Scopus 3.7** https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100857954
4	Dr. Anna Yunitysna	**A. Yunitsyna,** E. Shtepani, Investigating the socio-spatial relations of the built environment using the Space Syntax analysis – A case study of Tirana City, Cities, Volume 133, 2023, 104147, ISSN 0264-2751 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2022.104147 **6.7 Impact factor** https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/cities
5	Dr. Anna Yunitsyna	A. Yunitsyna; I. Sadrija, Energy Performance-Based Retrofit of Apartment Buildings in Albania Using Mass-Housing Typologies as Case Studies. Architecture and Engineering, 8(3), 60-76, 2023. ISSN 2500-0055. https://aej.spbgasu.ru/index.php/AE/article/view/963 About the journal

		https://aej.spbgasu.ru/index.php/AE/index Scopus 2.3 https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100972429?origin=resultslist#tabs=0
5	Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi MSc. Nerina Baçi	**Dervishi, S.,** & Baçi, N. (2023). Early design evaluation of low-rise school building morphology on energy performance: Climatic contexts of Southeast Europe. Energy, 269. **Article link** https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2023.126790 **About this journal** https://journals.elsevier.com/energy%20 **About the index** https://journalinsights.elsevier.com/journals/0360-5442/impact_factor
6	Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi Dr. Ina Dervishi MSc. Nerina Baçi	Baçi, N., Dervishi, I., & Dervishi, S. Reflections on the Environmental Control Studio: Sustainability in architectural education, encompassing both the building and urban scale. In *BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS* (p. 28).
7	Dr. Ina Dervishi	**2022| Energy performance optimisation of traditional housing in Mediterranean climate** JOURNAL OF BUILDING ENGINEERING ([Oxford]: Elsevier Ltd.) pp. - ISSN: 2352-7102 - wos: WOS:000714601900003 (8) - Scopus: 2-s2.0-85122503669 (11)
8	Dr. Ina Dervishi	2023| Reflections on the Environmental Control Studio: Sustainability in architectural education, encompassing both the building and urban scale BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS: 2023 IFEES/GEDC/Epoka Conference
9	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa	Manahasa, E., & **Manahasa, O**. (2023). The role of landmarks in shaping Tirana's urban identity: the shift from socialist to post-socialist city. *European Planning Studies*, 1-30. **Article link** https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09654313.2023.2249508 **About this journal** https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjpd20/current **About the index** https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=journalMetrics&journalCode=ceps20

10	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa	Manahasa O., Bilaj O., Manahsa E., The Physical Environment And Its Influence On Crime And Fear Of Crime In The Heterogeneous Context Of 'Astir' Neighborhood. "New York - Livable Cities" AMPS and City Tech. June 14-16, 2023
11	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa	An Observation of Socialist Period Upper-Class Multifamily Housing in the Tirana Central Zone. Manahasa, E., & Karamuça, B., International Conference: "Challenges in the Western Balkans: Infrastructure and Development in the Region" IFEES/GEDC/EPOKA Conference 2023 March 29-30, 2023, Tirana-Albania
12	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Urban Identity in Post-Socialist Durrës: The Role of Urban Layers. Manahasa, E., Dizdari, J., AMPS Conference- New York Livable Cities, New York City College of Technology, June 14-16, 2023, NY-USA
13	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa	**Manahasa, E.** (2023). Revisiting the Ottoman Period Mosques in Albania: A Critical Observation on Late Interventions. In *Europe's Islamic Legacy: 1900 to the Present* (pp. 130-156). Brill. Article link https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004510722_008 About this publisher https://bap.aydin.edu.tr/files/ABCDE-indeling%20Scientific%20Publishers%20SENSE_approved_May_2009.pdf About the index https://bap.aydin.edu.tr/files/ABCDE-indeling%20Scientific%20Publishers%20SENSE_approved_May_2009.pdf
	Dr. Fabio Naselli	Naselli F., Tufina K. (2022) TIRANA-NEXT: UNA RICERCA PILOTA SUGLI STRATI URBANI DELLA CITTÀ, LaborEst n. 25/2022. Doi: 10.19254/LaborEst.25.06. Article link http://pkp.unirc.it/ojs/index.php/LaborEst/article/view/927 Journal link http://pkp.unirc.it/ojs/index.php/LaborEst
	Dr. Fabio Naselli Dr. Anna Yunitsyna	**Naselli F**., Yunitsyna A., Gambardella C., Sapio V. (2022) SUSTAINABILITY IN THE 3D PRINTING OF HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS CODESIGN PROCESSES, Beyond All Limits. Proceedings of International Conference on Sustainability in Architecture, Planning, and Design, 11-12, 13 May 2022, Dadi-Press, Naples (Italy).

		ISBN: 978-88-85556-23-2 **Web link** https://beyondalllimits22.com/proceedings/
	Dr. Fabio Naselli	Andreassi F., Bellone C.B., Naselli F. (2023) LA FIBRA OTTICA TRA PIANO E CONOSCENZA ISTITUZIONALE: IL CASO DI MILANO, Archivio Di Studi Urbani E Regionali 136/2023, pp 100-122. FrancoAngeli, Milano (Italy). DOI: 10.3280/ASUR2023-136005 Article link https://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/articolo/73018 Journal link https://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario/3/archivio-di-studi-urbani-e-regionali
	Dr. Fabio Naselli	Naselli F., Dine S. (2022) URBAN TACTICS FOR THE THIRD LANDSCAPE. THE CASE OF TIRANA, Journal of Applied Sciences-SUT Vol. 8, No. 15-16/2022, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Tetova, Republic of North Macedonia. ISSN: 1857-9930 (Print) ISSN: 2671-3047 (Online) Article link https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bNSN-g_h2NmRehE4G48Suac-iIVbDs94/view?pli=1 Journal link https://sites.google.com/unite.edu.mk/jas-sut/home?authuser=0
	Dr. Fabio Naselli	Muja A., **Naselli F.** (2023) INTEGRATING HUMAN SCALE DEVELOPMENTS IN LARGE SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE: "NEW RAILWAY DURRES-TIRANA-TIA", Proceedings Book of the "Challenges in the Western Balkans: Infrastructure and Development in the Region" International Conference 2023, 29-30 March 2023, Epoka University, Tirana, Albania. **ISBN**: 978-9928-135-40-7

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

Assoc.Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa

- MODERN MOVEMENT, POLITICS-SOCIETY-HOUSING‘ 27.04. - 30.04. 2023 | Frankfurt am Main.

The conference aimed to contribute to the international discourse in Germany by incorporating experiences and examples from other European nations into the discussion. To that purpose, the conference was co-hosted by the COST-Action Middle Class Mass Housing (MCMH-EU), of which I was invited to represent Albania, and featured a central plenary opening at Paulskirche as well as parallel sessions in German and English.

- New York – Livable Cities, A Conference on Issues Affecting Life in Cities, June 14-16, 2023.

The design of our neighbourhoods and buildings is linked to studies on health, happiness, and the 'economics' of healthy cities. Crime and public safety, in turn, influence design through practises such as defensible space. This was the topic on which we spoke at the conference, using the work of one of my former students who worked in the "Astir" neighbourhood. The conference was held in New York, where a pleasant and scholarly environment fostered fruitful debates regarding livable cities.

- Training School :Ageing in the city, independent living and social participation in age-friendly smart places and spaces.

For me as a trainee, the training school NET4AGE Friendly school in Tirana associated with CA19136- NET4Age-Friendly has offered opportunities for expanding knowledge of social research methods within the methodological spectrum in order to increase urban actors; awareness about the raising of ageing within urban environments. Given the diverse backgrounds of trainees, the training school introduced every participant to the technological and spatial characteristics of the age-friendly cities. At the same time, through site visits, workshops, and spatial experiences, the aim of the training school was to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable" for the older population.

- STSM :CA18137 – MCMH-EU European Middle Class Mass Housing, Quality Assessment of Outdoor Spaces of a Middle-Class Mass Housing in Vitry-sur-Seine, Paris-France, 4-15 September 2023.

The aim of this study is to measure the Outdoor Quality of mass housing apartment blocks based on the perceive of their inhabitants. The quality assessment of the dwellings is conducted by analyzing their outdoor in both physical and social features. The methodology used in the research includes archival research to obtain the historical drawings and literature, survey to measure the quality assessment of housing and data processing to interpret the results of the questionnaire. The questionnaire is semi-structured including both closed-ended and open-ended questions.

Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

Conferences

- **Shtepani, E., Yunitsyna, A., (2023)**

UNIVERSALITY OF HOUSING DESIGN: THE CASE OF PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC.

Proceedings of the International Conference: “Challenges in the Western Balkans: Infrastructure and Development in the Region” IFEES/GEDC/EPOKA Conference 2023, Tirana, Albania, March 29-30 March 2023

ISBN: 978-9928-135-40-7

https://epoka.edu.al/conferences/bccce/2020/docs/BCCCE_20 20_Book_of_Proceedings.pdf

EPOKA University of Albania hosted the IFEES/GEDC Conference on “Challenges in the Western Balkans: Infrastructure and Development in the Region" on the 28th-29th of March 2023. This milestone scientific event was partnered with two distinguished global engineering organizations: the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC) and the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES). This innovative international conference gathered academics, industry leaders, researchers, students, governmental bodies, and non-governmental organizations to address the multidimensional challenges triggered by the post-pandemic Covid-19 global economic recession affecting worldwide and regional Western Balkan development with case-to-case country patterns of development idiosyncrasies.

- **Cenaj, A., Yunitsyna, A., (2023)**

DESIGN METHOD AUTOMATION FOR DETACHED HOUSE LAYOUT OPTIMIZATION

Proceedings of the International Conference: “Challenges in the Western Balkans: Infrastructure and Development in the Region” IFEES/GEDC/EPOKA Conference 2023, Tirana, Albania, March 29-30 March 2023

ISBN: 978-9928-135-40-7

https://epoka.edu.al/conferences/bccce/2020/docs/BCCCE_20 20_Book_of_Proceedings.pdf

EPOKA University of Albania hosted the IFEES/GEDC Conference on “Challenges in the Western Balkans: Infrastructure and Development in the Region" on the 28th-29th of March 2023. This milestone scientific event was partnered with two distinguished global engineering organizations: the Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC) and the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES). This innovative international conference gathered academics, industry leaders, researchers, students, governmental bodies, and non-governmental organizations to address the multidimensional challenges triggered by the post-pandemic Covid-19 global economic recession affecting worldwide and regional Western Balkan development with case-to-case country patterns of development idiosyncrasies.

- **Shtepani, E., Yunitsyna, A., (2023)**

APPLICATION OF 3D PRINTING FOR THE PARAMETRIC MODELS FABRICATION IN THE ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

Proceedings of 1st International Conference on Frontiers in Academic Research, Konya, Turkey, February 18-21, 2023

ISBN: 978-605-72325-5-7

https://as-proceeding.com/index.php/icfar/article/view/60

ICFAR 2023 was organized by All Science Academy located in Konya, Turkey. Three cooperating organizations supported the four-day conference. There were 302 papers accepted for presentation at ICFAR 2023, contributed from different countries. We had plenary speeches and several well-known scientists and experts, to give invited talks at different sessions. The purpose of ICFAR 2023 was to provide a forum for the participants to report and review innovative ideas, with up-to-date progress and developments, and discuss novel approaches to the application in the field of their own research areas and discuss challenges of doing science.

MSc. Nerina Baçi

"2023 IFEES/GEDC/EPOKA" -Participation in the conference organized by EPOKA University in collaboration with IFES&GEDC, 29-30 March
Topic: Reflections on the Environmental Control Studio: Sustainability in architectural education, encompassing both the building and urban scale.

Projects

Dr. Ina Dervishi

Component in Research Project| 2022

FROM FACTORIES TO "WORKSHOPS FOR KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION" 'Learning Center Network' and former industrial heritage of Lower Lazio: reuse strategies
Responsible: Maura Percoco
Research funded through Sapienza University

Name Surname of Staff	Dr. Anna Yunitsyna,
COST Action No	CA18137
COST Action Title	European Middle-Class Mass Housing (MCMH-EU)
COST Action Chair:	Prof Ana Cristina Fernandes Vaz Milheiro
Your role/position in the COST Action	MC Member
Duration of the Action	• Start of Action - 27.04.2023 • End of Action - 30.04.2023
Short Description (100-150 words):	The main challenge of this Cost Action is to create a transnational network that gathers European researchers carrying studies on Middle-Class Mass Housing (MCMH) built in Europe since the 1950s. This network will allow the development new scientific approaches by discussing, testing, and assessing case studies and their different methodologies and perspectives. MCMH has been generally underestimated in urban and architectural studies and there is still a lack of comparative analysis and global perspectives. The number of transnational publications and scientific meetings has also been scarce. By crossing different approaches focus on Architecture, Urbanism, Planning, Public Policies, History, Sociology new concepts and methodologies will arise. Therefore, the Action aims to produce a wider understanding of MCMH sprawl, deepening on-going research and focussing on the existing case studies. The current methodologies, surveys, catalogue, and contextualization allow an initial mapping of relevant case studies, their diverse degrees

	of resilience and how they have been adapted to current (urban and social) conditions. It is intended to develop the knowledge of the interaction between spatial forms, behaviours, and satisfaction and to combine methodologies of architectural and social analyses.

E. Support, Resources & Representation

-

List of Students' Internships

-

Participation in Academic Events

For each research publication provide the full reference associated by a short summary of 100 words max.
For participation in Academic Events, include international/ national conferences, workshops, trainings, roundtables etc. Similarly, provide full references and a short summary (100 words max) of each activity.

Research Projects

(Write a paragraph for each project applied and/ or awarded highlighting the area of the project, members, targeted group, grant used, expected outcomes). Associate the text with at least one picture.

Industry Projects

(Write a paragraph for each project highlighting the area of the project, members, targeted group, grant used, expected outcomes). Associate the text with at least one picture.

Community Projects

(Write a paragraph for each project highlighting the area of the project, members, targeted group, grant used, expected outcomes). Associate the text with at least one picture.

Student Club Projects

(Write a paragraph for each project highlighting the area of the project, members, targeted group, grant used, expected outcomes). Associate the text with at least one picture.

Student Best Success Stories

(Choose up to five best student success stories and write one to two paragraphs for each. Associate the text with a picture of the student)

Office Holders

The department would like to thank the following for their valuable contribution to teaching, administration, and management over the past year:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa (Head of the Department of Architecture)
Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi (Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Engineering)
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa
Dr. Anna Yunitsyna
Dr. Paolo Camilletti
Dr. Fabio Naselli
Dr. Egin Zeka
Dr. Ina Dervishi
MSc. Kreshnik Merxhani
MSc. Nerina Baçi
MSc. Manjola Logli
Coordinator Ms. Edona Gerbeti

Acknowledgements

In addition to the Office Holders listed above, the department would like to thank all the offices for their collaboration in making this department offer all the facilities needed for the students.

Department of Architecture

Epoka University
Rr. Tirane- Rinas, Km. 12 , 1039, Tirane/Albania
Phone: +355 4 2232 086
Fax: +355 4 2222 117
Email: info@epoka.edu.al