

ANNUAL REPORT

01 September 2023 – 15 August 2024



Annual Report

01 September 2023 – 15 August 2024

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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
- PhD ARCH – Doctoral program in Architecture

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 Albania 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 graduated with bachelor and master’s degree from Middle East Technical University in 2005 and 2008 respectively. She 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 (since 2012) 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 in "Urban Design" and "Advanced Design Studios". Furthermore, he does research with master students in the field of urbanism. Zeka received his bachelor's degree in urban and Regional Planning [2009], master's 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 Architettura [2018]; Team leader in “100+ Villages Academy”, Lot 10 [2018].

Dr. Joana Dhiamandi

Joana Dhiamandi is an Architect, Glass Artist, and lecturer in Architecture and Design. She holds a Ph.D. in Architecture and Urban Planning and serves as a full-time lecturer of Architecture at Epoka University. She has worked on interdisciplinary projects for more than 10 years, working to engage communities and develop a common platform for discussion in art, architecture and design.

Dr. Ina Dervishi

Mrs. Ina Osmani graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Middle East Technical University in 2012 and a master’s degree from Epoka University in 2014. From that time, she has been 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 on Traditional Architecture and is distinguished for his writings, artistic photos and for restoration and re-implementation projects. Since 2008, he has been 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 projects that he was co-author and some activities of former organization that Merxhani was part of, are nominated and be shortlisted 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 exhibitions 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.

MSc. Anisa Cenaj

Ms. Anisa Cenaj was awarded a Master of Science degree in Architecture from Epoka University in 2023. From that time onward, she has been teaching at Epoka University Architectural Design and Graphic Communication courses. She has been part of many conferences during her student journey, but also after she started to work to EPOKA University.

MSc. Katjana Boriçi

Ms. Katjana Boriçi was awarded a Master of Science degree in Architecture from Epoka University in 2023. From that time onward, she has been teaching at Epoka University Architectural Design and other courses. Throughout her university journey, she engaged in numerous group projects, which deepened her understanding of teamwork and improved the interpersonal skills through enjoyable social interactions. Additionally, she had the opportunity to undertake two internships at architectural studios, granting insights into the real-world working dynamics of the industry.

MSc. Manjola Logli

Manjola Logli is an architect and assistant lecturer based in Tirana, Albania. With a background in both professional practice and academia, Logli's areas of interest extend to the environment and user behaviors, user well-being and the interaction between sustainability and design regarding socio-cultural dimension, spanning the latter one on a larger scale, in that of livable communities. Recently, she has participated in a research on the well-being and cognitive functions of senior residents focused on retirement homes in Tirana, Albania.

Part time Academic Staff

Dr. Amanda Tërpo

As an urban planner with complex experience involved in many national projects such as the drafting process for the LDP operating in more than 4 municipalities. The delivery of the SDP for the urban-rural localities of Albania, and part of the team for Tirana's first SUMP plan. Her experience in being involved in dynamic processes such as project writing, curricula drafting, active management, and Research projects are among my skill set. As a program coordinator and Vice-dean of the FUPEM overseeing more than 25 professionals and guiding important processes for more than three years have continuously increased my management abilities. Finally, her continued pursuit of knowledge was finalized in my Doctorate studies in ST and mobility.

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 Course in Epoka University and at the same time is part of the "Accademia"- Autodesk Training Center Albania and Kosovo.

MSc. Joli Mitrojorgji

Joli holds a Master of Science degree of Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Tirana, Faculty of Architecture, and a Professional Master degree in Architectural Design from the University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain.

In 2017 she successfully participated and completed DIPLOMAzia2, a training course for young professionals on Cultural Heritage, held by CNR Italy.

Since 2014 she works at the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (NICH), holding several positions over the years and gaining professional experience in the restoration of vernacular architecture, ancient-medieval architecture, trainings of young professionals and communication with international organisations by the Regional Center for Conservation and Restoration of the South-Eastern Europe (NICH). At the moment, she holds the position of Director of the Directorate of Monuments of Culture by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage.

She has an extended experience and knowledge on the research, protection, restoration and management of cultural heritage in Albania, and currently holds the position of Director of the Directorate of Monuments of Culture by the National Institute of Cultural Institute.

Beside the professional aspect, she is engaged in the academic field as a part-time lecturer at the Polytechnic University of Tirana, author and coauthor of different research articles and publications on cultural heritage.

She is extending her field of expertise concerning cultural heritage and recently she has been licensed as a Certified Interpretive Planner and officially represents Albania as a Country Coordinator for Interpretive Europe.

MSc. Redion Spaho

Mr. Redion Spaho was awarded a Master of Science degree in Architecture from Epoka University in 2018. From that time onward, he has been engaged as an architect and project manager in different institutions. He also participated in many trainings during the time he studied at Epoka University, and exhibitions outside the university.

MSc. Dritan Bratko

Mr. Dritan Bratko is a highly 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. Aleks Shtjefni

Aleks Shtjefni is an architect, with over 15 years of experience in architectural design, and urban planning. He earned his Master degree in Architecture in 2011 from Albanian University. In 2020, he completed a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Tirana, focusing on ventilated facades. From 2009 to 2017, he held roles at architecture firms and NGOs, contributing to the design of urban plans, cultural facilities, and residential spaces. Since 2017, Aleks has founded his architecture practice Tharm

Architects, leading projects across residential, industrial, tourist, and urban sectors, including adaptive reuse and interior design. Involved in several national and international competitions, exhibitions and awards, he is a two-time winner of the Balkan Architectural Biennale, 3rd Prize in 2021 and 2nd Prize in 2023, Iconic Awards: Innovative Architecture '23, BIG SEE '21, SHARE Future Projects Awards 2020 Finalist, Golden Trezzini '21, Art in Public Spaces '22. Parallel to his professional practice, Aleks has been an assistant lecturer at Epoka University since 2023, teaching Architectural Design III and IV, and adjunct professor at the Polytechnic University of Tirana since 2024, focusing on Studio Design IV. Also, he has held open lectures at several universities.

MSc. Efris Filipi

Mr. Filipi is a skilled architect and urban planner with a robust educational background and extensive professional experience. He graduated with a degree in architecture in 2016 from Epoka University in Albania and earned a Master of Science in Urban Management and Development from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, one of the top 3% universities worldwide. He brings over three years of strategic planning expertise in city development and currently serves as an Urban Planner at the Municipality of Tirana for more than 3 years at one of Europe's fastest-developing cities, where he focuses on city zoning and development permits. Additionally, Mr. Filipi owns a series of accredited specializations from prestigious institutions such as Harvard University and Lund University. Beyond his professional roles, he is engaged in academia as a lecturer and provides architectural consulting services, with a particular focus on residential and hospitality projects.

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.

MSc. Klevis Zaimaj

Klevis Zaimaj is an architect with a diverse academic and professional background, blending multiple disciplines and experiences across various institutions and countries. His career is characterized by a passion for creative challenges, with a strong focus on adapting to the evolving demands of architecture.

Having been exposed to a broad range of projects across different sectors, both locally and internationally, Klevis has developed a keen ability to learn quickly and contribute meaningfully to each project he is involved in. His role as a project manager has allowed him to oversee projects from the initial design phase all the way through to their implementation, providing him with a comprehensive understanding of the entire project lifecycle.

In addition to his professional expertise, Klevis has taught at the Faculty of Urbanism and Architecture, where he has been involved in design studio instruction. This teaching experience further enriches his perspective on

architecture and urban planning. Looking ahead, he is eager to expand his career into the public sector, where he hopes to apply his skills in architecture and urban planning to address larger-scale urban challenges.

MSc. Orjana Balla

Orjana Balla an architect with 10 years of experience, with 6 years of international experience, working in complex, medium/large-scale projects, including mixed-use, residential, educational building, civic projects, and general local plans. Currently employed as a junior architect in an international architecture studio, having responsibilities in delivering projects from the tendering phase, concept idea to executive detailed design phase. Part of the artistic direction head team. On-site supervision, is another responsibility given to her directing some of the most important projects the studio is developing in Tirana city. She is highly versatile and accustomed to working independently and remotely, and she has successfully coordinated and completed multiple submission packages and coordinated consultants/site engineers on a regular basis. She is accustomed on working intensively, delivering materials in a rapid project schedule. Communication, group work, ability to adapt into multi-cultural environments is another strong suit. She has been mentioned in many international architectural websites while being part of the design team on many projects from the research, design, detailing and publication phase. She is always eager to explore and find new opportunities that help me develop myself professionally. She is open to new alternatives and challenges, as am always diligent to learn, develop, improve new skills.

MSc. Gerti Shametaj

Gerti Shametaj, based in Tirana, AL, is currently a Part-time Lecturer at Epoka University. Gerti Shametaj brings experience from previous roles at Gener 2. Gerti Shametaj holds a 1997 - 2002 Universiteti Politeknik i Tiranës. Gerti Shametaj has 2 emails on RocketReach.

MSc. Nesila Hajdini

Professional architect with more than 10 years of experience in architectural design, interior and urban design in national and international studios.

Expertise: Architectural design, critical thinking and project management.

Founder of the startup Pikark.com, the Albanian platform dedicated to architecture and design, as the ultimate architectural source of information.

From September 2019, working as a free lancer architect, focused in interior design projects which include apartments, offices, pilate & yoga studio and clinic.

Great management and communication skills, developed during throughout the various work experience from architecture studios to building a startup.

Education : Master in Barcelona, Spain and Architectural Design bachelor degree in Istanbul, Turkey

Part of Oficina business accelerator in 2016-2017

Winner of the Idea business competition, November 2018

Academic Visitors (2023-2024)

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 the 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 Expenditure Summary

- *Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture*

-Income and various financing for **Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture** during the 2023-2024 academic year:

Income (in Euro)	2023-2024
Tuition fees for and during studies	672,277.96
TOTAL	672,277.96

-Expenditures for **Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture** during the 2023-2024 academic year:

	2023-2024		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	414,801.06	87,050.91	54,714.00
Total	414,801.06	87,050.91	54,714.00

- *Master of Science in Architecture*

-Income and various financing for **Msc in Architecture** Study Program during the 2023-2024 year:

Income (in Euro)	2023-2024
Tuition fees for and during studies	3,411.41
TOTAL	3,411.41

-Expenditures for **Msc in Architecture** Study Program during the 2023-2024 academic year:

	2023-2024		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investments
Tuition and other student fees	1,455.44	1,074.70	675.48

Total	1,455.44	1,074.70	675.48
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IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

1. Infrastructure in Service to Study Programs, Logistics and other Services towards the Community

ICTC Office Services:

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 and provides the following services:



Chart 2: ICTCO Services

Teaching Services:

- **Turnitin** software helps users to understand and avoid plagiarism and develop their understanding of how to cite sources as part of an academic argument. ICTC office manages the users and trains 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 instructors can login to 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 publish their 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 in order 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 syllabuses.

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. The e-wallet application is active for staff but has not started yet for students.

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 to the Microsoft Program which is called Dream Spark. It supports technical education by providing access to Microsoft software for learning, teaching and research purposes. 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 on the campus. As ICTCO, we ensure that the wireless signal is strong and covers everywhere on campus.
- **Wired:** Besides wireless, there are three PC labs, one Civil Engineering lab, one Electronics lab, one PhD study room and a library where PCs serve students and staff 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 wired internet and electricity for their laptops.
- **Digital Signage:** There are four TVs on campus, which 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, enrolment, 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 the 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 the 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’s 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

Premises for the Faculties_FEAS	Quantity	Surface (m²)
Auditoria/Classrooms for lectures	7	955.9
Classrooms for seminars	9	871.6
Premises for promotion activities	1	128
Classrooms for course/professional practice	5	496.6
Laboratories for courses	5	496.6
Informatics laboratories	4	218.7
Internet Room	4	218.7
Library Hall	1	400
Premises for photocopying, bookshop etc.	1	33.6
Student information office	2	71
Corridors/halls	12	1426.4
Sports premises	4	2100
Premises for service to third parties	1	56
Restrooms (WC) for students	20	138.5

Total Surface		7611.6
Ratio m²/students	7611.6 m² / 1384 std = 5.5 m²/std	
Premises for personnel:	Quantity	Surface
Offices for the Dean/Vice-Dean	1	32
Office for the Administrator	1	22.5
Office for Vice Rector	1	31.5
Offices for the Department Coordinators	1	60.8
Offices for departments/research centres	4	36.2
Offices for the academic personnel	14	347.2
Office for the Finance Office	2	37
Office for the Internal Quality Assurance Unit	1	13
Meeting rooms	2	27.5
Premises for service personnel	8	143
Premises for the activities of the Student Council	1	30
Recreation premises:cafeteria/fast food/ restaurant	2	537
Restrooms (WC) for academic personnel	11	64.7
Total Surface		1382.4
Ratio m² per person	1382.4 m² / 89 pers = 15.53	

Nr of Student for FAE = 1384

Administrative and FAE-Academic Personnel = 89

During the academic year 2023-2024, 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.

Classes used during the 2023-2024 academic year.

No.	Name of the Class	Surface (m ²)	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
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Auditoriums used during the 2023-2024 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 system 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.

Laboratories used during the 2023-2024 academic 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

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.

EPOKA University has a conference hall with a surface of 128 m² 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 m² and a capacity of 300 persons.

LIBRARY

The Epoka University Library, which is located on the first floor of A-Building in the Rinas Campus, 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 a 400 square meters area of use. Our University Library is composed of the entrance, Library 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.

We collaborate 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 Library Unit and Documentation, the library has a total of about 25000 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 not-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 free to our students and academic staff.

Every member of Epoka staff can access JSTOR's collections by going to <http://www.jstor.org/> and searching or browsing for content.

Using the Library

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

Through the catalog search computers in the library; you can search author name, book name, and publisher, topic, or keyword areas.

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 subcategories 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 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 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															
Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
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	52	0	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 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 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
Semestral Total				16	8	0	24	20	256	132	0	352	10	750	30
Fourth Semester															
Fourth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
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	52	0	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
Semestral Total				16	8	0	24	20	256	132	0	352	10	750	30
Third YEAR															
Fifth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
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	52	0	100	5
ARCH 381	Structural Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	77	0	125	5
Semestral Total				16	8	0	20	20	240	128	0	330	52	750	30
Sixth Semester															
Sixth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
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
Semestral Total				16	8	0	20	20	240	128	0	330	52	750	30
Fourth YEAR															
Seventh Semester															
COURSES		Course	Compulsory	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total

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															
Code	Course Name	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
ARCH 402	Advanced Design Studio II	B	Compulsory	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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
Semestral Total				16	4	0	20	18	256	64	0	430	0	750	30
Fifth YEAR															
Ninth Semester															
COURSES															
Code	Course Name	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
ARCH 505	Special Topics in Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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
Semestral Total				14	2	0	13	15	224	32	0	494	0	750	30
Tenth Semester															
COURSES															
Code	Course Name	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
ARCH 310	Summer Practice at Construction Site	D	Compulsory	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	ECTS
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
Semestral 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 Distribution				Course Total	Epok a Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours					EC TS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total			Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	
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 Distribution				Course Total	Epok a Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours					EC TS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total			Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	
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 Distribution				Course Total	Epok a Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours					EC TS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total			Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	
ARCH 501	Supervised Independent Study and Research	B	Compulsory	3	2	0	5	4	48	32	0	220	0	300	12

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 Distribution				Course Total	Epok Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours					EC TS	
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	0	450	0	450	18
ARCH 598	Professional Practice at Construction Site	D	Compulsory	0	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	0	150	0	150	6
Semestral Total				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	750	0	750	30

List of Elective courses

Courses		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Distribution				Course Total	Epok Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours					EC TS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total			Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	
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
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D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

Undergraduate Students' List of Theses

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

Student: MARIKA METRA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: RHYTHM OF MODERNIZATION AND CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT IN TIRANA: "OLD BAZAAR" CASE

Supervisor: Dr. Joana Dhiamandi

Thesis Summary: The thesis will focus on the metropolitan city of Albania, Tirana in particular its journey through the years and the effect of modernization in Tirana's cultural enhancement. The initial discussion begins with the rhythm of modernization as key understanding in the effect of modernization in Tirana. The Old Bazaar of Tirana was a testament to the rich history and cultural heritage of the city.

This study investigates the multiple dynamics of modernization in Tirana, Albania and its significant impact on the preservation of cultural monuments, with a particular focus on the Old Bazaar. Tirana is experiencing rapid urban development and rapid economic growth, and its cityscape is changing, embodying the rhythm of progress. However, this culmination of modernization is not without consequences, as it comes with the contradictory caveat of loss of cultural heritage. This study uses a multidisciplinary approach that integrates urban planning, historical analysis, and sociocultural perspectives to uncover the complex interactions between development initiatives and the preservation of cultural identity. Through an in-depth examination of the Old Bazaar, an enclave of historical and cultural significance, this study highlights the challenges faced by traditional buildings in the face of urban renewal and commercial expansion. This study aims to shed light on the often-overlooked tension between modernization and cultural preservation by investigating the motivations and decision-making processes behind the destruction of cultural monuments.

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Furthermore, the impact of such changes on the collective memory and identity of Tirana residents, as well as on the broader sociocultural landscape, is analyzed. The results of this study contribute to the ongoing debate on sustainable urban development and the need for a balanced approach that takes into account both economic progress and cultural heritage preservation. By understanding the complex dynamics between modernization and cultural preservation in Tirana, policy makers, urban planners and local communities can strive to balance the two and ensure that the city's rich history and cultural fabric are preserved. We can ensure that we remain viable in the future.

Keywords: Modernization, cultural enhancement, heritage preservation, urban development, Old Bazaar, Tirana, Albania

Student: KLEA HOXHALLARI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD GENERATION IN THE NEW BOULEVARD OF TIRANA

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa

Co-supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fabio Naselli

Thesis Summary: In recent decades, the scale of urbanization has grown significantly, resulting in most of the globe's people living in urban regions. Because of these rapid expansions, the cities are now facing new urban challenges, such as traffic congestion, resource depletion, infrastructure strain, and environmental degradation. Such is the case of Tirana, the capital of Albania, as it is the densest city of the country, and according to statistics, one of the most polluted ones in Europe with a very low quality of life index. To solve these issues created by rapid urbanization, architects and designers need to simultaneously address and take into consideration multiple design factors that require energy, time, money, and experience. Generative Design can serve as a tool to help urban designers and architects navigate different design options while instantaneously considering a multitude of planning aspects such as walkability, accessibility to public spaces, carbon emissions, solar gain, green areas, etc. This study focused on the New Boulevard of Tirana which is currently being developed according to the Grimshaw Masterplan. This research intended to explore the generative design framework by applying it to the selected area to see the applicability of this process in the Albanian context. The urban analyses were conducted by using ArcGIS. Three scenarios were generated using Autodesk Forma and then were compared to the Grimshaw proposal in terms of area metrics, daylight potential, microclimate conditions, and solar energy potential. The proposed framework aims to assist urban designers and architects in making better design decisions.

Keywords: Urban design, Sustainable neighborhoods, generative design

Student: DANJA HYSI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: STUDENT HOUSING IN TIRANA: INTEGRATING PARAMETRIC ELEMENTS

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa

Co-supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fabio Naselli

Thesis Summary: The number of students enrolling in colleges or universities to further their education has gone up recently. There appears to be a strong demand for student housing based on this phenomenon. Every year, Tirana becomes a hot spot for the large influx of students from all across the country, which causes the city to have a high population density. The lack of appropriate housing options is one of the main issues students face. There are only three existing public dormitories that offer minimal living conditions at the moment. Even with the promise of a recently constructed student residence, its position on the outskirts of the city presents a considerable distance from academic institutions and the city center. This project aims to design a student housing complex in a strategic location, specifically targeting "Lady of Good Council University" as the site for this endeavor. Despite its location within the campus, the residence will be open to all students and the community. To comprehend functional dynamics and standard regulations, a thorough analysis of case studies and research articles on dormitory design is pursued. After choosing the site, a questionnaire is undertaken to understand the spatial demands of the students within the campus. The collected data is used as a starting point for the design process of a project that implements parametric elements to create an innovative living environment that enhances the quality of student life.

Keywords: Parametric elements, Student Residence, University/City, Social Inclusivity, Student Well-being

Student: ANASTASIA MEMA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: *A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE THERMAL COMFORT IN TIRANAS' URBAN SPACES: SKANDERBEG SQUARE.*

Supervisor: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa*

Co-supervisor: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fabio Naselli*

Thesis Summary: Due to the rapid and ever-growing urbanization of the city of Tirana, the Urban Heat Island effect, that is the city's unavoidable curse, has been affecting the inhabitants lives by preventing them to frequent outdoor activities due to the unbearable temperatures and discomfort. To address this issue many cities have already put in place implementations that have helped mitigate the issue even if by just a little bit. After analysing and studying various case studies and related literature from different countries around the world, we can see that every country cools down their public spaces by different methods and designs according to its respective climate and culture. After having studied some good practices, this research aims to select an effective combination of materials, shapes and cooling methods, in order to design an urban installation to be potentially implemented in the central square of Tirana, the Skanderbeg Square. After a deep analysis of the outcomes of case studies, the factors contributing to their success were identified and similarly, the eventual limitations in performing at their best. This thesis acknowledges the current discomfort that pedestrians experience while walking through Skanderbeg Square or even while doing each activity during the summer season and aims to lower the Urban Heat Island effect to make it more comfortable for the users.

Keywords: urban heat island, excess in lighting, comfortable urban living, outdoor cooling methods, outdoor shading methods.

Student: *Dorotea Bregu [Spring 2023-2024]*

Thesis Title: *Documenting Rural Architecture In Bënja Village: Reconstruction Scenarios For Houses Destroyed In Wwii*

Supervisor: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa*

Co-supervisor: *MSc. Kreshnik Merxhani*

Thesis Summary: The scientific research aims to conduct a study and documentation of rural architecture in the village of Bënja, Përmet. The research includes an examination of the historical center of the village, focusing on its functional, social, and cultural organization across different historical periods. Furthermore, the study delves into construction techniques, materials, and the functional organization of old houses from the village's founding to the present day.

The primary objective is to document the current state of buildings in the area, identifying modifications made over time. To achieve this, architectural surveys were carried out on several houses within the historical center of the village, as well as a topographical survey of the entire village. The next step involved drawing detailed floor plans and facades, followed by the generation of comprehensive three-dimensional visual models. These steps facilitate a thorough analysis of the architectural aspects and spatial dynamics of the village, contributing to a detailed understanding of the studied area.

In conjunction with the architectural survey, a detailed exploration of the village's cultural and historical significance was undertaken. This included gathering information on local traditions, customs, and community narratives to provide context for understanding the observed architectural changes. Integrating socio-cultural dimensions enhances the overall comprehension of the village's history and residential structures, resulting in a comprehensive examination of the targeted region

Keywords: Cultural heritage, Rural Architecture, traditional dwellings, Bënja Village, Historical Center, Ottoman-era architecture.

Student: FIONA ORUCI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF DESIGNING URBAN SPACES WITH CHILDREN: CO-DESIGN THROUGH PLAY.

Supervisor: Dr. Amanda Tërpo

Thesis Summary: The role of urban design in influencing the experiences and identities of children is

the most important goal that can be aimed for in today's reality. Play has a crucial role in shaping the design of urban spaces. It is also vital that policies and decision-makers prioritize and support affordable gaming opportunities. Participation-focused design approaches, both traditional and digital, allow children to investigate their urban environments at different levels. However, the actual implementation of this practice is very limited and further investigation is needed to address barriers in co-design methods for urban research with children. This study aims to evaluate current methods for incorporating children's needs into urban planning and provide suggestions for decision makers, planners and neighborhood associations to improve child-friendly spaces in urban environments. Innovative co-planning strategies are studied for children aged 7 to 12, as this age group has a perfect combination of maximum creativity and maximum cooperation.

Keywords: *Children, urban design, urban spaces, children's needs, design through play child-friendly spaces.*

Student: ERMELA PALLA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF SOCIALIST SILICA BRICK MULTIFAMILY HOUSING NEIGHBORHOOD IN TIRANA

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa

Thesis Summary: This paper studies the quality assessment of socialist silica-brick multifamily housing in Tirana. The area that is selected for this study is the silica-brick neighborhood called “Blloku Partizani” along “Muhamet Gjollësja” street, constructed in the years 1960 and 1970. The focus of the study is the analysis of the criteria that qualify the space as a qualitative environment. The research aims to assess the living environments of the “Blloku Partizani” neighborhood, both the indoor and outdoor spaces. The methodology used for this research consists of archival data collection, plan redrawing, 3D visualization, questionnaires and data analysis. The total number of questionnaires conducted is 200. The questionnaire is structured of three main parts: users’ profile, outdoor spaces and indoor spaces characteristics. The characteristics consist of both physical and social ones. The evaluation of the physical and social aspects of the outdoor spaces resulted predominantly negative, meanwhile regarding the indoor spaces these aspects resulted predominantly positive.

Keywords: *housing, silica-brick, quality assessment, Tirana.*

Student: SARA SULA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: A REVIEW OF AGRITOURISM DESIGN: THE ROLE OF ARCHITECTURE

Supervisor: Dr. Amanda Tërpo

Thesis Summary: This thesis, “Architecture Shaping Agritourism Design: Unveiling Strategies (Case Studies),” investigates the significance of architecture in agritourism development. This research examines case studies of numerous agritourism initiatives to show how better architectural designs can enhance the merging of tourism and agriculture, so fostering sustainable rural development.

This study demonstrates how design influences the use, aesthetic appeal, and sustainability of agritourism facilities by looking at architecture, farming, and tourism. Through a study of successful cases, the results highlight the important architectural methods that are essential for

maintaining rural economies, promoting ecologically friendly practices, and protecting rural cultural heritage.

The results have demonstrated that well-designed architecture not only supports agricultural activities efficiently but also improves tourist experiences, which in turn boosts tourism. These findings will be helpful to planners creating rural communities, architects designing farm structures, and policymakers operating in the agritourism industry. Because of this, this study provides a variety of recommendations aimed at regulators, architects, and agrotourism entrepreneurs, based on ideas that would enable them to uphold their traditions while embracing innovation and environmental friendliness.

In conclusion, this study extends our comprehension about agricultural land use by arguing that it needs to be conceived with four main urban component types in mind.

Keywords: Architecture, Agriculture Europe, Tourism, Set of Suggestions, Case Study Analysis.

Student: ORKIDA MALAJ_ [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: DANCER'S SPATIAL NEEDS THROUGH THE LENS OF BALLET MOVEMENT ANALYSIS: PERCEPTION OF SPACE IN THE CASE OF THE BALLET "GISELLE"

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. ODETA MANAHASA

Thesis Summary: This thesis takes inspiration from the connection between architecture and the performing arts. It explores the relationship between body movement and architectural space through the analysis of the ballet "Giselle." By integrating elements of architecture, dance, design theory, and digital arts, the aim is to evaluate whether current spatial design standards sufficiently accommodate diverse movements, analyzing this by making additions to the already used methods in studying movement and spatial organization. The methodology involves an analysis of "Giselle" performances using motion capture technology and 3D modeling. This approach is compared with traditional movement notation systems like Laban Movement Analysis and Benesh Movement Notation. The integration of motion capture provides precise, real-time data, offering a deeper understanding of how different spatial environments impact dance movements. The findings reveal differences in movement dynamics between traditional theater settings and open, obstacle-free spaces. Interviews with dancers provide qualitative insights, reinforcing the quantitative data. The results underscore the importance of designing flexible and adaptable spaces that can accommodate a wide range of movements and activities. Overall, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the interplay between architecture and the performing arts, offering new possibilities for innovative and responsive design solutions that enhance human movement and experience.

Keywords: body movement, performing arts, space interaction, architecture and choreography, motion capture, 3D modeling

Student: REDZEP CUFTA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: CREATING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH PUBLIC SPACES IN THE SUBURBAN AREA OF PRIZREN

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. ODETA MANAHASA

Co-supervisor: Assoc .Prof. Dr. FABIO NASELLI

Thesis Summary: In this research thesis we focus on the public spaces and their organization, providing

a sense of community to the residents of Jaglenica neighborhood in Prizren, improving the green spaces available to the residents. Providing a kindergarten where one is needed, cause of the lack of preschool institutions in the area. Analyzing the benefits of fruit gardens in the vicinity of kindergartens. Inclusion of residents in different leisure and sportive activities for creating a happier and healthier community.

Public space in cities is a common good, meant to be open, inclusive and democratic, a fundamental human right for everybody.[15]

Feelings of safety and security, civic participation, voting, recycling and volunteering and improved wellbeing, have all been associated with a strong sense of community.[53]

This research's aim is to be a base point for further developments in the city of

Prizren, serving as a base example for the neighborhoods where a similar approach is required. Taking into the consideration all the parts where preschool institutions and public spaces with improved green areas are need, the proposal of Jaglenica aims to serve as a universal solution throughout the city.

Keywords: Public space, Public Kindergarten, Green spaces, Sense of Community, Inclusiveness, Inhabitants Wellbeing, People Health.

Student: KEJSI FETO [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: EVALUATING UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR ACCESSIBILITY IN CITIES: A CASE STUDY OF "BOULEVARD ZOGU I" TIRANA

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: Accessibility is a fundamental issue in urban design that greatly impacts the experiences of individuals, particularly those with disabilities. This paper explores the implications of accessible and universal design principles on the experiences of individuals with disabilities in urban spaces. Investigating how these principles contribute to shaping the usability and navigability of public areas, the study addresses a critical intersection of urban planning, design, and social inclusion.

To provide empirical insights, the paper adopts on sight observation and analysis as its methodology, integrating direct observation techniques. The evaluation component targets individuals with disabilities, garnering valuable data on their subjective experiences and satisfaction levels when interacting with various urban elements designed according to inclusivity standards. Observational methods complement this self-reported data by providing objective accounts of accessibility challenges faced in real-time.

The convergence of these methodological approaches aims to produce a multifaceted understanding of how universal design principles manifest in the lived experiences of people with disabilities and influence their engagement with urban environments. Ultimately, this study seeks to inform policymakers, urban planners, and designers about the effectiveness of current universal design strategies and to foster improvements that could facilitate genuinely equitable urban spaces for all community members.

Keywords: Universal Design, Disability, Urban Space, Accessibility.

Student: AHMED KOSAN [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: FROM TRADITION TO INNOVATION: REDEFINING INTERIOR DOORS THROUGH VERNACULAR DESIGN INFLUENCES

Supervisor: Dr. Desantila Hysa

Thesis Summary: This thesis delves into incorporating vernacular architecture concepts into modern interior door design with a focus on sustainability, cultural heritage and practicality. By reimagining architectural features like using curtains instead of doors, the goal is to create sustainable contemporary doors that honor cultural roots. The research is driven by the pressing need for architectural responses to environmental issues. Through an in-depth review of literature, historical and cultural examinations and a design-oriented approach the study pinpoints traditional elements adaptable to present day design methods. The door "Sÿtre," is influenced by childhood memories and traditional hung curtain in doorways which serves as a real-world example showcasing how these principles can be put into practice. The design journey involves conceptualizing ideas selecting materials tuning technical aspects and refining through multiple iterations with an emphasis on sustainable materials like bioplastic and wood. This door blends age craftsmanship with contemporary ecological practices to produce a functional and visually appealing design. In summary this study asserts that integrating design principles into modern architecture not only improves sustainability but also nurtures a stronger connection to cultural heritage. The results indicate that ancient design wisdom can offer solutions for current architectural dilemmas by advocating for a harmonious mix of culture consciousness and environmental responsibility, in building practices. In the future researchers could investigate sustainable materials and extend the use of traditional design principles to different aspects of architecture.

Keywords: *Vernacular architecture, sustainability, interior doors, cultural heritage, hung curtains, modern design principles.*

Student: KLEA IDRIZI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY AT EPOKA UNIVERSITY: A THOROUGH EVALUATION AND DESIGN INITIATIVE FOR BUILDING A

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Co-supervisor: Assoc.Prof. Dr. FABIO NASELLI

Thesis Summary: Accessibility, defined as "the quality of being able to be reached or entered," serves everyone by removing barriers and providing equal access, which is essential for inclusivity. This study evaluates accessibility at Epoka University, focusing on the campus and Building A. Based on Universal Design principles, it ensures equal access regardless of mobility level and promotes inclusivity, highlighting the social importance of accessible design. In addition to analyzing architectural standards, this research considers the experiences of Epoka University's users to provide a comprehensive evaluation of accessibility barriers. This user-oriented approach identifies weak points and suggests improvements to create a more accessible campus, benefiting not only people with disabilities but fostering a culture of inclusiveness. The results can also serve as a reference for future construction projects in Albania, demonstrating the benefits of accessible design and raising awareness for more accessible environments in Albanian society.

Keywords: *accessibility, universal design, inclusivity, user experiences, architecture standards*

Student: SAMANTA VARAKU [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: EVALUATION OF VISUAL COMFORT AND DAYLIGHT PERFORMANCE OF "KAJO KARAFILI" UNITED HIGH SCHOOL

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Co-supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. FABIO NASELLI

Thesis Summary: Among the most important aspects of a good architectural design, daylight performs a crucial role not only in the appearance of the space but also in the psychology and well-being of occupants. Daylight is

particularly essential in environments where individuals devote the majority of their time. This research seeks to understand and evaluate daylight in different classroom design typologies in the “Kajo Karafili” United High School. Currently, there are no studies related to daylight and visual comfort in this specific school. The objective of this study is to evaluate the level of visual comfort experienced by students in the learning environment and to be able to serve as a guide for other schools. The research methodology is initiated with an observation and site survey. Classrooms of different design typologies and orientations are chosen. Additionally, computational simulations are performed to assess daylight and artificial light performance, incorporating factors such as glare, daylight factor, and illumination. The daylight satisfaction survey primarily examines the following aspects: visual comfort, glare, artificial light usage, and light control strategies. As a consequence, revisions are made to improve the overall design and impact on well-being, psychology, and level of achievement by better light optimization strategies.

Keywords: Daylight, Visual comfort, children well-being, psychology, classroom design, design standards, illumination, glare.

Student: KRISTJAN ÇOLLAKU [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: PROPOSAL FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF LLËNGË VILLAGE IN POGRADEC

Supervisor: Dr. EGIN ZEKA

Thesis Summary: The preservation and revitalization of detached and abandoned villages present unique challenges, particularly in areas where accessibility, accommodation, and service provision are often inadequate. This thesis addresses these challenges by developing a comprehensive strategy and development model for the rehabilitation of detached sacred-heritage sites, with a specific focus on the remote village of Llëngë, in Pogradec, located in the Upper Mokra region of southeastern Albania. The study begins by assessing the current conditions of the village, examining infrastructure, economic status, population trends, and cultural and historical significance. A key component of the strategy involves improving the surrounding rural area to enhance accessibility and integrating community-driven approaches to ensure sustainable development. Through a detailed analysis of the region's physical and cultural elements, this research identifies potential interventions aimed at conservation, reuse, and the sustainable development of local economies. The findings highlight the importance of considering social phenomena and the roles of various stakeholders in the rehabilitation process. By showcasing the case of Shen Marene, the thesis demonstrates how targeted interventions can preserve cultural heritage while fostering economic and social revitalization in rural areas.

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: Sacred heritage, rural context, evaluation, rural development model, reuse, conservation strategies, Shen Marene.

Student: *STELA MARTIKO [Spring 2023-2024]*

Thesis Title: *QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF HIGH-RISE MULTI-FAMILY APARTMENT BLOCKS IN POST-SOCIALIST TIRANA*

Supervisor: *Assoc. Prof. Dr. EDMOND MANAHASA*

Thesis Summary: During the post-socialist era, Tirana has faced an emergence of multi-family apartment blocks in significant parts of the city. The sudden and drastic appearance of these high-rise buildings raises questions about their impact on the urban and social aspects of the environment. This paper aims to investigate the internal and external elements of multi-family high rise buildings in two different areas of Tirana in order to provide an insight of the quality of life for residents. The study will be focusing on two specific sites which are located in “Don Bosko” Neighborhood (Vizion Plus Complex) and “Gjergj Fishta” Boulevard (Three Towers) The methodology used in the research involves site observations and measuring the quality assessment of housing through the results of a questionnaire. This investigation will analyze data which identify patterns and insights of high -rise buildings in Tirana. The results reveal that the outdoor spaces, in terms of physical aspects, were half satisfactory and half unsatisfactory; the same applies to the outdoor social aspects. In contrast, the indoor environment, both physically and socially, is perceived as satisfactory.

Keywords: *High-rise-buildings. Post-socialist era, external and internal elements, impact.*

Student: *KEJSI TOLLOZHINA [Spring 2023-2024]*

Thesis Title: *POST OCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF URBAN PUBLIC SPACES: THE CASE OF “ODEON” PARK IN POGRADEC*

Supervisor: *Dr. EGIN ZEKA*

Thesis Summary: Urban green spaces play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life in cities, offering both environmental benefits and social opportunities. This study delves into the transformative potential of these spaces, with a particular focus on Odeon Park and Rose Garden in Pogradec, Albania.

Aiming the complexities of defining sustainable urban structures and adapting to the rapid pace of urban lifestyle, these green spaces offer a unique opportunity to examine the interplay between environmental quality and social sustainability. The research employs a detailed comparative analysis of Odeon Park and Rose Garden, assessing their design, usage, and impact on the local community. The objective is to identify the conditions of these urban spaces, thereby increasing physical comfort and fostering social interaction among citizens.

By integrating questionnaire-guided interviews with residents and visitors, as well as observations and case studies of similar urban green spaces, the study constructs a comprehensive understanding of how these areas contribute to the overall well-being of the citizens. The findings underscore the importance of Odeon Park and Rose Garden as crucial elements for recreational and social engagement in Pogradec. With a significant emphasis on Post Occupancy Evaluation, the research aimed at promoting spaces not only as aesthetic features but also as stimulants for a sustainable and vibrant urban life.

Keywords: *Social sustainability, community impact, social interaction, environmental quality, urban green spaces, physical comfort, post occupancy evaluation*

Student: *SINDI RARANI [Spring 2023-2024]*

Thesis Title: *THE ROOTS OF HEALING: "MULTISENSORY RETREAT AT BOVILLA LAKE"*

Supervisor: *Dr. JOANA DHIAMANDI*

Thesis Summary: The prior goal was to investigate an architectural typology that may improve the urban structure's capacity for mental healing. Our fast-paced, modern lifestyle has a significant negative influence on our mental health. Stress levels are consistently high, and we are continually exposing our emotions to a variety of outside influences. This reduces our capacity to comprehend them, process them, and ultimately get through a difficult moment. The development of mental illness may result from this repeated pattern. With this knowledge, we may examine the psychological processes of an individual undergoing this experience and ascertain the underlying concept of the healing building typology. The project will look for architectural solutions in a suburban setting

through this analysis of current typologies with a healing intent. The proposed spatial intervention would be situated at the boundary between an urban and green environment, and participation will be open to all interested parties. Given that the proposal is made in this manner, it may become a frequently frequented spot where you can go to relieve mental stress. The project will explore various methods of rehabilitation for mental health, and the design will serve as a framework for activities that are both purposeful and pleasant. The first type will center on the notion of healing via quiet, privacy, sensory stimulation, and tranquility. The second typology tries to explore concepts related to the calming stroll, its speed, and the feeling of the spatial perception. The therapeutic aspects of sunlight and usage of materials is going to be seen throughout the whole itinerary.

The goal of this thesis is to examine the range of outcomes rather than to provide a perfect answer to mental pressure. This thesis will offer techniques for mind relaxation that are suitable for most people by taking into account the significance of mental health in contemporary culture.

Keywords: retreat, sanctuary, healing, space, architecture, mental health.

Student: SINDI KACI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF A SOCIALIST PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING NEIGHBORHOOD IN TIRANA

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. EDMOND MANAHASA

Thesis Summary: This study focuses on a socialist period prefabricated housing neighborhood located at the vicinity of “21 Dhjetori”. The aim of this research is to measure the quality of outdoor and indoor spaces of the selected case study. To achieve this goal the study relies on quality assessment, theoretical framework and proposal to evaluate the priorly mentioned spaces by assessing their physical and social features. The methodology used in this research includes archival research, urban analysis of transformations that occurred in the neighborhood, redrawing of apartment buildings and questionnaire implemented to 200 residents. The study found that the physical and social outdoor spaces are evaluated as negative, whereas physical and social indoor spaces are evaluated as positive.

Keywords: Pre-fabricated housing, quality assessment, social, physical, indoor, outdoor.

Student: BARABARA ÇEREKJA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: A PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN ELBASAN

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. ODETA MANAHASA

Thesis Summary:

This project envisions establishing a new public library in Elbasan, addressing the critical need for a cultural and educational cornerstone within the community. Elbasan currently lacks a public library, and this initiative aspires to create an invaluable sanctuary for all residents, functioning as a vibrant community centre where students, children, and adults can read, learn, and engage in enriching activities. The library will be an architectural marvel, blending modern design with elements that reflect Elbasan's rich cultural heritage. It will offer a welcoming and inspiring environment, housing an extensive collection of books and periodicals, thereby providing everyone with unfettered access to knowledge and educational opportunities. Moreover, the library will be a bustling hub of community activity, hosting public readings, literary clubs, educational workshops, and author events. These activities will foster social interaction, personal growth, and a deepened engagement with cultural and intellectual pursuits. By establishing this public library, we aim to significantly elevate the quality of life in the Elbasan Arena zone and contribute to developing a more educated, connected, and inspired populace. This project promises profound benefits to the community, offering a dedicated space for learning, creativity, and collaboration, and nurturing a vibrant culture of reading and intellectual curiosity.

Keywords: Public Library, Educational Centre, Community Hub, Social Interaction, Space for Learning, Quality of Life.

Student: LUIS TRAJA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: SUSTAINABLE URBAN LIVING: ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CITY OF DURRES.

Supervisor: Dr. JOANA DHIAMANDI

Thesis Summary: Nature manufactures mutually related systems, which are important to the survival of many species in the outside world. There is a need, now more than ever, for re-connection to the natural world. This necessity has led to the integration on a wider range of the concept of a ‘green city’. What is important to mention is that future studies should go beyond documenting benefits of urban green spaces on health to literally informing (UGS) planning and design.

This study highlights worldwide urban health issues and emphasizes the concept of a ‘green city’ in supporting and assuring a positive impact on the citizen’s well-being. The well-being of one individual is entirely associated with the surrounding environment. Therefore, the implementation of different green infrastructure typologies has immersed, especially in the last decade.

A comprehensive framework that illuminates the various elements, which have an effect on the overall well-being and health and the methodological difficulties involved, are required to follow this type of research. A thorough study of the literature was conducted to discover the potential effects of urban green spaces on the citizen’s overall experience, including the psychological, environmental, and social dimensions, within the city. As a means to conduct the study, a cross-sectional ‘survey’ approach is developed, as a way to better understand the citizens perception of ‘sustainable urban living’. The aim is to identify the best design approaches that boost and promote a healthy lifestyle within the city.

Additionally, a crucial element is the identification of urban problems and finding the best solution, by integrating and implementing different typologies of green infrastructure. The findings not only provide important information for architects and urban designers for future design projects, but also it brings attention to crucial insights in developing and building spaces that support and foster the citizen’s mental and physical health.

Keywords: *Urban Green Space, Green City, Physical and Mental Health, Sustainable Design, Landscape Design, Durres.*

Student: BORA NEZAJ [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: CREATING LIVABLE AND SUSTAINABLE STREETSCAPES: THE CASE OF “ZDRALE” NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY OF SHKODRA.

Supervisor: Dr. EGIN ZEKA

Thesis Summary: In the dynamic context of urbanization, streetscapes play a significant role in determining the city’s character. The growing need for human-centered and sustainable urban design and planning encourages a shift toward livable environments that prioritize inhabitants’ well-being. This thesis focuses on the “Zdrale” neighborhood and marketplace in Shkodra, Albania, with an aim to redefine its rigid streetscape. The study proposes a transformation from the existing street layout to shared spaces, encouraging coexistence between all modes of transportation: driving, walking and cycling.

The research adopts the Global Street Design Guide’s classification, concentrating on commercial shared streets. The key topics of the literature review include defining the concepts of sustainable and livable streets, walkability, cyclist-friendly streetscapes, and shared streets. Emphasizing the importance of sustainable design, green infrastructure, cultural activities, and inclusiveness, the study underscores the multidimensional nature of streets.

The methodology employs a mixed-method approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative analyses. Data collection, including the municipality’s publications, maps, drone images, research on previous strategic plans and on-site observations assisted in understanding in-depth the neighborhood’s character. Also, an on-site flow analysis was conducted at different time intervals of the day, during both active and inactive hours, providing essential insights into the movement patterns of pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles.

The study explores the development of urban design and planning in the city of Shkodra, highlighting its vibrant cycling and commercial culture, and its impact of the city’s fabric. By adopting human-centered strategies and establishing policy schemes, this thesis aims to enhance walkability and cycling in the “Zdrale” streetscape. As the city continues to grow, urban planning approaches that prioritize sustainability and livability are crucial for ensuring a harmonious integration of new developments, fostering a balance between environmental awareness, quality of life and community well-being.

Keywords: *Sustainable Urban Planning, Human-centered Design, Shared Street, Green Infrastructure, Inclusiveness, Mixed-method Approach, Flow Analysis, Shkodra.*

Student: ERBANA REZI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: INCORPORATING VR TECHNOLOGY IN AN INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE
BASED ON THE WELL-BEING AND COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE SENIOR RESIDENTS:
REDESIGNING A RETIREMENT HOME IN TIRANA, ALBANIA

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. ODETA MANAHASA

Co-supervisor: MSc.MANJOLA LOGLI

Thesis Summary: Driven by the growing elderly population in Albania and the shifting family dynamics combined with youth emigration, which has increased the demand for better elderly care facilities. Many retirement homes in Albania were adapted and not designed for elderly residents, leading to poor physical environments that impact their quality of life and safety. This thesis focuses on improving the well-being of senior residents in retirement homes in Albania, on understanding the background problems related to cognitive function stimulation and practical applications for enhancing elderly care facilities. The main objective is to develop a comprehensive framework for enhancing the design and living conditions of retirement homes. By addressing the specific needs of elderly residents, the study aims to improve their mental, emotional, and physical well-being. The research specifically investigates the physical challenges faced by elderly people in a retirement home in Tirana, Albania, due to inadequate indoor environments, focusing on mitigating cognitive impairments and promoting their well-being. Additionally, the study emphasizes the importance of redesigning spaces to create inclusive experiences that cater to diverse needs. Involving the users in the design process is crucial to ensure that the solutions developed are inclusive and beneficial to the residents.

Qualitative methods, including a checklist and questionnaires, were the primary instruments used to evaluate the physical environment, participants' perceptions based on their experiences, the effectiveness of the interventions and their overall impact on cognitive function

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in the first phase of this research. Initially, a detailed checklist based on existing literature was created to evaluate current conditions related to the indoor environment and identify specific needs in the retirement home. Observations and questionnaires were conducted among 81 elderly residents to assess their challenges and needs regarding their living environment. Collected data assisted in creating a 3D model of the home, highlighting its current state and areas for improvement. Then, a focus group interview was conducted with the residents in the second phase, who interacted with the 3D model via virtual reality (VR) and provided feedback on the proposed changes and their potential impact on their daily lives.

The findings revealed from the first phase highlighted several physical challenges.

These included a lack of slip-free flooring, insufficient grab bars, poor wayfinding signage, inadequate biophilic features, uncomfortable furniture, insufficient natural lighting, and poor ventilation. Preferences identified by the residents included self-controlling lighting, contrasting colors, fewer beds per room, and larger indoor spaces. Among the target group, a number of 4 participants were chosen to take feedback on the repurposed design of the ‘Strehe dhe Shprese’ retirement home based on the responds of the first phase. The residents particularly appreciated the new design of the non-slip flooring, the grab bars. Wayfinding tables and clear signage were also highlighted as significant improvements that facilitated easier movement within the facility. Biophilic features, the addition of comfortable furniture, sufficient natural lighting and good ventilation got really positive impact on the seniors as well. The addition of an elevator was highly appreciated, which would greatly improve navigational ease and accessibility, especially for those on higher floors. Overall, the VR experience provided a realistic representation that helped residents to see and experience the potential improvements in a practical and engaging manner.

Together, these findings highlight the necessity of a comprehensive approach that includes both functional enhancements and personalized touches to significantly enhance the residents' wellbeing comfort, safety, and overall quality of life. Addressing these elderly physical challenges,

such as lack of slip-free flooring, insufficient grab bars, poor wayfinding signage, and inadequate biophilic features, can lead to designing inclusive experiences in retirement homes. The study contributes to creating a checklist and the creation of a model of a retirement home in Albania for

enhancing cognitive function and promoting the well-being of elderly residents in retirement homes in Albania and beyond. These guidelines offer a valuable reference for future studies and practical applications, providing a robust framework adaptable to similar contexts. Consequently, the integration of VR technologies in the final stages of the design process proved to be a supportive tool, enabling residents to visualize and contribute to the development of more personalized, safe, and engaging living environments.

Keywords: (VR)Virtual Reality, elderly Well-being, aging population, design challenges, cognitive functions, retirement home design, 3D Modeling.

Student: ODINA MUKAJ [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: ELEVATED PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES AS A TOOL FOR ENHANCING URBAN RESILIENCE: CASE OF "SHQIPONJA" SQUARE.

Supervisor: Dr. AMANDA TËRPO

Thesis Summary: The transformation of cities brings better opportunities for life. Over the years, Tirana has undergone a large increase because of the influx of people. This is observed from the perspective of buildings and infrastructure, which tend to expand or find ways to adapt to the demands of life, particularly in the dynamics of mobility. This large influx, although good in terms of development, brings a very large stagnation in mobility, both from vehicles and pedestrians, and the influx is expected to increase. However, an important element is to look from a more urban-resilient perspective to implement alternative measures, such as elevated budgets, by focusing on and supporting them with NBS (natural base solution). Through the study of exciting examples and analyses performed at the city level, it was possible to better understand the key elements that must be in place for implementation and the right actions, not only for the good of people but also for the environment. This study showed that the implementation can be performed successfully on a road axis in Tirana. None of these methods have created additional problems in the area, and the bridge itself has a practical design. The implementation of the bridge was completed with appropriate solutions and a perspective on future problems. The solutions provided have a stimulating effect, not only for the benefit of people, but also for vehicles without adding obstacles. The findings show that the implementation of elevated bridges is a solution to reduce flow, which can be implemented with a resilient and sustainable initiative for the city.

Keywords: implementation, efficiency, sustainability, resilience

Student: BLENDI MUCA[Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: THE IMPACT OF GLAZING TYPOLOGIES IN OFFICE BUILDINGS ON ENERGY USE: THE CASE OF MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: Lately, achieving suitable indoor environments and minimizing energy usage and its detrimental effects on the ecosystem have emerged as two of the most crucial and vital goals in building design [1]. For this reason, figuring out how much energy building envelopes need is becoming very important. These days, a "high-performance window" is one that minimizes the quantity of non-regenerative energy used in the building while also guaranteeing the best possible thermal and visual comfort for the occupants of the building [2].

This research aims to estimate the energy performance of glazing in Mediterranean climate context. Also, it will explore the specific aspects of glazing technology, architectural design principles, and case studies to offer nuances perspective on how the role of glazing can be optimized in the pursuit of comfort and sustainability in office buildings within the Mediterranean climate, in the representative capital city of Albania, Tirana. In conducting a comprehensive analysis of the glazing overall energy performance on office buildings, a 20m x 30 m x 16m building is designed, 60 glazing scenarios are simulated and design variables such as building shape and orientation are meticulously chosen. The findings and subsequent discussions of the study reveal that across all scenarios involving double and triple glazing, the annual cooling energy demand consistently surpasses the heating energy demand. This phenomenon is attributed to the prevailing warm Mediterranean climate and the specific orientation of the building. The study's conclusion asserts that among the glazing scenarios examined, DG_1 and DG_2 exhibit the lowest energy consumption levels, contrasting with DG_9, which demonstrates the highest energy consumption, with a difference of 40%.

In conclusion, this research sheds light on the intricate interplay between glazing technology, architectural design, and energy performance in Mediterranean climate contexts, offering valuable insights for optimizing comfort and sustainability in office buildings, with implications for future design practices and energy policies.

Keywords: Glazing technology, energy performance, simulation, Mediterranean climate, office buildings, orientation.

Student: ELION FISKA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: SUSTAINABLE UNDERGORUND WINERY DESIGN IN ROSHNIK'S LANDSCAPE.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr.SOKOL DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: his thesis explores the use of sustainable design principles in the deigning of Alpeta Winery, located within the historic wine region of Roshnik, Berat, Albania. This research focuses on the critical parameters of light, humidity, and temperature to come up with an underground winery that functions well as a workplace and, at the same time, as a tourist space. In this perspective, the project taps the benefit in the natural geothermal property of the underground through innovative design strategies in the use of up-to-date cooling and insulation materials and methods. This approach is further supported by the use of locally available eco-friendly construction materials and the utilization of renewable energy sources that fit into the winery's operations with respect to the environment.

Detailed simulation scenarios have proven a significant reduction of energy demand by up to 42.8 % annually, therefore bringing to light the effectiveness of the sustainable features implemented. Apart from that, the design of the winery integrates perfectly into the surrounding landscape, leaving the smallest possible ecological footprint on the environment, increasing the visual value of the place, and having a positive impact on the local economy, tourism, and economic development.

Herein, the paper is supposed to underline the new possibilities for sustainable underground winery architecture, allowing Albanian wineries to increase the efficiency of wine storage, improve the quality of the visitor's experience, and set new standards of taking care of the environment. The project is intended to establish the balance between the best working conditions for the winemaking process and the realization of a practical, fun environment for both visitors and

employees, thereby extending the envelope of the traditional design of wineries and carrying the concept of sustainable development through the same process.

Keywords: Underground Winery, Sustainable Design, Energy Optimization, Simulation, Architectural Integration.

Student: KEVIS ÇELA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: THE IMPACT OF HIGH-RISE OFFICE BUILDING MORPHOLOGY WITH CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT

Supervisor: Prof. Dr.SOKOL DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: This research investigates the impact of high-rise office building morphology on energy performance within the Mediterranean climate, focusing on the correlation between building shape, transparency, and shading strategies. A total of 156 simulations were conducted, analyzing 13 different morphologies across various window-to-wall ratios (WWR) and shading configurations. The study reveals a significant positive correlation between energy use (KWh/m²) and relative compactness (RC). Lower RC values correspond to reduced total energy consumption. For instance, at WWR 100%, energy use ranged from 42.83 KWh/m² (RC 0.69) to 44.20 KWh/m² (RC 0.82). Similarly, at WWR 75% and 50%, energy use showed a decreasing trend as RC values decreased. The highest morphology effectiveness was observed at RC 0.69, with 3.1% at WWR 100%, 2.8% at WWR 75%, and 2.4% at WWR 50%. Shading strategies also significantly impacted energy performance. Moderate projection distances (0.6m) consistently demonstrated the best balance between heating and cooling loads across different window spacings. Smaller window spacings (1.2m) were generally more effective in reducing total energy loads. The findings emphasize the importance of building morphology in energy optimization, highlighting that strategic design choices in shape, transparency, and shading can significantly enhance energy efficiency. This

research provides a foundational framework for early design decision-making, offering valuable insights for architects and engineers aiming to improve the sustainability of high-rise office buildings in Mediterranean climates. The study's comprehensive analysis and simulation-based approach underline the critical role of morphology in achieving energy-efficient building designs, promoting climate-responsive architecture that addresses both environmental and energy challenges.

Keywords: Controlled Environment, Energy efficiency, High-Rise Office Building, Temperature, Shading Optimization, Morphology. Building Simulations, Energy Performance.

Student: ZOICA KULE [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: ENERGY PERFORMANCE EVOLUTION OF UNDERGROUND HOUSING IN DIFFERENT CLIMATIC CONTEXT

Supervisor: Prof. Dr.SOKOL DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: With the global challenge of urbanization, population growth, climate change, rising energy demands, and energy loss, this study explores the potential of underground structures, such as residential units, as a progressive sustainable solution. The objective is to study the energy efficiency of underground spaces representing different design typologies, in different urban contexts, considering factors such as different depth, transparency and balconies scenarios. The motivation behind this study comes as a direct need to address the immediate challenges of urbanization related to population growth, the impact on climate change as well as substantial energy consumption. Exploration of different housing alternatives conducts a positive approach towards these challenges. The aim of this research is to evaluate the potential benefits of underground spaces, focusing mostly in the energy efficiency. Originality of this study lies on its comprehensive attitude, considering diversity in climate conditions and urban setting. To archive these objectives, a comparative analysis is conducted, emphasizing simulations of underground courtyard houses. Three different cities, New York, Athens and Berlin are selected for their varieties in climate types, allowing a comprehensive understanding of the ground temperature on energy efficiency. The results show that, the oceanic climate of Berlin displays the lowest energy demand, followed by the hot-summer Mediterranean climate of Athens, with an average difference of 7.6 kWh.m⁻²y⁻¹. The climate which presents a greater demand for energy is the subtropical climate of New York, with a difference from the climate of Athens, of an average of 11.71 kWh.m⁻²y⁻¹, and with a difference of 25.41 kWh.m⁻²y⁻¹ from the climate of Berlin. Morphologies perform poorer with the increase of depth and transparency, but with the increase in the depth of the balcony, we have better energy performance. This study offers a broad discussion of how underground space can contribute to future urban developments. Acknowledge of challenges are crucial to research's transparency. Concerns related to human psychology, lack of natural light, humidity in underground spaces are identified. This research, through conscientious examination, offers valuable insights into the benefits of underground residential buildings.

Keywords: Energy efficiency, underground space, underground living, urban sustainability, courtyard housing, climate resilience, architectural typologies.

Student: ADRIANA LIPO [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: A QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES FOR INCLUSIVE AND DYNAMIC COMMUNITIES: CASE OF "LIRIA" SQUARE, DURRËS

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa

Thesis Summary: Public spaces are vital to urban life and are deeply rooted in the human scale. Their relevance has grown over time, highlighting how crucial it is to ensure inclusion and ease of use. Social dynamics strongly

depend on the way people interact with their surroundings. Understanding how people see and use public places is critical to creating inclusive and dynamic communities as urban environments change. This thesis explores the complex interaction between people who use public places with a specific focus on the “Liria” Square, the most important public space in Durrës, Albania. The square has undergone several changes over time, reflecting the social and cultural dynamics of the city. The choice of this public space is based on the fact that it represents the “heart” of the city thanks also to the positioning of the most significant contemporary, modern buildings and ancient remains. Thus the thesis has as its main aim to analyze its usage and the perception of citizens. In order to obtain a more accurate analysis, the methodology used includes both qualitative and quantitative approaches such as observational studies, spatial mapping tools, satellite imagery and user surveys to better understand their perception. Furthermore, the kernel density tool of the GIS Software was also applied to have a more comprehensive view to better understand the concentration of users in the chosen area. In this way, through the analysis of elements such as social interactions, the physical structure and cultural importance, the study aims to identify the fundamental aspects that influence user involvement with “Liria” Square. The results highlighted obvious problems related to the absence of cycle paths, the limited availability of parking, the lack of greenery and activities that could attract the presence of more people. On the other hand, the strong point turned out to be the geometrically well-defined and quite sufficient space, as well as the safety perceived by the users.

Keywords: Controlled Environment, Energy efficiency, High-Rise Office Building, Temperature, Shading Optimization, Morphology. Building Simulations, Energy Performance.

Student: KLAJDI LAZE [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: COST EFFICIENT OPTIMIZATION OF REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURES

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Co-supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. FABIO NASELLI

Thesis Summary: In Tirana, reinforced concrete (RC) buildings are among the most common types of construction. Nowadays in this high competitive industry, where there is a constant rise in customer demand for better quality, better safety, and lower cost, structural optimization is really needed. The traditional methods of design development heavily rely on expensive material consumption and enormous design margins, which ultimately consumes more material into the construction projects. Computational power has improved in efficiency and accessibility over the past few decades. Because of the high capacity computing power that was available, designers had the chance to use finite element analysis techniques to compare various options even while the design phase was still in progress. A number of sophisticated and original algorithms for simultaneously optimizing a number of design variables while considering the needed constraints and scenarios were also produced as a result of the research efforts. The designers now have countless options for more effective and efficient management of the development thanks to the high power computation and these algorithms. The optimization of load-bearing RC structures in terms of cost impact is the topic of this paper. The study includes a review of the software tools, procedures, and optimization principles for structural design and analysis. The optimization of an eight story reinforced concrete building structure (RCC) is also covered, using structural analysis software like SCADA PRO and optimization tool like ACE-OCP.

Keywords: *efficiency, reinforced concrete, computational power, optimization, optimizational tool, building structure.*

Student: ADRIANA ISA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: POST-OCCUPANCY EVALUATION OF PUBLIC SPACES: CASE STUDIES OF ‘ITALIA’ SQUARE AND THE PYRAMID IN TIRANA

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: Due to the cities' development and population growth throughout the years, the design of effective public spaces has become a major urban concern. There is a great demand for people to have spaces within a city in order to socialize, relax, move freely, and enjoy being in a healthy environment. Therefore, research methods to evaluate the quality of such spaces are needed in order to increase their quality. One such method is post-occupancy evaluation, or POE. Through different means, such as direct observation or user feedback after the public space is occupied, it can prompt valuable information that can show what urban practices have worked and the reason for their success. On the other hand, it can also show what practices have not worked for that particular context and need to be improved on. This master thesis focuses on the post-occupancy evaluation of two well-known public spaces in Tirana, 'Italia' Square and the outdoor spaces of TUMO Center, or as more people know it, the Pyramid.

First, a literature review is conducted on public spaces and what POE is in detail. Then, a deep analysis of both study cases is done, starting with researching the available information about the spaces, a study on different aspects of maps including functional analysis, and the transportation means close to both public spaces. After establishing the relationship with the surrounding urban context, an analysis focusing on the selected sites with the aim of establishing the existing physical elements is carried out. After that, the POE study is done, starting with on-site observation and behavioral mapping and finishing with a questionnaire answered by the users. All of these methods aim to find out the feedback on these case studies and make a comparison between the results. After analyzing the outcomes of the implemented

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research methods, it can be derived both public spaces are active spots and show positive feedback among users. Furthermore, this research emphasizes the positive areas of public spaces e.g. socialization and connectivity, but also points out aspects that need improvement such as addition of lighting or comfortable sitting elements.

Keywords: Post-occupancy evaluation, Public space, User feedback, Space performance, Human behavior

Student: IRNID KASA [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: DESIGN-BASED ENERGY EVALUATION OF GREEN FAÇADE IMPLEMENTATION IN HOTEL BUILDINGS: THE CASE OF CONTINENTAL CLIMATE

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: Over the past several decades, vertical greenery systems have emerged as a significant method to enhance energy efficiency and human comfort, offering both environmental and economic advantages. Despite their potential, there is a notable gap in literature concerning their measurable impact on the energy performance of hotel buildings. This thesis seeks to address this gap by estimating the effect of façade vegetation on hotel energy performance. The study examines various design variables such as Leaf Area Index (LAI), Window-to-Wall Ratio (WWR), plant height, and the distance of greenery from the façade to conduct a comprehensive energy performance analysis. Findings indicate that incorporating vegetation into hotel building façades can substantially enhance energy efficiency. For a 100% window-to-wall ratio, cooling energy reductions range from 41.15% to 52.19% for initial scenarios with varying plant heights, and from 6.57% to 67.37% for subsequent scenarios featuring double skin green façades. For scenarios with 50% and 70% window-to-wall ratios, improvements of 6.57% and 2.34% respectively were observed. Additionally, the study reveals the significant impact of vertical greenery on energy efficiency across different orientations (east, south, west), an aspect seldom explored in previous research. These results demonstrate considerable reductions in cooling energy loads, providing a framework for evaluating early design strategies.

Keywords: *Vertical Greenery Systems, Energy Efficiency, Hotel Buildings, Leaf Area Index, Window-to-Wall Ratio, Double Skin Green Façade.*

Student: GERALDO KACANI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: THE IMPACT OF GREEN VEGETATED FACADES ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF HOTEL BUILDINGS IN MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: For the past decades, vertical greenery systems have been considered an important solution for improving energy efficiency and human comfort, while having environmental and economic benefits. However, there is a lack of literature regarding their quantitative effects on hotel building energy performance. Therefore, the present thesis aims to contribute to estimating the impact of façade vegetation on the energy performance of hotel buildings. There are selected several design variables including LAI (leaf area index), WWR (window-to-wall ratio), plant height, and greenery distance from the façade for a more detailed energy performance analysis. The results highlight the energy efficiency of vegetation strategies on hotel building façade for 100% window-to-wall ratio achieving a considerable range of cooling energy reduction from 0.73% up to 3.77% for the first scenarios of vegetation with different heights and from 11.16% up to 27.4% for the second scenarios with double skin green façade. For the 50% and 70% window-to-wall ratio scenario there is an improvement of 21.88% and 15.1% respectively. Additionally, the impact of vertical greenery effectiveness in energy efficiency by changing all the above-mentioned variables on three orientations (east, south, west), rarely mentioned in previous studies has been proved, providing considerable reductions in energy cooling loads. The results from the simulations conducted provide a framework for early design evaluation strategies.

Keywords: Simulation, vertical greenery systems, hotel buildings, energy efficiency

Student: REDI ISLAMI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: ENERGY PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND RETROFITTING OF SOCIALIST PREFABRICATED BUILDINGS IN TIRANA, ALBANIA

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. SOKOL DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: Since 2009 Albania has been trying to be part of European Union (official candidate since 2014). It has implemented many changes and improvements in all sectors trying to reach the expected target results for each obligation. Part of the obligations include becoming a more energy efficient country. The capital, Tirana, has maintained for a long time the highest number of buildings erected in Albania, around 50% of them having been built between 1945-90. Considering the social isolation of the country during the dictatorship and the level of poverty, these buildings present a multitude of problems in different aspects, especially in energy performance. This research focuses on the analysis of energy performance of the most prominent orientation of prefabricated buildings in Tirana and opportunities for retrofitting of this building typology. Different scenarios have been evaluated using DesignBuilder software and compared to each other and reality to understand the changes retrofitting can achieve in energy efficiency and thermal comfort.

Keywords: prefabricated buildings, retrofitting, energy performance, DesignBuilder, Simulations, Energy.

Student: KLAJDI KALLMETI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: EARLY DESIGN EVALUATION OF SCHOOL BUILDING MORPHOLOGY IMPACT ON DAYLIGHT PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN TIRANA, ALBANIA

Supervisor: Dr. INA DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: Utilizing daylight in educational facilities can enhance the quality of indoor working conditions and reduce the need for artificial lighting. This research thesis examines the impact of daylighting in school building especially in classrooms. The study includes principles and simulations to analyze these factors. The design of educational buildings in Tirana, Albania is analyzed as case studies. The present conditions of the surrounding environment are taken into account to assess the design of window ratios and their impact on the well-being of individuals, as well as the aesthetic appeal and ambiance of the space. The study involves analyzing the effectiveness and functioning of daylight in a defined space within the educational institution. The study examines the utilization of many elements of daylighting systems, such as building design, window characteristics, climate, orientation, electric lighting, and operation, which also impact the reduction of light consumption. The simulation results

elucidate the essential elements of building illumination, encompassing the visual attractiveness of a room, the ergonomic considerations, and the energy efficiency concern, whether it involves illuminating vacant areas needlessly or supplying excessive light. The research thesis demonstrates that in Tirana, Albania, the issue of daylighting is not prioritized in most educational buildings, with a greater reliance on artificial lighting fixtures. The primary cause of this issue may stem from a misunderstanding in distinguishing the characteristics of sunlight and daytime. Initially, the existing state of the design parameters for daylighting management is assessed. Subsequently, this information is used as an input for the simulation in order to incorporate the impact of visual comfort conditions. The simulation programs (Ecotect, Radiance, and Daysim) help identify problems that lead to poor daylighting performance. This information can be used to promote a better understanding of the benefits of daylight for occupants, visual and health conditions, as well as productivity. It also helps improve the performance of spaces through planning and design.

Keywords: Energy Consumption, Daylight Simulation, Stimulation Software, Window-glazing Properties, Visual Comfort.

Student: JONA XHOXHI [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: COMPARISON AND EVALUATION OF ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF TEN PROPOSED MULTI-STOREY TIMBER CONSTRUCTIONS IN EUROPE

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. SOKOL DERVISHI

Thesis Summary: The main challenges of nowadays construction sector are two: the rapid urban population growth and climate crisis. By 2050 the world's population living in cities is expected to reach 70%, forcing the erection of taller buildings to comply with the future generations needs of a house. On the other hand, the existing construction industry appears to be highly energy intensive, contributing to a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions, generated mostly by the activity of concrete and steel industries. Timber is considered to be the ideal solution in dealing with these problems, owing not only to its environmental friendly features and carbon sequestration qualities, but also to the latest developments of engineered wood products which provide this material with opportunities to build higher, faster and cheaper, imply longer spans and provide innovative strategies against fire. This paper intends to design 10 timber residential superstructures in three different climatic contexts of Europe. The evaluated design variables which are to be simulated in Design Builder include building shape, transparency, balcony depth and type of construction. The results derived from this paper highlight the efficiency of reduction of the overall energy consumption by 24.29% through shape optimization and 6.79% by implementation of the right design parameters. Recommendations are further proposed for each climate context, generating an early design prediction tool in assisting architects in the design process.

Keywords: Climate Change, Overpopulation, Carbon sink, Off-site construction, EWP, Prefabrication, Simulation, Early Design Evaluation.

Student: ANXHELA LUFU [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: ASSESSING SAFETY AND USABILITY OF PUBLIC SPACES IN TIRANA: A SPACE SYNTAX ANALYSIS

Supervisor: Dr. AMANDA TËRPO

Thesis Summary: Tirana faces challenges in managing public spaces due to population growth and rapid governmental transitions, affecting safety and health. Secure environments are crucial for mental well-being, social interaction, and addressing security risks. However, older neighborhoods suffer from neglect and poor urban planning, leading to a perceived lack of safety. This research assesses Tirana's public spaces across different building typologies, focusing on safety-related morphologies. The study covers the central city area, considering historical urban development impacts, and identifies factors affecting natural surveillance, connectivity, and space use to guide future planning. The primary objective is a comprehensive analysis using space syntax tools, integrating quantitative and qualitative data. This involves data collection from ASIG and site visits, followed by detailed physical and social analysis, supplemented by maps and observations. The findings are visually presented in maps, correlating with human behavior and safety perceptions, to inform future urban planning. The

research aims to provide actionable insights for improving safety and usability in Tirana's public spaces, supporting urban planners and policymakers in enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors. Through detailed analysis and recommendations, this study contributes to the discourse on urban safety and sustainable development.

Keywords: spatial safety, perceived safety, natural surveillance, space syntax analysis

Graduate Students' List of Theses

Student: ENRICO RUSSO [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: AN EXPERIENTIAL PATH FOR REGENERATING A CITY-PORT MARGIN AT THE EASTERN ENTRANCE OF NAPOLI, ITALY

Supervisor: ASSOC.PROF. DR. EDMOND MANAHASA

Thesis Summary: The world urban population has overtaken the rural one and consequently there is observed an increasing concentration on the coastal areas. Thus, in this aspect the role of the sea in citizens' wellbeing is crucial and the city-port relations have been acquiring increasing importance in both scientific literature and public policies. In this context the coastal city Napoli, has been facing similar issues.

The longtime urban developments in city-port areas of Napoli beyond the usage of industrialization and deindustrialization policies, have produced a segregation between city and waterfront due to the port. The aim of this thesis is to propose urban regeneration strategies and a regeneration project proposal for a city-port area, namely, "Calata della Marinella", which can provide access to the waterfront.

The methodology used in this research includes site observation, visual documentation, archival research, urban analysis and in-depth interviews.

The main contribution of this research consists in developing an urban regeneration proposal which includes an experiential infrastructure in the form of a bridge. This intervention facilitates the valorization of historic and industrial heritage, especially by connecting the regenerated public and private buildings with an historic site and a public park, and finally providing access to public areas within the waterfront.

Such infrastructure provides a cycle-pedestrian path which includes different functions/pavilions like floating bridge or roof-garden. Finally seen from a larger urban scale this proposal reconnects "Calata della Marinella" to the wider "Piazza Garibaldi" area, via two streets integrating it with other public urban spaces of the city.

Keywords: City-port, Urban regeneration Proposal, Calata della Marinella, Napoli.

Student: DOROTEA BREGU [Spring 2023-2024]

Thesis Title: DOCUMENTING RURAL ARCHITECTURE IN BËNJA VILLAGE: RECONSTRUCTION SCENARIOS FOR HOUSES DESTROYED IN WWII

Supervisor: ASSOC.PROF. DR. EDMOND MANAHASA

Co-supervisor: MSc. KRESHNIK MERXHANI

Thesis Summary: The scientific research aims to conduct a study and documentation of rural architecture in the village of Bënja, Përmet. The research includes an examination of the historical center of the village, focusing on its functional, social, and cultural organization across different historical periods. Furthermore, the study delves into construction techniques, materials, and the functional organization of old houses from the village's founding to the present day.

The primary objective is to document the current state of buildings in the area, identifying modifications made over time. To achieve this, architectural surveys were carried out on several houses within the historical

center of the village, as well as a topographical survey of the entire village. The next step involved drawing detailed floor plans and facades, followed by the generation of comprehensive three-dimensional visual models. These steps facilitate a thorough analysis of the architectural aspects and spatial dynamics of the village, contributing to a detailed understanding of the studied area.

In conjunction with the architectural survey, a detailed exploration of the village's cultural and historical significance was undertaken. This included gathering information on local traditions, customs, and community narratives to provide context for understanding the observed architectural changes. Integrating socio-cultural dimensions enhances the overall comprehension of the village's history and residential structures, resulting in a comprehensive examination of the targeted region

Keywords: Cultural heritage, Rural Architecture, traditional dwellings, Bënja Village, Historical Center, Ottoman-era architecture.

List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

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

Name	Surname	Sending Institution	Department	Program	Type of exchange	Academic Year	Framework
Anna	Mauvillain	Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes	Architecture	Integrated Second Cycle Program in Architecture	Semester Exchange	2023-2024	Erasmus+
Malo	Mechineau	Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes	Architecture	Integrated Second Cycle Program in Architecture	Semester Exchange	2023-2024	Erasmus+

Name	Surname	Department at EPOKA	Program at EPOKA	Host University	Country	Academic Year	Out-Going semester	Method
Kristjan	Çollaku	ARCH	DIND ARCH	University of Lille	France	2023-2024	Fall	ERASMUS+
Joni	Lila	ARCH	ARCH	University of Naples "Federico II"	Italy	2023-2024	Fall - Spring	ERASMUS+
Migena	Çuni	ARCH	ARCH	University of Naples "Federico II"	Italy	2023-2024	Fall - Spring	ERASMUS+
Besalda	Hysa	ARCH	ARCH	University of Naples "Federico II"	Italy	2023-2024	Fall - Spring	ERASMUS+
Joana	Boçi	ARCH	ARCH	University of Naples "Federico II"	Italy	2023-2024	Fall - Spring	ERASMUS+

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

MSc. Nerina Baçi

Focused on ongoing research in social sustainability.

MSc. Manjola Logli

List of Publications

The Academic staff of the EPOKA University, during this period of functioning (2023-2024) has published articles in different scientific journals, proceeding books, newspapers, etc.

No	Name Surname	Scientific Publications and Academic Activities
1	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa	Manahasa, E., Manahasa, O., Leduc, T. and Halgand, M.-P. (2024), "Neighborhood identity: a methodological perspective from Nantes-France", <i>Archnet-IJAR</i>, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. https://doi.org/10.1108/ARCH-09-2023-0239 Article link https://doi.org/10.1108/ARCH-09-2023-0239 About this journal https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2631-6862 About the index https://journalmetrics.scopus.com/ (Search International Journal of Architectural Research: Archnet-IJAR)
2	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa	Manahasa, E., Manahasa, O., Leduc, T. and Halgand, M.-P. (2024), "Neighbourhood identity: a methodological perspective from Nantes-France", <i>Archnet-IJAR</i>, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. https://doi.org/10.1108/ARCH-09-2023-0239 Article link https://doi.org/10.1108/ARCH-09-2023-0239 About this journal https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2631-6862 About the index https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/journal/arch
3	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Zejnilović, E., Husukić, E., Đuho, N., Astrouskaya, T., & Manahasa, E. (2023). Memory and Placemaking: Competing Memory, Forgetting and Distorted Rediscovery in Eastern European Cities. In <i>Placemaking in Practice Volume 1</i> (pp. 79-98). Brill. Chapter link https://brill.com/display/book/9789004542389/BP000012.xml DOI: https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004542389_007
4	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa Assoc. Prof. Fabio Naselli Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anna Yunitsyna	Manahasa, E., Naselli, F., Yunitsyna, A. COVID-19 (Forced) Innovations Pandemic Impacts on Architecture and Urbanism DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-56607-3 Book link https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-56607-3 eBook ISBN: 978-3-031-56607-3
5	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Manahasa, E., Learning from the Post-Covid-19 Pandemic Experiences DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-56607-3_21 https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-

6	Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi	<p>Dervishi, S., Mazniku, G., Tafani, A., & Dervishi, I. (2023). Assessing Energy Poverty and Potential Retrofit Scenarios in Residential Stock in Tirana, Albania. In <i>Living with Energy Poverty</i> (pp. 213-231). Routledge.</p> <p>Book Chapter https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003408536-22/assessing-energy-poverty-potential-retrofit-scenarios-residential-stock-tirana-albania-sokol-dervishi-gliti-mazniku-alessia-tafani-ina-dervishi</p> <p>About this book Herrejón, P.V., Lennon, B., & Dunphy, N.P. (Eds.). (2023). <i>Living with Energy Poverty: Perspectives from the Global North and South</i> (1st ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003408536</p>
7	Dr. Ina Dervishi	<p>Dervishi, S., Mazniku, G., Tafani, A., & Dervishi, I. (2023). Assessing Energy Poverty and Potential Retrofit Scenarios in Residential Stock in Tirana, Albania. In <i>Living with Energy Poverty</i> (pp. 213-231). Routledge.</p> <p>Book Chapter https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003408536-22/assessing-energy-poverty-potential-retrofit-scenarios-residential-stock-tirana-albania-sokol-dervishi-gliti-mazniku-alessia-tafani-ina-dervishi</p> <p>About this book Herrejón, P.V., Lennon, B., & Dunphy, N.P. (Eds.). (2023). <i>Living with Energy Poverty: Perspectives from the Global North and South</i> (1st ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003408536</p>

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa

1. AMPS CONFERENCE NEW YORK-LIVABLE CITIES: A CONFERENCE ON ISSUES AFFECTING LIFE IN CITIES, that will be held in New York, 12-16 June 2023.

Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

1. 18th IBPSA International Conference and Exhibition Building Simulation 2023.
2. "IBPC 2024" which is the 9th edition of the official triennial conference of the International Association of Building Physics (IABP), that will be held in Toronto.

Assoc.Prof. Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

1. 1st Open- Air Cities International Conference "Local and Regional Sustainable Development and Urban Reconstruction.

MSc. Anisa Cenaj

1. Civil Engineering Convention, that will be held at Istanbul Technical University.
2. International Student Conference of Civil Engineering (ISCCE 2024), that will be held in Pristina.

Dr. Joana Dhiamandi

1. Exchange Meeting "Future for Religious Heritage, Valetta, Malta.

Dr. Ina Dervishi

1. "IBPC 2024" which is the 9th edition of the official triennial conference of the International Association of Building Physics (*IABP*), that will be held in Toronto.

Open Lecture at EPOKA University by the Architect Aleks Shtjefni

On October 31, 2023, an open lecture was held with a distinguished guest, Arch: Aleks Shtjefni, the founder of the architectural studio Tharm Architects.

The topic of the open lecture was "Researching during the Creative Process." During this lecture, the 5th year students of the architecture program experienced the unique opportunity to gain insight into some of the most prominent projects of this architectural studio, the architect's creative process, and design philosophy.

Students learned about professional experiences, developing a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and innovations in the industry.

The lecture encouraged connections between professionals and architectural students, and it was concluded with questions from students regarding the topic.

Open Lecture at EPOKA University by the Arch. Ardita Gushe

On December 21, 2022, an open lecture was held with a special guest, Arch. Ardita Gushe, the director of the Architectural Department at Kontakt shpk. The topic of the open lecture was "Architecture from Teaching to Learning to Practice".

During the lecture, the 5th year students of the Department of Architecture were given the possibility to learn about the professional experiences that this well-known company has, especially with the distinguished international architects and about their projects and their impact in Albania.

At the end of the lecture, an opportunity to integrate learning through practical experiences at Kontakt shpk was given to students of EPOKA University.

Open Lecture at EPOKA University of Architect Ervin Taçi with title: Designing the Context

Within the framework of course Arch 505-Special Topics in Architectural Design distinguished architect Ervin Taçi hold an open lecture titled: "Designing the Context" at the premises of EPOKA University. The primary aim of the lecture was to transmit fragments from professional life, which the students face once they graduate. Apart from that Mr. Taçi presented innovative design strategies which tackle the issue of dealing with a different cultural context, through a project they designed in Africa. At the end of the lecture the students had the chance to ask questions regarding the explained topic and professional experience in the Albanian context.

Fifth-Year Student Gjergji Lushkaj developed an application that can transform a project from being a render on paper to a full VR experience

The Fifth-Year student Gjergji Lushkaj developed an application that can transform a project from being a render on paper to a full VR experience. Under the supervision of our full-time staff Dr. Anna Yunitsyna, Mr. Lushkaj managed to demonstrate the capabilities of the VR world integrated in the architect's workflow.

"Virtual Reality is taking the world by storm especially on the latest years. In the field of architecture the use of this technology is an innovation in terms of visualization. In his master thesis the student is aiming to demonstrate the capabilities of the VR world integrated in the architect's workflow. This can prove to be the most engaging and impressive way to show the project to a client and to discuss with them in the virtual realm even when you are miles apart. While being more immersive, integrating VR into architecture is also more insightful, as the client can explore every corner of the proposed project and give their feedback.

Using Unreal Engine 5 and the Meta Quest 2 headset, he managed to develop an application that can transform a project from being a render on paper to a full VR experience, allowing the user to move around and explore as they would in a real-life situation. The VR experience is one of the kind that you have to experience in order to fully embrace. With that in mind, the current result of this work in progress was demonstrated to a group of architecture students that were very eager to learn more about this technology and to experience it hands on.

Virtual Reality requires practice and a lot of trial and error, but with enough practice, it can give architects who are focused of project representation an upper hand. We can expect this technology and its features only to improve and expand in the near future, while also becoming more easy to use. This will potentially transform the use of VR in architecture from a limited feature to a necessary one".

Projects

Name Surname of Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa
COST Action No	CA 18137
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	Working group Member
Duration of the Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of Action - 03/04/2019 • End of Action - 02/10/2023
Short Description (100-150 words):	<p>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 researches 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.</p>

Name Surname of Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa
COST Action No	CA 18204
	XX

COST Action Title	Dynamics of placemaking and digitization in Europe's cities (DOPMADE)
COST Action Chair:	Dr Zsuzsanna Varga
Your role/position in the COST Action	Working group Member
Duration of the Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of Action - 22/11/2019 • End of Action - 21/05/2024
Short Description (100-150 words):	<p>This Action will investigate how placemaking activities, like public art, civil urban design, local knowledge production re-shape and reinvent public space, and improve citizens' involvement in urban planning and urban design. Placemaking implies the multiplication and fragmentation of agents shaping the public realm. The Action aims to empower citizens to contribute with citizen's knowledge, digitization and placemaking to diverse ways of interpreting local identities in European cities. The added value of digitization – understood here basically as the ongoing process of converting any kind of data from an analog into a digital format – (Jannidis/Kohle/Rehbein (2018:179) will be analyzed in the ways in which it impacts urban placemaking processes of local communities. Studying urban placemaking and digital practices of various local communities throughout Europe's cities, this Action will understand and analyze,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of digitization on the common placemaking practices of urban local communities, • The changing processes of citizen's local knowledge production of placemaking, • The influence of digitization on the governmentality of the local neighborhoods and co-creation of public space by various societal actors. <p>Drawing on recent theoretical insights that point to the importance of placemaking, widening citizen's knowledge and wider application of digitization and digital communication, the Action seeks to develop new methods for studying and comparing effects of disseminating local urban knowledge beyond cultural and societal borders. By doing so, it develops European urban research both theoretically and methodologically finding ways of channeling the results into the wider urban planning and governance processes.</p>

Name Surname of Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Edmond Manahasa
COST Action No	CA 18137
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of Action - 03/04/2019 • End of Action - 02/10/2023
Short Description (100-150 words):	<p>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 researches 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.</p>

Name Surname of Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fabio Naselli MSc. Anisa Cenaj
COST Action No	CA 19136
COST Action Title	International Interdisciplinary Network on Smart Healthy Age-friendly Environments (NET4AGE-FRIENDLY)

COST Action Chair:	Ms Carina Dantas carinadantas@shine2.eu
Your role/position in the COST Action	MC Member
Duration of the Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of Action - 21/10/2020 • End of Action - 20/10/2024
Short Description (100-150 words):	<p>To promote social inclusion, independent living and active and healthy ageing in society, the NET4AGE-FRIENDLY COST Action establish an international and interdisciplinary network of researchers and stakeholders from all sectors. Its aim is to foster awareness, and to support the creation and implementation of smart, healthy indoor and outdoor environments for present and future generations. NET4AGE-FRIENDLY further aims to overcome fragmentation and critical gaps at both conceptual and pragmatic innovation level on responsive, age-friendly and sustainable environments to address European research and policy challenges.</p> <p>The main approach of NET4AGE-FRIENDLY is the establishment of local or regional ecosystems in each COST country involved, to work on health and well-being in an age-friendly digital world. The ecosystems consist of citizens, public authorities, businesses/NGOs and researchers.</p>

Name Surname of Staff	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa
COST Action No	CA 19136
COST Action Title	International Interdisciplinary Network on Smart Healthy Age-friendly Environments (NET4AGE-FRIENDLY)
COST Action Chair:	Ms Carina Dantas
Your role/position in the COST Action	MC Member
Duration of the Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of Action - 21/10/2020 • End of Action - 20/10/2024

<p>Short Description (100-150 words):</p>	<p>To promote social inclusion, independent living and active and healthy ageing in society, the NET4AGE-FRIENDLY COST Action will establish an international and interdisciplinary network of researchers and stakeholders from all sectors. Its aim is to foster awareness, and to support the creation and implementation of smart, healthy indoor and outdoor environments for present and future generations. NET4AGE-FRIENDLY further aims to overcome fragmentation and critical gaps at both conceptual and pragmatic innovation level on responsive, age-friendly and sustainable environments to address European research and policy challenges.</p> <p>The main approach of NET4AGE-FRIENDLY is the establishment of local or regional ecosystems in each COST country involved, to work on health and well-being in an age-friendly digital world. The ecosystems will consist of citizens, public authorities, businesses/NGOs and researchers. They will be supported by four thematic Working Groups (User-centred inclusive design in age-friendly environments and communities; Integrated health and well-being pathways; Digital solutions and large-scale sustainable implementation; Policy development, funding forecast and cost-benefit evaluations)</p>
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E. Support, Resources & Representation

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List of Students' Internships

1. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UcH-Or3YaaZZMG79kqypxW5ajeQkoNji/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=116416482868765875483&rtpof=true&sd=true
2. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EXs01CY_itPWpAu_tkxD3_ezB_mEObn/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=116416482868765875483&rtpof=true&sd=true.
3. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12tSVdo3mSiakcn17Ng9TbMaY3PA5NidL/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=116416482868765875483&rtpof=true&sd=true.

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.

Zhepova Workshop

This workshop, organized by department of architecture, CoRDA and NCEP club at Epoka University, is about trying to understand the conditions and develop new ideas for the future of two traditional villages in the south of Albania, Zhepova and Shelq. The main aim of this work is to develop a vision for building up a new paradigm regarding the rural revival of the two villages. Both villages have suffered from the destruction of the local heritage, huge de-population, and economical disintegration. The main objective of this workshop is to build up a proper methodology to evaluate material and spiritual heritage for a real bottom-up integrated tourism rural development. The workshop consists of two phases. The first phase will be an intensive on-site work to make surveys and observations. During this phase, both students and instructors will stay for one week in the villages to understand the spirit of the place and gather relevant data that will be useful for developing proposals and projects for the villages. The second phase will be conducted on the campus at Epoka University where the participants will work to finalize their projects.

Site Visit at Mangalem 21 in the framework of ARCH 505

On January 23, 2023, a site visit at the residential center, Mangalem 21, was held for the architecture students in the fifth year of study, accompanied by professors Dr. Edmond Manahasa and MSc. Manjola Logli, in the framework of ARCH 505 - Special Topics in Architectural Design.

This project was designed by OMA, a leading international architecture firm, and constructed by Kontakt shpk.

Firstly, the rector of EPOKA University, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Öztaş, and professor Dr. Edmond Manahasa were part of a meeting arranged by the CEO of Kontakt shpk and the project developer, Mr. Fatmir Bektashi, and the director of the architectural department, Ardita Gusho.

This visit started with explaining the whole process for the construction of Mangalem 21 and then continued with visiting the actual site. The students were offered a unique learning opportunity to examine the actual construction process and experience this project's elements, leading to a better enhancement of architecture education.

Many thanks go to all staff members of Kontakt shpk for the detailed walkthrough in explaining this project.

NET4Age-friendly (English)

NET4Age-friendly highlighted its close collaboration with the SIRENE project in our Training School in Tirana.

This multidisciplinary event happened in Tirana, Albania, from the 10th to the 12th of July, and the aim was to discuss and share knowledge around *Ageing in the City* - independent living and social participation in age-friendly smart places and spaces.

This multidisciplinary event was open to professionals, researchers, and PhD students with a professional interest in the topic and 22 people made their way to EPOKA University to participate.

SIRENE was a central piece in a lecture on the first day, where the synergies between the project and NET4Age-Friendly were presented by Willeke van Staalduinen to the participants.

The whole project concept revolving around the growth of social innovation actors in eco-friendly and sustainable community-based services for SHAFE implementation in Europe was delved into and broadly discussed. The need to provide a workable framework for investment and the key aspects around the ecosystem of actors to build this was central to the Training School discussions.

(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

On June 27th our recent graduate Erhana Rezi, presented a part of her thesis at the renowned Livable Cities Conference held in London.

Erhana's study, titled "Wellbeing and Cognitive Functions of Senior Residents of Retirement Homes: A Designing Inclusive Experience from Tirana, Albania", showcased her in-depth research and dedication to retirement home design by mitigating cognitive impairments in senior residents and enhancing their well-being.

Erhana's thesis was supervised by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Odeta Manahasa and co-supervised by MSc Manjola Logli. Their guidance was significant in shaping the research.

Additionally, Dr. Florenc Skuka made a crucial contribution through the VR lab at our university, providing a great support that enhanced Erhana's work.

Furthermore, Rezi participated in the workshop "Learning and Working with SHAFE Frameworks," held in Brussels from October 1–3, organized by the COST Action.

Fifth-Year Students Secure Fourth Place in International Student Project Award 2023 Competition

Our three talented 5th-year students, Anisa Cenaj, Kevin Hasa and Klaudia Demiraj, have emerged as winners in the International Student Project Award 2023, hosted by ARCH HIVE. Out of a pool of worldwide entries comprising 10 awards and 40 honorable mentions, Ms. Cenaj, Mr. Hasa, and Ms. Demiraj secured the 4th place with their academic project of ARCH 402 - Advanced Design Studio II supervised by our lecturers Dr. Egin Zeka and M.Sc. Julian Beqiri. Their project, set in the healthcare category, aimed to establish a state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Place for Multiple Sclerosis patients in Tirana, Albania. This innovative design, showcases their deep understanding of architectural principles and their passion for creating spaces that positively impact individuals lives.

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. Egin Zeka

Dr. Ina Dervishi

Dr. Joana Dhiamandi

MSc. Kreshnik Merxhani

MSc. Nerina Baçi

MSc. Manjola Logli

MSc. Anisa Cenaj

MSc. Katjana Boriçi

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