Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	**Tatiana Lyubimova**
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Studio	
Name / Theme	**Flowscapes**
Teachers	Inge Bobbink, Luisa Calabrese
Argumentation of choice of the studio	**a will to investigate possible positive futures for the relationship between Nature and City**
Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Mending Varna: authentic landscape as a fountainhead and essential element of urban continuity and identity
Goal	
Location:	Varna, Bulgaria
The posed problem,	Fragmentation of modern urban environment of Varna, which is caused to a big extent by the rapid infrastructural development, threatens the continuity and identity of the cityscape, and leads to the lack of attention to the subtle quality of its “placeness”. Meanwhile, the enormous potential of the authentic landscape of the location generally is neglected. The existing natural hazards of the area, such as flooding from the mountain streams, and erosion along the Black sea coastline, are tamed in a robust way, regardless the possibilities for their profitable integration and contribution to the city life. In a broader context, the valley of Varna Lake shows signs of oppression of natural landscape by human activities
research questions and	Main question (research objective): - How can the authentic landscape of the area, – its processes and qualities, – be revealed within the cityscape, in order to arouse urban continuity and identity, to enhance the relation of the city to its context, and thus to strengthen the “placeness” of the urban environment? Related sub-questions: - How to understand the natural and cultural context of the site (through the scales), so as to reveal the qualities and

	processes of the authentic landscape? - How to comprehend the existing values, processes, and connections of the urban environment, and their relation to the landscape? - What can be done in order to integrate the defined values of the authentic landscape into the dynamic city fabric? - How can the discovered principles be applied at the specific location of Varna? - What knowledge can be gained from the design for Varna, and how can it be translated to a generic inspiration?
design assignment in which these result.	The design reveals how the processes and qualities of the authentic landscape of Varna area, being re-introduced within the urban environment, can strengthen the integration of the city in the broader context. The urban fragments will be mended in a coherent cityscape, enhancing its “placeness”. The diverse identity of Varna will be “reflected” in the landscape. The system of uphill streams will become a crucial carrier of natural and cultural meaning of the city, which was initially called Odessos, “a city by the water”. Any city is unique by its location and historic layers, which exist in the landscape, and mostly in memories of people. And meanings of what the city is, are subjective. Hence, the mission of the design is to provide spatial and sensual "signs", and create relations in the landscape, which can raise memories, evoke curiosity, tell a story. The flows are made explicit in the urban environment, reminding of its verdant valley origins, and are being directed toward the culminating site along coast line. There, at the heart of “the sea capital of Bulgaria”, unique layers of the urban palimpsest are narrated through the landscape, – its spatial organization, and materialization in its pristine elements of water, limestone ("Var" in Thracian), harbor structures. The landscape is given freedom for the experience and interpretation

This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.
The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.

Process

Method description

The inquiry includes four basic steps:
1. Analysis. The site is explored in order to comprehend the context and grasp the relations through layers and scales;
2. Interpretation. The results of analysis are interpreted and evaluated, in order to define a diagnosis for the location (through the scales);
3. Experiments. Several strategies, e.g. simulation of natural processes (water streams' trajectories) and case studies (as a source of inspiration), are implemented in order to realize possibilities for the design, and to search for the proper solution.
4. Application and discussion. The results of previous stages serve as catalysts for the expression of discovered solutions through the design, which is followed by the discussion of applied principles.

Although the stages are described in chronological order, they are intended to be implemented mostly simultaneously, so that their mutual influence forces the distillation of deep understanding of the site, development of the strongest and most appropriate design solution, and extraction of generic lessons. Drawing, mapping, and modeling are the main techniques for discovering, creating, communicating, and representing the thinking process and result at all the stages

Literature and general practical preference

Flowscapes:
- Nijhuis, S., Jauslin, D., Hoeven, van der, F. 2015. Flowscapes: Designing Infrastructure as Landscape. TU Delft

Methodology:
- Jong, T. M. de, 2002. Context analysis. In: Jong, T. M. de, Voordt, D. van de (eds.) Ways to study and research urban, architectural and technical design. Delft: DUP Science
- Swaffield, S., Deming, M. E., 2011. Research strategies in landscape architecture: mapping the terrain. Journal of Landscape Architecture, spring 2011, pp. 34-45

Nature – Human relation:
- Palang, H., Fry, G., 2003. Landscape Interfaces: Cultural Heritage in Changing Landscapes. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, Boston, London
- Sijmons, D. et al., 2014. IABR-2014: Urban by Nature. Rotterdam: International Architectural Biennale

Design with natural processes:
- McHarg, I., 1969. Design With Nature. New York, Doubleday- Palang, H., Fry, G., 2003. Landscape Interfaces: Cultural Heritage in Changing Landscapes. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, Boston, London
- Niemela, J. et al. (eds.), 2011. Urban Ecology: Patterns, Processes and Applications. Oxford University Press
- Dramstad, W. E., Olson, J. D., Forman, R.T. Landscape Ecology Principles in Landscape Architecture and Land-Use Planning. Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Island Press
- Eliot sr., C., 1999/1901. Charles Eliot: Landscape Architect. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press

Value and design of “places”
- Relph, E., 1976. Place and Placelessness
- Cullen, G., 1971. Townscape
- North, A., 2013. Operative landscapes: Building Communities through public space. Birkhauser
- Jacobs, J., Allan B., and Donald Appleyard, 1987. Toward an Urban Design Manifesto, In: American Planning Association Journal 53, 1 (pp 113-120)

Design attitude
- Lassus, B., 1998. The obligation of invention. In: idem. The Landscape Approach. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 67-77

Design in harbours:
- Diedrich, L., 2013. Translating Harbourscapes: site-specific design approaches in contemporary European harbor transformation. University of Copenhagen

Influential projects:
- Mannahatta Project https://welikia.org (natural layer)
- Boston Metropolitan Park Area (example of regional framework), Emerald Necklace in particular (as a blue-green vein for the city);
- Water network for Istanbul by H+N+S (re-thinking the water system);
- examples of lurban landscape infrastructures, such as New York High Line (re-discovered urban infrastructure);
Sagrera Linear Park, Barcelona, Spain (valuable landscape infrastructure);
- Aranzadi Park, Agra river, Pamplona, Spain (landscape dynamics);
- Alhambra, Spain (history and identity of a place in spatial organization and details);
- examples of harbourscapes

Reflection

Relevance

The tension between the growth of infrastructures within and around cities is a worldwide issue, which is always accompanied by a hazardous impact on the environment. Within the Flowscapes studio, the infrastructure is regarded as a new landscape, which gives a theoretical opportunity for a better integration of infrastructures within the “natural set” of the Earth, at the same time giving it a stronger social value. This project in particular explores the possibilities for the revealing, mending and shaping the identical cityscape, based on the landscape framework for the region, which allows to introduce the “authentic”, “natural” vision of “the place” within the city. This mission is regarded as a precious opportunity for creating a city, which is integrated in its “natural set” in such a way, that the latter can be constantly recognizable within its fabric. In this case the distinction between “spaces” and “places” will point at the stronger value of the appreciated “place”, which can be characterized by spatial, cultural, and natural diversity, and which inspires a mental connection with its inhabitants. Such an approach is visible through all the scales, and it aims to adjust integration of urban fabric and infrastructures of the city within the natural environment. The example of Varna illustrates how the inspiration of the authentic landscape helps to mend the city’s identity, and thus to create a valuable and appreciated “place”

Time planning

Week 1.10 (P1: Project hypothesis, approach and site analysis)

before Week 2.9 (3rd week of January) (P2: Diagnosis and concept design)
research and design through all scales: shaping the regional framework, development of the framework for the city, initial design at the specific location. Methodology paper of the course AR3LA020 serves as a support for the research method, and as a starting point for the report.

before Week ~ 3.8 (last week of March) (P3: Elaborated design)
research and design mostly at the city and local scale, constant reconciliation with the regional scale, adjustments of regional framework if needed; shaping framework for the city, elaboration of the design proposal for the location. The initial draft of the report is developed

before Week ~ 4.5 (middle of May) (P4: Final design)
research and design mostly at the local scale, constant reconciliation with the city and regional scale, adjustments of the frameworks if needed, development of final design proposal for the specific location. The process version of the report is developed

Week ~ 4.11 (last week of June)
P5: Public presentation