

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examenscommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

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

Personal information	
Name	Aimilia Nteka
Student number	5756820
Studio	
Name / Theme	Interior Building Cities/Independent Group
Main mentor	Daniel Rosbottom
Second mentor	Mark Pimlott
Third mentor	Bt
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Freedom on the choice of subject and place: My interest with the Magnesia region on the Thessalian Plain (2nd biggest agricultural region in Greece) stems from its unique blend of <u>collective strength, agricultural heritage, and community solidarity</u>. This region holds immense potential for cultivating self-resilience, fostering sustainable practices, and deepening community bonds. The proposal is centered around bridging the gap between the past and future, and between <u>urban and rural areas</u>, with a keen understanding of their <u>networks, borders, and synergies</u>, particularly in the aftermath of the recent floods and the ensuing devastation.- The freedom to choose parameters and means, emphasizing social and material culture with political sensitivities: One crucial aspect is the <u>self-organization</u> exhibited by the communities in the region, a testament to their rural identity that has been explored through various mediums. How the public space around nature with its <u>anonymous architecture, unofficial meetings and rural cultural heritage</u> can be leveraged to develop new cooperation spaces. These models should go beyond general strategies and focus on the architectural micro-scale, where user consciousness resides.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I chose this studio because it addresses many scales and the social relationships that develop between them. I have placed great emphasis on the objects found both on a large scale and in everyday life that show the connection with the rural roots and the characteristics of the place. The initial thought regarded the notion of Thessaly's table today, from what materials it is represented, what it serves and what issues will be discussed around this <u>table</u>. As an object which holds strong cultural value in Greece which could evolve in a soft infrastructure that could address the project's needs. <u>The interaction of scales, such as the room, the roof, and the yard, is a prime example of this, if the familiarization of these elements through the notion of interiority is a key aspect of this exploration.</u> - I was interested in participating in a small group of people who share a common goal but bring diverse visions to the table. How each person approaches and explores the general categories that concern us all and how this informs different projects theoretically and design-wise was particularly important to me.
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Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	The seeds of resilience: Paths of Transformation: /Redesigning the "table" of companionship.
Goal	
Location:	Lake Karla, Magnesia, Greece
The posed problem,	<p>-Impact of two storms</p> <p>Volos, the capital of Magnesia regional unit in central Greece, lies in a flat region bordered by Mount Pelion to the northeast, the sea to the south, and the Thessalian plains to the west. Mount Pelion overlooks the rural Thessalian plain and Lake Karla on one side and the urban and industrial areas of Volos on the other, both united by their relationship with water.</p>

Recently, **storms** Daniel and Elias caused infrastructure damage, agricultural impact, ecological disruption, and community struggles. These events **exposed vulnerabilities beyond physical damage**, impacting the **societal and cultural fabric**. This research project explores the storms' multifaceted impacts and highlights the **social resilience and self-organizational capacity of the affected communities**. Tracing the city's mountainous, water, and trail networks with the landscape, the project positions itself on the intersections of this relationship.

Flooding restored **Lake Karla**, located between the two major agricultural cities of Volos and Larissa, to its original size before its drying up and destroyed the agricultural land essential to the local economy. By understanding the problem on different scales, the point selected highlights the necessity of solving problems at a local level from smaller, more flexible scales. Furthermore, through preserving **agricultural trade routes** that carry significant cultural heritage, strengthening alternative tourism, and the **eternal interdependence between cities and the countryside**, an effort is made to bring together and **debate the issue at hand**.

The concept of proximity, neighborhood, and collectivity contrasts with distance, dispersion, and networking. Floods cause environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity around Lake Karla, impacting both natural ecosystems and agricultural productivity

	<p>-Fragmented Land Ownership and Collaboration Needs The fragmented nature of land ownership among farmers</p> <p>-Loss of Identity of Place The destruction caused by the floods can lead to the loss of historical and cultural landmarks, eroding the unique identity of the region.</p> <p>-Shared Problems Among Mountainous and Lowland Communities. Relinking the actors and strengths of the area</p> <p>-Disconnection Between Lake and City. Condition of crisis/ unbalanced equilibrium/. Man pushes the lake back and that unbalances nature</p>
research questions and	<p>How can architectural designs, influenced by rural archetypes, societal behaviors, and interactions, catalyze community resilience and restoration in areas facing environmental challenges?</p> <p><i>-How are experiences of embodied communication, self-organization, and solidarity exchanged and codified in Pelion communities?</i></p> <p><i>-Has the capacity for smaller, more flexible infrastructures to address local issues diminished, and if so, why?</i></p> <p><i>-How can the design of communal spaces be influenced by traditional practices, including those related to food, seed festivals, and cooperative agriculture?</i></p> <p><i>-How do people bring their thoughts to the table? What is the temporality of this table? Is it always present or assembled as needed? How can architecture work with the landscape to facilitate this?</i></p>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>- The imminent changes dissolve boundaries and break bonds, leaving everything in flux. The site is not just a</p>

single entity but a dynamic walking path and exploration. The project's core objective is to develop a **network of significant nodes along an axis**, amplifying interactions, restoring relationships, and creating vibrant **spaces for exchange and discussion**. This is complemented by a treatment of the surrounding nature that zooms in and out of the problem with the eyes of an explorer, aiming to foster collaboration and communication.

- The anonymous architecture proposed by farmers and the agricultural trade routes used by seasonal farmers serve as architectural references.
- By strategically placing points of observation, reflection, meeting, co-education, the project aims to reduce the distances between the lake the mountain and the city

Key design principles: include the roof/shed, the room/storage space, and the shared yard/land.

The project emphasizes:

1. Anonymous Architecture: Utilizing vernacular architecture proposed by farmers as a foundational reference.
2. Network of Nodes: Developing significant nodes that frame and zoom to understand and address issues.
3. Designing spaces that serve multiple purposes, such as agricultural workshops, community gatherings, and educational programs.
4. Material Culture and Shared Resources: Creating new assemblages of production and knowledge spaces reflecting the community's shared heritage and resources.

	<p>5. Workshops: Providing spaces for practical learning and the exchange of agricultural techniques and sustainable practices.</p> <p>6. Community Gatherings: Facilitating areas for social interaction and communal activities.</p>
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[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 research follows both a theoretical and design methodology that relies on literature review, **material culture and social practices analysis**.

Using various mediums such films, Postcards, Paintings, Photographs, Biennales

The **landscape-human scale** will be investigated through archetypical architecture and recent case studies, emphasizing the re-establishment of this relationship. The analysis will be conveyed through drawings, diagrams, mappings, collages, photographs and sketches

Fieldwork and interviews, culminating in a film, will provide insights into the place's needs, atmospheres, and cultural implications.

The project will also employ metaphors to interpret cultural and social aspects of architectural design, grounding these metaphors in the reality of physical spaces. This approach will integrate metaphor and reality as threads throughout the project and sometimes as primary design drivers.

Literature review

Tradition and Cultural Landscape

The project will explore tradition as a dynamic force shaped by the present, manifested through myths, artifacts, practices, personalities, and rituals that enrich the cultural landscape.

Archival Compilation:

- Conduct research to document existing trade routes, capturing their historical and current significance.

- Create a visual archive with photographs from local artists regarding the agricultural identity of the place and their relation to the fields and lake. focusing on elements such as agricultural fields, communal spaces, and natural landmarks, everyday rituals.
- Gather local records to trace the development and transformation of the region's agricultural practices and communal spaces.

Literature and general practical references

Theoretical references

- Guattari, Félix. *The Three Ecologies*. London ; New York: Continuum, 2005.
- Walter Stephen, *Think Global, Act Local: Life and Legacy of Patrick Geddes: The Life and Legacy of Patrick Geddes*, 2nd edition (Edinburgh: Luath Press Ltd, 2015).
- 'OASE 103 Critical Regionalism Revisited | Tom Avermaete, Veronique Patteeuw, Hans Teerds, La-Catherine Szacka
- Between Dystopia and Utopia: Constantinos A. Doxiadis

Practical references,

- Godbuild-Aris Kostantinidis
- 'Αρχέτυπα* | Archetypes* PART 1 by Giorgos Triantafyllou -
- Patrick Geddes' Valley Section
- Ark of seeds Zisis Kotionis

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?
2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

This project extends beyond addressing the immediate challenges of climate change or management deficiencies. It is rooted in personal inquiries about our connection to our origins and aspirations for change and exchange. While the scale of this project may seem small compared to the enormity of the problems at hand, it is precisely within this scale that questions of "beginning" and "evolution" can be most effectively explored. Through the physical model, one can understand the landscape as the joint work of many different factors. The relationship between nature and man-made. It is sufficient for the management of a set of places.

