

# 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](mailto: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:

<b>Personal information</b>	
Name	Turan Ziaiemehr
Student number	5395437

<b>Studio</b>		
Name / Theme	Cross-Domain Studio MSc 3/4 Graduation Studio — City of the Future	
Main mentor	Alper Alkan	Architectural Design Crossovers
Second mentor	Sabina Tanović	Architectural History
Argumentation of choice of the studio	My decision to choose the Cross Domain Studio titled "City of the Future" was driven by the possibility given to each student to select their project site. In my case, I chose Tbilisi, since I believe that it is a context undergoing a multilayered metamorphosis, in which re-construction of the old town and the tendency to build according to standardized "western" canons, is projecting the city into a future that is not following and respecting its heterogeneous nature.	

<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	Tbilisi as a Palimpsest <i>Patterns, History, and Perceptions in the formation of a reactive city</i>
<b>Goal</b>	
Location:	Tbilisi, Georgia
The posed problem,	Tbilisi is undergoing a process of aesthetic cleansing, with entire deteriorated areas of the old town and the city center being dismantled and rebuilt with a conservation strategy that denies and demonizes the presence of an enormous variety of historical layers, patterns, and appropriations by the inhabitants of each building. Sterile nationalism and political deviations are influencing Tbilisi's cosmopolite identity, making the city lose a great part of its cultural heritage.

research questions and design assignment in which these result.	<p>Given the very particular identity of Tbilisi's old town, its building materials, and its spatial configuration, there is a need to analyze the context so that it is possible to imagine a future for the architecture of the city. This brings us to the main research question: how to design for a city that is so rapidly changing while trying to keep alive and enhance its palimpsest character?</p>
	<p>A new approach needs to be investigated, analyzing the old town through a different perspective that takes into consideration every historical layer and appropriation that has been accumulating. In this way, it may be possible to think about a new design that can coexist with the old city, dialogue with it, and enhance its value. I believe that is impossible to imagine a future for Tbilisi without taking account of its past.</p> <p>The research will mainly focus on the analysis of the typical Tbilisian <i>Ezo</i> (courtyard house) in the Sololaki district and will aim to propose a contemporary design for housing solutions. The relevance of the Tbilisian courtyard house is given mainly by the threshold between collective and private space. The courtyard, and the building itself, could be seen as a self-standing ecology, in which the social dynamics among neighbors become a constant in daily life.</p> <p>The analysis of the courtyard will be helpful to understand its relationship concerning the urban environment, the morphology of the building, and its materiality, as well as to understand the nature and function of the modifications and additions to the building by the inhabitants. In this way, it will be possible to trace patterns and isolate the recurring elements that can later be used for the design process.</p> <p>The design will be addressed to different stakeholders (families, elderlies, students, and professionals), to highlight and keep alive the social value of this building typology.</p>
<p>[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.]</p>	

## Process

### Method description

The method I am applying is very much field-related, with the research and design process happening on site. Cartography and documentation about the old town are either not accessible or non-existent, thus the first step is to observe and map the areas of interest through photographic surveys and satellite images. To make the research tangible and to have a valuable database, cartographies, and drawings of the old town buildings need to be produced.

Photos and videos are being taken always with the same lens, without the use of zoom, since I believe is important that the perception of the space through the camera must be as much close to eye perception as possible. All photos will then be merged to produce the technical drawings (plans of the courtyards, street elevations, elevations of the courtyard). The production of the technical drawings will give a database of selected courtyards in which it will be possible to abstract the modifications that the buildings went through and divide them into different layers and historical periods.

Thanks to this analysis, it will be possible to imagine a new design that can dialogue and interact with the old town, both through the chosen construction materials and the morphology of the building.

## Literature and general practical preference

As an inspiration for my investigation, I am using books by Nodar Sumbadze, namely *Herbarium Tbilisiensis*, and *Catalogue Tbilisiensis*, both collections of images capturing the immense range of unique details that can be found in every single architectural element of the buildings in Tbilisi.

As the research process is continuously growing in parallel to my observations and future design process, I believe that the search for references and literature is always open.

Sumbadze, N., (2021) *Catalogue Tbilisiensis*, Artanuji Publishing

Sumbadze, N., (2020) *Herbarium Tbilisiensis*, Fotografia

## 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)?

I believe that my graduation project is extremely relevant concerning my studio topic, "City of the Future", particularly when referring to the specific context of Tbilisi. A future that is connected and stems from the historical layers of the city

would help to raise awareness for cultural heritage and local building construction methods.

In the broader field of architecture, the relevance of the project resides also in the method that I chose to implement. It is very important, I believe, to build your method of analysis and design, to develop an individual and critical position about the profession and the task.

Through my graduation project, I not only aim to build an understanding of the historical relevance of Tbilisi's old urban fabric but also to envision which would be the most suitable building techniques for the context and the local craftsmanship and material availability. This would contribute to building a project that is socially and economically sustainable.

2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional, and scientific framework.

In a broader field, I believe my research can help to bring attention to the new global architectural trends that are hunting cultural heritage, social dynamics, and craftsmanship, and not only in Georgia.

The new market trends and the subsequent construction of a hyper-capitalist and money-driven architecture are pushing the profession to be more and more distant from craft, analysis, and understanding of the context.