

Graduation Plan

Master of Science in Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

MSc Landscape Architecture 2024 - 2025

Aylin Yazici



Graduation Plan

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), your mentors and delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before the P2 date at the latest.

I Personal information

Full name	Aylin Yazici
Student number	6083455

II Studio / Lab information

Name / Theme	FLOWSCAPES	
Main mentor	Prof.ir. E.A.J. Luiten	Landscape Architecture
Second mentor	Prof.ir. T. Broekmans	Urban Design
Argumentation of choice of the LA graduation lab	I chose the LA graduation lab to explore the intricate interplay of historical layers, cultural identity, and natural processes within post-disaster landscapes.	

III Graduation project

Title of the project	Cultural Heritage in Post-Earthquake Cities: Adaptive Landscape Design for Antakya	
Context and aim of the project		
Location (region / area / site)	City of Antakya in Hatay, Türkiye	
Problem statement	Antakya, with a cultural heritage shaped by diverse civilizations, has historical layers that profoundly enrich the urban landscape. However, the 2023 Kahramanmaraş and Hatay earthquakes caused severe damage across the southeastern region of Türkiye, highlighting the vulnerability of this cultural heritage to natural disasters. These delicate cultural traces within the evolving landscape are now at risk of disappearing. As reconstruction begins, there is a significant threat that these valuable historical layers may be lost or overlooked in the rebuilding process.	
Research question(s)	How can landscape architecture interventions reveal and revitalize the	

	<p>cultural heritage of post-earthquake cities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. What are the key historical and cultural layers defining the heritage of Antakya? B. What are the natural characteristics that contribute to the identity of the site? C. What landscape design strategies can reveal and revitalize the palimpsest of post-earthquake regions? D. How can historical layers inform and enrich the new urban landscape in a relevant way to present requirements?
Design assignment	<p>Design a landscape plan for Antakya that renders its cultural layers (palimpsest) legible, integrating historical artifacts and landmarks into the evolving urban fabric while revitalizing natural and cultural systems. This adaptive framework will honor Antakya's rich heritage and ensure its relevance to the contemporary and changing urban environment.</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>	
<h2>IV Graduation process</h2>	
<p>Method description</p> <p>This thesis focuses on the reconstruction of Antakya's cultural landscape following the 2023 Kahramanmaraş and Hatay earthquakes. It argues that landscapes are dynamic entities that reflect the interplay between human activity and natural processes, serving as living archives that preserve cultural and historical memory. The methodological framework consists of four key stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Triggering Event and Study Area <p>The 2023 earthquakes devastated southeastern Türkiye, with Antakya being one of the epicenters. This disaster caused widespread destruction, severely impacting</p>	

Antakya's urban landscape. Known for its layered history shaped by diverse civilizations, the city now faces the challenge of preserving its identity while rebuilding. The earthquake's impact highlights the urgency of protecting and revitalizing these fragile historical layers.

2. Analysis Process

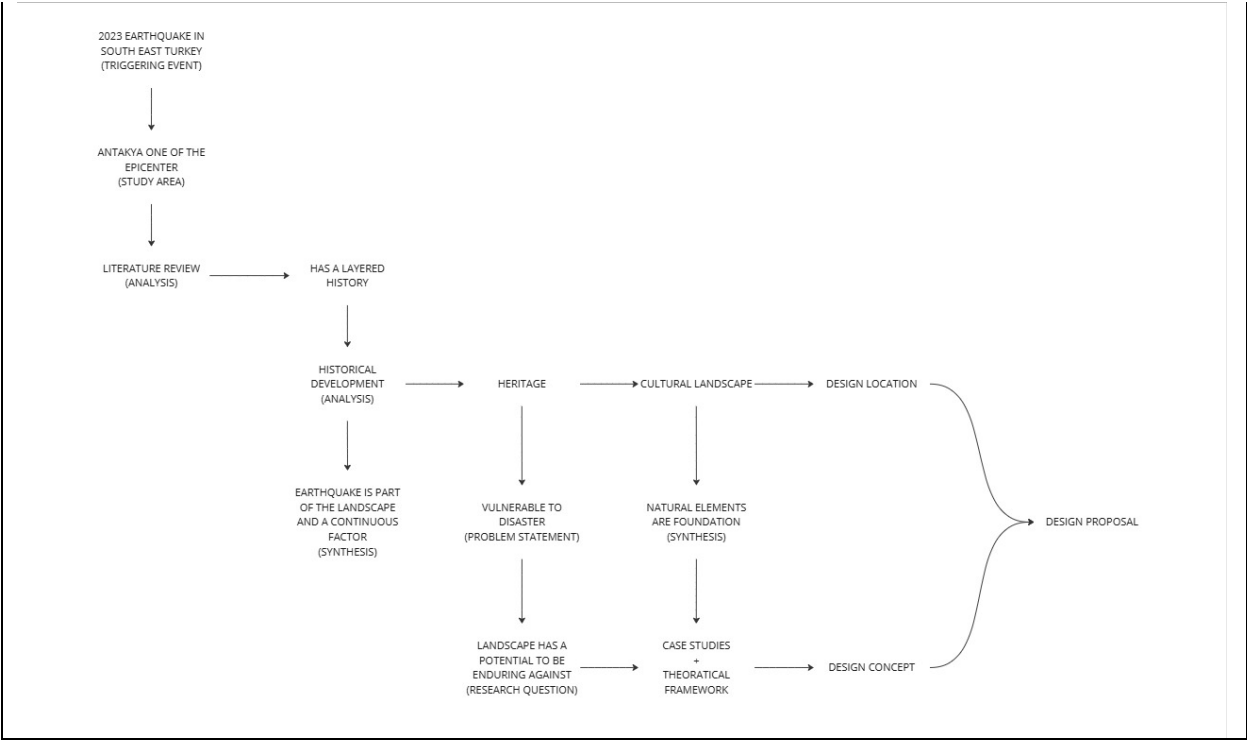
The methodology begins with a literature review to establish a comprehensive understanding of Antakya's landscape. This step focuses on analyzing the city's historical development and the natural and cultural forces that have shaped its identity over time. The concept of the city as a palimpsest is emphasized, highlighting how traces of past civilizations remain inscribed in the urban fabric and can inform future interventions.

3. Synthesis and Problem Definition

Antakya's landscape serves as a resilient yet vulnerable repository of cultural and historical memory. The city's development is deeply tied to natural elements such as rivers, mountains, and soil, which form the foundation of its cultural landscape and have shaped its identity over centuries. However, the earthquakes have exposed the fragility of these cultural and natural layers, putting them at risk of being lost during the reconstruction process. Protecting these foundational elements is crucial to preserving Antakya's identity and ensuring its cultural narrative remains intact.

4. Design and Proposed Solutions

The design proposal draws on theoretical insights, including Kevin Lynch's theories of legibility and memory, as well as global case studies of post-disaster reconstruction. Lynch's concepts help guide the identification and reinforcement of key landscape elements, such as pathways, landmarks, and water systems, to enhance the visibility of Antakya's layered history. The case studies offer strategies for creating a resilient urban framework that honors the past while addressing present and future needs.



Literature and more applied references

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V Reflection on the project proposal

1. What is the relation between your graduation topic, the lab topic, and your master track?

My graduation topic investigates the potential of landscape as the foundational element in rebuilding post-earthquake cities, specifically in Antakya. While built structures have vanished due to the earthquake, the landscape endures, preserving essential cultural and ecological layers. This aligns closely with my master track in Landscape Architecture, which emphasizes sustainable design that integrates cultural and environmental resilience. My lab, "Landscape Architecture Principles," focuses on the concept of "Historical Palimpsest," which is central to my project. This approach underscores landscape as a continuous, grounding factor that can serve as the blueprint for reimagining cities impacted by natural disasters.

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

My graduation work is highly relevant in today's world, where climate change and increasing natural disasters threaten historic cities. Socially, the project highlights landscape as a repository of collective memory and identity, offering communities a resilient connection to their past even when physical structures are lost. Professionally, it positions landscape architecture as a discipline equipped to safeguard cultural heritage, offering comfort, shelter, and continuity amid urban reconstruction. Scientifically, the research advances the concept of landscape as an archive and medium for storytelling, demonstrating how it can carry forward the biography of a city. This work has the potential to inform strategies for other heritage-rich, disaster-prone regions, showcasing landscape as an adaptive tool for cultural preservation.