

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Personal information	
Name	Ted van Duin
Student number	5904870

Studio		
Name / Theme	Borders and Territories / Transient liquidities along the Silk Road IV	
Main mentor	Oscar Rommens	Architecture
Second mentor	Mauro Parravicini	AE + T
Third mentor	Marc Schoonderbeek	Architecture
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>The studio emphasizes a deeper exploration of spatial practices through thorough research, prioritizing reflection over immediately diving into design. In my earlier education, I found such a reflective approach to be underemphasized. Developing this skill is an area where I seek growth, and I believe it would significantly enhance my capabilities as an architect</p>	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Practical adhocism in Tbilisi's suburbs
Goal	
Location:	Tbilisi, Georgia
The posed problem,	<p>In response to the rise of what I perceive as "brusselization" in Tbilisi—with its homogenizing influence—I believe the value of informal, adhocist building practices must not be overlooked or lost.</p> <p>This project examines the informal architecture in Tbilisi's suburbs, shaped profoundly by the city's socio-political history. Under Soviet rule, architecture adhered to centralized, uniform planning, leaving little room for individuality or local adaptation. However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Georgia entered a period of political instability and economic hardship. These challenges gave rise to a wave of informal architectural practices—creative, resourceful, and often improvised solutions to pressing needs. Despite their significance, these</p>

	<p>practices are frequently dismissed in traditional architectural discourse. As someone with a technical background, I find immense joy in the practicality and ingenuity of these real-world solutions. There is a unique beauty in these informal structures, which prioritize human needs and resourcefulness over technical perfection.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture emerges as a direct response to human challenges, emphasizing functionality and creativity rather than rigid adherence to pre-defined plans. Its beauty lies in its adaptability and intelligence, reflecting a cultural strength often overlooked in standardized, modern architectural paradigms. This informal approach, known as adhocism, challenges the sterility of modern architectural uniformity by celebrating resourcefulness and individuality. Where modern uniformity can stifle creativity and harm mental well-being, adhocism restores agency to individuals and communities, fostering participatory and adaptable environments.</p> <p>Adhocism also stands as a critique of totalitarian ideologies in design, advocating instead for pluralism, flexibility, and open-ended development. It values both individual and collective freedom, underscoring its transformative potential in creating human-centered, vibrant spaces.</p> <p>Through this project, I aim to highlight and dignify this often-overlooked architecture. It deserves recognition not only for its practicality but for its role in reflecting resilience, creativity, and human agency in the face of adversity.</p>
<p>research questions and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do I personally interpret and define architecture? 2. In what ways can the practice of adhocism transform the role of

	<p>architects and designers within the framework of democratized architecture?</p> <p>3. How can our understanding of architecture evolve to better reflect the dynamic and ever-changing nature of buildings?</p>
<p>design assignment in which these result.</p>	<p>The design should be inspired by Tbilisi's informal spatial practices, integrating both practical functionality and intentional adhocism. As an architect, I recognize that achieving genuine practical adhocism directly may result in mere pastiche. Instead, I aim to embed a component within the building process itself to authentically reflect this approach.</p>
<p>Process</p>	
<p>Method description</p>	
<p>A consistent thematic approach is maintained throughout the studio, with each phase building on the insights and outcomes of the previous one.</p>	
<p>Collective Mapping</p>	
<p>The process began with group-based mapping exercises to establish a starting point for individual projects. This effort produced a comprehensive map of power regimes that have shaped Tbilisi's development over time. A key theme that emerged from this exercise was the phenomenon of unregulated suburban growth, which became a focal point for further investigation.</p>	
<p>Individual Mapping</p>	
<p>As the search for specific project sites began, a challenge arose: limited coverage on Google Street View made it difficult to identify an "optimal" location. However, discussions with local cityscape researchers revealed a recurring pattern in Tbilisi's urban growth. Generally, developments become less prestigious as they extend farther from the Kura River and rise higher in elevation. While this observation is a generalization, it provided a valuable starting point.</p>	
<p>To address the lack of site specificity, one street was selected as a basis for fieldwork and on-site observations. Individual mapping exercises focused on analyzing and documenting the spatial and architectural conditions observed. Drawing inspiration from the works of Carlo Scarpa, Mario Ridolfi and Juliaan Lampens, detailed representations of informal and ad-hoc practices were created. These drawings emphasized technical solutions, materiality, and architectural transformations.</p>	
<p>Theoretical Framework</p>	
<p>In parallel with the mapping phase, a theoretical framework was developed through literary research. The key themes explored included adhocism, post-occupancy, and</p>	

architecture without architects. These concepts informed the analytical and design processes that followed.

Modi Operandi

To begin translating ideas into spatial forms, three physical modeling exercises were undertaken. Each model addressed one of the following themes; site, form and program

Design Phase

The P2 presentation will serve as a first "statement of intent" for the project, articulating the foundational ideas and direction. Following this milestone, the design process will continue, incorporating feedback and refining the proposal.

Literature and general practical references

Brand, S. (1997). *How buildings Learn: What happens after they're built.*

<http://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA23638003>

Jencks, C., & Silver, N. (1972). *Adhocism: The Case for Improvisation.*

<https://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BB15907901>

Manchester, E., & Saunders, T. (2015). *Richard Wentworth: Making Do and Getting by.*

Rudofsky, B. (1964). *Architecture without architects : an introduction to nonpedigreed architecture.* <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA19036696>

Scarpa, Fujii, W. N. T., & Komaki, S. (1988). GA document 21 : Carlo Scarpa, selected drawings. ADA Edita.

Stella, F., Goldberger, P., & York, M. M. O. A. (2007). *Frank Stella: Painting Into Architecture.* Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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)?

The project aligns closely with the studio's emphasis on exploring spatial practices a theme that resonates strongly with the MSc AUBS program. Within the Architecture master track, this project bridges architectural design with broader urban and socio-political contexts, reflecting the program's interdisciplinary approach.

The studio's focus on iterative research and reflective practice complements the project's investigation into Tbilisi's unregulated suburban growth—a phenomenon deeply tied to socio-political history and informal architectural practices. By engaging with theoretical frameworks such as adhocism and architecture without architects, the project challenges conventional architectural paradigms, emphasizing adaptability, resourcefulness, and human-centered design.

This approach reflects the program's goals of fostering critical thinking and equipping architects to address complex spatial and technical challenges. The project's integration of technical solutions, urban planning, and the dynamics of the built environment underscores the multidisciplinary foundation of the AUBS program, situating architecture within a broader system of environmental, cultural, and societal factors.

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

The project serves as a contribution to the broader architectural, social, and scientific discourse. While it may not introduce entirely new concepts, it adds valuable perspectives to ongoing conversations about informal architecture, urban development, and the role of the architect.

The project highlights the significance of informal architectural practices in Tbilisi, shedding light on how these forms of urban growth respond to socio-political pressures. This is relevant in a wider global context, where similar informal developments are often overlooked in urban planning and policy-making.

It challenges traditional architectural practices by advocating for more adaptable, resourceful approaches, encouraging architects to reconsider rigid design standards and explore more context-driven solutions. This could influence how architects approach urban expansion in cities with unregulated growth.

The project contributes to research on informal architecture and urbanism, particularly in post-Soviet contexts. It adds depth to the study of how cities evolve outside formal planning systems, offering new ways to think about the relationship between informal and formal urban development.