Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences
Graduation Plan: All tracks
The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

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<th>Personal information</th>
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<td>Name</td>
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<td>Student number</td>
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<td>Telephone number</td>
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<td>E-mail address</td>
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<th>Studio</th>
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<td>Name / Theme</td>
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| The posed problem | Landscape has always largely directed the patterns of social development and growth. History has given us enough examples where we can see major overlaps between defence and natural landscape; cities and kingdoms have thrived either by making use of the existing landscape qualities or by ‘creating’ desired defensive landscapes. The impact war has on a territory is intriguing. Mostar in Bosnia & Herzegovina did turn into a massive battlefield during the Bosnian war from 1992-95 but an interesting aspect was the role that landscape played in destruction as well as in identification of the resilient territories. This duality which the landscape imbibed manipulated the affordances of the city and its elements for the people.

The city was primarily developed by making use of the existing terrain and along the karst river, Neretva. The importance of the river can be gauged by the urban patterns of the old city and the importance bridges had which were once regarded as ‘spiritual thread’. However, the war rendered this relationship largely. The river now, is just physically present. The post war Mostar comes out as a city divided by the river. The river now being highly exploited due to multiple hydro-electric dams, uncontrolled garbage disposal, untreated sewage discharge. As well as the natural impacts such as flooding & rampant erosion.

Therefore, drawing parallels between these two scenarios – the river is war and the war is river, thereby, resulting in a fragmented urban & social pattern with these gradually decaying spaces. The city is primarily now an assemblage of |
these multiple, entangled affordances which makes it challenging for Mostarki’s to recognize relevant affordances. Moreover, the dynamics of the river and extensively eroding river edge have limited the connection that people had with Neretva. Hence, even though these areas have multiple potentials yet it cannot fulfil the ‘desire’ of its subjects and can still have non-productive affects.

The project aims to identify & develop a relevant field of affordances in these chaotic slowly decaying natural and urban spaces, thereby developing a rhizomatic network of public spaces based on the strategy of urban acupuncture.

The discernible layer of war serves as a palimpsest to develop new perspectives and relations. Also, the an attempt to identify the natural processes of the river and embrace the temporality by embracing and adapting to erosion & flooding.

Lexicon -
Affordance : Affordances are relations. The affordances of the environment are what it offers the animal, what it provides or furnishes, either for good or ill.

Affects : Impact an object, a living organism or an environment has on different subjects whether living or non-living.

Chaos : Plethora of orders, forms, wills- forces that cannot be distinguished or differentiated from each other.

Milieu : A ‘semi-stable’ selection from chaos – that is, framing specific similar or relevant affordances

Territory : It lies within milieu - framing and identifying specific affordances that could be exploited to its maximum potential. This happens when these components cease to be purely functional and become expressive.

Territorialisation and De-territorialisation : The process of identifying, defining and exploring the potential of a territory. A territory is therefore always in the process of deterritorialization, in becoming what it was not before, perhaps even becoming something entirely new.

Degree of Power : “what I can do” rather than “what I must do” – capabilities and capacity. - Deleuze

Erosion : The process of slow decay of spatial conditions on the river banks as well also in the city.

Research questions and Main Question:
Can landscape architecture provoke productive affordances in ‘chaotic’ heterogeneous territories?
In the case of Mostar the war has added a layer of duality to
the landscape thereby, leaving these eroding spaces in the city. Moreover, with the natural and social changes in Neretva, the relationship between the city, people and landscape is getting lost resulting in a fragmented urban and social structure.

Sub questions:

1. How can the ‘degree of power’ (what it ‘can do’) of abandoned or not defined elements can be exhumed through design.

2. How can social formation (infrastructure – affordances) reconfigure the concept of ‘desire’.

3. How can the temporality of landscape like erosion & flooding be interpreted productively through to create adaptive landscapes. What strategies can be adopted for the same?

4. Does limiting or being selective about affordances empowers a territory? How can more productive affordances be identified and highlighted through design?

5. How can a rhizomatic network be created by using the concept of territorialisation and de-territorialisation.

6. How to contribute to the perspective of the city which overlaps with the idea of various stake-holders like war survivors, migrants, tourist and children?

**Design assignment in which these result.**

The result of selecting a field of relevant affordances from an indefinite set of affordances in the urban and social structure of the city will result in working through various scales – the identification of possible territories within the city and developing a ‘network’ where each territory is self-sustained yet interconnected. Drawing parallels between the war and present day Neretva – spatial interventions along the river dealing with resilient landscapes in terms of floods, erosion and social practices. Followed by detailed design at two locations: 1. Corresponding to temporal & natural changes of the river at Bunur 2. Urban decaying spaces – HIIT department store

**Process**

**Method description**
Literature and general practical preference

1. An Outline of a Theory of Affordances by Anthony Chemero
2. Territory and Ritornello: Deleuze and Guattari on Thinking Living Beings by Arjen Kleinherenbrink
3. Ecological-Enactive Cognition as engaging with a field of relevant affordances: The Skilled Intentionality Framework (SIF) by Erik Rietveld, Damiaan Denys & Maarten van Westen
4. Intensive Landscaping by Yves Abrioux
5. Desire - Deleuze and the Question of Desire: Toward an Immanent Theory of Ethics
6. Chaos, Territory, Art: Deleuze and the Framing of the Earth by Elizabeth Grosz
7. Deleuze on music, painting and the arts by Ronald Bogue
8. From object to experience: the new culture of architectural design by Harry Francis Mallgrave
9. The Temporality of the Landscape by Tim Ingold
10. Mortal cities, Forgotten monuments by Arna Mackic
11. Neretva i njene obale u mostaru by Mirsad Mahic, Mustafa Sose, & Hakija Klaric
12. Rebuilding Mostar: International and Local Visions of a Contested City and Its Heritage by Emily Gunzburger Makaš

Reflection
The project tries to experiment and adopt a more open-ended view to the post-war cities rather than just looking at the non-productive affects of the war. Moreover, the dynamics of the river and the conditions it is producing needs to be looked upon as possibilities. As this...
The project works with experiences and feelings in relation to the spatial conditions; the results can be very subjective. However, it tries to deal with practical issues like ruins, erosion, flooding and alike in a technical yet experiential way.

**Time planning**

September – P1:
Desk and site analysis, project fascination, inspiration, title, research question, theories or lens to develop the research.

P1 – P2:
Identifying decaying urban spaces in the city - sites for urban acupuncture.
Affordances, affects, spatial and experiential qualities of these territories
Identifying affordances through time along the river
Range of flood plain and majorly affected areas
Eroding river banks
Remnants of war,
Initial spatial design ideas along the river
Dynamics of the river and ecological impact study and mapping.

P2 – P3:
Detailed spatial intervention along the river and at points along the city
Initial design and details (in terms of affordances) for particular intervention areas
Working with river dynamics and design strategies for erosion and flooding
Models
Impressions
Research Report

P3 – P4:
Finalising design
Developing impressions and models,
Finishing research report
Working on communication and presentation

P4 – P5:
Presentation and communication.