

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

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

<b>Personal information</b>	
Name	ANTONIA KOUKOUVELOU
Student number	4416821
Telephone number	0630899711
Private e-mail address	antoniakoukou@gmail.com

<b>Studio</b>	
Name / Theme	<b>FLOWSCAPES</b>
Teachers / tutors	Frits van Loon, Claudiu Forgaci, Joris Smits
Argumentation of choice of the studio	<p>Elements of connection were always a motivation for me to research and investigate more on their forms and functions. Flowscapes studio is dealing with flows, metabolism and processes about the landscape. By this opportunity, I wanted to start my graduation thesis with the construction of a bridge in an area that lacks of connection. A bridge is a connection which can shape conditions for more activities around it and can alter the landscapes which connects. Connecting landscapes is an interesting design assignment for me because it gives opportunities on investigating deeper in infrastructure, flows, ecology and society. What motivates me the most is that a bridge is not only an architectonic element that we can calculate and implement, it becomes an important connecting ring among different cultures, landscapes, flows and economies. It interferes with multiple fields and that makes it a complicated-interesting assignment for my thesis design.</p>

<b>Graduation project</b>	
Title of the graduation project	THE BRIDGE Connection, recreation and symbolism
<b>Goal</b>	
Location:	<p>My proposed design is located on the political and physical border between Romania and Bulgaria. On one of the weakest border connections in Europe. The chosen location derives from a deep investigation on missing connection along the Rhine-Danube river corridor. The Danube river is the physical border between Romania and Bulgaria for 610 km. The countries have only two bridges to connect them. That was one of the main reasons to choose this location for further investigation.</p> <p>My proposed bridge crosses the physical and political border of Romania and</p>

	Bulgaria and formulates a symbol of connection between landscape and culture, recreates the landscape and influences the ecology, culture and economy growth of the region.
The posed problem,	How can a bridge become the symbol among different countries, offer a recreated common public space, heal the misconnection and adapt to the landscape on both sides?
research questions and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Which is the essential relation between a bridge and a public space? Can they be shaped together by one common structure?</li> <li>2. What are the different ways of implementing bridges that connect different landscapes?</li> <li>3. What are the different users of a bridge and how do they use it?</li> <li>4. How to protect/preserve the environment from degenerating due to the changes that an international infrastructure might bring?</li> </ol>
design assignment in which these result.	<p>My design assignment would be to design a bridge structure that reflects on different scales of the landscape. The bridge is going to connect two countries, be an important highway infrastructure, a symbol and a public space. Design a bridge as a landscape project that deals with the connection of different landscapes, people, cultures and users. My design will focus more on the area around the implementation of the bridge and it will also contain an idea for the recreation of a larger area.</p> <p>I will focus on the representation of the area in different scales (local, middle and regional scale) to show the multiple applications of my project.</p>

**Process**

**Method description**

In my project I will work on different scales in order to achieve a larger, international connection for the bridge. My working elements would be:

1. Map overlaying in order to understand fully the qualities of the landscape.
2. Theories based on connection and bridge implementation in order to give an insight on the project and research on its methodology.
3. Modeling is beneficial to make the connecting elements tangible and understandable.
4. Materiality and engineering matters, such as drawings, techniques, calculations are important for the better understanding of the structure.
5. I will focus on the different connections that a bridge can achieve and investigate also on

successful examples which deal with big infrastructures and highway stops.

6. Site visit

7. Visit of relevant organizations which deal with the Danube region (Brussels.)

About the methodology (theory, method and tools) of my project I will focus on the bridge as a connecting element. What does it mean to connect two landscapes? How is it feasible? By answering these questions through existing examples of bridges, I will come up with guidelines supported by theory on how to design my bridge.

I will argue that a bridge design is not only the shape and design of the place but it also interferes with the economic, social and cultural development. Infrastructure as landscape and landscape as infrastructure define also the change in the society and the role of people in it. The challenge in this design assignment is to find a way to conceptualize and illustrate a design approach that involves the landscape-urban connection and influences the society and economy growth.

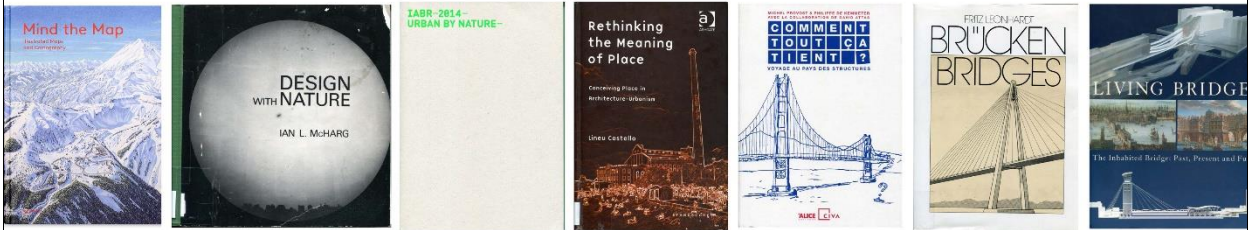
“...Of all the things a man in the prime of life builds up, and nothing in my eyes is better and more valuable than bridges. They are more important than houses, brighter than the temples, because they are intended to be used by more people, each and every equal to, useful, always built meaningfully, to the point where it crosses the highest number of human needs and are more persistent than other buildings and do not serve anything that is secret or evil...”

Ivo Andrić, Bosnian writer

### **Literature and general practical preference**

The literature that I am going to focus on would be related on one hand to bridges as elements on connection and on the other hand to human factor, as the user of the designed place.

1. The meaning of the place. What are the elements that define a public space?
  2. Previous studies of mine, related with infrastructure.
  3. Bridges theory, living bridges, technological and physical aspects.
  4. Water management, for the investigation on flooding controls.
  5. Economy values on the area and ways to evolve the economy of the place.
  6. Treatment of political borders. Symbolism.
  7. Materiality related to bridges structure.
  8. Texts such as:
    - a. Cheng, Y. (2013). Brief analysis of the application and prospect of landscape bridge design based on architecture. China: TRB2014 Annual meeting.
    - b. Donald MacDonald, I. N. (2008). Golden Gate Bridge: History and Design of an Icon. San Francisco, California: Chronicle Books LLC.
    - c. Heilmeyer, F. (n.d.). Ben van Berkel / UNStudio. Baunetz.
- Parks, G. G. (2014). What's out there? The Cultural Landscape Foundation.
- d. Steffen Nijhuis, D. J. (2015). Flowscapes. Designing infrastructure as landscape. Delft: TUDelft.



## Reflection

### Relevance

How can we integrate architecture and landscape architecture? A bridge can obtain more values than just an infrastructure. How can we challenge people to cross borders, communicate and congregate with each other and the environment? In my thesis design I want to succeed a result that deals with both people and infrastructure because I believe that this connection is still missing in this area.

I will investigate also on how to add in a highway infrastructure an important stop/resting area that gives the opportunity to people to leave their car and explore the landscape.

A bridge design is always critical for the space syntax of landscapes. It influences all the flows and can either develop or diminish them. Bridges are powerful and deserve of attention from designers. How can we make a bridge constantly adaptable to the changing landscape?

### Time planning

I believe that the amount of work is going to be more when I pass my P2 and the time that I will have will seem shorter. Therefore, I presume that I will try to work faster until P3 so that I will define my project and its components.

I believe on the good representation of the projects and for that reason I want to devote a sufficient amount of time on investigating on representation techniques for my project. For that reason I decided to have my P3 on March.

Finally, for my last presentation (P5) I would like to organize something more special. I want to think of a theme that will give another aspect of my project which is the cultural effect on the environment. I would like to show that through a literature or poem reading. But to do so, I need time to research for it. If there is no time on that, I will focus on touching this matter by a drawing technique.

The following diagram shows the amount of work in relation to the speed of work.

DIAGRAM OF THE MOUNT OF WORK LOAD IN RELATION TO ACCELERATION OF THE FINISHED PRODUCTS.  
THE PROJECT UNFOLDS FASTER AT THE END

