Graduation Plan

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student number</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone number</td>
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<td>E-mail address</td>
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<tr>
<th>Studio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name / Theme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
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<td>Argumentation of choice of the studio</td>
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<th>Graduation project</th>
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<th>Goal</th>
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The posed problem,

Though we already reached the stage of general peace in contemporary society, there were still areas under conflicts because of economic, religious, gender and ethnic differences problem during the past decades. Rather than beginning and ending cleanly, conflicts are inherited and either perpetuated or transformed by successive generations. As The largest local war in Europe after the Second World War, the Yugoslav wars lasted from 1991 to 1999 inside the territory of the former Yugoslavia, they finally accompanied and facilitated the breakup of the country. Bosnia and Herzegovina suffered a lot from the civil war, and among all the cities, Mostar was the longest and most tragic place. During the war, 90% of the centre was shelled and 1/3 of the buildings were destroyed, till now, 25years after the war, the work of reconstruction is still going on. It is nowadays famous for the Old Bridge in the old city center.

In 2003 a reunification started with both national and international actors. The idea was to restore the bridge to stimulate the multiculturalism and reconciliation. However, the public life in reality is not as good as the told story. The reconstruction of the old bridge and other bridges did not really lead to connect people, as people still stay in their religious side boundary. Many reconstruction work had been done during the 20 years, while there is an obvious tendency that the international voice and the local government over-emphasized the manifestation of two sides religious power, such as the height comparison between belfries and minarets, while ignoring the significance of reconstruction of ruined or abandoned public spaces, which continually leads to further division of the city. Even worse, the old bridge is no longer serving the citizens as in the past, but being occupied by crowded tourists during the day, being empty at night; The city diving platform was removed from the city swimming pool, which means the most traditional activity of city diving exercise and competition came to its end; and some buildings with considerable historical value still remain untouched in the ruined area, lose the public memory people having about it. Obviously, the once most religiously mixed city turns into a divided city today in both physical and mental aspects.
Physical division:
Glorious boulevard, what it was before, was transformed into front line during the war. After the war, it got back its role as the main traffic road, but some residential and commercial parts along it still remain under ruined now. The Neretva River, which the city was built on, is another physical division. Now, Mostar was nonphysically divided into 3 zones: west Mostar, east Mostar and neutral zone in between. The boundary is approximately the front line and the river, and west bank mostly for Croatian, east bank for Bosnian.

Mental division:
More importantly, the pain brought to a place by the war is not only about the loss of property, the damage to facilities, the death of people, but also the ruin of the immaterial value owned by the city and its people. Rather than demolishing any arbitrary building, specific culture architectures (libraries, museums, universities, squares) and public buildings were targeted, by destroying which, not only history, culture and public life of the city, but also awareness begins to emerge that the city is mortal. For people identify with their surroundings.

Along with the reduction of public space and the decline in quality, people lost their place of public life, where they used to meet with friends, entertain, hold activities, and people gradually divided between individuals. The division also happened between people from two sides. With the process of reconstruction work, there is still not enough public spaces around the divided boundary that can attracts everyone. People are increasingly trend to stay in their own territory, and people on two sides lost connection. In addition, the loss of public space and activities can also lead to the loss of the medium by which memory and connection between individuals and the city could be founded. Those destroyed places and buildings of important historical values are likely to be slowly erased, until people can no longer remember the corresponding history, and people lose contact with the city in the past.

Problem
Hence, the general problem this project dealing with is 1) the poor quality of existing public spaces in Mostar, and 2) )the division between people and the loss of memory between inhabitants and city, which largely caused by the first problem.

Key words: public space, history and memory, heritage, social connection, divided city

Objective & Research Questions
Objective
This project seeks to mitigate the mental division of the city and promote the construction of a cohesive society by redesigning and improving public spaces as landscape intervention. Through the designed process, the public spaces in Mostar would 1) gradually invite everyone in the city to share a open and friendly context, including squares, parks, streets, riverbanks and markets, etc; 2) creat a memoryscape about city history and collective memory to re-stimulate the connection between people and city.

Research Question
How can the historical and social value of public spaces in Mostar be enhanced by landscape interventions to mitigate the mental division between people?

Sub-research Question
(Understanding question) How to conceptualize public spaces in Mostar for this project?
(Understanding question) How to understand the mental division through public space analysis?

(Design question) How to make use of the remaining historic heritage elements to bring history and memory to the public space?

(Reflection question) How could the designed public space contribute to a more cohesive society? How can it contribute to tackle the existing mental divisions in the city?

**design assignment in which these result**

Context, Theoretical study, site analysis, concept/strategy, vision. detail design, reflection.

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**Process**

**Method description**

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**Literature and general practical preference**


### Reflection

#### Relevance

**Social relevance**

Still, in 21st century, there are many countries suffer from the conflict left by the war, which already arose the international attention. During the reconstruction work, special attention should also be paid on the aspect of public life and city identity as these are the aspects easily being ignored but being closely related to the psychological reconstruction. Taking this aspect into consideration, the public space would be taken as the entry point and act as a catalyst to bridge people and city. The study and landscape intervention to the public space system would help mitigating the division between people and rebuild the understanding and memory of the city.

**Science relevance**

The study of the working area as divided city would respond to the challenge of widely understanding the division situation of the post-conflict city. The way of research and intervention of this project might add the knowledge of how to cope with public space reconstruction in a divided background. Since every divided area has its own character, this project approach would be impossible to fit every other. But two points could be shared from a general aspect to do the landscape intervention:

- How to study a specific site about the current situation and history narrative;
- How to transfer between the public, cultural and history value the design want to bring and the public demands from the local.

### Time planning

- **P1**
  - Problem statement
  - Research question
  - Site trip

- **P2**
  - Problem statement
  - Research question
  - Theoretical study
  - Case study
  - Strategy & Principle
  - Site analysis
  - Potential analysis

- **P3**
  - Potential analysis
  - Concept and vision in city scale
  - Selection of testing area/point
  - Testing area/point analysis
Testing area/point detail design
P4
Testing area/point detail design
P5
Reflection
Testing area/point analysis
Testing area/point detail design
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