

BAUA Awards 2023

The best architecture graduation
projects in the Baltics

BAUA AWARDS 2023

IDEA

The BAUA Awards were called to life by the three members of the Baltic Architects Unions association (BAUA), namely, Architects Association of Lithuania, Latvian Union of Architects, and Union of Estonian Architects. The exhibition and competition of the best graduation projects by architecture students was first organised back in 2014 by the Latvian Association of Architects in Daugavpils. Since then, the competition has been held annually in a different capital city of the Baltic States. In 2023, the is for the first time organized in Kaunas and hosted by Kaunas Technological University.

The BAUA Awards aims at presenting, comparing and awarding the best graduation works by architecture students from the Baltic States. The event provides a platform for architecture students, inviting them to showcase their creative potential, receive evaluation and feedback from professionals and the international community of architects, and observe the development of new ideas in a broader context. The exhibition reflects the achievements and quality of architectural education in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, provides an opportunity to compare various education methods and programmes, and fosters collaboration and communication between young architects and academic societies in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Participants

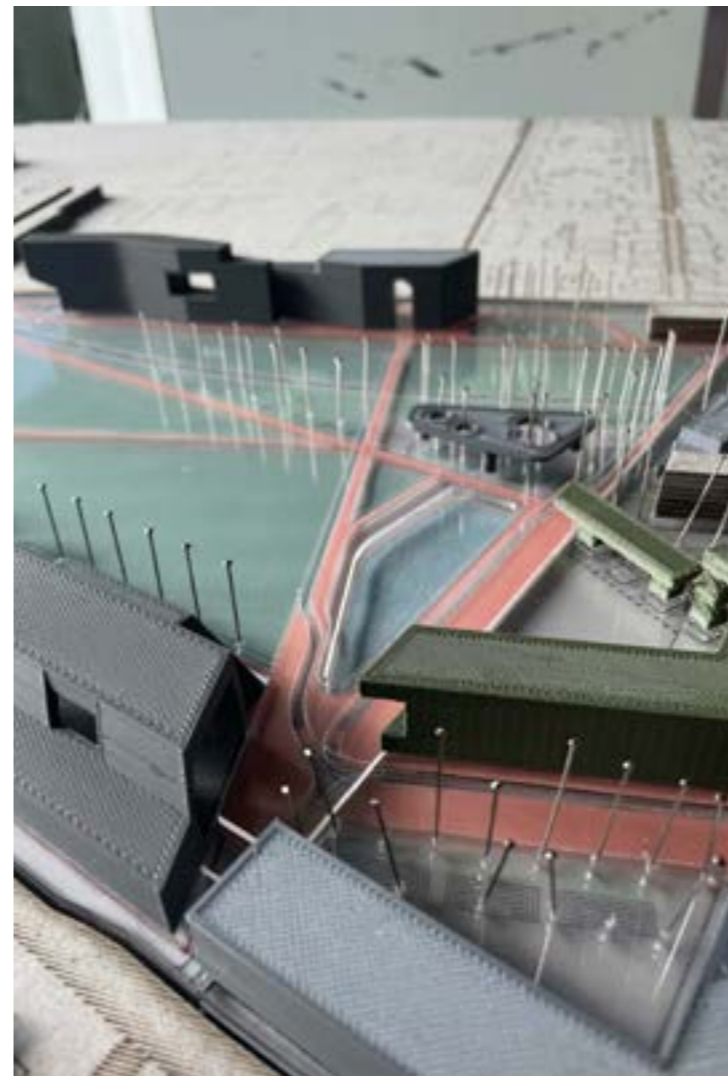
12 projects from 12 students in this year's exhibition and competition were selected to represent 7 Baltic architecture schools. The following students competed for the title of the Best Student's Project:

Mark Aleksander Fischer and Katariina Mustasaar from Estonian Academy of Arts, Darja Rakoviš and Rasmus Ink from Tallinn Technical University, Kristina Marcinkutė and Monika Moncevičiūtė from Kaunas Technological University, Eglė Dimaitytė from Vilnius Art Academy Vilnius Faculty, Gabrielė Ibėnaitė from Vilnius Art Academy Kaunas Faculty, Raigardas Sinkevičius from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University Department of Urbanistics, Lūcija Marija Turka-Kampāne from RISEBA University of Business, Arts and Technology, Roberta Fišere and Dāvis Jansons from Riga Technical University.

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EKA Architecture
Design
Art
Research



Planning affordable housing in Põhja-Tallinn. Kopli Freight Station – the last Piece of the Puzzle in the socio-economic Landscape of Northern Tallinn

MARK ALEKSANDER FISCHER
Estonian Academy of Arts
Supervisor: Prof. Andres Alver, Prof. Douglas Gordon

This thesis addresses the pressing issue of affordable housing in Tallinn, Estonia. It aims to devise a solution to the current housing crisis by creating a model neighbourhood where diverse socio-economic groups can coexist in proportion to their representation in society. The research delves into various international models of affordable housing and examines the real estate landscape in Tallinn. The thesis is divided into three sections: the first provides a theoretical framework, exploring key concepts, the second studies real estate development models used globally, and the third applies these models to the

context of Tallinn, particularly the Kopli Freight Station area. By analysing income distribution and considering the prerequisites for social urban spaces, the study proposes an urban plan to combat gentrification and segregation, promoting a socially inclusive environment in Northern Tallinn.



**Post-Industrial Seascape:
Phytoremediation of Paljassaare Harbour**

KATARIINA MUSTASAAR
Estonian Academy of Arts
Supervisor: Laura Linsi, Roland Reemaa, Eik Hermann

Human impact on our ecosystems is clearly reflected in the poor health of the Baltic Sea. This project proposes a strategy to turn a post-industrial harbour in Tallinn into a new urban space. To accomplish that, it applies phytoremediation – a type of bioremediation technology that uses plants to clean up contamination from the environment – to urban planning. From mapping the sea to designing pathways, the project speculates how phytoremediation could play a role in shaping our surroundings and spreading environmental awareness. As a result of treating the landscape as a dynamic system, it is

transformed from a closed polluted site into an everyday space, which different stakeholders can shape and embrace over time. The proposed strategy, mutually beneficial to nature and humans, could also be applied to the transformation of other similar sites along the coast of the Baltic Sea.



TALLINNA
TEHNIKAKÕRGKOO~L



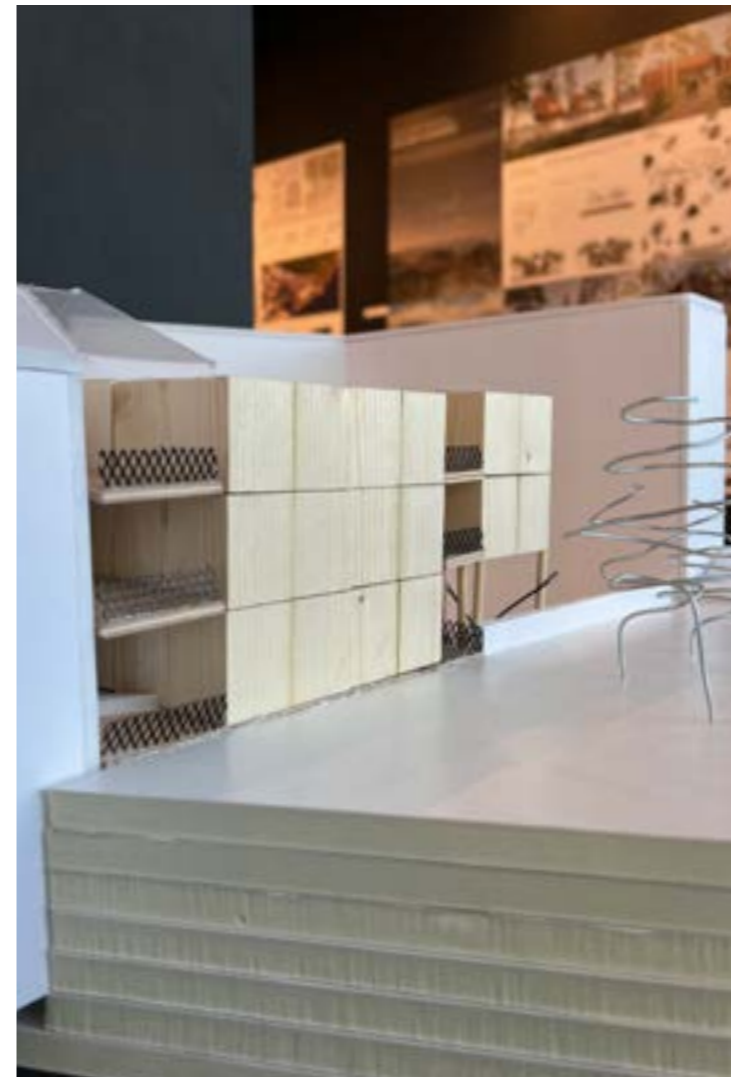
Urban space between high-rise buildings. The Maakri quarter

DARJA RAKOVIČ
Tallinn University of Technology
Supervisor: Üllar Ambos

By the middle of the 20th century, high-rise buildings have become a regular part of the architectural landscape of most countries around the world. The tall building was, is, and remains the main instrument for achieving the vertical density of the city, which gives the opportunity to use the urban space both economically and socially more efficiently. However, buildings of prominent height have a significant impact on the urban space around them. Quite often, high-rise buildings have received a negative image in modern urban planning because they spoil the decent and comfortable urban

space around them, making them windy and desolate. The focus of the Master's thesis is the urban space between high-rise buildings. The thesis seeks an answer to the question of how to create a high-quality and human-scale urban space with high-rise buildings in such a way that people desire to be, live, work and spend time in the created urban space.





Creating adaptable accommodation in the urban voids of Tallinn - Housing a future mass influx of displaced persons

RASMUS INK
TalTech
Supervisor: Vidmantas Minkevičius

The project proposes an adaptable social housing for different user groups which could be used to house displaced persons. The design creates a social hierarchy, which connects the newcomer and host society to create integration. Emphasis on individuality and control over space is implemented. Excess number of urban voids within the city offer vacant space near the center, which would meet the spatial needs of refugees. Multiple sites with different scales are developed in order to display the adaptability of the structure.





Feasibility Study of the Territory Development in R. Budrio Str. 30, in Raudondvaris Eldership

KRISTINA MARCINKUTĖ
Kaunas University of Technology
Supervisor: Vidmantas Minkevičius

Kaunas-based Catholic community "Gyvieji akmenys" is active since 1992. In 2001, the organisation acquired R. Budrys' homestead at R. Budrys st. 30., Didvyriai village, Kaunas district. For 20 years, the house, located on a hillside next to the beautiful Nemunas river valley, has been used for recollection retreats and other community events, but the small building does not meet all the needs of the community. Feasibility study of the territory was done for the master's final project. The final experimental project of the multi-functional center was prepared to achieve the synthesis of spiritual

and material ecological harmony. The center has two main functions - community center and a retreat center. The retreat center includes a guest house, traditional crafts workshops, a craft exhibition/event hall and a chapel. Combining the goals of maintaining the existing atmosphere and the principles of sustainable architectural construction, principles of both modern and traditional architecture were fused.



A Study on the Walkability of City and Proposals to Improve It (Klaipėda Case Study)

MONIKA MONCEVIČIŪTĖ
Kaunas University of Technology
Supervisor: Prof. dr. Kęstutis Zaleckis

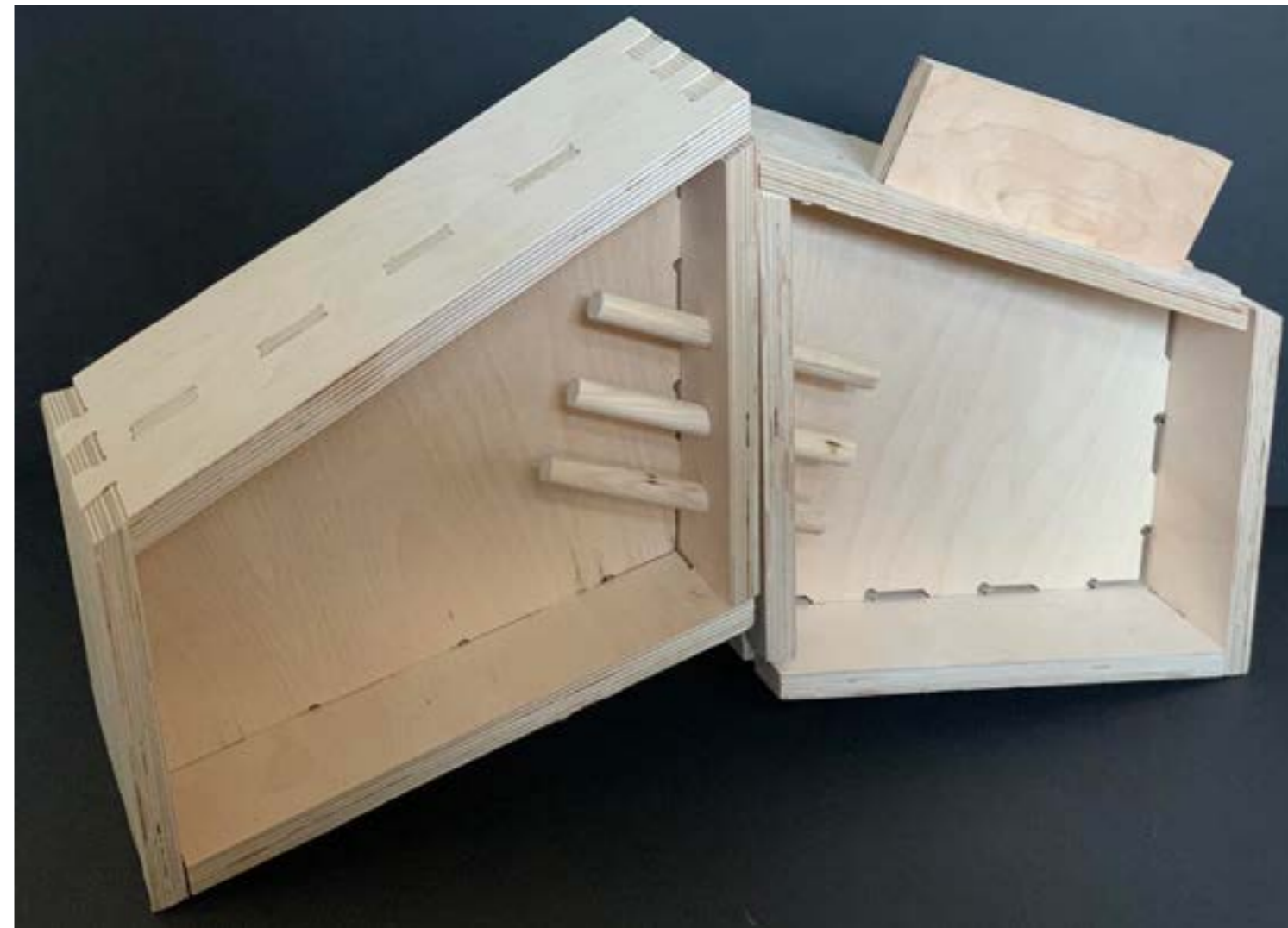


Lithuania's sustainable mobility habits are just starting to form. However, the analysis regarding walkability lacks depth and structure; there is an overuse of vague terms. Even though walkability is part of a complex urban structure, deeper analysis and more precise evaluation criteria regarding walkability could lead to better urban design strategies and quality of life. Theoretical research revealed key quantitative and objective parameters for a walkable city.

Empirical research (GIS, general and sustainable mobility plans, sociological surveys analysis, walk audit and observation) revealed what walkability issues Klaipėda faces and what urban means could improve it. An experimental design project was created with a research-based urban design strategy and concept for Klaipėda city walkability enhancement.



Vilnius Academy of Arts



Interpretation of Historical Possession in the Forms of Wood Architecture

EGLĖ DIMAITYTĖ - VAINERMANĖ
Vilnius Academy of Arts Kaunas faculty
Supervisor: Vytautas Biekša, Petras Vestartas

The object of the master's thesis research is wooden connections in timber architecture. The goal is to understand their role in creating a new architectural language and to answer the question: Is it possible to discover innovations in the process of creating timber architecture by conceptualizing the role of the connection itself? The thesis explores timber architectural systems and their application in innovative timber architecture, seeking a connection between the past, present, and future. Attention is given to the possibilities of digital technologies, which are applied in the creative process with the aim of

creating high-quality, sustainable, and modern transformations in the field of architectural heritage. A strategy is developed, choosing a valuable but neglected urban space as a platform for experimental assembled timber structures, which not only create a new public space but also open opportunities for experimentation, testing, evaluation, and the search for a new architectural language in timber architecture.



A Dialogue between Local Resources and Contemporary Architecture for Dynamic and Sustainable Urban Change: The Case of Boavista Neighbourhood in Lisbon

GABRIELĖ IBĖNAITĖ
Vilnius Academy of Arts Kaunas faculty
Supervisor: Laura Linsi, Roland Reemaa, Eik Hermann

This thesis explores the relationship between dynamic and sustainable urban renewal in architecture and the importance of local resources. Dynamic and sustainable urban change is linked to coherent and long term urban development that is oriented towards sustainable development goals and local resources. Local resources are the tangible and intangible elements that shape the spatial structure, character and spirit of the place. The theme is highlighted through the case of revitalization of Lisbon urban area, proposing a project that would incorporate new cultural activities complemented by residential functions.

The concept of the project „CONEXAO“ is where the past meets the present to create a coherent and sustainable link. With this project I create connection between old architecture and new, between analog and digital, to develop small culture centers that improves people habits of thinking, creativity and artistic enjoyment.





VILNIUS
TECH

Vilnius Gediminas
Technical University



War and the city: system of passive defense in the urban structure

RAIGARDAS SINKEVIČIUS
Vilnius Gediminas Technical University,
Faculty of Architecture
Supervisor: Saulius Motieka

The master's thesis delves into the phenomenon (vision) of the passive defense system in urban structures and its principles. Currently, these principles are forgotten, but they are becoming relevant again in the context of contemporary geopolitical events. The purpose of the topic is to research passive defense, civil defense, civil safety and transformation possibilities in the context of the city of Vilnius and to present a functional spatial interpretation of the resistance of the structure of the selected territory, including the interaction of underground, geography and urban fabrics. The research part presents

the analysis of the city of Vilnius from the aspect of passive defense. Vulnerable areas of the city are analyzed. Naujininkai is identified as the most vulnerable part of the city of Vilnius. After discovering the vulnerable part of the city and conducting an analysis, a concept is formulated to improve the district's resistance to the conventional threat of war.





Proposal for the development of public courtyard in the microdistrict between Ieriku, Stirnu and Unijas streets in Purvciems, Riga

LŪCIJA MARIJA TURKA-KAMPĀNE
RISEBA University of Business,
Arts and Technology
Supervisor: Jānis Lejnīeks, Jānis Dripe

The main task of the design project is to propose such regeneration strategy for post-war large-scale typical residential neighbourhood courtyards, which would not only create a place, appropriate to modern living standards, but also would promote the overall wellbeing of society. In order to comprehend the potential solutions for particular urban settings in strategical level, planning task is based on qualitative (questionnaire of residents), spatial and theoretical approach analysis of the study object, as well as considering the international case study examples as crucial. The aim of the design project is not only

to assign an engaging function to the alienated courtyards, but also to create a strong bound between the residential buildings and adjacent outdoor areas, as well as propose such renewal solutions of the existing buildings, which would improve housing quality and, in total, generate more livable conditions in cities.



RIGA TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY



**Reconnecting the Port and the City:
Passenger Terminal in Riga**

ROBERTA FIŠERE
Riga Technical University
Supervisor: Marts Švėde

Riga historically has developed as a port city, but today the city's connection to the waterfront is blocked by the Freeport of Riga, breaking the sense of belonging to the waterfront areas. Master's Thesis studies the relationships between the man and the built environment to understand the social and spatial principles on how society identifies with the environment and forms related activities. The project is based on the Riga Municipality plan to develop infrastructure for a Passenger Terminal in Eksportosta. The concept emphasises Eksportosta's industrial heritage to

strengthen the sense of belonging and create a unique spatial character. The project proposes to maintain the existing activities of contemporary art and reintroduce the typology of passenger terminal as a melting pot between tourism, leisure and contemporary culture. An elevated promenade stretches across the territory to provide a unique opportunity to observe the activities taking place in the passenger port. The project aims to create a new image of an inclusive port which reconnects the port and the city.



Sustainable use of concrete in architecture, "Manufacture Māksla" ("art") – Latvian Sculpture Museum, Riga

DĀVIS JANSONS
Riga Technical University
Supervisor: Guntis Grabovskis

Latvian Sculpture Museum is not just a journey through locations rich artistic history - it's an immersion into the very essence of creativity. It's a reminder that art transcends time, culture, and boundaries. A place where sculptures meet architecture in all its scale.

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