



The Best Graduation
Projects of Architecture
Students of Baltic States
2024

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IDEA

The BAUA Awards were called to life by the three members of the Baltic Architects Unions Association (BAUA), namely, the Architects Association of Lithuania, the Latvian Association of Architects, and the Estonian Association of Architects. The exhibition and competition of the best graduation projects by architecture students was first organized back in 2014 in Daugavpils. Since then, the competition has been held annually in a different city of the Baltic States.

The aim of the event is to present, compare and award the best works of architecture students from the Baltic States. It provides a platform to showcase their creative potential, obtain evaluation and feedback from professionals and the international community of architects. The exhibition reflects the results and quality of architectural education in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, provides an opportunity to compare methods and programmes of education and fosters collaboration and contact between young architects and academic societies.

PARTICIPANTS

14 projects represent 7 Baltic architecture schools: Estonian Academy of Arts (EST); Tallinn University of Technology (EST); Kaunas Technology University (LT); Vilnius Academy of Arts (LT); Architecture and Urban Design departments of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (LT); Riga Technical University (LV) and Riseba University (LV).

The representing MA projects have been selected by the universities.

JURY

The projects are to be evaluated by the jury, consisting of licensed architects who are not involved in teaching architecture at any of the participating schools in Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania. Additionally, an impartial foreign jury member has been added.

The jury members are:

Søren Pihlmann, architect (pihlmann architects, Denmark)

Mae Kõõmnemägi, architect (Makespace, Estonia)

Raimonds Saulītis, architect (ARHIS ARHITEKTI, Latvia)

EVALUATION CRITERIAS

- › conceptuality, originality, innovativeness
- › coherence of the architectural or urban idea
- › quality of the presentation

while also considering the New European Bauhaus values¹:

- › sustainability (from climate goals to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity)
- › aesthetics (quality of experience and style beyond functionality)
- › inclusion (from valuing diversity to securing accessibility and affordability)

EXHIBITION + CATALOGUE

The exhibition and the web-based catalogue contain condensed materials from the projects. The works will be presented in more detail by the students during the live public presentation.

¹ new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/about/about-initiative_en

Contents

Estonian Academy of Arts / Faculty of Architecture,
Architecture and Urban Planning

- 8 Helin Kuldkepp** / Municipal strategy in urban regeneration: Emphasizing Municipal Land and Land Value Capture in Spatial Planning - A Case Study of Lasnamäe
- 10 Diana Drobot** / Sinking&shrinking - Adapting to Subsidence on an Example of Shrinking Kohtla-Järve City

Tallinn University of Technology / Academy of
Architecture and Urban Studies

- 14 Eleonora Bublikova** / Neighborhood Revitalization by the Example of the Akadeemia Tee Panel Buildings Quarter
- 16 Gredy Lillipuu** / Adaptability of Linnahall, Life Cycle of a Postsocialist Megastructure

Riga Technical University /
Faculty of Architecture

- 20 Danna Degle-Uškāne** / Architecture-based Solutions for Improving Livability of Vidzeme Market Quarter in Riga
- 22 Katrīna Marta Peizuma** / Experimental Preservation of 20th Century De-industrial Architectural Heritage in the Circular Economy: Construction Materials Laboratory and the Museum of Unbuilt Architecture in Eksportosta

RISEBA University of business, arts and technology /
Faculty of Architecture and Design

- 26 Linda Tinusa** / Place therapy - mending post-traumatic spaces with the implementation of art - layering new identities of Uzvaras parks
- 28 Katrīna Krastiņa** / Promoting intergenerational interaction, educational Centre for Generations in Ķekava

Kaunas University of Technology /
Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture

- 32 Arnas Džiaugys** / Development of the territory of former military base in Karmėlava
- 34 Gintarė Pociūtė** / Experimental Project of Public Space and New Concept Market in Gargždai

Vilnius Academy of Arts / Faculty of Vilnius /
Faculty of Kaunas / Department of Architecture

- 38 Viktorija Narbutaitė** / The transformation of Zarasai bus station
- 40 Žymantė Saveraitė** / Recreational boating potential in Kaunas: a marina with recreational spaces on the riverbank of Nemunas

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University /
Faculty of Architecture / Department of Architecture

- 44 Anna Khomchenkova** / Connecting Architecture: Revitalization of Odesa's Cruise Port
- 46 Grasilda Mintaučkytė** / Lost in transition: fabrication of the urban concept of a medium-sized city identity in Lithuania (case of Utena)

Estonian Academy of Arts / Faculty of Architecture, Architecture and Urban Planning

Estonian Academy of Arts (EAA, est. 1914) is the only one of the six public universities in Estonia providing higher education in fine arts, design, architecture, media, visual studies, art culture and conservation. The Academy consists of four faculties: Faculty of Architecture, Faculty of Design, Faculty of Fine Arts and Faculty of Art and Culture. In addition to active study and research activities, EAA also offers lifelong learning opportunities through the Open Academy. Currently, there are more than 1200 students enrolled in the Academy.

EAA is striving to become a leading international centre of innovation in the field of visual and material culture. The Estonian Academy of Arts collaborates with more than a hundred universities worldwide and belongs to several international higher education networks. The lecturers and instructors are professionals in their field – internationally recognised artists, architects, designers, historians and scientists. Visiting lecturers from universities in Estonia and abroad are regular guests.

Faculty of Architecture is the focal point of Estonian architecture education and the centre of competence in the creative disciplines related to built environments, including furniture design, interior architecture, architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning and design. The Faculty of Architecture consists of three departments: the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, the Department of Interior Architecture and Furniture Design and the Department of Urban Studies. The ambition of the faculty is to provide a very broad field of architecture education, in the best sense of the word, by paying equal attention to the design of interiors, buildings, spaces between them and the larger environments where they are located. Architecture and interior architecture are closely related, with significant overlapping and joint projects within the curriculum. When studying architecture, it is also possible to study landscape architecture and Conservation and Cultural Heritage as a subsidiary subject. Urban Studies is an international English-language Master level curriculum, which is based on research concerning the functioning of modern cities, from the perspective of their users, major participants, decision-makers and planners to study landscape architecture, conservation and restoration or planning as a subsidiary subjects.

Municipal strategy in urban regeneration: Emphasizing Municipal Land and Land Value Capture in Spatial Planning - A Case Study of Lasnamäe



HELIN KULDKEPP

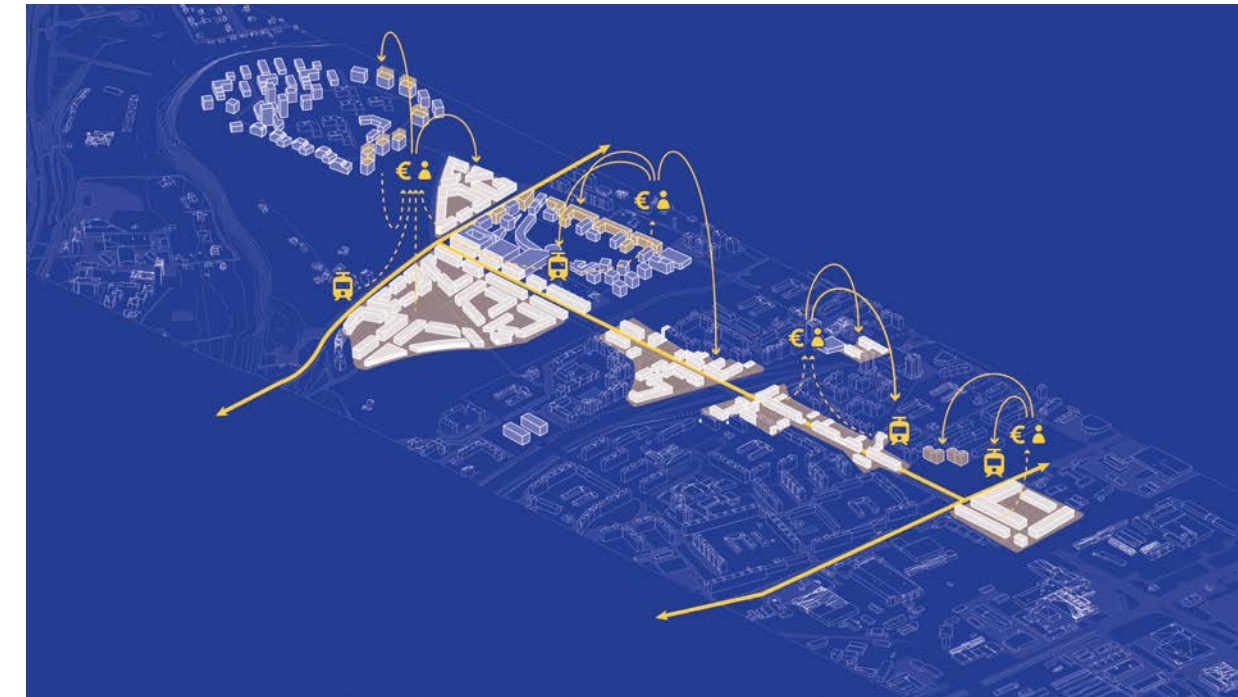
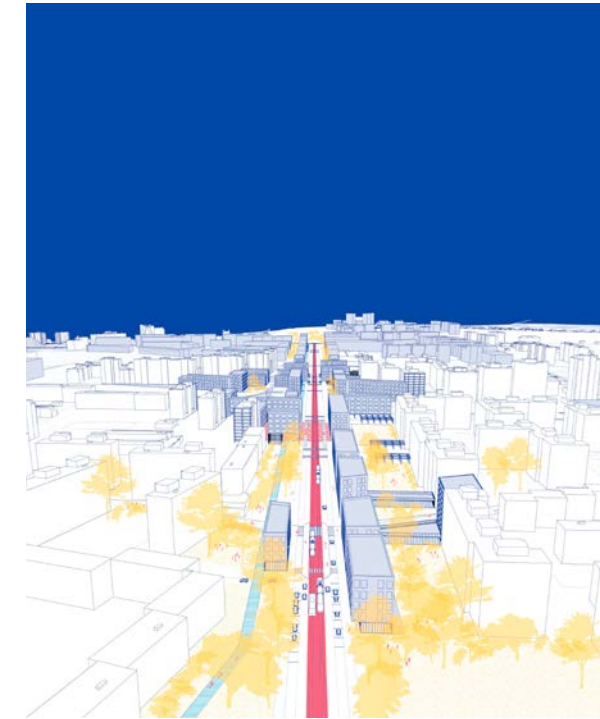
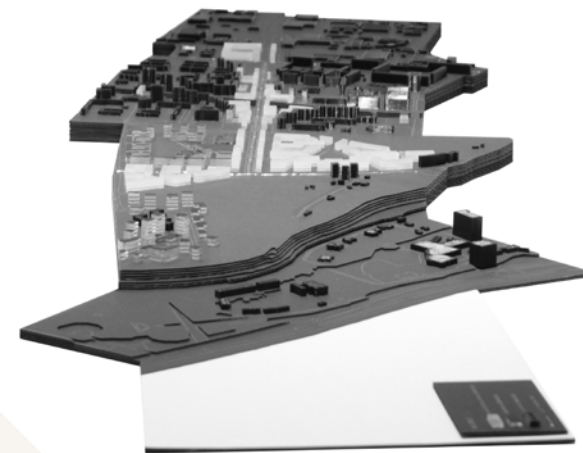
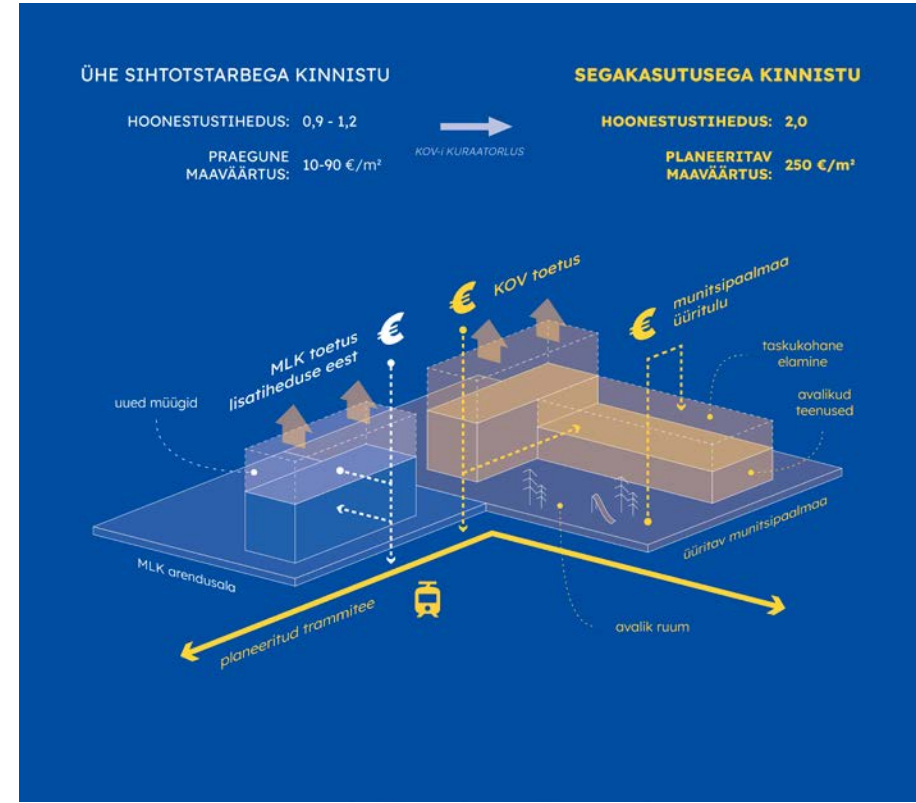
Estonian Academy of Arts / Faculty of Architecture, Architecture and Urban Planning

Tutors: Andres Ojari, Douglas Gordon, Andres Alver, Eik Hermann

This master's thesis offered diverse opportunities for local governments to achieve systematic regeneration of urban districts using their own resources in cooperation with the private sector.

Two selected methods were the use of municipal land and the land value capture (LVC) model, allowing local governments to act as the primary curators of their spaces while encouraging private sector involvement. This was achieved by offering additional density and taxing the value added through LVC, creating mutual benefits for both the local government and the private sector.

The main focus was on Tallinn, but the strategies developed can be applied to all Estonian local governments. The pilot project focused on Lasnamäe, an area in need of regeneration and rich in municipal land. Through the Lasnamäe pilot project, I demonstrated strategies such as transit-oriented densification, long-term leasing of municipal land for socially cohesive developments, and densification of private developments to fund infrastructure.



SINKING&SHRINKING - Adapting to Subsidence on an Example of Shrinking Kohtla-Järve City

BVAU

STUDENTS 2024

HONORARY MENTION



DIANA DROBOT

Estonian Academy of Arts / Faculty of Architecture, Architecture and Urban Planning

Tutors: Laura Linsi, Roland Reemaa, Eik Hermann

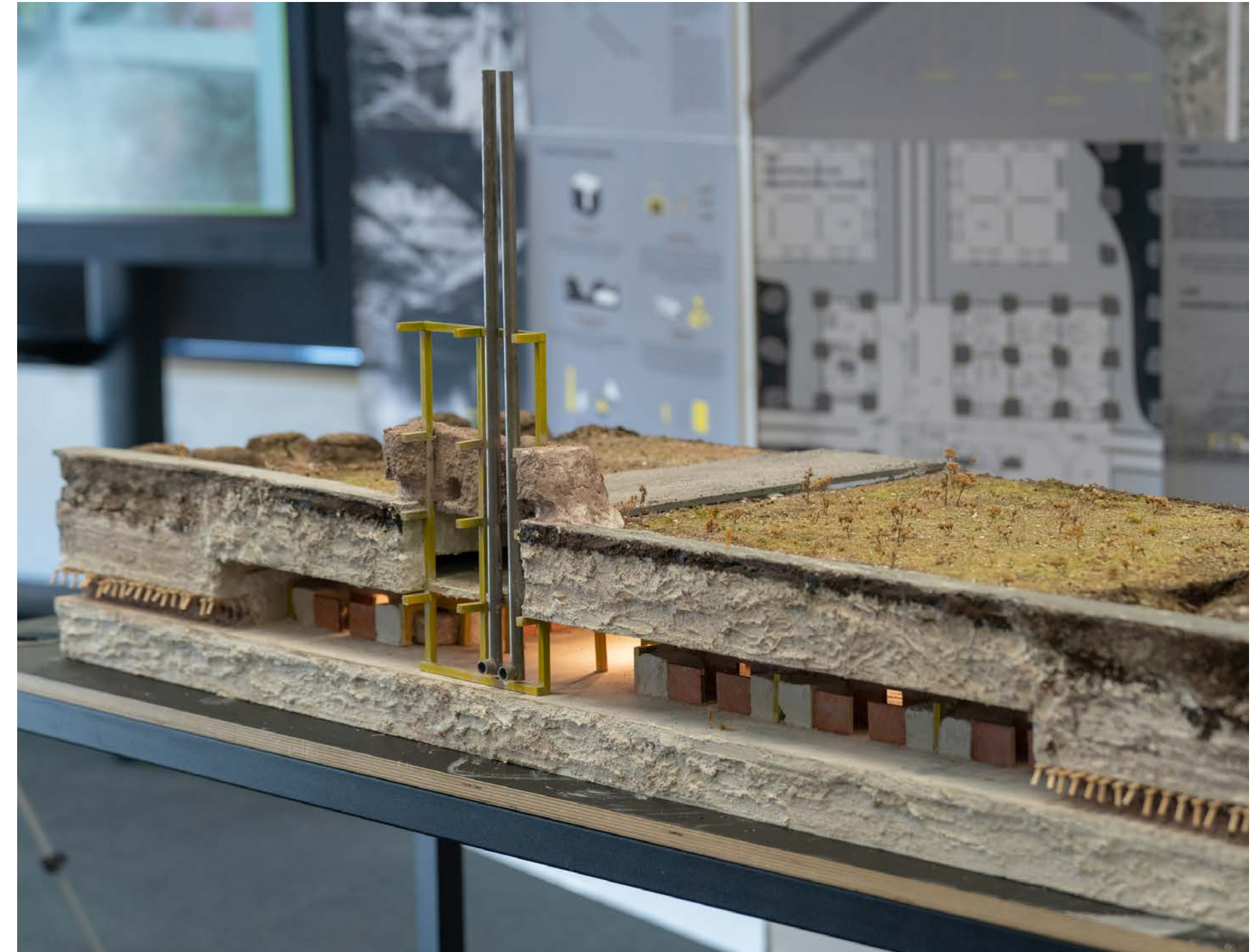
This master's thesis sheds light on the need and possibilities for revaluing post-mining industrial landscapes, using the exhausted Kukruse oil shale mine as a case study.

It focuses on the extraction of mineral resources and the resulting post-extracted landscapes. Oil shale mining, a leading industry in Estonia, leaves a significant spatial footprint with a recognizable rhythm and strong identity. Traditionally, underground mines are abandoned after resource exploitation.

This thesis proposes a reevaluation of the underground industrial heritage, restoring and reusing elements like shurfs, stretches, oil shale columns, and chambers.

Additionally, this study examines the post-mining city of Kohtla-Järve, addressing the subsidence (sinking) of residential buildings and radical demographic shrinking.

The aim is to adapt to these changes, embracing ongoing demographic and post-industrial processes. Inspired by post-humanism, the thesis suggests reusing underground spaces for passive storage, which does not require human presence, promoting co-existence and opening up the underground landscape.



Tallinn University of Technology / Academy of Architecture and Urban Studies

Taltech is in a leading position in technically oriented research, development and innovation in Estonia. The TalTech BSc-MSc integrated five-year architecture curriculum offers professional higher education in architecture and spatial planning with a focus on knowledge-intensive design processes producing knowledge-intensive solutions, advancing the digital transformation in the construction sector, in the context of the e-Estonia brand. The study program is part of the Academy of Architecture and Urban Studies, which aims to provide platforms for creative collaboration between different disciplines, in partnership with industry, the public sector and other leading research centres.

In redefining the polytechnic education in architecture, our mission is to drive excellence in architecture through cross-disciplinary, future-oriented research and research-driven education. We teach our students to master the societal, environmental, cultural and economic complexity through collaborative and digitized processes. Architecture is created with technology and of technology – not despite technology.

The curriculum follows European traditions in giving architects a solid polytechnic background. It includes creativity improving, engineering and other studies that in combination provide graduates the capacity to plan and execute quality projects. It aims to give the students, future architects, outstanding competencies at the labour market in Estonia and internationally to become successful future designers of living environment with attention for sustainable spatial solutions.

Architects work in collaboration with a variety of specialists, among them engineers, urbanists, artists, builders, philosophers, economists, etc. Next to excellent design skills it is important for an architect and urban planner to be agile in collaboration with a long list of partners, to tackle the contemporary urban challenges together with experts from other fields.

The graduates receive a master's degree in architecture and the occupational qualification of a Diploma Architect, level 7.

Neighborhood Revitalization by the Example of the Akadeemia Tee Panel Buildings Quarter



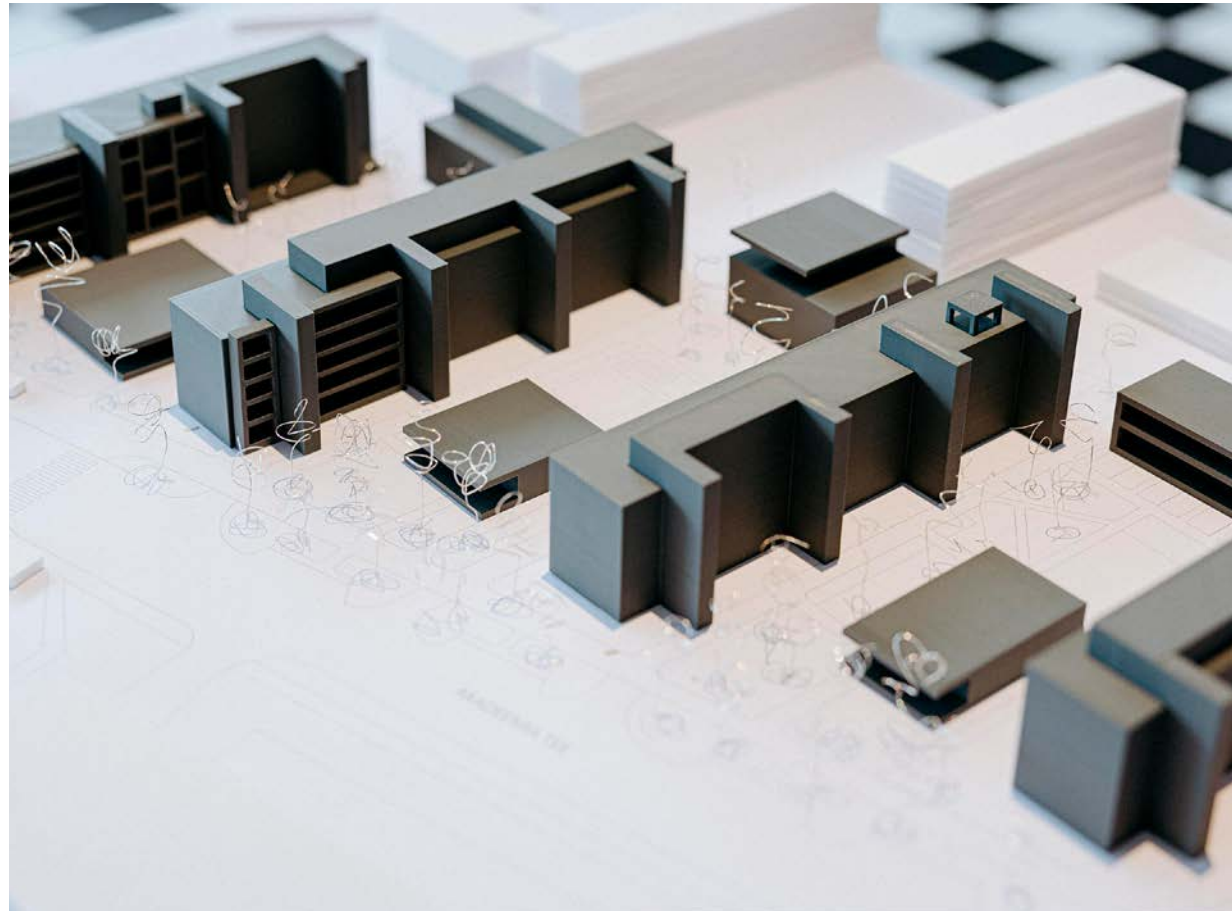
ELEONORA
BUBLIKOVA

Tallinn University of
Technology / Academy
of Architecture and Urban
Studies

Tutor: Üllar Ambos

The Master's thesis explores ways to improve living conditions in aging panel housing areas, with a focus on the revitalization of the Akadeemia tee quarter in Tallinn through various architectural interventions. The author has developed a comprehensive catalog of renovation solutions.

Additionally, the thesis proposes the creation of new common areas and outdoor spaces to encourage social interaction and foster a stronger sense of community. This research offers a practical framework for enhancing the livability and sustainability of panel housing neighborhoods, contributing to a more vibrant and dynamic urban environment.



Adaptability of Linnahall, Life Cycle of a Postsocialist Megastructure



GREDY LILLIPUU

Tallinn University of Technology / Academy of Architecture and Urban Studies

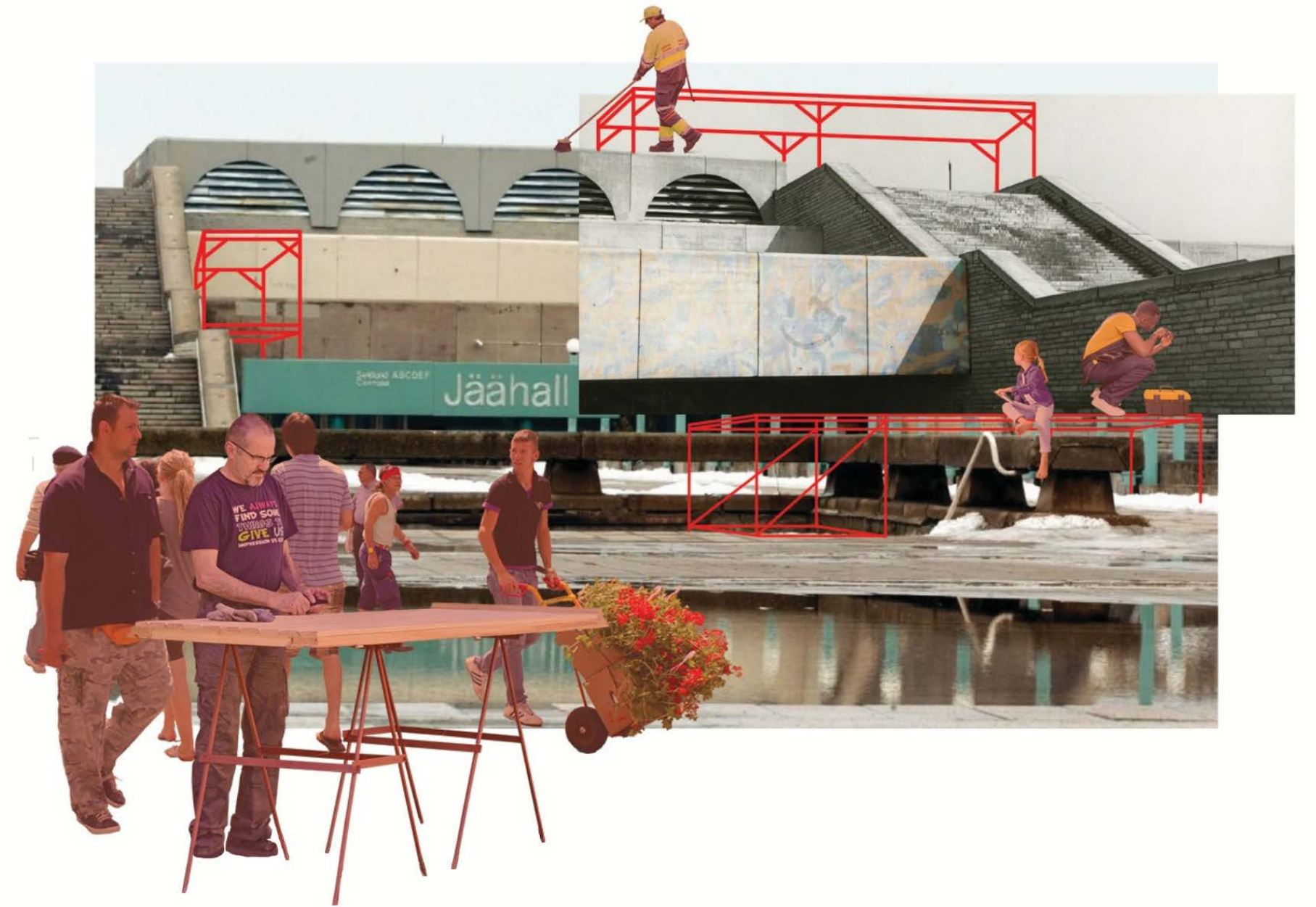
Tutor: Jaan Kuusemets

The deteriorating plot of Linnahall in an evolving seaside area raises the need to seek for an adaptable vision for the monumental masterpiece.

The case study of Linnahall as a phenomenon focuses on societal, political and ideological aspects over time and the common outlook of the building as a Soviet era's "waste".

Based on literature, planning strategies and archival material review, the study demonstrates the potential of reviving Linnahall in the change of paradigms about sustainability and degrowth theories. A shift in values and attitudes is considered a crucial presumption

for the adaptability of the heritage of the era. Hence the scenarios, where the most important actions are to be implemented starting from right now, a step-by-step approach and socio-cultural initiatives are proposed. The adaptability of Linnahall lies in the contribution of each member of the society.



Riga Technical University / Faculty of Architecture

Founded in 1862, Riga Technical University is the first higher technical school in the Baltic countries. At present, it offers studies in Architecture, Engineering Sciences, Natural and Environmental Sciences as well as in Engineering Economics. Faculty of Architecture provides architectural education at all levels of undergraduate and graduate education as well as undertakes scientific research. The number of students is about 300 and the yearly number of graduates is about 45 at Bachelor level and 35 at master level. 30 full-time and part-time teachers are involved in the study process.

The Faculty of Architecture consists of the Department of History and Theory of Architecture, Department of Architectural Design, Department of Fine Arts and Centre of Urban Planning. Since the 1990s, the university has been active in attracting foreign staff and students and creating joint-degree programmes and international mobility projects.

RTU has more than 400 international agreements with foreign universities and is participating in Erasmus+, many networks and projects.

The Bachelor's programme in Architecture establishes the foundation in academic matters and competence in research leading to architectural design. At this level, within three and a half years, competence in primary professional matters is attained, which allows students to continue education in the two-year master program of Architecture.

Studies in the master program prepare qualified specialists in architecture who can independently work in design offices and state and local government institutions. The architect can undertake appropriate research work, be a knowledgeable professional critic, prepare complete project implementation plans, and also provide expert's testimony and consulting services. After graduation from the master program and three years of supervised practice, an architect may apply for a Professional Certificate that authorises for independent practice.

Being notified in the European Directive On the Recognition of Professional Qualifications the Architect's diploma of RTU provides its keeper professional recognition into the member states of the EU. Masters of Architecture may also go on with the studies at the Doctoral program.

Architecture-based Solutions for Improving Livability of Vidzeme Market Quarter in Riga



DANNA
DEGLE-UŠKĀNE

Riga Technical University /
Faculty of Architecture

Tutor: Prof., Dr. arch.
Sandra Treija

“Architecture-based Solutions for Improving Livability of Vidzeme Market Quarter in Riga,” focuses on improving the livability of a culturally and historically significant urban area through architecture-based solutions.

It addresses urban challenges like environmental degradation, non-compliance with modern standards, and population decline in the historical cores. The goal is to enhance livability and promote urban density by transforming Vidzeme Market into a vibrant, multifunctional hub within a compact city framework.

Three interventions are proposed.

A two-level landscaping platform that reorganizes the inner-quarter space, creating a public market square and peaceful community spaces for nearby inhabitants.

The second is a multifunctional market square with adaptable canopies for markets, cultural events, and exhibits.

The third is a co-living CLT modular residential building with diverse housing typologies, fostering community and expanding affordable living options.

The project highlights multifunctionality, adaptability, and alternative housing models to increase urban livability and sustainability.



Experimental Preservation of 20th Century De-industrial Architectural Heritage in the Circular Economy: Construction Materials Laboratory and the Museum of Unbuilt Architecture in Eksportosta

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2024



with economic, production, research, education and exhibition functions. The proposal follows the principles of circular design and the idea of a quasi-object. As a result, the object both ensures circular construction and operation of Riga Port City development and is an anti-gentrification anchor in the Eksportosta neighborhood.

KATRĪNA MARTA PEIZUMA

Riga Technical University / Faculty of Architecture

Tutor: Guntis Grabovskis

In societies with collective trauma, the heritage of the 2nd half of the 20th century can be dissonant. However, its adaptive reuse contributes to the carbon neutrality goal of the EU by 2050, as it is built from carbon-intensive materials. Experimental preservation is non-demolition of objects, rather than institutional protection and it keeps the freedom of choice and architectural intervention in valorization.

The conceptual position of the diploma project is in the future - the site's urban and EU economic situation from 2030, thus offering an alternative scenario to the current development plans. The architectural goal is to create a counterculture monument by reusing a unique former port warehouse as an object



RISEBA University of business, arts and technology / Faculty of Architecture and Design

The Faculty of Architecture and Design at the RISEBA University of Applied Sciences was established in 2011. It offers international architecture studies in Latvia in two successive cycles - the Bachelor's Study Programme "Architecture" (3.5 years, 210 ECTS) and the Professional Master's Programme "Architecture" (2 years, 120 ECTS).

Since its foundation the faculty has combined the best architecture education standards and teaching experiences in Europe to reach academic excellence and international recognition. Both programmes are fully accredited by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia. The Master's diploma is notified in the European Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications.

The Bachelor's Degree of Engineering Sciences in Architecture is the first step to prepare students for further studies in the fields of architecture and urban planning and professional architectural practice. In 2017 RISEBA University established the 2-year Professional Master's Programme in Architecture, thus, the total length of architecture studies at RISEBA comprises 5.5 full-time study years, meeting the general requirements of EU standards for practicing the architectural profession.

The faculty offers an architectural education of the highest standard, with a curriculum that interweaves the core fields, architecture and urban design, with an understanding of the social sciences and strong business skills. The aim of the programmes is to provide students with the theoretical knowledge, practical skills and necessary competences to work in the field of architecture, design and urban planning.

Conceived as a laboratory placed in RISEBA Creative quarter H20 6 that also hosts the Faculty of Media and Communications, the school puts an emphasis on creativity, collaboration and teamwork. During studies students advance their abilities in analytical thinking and problem solving and acquire the research skills to approach design tasks in a variety of contexts. Students are also able to work out concepts while being socially responsible young professionals. The language of the study process is English.

Place therapy – mending post-traumatic spaces with the implementation of art – layering new identities of Uzvaras parks



LINDA TINUSA

RISEBA University / Faculty of Architecture and Design

Tutors: Mg. Theol. BArch Dainis Rudolfs Šmits and Dr.arch. Ilze Paklone

the park, its potential for a meaningful place for its locals has never been fulfilled.

A great united concept is still to be found - opening the discussion, creating a ground for inclusion and inviting all parts of the community to create synergy between recent and past conflicts, unresolved troubled memories and existing valuable heritage.

A process of healing and mending not only the park's physical structure but also uniting society. Art is a balance restorer and mediator tool for unrestricted discussion. The need for a residence for contemporary art and the thirty-six hectare territory with fragmented identity could benefit from a symbiotic relationship - a subtle, gradual introduction to a new layer, the core function of the park - creating an energy flow through the park by acupuncture the pressure points with art installations and the platform for interaction - museum of contemporary art.

The acceleration of change in a place is the events that directly and remotely impact society - the local trauma after isolation due to the pandemic and the indirect connection of war started in Ukraine.

This pain is familial and personal to the Latvian nation. In the case of Uzvaras Parks, the disputable matter of the monument that decontextualized even the park's name in the time of the Latvian occupation due to political regime interests is one of the traumas of the park.

However, the park's broken status was made over time - before the war in Ukraine that prompted the collision of communities within



Promoting intergenerational interaction, educational Centre for Generations in Ķekava



KATRĪNA KRASIŅA

RISEBA University / Faculty of Architecture and Design

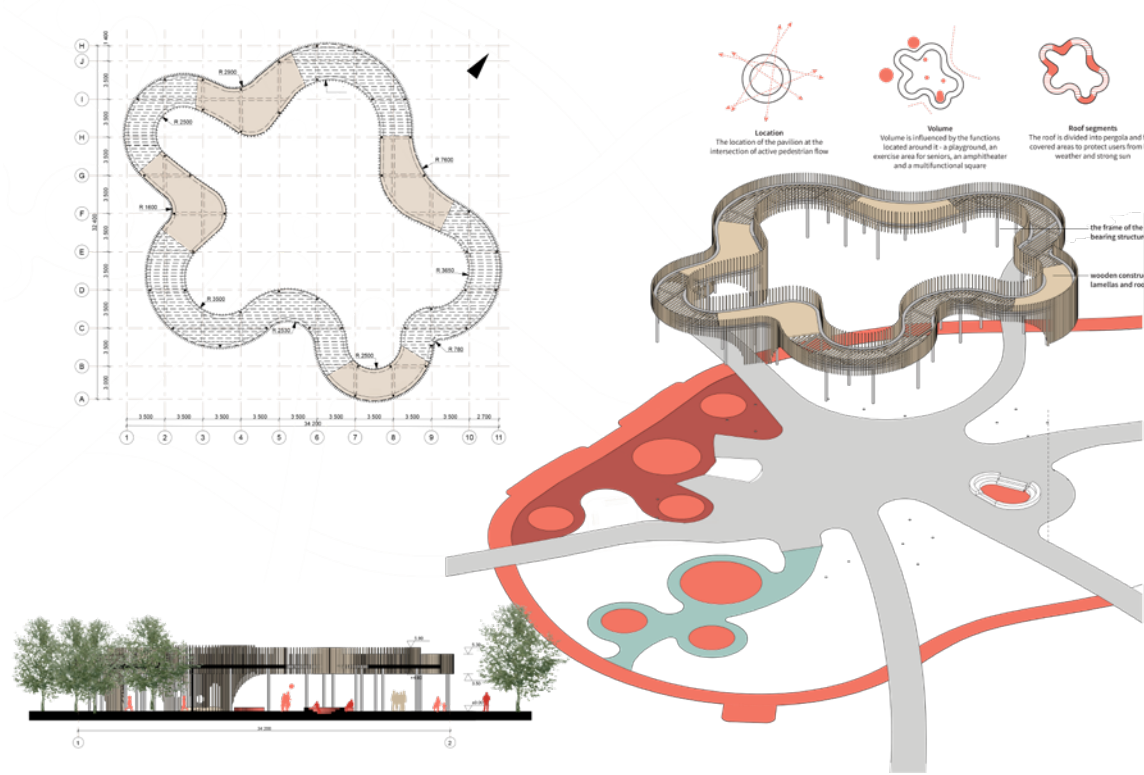
Tutor: MSc. Urbanism Jānis Bērziņš

Part B of the master thesis addresses such topics as opportunities for intergenerational interaction in a spatial environment and tools that can be used when designing a public environment for children and/or seniors, providing social benefits to society with spatial solutions.

Project territory is in Latvia, Ķekava city. The design reflects the importance of nature for people's well-being, the well-thought-out arrangement of functions, the connections of indoor spaces with outdoor spaces.

The inspiration for the concept was found in existing analogs in the area of small gardens in Ķekava. Seniors in Ķekava still

tend their gardens and there are gardens where children have their own little world in the trees. Thus, the garden with its function is an intergenerational unifying element in this project. As well as designing the building and outdoor pavilion, the interdisciplinary principles of part A of the Intergenerational Contact Zone Toolbox were used, creating an environment that promotes intergenerational interaction.



Kaunas University of Technology / Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture

Currently, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture of Kaunas University of Technology prepares wide profile architects having not only artistic abilities but also highly understanding means used by the architect – constructions, engineering infrastructure, building materials, urban context, environmental challenges, etc. Architecture study programmes provide diverse study modules through which architecture, as a discipline involving design and technology on built environment, is explored in creative ways. Specifying the pedagogical direction, the integrated study programme at its core operates as a Studio system, the two years master study programme is oriented towards scientific research. On a tactical level, to incorporate diverse informational fields into the process of producing/reproducing spaces, the approaches are accompanied by critical inquiries on the existent typologies through related historical, cultural, philosophical examinations, and by rigorous tests on aesthetic prototyping through structural, material, engineering, as well as environmental, aesthetic, social and economic investigations. With the integration of study modules, set in interdisciplinary coordination with other programmes, the programmes of Architecture encourage individual students to broaden and deepen their experience of architecture in a way of rediscovering the self, thus, to develop distinct characters in the course of becoming architects.

KTU graduates by using acquired abilities and knowledge can successfully work in companies engaged in both architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning. The Architecture study programmes have a slogan – contextual design of any object, improving the quality of living, working and recreational environment and enhancing sustainability. Currently, the faculty pursues two study programmes for the preparation of Master of Arts in the field of Architecture: 5 years integrated study programme and 2 years master study programme. Since the year 2011 the faculty pursues art critique PhD studies. Integrated and second cycle art study programmes, third cycle of humanities study programme and all three study cycles of technology programmes in presence aside each other create to KTU added value of architecture studies, foster non-formal training atmosphere and stimulate interdisciplinary understanding of architecture.

Development of the territory of former military base in Karmėlava



ARNAS DŽIAUGYS

Kaunas University of Technology

Tutor: Vidmantas Minkevičius

Lithuania is home to numerous abandoned and underutilized spaces, which hold significant potential for revitalization and reuse. However, current urban development strategies often overlook these areas due to a lack of direct investment and architectural focus.

The research targets this gap by developing a user-centered design framework based on empirical studies, including sociological surveys and analysis of social, emotional, and physical indicators.



This framework aims to create adaptable, functional spaces that cater to community needs. The former Karmėlava military missile base serves as a case study, highlighting the urban challenges these areas present.

The experimental project consists of three parts: an in-depth site analysis, the application of alternative design solutions, and

a development model aimed at testing the proposed strategies. This research-based approach offers universal design guidelines for repurposing abandoned spaces, contributing to sustainable urban growth and enhancing the quality of life in such areas.



Experimental Project of Public Space and New Concept Market in Gargždai



GINTARĖ POCIŪTĖ

Kaunas University of Technology

Tutor: Prof. Gintaras Balčytis

With rapid technological development and globalization, the traditional market is no longer attractive to residents as much as it used to be. As society modernizes, the environment must also change, and the market is no exception.

The idea of the market as a public space is a relevant and important research object in today's society due to its potential to improve the community, healthy lifestyle, physical activity, sustainability, aesthetic urban environment, and economic growth. The research carried out during the master's thesis as a useful insight to create a new concept of the market, which includes not only traditional trade, but also becomes a lively social square.

To achieve this, the territory of the market and the market itself are created as a public space, which combines various functions that meet people's needs.

The main activities of the marketplace are combined with new functions: community center, catering and event organization, and service provision. Multifunctional, universal spaces are created, which can be adapted to the needs of the community and can change in the future or be used for non-commercial functions.

The historical-cultural identity of the city is restored in the projected area, using the motifs of the historical street and the market square, a strong connection with the existing environment is also preserved. Great attention is paid to creating new natural connections that can have continuity with future changing surrounding areas. The principles of sustainable regeneration are applied to the marketplace - the use of sustainable materials, energy-saving design, water-saving strategies, waste reduction, and preservation of the specific identity of the place.



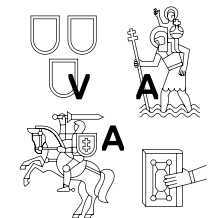
Vilnius Academy of Arts / Faculty of Vilnius / Faculty of Kaunas / Department of Architecture

Lithuania has an old tradition of educating its architects. The first department of architecture was founded back in 1793 at Vilnius University. Among these, the present-day Department of Architecture of Vilnius Academy of Arts and its program stand out through integration of general university and speciality (and related engineering fields) subjects with thorough studies of arts.

The methodology of teaching architecture is anchored on the connection of general university subjects, subjects in architectural and engineering field and of visual expression. The Bachelor's and Master's degree study program Architecture has been taught by the Department of Architecture since 1995. In 2012, the study program Architecture received an unconditional notification by the European Commission in Brussels under Article 21(7) of the Directive 2005/36/EC Qualifications of Architects.

The Bachelor's program is focused on studies in its main field of architecture, and the graduation leads to the award of Bachelor of Architecture qualification degree. It also includes study subjects embracing a wider area (which provide broader intellectual background, not immediately connected to the content of major studies), they are set by the school and selected by individual students. The earned academic qualification title leads to careers with architectural design firms, state and municipal territorial planning institutions, and qualifies the graduates, under a guidance of a specialist (project manager), to the development of architectural projects for a range of complexity of buildings and their environment. According to the procedures set forth by the Lithuanian Government, the alumni may seek qualification certificate of project manager after three years of professional practice, subsequently, they can set up their own business of architectural design.

The purpose of the master's degree program is to train MA architects of high professional level capable of performing independent scientific research and using it to justify their practical activities. The completion of the second cycle studies enables an MA graduate in architecture to continue scientific activities, teach at a higher education institution, speeds up the process of professional attestation and increases competitiveness on the market of architectural design. Masters in Architecture can continue their studies by undertaking the third cycle to gain a degree of Doctor of Arts.



The transformation of Zarasai bus station



VIKTORIJA
NARBUTAITĖ

Vilnius Academy
of Arts

Tutor: Vytautas Biekša

Due to the decrease in public transport flows in the city of Zarasai, the bus station has become a rarely visited object. In this case, a multi-functional building complex is being designed in the current territory of the Zarasai bus station.

The complex contains five buildings with different functions, some of the functions were chosen by the historical matter of the area. The aim was to efficiently utilize the location in the central part of the city, to find a new purpose for the benefit of local residents and visitors.



Recreational boating potential in Kaunas: a marina with recreational spaces on the riverbank of Nemunas



ŽYMANTĖ
SAVERAITĖ

Vilnius Academy of Arts /
Faculty of Kaunas

Tutor: doc. Rimantas
Gedraitis

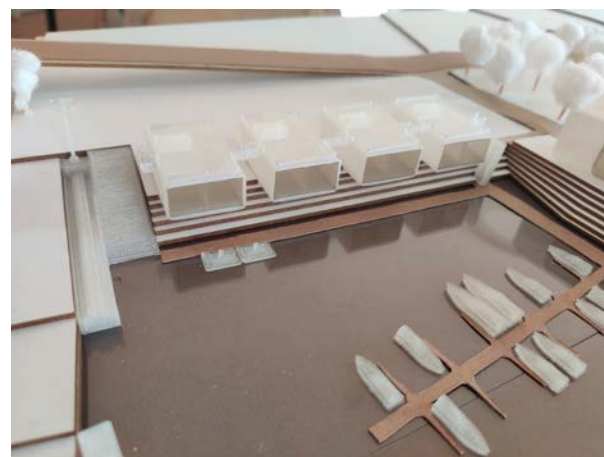
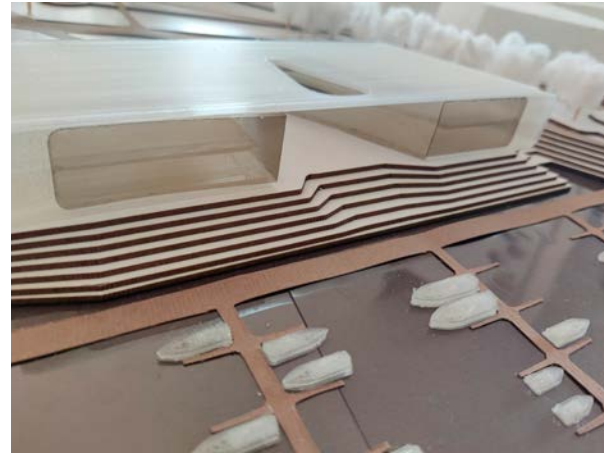
Kaunas would provide a different kind of boating opportunities and culture, moving on the rivers, promoting development, and a more active and diverse use of the available rivers.

To spread and promote the potential of recreational boating in Kaunas, a vision of a marina with recreational spaces was created on the banks of the Nemunas - a water area for small boats, a park, and a complex of buildings.

Kaunas' geographical position at the confluence of the Nemunas and Neris rivers has determined the importance of river navigation for the city since ancient times.

After the construction of the Kaunas hydroelectric power plant and the closure of the Nemunas waterway after the Second World War, river boating lost its importance and eventually almost completely disappeared, depriving the city's residents of part of their identity.

A concept has been formed to unlock the potential of boating in the central part of Kaunas - the creation of recreational marina infrastructure in the city and suburbs of



Vilnius Gediminas Technical University / Faculty of Architecture / Department of Architecture

The roots of the Department of Architecture are in Kaunas when in the year 1922 it was established in Faculty of Technique of the newly founded Lithuanian University. During the initial stage, it was supervised by Prof. Mukolas Songaila. During long years the Department of Architecture was changing its place - in the beginning, it was part of Vytautas Magnus University, later - Kaunas Polytechnic institute, after the restructuring of this institute, in 1971 Architecture Department was moved from Kaunas to Vilnius Civil Engineering Institute (now VGTU), to the newly created Faculty of Architecture.

This school of architecture, until the end of 70-ties (as part of the technological university), was educating architects-engineers. From 80-ties the study program was expanded and wide range of artistic disciplines implemented (architectural composition, architectural semantics, psychology and etc.), since then future architects are trained while combining rational and artistic directions in order to achieve high professional level. To enhance the quality of education, architects, who are famous and progressive in their creative activities are constantly involved in the teaching process. At this moment 80 percent of teachers in this department are successfully practising architects.

Connecting Architecture: Revitalization of Odesa's Cruise Port



ANNA
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Tutor: Audrius Ambrasas

a people-oriented environment with public spaces, cultural venues, and commercial amenities.

The approach emphasizes sustainability by revitalizing existing infrastructure, integrating green spaces, and ensuring accessibility throughout. The design explores the boundary between architecture and urbanism, offering an inclusive, resilient waterfront that celebrates Odesa's heritage while embracing its future.

The project aims to restore and transform Odesa's cruise port, reconnecting it with the city and its people. It reimagines the war-damaged site, re-establishing links between the waterfront, the historical city center, and the community. By blending architecture and urban planning, the design turns a previously isolated industrial zone into a vibrant public space, integrating maritime functionality with urban life.

A central feature is a loop-shaped bridge that links the city center to the waterfront, symbolizing reconnection and enabling seamless movement through the site. This approach fosters accessibility, fluid spatial flow, and social interaction, transforming the port into



Lost in transition: fabrication of the urban concept of a medium-sized city identity in Lithuania (case of Utena)



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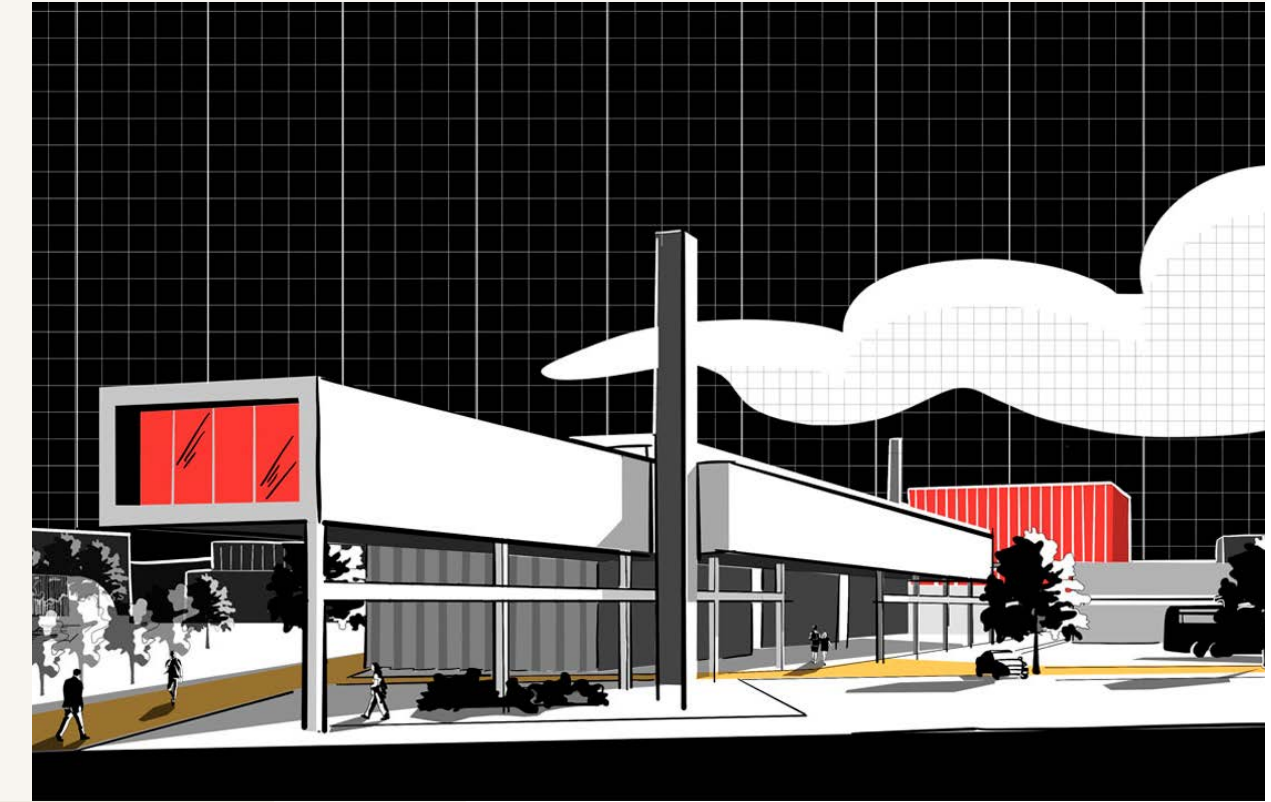
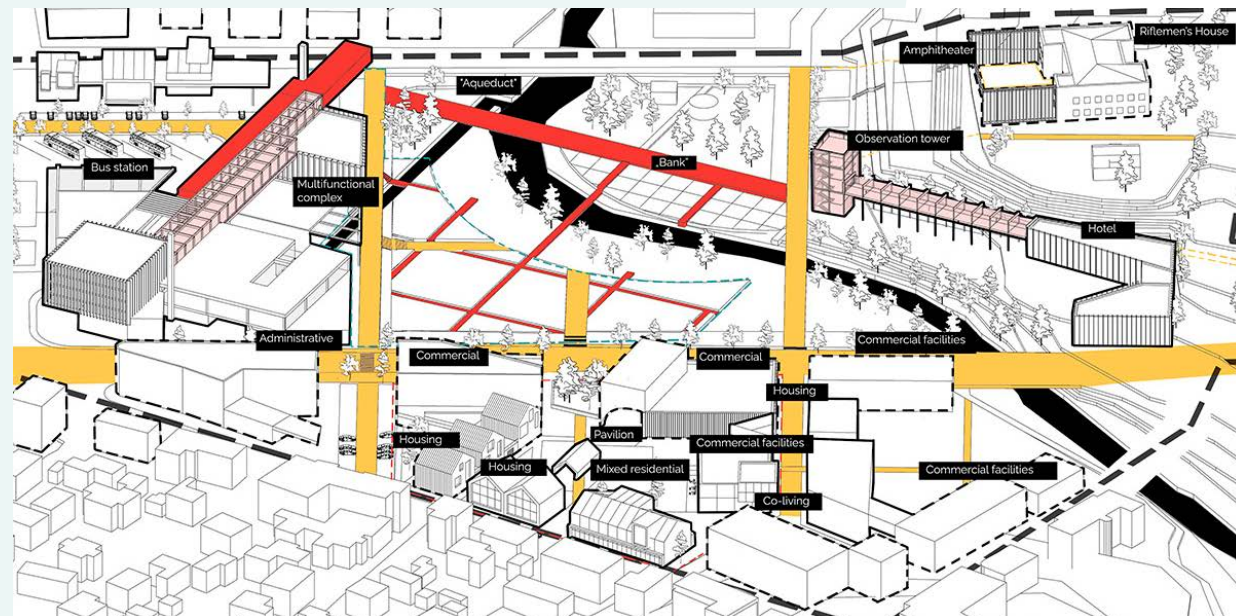
most successful urban transformations during these periods. In the selected area, the core idea revolves around the historical spatial network and the physical and socio-economical transition from one period of time to another.

Throughout its evolution, a city undergoes various phases of growth, stagnation, and even economic decline, each reflecting the city's identity or highlighting its absence.

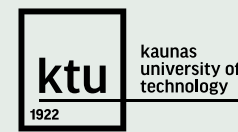
This work seeks to develop a methodology to help identify the lost aspects of a city's identity and propose ways to reinterpret them.

The main goal is to contribute to the visual and structural re-creation of the city's image, both regionally and nationally, and to ensure its long-term vitality.

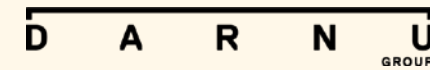
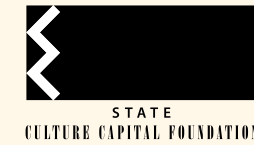
The project focuses on experimenting with the historical urban fabric of Utena, identifying the city's key growth phases and the



Organizers and partners



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Organizers

Baltic Architects Unions' Association

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Architects Association of Lithuania

AAL / architektusajunga.lt

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Design partner

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