The Best Graduation Projects of Architecture Students of Baltic States 2021
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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 the Estonian Association of Architects. The exhibition and competition of the best graduation projects by architecture students was first organized 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.

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 for architecture students, inviting them 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
17 projects from 17 students represent 7 Baltic architecture schools: Estonian Academy of Arts (EST); Tallinn University of Technology (EST); Kaunas University of Technology (LT); Vilnius Academy of Arts (LT); Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (LT); Riga Technical University (LV) and Riseba University (LV).

The projects submitted to the exhibition and competition were selected by the universities.

JURY
The final works 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.
The jury members are:

**Matteo Cainer**, architect, curator, and educator,
Matteo Cainer Architects / Italy

**Siiri Vallner**, architect,
Kavakava / Estonia

**Dina Suhanova**, architect and researcher /
The Institute of Contemporary Art, Design and Architecture, Art Academy of Latvia/ Latvia

**Dr. Ignas Lukauskas**, architect,
Vilniaus architektūros studija / Lithuania

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

› conceptuality, originality, innovativeness
› coherent architectural and urban idea
› aesthetics of the presentation
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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.
30 aastat pausi. Uurides mittetegemist. / 30 years of pause. Research of doing not.

ULLA KATARIINA ALLA
Estonian Academy of Arts / Faculty of Architecture, Architecture and Urban Planning
Tutors: Kadri Klementi, Katrin Koov, Eik Hermann

I thought about ENOUGH, when do we have enough space, things, time and resources. I observed and researched the built environment of Estonia and the numbers connected to them and it seems that there is enough. We abandon and forget too many places, and when we find no use for them, deconstruct and remake them into waste. The core idea of this thesis is 30 years of building pause. Instead of creating new, the focus will be maintenance of the existing.

I thought of abandoned and forgotten places, freespaces, as opportunity for something other. I expressed in my work my philosophy of slowness, not doing and not making. Forced to face the absurdity of a architecture thesis — to do something — I chose to create without designing, building, but by just rearranging. My work stresses the importance of not doing in a world that makes too much.

This is a slow, theoretical work, produces by hand, where mistakes cannot be deleted and copies pasted. I drew ruins and let my mind wonder — side notes to architecture and building.
Lihula viinavabrikule jätkusuutliku lahenduse leidmine siidrikoja näitel. / Finding a sustainable solution for the Lihula vodka distillery in the form of a cidery

ANDREAS KRIGOLTOI
Estonian Academy of Arts / Faculty of Architecture, Architecture and Urban Planning
Tutors: Tarmo Teedumäe, Toomas Tammis

Eestis ja mujal maailmas on üha laiemat kõlapinda leidmas hüljatud ja räämas seisukorras hooneressurss. Eestis on ligi veerand meie ehituspärandist kehvas või lausa avariilises seisukorras. Piirkondlik ruumiline eripära ja identiteet ähvardab häbuda – kohavaim on ohus. Tegemist ei ole isoleeritud probleemidega, vaid rahvastiku kahanemise kaude tagajärjega, mis on kõige kriitilisem maa-piirkondades. Tänapäeval globaliseeruv ja muutuval ajastul on tähtsamateks ruumilisteks küsimusteks energiatõhusus ja häabuv ruumiline identiteet. Uute tehnoloogiate tulek ja üha kiiremini muutuvad ruumivajadused nõuavad adaptiivset lähemist. Parim viis, millegi säilitamiseks ja elue pikendamiseks, on leida
sellele uus funktsioon. Adaptiivne taaskasutus
tegeleb olemasolevale uue funktsiooni leidmi-
sega, mis aitaks pakkuda paindlikumaid
lahendusi meie hääbuvale ruumi-identiteedile.

Käesoleva magistritöö eesmärk on leida
jätkusuutlik lahendus Lihula viinavabrikule ning
pakkuda Lihula linnale positiivne väljavaade,
seda nii hääbuvale miljööväärtuslikule kesk-
konnalle kui ka üleüldisele elaniike arvu kahane-
misest tingitud tagajärgedele.

In Estonia and elsewhere in the world, an
abandoned and dilapidated building resource
is gaining more and more ground. In Estonia,
almost a quarter of our building heritage is in
poor or even emergency condition. Regional
spatial specificity and identity are in danger of
extinction - the genius loci is in danger. These
are not isolated problems, but the temporary
consequence of shrinking population, which is
most critical in rural areas.

In today’s globalizing and changing age, the
most important spatial issues are energy
efficiency and the disappearing spatial identity.
The advent of new technologies and the ever-
changing needs of space require an adaptive
approach. The best way to preserve something
and extend its life is to find a new use for it.
Adaptive reuse is about finding a new use
for the existing that would help provide more
flexible solutions to our dwindling spatial
identity.

The aim of this master’s thesis is to find a
sustainable solution for the Lihula vodka
distillery and to offer the city of Lihula a
positive outlook, both for the fading valuable
environment and for the general consequences
of shrinking population.
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.
Selle magistritöö põhiesmärk on uurida Marsi autonoomse inimasula rajamise meetodeid, mis mitte ainult ei kaitse teadlasmeeskonda Marsi ekstreemset keskkonnast, vaid võtab arvesse ka inimeste heaolu. Mitme meetodi analüüs on näidanud, et mütseeli- (seeneniidustiku-) põhine ehitusviis vastab enamusele Marsi elupaigale seatud vajadustele, seeõttu valiti seda ehitusmaterjaliks arhitektuuriprojekti koostamisel. Uurimusele tuginedes on käesoleva arhitektuuri eriala magistritöö ülesanne kavandada Erebus Montes alal autonoomset elamisüksust teadlasmeeskonnale.

The main objective of this master’s thesis was to explore the methods of building an autonomous habitat on Mars which not only protects the inhabitants from Martian extreme environment, but also considers human comfort. The analysis of several methods has indicated that mycelial-based construction complies to most necessities that are set for the Martian habitat, therefore it was selected within the framework of the architecture project. Based on the study, an autonomous habitat has been designed on Erebus Montes, a location in the northern hemisphere of Mars.
Tehnoloogia on arenenud nii kaugele, et on olemas uusi vahendeid, mida saaks kasutada arheoloogiliste mälestiste säilitamise ühise eesmärgi toetamiseks. Selle projekti eesmärk oli välja mõelda, kuidas rakendada liitrealsuse (augmented reality e AR) tehnoloogiat vähem säilinud arheoloogiamälestistele eesmärgiga ammutada neist röhkem tähendust, et mälestada nende rikkaliku pärandit ja ajalugu. Eesmärk saavutati kahefaasiliste plaani kontekstis.

FAAS I – AR
Arheoloogiline mälestis rekonstrueeritakse digitaalselt tema endisel kujul. Seejärel tagatakse võimalus seda kohapeal kogeda nutiseadmes töötava AR rakendusega.

ARTHUR FREDERIC NARUSBERK
Tallinn University of Technology / Academy of Architecture and Urban Studies
Tutor: Üllar Ambos
Technology has developed to a point where there are additional means that could be applied to support the common objective of archeological heritage preservation. The purpose of this project was to figure out how to apply augmented reality (AR) to derive more meaning out of less preserved archeological sites while they remain to be to commemorate the rich heritage and history they offer. The purpose was achieved in the context of a two phased plan.

PHASE I - AR
The archeological site is reconstructed digitally in its former shape and then made possible to experience it on site with an application on a smart device.

PHASE II - IMMERSIVE AR
The existence of AR opens up new possibilities to perceive a historical object in its former space. The innovative part of this project is the idea of providing a more immersive AR experience by providing on site rentable AR glasses and by designing a walkway, that provides an access to spaces and views that people would historically experience.
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.
Čiekurkalna/Teikas lineārais parks. / Linear park of Čiekurkalns/Teika, Riga.

Klimata pārmaiņas, urbanizācijas, tehnoloģiju attīstība arvien paliecinā inspēri dabas atsvešināšanos. Zaļo teritoriju attīstība ir viena no metodēm, kā iespējams palīdzēt ar šiem un citiem apstākļiem.

Galvenā projekta ideja – degradētas, neefektīvi izmantotas, industriālas teritorijas transformēšana lineārajā parka ar papildfunkcijām.

Čiekurkalna dzelzceļa stacija atrodas starp divām lielām apkaimēm – Čiekurkalns un Teika. Bīstamo kravu, laika gaitā vairs neizmantotu dzelzceļa sliežu ceļu un elektrības torņu aizsargjoslu dēļ projekta teritorija netiek efektīvi izmantota, tomēr tai ir liels potenciāls. Projekts sastāv no dažādām
zaļajām teritorijām lineārajā parkā, gājēju un velosipēdīšu tuneli, kurš savieno apkaimes ar dzelzceļa staciju, kā arī padomju laika garāžu teritorijas atvēršanu publiskākai lietošanai.

Teritorijas pārveide rada papildus zaļo teritoriju pilsētā un regionālo mobilitātes punktu, savieno 2 dzelzceļa puses un apkaimes, palielina ritenbraukšanas iespējas, un efektīvi izmanto teritoriju kompaktā pilsētā.

Climate change, urbanization and rapid technological development have all contributed to an alienation of increasingly city-dwelling people from nature. Development of green and recreational areas within cities is one of the most successful strategies that help with these and other conditions of the urban environment.

The main idea of the project is the transformation of a degraded, inefficiently used industrial territory into a public linear park with additional functions.

The railway station of Čiekurkalns is situated between the neighborhoods of Čiekurkalns and Teika. The surrounding territory has great potential but is not efficiently used due to the protection zones of railroad goods, electricity lines and unused infrastructure. The project proposes a linear park, a pedestrian and bike tunnel connecting the station, and reusing USSR-time garages as public space.

The result is fourfold - additional green area in the city; a regional mobility point integrated into two neighborhoods; increased cycling possibilities; and the efficient use of space as apart of a compact city strategy.
Darba tēmas aktualitāti izsaka nepieciešamība rast veidus, kā varam nodrošināt kultūrvēsturiskā mantojuma saglabāšanu tā, lai tas būtu logiska ilgspējīgas vides sastāvdaļa, un palīdzētu cilvēka negatīvās ietekmes uz vidi mazināšanas procesā. Reģenerācijas koncepcijas pamatprincipi ir kultūrvēsturisko vērtību saglabāšana, ekoloģiskās pēdas samazināšana un augsta dzīvojamās vides kvalitāte. Kwartālā apskatīti energopatēriņu samazinoši telpiskie uzlabojumi, atjaunojamās enerģijas iespējas un to ietekme uz pilsētvides autentiskumu. Centrā veidots kopienas dārzs, nodrošināti saules apspīdēti un funkcionāli iekšējie pagalmi. Pilotprojekta ēkām izstrādāti detalizēti energoefektivitātes paaugstināšanas risinājumi, nodrošinot ēku atbilstību mūsdienu dzīvesveida un komforta vajadzībām. Projekta rezultāts ir harmoniska kvartāla apbūve ar dažāda tipa
The main objective of the topic lies in the need for preservation of heritage in such way so that heritage would become an integral part of the sustainable environment and would aid in the process of reducing negative human impact on the environment. Regeneration concept principles are preservation of heritage, reduction of ecological footprint and high-quality living environment. Block regeneration examines energy reducing spatial improvements, ways for local renewable energy production and their impact on the authentic urban environment. Community garden is proposed in the centre of the block, inner yards are functional and filled with sunlight. Detailed energy efficiency improvement and renovation scenarios have been developed for pilot project buildings, ensuring their compliance with modern lifestyle and comfort requirements. Result of the project is sustainable, socially and functionally diverse historic residential block with preserved heritage value and its unique authentic features.
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.

www.riseba.lv

www.architecture.riseba.lv
The Architecture school in Almaty, Kazakhstan as a new educational epicentre of exchanging experience and knowledge between Central Asia and Europe / Almatas Kazahstāna arhitektūras skola: jaunu zināšanu un pieredzes apmācību apmaiņas epicentrs starp Centrālo Āziju un Eiropas Savienību

ALISHER SADYKOV
RISEBA University of Business, Arts and Technology / Faculty of Architecture and Design
Tutor: Ilze Paklone
This project is aimed to introduce a new private architecture school in Almaty, Kazakhstan, taking as a basis the many years of European experience in the design of educational environments. Shifting from a sterile corridor-based and classroom approach of teaching and learning to a more creative, collaborative, and open-space layout will bring a new level of communication, contributing to the quality of the learning environment.

As adaptive reuse of buildings is considered by most as a superior alternative to a new construction in terms of sustainability and a circular economy, it was proposed to house a new architecture school in the existing Soviet factory building, which was set up in the 60s and was part of Kirov factory. By revitalizing its existing fabric and spaces, and bringing to it new life, function and meaning, the project presents itself at the level of neighbourhood, city, country, and Central Asia.

Pētījuma un praktiskā projekta mērķis bija izpētīt iespējas ieviest jaunu arhitektūras skolu Almati, Kazahstānā, balstoties uz seno Eiropas pieredzi izglītības vides projektēšanā.

Tā kā ēku atkārtota izmantošana un adaptēšana mūsdienā vajadzībām no aprites ekonomikas viedokļa tiek uzskatīta par ilgspējīgāku alternatīvu jaunbūvei, autors ierosina jauno arhitektūras skolu izvietot esošā padomju ēkā, kas 60. gados tika būvēta kā daļa no Kirovas rūpnīcas. Revitalizējot ēkas arhitektonisko veidolu un plānojuma struktūru, jaunā funkcija ēkai dod otro dzīvību, kļūstot par ievērojamu notikumu apkaimēs, pilsētas, valsts un Centrālāzijas līmenī.
Spatial design scenario for Rail Baltica integration area in Zasulauks-Šampēteris as a prerequisite for neighbourhood centre development

The main task of the project is to offer the spatial design scenario for the Rail Baltica integration between Zasulauks and Šampeteris neighbourhoods, that would encourage the neighbourhood centre development around the Zasulauks station. Design proposal is based on three preconditions for Rail Baltica integration:

- Ensuring connectivity between the neighbourhoods
- Activating the underused and degraded train station
- Reclaiming the currently neglected railway protection zones

The proposed crossings reflect the main movement flows and connect the neighbourhood centre area with the surrounding points of interest, offering an integrated activity network in the railway corridor. The design proposal includes reorganisation of the adjacent street network with a purpose to create a grand plaza behind the station. Designated to community events and gatherings, the plaza is intended to serve as an outdoor extension of the station and form the core of the activity centre.
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.
Hiperpaviršiai architektūroje: prekybos ir amatų rūmai Gariūnuose/Hypersurfaces in architecture: chamber of commerce and crafts in Gariūnai

Moderniausių technologijų ir projektavimo metodų įsisavinimas iš esmės keičia architektūros suvokimą, atveria neribotas formos pritaikymo galimybes meninėje pastatų išraiškoje. Architektūrinis objektas suprantamas nebe tik kaip statinys, bet ir procesas ar įvykis, kurio svarbiausia susedamoji dalis yra laikas. Transformacijos procesų rezultatas yra hiperpaviršiai, kurių panaudojimas architektūroje – būdas transformuoti architektūrą čia ir dabar, suteikti naujus požiūris jos naudotojui.

The assimilation of the most modern technologies and design methods is changing the perception of architecture and opens up infinite opportunities for application of forms in the artistic expression of buildings. Architectural object is not considered to be just a structure but a process or event instead, in which time is viewed as a key component. Such transformation has resulted in the rise of hypersurfaces, which is a way to transform architecture here and now and to pass new experiences to its user.

The plot where the building has been designed is a morally obsolete and Gariūnai marketplace. The archaic initial geometrical form affected by uncontrollable surrounding processes is transformed here and now into an independent hyperform. Interaction with a user is vital for the existence of hypersurfaces. Through the use of modern technologies every visitor can change the form of the building in real-time. The building is perceived as a never ending process rather than a finished result.
Wood in contemporary architecture: community centre in Druskininkai.

The final master's thesis examines the problem of the rapid decline of the traditional wooden architecture and the lack of context of contemporary architecture that replaces it. The project focuses on the means to maintain the local identity and create coherent relation between the modern and the traditional architecture. The project aims to remain familiar to the wooden architectural tradition and at the same time to represent the architecture of its time. The project also attempts to answer what could be the emergence of a large-scale architectural object in the wooden heritage sites.
The peculiarities of the project location revealed the topical issue. Druskininkai town, which is recognizable for its natural features, deep rooted traditions and wooden heritage, experiences effects of the globalization processes in architecture.

The concept of the architectural project is based on the goal to preserve the local identity. The promotion of the local character follows a sensitive design approach. The conceptual idea includes two parts: urban idea and architectural idea. Urban idea demanded to emphasize strategically important urban situation - “urban knot” between the Old Town and the New Town (Poganka), to form the river-front of Ratnyčia, and to emphasize the former historical urban structure characteristic for the townscape. The architectural idea demanded to form continuation of the landscape and to interpret the local traditional wooden architecture (wooden villas).
The Department of Urban Design of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) represents the positions of urban design education and research in Lithuania and boasts of having nearly 70-year-old traditions (it was founded in 1944, its first head was an associate professor Steponas Stulginskis).

The Department’s curriculum is based on The European concept of urban design subjects. Urban design is treated as a branch of architecture with such main fields of research and design as an urban structure, urban space and the build-up (buildings) shaping it.

Urban design is an integral part of architectural arts and education as well as one of the architectural activities. Lecturers of the Department of Urban Design teach basic disciplines of urban design arts and science at the level of undergraduate studies (BArch) at the Faculty of Architecture. Knowledge in the field of urban design is further deepened at postgraduate studies, Master degree (Architectural Studies axis).

Urban Design Department trains professionals at three levels of qualification: BA, MA and PhD. From 1992, students of the Department of Urban Design (VGTU) have successfully taken part in national and international competitions of students’ works with their prize-winning semester and graduation projects.

The most recent achievement was participation in the 3rd International Festival for Architecture, Design and Civil Engineering Schools of Eurasia in 2013 at Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, with four prize-winning projects of the Department’s students.
River – city – valley: complex regeneration of Nemunas riverfront in Kaunas central part

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Magistro baigiamajame darbe nagrinėjami urbanizuotų upių slėnių erdvinio formavimo iššūkiai ir galimybės. Pastarieji atskleidžiami nagrinėjant Kauno miesto centrinės dalies atvejį, ypatingą dėmesį skiriant Nemuno upės prieigų regeneracijos uždaviniams. Darbo tikslas – įvertinus šiuolaikines urbanizuotų slėnių kaitos tendencijas ir formavimo iššūkius, parengti Nemuno upės prieigų formavimo Kauno miesto centrinėje dalyje
The thesis focuses on the multifaceted challenges and opportunities of spatial formation of urbanized river valleys. The latter are revealed by examining the case of the Kaunas city centre with a special attention to the regeneration of Nemunas riverfront. The work is aimed at evaluating contemporary trends and challenges of reshaping urban river valleys and preparing an urban concept for the regeneration of Nemunas riverfront in Kaunas city centre. The distinction of complex models defining the interplay of natural and cultural processes within urban valleys becomes framework ensuring the viability and sustainable development of historical or central parts of the city. The methodology of spatial structuring is tested in the case of Kaunas city and its central part. Based on study findings, the urban fabric is subdivided into character zones. The interaction of these zones with the river space becomes the basis for modelling scenarios of the riverfront regeneration, including revitalisation of riverbanks and redevelopment of adjoining inefficiently used areas.
Istoriniai priemiesčiai – erdvinis manifestas globalioms miestų vystymosi tendencijoms. / Historical suburbs – a spatial manifesto for the aftermath of globalisation

Sparčiai urbanizuojamų miestų centrinėse dalyse vis labiau ryškėja lokalaus ir globalaus urbanistinio tapatumo įtampos zono. Vilniaus lokalaus tapatumo saugotojai- istoriniai priemiesčiai (ISPR)- vis dar gaba miesto branduolį, tačiau veikdami kaip atskirties zonas patiria didelę grėsmę nuniokti. Iškeliamas aktualus klausimas- kaip suderinti progresyvaus ir istorinio polio įtampos zonas? Darbe yra pateikiama nuosekli metodika: sprendžiama
Tension zones of local and global urban identity are becoming increasingly relevant in the central parts of rapidly urbanizing cities. In Vilnius, its local identity is still preserved in the historical suburbs (HS), but due to the new development in the city center they begin to face extinction or nivelation. How to balance the tension between progressive and historical identities? In order to answer this question, the work presents a systematic methodology, addressing issues such as social fragmentation, psychological, physical exclusion, the creation of universal symbols. The proposals are given to three problematic territories, in detail focusing on the HS of Rasos. It’s elements of urban identity are systematized and interpreted as principles for a new development. As a result, they become a spatial manifesto for the aftermath of globalisation. This conceptual model is being adapted to The territory of Savior’s Hill which is at risk of dense and privatized development. Thereby the principle of INVERT is proposed, giving priority to openness, outside and natural, leisure spaces. In this way the modern needs become localized in a historical context.
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.

Baigiamajame magistro darbe nagrinėjami prasto tarpmiestinio susiekimo padariniai ir kaip jie galėtų būti išsprendžiami pritaikant „Hyperloop“. „Rail Baltica“ bei „Hyperloop“ ryšys iš esmės apjungtų visus pagrindinius Lietuvos miestus, o numatant plėsti Kauno oro uostą, Kaune numatant pagrindinį „Rail Baltica“ terminalą bei patogiai pasiekiamą „Hyperloop“ keleivių terminalą, Kaunas, dėl savo dėkingos lokacijos taptų vartais į visą šalį.
The final master’s thesis examines the consequences of poor intercity connectivity and how they could be solved by applying Hyperloop. The combination of „Rail Baltica“ and Hyperloop would connect all major cities in Lithuania. By creating good conditions for the expansion of Kaunas airport and designing a good connection with the „Rail Baltica“ + Hyperloop terminal, Kaunas, due to its appreciable geographical location, would become a gateway to the whole country.

The Hyperloop passenger terminal principles of perception are developed based on Rem Koolhaas’s „Junkspace“ criticism of spaces which lost their identity. A joint multimodal transport hub for „Rail Baltica“ and Hyperloop serving the entire city is being designed. It forms an arcade connecting these terminals, integrates the existing underground connection from Vytautas ave., adapts the existing public transport system, provides a car-sharing service, integrates and overcomes the architecturally valuable buildings on the site.
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.

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Project playground is a complex soviet garages site in Palanga. Based on research work, during the territory conversion, architect acts as a process moderator (activist), not a designer. In this work Architectural guidelines for the conversion of the territory are developed and proposed for stake holders (garage owners, municipality, locals). After stake holders accept proposed architectural guidelines, they are tested with various designers. The goal of the work is to answer, whether the architect, acting as a moderator and using the tools of architectural activism, can ensure the united architectural style in complex environments.
Regeneration of a city block in Naujininkai. Adaptation of the Territory to the Residential Purpose According to the Methodological Principles of Self-made City.

In the planning and development of new urban areas in Europe there is an increasing number of future-oriented, self-contained shared housing projects where the city is built by its residents to realize their housing dreams. Residents that look for a better, economical housing suitable for them and their community, initiate and implement housing projects themselves. It is a “self-made city” where people collaborate at all levels, residents become clients, and by pooling money to finance, purchase and install the building, construction costs are reduced, thus saving money and prioritizing long-term solutions. Such an approach also serves as a strategy for densification that actually bring benefits to the surrounding neighbourhood. Based on the principles of the “self-made city” method and Naujininkai urban development strategy a project for a city block regeneration was made, using the model of adaptive reuse architecture the existing buildings of good condition are adapted for residential and community functions. Compared to the traditional construction method the main advantage of the “self-made city” method is the concentration of community members’ resources which increases their purchasing power and thus reduces the price of all services and products per member linked to home ownership. The advantages of social quality, ecological and technical properties are also distinguished. However, as residents change their role from consumers to initiators in order to implement such projects, they face a number of challenges, some of which are community formation, land acquisition and other unpleasant aspects of real estate development that ordinary developers also face. In order to facilitate the design process, the only completely new apartment buildings planned in the territory are designed on a modular basis. So the members of the community can put together floor plans of the apartment building as in the game “tetris”. Such a principle becomes a tool for communication between community members and architects, facilitating project planning. Projects based on the “self-made city” principle require a great deal of involvement of the participants, so the modular planning principle turned into a physical form - a model, a “game” can be a very useful tool to ease the communication between project participants.

In the second half of the 20th century abandoned buildings became a shelter for poor people and artists. They improved the buildings with minimal funds and adapted them for residential function. The squatter movement in major European cities has gradually changed the character of certain areas and increased their market value. In Lithuania, due to the occupation of the Soviet Union similar movements did not develop, but many industrial territories can be found where similar phenomena could take place. The case of Kaunas Paper Mill was chosen for further analysis. This project is an illustration of a new building design scenario when a state takes the initiative to revitalize a certain languishing urban area. It’s goal is to adapt the abandoned territory to life with minimal funds to allows artist communities to create. In this way, young artists would have space for creative activity and a revitalized area with new features would contribute to the change of the whole neighborhood.
Vietos dvasia — sąvoka, žinoma dar nuo antikos laikų, yra glaudžiai susijusi su architektūra. Pastatas egzistuoja tam tikroje vietoje ir visada daro įtaką aplinkai, kuri turi individualias charakteristikas bei dvasią.

Šiandien Klaipėda, kaip ir kiti miestai, siekia išsaugoti savo individualumą. Miestas turi unikalų įvaizdį, neatsiejamą nuo pramonės ir jos objektų. Nagrinėjama pramoninė zona, prisidėjusi prie Klaipėdos veido formavimo, šiandien prarado savo svarbą ir turi didelę tikimybę prarasti savo tapatybę, pavirstant kosmopolitinės architektūros kvartalu.

The spirit of the place — is a concept closely linked to the architecture, known since ancient times. A building exists in a certain place and always influences the environment which has individual features and a spirit that can only be felt.

Today, Klaipeda, like other cities, seeks to preserve its history and individuality. The city has a unique identity, inseparable from the industry and its objects. Analyzed industrial area, which contributed to the formation of Klaipeda’s image, now has a strong chance of losing its authenticity, becoming a part of cosmopolitan architecture.
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