

ANNUAL REPORT

02 November 2020 – 30 September 2021



Annual Report

02 November 2020 – 30 September 2021

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A. Organization & Management

Introduction

Dr. Edmond Manahasa
Head of Department

General

The Department of Architecture offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Architecture. The undergraduate program is based on a fifth-year study leading to the bachelor's degree with emphasis on architectural design studios. Prepares students for critical engagement with practice and ensures readiness for professional responsibilities. Our department's vision is to offer a leading Architecture program in Albania and the Balkan region. We teach sustained evaluation of principles, traditions, and requirements of building in all its aspects. Our goal is to advance the profession of architecture by combining artistic talent, technical proficiency, and social engagement in pursuit of excellence.

Our programs seek to multiply insights and abilities of students, including sensitivity to the aesthetic and social responsibilities of environmental design; the cultivation of a broad, humanistic, world view; commitment to research; respect of innovation; an advanced understanding of the culture of practice; and sophisticated graphic skills and technical vocabulary. The education of students in sustainability is a major focus of the curriculum. Our programs are interdisciplinary and taught in English.

Mission

Our institutional vision is to be in an association that develops the architectural consciousness in society, to play a facilitating role to increase the quality of life, become a leading institution at the national and international architectural arena, and a reference and preferred institution in terms of academic activities.

Our programs seek to multiply insights and abilities of students, including sensitivity to the aesthetic and social responsibilities of environmental design; the cultivation of a broad, humanistic, world view; commitment to research; respect of innovation; an advanced understanding of the culture of practice; and sophisticated graphic skills and technical vocabulary. The education of students in sustainability is a major focus of the curriculum. Our programs are interdisciplinary and taught in English.

Vision

To train professionals those are equal in national and international criteria of education; qualified in theory and practice areas; design environments which meet esthetic, technique, ecologic, economic, cultural, historical, social, environmental and other necessary requirements; and train intellectual and expert architects who are innovative, creative, ethical, have the ability to work in interdisciplinary projects.

Architecture Department at Epoka University has about a decade that prepares students to address complex design, cultural, social, environmental issues through conceptual, thoughtful and creative inquiry.

Our department continues to grow with the number of undergraduate intakes as well as graduate. We have more than 200 students in the department and about 20 staff members, composed of full time and part time staff from highly successful schools of Europe. The Architecture Department cultivates design education through a variety of experiences which include learning through doing, act as a team and community collaborations. Department provides rigorous design education that train students as professionals in art, science and built environment. We have many graduates who work in important national and international institutions, as well as graduates that continue their studies in well-known European and American Universities.

Study programs offered by the Department

The Department of Architecture offers three study programs:

- PICD ARCH – integrated second cycle study program in Architecture, which is a five-year Second Level Integrated Diploma (Master + Bachelor) in Architecture program
- MSc ARCH – two years Master of Science in Architecture program
- PhD ARCH – Doctoral program in Architecture

Epoka University Integrated second cycle study program in Architecture (PICD ARCH Program) is the second level study program offered by the Department of Architecture. PICD ARCH prepares students for critical engagement with theory and practice and ensures readiness for professional responsibilities. The program duration is 5 academic years or 10 semesters. Students are required to complete 44 courses (270 ECTS in total or 30 ECTS per semester) during the first nine semesters and work on the Master Thesis (30 ECTS) during the last semester, which makes in total 300 ECTS.

B. Resources

Department Staff

Full time Academic Staff

Dr. Edmond Manahasa

Edmond holds the PhD degree in Architectural Design from Istanbul Technical University, Turkey. He has been awarded as 3rd Best Foreign Student Prize in Graduation Year 2002 for Bachelor Level at Istanbul Technical University. From 1 August 2002-1 March 2007 he has been part of Zambak Architects where the main activities and responsibilities consisted in: Team Manager for Construction Projects, Preliminary Project Proposal Design, 3d Works Drawing Construction Project and Supervision Of Architectural Projects as:

Turgut Ozal Educational Complex-Tirana/Albania September 2002- March 2002

Petkim Siteler Mosque and Landscape Requalification in Körfez/Kocaeli/Turkey November 2002- January 2003

Gaziantep Cargo Transfer Center-Şehit Kamil/Gaziantep/Turkey March-June 2003

HA-Korça High School Project and Supervision in Kavaja/Albania January-February 2004 A+B Block, C Block January-February 2007

Akbulut Textile Factory in Malatya/Turkey September 2004-January 2005 Baku High School – Azerbaijan September December 2005

YK Educational Complex in Struga/Macedonia March 2006-June 2006 Karahan Quarter Dormitory in Bursa/Turkey July 2006

Private University Preparatory School Interior Design and Courtyard Landscape Design Istanbul/Turkey August – September 2006

Liria-High School Project Proposal in Elbasan/Albania October 2006

Küçük Yalı Mosque and Annexes Architectural Project Proposal in Küçükyalı/Istanbul Turkey, November 2006

Hotel Building in Spille Kavaja/Albania March 2007-May 2007 Apartment Block in Lushnja/Albania Summer 2009

Apartment Block in Durres/Albania Summer 2011

He has four years of teaching experience as Senior Instructor in the following Courses:

Basic Design Course, Architectural Application Project, History of Architecture I, History of Architecture II, History of Architecture III.

Currently he holds the position of Head of the Architecture Department and at the same time is a full-time lecturer.

Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

Mr. Sokol has been graduated from Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey.

2004-2006 (MSc) Postgraduate studies at Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria.

2006-2010 (Dr. technicae) Doctoral studies at Building Physics and Building Ecology Department, Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning, Vienna

University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

2010-2014 Venia Docendi – Habilitation, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria, (“Priv. dozent” / Associated Professor)

2014 – present Habilitation (venia docendi) – A.o Prof. Dr. at Vienna University of Technology (Building Physics)

2011 – present Professor of Epoka University, Tirana Albania

2013 – 2014 Professor of Polytechnic University of Tirana, Tirana Albania 2007 – 2014 Lecturer at Vienna University of Technology,

(Courses – Visual and Acoustic Performance, Advance Studies in Building Science)

2007 – 2014 Senior Scientific Researcher at Vienna University of Technology,

Scientific Research / Faculty

- Epoka University, Tirana-Albania
- Vienna University of Technology, Vienna-Austria
- Polytechnic University of Tirana, Tirana-Albania
- Ozeyegin University, Istanbul-Turkey

Honours, Prizes and Awards

1 “University Award for Excellent Students”, Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey

2 Diploma with High Honour Award for Academic Achievement, June 2004, Istanbul, Turkey (published in Sabah Daily Turkish Magazine)

3 “University Award for Best Foreign Student”, Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey

4 “Istanbul Educational Institute Award for Best Foreign Student in all universities in Istanbul”, Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey

5 Best Master of Science Diploma Thesis Award, Building Science and Technology Postgraduate MSc program, June 2006, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

7 Doctor of Science Thesis with Excellence Award, November 2011, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

Important Industrial Projects I EU projects

Multifunctional Plug & Play Facade "MPPF" at the COMET program (Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies).

Funding: Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG),

Project: "Naturally Cool" Project-Nr: 817575).

Period: 2008 – 2010

Funding: Österreichischer Klima- und Energie-Fonds

Self-updating models for sentient buildings

Funding: Austrian Science Foundation (FWF), project numbers P15998-N07 and L219- N07. Period: 2006-2008

People as Powerplant

Period:

2005 - 2008

Funding:

BMVIT (Initiative: "Energiesysteme der Zukunft")

Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

Mrs. Anna has completed State Technical University in Vologda, 6-year diploma of Architect with honors also she has completed the master's in architecture program (in English) in Dessau Institute of Architecture, Germany. During the education was granted with 2-year DAAD scholarship for postgraduate studies. She has worked as architect at project institute Archangelsk Civil Project in Archangelsk. She is Awarded by a title PhD at Czech Technical University in Prague where the research topic is "Flexible housing - Universal space in dwelling". Since 2010 – working as lecturer in Epoka University. During the work have participated in the following activities:

April 2012 – member of the Organizing Committee of the 1st International Conference on Architecture & Urban Design

May 2014 – member of the Organizing Committee and reviewer of the Scientific Committee of the 2nd International Conference on Architecture & Urban Design Addition Candidate member of Russian Union of Architects. Holder of professional architectural license in Albania.

Dr. Odeta Manahasa

Mrs. Odeta Manahasa has been graduated with bachelor and master's degree from Middle East Technical University in 2005 and 2008 respectively. She has been graduated with a PhD degree in Architecture from Istanbul Technical University in 2017. She is a senior lecturer at Epoka University, teaching Basic Design course since 2008. In her dissertation, "Children Participation and Post Occupancy Evaluation in Developing a Communicative Language to (Re)Design Educational Environments", she uses the children space experience as a tool for participation, to offer a new perspective to the participatory design discourse on the levels of participation.

In addition, she has a long-standing interest in understanding environmental psychology in its larger context, particularly in relation to child and child space perception. She is developing this interest as two lines of inquiry: (i) child space perception knowledge, with a focus on a systematic structure for thinking on environmental behavior phenomena from different methodological perspectives, and (ii) improve the quality of learning environments.

Thus, her areas of expertise and research interest include Architectural Education, Children and Architecture (e.g. Children's participation in architectural design), Participatory Design, and School Design., environmental psychology, post occupancy evaluation, environmental behavior and design.

Dr. Fabio Naselli

Fabio Naselli gained his Master Degree on Architecture at Palermo University (Italy) on March 1989 and received his PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from Palermo University (Italy) on February 2002, and he currently is a full-time Lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Epoka University. He got six yearlong post-doc grants from Palermo University (Italy) from 2003 to 2009 and he was Assistant Professor at Kore University of Enna (Italy) Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, during the years 2010-2016. He was the Scientific Director of IEREK (Egypt) international research institute (from 2014 to 2018) and currently he is the Director of Spa.Re.Life International Winter School (since 2012) and the Scientific Responsible of DAC (Design at the Center) International Network for Integrated and Multiscale Design (since 2015).

Dr. Egin Zeka

Egin Zeka is a lecturer and researcher in the Department of Architecture and the director of Center of Research and Design in Applied Sciences [CoRDA] at Epoka University, Albania. He teaches courses of “Urban Design” and “Advanced Design Studios”. Furthermore, he does research with master students in the field of urbanism. Zeka received his bachelor degree in Urban and Regional Planning [2009], Master degree in Urban Design [2012], and PhD degree in Urban and Regional Planning [2020] at Istanbul Technical University, Turkey. His research interests are in: urban design, generative design, urban morphology, traditional settlements and urban revitalization. Projects: `DURANA, International Urban Design Competition, 2nd prize (teamwork), 2014; National Design Competition: “Tourism into Tradition, B&B project, 1st Prize (teamwork); La Biennale di Venezia, part of the team representing Albanian pavilion in Biennale Architettura [2018]; Team leader in “100+ Villages Academy”, Lot 10 [2018].

Dr. Artan Hysa

Artan Hysa, is an architect by education, earning the Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2007 and Master in Architectural Design in 2010. In the scope of the doctoral research, he is aiming to explore the transdisciplinary research methods and techniques leading to holistic findings in the field of spatial management and planning. More precisely, he is working on the utilization of CORINE Land Cover data in various decision-making processes of spatial planning and management. The research fields he is mostly interested in can be listed as follows, transdisciplinary research methods, research by design, and landscape research.

Dr. Desantila Hysa

Desantila Hysa, an architect by training, holds a Ph.D. degree (2021) from Istanbul Technical University, a M.Arch (2010) and a Bachelor (2007) degree, both from Middle East Technical University in Turkey. She has been instructing and lecturing several courses at Epoka University since 2010 at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Her field of research is on design pedagogies and her field of interest extends to computational approaches to design, design cognition and visual perception studies.

MSc. Ina Dervishi

Mrs. Ina Osmani has been graduated with bachelor's degree from Middle East Technical University in 2012 and and master's degree from Epoka University in 2014. From that time, she is teaching at Epoka University Basic Design course. Her areas of interest are: sustainable urban development, environmental design of cities, urban heat islands. Currently she is working on her PHD research performing it at Vienna Technical University.

MSc. Artemis Hasa

Artemis Hasa has a Bachelor in Architecture and Master of Science degree from Epoka University, Tirana, Albania and currently is conducting his PhD studies at Istanbul Technical University under the Faculty of Architecture, Field of Construction Sciences, in Istanbul, Turkey. The main focus of his research is on Building technologies and performance. His teaching experiences had been on building technology courses and main design studio courses.

MSc. Kreshnik Merxhani

Graduated in Architecture at the Polytechnic University of Tirana. He is generally focused in Traditional Architecture and is distinguished for his writings, artistic photos and for restoration and re-implementation projects. Since 2008, he is committed as a co-author in restoration projects of several monuments of Ottoman and Communist period mainly in the City of Gjirokastër. In 2014- 2016 (March) he was the Head of the

Technical Sector of DRKK (Regional Directory of National Culture) - Gjirokastrë, a terrain office at the Ministry of Culture. In addition, some project that he was co-author and some activities of former organization that Merxhani was part of, are nominated and be short listed for Aga Khan award (GCDO) the 2010 Cycle and are winner of Europa Nostra Price (CHwB). His work as a co-author has been part in Biennale in Venice "Common Ground", in the Albanian Pavilion. He has visited various Universities in Albania such as the Faculty of Architecture and City Planning, UT, and Epoka University. He has been part of different exhibition and online illustration with his photography and graphic art like "Martin Parr" (2010), EVOCED (2016), Photos from Spaç (World Monument Fund – 2015), CHwB publications etc. Some of the articles are being published at different scientific journals and are presented at some conferences inside and outside Albania.

MSc. Teuta Kodra

Teuta Kodra holds a degree of Master of Science from Polytechnic University of Tirana and has been part of different trainings regarding her field of study. She has been part of different projects as: Project Design for the Reconstruction of Librazhd Hospital - Funding/Client: Librazhd Municipality. Project Design for the Reconstruction of Burrel Maternity Hospital - Funding/Client: Burrel Municipality, Reconstruction of Bulqiza Health Center - Funding/Client: Bulqiza Municipality.

Bulqiza Hospital Rehabilitation Project- Funding/Client: Bulqiza Municipality.

Laç Kindergarten. Rehabilitation Project- Funding/Client: Ministry of Education and Sports. Project Design for the Reconstruction of Strikcan Primary School - Funding/Client: Strikcan Commune. Project Design for the Reconstruction of Radomir Primary School - Funding/Client: Radomir Commune. Currently she teaches Digital Visualization & Presentation Course in Epoka University and at the same time is part of the "Accademia"- Autodesk Training Center Albania and Kosovo.

MSc. Julian Beqiri

Julian Beqiri is an architect, urbanist and independent researcher. He holds a master's degree in Architecture from Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania and a master's degree in Urbanism from Delft University of Technology, Netherlands. From 2016 to 2020 Julian worked as an architect at Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) in Rotterdam, and in November 2020 joined the academic staff of Epoka University, Albania. Apart from teaching and writing, Julian leads the design office DISPAED (Dialectics of Space Design) which investigates the realm of design through the lens of philosophical thinking. His architectural design and writing concern the intersection where these fields meet and overlap.

Part time Academic Staff

MSc. Dritan Bratko

Mr. Dritan Bratko is a high qualified engineer who graduated from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Hydro-Technical branch with 11 years of experience in the relevant field. In 2010 Mr. Bratko has attended a B.E. Degree and in 2015 have completed the – M.Sc. Degree in Hydro-technical Engineering, in 2018 - 2019 has completed a Professional Master in Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety in civil Engineering and in 2019-2021 has completed a M.Sc. in construction Management. Hydro-technical engineer and project coordinator with 11 years of local and international experience in the fields of hydrology, hydraulic modeling, highway drainage, water supply, sewerage water, wastewater treatment plant, hydropower project implementation and optimizing solutions. He has been mandated by the Ministry of infrastructure and Energy as the Team Leader for drafting the new law "For Water Supply and Disposal Sector, Wastewater Collection

and Treatment”. He is the author of two studies regarding the Water intake structure for hydropower and Peak flow transposition of Ishmi and Erzeni River Basins. Mr. Bratko has been part of various and multidimensional.

MSc. Jurtin Hajro

Jurtin Hajro is architect and founder of commonsense.studio, an architectural practice based in Tirana. Jurtin received his architecture degree in 2006 at Middle East Technical University, Ankara. Since 2009 he has been a lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Epoka University. In

2013 at the establishment of CoRDA – Center of Research and Design in Architecture in Epoka, he became the first director of the design office, having a substantial contribution. Jurtin is the architect of Epoka Social Center, a building that has received international attention in

awards, nominations and academic publications. He has been awarded first prize international awards in Osumi Island and Faith Park International Urban and Landscape Design Competitions organized in Albania. In 2017 he has been the creator and curator of Modeling the Idea, Pavilion Days, an event calling for interdisciplinary collaboration between artists and architects in Korca. Recently, part of a larger team he has won the competition to curate the Albanian Pavilion of Architecture in Venice Biennale 2018. This year he is selected as an Award Nominator for Aga Khan Architectural Awards requested to propose successful architectural interventions in Albania during the period 2017-2019.

Academic Visitors (2020-2021)

Administrative Staff

M. Sc. Bevli Hoxha

Bevli Hoxha is the Coordinator of Department. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Political Science and International Relations. Since November 2019, she works as Coordinator of Architecture Department. She exercises her duties in coordination with the Faculty Administrator and Head of Department. The Coordinator of the Department is responsible for management of the department activities with administrative character and incoming and outgoing correspondences.

Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

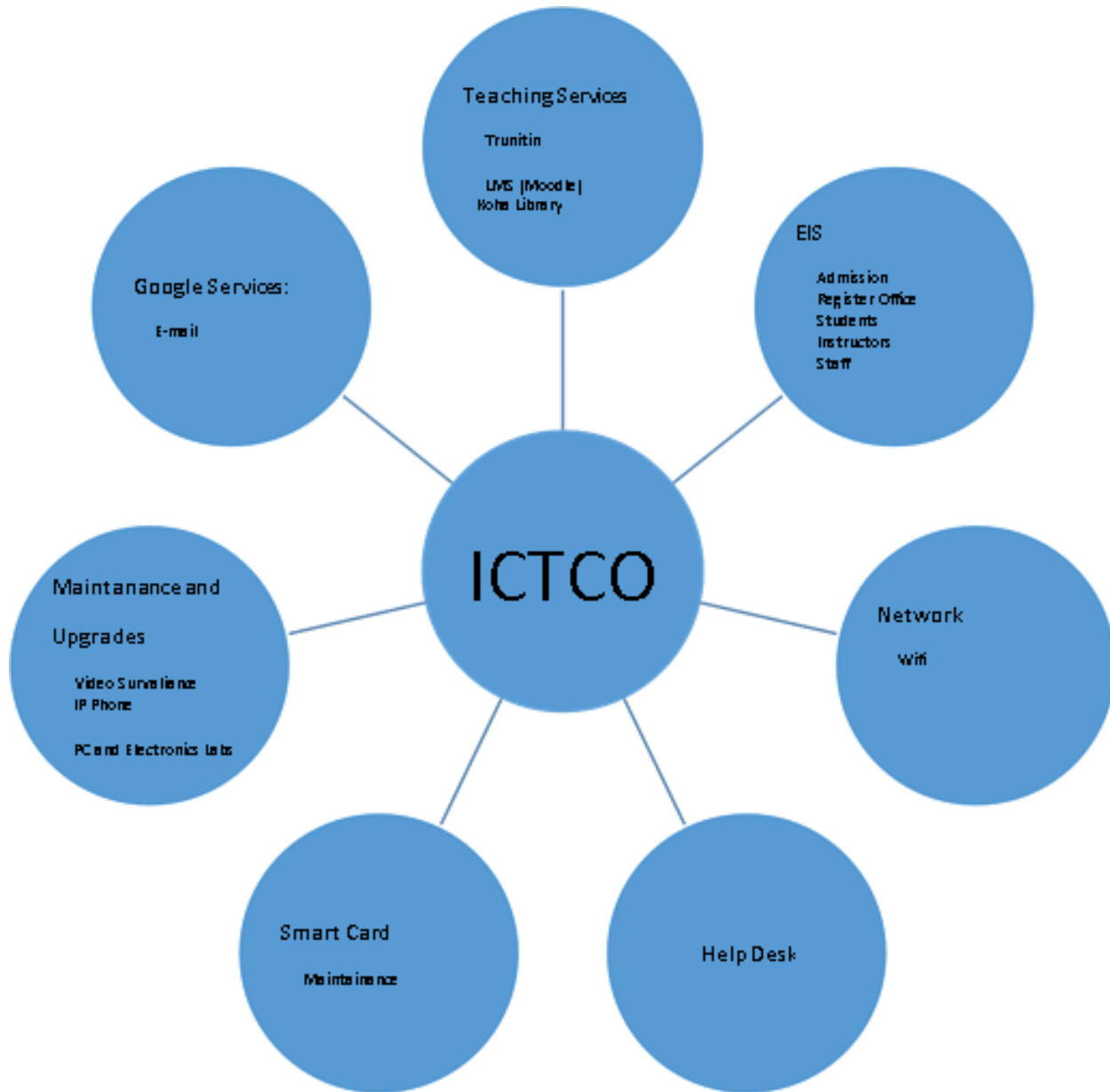
-Income and various financing for **Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture** during the 2020-2021 academic year:

Income (in Euro)	2020-2021
Tuition fees for and during studies	526,882.5
TOTAL	526,882.5

-Expenditures for **Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture** during the 2020-2021 academic year:

	2020-2021		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investements
Tuition and other student fees	241,038	64,984	35,618
Total	241,038	64,894	35,618

IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources



The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO) provides informatics services needed in the University. It plans the informatics infrastructure of the University, provides its security and ensures the continuation of its functions. ICTCO works on the project for effective, legal and extensive usage of the informatics services for students and personnel.

The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO) provides:

Teaching Services:

- **Turnitin** software helps you to understand and avoid plagiarism and develop your understanding of how to cite sources as part of an academic argument. ICTC office manages the users and train the staff about how to use Turnitin.
- **Learning Management System (LMS)** – A service based on Moodle offered for students and instructors in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials online. Students and instructor can login on LMS using the provided official email account.
- **Library Automation System (Koha)** - Koha is an open-source Integrated Library System in use today by hundreds of libraries worldwide. Koha is web based, so there is no software to install on desktop computers. Users can check the books online and reserve them via web. Its features are more than enough to manage the Epoka Library effectively and efficiently.
- **DSpace** – The institutional repository of Epoka University: DSpace is an open source repository software package typically used for creating open access repositories for scholarly and/or published digital content. The proceedings of the conferences which are organized by Epoka University can be accessed from this repository. Epoka University is the only university who has digital repository in Albania (<http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/Europe/Albania>). We also give services to other international journals to publish their publications (<http://dspace.epoka.edu.al/handle/1/1378>) in our digital repository.

Google Services:

- **Webmail (Google account)** – Epoka University is using Google Apps for Education services and all students and academic and administrative staff are provided with an email address under epoka.edu.al domain which is a Google account. Beside official communication, which is done through this email address, this account can be used for authentication to other online systems offered by university.
- **Google Classroom** – A more interactive service offered by Google as part of Google Apps for education to access, coordinate and organize course materials on cloud. By using Google Classroom, course materials can be integrated with other Google services where

assigned users can collaborate. Students and instructors can access this service using the provided account.

Education Information System (Curriculum) – a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum, and course syllabi.

Smart Card: All students and staff are provided with Smart Card identification cards. The Smart Card is put as an e-ID application at three buildings, two PC labs, one Electronics Lab, and campus gate entry turnstiles and barriers.

Help Desk: ICTCO is also responsible for the maintenance of personnel and PC Lab computers in respect to software and hardware. Its staff monitors the personal computers within the frame of distribution of duty and authority and brings the issues to a conclusion. At the same time, ICTCO plans servers and cabling services of the University. Staff can open ticket via help.epoka.edu.al for their ICTCO related problems and follow the process from here. You can share your opinions on every subject related to information technologies and informatics with help@epoka.edu.al and you can also write your complaints and suggestions for a better campus life.

Software Opportunities

Epoka University has a subscription of Microsoft Program which is called DreamSpark. It supports technical education by providing access to Microsoft software for learning, teaching and research purposes. Epoka family members can download software through www.dreamspark.com website at no cost. Epoka University also provides Office 365 accounts to all staffs and students which includes all office applications for free.

Network

Wireless: Epoka University provides wireless internet connection to all Epoka members in the campus. As ICTCO, we ensure that the wireless signal is strong and covers everywhere in campus. **Wired:** Besides wireless, there are three PC labs, one Civil Engineering lab, one Electronics lab, one PhD study room, and library where PCs serve students and staffs with wired internet. In the Epoka Library and one of the classrooms, there are plug and use stations next to each table where students and staff can use for wired internet and electricity for their laptops.

Digital Signage: There are four TVs in the campus, they are used to inform EPOKA members about latest news and announcements.

Epoka Interactive Systems (EIS)



Recognizing the needs of campus community, EPOKA has made a strategic decision to replace its aging, cumbersome, and vendor-supported student, instructors, and staff systems with a modern, nimble and effective internally built system that includes admissions, enrollment, registration, financial aid, student, instructor, and staff accounts, and advising in one platform.

EIS is developed by ICTCO at EPOKA University. From the user interface, EIS is an online interactive system where users can log in using the provided official email account. It is a modular system organized by roles and respective units at the university and the information is stored in a centralized database. All users have access to their personal information, can update general details and CV and they can manage job related tasks and activities according to their role and job position.

- **Students:** Students in their profile can access their personal information and information related to their study program. Course registration is done through the system and after that,

students can view the ongoing academic activity of the registered courses during the semester. They can check attendance, exam dates, interim grades and final grades. Also in the system, they can access the program curriculum, transcript, grade calculation, weekly schedule, requests and notifications. The EIS prompts students when they are in the “warning zone” for financial or academic issues. It empowers students to create course plans to ensure timely graduation.

- **Instructors:** Academic staff including full-time and part-time lecturers, can have access to their courses assigned in the current semester and can also view previously assigned courses. Lecturers can update the syllabus, complete student attendance, assign and finalize grades. Advisor lecturers can have access to academic information of the students assigned for advisory and they can approve student course registration.
- **Coordinators:** The opening of courses according to course appointment in each semester is done by department coordinators and approved by faculty coordinators. Coordinators can monitor the academic activity of the lecturers under respective department.
- **Admissions and Registrar’s Office:** Admissions Office enters all pre-registered student information and assigns scholarships. After the student has completed the registration, all the related information entered by Admissions office, is managed by Registrar’s office.
- **Finance:** Finance office can manage and follow up all student financial information related to tuition fees and scholarship.
- **Human Resources:** Human resources office can manage all staff information data and assigns roles and job position for each staff.
- **Curriculum:** a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum and course syllabus.

All users have access to their personalized reports according to their roles and respective units. Faculties and units are liberated from tedious manual tasks. EIS supplies them with new and most updated information that will empower them to make informed decisions based on data.

EIS can be continuously updated with new modules according to the university needs. EIS can be accessed via: [https:// eis.epoka.edu.al](https://eis.epoka.edu.al) and users can log-in by their EPOKA Mail account credentials.

Measurable indicators:

number of PC per doctoral students	120
number of PC furnished labs per students	4
number of PC for academic staff	87
number of PC for administration	53
number of printers for each one	15
number of photocopying machines for each one	15
number of head projectors	1
number of video-projectors	27
number of scanners	10

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

EPOKA University is located on the Tirana-Rinas road, on the 12th kilometer. The campus extends over a total area of 67,000 m². The 2017-2018 academic year is being conducted regularly in the premises of two buildings with a total area of 14352 m².

The E-building has a modern infrastructure and a central heating and cooling system. The classrooms are equipped with video projectors and smart boards that enable the normal conduct of the learning process.

On September 2013, the construction of A-Building the “Cultural Social Object of EPOKA University” was completed. In addition to classes, there are plenty of recreational facilities for students such as cafeterias, libraries, Wi-Fi, facilities for the Student Council and student clubs, sports facilities, etc. Below are shown current picture of the building.

Measurable indicators: Premises of the Faculty

Premises for the Faculties	Quantity	Surface	m²/student
Auditoria/Classrooms for lectures	5	752	0.40
Classrooms for seminars	17	1545	0.82
Premises for promotion activities	1	128	0.07
Classrooms for course/professional practice	2	258	0.14
Laboratories for courses	3	233	0.12
Informatics laboratories	2	174.6	0.12
Internet Room	2	151.8	0.12
Library Hall	1	322	0.17
Premises for photocopying, bookshop etc.	1	85.2	0.05
Student information office	2	71	0.04
Corridors/halls	25	2707.4	1.44
Sports premises	5	463	0.25
Premises for service to third parties	1	56	0.03
Restrooms (WC) for students	54	327.2	0.17
Restrooms (WC) for academic personnel	35	212.1	2.16
Premises for personnel:	Quantity	Surface	m²/person ratio
Offices for the Dean/Vice-Dean	5	285.5	40.79
Office for the Administrator	1	25.4	25.40
Offices for the Department Coordinators	2	60.6	20.20
Offices for departments/research centers	12	328.5	27.38
Offices for the academic personnel	40	620	6.33
Office for the Finance Office	2	37	18.50
Office for the Internal Quality Assurance Unit	1	50	50.00
Meeting rooms	2	75	0.77
Premises for service personnel	11		30.33
Premises for the activities of the Student Council	1	30	1.30
Recreation premises such as cafeteria/fast-food/ restaurant	1	337	0.17
Total	234	9335.3	

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the EPOKA University Campus uses for the 17 classes: (E-010, E-011, E-211, E-212, E-213, E-311, E-312 (E-012, E-110, E-214, E-314 and A-005), E-313, A 117, A118, A119, A120, A127, A128, A129, A130, A131) a conference room (E-B01), three computer laboratories (E-011, E-015, A-126), an electronic lab (E-010) and a civil engineering laboratory. There are 3 internet rooms as it is reflected in the table above, but the University offers wireless internet all over its space. The capacities used are given in the table below.

Classes used during the 2020-2021 academic year.

No.	Name of the Class	Surface (m2)	Capacity
1	E B10	75	56
2	E B11	104	60
3	E 211	64	36
4	E 212	81.32	72
5	E 213	81.72	72
6	E 311	63.46	40
7	E 312	81.32	48
8	E 313	81.72	40
9	A 117	138.0	35
10	A 118	138.0	35
11	A 119	138.0	35
12	A 120	138.0	35
13	A 127	72.41	56
14	A 128	73.53	56
15	A 129	73.71	56
16	A 130	72.02	56
17	A 131	72.02	56
total	17	1548.23	836

Auditoriums used during the 2020-2021 academic year

No.	Name of Auditorium	Surface (m2)	Capacity
1	E 012	131.54	66
2	E 110	130.82	136
3	E 214	154.32	150
4	E 314	154.32	134
5	A 005	145.2	65
Total	5	716.2	551

EPOKA University has a conference hall with a surface of 128 m² and a capacity of 99 persons. The conference hall is used more for social, cultural and various national and international conferences. The hall is equipped with central heating-cooling system, video projector, sound system and two cabins for simultaneous translation. Also in the premises of the “Cultural Social Object” building is a conference hall with a surface of about 400 m² and a capacity of 300 persons.

Laboratories used during the 2020-2021 academic year

Name	Laboratories	Surface (m2)	Capacity
E 011	Computer Laboratory 2	96.64	42
E 015	Computer Laboratory 1	77.93	40
E B30	Computer Laboratory 3	123.7	47
A 126	Computer Laboratory 4	72.4	42
E 010	Electronic Laboratory	132	50
E 012	Projects Laboratory	131.54	30
A-120/1	Architecture Laboratory	27.6	12
I 001	Civil Engineering Laboratory	283	40
Total	8	944.8	323

EPOKA University has a conference hall with a surface of 128 m² and a capacity of 99 persons. The conference hall is used more for social, cultural and various national and international conferences. The hall is equipped with central heating-cooling system, video projector, sound system and two cabins for simultaneous translation. Also in the premises of the “Cultural Social Object” building is a conference hall with a surface of about 400 m² and a capacity of 300 persons.

LIBRARY

The EPOKA University Library, which is located on the first floor of A-Building, was founded to support the education and research activities of the university by providing and organizing the needed documents. With its 100-seating capacity, our library has 400 square meters area of use. Our University Library is composed of entrance, book and reading hall. In the entrance, there is a check out desk and research center. The periodicals, including the exhibition of new arrivals, are also shelved in this section. The reading hall is equipped for students to study and to do research.

EPOKA University is a member of Balkan Libraries Union which was founded on 29 July 2009 with the participation of 10 institutions from 6 Balkan countries.

EPOKA Library collaborates with academic staff to help students and faculties with vital content by reducing costs and increasing opportunities for better and more practical study, providing independent researchers with free and low-cost access.

Our library collection is enriched by purchases and donations. The books to buy are chosen in accordance with the needs and requests of the students, administrative and academic staff. Under the Department of Library and Documentation, the library has a total of about 7500 printed books.

Digital Databases

Epoka University has full membership in JSTOR, a shared digital library created in 1995 that includes more than 12 million academic journal articles, books and primary sources in 75 disciplines. JSTOR helps to explore a wide range of scientific content through a powerful research and teaching platform. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a non-for-profit-organization.

JSTOR was founded to help libraries and academic publishers transition their activities from print to digital operations, to expand access to scholarly content around the world and to preserve it for future generations. JSTORE is offered for free for our students and academic staff.

Every member of EPOKA staff can access to JSTOR's collections by going to <http://www.jstor.org/> and searching or browsing for content.

Using the Library

Our library works on the open shelf system enabling you to reach the books directly. The books in the open shelves are topically sorted in the book hall according to LC classification method. To find the book you are looking for, you should follow these steps:

1. Through the catalog search computers in the library; you can search author name, book name, and publisher, topic, or keyword areas.
2. To get the book, you can go to the shelves with the classification and location numbers of the books appearing on the screen as a result of your search.

Example of LC number for the book: "Exchange rates and international finance", Laurence S. Copeland / Financial Times, 2008

HG
3821
.C78
2008

The first part of the LC number "**HG**" represents the category of the book by its topic. In the LC system, the first letter **H** stands for **Social Science** class. Each subsequent letter indicates next level of sub categories of the main topic. In the given example **G** stands for **Finance**, **3821** indicates subcategories included between 3810-4000 (Foreign exchange, international finance, International monetary system), **C78** indicates the first letter of authors surname, **2008** indicates book publication year.

Regulations

Students of PHD, Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree and Master Students and academic and administrative personnel are the members of the library. They can borrow library materials in accordance with the rules.

Researchers coming from outside the university are not lent books, they are only allowed to use them in accordance with the rules.

Readers in this group are requested to fill up the related form Lending Service.

Circulation Rules

Resource	Patron	Loan period(days)	Maximum number of check-outs(items)
Book	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students	15	3
	Graduate students	15	5
	Staff	20	5
Bound Journal	Graduate students Staff	5	2
Visual/Audio Resources	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students Graduate students Staff	3	3

C. The Curriculum

Undergraduate Teaching

First YEAR																
First Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						Total	ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
ARCH 101	Basic Design	A	Compulsory	4	8	0	12	8	64	128	0	108	0	300	12	
ARCH 105	Graphic Communication I	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6	
ARCH 121	Introduction to Architecture	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4	
MTH 125	Basic Mathematics	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4	
ENG 103	Development of Reading and Writing Skills in English I	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4	
Semestral Total				15	10	0	25	20	240	160	0	350	0	750	30	
Second Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						Total	ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
ARCH 102	Introduction to Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	4	8	0	12	8	64	128	0	108	0	300	12	
ARCH 108	Graphic Communication II	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6	
ARCH 124	History of Art and Architecture I	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4	
ARCH 106	Free Hand Drawing	A	Compulsory	1	2	0	3	2	16	32	0	52	0	100	4	
ENG 104	Development of Reading and Writing Skills in English II	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4	
Semestral Total				13	12	0	25	20	208	192	0	298	52	750	30	
Second YEAR																
Third Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						Total	ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
ARCH 201	Architectural Design I	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10	
ARCH 253	Building Construction Technology I	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5	
ARCH 231	Statics and Strength of Materials	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4	
ARCH 261	Building Materials	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4	
ARCH 223	History of Art and Architecture II	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4	
ARCH 211	Digital Graphics I	A	Compulsory	1	2	0	3	2	16	36	0	13	10	75	3	
Semestral Total				16	8	0	24	20	256	132	0	352	10	750	30	
Fourth Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						Total	ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
ARCH 202	Architectural Design I	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10	
ARCH 224	History of Art and Architecture III	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	48	0	0	52	100	4	
ARCH 232	Structure Analysis	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	48	0	52	0	100	4	
ARCH 240	Landscape Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	48	0	52	0	100	4	
ARCH 254	Building Construction Technology II	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	4	32	32	0	61	0	125	5	
ARCH 218	Digital Graphics II	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	75	3	
Semestral Total																
Third YEAR																
Fifth Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						Total	ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
ARCH 301	Architectural Design III	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10	
ARCH 311	Urban Design I	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	77	0	125	5	
ARCH 380	Environmental Control Studio	B	Compulsory	2	4	0	6	4	32	64	0	54	0	150	6	
ARCH 320	Theories of Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	0	52	100	5	
ARCH 381	Structural Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	77	0	125	5	
Semestral Total				16	8	0	20	20	240	128	0	330	52	750	30	
Sixth Semester																
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						Total	ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total		
ARCH 302	Architectural Design IV	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10	
ARCH 312	Urban Design II	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	90	0	150	6	
ARCH xxx	Elective Course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6	

ARCH 332	Building Construction Management	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 331	Building Systems	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
Fourth YEAR															
Seventh Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 401	Advanced Design Studio I	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 419	Advanced Detailing in Architecture	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	36	0	100	4
ARCH 411	Studio of Conservation and Restoration	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH 332	Building Construction Management	D	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				15	8	0	23	19	240	128	0	382	0	750	30
Eighth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 402	Advanced Design Studio II	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 410	Research Methods	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 414	Architect's Market Structure and Real Estate	D	Compulsory	3	4	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				16	4	0	20	18	256	64	0	430	0	750	30
Fifth YEAR															
Ninth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 505	Special Topics in Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 515	Thesis Research	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	4	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				14	2	0	13	15	224	32	0	494	0	750	30
Tenth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 310	Summer Practice at Construction Site	D	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	125	5
ARCH 409	Summer Practice at Architectural Studio	D	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	4
ARCH xxx	Non-Technical Elective	D	Elective	3	0	3	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 500	Master Thesis	E	Compulsory	2	0	2	2	2	32	0	0	342	0	375	15
Semestral Total				5	0	5	5	5	80	0	0	670	0	750	30

Graduate Teaching

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE/OLD CURRICULA															
First Year															
First Semester															
Courses		Course Type	Compulsory/Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 400	Summer Practice at Construction Site	A	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ARCH 401	Advanced Design Studio I	A	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	166	0	294	12
ARCH 421/431/461	Design Methods/Advanced Structural Systems/Urban Planning	B	Compulsory	3	1	0	4	4	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
Semestral Total				13	5	0	18	16	208	64	0	442	0	714	30
Second Semester															
Second Year															
Second Semester															
Courses		Course Type	Compulsory/Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 402	Advanced Design Studio I	A	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	166	0	294	12
ARCH 418/432/462	Case Studies in Architectural Criticism/Sunlighting in Architecture/Housing Systems	B	Compulsory	3	1	0	4	4	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
Semestral Total				13	5	0	18	16	208	64	0	442	0	714	30
Third Semester															
Second Year															
Third Semester															
Courses		Course Type	Compulsory/Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 501	Supervised Independent Study and Res	A	Compulsory	5	0	0	5	4	38	0	0	254	0	292	12
ARCH 505/531/561	Special Topics in Architectural Design/Special Topics in Building Technology/Special Topics in Urban Planning and Design	B	Compulsory	3	1	0	4	4	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	92	0	140	6
Semestral Total				14	1	0	15	14	182	0	0	530	0	712	30
Fourth Semester															
Second Year															
Fourth Semester															
Courses		Course Type	Compulsory/Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 500	Master Thesis	A	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	750	0	750	30
Semestral Total				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	750	0	750	30

CURRICULUM OF PhD STUDY PROGRAM

Year I - First Semester		T	P	C	ECTS
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
Total:		12	0	12	30

Year I - Second Semester		T	P	C	ECTS
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ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
Total:		12	0	12	30

Year II+III		T	P	C	ECTS
ARCH 800	PhD Thesis	0	0	0	120
Total:		0	0	0	120

Notes: T – Theoretical hours

P – Practical hours

C – Credits according to American System

ECTS – Credits according to ECTS System

ELECTIVE COURSE LIST

Course List Code	Course Name	T	P	C	ECTS
Arch 801	Environment - Behavior Theories	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 802	Informal Housing	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 803	Discussions on Futuristic Architectural Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 804	Culture and Space Studies	3	0	3	7.5

ARCH 805	Theories, Process, And Language Ratio in Architectural Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 806	Aesthetic Phenomena in Architecture	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 807	Paradigms on Architecture	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 808	Interpretation of Meteorological Data in Urban and Architectural Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 809	Cultural Diversities in Construction Sector	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 810	Solar Radiation and Building Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 811	Energy Management in Lighting	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 812	Building Performance Simulation Methods	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 813	Solar Architecture	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 814	Urban Planning Law	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 815	Transportation Planning	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 816	Urban Historic Preservation	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 818	Special Topics in Urban Design And Planning	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 819	Advanced Planning Techniques	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 820	Special Topics in Urban Design And Planning	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 821	Effects of Climate and Energy on Settlements Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 822	Day lighting System Design	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 861	Urban Design and Planning Theory	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 862	Landscape Urbanism	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 863	Real Estate	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 864	Research Methods	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 865	Special Topics in Architectural Design	3	0	3	7.5

ARCH 866	Space Theories and Criticism	3	0	3	7.5
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D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

Undergraduate Students' List of Theses

Name, Surname, Title of Thesis, Thesis Supervisor, Thesis Summary (150 words max)

Student: ISRA HYKA [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: ASSESSING THE SPATIO-TEMPORAL DYNAMICS OF LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION IN WESTERN BALKAN METROPOLITAN AREAS

Supervisor: Dr. Artan Hysa

Thesis Summary: Maintaining the continuity of the ecosystem has become a core aspect of urban planning policies. Human-caused LF represents a serious danger to the conservation of the Earth's natural habitats. Several researchers identify human-caused environmental, also known as LF as one of the primary drivers of biodiversity loss. Landscape fragmentation as a result of transportation infrastructure and urban development poses a threat to human and environmental health by increasing traffic noise and pollution, reducing the size and viability of wildlife populations, facilitating the spread of invasive species, and reducing the scenic and recreational qualities of the landscape. The phenomenon consists of the transformation of larger habitat patches into smaller ones or fragments. It is especially noticeable in urban areas, including settlements and numerous transport and mobility infrastructures. The aim of this thesis is to promote protection of natural landscape and biodiversity, promoting forms of sustainable development. By evaluating in this study the LF dynamics of landscape of Tirana, central region of Albania comparing with two cities of western Balkan, respectively Skopje and Sarajevo, by focusing in urban metropolitan area to find the dynamic between fragmented areas and less fragmented ones. To analyze LF and measure the impact on environment and biodiversity, quantitative metrics capable of assessing landscape patterns and changes are used. To quantify/measure LF in this study, the effective mesh size (meff) method is applied by using QGIS 3.10 software, and Urban Atlas dataset, which enables comparison of urban spatial patterns.

Keywords: landscape, fragmentation, urban fragmentation, territorial fragmentation, connectivity, patches, biodiversity

Student: Jona Ademi [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: ENHANCING THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES WITHIN THE URBAN PUBLIC NODES IN SUPPORT OF REGENERATIVE URBAN BUILT ENVIRONMENTS IN TIRANA.

Supervisor: Dr. Artan Hysa

Thesis Summary: : Ecosystem Service is a concept developed to expand our understanding of human use and the management of natural resources. ES are characterized as functions of ecosystems with importance for human well-being. Thus, the idea of ES, creates a relation between ES providers (the producers) and demanders for ES (the beneficiaries). These certain services always depend onto the extent of a problem they are linked to and the opportunity of transferring the service from where it is produced to the place where humans benefit from it. The main goal of research is to highlight the importance of ES within urban areas. To identify the

potential zones (nodes) and show how much of its natural resources are evident, the amount of green spaces, how can these nodes be more safer and less polluted as they are and provide a solution on how to provide enough space for people to walk and to minimize as much as possible the problems that the node and people are facing there. Some of the methods that were used on this research were case studies and two types of surveys, one online and the other one on the selected node (21 Dhjetori), conducting a site visit to provide then with a study area and other visual materials like photos from the area, CAD drawings and certain trusted webpages which provided with correct values of noise and air pollution on different areas in Tirana.

Keywords: Ecosystem services, metropolitan area, urban area, green spaces, natural resources, nodes, air pollution, noise pollution

Student: LEDIANA QERIMI [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: A MULTI-METHODICAL APPROACH FOR ASSESSING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACTIVITY AND PHYSICAL PATTERNS IN URBAN PUBLIC SPACES OF TIRANA

Supervisor: Dr. Artan Hysa

Thesis Summary: Environmental criminology is a field that finds more room in big cities such as Tirana where crime rates are higher. Not all parts of the city, have the same crime rates, depending on different factors such as the physical factors and social aspects. Parts of the city where the crime is higher are considered ‘hot spots’. The focus of the study is one of Tirana’s neighborhoods, the ‘Astir’ zone. As a new neighborhood, ‘Astir’ had a rapid and mostly informal growth during the last decade but being part of the ‘Big Ring’ project, a lot of transformations are changing the neighborhood. The study evaluates the reasons for considering ‘Astir’ a ‘hot spot’ in terms of crime from the resident’s perspective and environmental analysis. The study employs mixed methods, developing questionnaires of ‘Astir’ residents and visitors, observations, mappings, and photo shooting. The questionnaires include the ‘Astir’ residents and visitors who chose to pass time there, to understand what attracts the outsiders to approach the neighborhood. The results identify factors affecting the crime rates to be high, and how environmental design can be used as a tool to prevent crime. In a heterogeneous context the elements that affect crime rates are overpopulation, high commercial and residential density, presence of a high number of bars and night clubs, low maintenance and lighting problems, not enough open public spaces, unbalanced community stabilizers.

Keywords: environmental criminology, defensible space, neighborhood, environmental Design

Student: Fatjona Bushati [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: USER’S EXPERIENCE ON SPACE ASSESSMENT: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL HOSPITAL OF SHKODRA

Supervisor: Dr. Odeta Manahasa

Thesis Summary:

The Emergency Department’s (ED) role is to receive, stabilize and treat patients (adults and children) who present themselves or otherwise with a wide variety of urgent and non-urgent conditions. This thesis concentrates on investigation and evaluation of the structural relationship between the physical components of the Unit and its users. Considering ED role as the foundation of a healthcare building, this thesis addresses users experience on the areas of current hospitals Emergency Department (Shkodra’s Regional Hospital) project in terms of spaces and components that attribute to it. The connection between space and its users is taken in consideration, how puts up with their experience and wellbeing. To explore the contribution of environmental perception to overall satisfaction of the ED users. Methods used to help this thesis

were data collections through observations, questionnaires, interviews, video recording and pictures. Patients, visitors and medical staff of Shkodra's Regional Emergency Department, as the main users of the building, contributed on the data collected. There was no limit on age or sex and every category had its own space to represent their thought on the matter. From the data's collected users had different approach to the issue. Space insufficiency contributes to the users unsatisfaction. Staff in precepted an increase of stress from the lack of space they worked on by the overcrowding. The sanitarians felt more stressed at work than every other category and had the most negative answers about the lack of space, making us think that a relation does exist. They consider the space as one of the elements that contributed to their stress at work. The nurses were significantly more satisfied than the doctors and sanitarian on terms

of space. Doctors found difficulties too, even though they had the least number of spaces they used most. Different from the staff, patients associated overcrowding with noises. Noise was a very important factor on patient satisfaction on adding more to their medical condition. 74.4 % of the patients interviewed testified that noise had an effect on their comfort. The decrease of deaths with 42.5% after the remodulation shows us that space must have had a positive impact on patients.

Keywords: *Emergency Department, Spatial Experience, Patient Satisfaction, Building design, Physical Component*

Student: Dajana Jolldashi [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: A COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT AT THE NEW BULEVARD OF TIRANA.

Supervisor: Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

Thesis Summary: Community centers are spaces that bring the community into one area and play an important role for the city by contributing to community development in urban areas. The aim is to provide activities that respond to local community needs, also to be accessible and involved in the community, a place that is specifically provided for the people, groups and organizations in a particular area, where they can meet one another and interact.

Tirana is one of the ideal places where traditional cultural values are combined with modern ones, a city that grows and changes every day. It is a city full of hotels, restaurants, bars, pubs, youth and artistic centers, which promote an active and diverse cultural life for locals and foreigners who visit it. The city has some potential areas with good quality's, one of them the New Boulevard. A very potential location with a good urban design near the center of the city. It can be easily accessible by people and it provides enough space to include the surrounding as an exterior part of it.

The site is surrounded by residential buildings where will be build what is needed for the community. It will provide numerous activities and events to keep the community involved with the city and each other with activities such: library, auditorium, offices, exhibition area, places to study, meeting space, classes for different courses, also the building will provide Wi-Fi and 3D printer, interior and exterior playground for children's, cafeteria, restaurant and cinema.

With this project, we have the opportunity to highlight the potentials that characterize this area and what is better than a common inclusive environment without judgments about religion, color or age. Enabling the increase of standards not only for quality, but also social life with relaxing environments, entertainment for children and adults also.

Student: Kristel Dauti [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: OPTIMIZATION OF NATURAL LIGHT IN EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS THROUGH A PARAMETRIC DESIGN APPROACH: CASE STUDY OF "SAMI FRASHERI" HIGH SCHOOL IN TIRANA, ALBANIA.

Supervisor: Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

Thesis Summary: As light is one of the mediums to help architecture bring forth its full potential, it has a rather significant impact on how architecture is understood and adds value in creating the right atmosphere for its occupants. It influences certain areas and spaces, especially when children, students, and the academic staff are its leading target group. According to some studies, when the learning environment is human-centered and sensitive towards the surroundings, it brings forth better feedbacks and reactions. Therefore, natural daylight from the surrounding

environment is imperative as one of the factors in improving the leading target group's conditions. Moreover, the lack of guidelines that involve the daylight parameter during the design process in the Albanian design guidelines for the educational buildings is noticed. Many school buildings are built so that there is too much daylight (the glare effect) or less daylight in the classroom that brings negative feedback from the students' academic results and causes to the state of mind. Therefore, this thesis aims to provide optimization of daylight in schools by making a study of Sami Frasheri school, conducted mainly through light simulations. It has selected as a case study due to the new version is being built with a parametric design approach, as well as being able to compare it with the old version. This study is a step further towards integrating daylighting design strategies as part of Albania's design process.

Student: Silvana Demirxhiu [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: AN URBAN COMMUNITY CENTER AS AN INTEGRATING MEDIUM FOR THE EMERGING NEIGHBORHOODS IN TIRANA.

Supervisor: Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

Thesis Summary: Community centers are becoming common facilities in various part of the world and in general in those countries with well-developed social and economic backgrounds. Precedent cases indicate that they fulfill a variety of roles of different scales and importance for many communities, and those who would benefit from them the most are especially those emerging and in need for integration, such in developing countries. This project's focus is on the design of community center for the city of Tirana. A quantitative research, will try to answer the question "What type of community center and which programs does this city and its residents need?" - "Why does Tirana need a Community Center?"

New developments are emerging in Tirana and some of them above the previous informally developed neighborhoods. With the emerging of such new developments and the need for rehabilitating the existing informal developments in the city, the quest for city planners to develop not only housing, infrastructure and jobs, but also a smart, livable, sustainable and social city, is even faster in time and higher in importance

Studies and precedents show that Community Centers are very important for a healthy, vibrant community by providing opportunities for residents to participate in the community, self-improve, and to interact with other residents. They are common ground areas that are focused on inclusivity and integration while fostering a culture of health and wellbeing in the communities they serve. Therefore the study examined prior researches, interviews, observations and case studies to identify the question this research raises. This was achieved by reviews of relevant literature and contextual analysis. Case studies of relevant buildings and public facilities were undertaken. Finally an original design proposal was developed based on established models and useful standards acquired from the contextual and case studies.

Student: Eralda Shega [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: THE NEW PARADIGM OF URBAN ACUPUNCTURE THROUGH BIOPHILIA: ACTIVATING A NEW SUSTAINABLE FRAMEWORK THROUGH BIOPHILIC PATTERNS IN TIRANA'S NEIGHBORHOOD.

Supervisor: Dr. Egin Zeka

Thesis Summary: At present, urbanization's dualistic nature has resulted in environmental

damage and the emergence of social, cultural, economic, and other domain problems. Evidence shows the importance of natural design solutions to cope with today's problem developing a positive and sustainable urban living mode. There is a strong relationship between urban design and natural patterns, which led to this development; furthermore, Nature is involved in human well-being and other domains. Is it going back to basics the respond to the crises of sustainability in the world? What does it mean that Biophilic urbanism is the missing key in sustainable urban design? Why is the "urban upgrading through Going Biophilic" Strategy the new need of the future cities?

Cities are prior examples of urban fabric reflecting the existence of human-nature relationships and their opportunities. Sustainable urbanism asserts the need for a new paradigm that will reconfigure Nature's direct or indirect experience. This paper seeks to bring a fresh perspective of integrating Nature into cities' fabric through biophilic principles. Aiming for sustainable urbanism by upgrading the human-nature relation in the urban setting may be the new mindset of Nature as an urban acupuncture healer, exploring the overarching urban development while promoting sustainability.

The thesis will give an insightful overview of initiatives underway in Tirana's neighborhood in the near future. Observations arising from the research include:

- Biophilic behaviours, patterns, practices, lifestyles
- Biophilic attitudes and knowledge in Thermal Comfort & Cognitive Function

; by applying energy engineering modeling (evaluating phase) SIMULATIONS and statistical energy modeling (predicting stage).

This paper discusses existing research from multiple standpoints to provide a clear insight into how this can have a practical application, especially to the matter challenge of "urban upgrading" in Tirana, by reflecting on the biophilic urbanism concept.

Keywords: *A Human-Oriented Design; Biophilic Patterns; Biophilic Urbanism; Sustainability; Urban Comfort; Urban Upgrading.*

Student: Gledisa Golikja [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: IMPORTANCE OF URBAN PUBLIC SPACE IN SOCIAL INTERACTION: EXPLORING DEGREES OF PUBLICNESS: THE CASE OF NEIGHBORHOOD IN TIRANA

Supervisor: Dr. Egin Zeka

Thesis Summary: This thesis aims to create a walkability assessment and quantification of urban neighbourhoods, by examining pedestrian and street infrastructure, and by also providing a gender perspective and creating strategy guidelines for a walkable neighborhood. Walkability has been defined as the level of friendliness towards the pedestrian environment, with all its elements. It is also proven to have a range of benefits in health, safety, economy, livability in building a more sustainable city. Cities are not gender-neutral. (Gauvin, 2020). Research also shows that there are differences when it comes to factors that influence gender walking, which urban planners do not take into considerations. The study takes place in Tirana, a city of particular development due to its late bloom in urban infrastructure and mobility, with cars taking over after the fall of communism and their consideration as a luxury and a status symbol, in contrast to the continued neglect of walking infrastructure.

Using a mixed-method approach, this study aims to create a visualized walkability assessment mapping, and hopes to aid in answering questions like: How to assess walkability in terms of city, neighbourhood and street level. Survey participants (n=616) and focused expert interviews

ranked pedestrian infrastructure and sidewalk issues, altogether with design standards as the walkability elements with the lowest score. Results also showed differences in gender related to safety and walkability perception. The study visualizes city and neighbourhood analysis thorough mapping, illustrations and photos. Hopefully, this thesis will serve as a means of analysis for further research in the urban mobility of Tirana.

Keywords: *Urban mobility, walkability, gender bias, bottom-up, mapping*

Student: Melisa Bahja [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: IMPORTANCE OF URBAN PUBLIC SPACE IN SOCIAL INTERACTION: EXPLORING DEGREES OF PUBLICNESS: THE CASE OF NEIGHBORHOOD IN TIRANA

Supervisor: Dr. Egin Zeka

Thesis Summary: Nowadays, our community has changed towards privatization and secluded life. This is due to various reasons, such as the influence of technology and the lack of common open spaces and activities. At this point, the role of urban public spaces in social life has become an important element. Issues of social life in public spaces have not been given too much attention in urban planning and design. This thesis raises the question of creating an intimate relationship between public life and people, and how public spaces encourage citizens to increase social interaction. A main focus has been given to the evaluation of different types of public spaces by exploring the concept of publicness.

Firstly, the factors that affect the quality of social life in public spaces are explained.

Then, different degrees of public spaces and their elements are analyzed such as building, street, and neighborhood. Surveys on a specific neighborhood in Tirana are conducted. All the components of the neighborhood area and their degrees of publicness are explored such as: housing, terraces, stairs, paths, street, courtyard, square etc. Also, we have conducted observations of neighborhood community to see how people use a certain space, activities which take place, and interaction between inhabitants.

Keywords: *publicness, public space, community, social life, activity, accessibility, human scale, interaction, housing, neighborhood, street*

Student: Nerina Baçi [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: EARLY DESIGN EVALUATION OF SCHOOL BUILDING MORPHOLOGY ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE: CLIMATIC CONTEXTS OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

Thesis Summary: Contemporary societies have shifted their focus towards sustainable and resilient public buildings, transcending the institutional and functional role of the physical structures. School buildings, despite the high impact on setting everyday standards of comfort, remain the second highest expenditure of municipalities' total running costs. The impact on well-being and improved knowledge along with the average lifespan of school buildings, imply the necessity to pay special attention to its expected performance since the early design phase, as the main influencer on the building performance. The building geometry, the most salient design characteristic in a building, has substantial influence on its energy performance. Studies on the impact of school buildings morphology are rare but present. However, there is a literature gap regarding the influence of specific climate contexts on the performance of open-schools. Hence, the present research aims to contribute to estimating the impact of early design evaluation of open-school building morphology on energy performance in the climatic contexts of Southeast Europe. Design variables including building shape and orientation are selected for a comprehensive whole-building energy performance analysis. The results highlight the efficiency of the method in reducing a maximum of 33.7 % of the annual energy demand and in increasing a maximum of 1.15 °C the thermal comfort in classrooms by means of geometry optimization. Suggestions are made on the appropriateness level of each typology for each studied climatic context. The Design Builder interface version 6 for Energy Plus is selected to develop the simulations in different climate contexts of Southeast Europe. A fundamental framework towards early design decision-making stages is generated through the performed simulation results.

Keywords: *Simulation, morphology, open-school buildings, energy optimization, early design evaluation, climate*

Student: Marsida Muhaj [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: MICROCLIMATE VARIATION OF URBAN HEAT IN PRIMARY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS: EVIDENCE FROM TIRANA

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

Thesis Summary: Urbanization inherently disrupts the climate of cities, which results in localized zones of elevated temperatures and thermal discomfort. This phenomenon is known as the Urban Heat Island Effect (UHI) and often has adverse effects on urban inhabitants. This study examines UHI from the eye-level perspective in two elementary schools in Tirana, Albania. The analysis focuses on identifying driving forces behind urban microclimates in school environments to inform potential solutions for more sustainable design and construction practices. UHI mitigation strategies are modeled and tested through software simulations on the most ubiquitous paving materials employed in Albania, solar exposure analysis, air pollutant dispersion, building physics, and green and blue technologies.

Keywords: *UHI, Urban Microclimate, Eye-level, Mitigation Strategies, Ubiquitous Paving Material, Building Performance Simulation, Solar Analysis, Air Pollutant Dispersion*

Student: Lezo Kroj [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: IMPACT OF URBAN MORPHOLOGY ON THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF TIRANA NEW BOULEVARD PROJECT

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

Thesis Summary: The reason why Smart Cities is a very popular topic amongst researchers is because they provide effective and efficient ways of collecting, managing and distributing resources to their residents. Energy-efficiency is a major contributor of sustainable cities, that affects the end-consumer directly. It plays a vital role on a persons' economical expenses. This study focuses on the importance that urban morphology plays towards the energy efficiency by analyzing four different urban fabrics within the New Boulevard project in Tirana. The selection of these four zones was made considering that they cover a significant percentage area of the overall site, properly represent the predominant building and district morphologies and any results reflected about these areas will have a notable significance for the site on the whole. It achieves this by measuring 8 different urban morphology indicators (UMIs): Gross space index, Floor space index, Façade-to-site ratio, Average building height, Volume area ratio, Building aspect ratio, Sky factor of building facades, Open space ratio. These UMIs are gathered as important statistical data and serve as a comparison ground for the four districts between them. For this study AutoCAD 3D is used to model the site and prepare the file for CitySim Pro, Revit Architecture for modeling the site envelope and later run a solar analysis with Insight Plugin for Revit, and CitySim Pro software to investigate and optimize the energy efficiency parameters. The results of this study serve as a role model for the contemporary buildings of the future in Tirana especially after considering that no previous observations of this nature that take the Mediterranean climate into account are made here.

Keywords: *Urban morphology, Smart Cities, Sustainable Urban Design, Energy Efficiency in Urban Scale, Urban Scale Simulation*

Student: Jola Shiku [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: ASSESSMENTS OF ENERGETIC EFFICIENCY OF VARIOUS ALBANIAN HOUSE TYPOLOGIES

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

Thesis Summary: Recently the concept of energy efficiency in buildings is a topic of great interest due to several factors, including the expensive costs of energy and environmental issues related to pollutants emissions. Nowadays, energy efficiency and passive system are appraised for improving the environment. In this work will be conducted a comparative study on the energetic efficiency of various building typologies involving assessments on important factors like active building envelope technologies and the models of heat transfers via the thermal bridges. Throughout this research, a comparative analysis will be conducted not only on direct measurements using several forms of sensors in the selected buildings, but also several mathematical models for evaluating the heat transfer within a building, among which we inspect multidimensional analysis.

These evaluations will stress the importance of understanding the impact of passive systems applied in these house typologies that we are going to study. In this study, there are three post-communism residential buildings, built in recent decades using different construction technologies. These residential buildings will be a villa massively affected by the 2019 earthquake and reconstructed later, an old villa with an extension added in the recent years and a brand-new villa which is still under construction. The study will comprise these building typologies' energy efficiency in various seasons, thus estimating both heating and cooling energy efficiency.

Keywords: energy efficiency, building typologies, efficiency assessments, heat transfer models, residential buildings, passive systems, HVAC application

Student:Gridi Himçi [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title *IMPACT OF EXTERNAL SHADING STRATEGY ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF HOTEL BUILDINGS IN MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE*

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

Thesis Summary: The tourism sector accounts for 10.4% of global GDP and 319 million jobs, one of the fastest rates of growth of all sectors worldwide. Hotels are one of the many actors that play a vital role in the industry as a whole. With this considered, it is necessary setting up viable operational practices as well as educating consumers on sustainable behaviors. External shading system is considered as one of the main passive elements providing environmental and socio-economic benefits but also aesthetic values in buildings. However, research on this topic have been mostly conducted for office buildings, and there is a literature gap regarding the impact of SDs on hotel buildings. The aim of this study is to further estimate the impact of SDs on the thermal efficiency of hotel buildings in the Mediterranean climate. Several parameters in the design, such as window-to-wall ratio, orientation of the building, and climate are considered essential for determining efficient placement of SDs. The results highlight the efficiency of SDs strategies achieving a significant range of energy reduction from 20% up to 80 % for 100% window-to-wall ratio scenario, with 2.7 °C up to 4.1 °C indoor air temperature decrease in the summer period. The significance of this study lies in providing results providing a fundamental framework for early design decision-making phases.

Keywords: *External shading devices, hotel buildings, energy optimization, passive design, thermal performance, simulation*

Student: Megi Toska [Spring 2020-2021]

Thesis Title: *THE INFLUENCE OF “NON-PLACES” THROUGH DE-CONTEXTUALIZATION AND RE-CONTEXTUALIZATION OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN POST-SOCIALIST TIRANA*

Supervisor: Dr. Edmona Manahasa

Thesis Summary This study examines the development of high-rise buildings in the post-socialist period Tirana. These buildings in majority were constructed at the expenses of sites which were public space. In other cases, they were built on sites which were public land, but were returned to the pre-socialist period owners. These high-rise buildings were planned in the master plan of Tirana, conducted by the French company “Architecture studio” and after that for most of the building were organized international competitions by The Albanian government or Tirana municipality, which at some point worked as an international cover to undertake such urban operation.

The competitions were won by well-known international design studios. This study focuses on the impact that the high-rise buildings have in de-contextualizing the existing context and examine the newly created urban context. To achieve this, we select five high rise buildings which are: Forever Green Building Tirana, Downtown Tirana, Air Albania Tower, Garden Building Plaza. Apart from analysis of the building’s adaptation to the urban context which conducted in architectural and urban level, the study measures the de-contextualization and re-contextualization by interviewing 125 Tirana citizens, 25 per each high-rise building. The results in overall show that the interviewed dwellers are divided as most of them (three buildings) has reported as positive the newly created context after the construction of skyscrapers. On the contrary in all the buildings, (except one who reported differently) the dwellers have reported them not to be the best solution, pointing out the de-contextualization they create with their surroundings.

Keywords: *Non-place, post-socialist, high-rise buildings, de/re-contextualization, global.*

Student: *Elisa Troci* [Spring 2021-2022]

Thesis Title: A SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PROPOSAL FOR THE BUS TERMINAL OF GJIROKASTRA, ALBANIA

Supervisor: *Dr. Edmond Manahasa*

Thesis Summary: This research provides a sustainable design proposal for the bus terminal of Gjirokastra. Gjirokastra is a historical city in southern Albania, which is included in the World Heritage List in 2005 due to its remarkable examples of Ottoman period houses that provide a unique vernacular urban landscape. The city's urban structure is strongly influenced by its hilly topography and the Drino valley, where was founded. The study departs from the need for a new bus terminal, which is planned to be built in an ex-socialist period leather factory, according to the General Local Plan (PPV). To achieve this goal the research investigates and uses certain principles of sustainability, which are included into the design process of the bus terminal and adaption of the existing industrial buildings. Furthermore, the proposal apart from the functional requirements of the bus terminal, it provides sustainable solutions which include economic, social and environmental issues and uses more sustainable building materials that can diminish waste and are environmentally friendly. In addition, it also uses adaptive re-use as another sustainable design method for the transformation of the ex-leather factory, not only conserving the existing structure, but also getting use of it for certain functions but also providing cultural continuation of certain local craftwork by exhibiting them. The methods used in the research are archival research, visual documentation through photo shooting, urban analysis to explore the potential of the context as well as architectural proposals on the basis of sustainable design.

Keywords: sustainable design, sustainable materials, bus terminal, environmentalfriendly, adaptive re-use

Graduate Students' List of Theses

1. *Name, Surname, Title of Thesis, Thesis Supervisor, Thesis Summary (150 words max)*

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List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

(Student Name, & Surname: Name of Home & Host University, Country, Duration of Stay)

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Research Areas and Research Groups

Research Areas and Research Groups

Architectural Design:

Research on the impact of physical, social and cultural environments on human behavior. The main aim of this research area is to develop activities so that to create social awareness on design; to establish concrete ties between practice, theory and education in the design, architecture, urban and environmental issues. It aims to search and solve the problems related to physical, social and cultural environments that arise in the country and sharing these solutions with the community. It focuses on understanding, changing or maintaining the behaviour in the built environment as a complex inter-relationship and shared social practice.

Research on Curriculum Reform in Higher Education. The issue of curricular restructuring in architectural education in most institutions of the European Higher Education Area, has emerged as a concern to adapt to the Bologna framework of qualifications. The implementation of the Bologna reforms mostly focuses on how to

provide minimum training requirements measured by subject-specific competences. However there is a lack of clarity on the nature and implementation of generic-competences, part of the “21st century skills”.

This research area focuses on exploring and developing bottom-up, learner/human-centered approaches to curriculum development. The overall aim is to expand the learner’s capabilities to adapt to the changing nature of knowledge co-creation and sharing. The need to cultivate attitudes of knowledge-sharing in collaborative practices is ever growing to parallel the advancement in tools and corresponding technical skills. The conducted research has experimented on the intersections between design pedagogies and computational approaches to design.

Team: Assist.Prof.Dr. Anna Yunitsyna, Dr. Edmond Manahasa, Dr. Odeta Manahasa, PhD- candidate Desantila Hysa, M.Sc. Julian Beqiri

Building Physics and Building Ecology:

The research area provides coverage of heat transfer, moisture, sound/acoustics, and illumination in urban and building scale. In addition, interrelationships between different building physics phenomena are elucidated to develop performance specifications that inform the design process. The research activities cover a wide spectrum of work including computational-assisted building performance, building systems control, building ecology, human ecology, sustainable architectural design, and optimization.

The research investigates different methods in design and optimization towards a sustainable built environment. In addition, the studies are focused on estimation and prediction of innovative systems in various building/urban typologies. Different design principles are critically reviewed and compared via different range of systems and calculation methods to assess optimization.

Sustainability and system integration: The research area focuses on the development of urban sustainability assessment methods towards cities. The studies involve the sustainable neighborhood pattern and design, environmental impact on microclimate and ecosystems, urban form, land use and infrastructure. These indicators are instruments to direct sustainable development and select appropriate policies for achieving urban sustainability. The study identifies sustainable measures towards improvement of quality of life of city inhabitants through optimal management of its resources.

Team: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Miriam Ndini, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Huseyin Bilgin, PhD-Candidate Ina Dervishi, PhD-Candidate Artemis Hasa

History and Theory of Architecture:

The research area of history of architecture focus mainly in those architectural movements or styles which have been present in Albania until 19th century including Byzantine and Ottoman architecture, as well as the historical developments of 20th century like the influence of Italian styles (Novecento and Rationalism), Stalinist Soviet Union Neo-classicism and socialist period heritage.

The research area of theory of architecture focuses mainly in the 20th century architectural discourse especially after the fall of modernism as a paradigm. The influence of philosophical movements like phenomenology, structuralism and post-structuralism on architecture are the main research topics. Another sub-division of this research area are environmental behavior theories which earned importance after the criticism made to modernism for producing similar and monotonous architecture on a global scale, revealing the issue of place identity. This sub-division approach is based on the study of relation between individual and built environment.

Team: Dr. Edmond Manahasa, PhD-candidate Desantila Hysa, M.Sc. Kreshnik Merxhani, M.Sc. Julian Beqiri

Research on Urbanism and Landscape:

The main objective is to explore human settlements of different typologies and understand the relationships among urban, natural and social environments. The research tries to focus on challenges of contemporary urban habitat and find proper solutions for a sustainable development. It is on the scope of this research to study the city in different contexts and layers and develop a multidisciplinary approach to understand the complexity of urbanity. Some sub-themes of the research are: Strategic Urban Planning; Urban Morphology; Emergent Urbanism; Urban Revitalization; and Design of Public Space.

Landscape Research: The research motivation is based on the principles of European Landscape Convention designating landscape “as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. As the target focus it includes the entire territory of natural, rural, urban and peri-urban character. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes. The over compassing definition of landscape aims at building holistic analytical approaches towards real life complex problems of spatial development/ alteration at a gradient of spatial scales. A special concern is dedicated to the utilization of computerized and digital analytical means like Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technologies, not only as a tool but as well as a common ground for communicating in a trans-disciplinary working environment.

Team: Dr. Fabio Naselli, Dr. Egin Zeka, Dr. Artan Hysa, PhD-candidate Enkela Hasa

Housing and Parametrics:

The Housing Research: deals with social, psychological, political and economic regarding housing in today's global economy. The focus is upon how the research can impact the practice of design at the interior and architectural as well as the community and regional planning scale. The research is combined from the practical and theoretical parts based on the contemporary understanding of housing with reflection of such approaches, as House and Time, House and Culture and Economy, House and Aesthetics, House and Psychology, overview the guidelines and recommendations of the dwelling construction, such as Design with Environmental Levels, Universal Design, Lifetime Homes, Design for Disassembly, to see, how the dwelling can be evaluated both by architects and inhabitants. **Parametric modeling and design:** The research deals with the main principles of creation of the innovative design solutions using the techniques of parametric 3d modelling. The instrument of design is Grasshopper - a graphical algorithm editor tightly integrated with Rhino's 3D modeling tools. The research is organized as a series of practical demonstrations of the software, which is supported by the theoretical and practical works of students. The work is devoted to the study of the new approaches towards creation of the algorithmic shape, which is responsible to the external factors at the final stage of design. It proceeds from the simple single objects and operations towards the complex sets of data and patterns study.

Team: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Albana Halili, Assist.Prof.Dr. Anna Yunitsyna, Dr. Edmond Manahasa, M.Sc. Teuta Kodra

List of Publications

The Academic staff of the EPOKA University, during this period of functioning (2021-2022) has published articles in different scientific journals, proceeding books, newspapers, etc.

No	Name Surname	Scientific Publications and Academic Activities
1	Dr. Anna Yunitsyna	Yunitsyna, A., Lika, L., (2020): Paper Folding Bio-Kinetic Façade: Application of Bat Wing Inspired Façade Design to the Building of Mediterranean University in Tirana, Albania. Proceedings of the 4th International Balkans Conference on Challenges of Civil Engineering, 4-BCCCE, Epoka University, Tirana, Albania, 18-19 December 2020
2	Dr. Anna Yunitsyna	Yunitsyna, A., Hasanbashaj, M., (2021): Analysis of the Waterfront Transformation of the 'Plazh' Area of the City of Durrës, Albania. Proceedings of the International Conference on Advanced Engineering, Technology and Applications (ICAETA), Istanbul, Turkey, 9-11 July 2021
3	Dr. Edmond Manahasa	An Observation on Residential Complexes as a New Housing Typology in Post-Socialist Tirana, Edmond Manahasa-Rudina Kazazi, ICAETA 2021- International Conference on Advanced Engineering, Technology and Applications, Istanbul-Turkey, 9-11 July
4	Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Searching for Aesthetical Values in an Upgraded Informal Neighborhood in Tirana, Edmond Manahasa-Arila Rasha, ICAETA 2021- International Conference on Advanced Engineering, Technology and Applications, Istanbul-Turkey, 9-11 July
5	Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Manahasa, E., Özsoy, A., & Manahasa, O. (2021). A hierarchical definitional framework for a heterogeneous context: housing typologies in Tirana, Albania. Open House International, ahead-of-print(ahead-of-print). doi:10.1108/ohi-07-2021-0157
6	Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Current Challenges in Architecture and Urbanism in Albania-The Urban Book Series, Editors: Anna Yunitsyna, Artan Hysa, Edmond Manahasa, Fabio Naselli, Odeta Durmishi Manahasa, Sokol Dervishi, Springer International Publishing, June 2021.
7	Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Tafa, R., & Manahasa, E. (2021). An Observation on Gated Communities in Post-socialist Albania: Three Case Studies from Tirana. The Urban Book Series, 79–97. doi:10.1007/978-3-030-81919-4_6
8	Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Oevermann, H., Erek, A., Hein, C., Horan, C., Krasznahorkai, K., Göttsche Lange, I. S., Manahasa, E., Martin, M., Menezes, M., & More Authors (2022). Heritage Requires Citizens' Knowledge: The COST Place-Making Action and Responsible Research. In H. A. Mieg (Ed.), <i>The Responsibility of</i>

		Science (pp. 233-255). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-91597-1_12
9	Dr. Fabio Naselli	-Fabio Naselli, Cinzia Bellone (2020), Inter-generational exchanges. The meaning of an integrated sustainable process for inland areas' development based on vernacular knowledge, Formamente. International Research Journal on Digital Future, Vol. XIV, N. 2/2019, 67-78

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

Projects

Dr. Edmond Manahasa

COST Action CA18129-Islamic Legacy: Narratives East, West, South, North of the Mediterranean (1350-1750) (Role: MC Member)

COST Action CA18137-European Middle-Class Mass Housing (MCMH-EU) (Role: MC Member)

Cost Action 18204 -Dynamics of placemaking and digitization in Europe's cities (Role: MC Member Substitute)

Short Term Search Mission within Cost Action CA18204 entitled: **Exploring the potentials of GIS platform in defining the urban identity of a neighborhood/urban fragment in Nantes/France**

E Support, Resources & Representation

Announcement for Digital Fabrication Lab

January 16th, 2020



Announcement for Digital Fabrication Lab

Department of Architecture of EPOKA University has established the new Digital Fabrication Lab. This facility is dedicated to enforce the research in the computational technologies and digital design. It allows to produce the accurate and precise models which can be used in architecture and design projects. The laboratory offers the possibility to close the gap between the digital media and physical production processes.

The new laser cutting system is now installed at the Lab, which is located on the first floor of A-building next to the fourth year studio. The RECI CO2 laser cutter has 80 W power with laser cutting dimensions of 700x500 mm. The possible materials to cut are 3 mm plywood sheets (including balsa) and paspartu sheets. The lab also makes use of rapid prototyping machine for 3D printing of student models. 3D printer can take digital geometry in the form of a stereolithographic file (.stl) and produce small models. The build volume is 250x250x360 mm.

List of Students' Internships

-

Participation in Academic Events

For each research publication provide the full reference associated by a short summary of 100 words max.

For participation in Academic Events, include international/ national conferences, workshops, trainings, roundtables etc. Similarly, provide full references and a short summary (100 words max) of each activity.

Research Projects

(Write a paragraph for each project applied and/ or awarded highlighting the area of the project, members, targeted group, grant used, expected outcomes). Associate the text with at least one picture.

Industry Projects

(Write a paragraph for each project highlighting the area of the project, members, targeted group, grant used, expected outcomes). Associate the text with at least one picture.

Community Projects

(Write a paragraph for each project highlighting the area of the project, members, targeted group, grant used, expected outcomes). Associate the text with at least one picture.

Student Club Projects

(Write a paragraph for each project highlighting the area of the project, members, targeted group, grant used, expected outcomes). Associate the text with at least one picture.

Student Best Success Stories

(Choose up to five best student success stories and write one to two paragraphs for each. Associate the text with a picture of the student)

Office Holders

The department would like to thank the following for their valuable contribution to teaching, administration, and management over the past year:

Dr. Edmond Manahasa (Head of the Department of Architecture)
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi (Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Engineering)
Dr. Anna Yunitsyna
Dr. Odeta Manahasa
Dr. Artan Hysa
Dr. Fabio Naselli
Dr. Egin Zeka
MSc. Desantila Hysa
MSc. Ina Dervishi
MSc. Kreshnik Merxhani
Coordinator Ms. Bevli Hoxha

Acknowledgements

In addition to the Office Holders listed above, the department would like to thank all the offices for their collaboration to make this department offer all the facilities needed for the students.

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