

THE GREY BOX

RESTORING AND DIGNIFYING HUMAN STATE

CONTEXT

THE DOMINANT GREY CONCRETE APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN LITHUANIA WHICH HAVE BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COUNTRY'S URBAN LANDSCAPE IS A CLEARLY VISIBLE TRACE OF THE COMMUNISTIC ERA. TODAY THESE BUILDINGS ARE NOT ONLY STRUCTURALLY OBSOLETE, BUT ALSO STILL EMBRACING THE IDEOLOGY WHICH IS NO LONGER RELEVANT NOR APPRECIATED WITHIN LOCAL POPULATION.

THESE BUILDINGS ARE LOOKED UPON NEGATIVELY DUE DIFFERENT REASONS STARTING FROM: STRUCTURAL TO MORE EMOTIONAL DUE TO THEIR RESEMBLANCE OF ITS HISTORICAL PAST. AND MANY CITIZENS WOULD RATHER CHOOSE OTHER PLACE TO LIVE. YET, THESE BUILDINGS ARE THE MOST COMMON CHOICE OF HOUSING TO THIS DAY HOSTING UP TO 85% - 90% OF HOUSEHOLDS IN BIG CITIES. AND UP TO 60% OF ENTIRE COUNTRY'S POPULATION.

WHERE?

THE PROJECT WILL FOCUS ON ONE OF THE NEIGHBORHOODS BUILT BETWEEN 1963 - 1973 IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA. THE CITY OF VILNIUS WAS CHOSEN AS SITE CITY AS IT IS RELATED TO ME PERSONALLY AND IT COMES NATURALLY AS I WANT TO FOCUS ON ITS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. EVEN SO THIS PROJECT COULD TAKE PLACE IN ANY CITY IN LITHUANIA OR OTHER COUNTRY WHICH HAS GONE THROUGH SAME TRANSFORMATIONS.

MASTER DIPLOMA



WHY?

THE DECAY OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS THAT PROVIDES LIVING SPACE FOR MOST OF POPULATION IS COMMON PROBLEM. IT IS NOT ONLY MY HOMETOWN VILNIUS NOR LITHUANIA OR BALTIC'S. IT INCLUDES MULTIPLE COUNTRIES AND TOUCHES MAJORITY OF HOUSEHOLDS IN FORMER SOVIET UNION STATES OR AREAS OF ITS INFLUENCE WHERE THE MOST HOUSEHOLDS WERE ACCOMMODATED IN THESE APARTMENT BUILDINGS AND NEIGHBORHOODS. DUE TO ECONOMICAL SITUATION AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE THESE AREAS HAD LEAST POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING AND NOW FACES THE APARTMENT BUILDING DECAY CRISIS. THE SEARCH FOR THE SOLUTIONS COULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR MANY AND MULTIPLIED THROUGH OUT THE SAME LIKE CONSTRUCTIONS OVER MANY COUNTRIES.

TODAY IN VILNIUS CITY THE MUNICIPALITY IS WORKING HARD TO GET THE FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR THE APARTMENT BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECTS. ALREADY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EXISTING AND UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS ARE QUITE SIMPLE AND USUALLY LIMITS THEMSELVES TO THE BASICS. BY ADDING ANOTHER LAYER OF INSULATION AND STRUCTURAL REINFORCEMENT. THESE RENOVATIONS DO NOT PROVIDE ANY KIND OF SOLUTION FOR PRIVATE PROPERTY OR ITS IMPROVEMENT RATHER FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABILITY AND STRUCTURAL REINFORCEMENT ACTIONS. DUE TO THIS REASON THE GREY BOX PROJECT PUT THE FOCUS ON ADDING VALUE TO THE LIVING CONDITIONS.

WHAT?

THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR CHANGE BUT AS AN ARCHITECT I DO NOT WANT TO INTERRUPT LIFE OF THE INHABITANCE RATHER THAN PROPOSE AN IDEA OF CHANGE AND PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH TOOLS. THE NEW PROPOSAL WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE IN THE PUBLIC IMAGE REFORMATION.

THIS ARCHITECTURAL PROPOSAL TOUCHES A VERY SENSITIVE HISTORICAL TOPIC AND FULFILL NOT ONLY THE NEED OF PHYSICAL CHANGE BUT ALSO SERVES AS AN ACTOR IN RE-IDENTIFICATION PROCESS FOR NEW, MODERN SOCIETY.

HOW?

THE PROJECT IS BASED ON REAL LIFE SITUATION WEIGHING OUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMATIC. THE EXISTING VALUES AND QUALITIES OF THE LOCATION WERE ESTABLISHED ON THE WAY AND BECAME THE MAIN ASPIRATION FOR THE PROJECT ITSELF.

PROPOSAL DOES FOCUS ON DIFFERENT SCALES FROM MACRO TO MICRO TAKEN UNDER CONSIDERATION DIFFERENT ASPECTS: FROM COUNTRY TO CITY, TO DISTRICT, TO NEIGHBORHOOD, TO BUILDING BLOCK, TO APARTMENT. ALSO REFLECTING ON THE SCALES OF THE COMMUNITIES ALONG SIDE FROM NATION TO COMMUNITY, TO COLLECTIVE, TO HOUSEHOLD, TO THE PERSON.

BY MONIKA JAGMINIATE



THE GREY BOX

RESTORING AND DIGNIFYING HUMAN STATE

BERGEN SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE MASTER DEGREE DIPLOMA
PROJECT PROGRAM

UNDERGRADUATE: MONIKA JAGMINAITĖ

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TTA - SUSTAINABILITY: MARCO CASAGRANDE. NANCY COULING
FI SKETCHING: ALBERTO ALTES AND CECILIE ANDERSSON
SOCIAL SCIENCE: TORD BAKKE AND FRODE F. JACOBSEN

TABLE OF CONTEXT

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DILEMMA

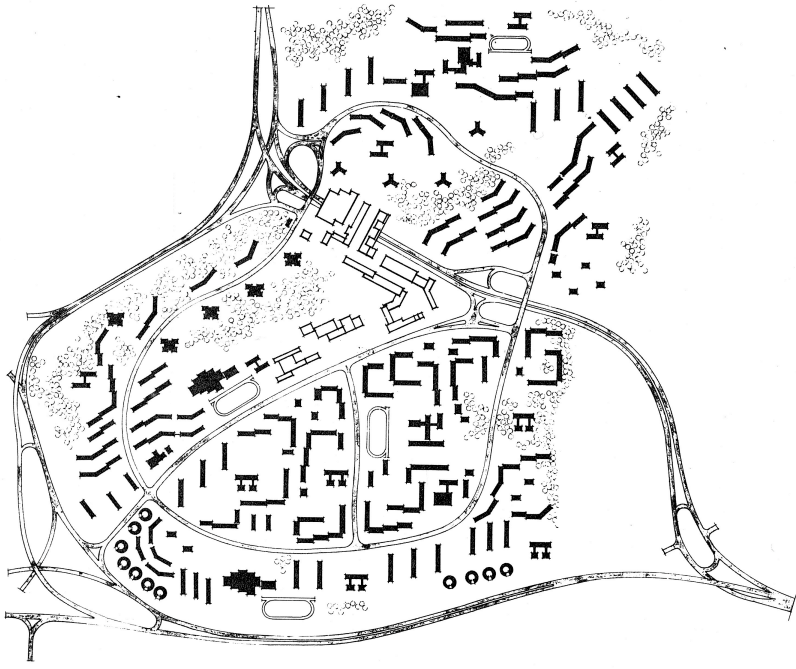
“ THE RELATION BETWEEN FREEDOM AND ARCHITECTURE IS A VERY FRESH LOGICAL DILEMMA WITH MANY CONTRADICTION. AS THE VERY CONCEPT OF FREEDOM. IF WE UNDERSTAND FREEDOM AS SELF-EXISTING AND NOT REQUIRING EVIDENCE OF THE MATTER OF COURSE. AS THE STATE ASSOCIATED WITH ARCHITECTURE GIVES US A VERY STRONG EVIDENCE OF CONTRADICTION. AFTER ALL, IN REALITY, THE ARCHITECTURE ITSELF CAN NOT BE FREE. IT ITSELF IS SOMETHING THAT ENCOMPASSES, CONSTRAINS OR RESTRICTS AND IS CLEARLY ITSELF LIMITED BY ENVIRONMENT, SPACE, THOUGHT AND MATTER. ITS ESSENCE IS A HARMONIOUS OUTCOME OR SOLUTION THAT IS STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY BOTH PRE-DETERMINED CONSTRAINTS AND INTERNAL CREATIVE ARCHITECTURAL DILEMMAS, CHOICES, AND TENSIONS. WHERE THE MOST APPROPRIATE AND ONLY SOLUTION IN THE FORM OF THOUGHT LATER BECOMES THE RIGHT TO BECOME REALITY AND ARCHITECTURE.

HOWEVER, IF WE PERCEIVE FREEDOM AS A CHOICE OF WILL, IN THIS WAY ARCHITECTURE IS PERSONALIZED AND STRONGLY CONNECTED WITH THE INNER EXPERIENCES OF ITS CREATOR AND HIS INNER FREEDOM... IN THIS CASE, ARCHITECTURE WILL REPRESENT THE INNER FREEDOM OF THE CREATOR AND WILL BE THE RESULT OF HOW MUCH HE CAN BE FREE - LIMITING HIMSELF TO BE AS FREE FROM DESIRES AS POSSIBLE...

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CONCEPT MODEL

TIMELINE | JANUARY

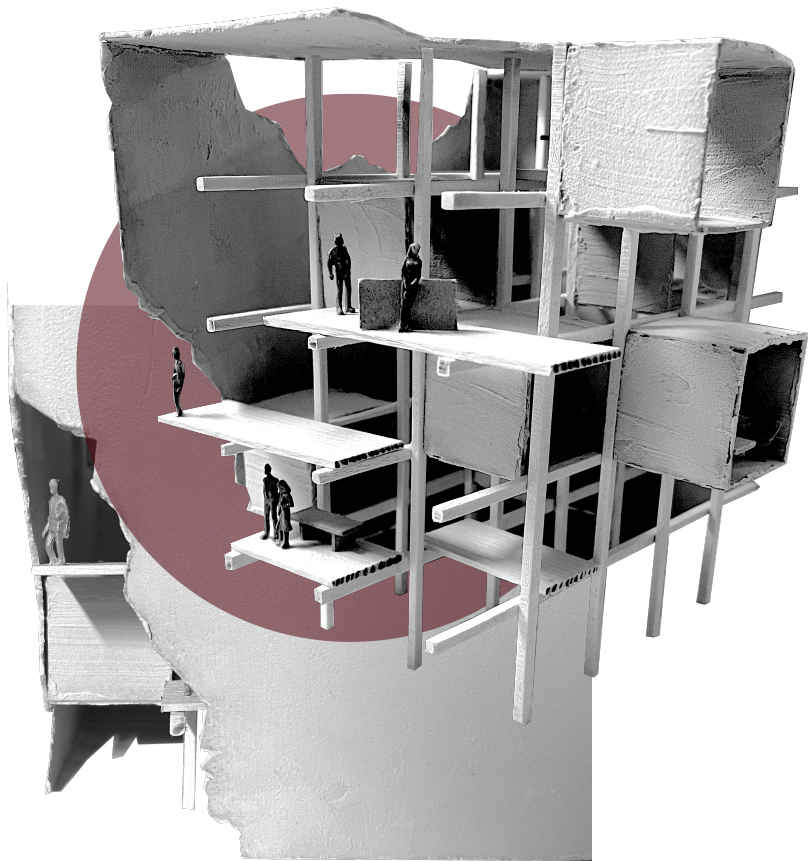
FIELD TRIP TO LITHUANIA
ESSAY AND PROGRAM WRITING

LECTURES

SOCIAL SCIENCE LECTURE (12-13)
SUSTAINABILITY LECTURE (22)

DEADLINES

CLEARANCE MEETING (4-5)
ESSAY (21)
#1 DIPLOMA PRESENTATION (28)



TIMELINE



FEBRUARY

PROGRAM WRITING
SITE RESEARCH AND MATERIAL PRODUCTION

WORKSHOP

PROGRAM WORKSHOP (1-3)

DEADLINES

PROGRAM (08)
SUBMIT PROJECT DESCRIPTION (24)



VILNIUS CITY

VILNIUS CITY

1 - 464 - LI

17/1 - 17 - 1 - 17 - 1

M1

M2

TIMELINE

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MARCH

SITE RESEARCH AND MATERIAL PRODUCTION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

LECTURES

SUSTAINABILITY LECTURE + TUTORING. (9-10)
TTA LECTURE + TUTORING. (18)
PAVLINA WORKSHOP (24-26)

DEADLINES

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (03)
#2 DIPLOMA PRESENTATION (4-5)

BACKBONE OF THE PROJECT

The project is based on real life situation and takes under consideration potential problematics

Today in Vilnius city the municipality is working hard to get the funding and support for the apartment building renovation projects. Already existing and undergoing renovation projects are quite simple and usually limits themselves to the basics. These renovations do not provide any kind of improvement for private property or its update for the inhabitance rather focuses on sustainability and structure reinforcement actions.

One of the biggest factors in this projects is strong seance of ownership of building's inhabitance so each apartment has to be treated as separate private property. Due to this reason any kind of proposed changes do not interfere with already existing arrangements.

As an architect I do not want to interrupt life of the building rather than propose an update and provide them with new tools.

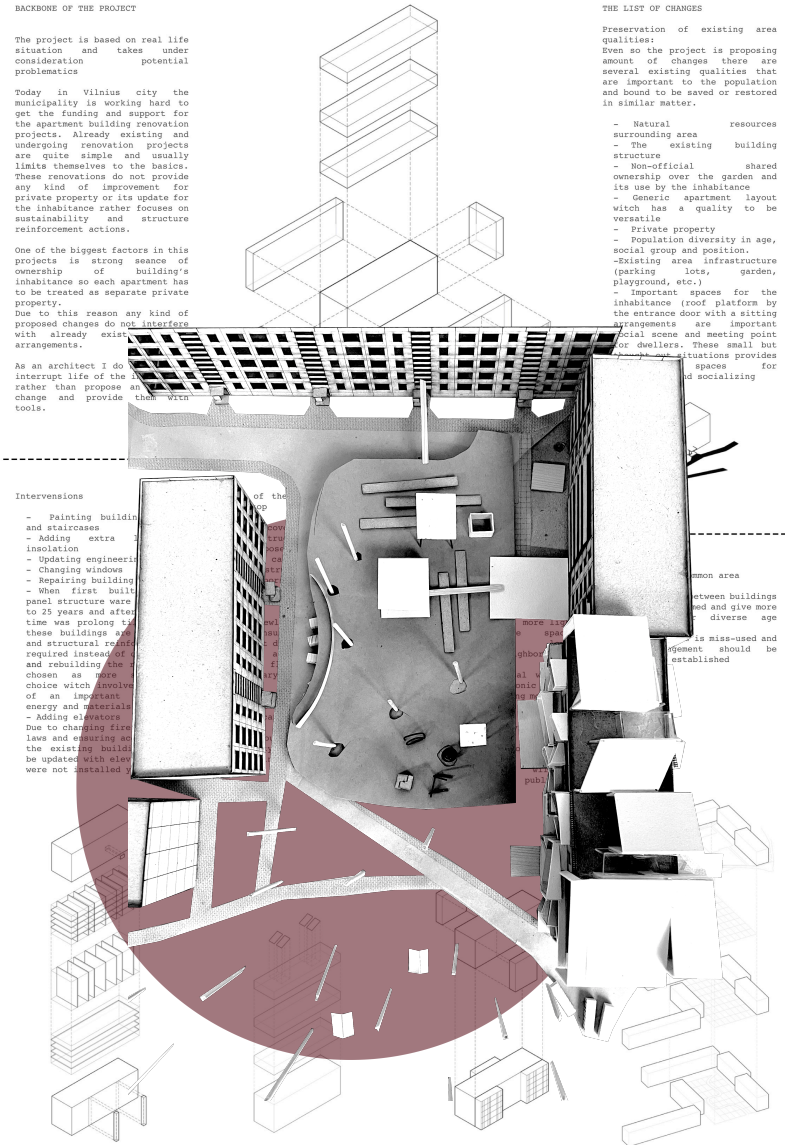
Interventions

- Painting building and staircases
- Adding extra insulation
- Updating engineering
- Changing windows
- Repairing building
- When first built panel structure were to 25 years and after time was prolonging these buildings and structural repairs required instead of demolishing and rebuilding one chosen as more choice which involve of an important energy and materials
- Adding elevators
- Due to changing fire laws and ensuring the existing build be updated with elev were not installed

THE LIST OF CHANGES

Preservation of existing area qualities: Even so the project is proposing amount of changes there are several existing qualities that are important to the population and bound to be saved or restored in similar matter.

- Natural resources surrounding area
- The existing building structure
- Non-official shared ownership over the garden and its use by the inhabitance
- Generic apartment layout which has a quality to be versatile
- Private property
- Population diversity in age, social group and position.
- Existing area infrastructure (parking lots, garden, playground, etc.)
- Important spaces for the inhabitance (roof platform by the entrance door with a sitting arrangements are important official scene and meeting point for dwellers. These small but situations provides and socializing



TIMELINE | APRIL

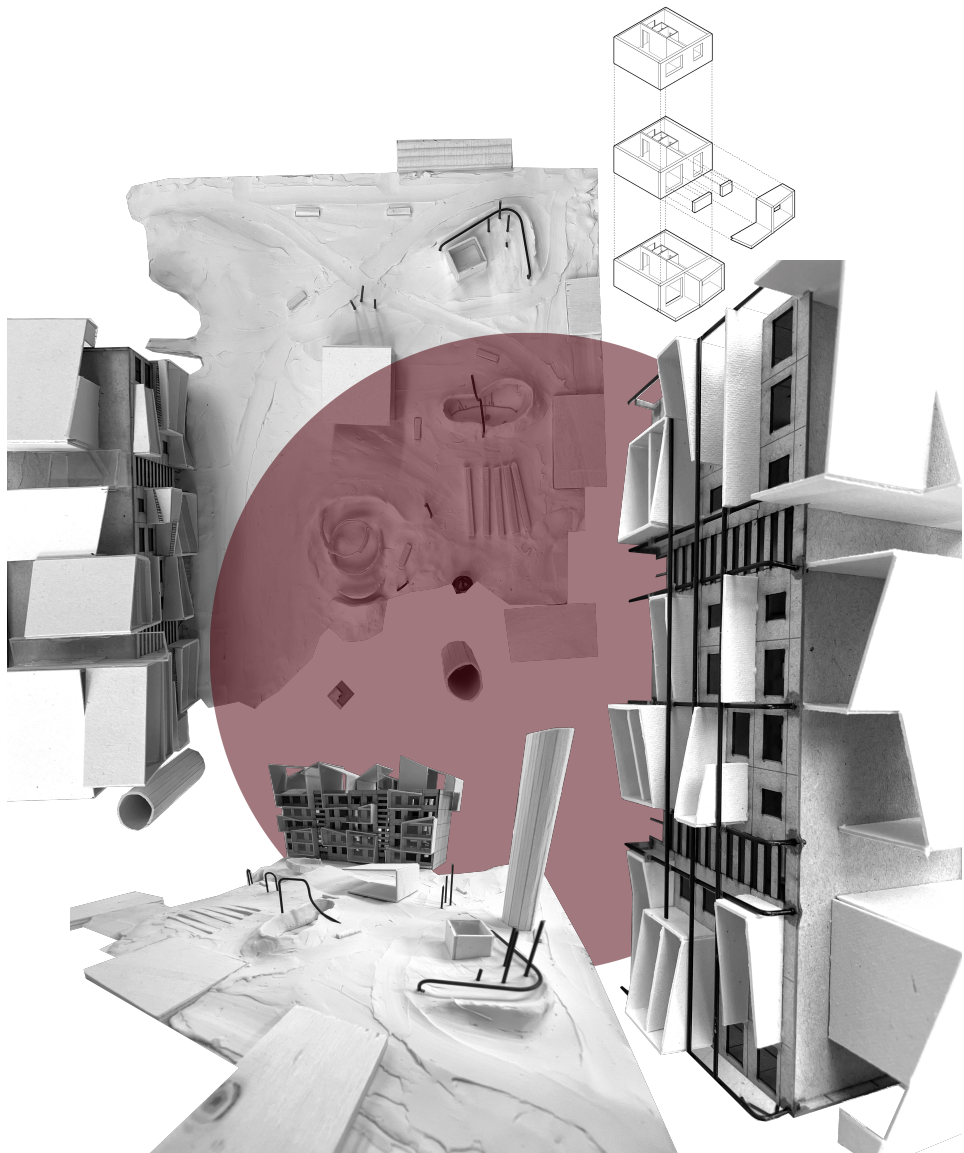
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

LECTURES

TTA LECTURE (21)

DEADLINES

#3 DIPLOMA PRESENTATION (22 -23)



TIMELINE

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MAY

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
MODEL RESEARCH

LECTURES

PAVLINA WORKSHOP (3-5)
TTA TUTORIALS (11)

DEADLINES

EXTERNAL REVIEW (25-26)
FINAL REVIEW (28)



TIMELINE

|

JUNE

EXHIBITION PREPARATION
FINALIZATION OF DRAWINGS AND MODELS

DEADLINES

MANDATORY CLEAN UP (1)
EXHIBITION PREVIEW (15-16)
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PROGRAM (18)
FINAL DAY OF PREPARATIONS (24)
FINAL CLEAN UP (25)
MEETING WITH ASSESSORS KEY EXHIBITION (26)
EXAM (27)



CV

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PROGRAMS IN USE: REVIT
ARCHICAD
AUTOCAD
SKETCHUP
OGIS

PHOTOSHOP
INDESIGN
ILLUSTRATOR
V-RAY

