Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences

Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners (Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Marina Višić
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Studio	
Name / Theme	EMU Post-Master in Urbanism Graduation Project
Teachers / tutors	Roberto Rocco (first mentor); Claudiu Forgaci (second mentor); Alvise Pagnacco (external mentor)
Argumentation of choice of the studio	[Not Applicable]

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Framework for Transition: Urban Planning Sustainability in Belgrade Riverfront

Goal	
Location:	Belgrade, Serbia
The posed problem,	Current development in Belgrade is shaped by market-driven mega projects that are a result of public-private partnerships. Due to strong PPPs, there is a lack of participation in the planning process, which is institutionally allowed. This leads to the development of the most attractive locations which are predominantly located at the riverfront. This kind of ad hoc development does not follow a comprehensive strategy and leads to fatal consequences such as – loss of biodiversity, social stratification, endangered heritage, loss of sense of place and ultimately: unsustainable development.
research questions and	How to break out of market- driven path dependency in urban planning and development that is generating substantial problems on the Belgrade

	riverfront and transition to a sustainable urban development?
design assignment in which these result.	A comprehensive planning strategy for Belgrade riverfront with special urban design focus on the current development. Within this strategy, mechanisms of participation will be elaborated and spatialized with accompanying policy framework that institutionalizes transition to sustainability.

[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions.
The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]

Process

Method description

According to the design assignment and the main research question, the methodological approach is divided in four parts: 1) Understanding, 2) Tools, 3) Application and 4) Evaluation and discussion.

In the first part of the **Understanding** section, literature review is used to develop a Theoretical Framework which explains the process of post-socialist city transition and conflicts it with the process of transitioning to sustainability. This is followed by understanding the concept of integrated urban planning and how it can deal with the complexity of a post-socialist city. Participation methods are explored and democratic participation is defined. This helps build a conceptual framework of spatializing participation.

For the Contextual Analysis, mapping and literature review is used. In this part the present context is analysed and the circumstances that lead to the generation of the posed problem. Conclusions drawn from this section are later used to localize potentials and to understand the spatiality of the theoretical framework.

In the **Tools** section Integrated Riverfront Planning Strategy is developed using the theoretical framework and conclusions of the contextual analysis. Mechanisms of Participation are embedded into the planning strategy and the whole process is defined by a Policy Framework.

In the **Application** section, the Urban Riverfront Plan is developed using the tools established in the previous section. Polygons for Spatial Participation are defined with the plan with the stakeholder structure and timeline of the participation mechanism. Finally, a few Selected Current Development Locations are adapted to be more sustainable and to follow the tools defined in the previous section.

In the **Evaluation** section the Application is evaluated according to the theoretical framework and defined objective. The discussion part focuses on comparison of the developed tools and how they are applied to the European standards. This part also explores application of these tools in the future and how they could be embedded in the planning process in other locations.
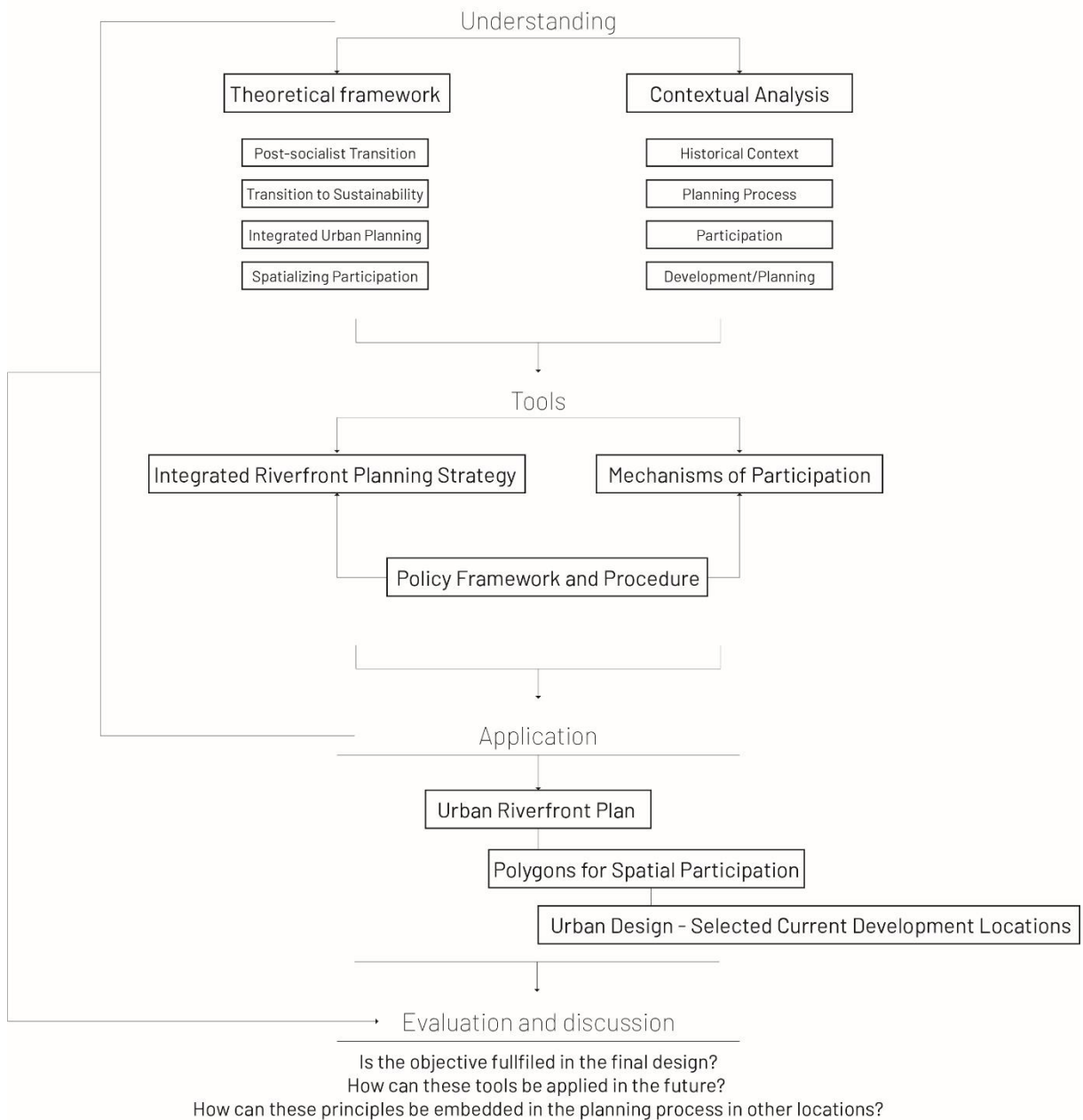
Objective

Creating a comprehensive planning strategy for Belgrade riverfront with special urban design focus on the current development. Within this strategy, mechanisms of participation will be elaborated and spatialized with accompanying policy framework that institutionalizes transition to sustainability.

How **?**

What needs to change in the current planning process to achieve the transition towards sustainability?
How can integrated urban planning deliver a procedure that provides urban sustainability?
How can stakeholders with less power and more interest be included and protected in the planning process?
How can participation be spatialized both in planning and development?
How can one intervene with the current development in the riverfront to provide more sustainable spaces that answer to citizens' needs?

Understanding

Theoretical framework	Contextual Analysis
Post-socialist Transition	Historical Context
Transition to Sustainability	Planning Process
Integrated Urban Planning	Participation
Spatializing Participation	Development/Planning

Tools

Integrated Riverfront Planning Strategy	Mechanisms of Participation

Policy Framework and Procedure

Application

Urban Riverfront Plan

Polygons for Spatial Participation

Urban Design – Selected Current Development Locations

Evaluation and discussion

Is the objective fullfiled in the final design?
How can these tools be applied in the future?
How can these principles be embedded in the planning process in other locations?

Literature and general practical preference

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Reflection

1. Planning for sustainability is something that many cities are struggling with at the moment. This is a global problem that requires local solutions, as different territories exhibit different properties and are in different economic and social state. The EMU programme is organized in a way that made me think about these problems and learn how to develop context-specific tools that provide solutions. The climate changes are something that the whole world needs to adapt to and how various regions will comply with this also depends on their planning procedures and current economic and social factors.

   Belgrade is a particular city in a way that it has not gone fully through the transition that most post-socialist cities experienced. This means that the tools that have to be applied need to be derived from the current state of planning procedures and social values in order to achieve sustainability. Climate changes create particularly severe pressures on urban riverfronts and the development in these areas need to find a way to prioritize social and ecological sustainability. This cannot be done if the economic prosperity is the leading factor for planning. Using design as a research tool provides solutions that are territory specific and allows for the development of principles that lead to attainable goals.

2. Because climate changes do not leave a lot of time to figure out a way to transform the particular procedures that would result in sustainable development, in this graduation project an urban transformation that leads to sustainability defines how the planning procedure needs to adapt to it. Understanding these global pressures as an urgent matter is something that can be applied in urbanism in other territories that need to achieve the transition towards sustainability. This method can provide inquiries into what are fundamental conditions that need to be transformed in order to act quickly and achieve long term sustainability goals. There are other post-socialist cities that are struggling with implementing these goals into their existing planning and development procedures and this project would explore a method for doing this.