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	Leto Demetriadou
Student number	5384052

Studio		
Name / Theme	Planning Complex Cities	
Main mentor	Verena Balz	Spatial Planning & Strategy
Second mentor	Ana Petrović	Urban Studies, human geography
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The Planning Complex Cities studio focuses on the integration of spatial planning and design as well in forms of participation in complex environments. The scope of the studio is important for my graduation project in developing a planning approach for complex areas in transformation through research and design.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	**Reconstructing Territorial Identities** The case of the refugee settlements in Nicosia, Cyprus

Goal	
Location:	Cyprus
The posed problem,	The frozen conflict in Cyprus since 1974 has led to many socio spatial consequences. The long-term waiting had negatively impacted most the most vulnerable during this period, the Cypriot refugees. Greek Cypriot refugees were primarily housed in refugee settlements up to this day. The decades passed from 1974 until 2022 have created multiple generations of refugees and urgencies on the right to liveability and the right to remembrance of this social group. The current state of the governmental refugee settlements embraces their socio-spatial segregation that is gradually emerging since their creation. The lack of a holistic spatial planning for their future in a regional level and the many structural,

	renovation and property right problems in a local level, have had an impact on the liveability of these neighborhoods, through accelerating their decay, abandonment, and social consistency.

Concurrently with the status of the refugee neighborhoods themselves, as Cyprus' urban environment evolves through time, issues on the heritage and memories of the first generation of refugees that the neighborhoods were created for emerge. The period of the long-standing de facto division of Cyprus in 1974 had a major impact on the lives of the displaced refugees of the refugee settlements on multiple levels. The lack of place attachment with their 'temporary neighborhood' while waiting is one of them has led the second generation of refugees in many cases to abandon the settlement or rent it to low-income families.

The larger refugee settlements tend to consist of clusters with a high concentration of elderly people. Elderly that consists of the remaining first-generation refugees that get older among with a part of contemporary heritage, memories of a community that is fading away. In short, the liveability and heritage urgencies of the Greek Cypriot refugee settlements are threatening the existence of the refugee community since no holistic planning for the transformation of the settlements exists. And as for the settlements themselves the lack of maintenance and planning have already started an unplanned transformation. |
| research questions and | How can **community led spatial planning** enable the Cypriot refugee settlements to be **transformed to liveable environments** while **preserving memories of their initial inhabitants**?

Sub Questions
On Spatial patterns: |

	- What did the Cypriot refugee identity evolve through time and how was its relationship with the refugee settlements? What is the current state of the refugee settlements in terms of liveability? - What are the social characteristics and the spatial patterns of the refugee settlements and how do they differ from other urban neighborhoods' socio-spatial patterns in the region? - How can the right to remembrance be spatialized conceptually and which spatial factors influence the right to remembrance seen theoretical notions in the fields of psychology and spatial design? - Which spatial patterns are expressions of the refugee memories in the refugee settlements in Cyprus? **On Community Building:** - How can the planning process build a community in a conflict environment? - What is the degree of place attachment of their residents? What factors are responsible of their decay and what have the potential to contribute to community building?
design assignment in which these result.	[Design Assignment]

The design assignment of the current thesis plan is a community led proposal for a strategy aiming the regeneration of the refugee settlements in Cyprus. The strategy will be formed through a comparative case study analysis on memorialization strategies in different contexts. Later, during this research-oriented path, after reviewing the existing community led spatial planning strategies aiming in the landscape memorialization, a strategy based on the context of contested environments and in the Cypriot refugee settlements context will be developed.

The strategy will illustrate the possible spatial design outcomes that can derive the role of a campaign for rebranding the outdated campaign 'I do not forget' without promoting just the memory of a divided Cyprus after 1974. Therefore, the strategy for the regeneration of the refugee settlements will direct the kind of development that should happen, in what way, how and where should happen while reforming a refugee community.

Given the fact that community building in contested environments is by its nature a problematic problematization, the intended outcome of the proposed thesis plan is to identify gaps and contribute to the existing portfolio of landscape memorialization strategies in contested environments through the case of Cyprus.

Process

Method description

Based on the context of the Cypriot refugee settlements, resources are primarily **qualitative**, based on the feelings and emotions of people and are extremely important. The instruments used to reach these resources are crucial to unlock such intangible, personal and sensitive information. The information can be shared and extracted in the form of local discussions, **street interviews** and **site observations** to reach the local community. Therefore, through collecting qualitative data, a **spatial analysis** can be formed to map and visualize them. These data will be collected based on theoretical notions drawn from literature on memory science, conflict environments and identity.

Through **interviews**, and discussions from potential and already involved NGOs and representatives of the refugee community and the refugee settlements through the years I can extract information for the **stakeholder analysis**, that combined with **quantitative data**, through a **statistical analysis** of the demographic data can create a representative image of the current state of the refugee settlements in comparison with the rest of the urban Nicosia.

A next step towards the **strategy** formation for community building would be a **comparative case study analysis** of refugee or internally displaced community building case studies to compare, position the case of Cyprus among them, identify gaps, or unexploited potential that can be used for strategies for community building in conflict environments, such as the case of the Cypriot refugee settlements. A multiscalar strategy that refers to the activation and formation of the Cypriot refugee community in a territorial level to a local-regional level of the spatial design interventions for the transition of the refugee settlements to neighborhoods.

List of methods used:

Literature review
Conceptualize the refugee settlements and indicate their underlying potential for community building.

How? Analyze governmental reports, **policy documents** referring to the refugee identity and the refugee governmental settlements as well as **literature referring to memory science, conflict environments and community building**.

Interviews/Observations
Reveal the actual current situation at the refugee settlements, through understanding how people use the space and feel about it.

How? Street interviews of residents and transit people, on site observations of various refugee settlements on how people use the public spaces, streets, and their private visible space (front gardens and building front view)

Mixed Media Analysis
Understand the life histories and heritage of the refugees to indicate the important memory reminders for the social group. Highlight the living condition inequalities verify them with other analysis methods.

How? Use existing relatively recent and old documentaries as well as news articles of the refugee settlements, the refugees.

Stakeholder Analysis
Identify key stakeholders for the scenario building to be combined with socio-spatial dimension and result community building.

How? Identify the key stakeholders that already operate or have the potential to operate in multiple scales and investigate their role, power, and interest. Understand conflicting/cooperating relationships among actors and stakeholders.

Statistical analysis
Illustrate the social characteristics of the refugee settlements residents compared to the residents of the rest of the urban districts.

How? Use the demographic data of the statistical service from different years.

Socio-spatial Analysis
Analyse the social consistency of the refugee neighbourhoods compared to the rest of the urban districts and evaluate their level of segregation. Depict sings of spatial remembrance.

How? Analyse the demographic data spatially and compare it with the space syntax analysis, amenities.

Comparative case study analysis
Analyse, compare, and identify gaps in existing paradigms of memorialization strategies and their linkage with community building. This comparison will be then used to create a memorialization strategy in the context of the refugee settlements in Cyprus.

How? Use three existing paradigms for the analysis, reflect on the contested environments and form a strategy in the Cyprus context.

Strategy building
Form a community led spatial planning strategy to ensure the landscape memorialization while securing the liveability of the landscape.

How? Combine results from the spatial analysis and the comparative case study analysis, the interviews among with results from other methods used to design the strategy for the refugee settlements.

Literature and general practical preference

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Tselika, E. E. (2019). State housing, social labelling, and refugee identities in Cyprus. *Cyprus Review*, *31*(1), 239–263.

Reflection

1. **What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?**

The interdisciplinarity of the Urbanism track and especially the Planning Complex Cities studio is an aspect that I attempted to reflect through the complexity of my graduation topic. Being part of a research related studio on spatial strategies and planning I intent to incorporate this mindset in tackling social and spatial inequalities in the long term, liveability, and remembrance rights of a constructed community, the Cypriot refugees. Therefore, preparing a social group through spatial strategy to reflect and atone with their traumatic past to overcome challenges of the future.
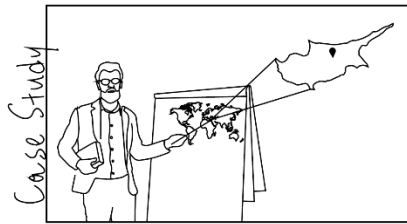
2. **What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.**

Undoubtedly, planning frameworks and strategies in conflict environments are sensitive, fragile, and difficult to address. The refugee identity could be considered as an intangible monument for Cyprus. Preserving and attempting to manipulate the construction and reconstruction of the refugee identity through the next generations and the refugee settlements is a question of ethics. Enabling regeneration to happen in the refugee settlements will inevitable favor only a part of the remaining refugees and might also cause gentrification and thus relocation of the remaining refugees for a second time in the fringes of the city.

The main aspiration for my project is to activate and reform engagement and participation processes to ensure the liveability of the refugee settlements. Future Development and planning in the refugee settlements is also crucial to preserve the Cypriot refugee identity. The refugee identity could be considered as an intangible monument for Cyprus, while the refugee settlements are a part of their spatial reflection.

In short, my graduation work, through the development of building community strategy aims to create a starting point for the current and next refugee generations along with new residents of the refuge neighborhoods to acknowledge the past of their living environment, remember, while addressing social and spatial inequalities of the refuge settlements that have had a major impact on their liveability status.

The exploration on community building in conflict environments is also a part of my personal and professional interests, exploring the meaning of the refugee identity that I inherited from my family. As refugees are extremely vulnerable communities that still entail urgencies for many societies, ways to endorse community formation and building in the long term is crucial for their assimilation in society respecting their past and future.
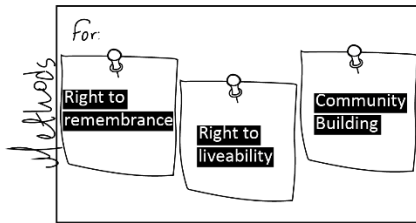
Case Study

Problem Field
Lives-Identities on pause
Declining & aging population
Building and Urban space decay
Lack of maintenance
Uncontrolled renovations
Fading heritage of refugee life histories
Socio-spatial inequality

Theoretical framework
Patterns Language
Space, territory, and identity
Right to remembrance
Right to liveability
Community building

Methods
For:
Right to remembrance
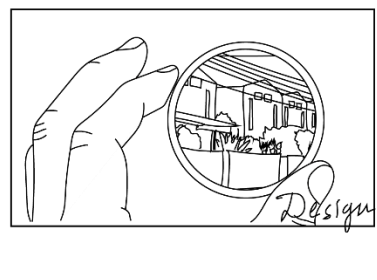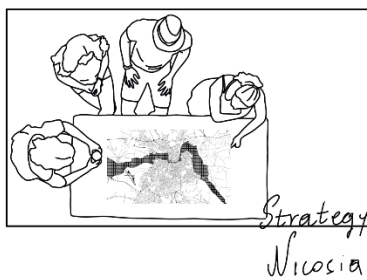Right to liveability
Community Building

Quantitative
- Data Collection
- Statistical Analysis
- Spatial Analysis
- Statistical analysis

Qualitative
- Literature review
- Interviews-Actor evaluation/engagment potential
- Site, Documentary Observations
- Comparative case study analysis
- Strategy building
- Socio-spatial Analysis

Planning Framework

Concept Cyprus

Strategy Nicosia

Design

Graduation Project Timeline

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5
Context Analysis	██████	██			
Problem Framing	████				
Research Questions	███████				
Problem Analysis	████	█ ██			
Literature Analysis	██████████				
-Case Study	██████				
-Phycology	████	██			
-Spatial Planning	█				
Theoretical & Conceptual Framework		██████			
Identifying Socio-Spatial and Procedural Challenges		████████████			
Case Study identification		█████			
Methods Identification		███ ███			
Spatial Pattern Identification		████████████			
Stakeholder Analysis		█████ ██			
Field Trip		███			
Planning Framework			████████████		
Conclusion & Reflection	█	█			██