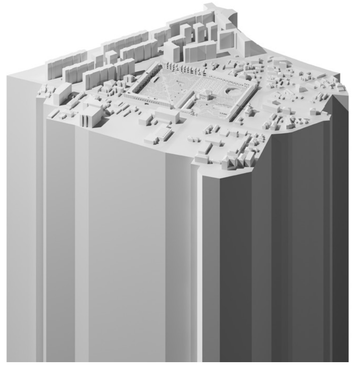
# best diploma projects

# 2026

The Faculty of Architecture

"Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning in Bucharest

EDITURA UNIVERSITARĂ ION MINCU
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# 2026

"Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning in Bucharest

**The Faculty of Architecture**

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**2026 Best Diploma Projects**

University of Architecture and Urbanism "Ion Mincu", Bucharest
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Editor: Andra Panait

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FDI 2026 - UAUIM INTERSTUDIO

Universitatea de Arhitectură și Urbanism „Ion Mincu”, București, proiect finațat prin CNFIS-FDI-2026-F-0745

*PROIECT „UAUIM International Joint Studio Network: dezvoltarea unui ecosistem instituțional integrat pentru internaționalizarea educației de arhitectură, urbanism și design bazat pe dezvoltarea creativității”*

Obiectiv:

Creșterea vizibilității internaționale a UAUIM: Se urmărește consolidarea prezenței UAUIM în rețele academice și platforme internaționale, prin acțiuni coordonate de promovare și diseminare, precum și prin organizarea de evenimente relevante.

2026 Best Diploma Projects

FDI 2026 - UAUIM INTERSTUDIO

University of Architecture and Urbanism "Ion Mincu", Bucharest

project funded by CNFIS-FDI-2026-F-0745

*UAUIM International Joint Studio Network: building an integrated institutional ecosystem for the internationalisation of architectural, urban planning, and design education through creative development*

Objective

Enhancing UAUIM's international visibility. This objective seeks to consolidate UAUIM's presence within international academic networks and platforms through coordinated actions for promotion and dissemination, as well as through the organisation of relevant events.

# Cuvânt înainte

Selecția de diplome de anul acesta conturează o generație preocupată de reparație: reparația locurilor abandonate, a memoriei întrerupte, a instituțiilor absente și a relațiilor slăbite dintre oraș, comunitate și patrimoniu. Aproape toate proiectele pornesc de la o cicatrice urbană: un cinema dispărut din viața publică, o casă istorică inaccesibilă, o peninsulă depopulată, un port separat de oraș, o ruină produsă prin neglijență sau demolare strategică, un sit arheologic fragmentat, o memorie traumatică insuficient reprezentată.

Tema dominantă este patrimoniul ca materie activă. Clădirile, ruinele, siturile arheologice și fragmentele urbane sunt tratate ca suporturi pentru programe noi: muzee, centre de cercetare, școli, spații de artă, locuire colectivă, infrastructuri educaționale, spații terapeutice și trasee publice. Reutilizarea adaptivă apare aici ca metodă de lucru cu timpul: intervenția contemporană lucrează cu ruptura și încearcă să o facă vizibilă și productivă.

O a doua temă puternică este transformarea memoriei în experiență spațială. Proiectele dedicate cinematografiei, arheologiei, Holocaustului sau caselor istorice propun arhitectura ca formă de lectură. Vizitatorul parcurge straturi, praguri, niveluri, curți, galerii, pavilioane, trasee de lumină și secvențe descendente. Trecutul este adus în prezent prin mișcare, materialitate, lumină controlată și relația dintre prezență și absență. În aceste proiecte, memoria capătă densitate prin parcurs, iar spațiul devine instrument de interpretare.

Selecția arată și o preocupare constantă pentru spațiul public. Multe propuneri lucrează cu goluri urbane, fronturi întrerupte, curți permeabile, promenade, trasee pietonale și zone de contact între oraș și infrastructuri mari: portul, faleza, bulevardul istoric, situl arheologic, centrul vechi. Constanța și Bucureștiul apar ca teritorii recurente ale acestei analize, fiecare cu propriile fracturi: capitala prin ruine recente, monumente inaccesibile și insule culturale slăbite; Constanța prin tensiunea dintre port, turism, patrimoniu antic, sezonalitate și viață cotidiană.

Programele sunt în mod deliberat hibride. Această hibridizare indică o schimbare de accent: arhitectura de diplomă caută acele situații urbane care pot fi reactivate prin suprapunerea atentă a funcțiunilor.

Un alt fir comun este relația dintre vechi și nou formulată prin scară, retragere, transparență, ritm, continuitate urbană și ierarhie spațială. Intervenția contemporană își asumă prezența, dar își calibrează apariția în raport cu monumentul, ruina sau țesutul istoric. Această atitudine produce o arhitectură a discreției active cu intervenții care reactivează contextul.

Selecția are și o dimensiune etică vizibilă. Proiectele despre autism, Holocaust, patrimoniu abandonat sau formarea specialiștilor în conservare introduc arhitectura într-un câmp al responsabilității publice. Spațiul este gândit ca mediu de orientare, protecție, învățare, comemorare și acces. Tema incluziunii apare ca problemă de organizare spațială: curți protejate, circulații clare, praguri controlate, spații senzoriale, trasee inteligibile.

Privite împreună, aceste diplome descriu o arhitectură a reactivării ce încearcă recuperarea unei continuități urbane, o reconectare: între trecut și prezent, între patrimoniu și uz public, între locuire și cultură, între comunitate și infrastructurile mari ale orașului.

Ele vorbesc despre un oraș care nu mai poate fi reparat prin gesturi izolate de imagine. El are nevoie de instituții intermediare, de spații accesibile, de programe cu durată, de arhitecturi capabile să păstreze memoria și să producă sens.

prof.dr.arh. Andra Panait

# Foreword

This year's selection of diploma projects sketches the profile of a generation concerned with repair: the repair of abandoned places, interrupted memory, absent institutions, and weakened relationships between the city, the community, and heritage. Almost all the projects begin from an urban scar: a cinema erased from public life, an inaccessible historic house, a depopulated peninsula, a port cut off from the city, a ruin born out of neglect or generated by fragmented archaeological site, a traumatic memory underrepresented in public space.

The dominant theme is heritage as active matter. Buildings, ruins, archaeological sites, and urban fragments are treated as supports for new programmes: museums, research centres, schools, art spaces, collective housing, educational infrastructure, therapeutic spaces, and public routes. Adaptive reuse emerges here as a method of working with time: the contemporary intervention engages with rupture and seeks to make it visible and productive.

A second strong theme is the transformation of memory into spatial experience. The projects dedicated to cinema, archaeology, the Holocaust, or historic houses propose architecture as a form of reading. The visitor moves through layers, thresholds, levels, courtyards, galleries, pavilions, paths of light, and descending sequences. The past is brought into the present through movement, materiality, controlled light, and the relationship between presence and absence. In these projects, memory gains density through passage, while space becomes an instrument of interpretation.

The selection also reveals a sustained concern for public space. Many proposals work with urban voids, interrupted frontages, permeable courtyards, promenades, pedestrian routes, and areas of contact between the city and larger infrastructures: the port, the waterfront, the historic boulevard, the archaeological site, the old centre. Constanța and Bucharest emerge as recurring territories in this analysis, each with its own fractures: the capital through recent ruins, inaccessible monuments, and weakened cultural islands; Constanța through the tension between the port, tourism, ancient heritage, seasonality, and everyday life.

The programmes are deliberately hybrid. This hybridity marks a shift in emphasis: the diploma project seeks out those urban situations that can be reactivated through the careful overlap of functions.

Another common thread is the refusal of stylistic imitation. The relationship between old and new is articulated through scale, setback, transparency, rhythm, urban continuity, and spatial hierarchy. The contemporary intervention assumes its presence, while calibrating its appearance in relation to the monument, the ruin, or the historic fabric. This attitude produces an architecture of active discretion: interventions that reactivate context.

The selection also carries a visible ethical dimension. The projects addressing autism, the Holocaust, abandoned heritage, or the training of conservation specialists place architecture within a field of public responsibility. Space is conceived as a medium for orientation, protection, learning, commemoration, and access. Inclusion reveals itself as a question of spatial organization: protected courtyards, clear circulation, controlled thresholds, sensory spaces, intelligible routes.

Taken together, these diploma projects describe an architecture of reactivation that seeks to restore urban continuity, a form of reconnection: between past and present, between heritage and public use, between housing and culture, between community and the city's larger infrastructures.

They speak of a city that can no longer be repaired through isolated gestures of image-making. It needs intermediate institutions, accessible spaces, durable programmes, and architectures capable of preserving memory while producing meaning.

Prof. Andra Panait, PhD, Architect

1st prize
Best Diploma Project

# Restoration of the Dudesti-Cioplea Mansion. A Laboratory of Underground Bucharest

Tudor-Matei Pelin, tutor: prof.dr.arh. Andra Panait

The project began with the intention of addressing two issues facing the city: on the one hand, the abandonment and deterioration of a former aristocratic estate, which has not been the subject of any investigation or conservation efforts to date; and on the other hand, the exploration of a unified, substantial yet untouched topic - namely, the study of underground Bucharest. The connection between the two is underscored by the characteristics of the Dudești-Cioplea Courtyard and by the relevance of the underground to this fragmented site.

In this regard, the Laboratory of Underground Bucharest is introduced - a complex and unique space that has embraced the aforementioned topic both functionally and pragmatically, through the development of the proposed extension primarily below ground level. Above ground, the principle of perimeter construction - which began during the site's industrialization - is continued, thereby freeing up the center of the lot and allowing for the creation of an urban garden - a reminiscence of the Dudescu family's courtyard. The mansion house remains the central element, an exhibition space that, together with the underground tunnel used as a visitor access point, presents the history of this site. The underground extension is based on the three functions that represent the evolution of the aforementioned concept from the professional sphere to society at large - research, archiving, and exhibition.

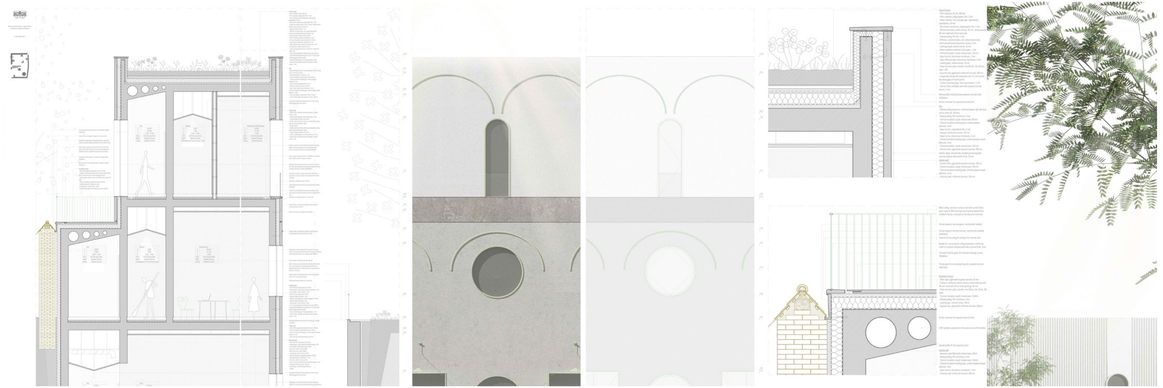


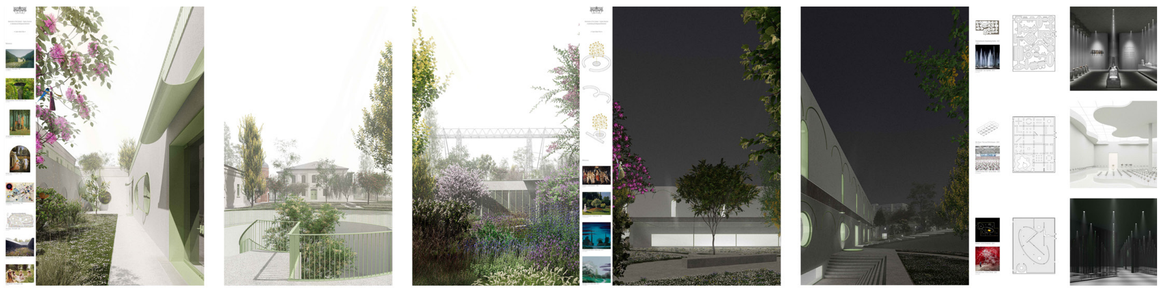
# 1st prize

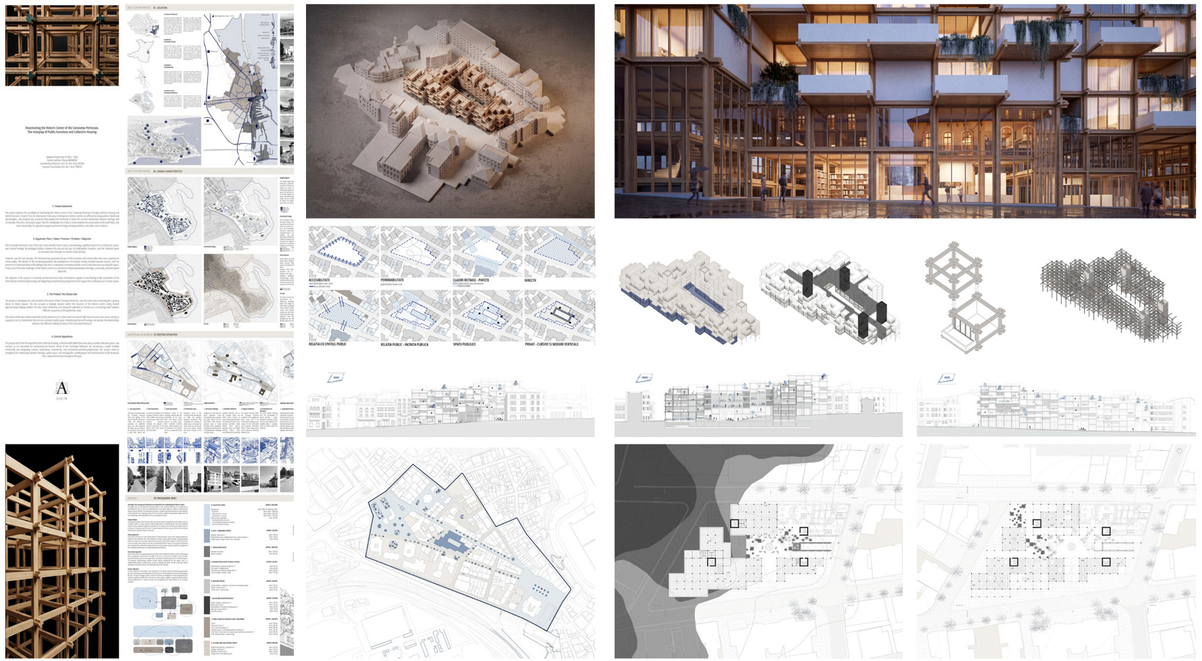
**Best Diploma Project**











2nd prize

**Best Diploma Project**

# Reactivating the historic center of the Constanta Peninsula. The interplay of public functions and collective housing

Maria Marinoiu, tutors: conf.dr.arh. Ionuț Anton, drd.arh. Florin Pîndici

The project addresses the progressive decline of the historic center of the Constanța Peninsula, caused by depopulation, seasonal mono-functionality and the fragmentation of public space. Rather than focusing solely on the preservation of the built heritage, the proposal argues that the long-term revitalization of the historic center depends on the reintroduction of permanent collective housing supported by a network of hybrid public functions. The intervention is located on a vacant urban site positioned along the main pedestrian sequence connecting the Statue of the Capitoline Wolf, Ovidiu Square and the Constanța Casino. The project transforms this site into an intermediate urban node through a permeable ensemble organized around a public courtyard, combining housing, cultural, educational and commercial programs. Contemporary architecture is integrated into the historic fabric through scale, rhythm, materiality and urban continuity rather than literal imitation.

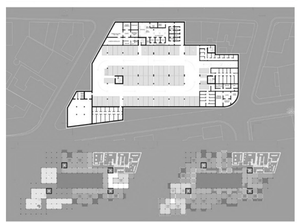
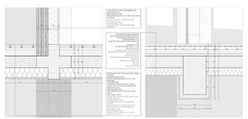


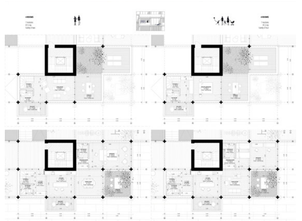
# 2nd prize

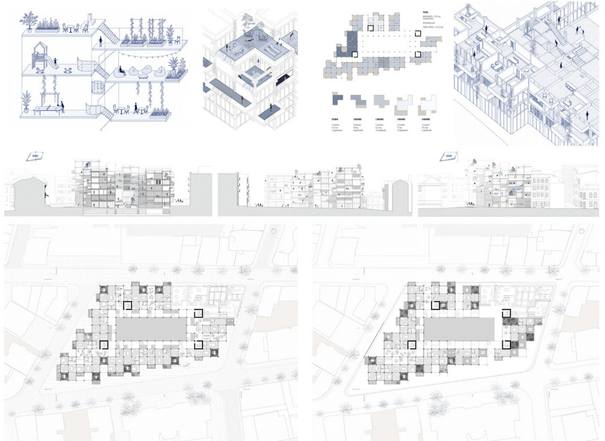
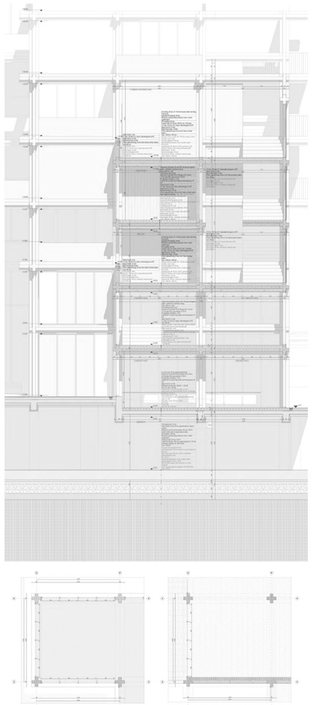
**Best Diploma Project**



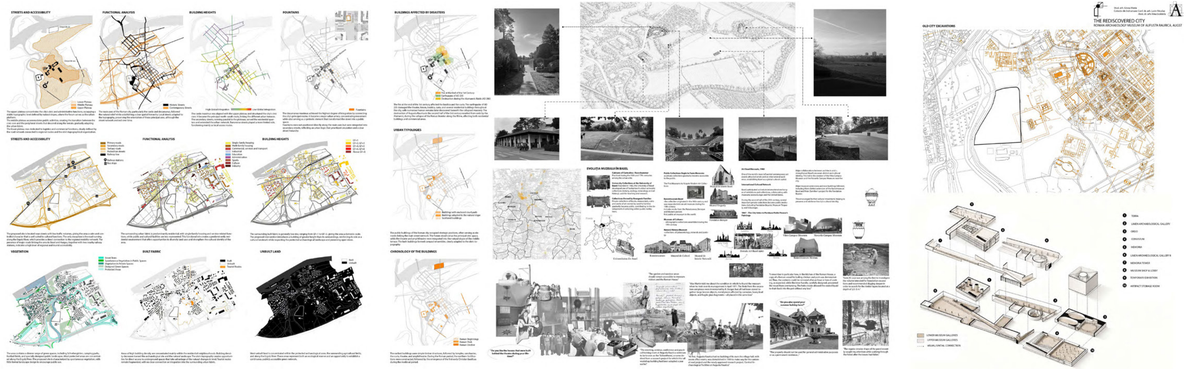


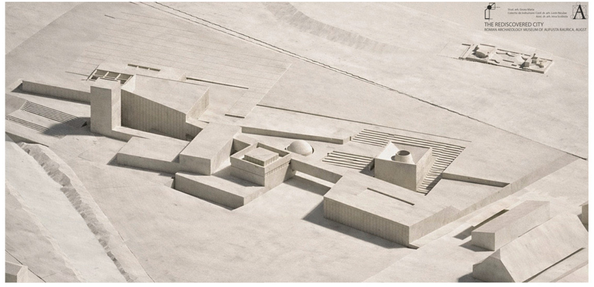




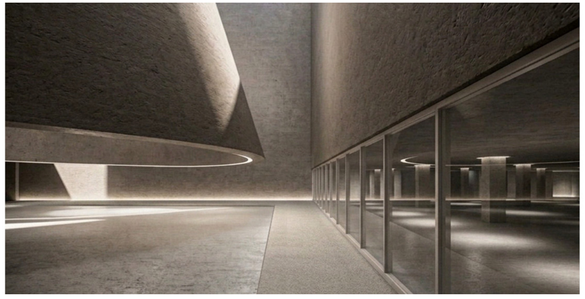


3rd prize
Best Diploma Project







# The Rediscovered City. Roman Archaeology Museum of Augusta Raurica, Augst

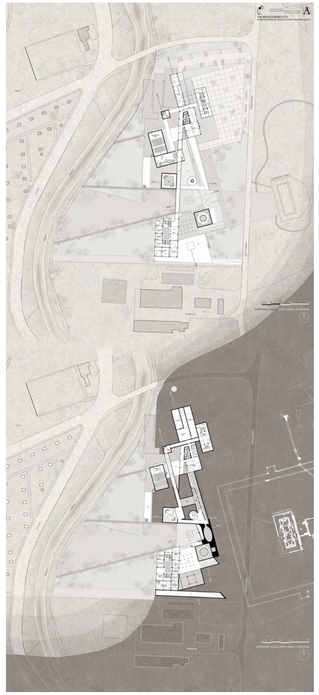
Maria Grosu, tutors: conf.dr.arh. Lorin Niculae, asist.dr.arh. Irina Scobiola

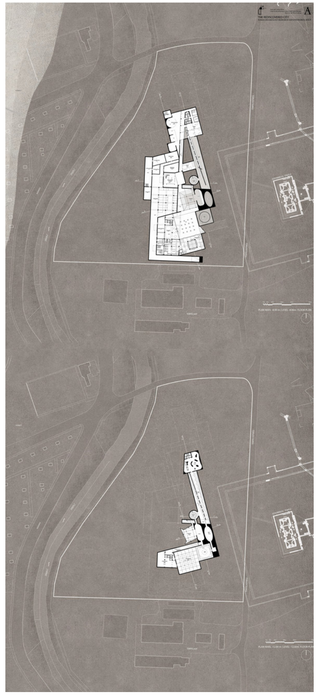
The City Afterwards proposes a Roman Archaeology Museum for Augusta Raurica that explores how archaeological heritage can reconnect a fragmented Roman city with the contemporary landscape and community. Located between the archaeological site, the Ergolz valley and the village of Augst, the museum acts as a threshold between the present and the buried city. The spatial sequence follows the depth of the excavation, each level corresponding to a stage in the life of the Roman settlement, from territory and urban structure to everyday life, abandonment and memory. Exhibition spaces, research facilities and public areas are integrated into a continuous route where archaeological research becomes part of the visitor's experience. Through light, materiality and stratified circulation, the project reveals archaeological time as a spatial experience while strengthening the relationship between the site and its surroundings.

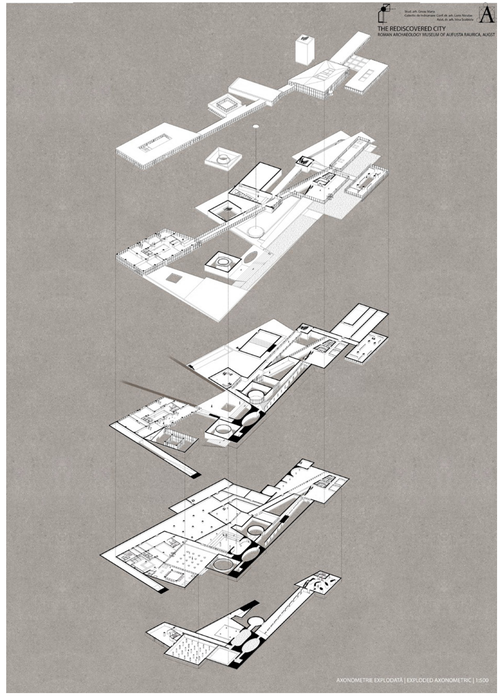


# 3rd prize

**Best Diploma Project**












# Film center, rehabilitation and reactivation of Blanduzia Galleries, Doamnei Street no. 7/9-11, Bucharest

Bogdan Găitan, tutors: șef.lucr.dr.arh. Andrei Lakatos, prof.dr.arh. Adrian Spirescu, dr.arh. Cristina Șopîrleanu





# Between layers. The adaptive reuse of the Mirea Miclescu House: framework for artistic practices and processes

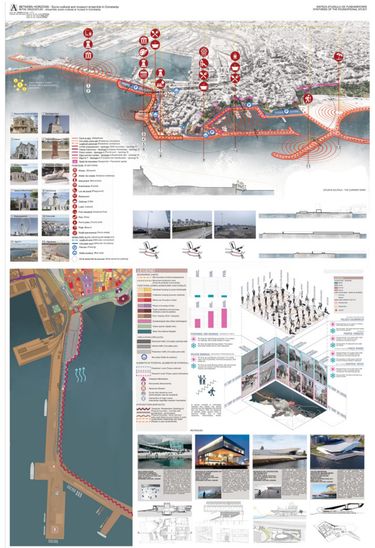
Claudiu Naca, tutor: prof.dr.arh. Andra Panait

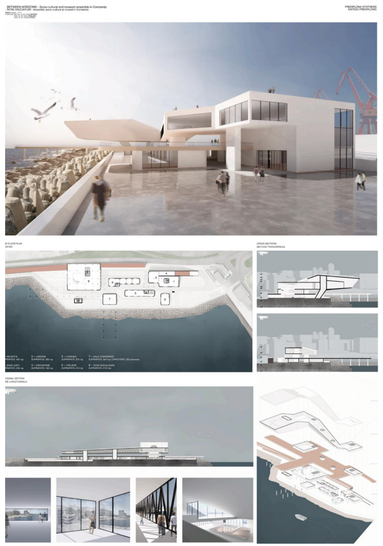


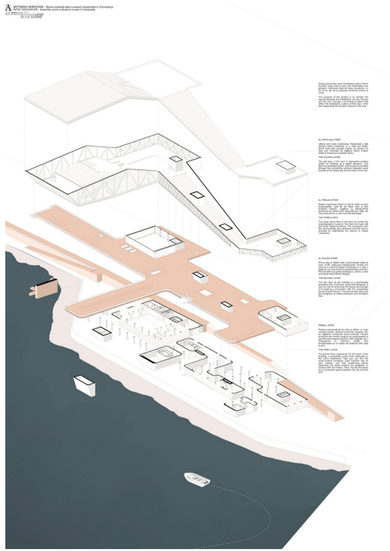












# Between Horizons - Socio-cultural and museum ensemble in Constanta

Amalia Manea, tutors: șef lucr.dr.arh. Anda Sfinteș, asist.dr.arh. Oana Abălaru, asist.dr.arh. Claudia Pipoș



# Romanian Holocaust Memorial Museum

Miruna Verioti, tutors: prof.dr.arh. Iulia Stanciu, asist. Andra Jurgiu

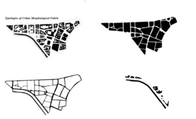


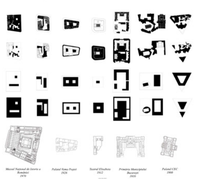










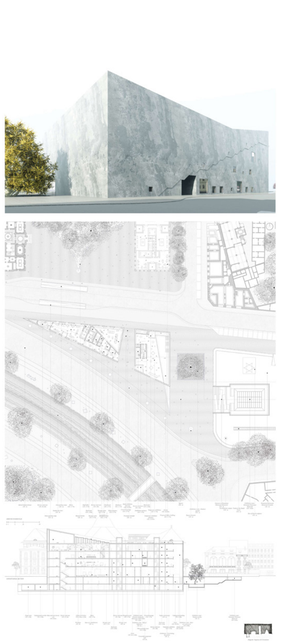


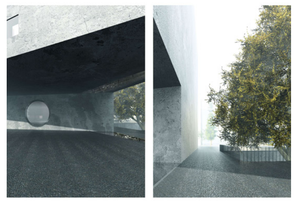


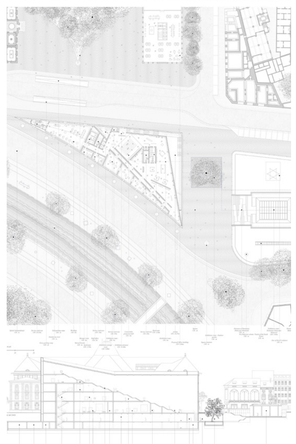


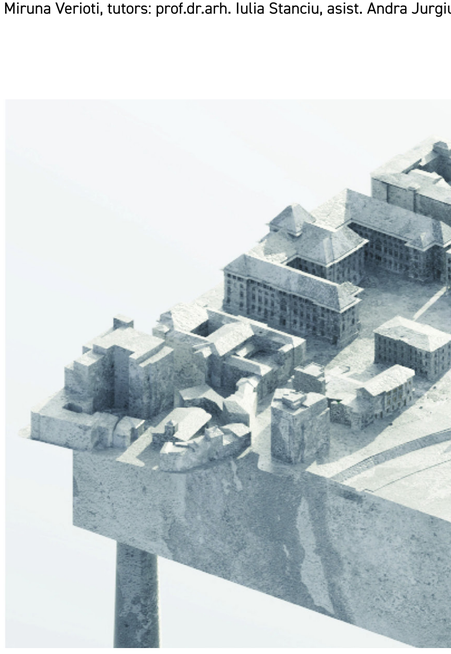






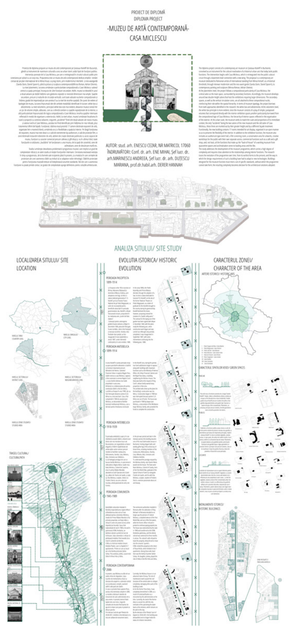




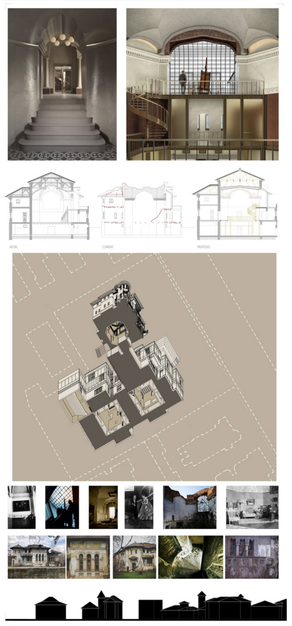


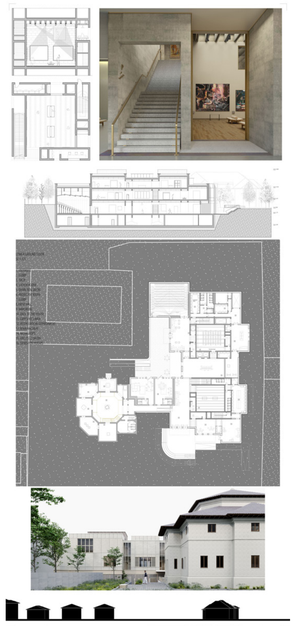
# Museum of Modern Art - Miclescu House

Cezar Enescu, tutors: prof.dr.arh. Mihai Ene, Şef lucr.dr.arh. Andreea Marinescu, Şef lucr.dr.arh. Mariana Duțescu, prof.dr.habil.arh.  Hanna Derer













# Education and Therapy Centre for Children with Autism “Nifon Mitropolitul”

Alexandra Bianca Mărcoianu, tutor:  Şef lucr.dr.arh. Andreea Marinescu

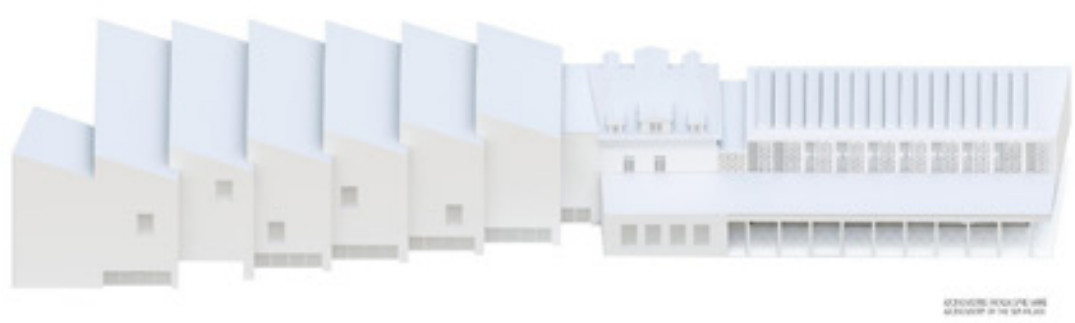










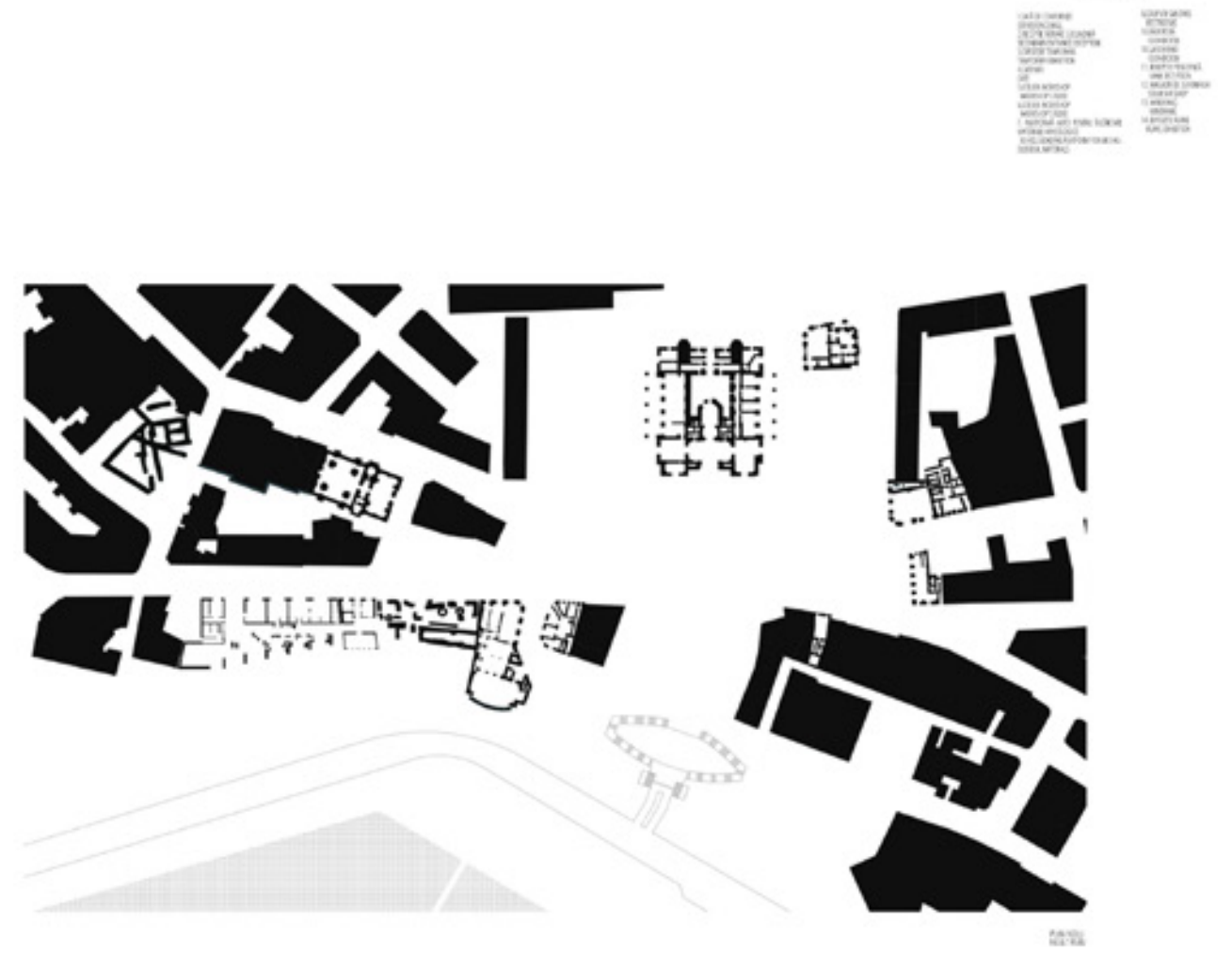




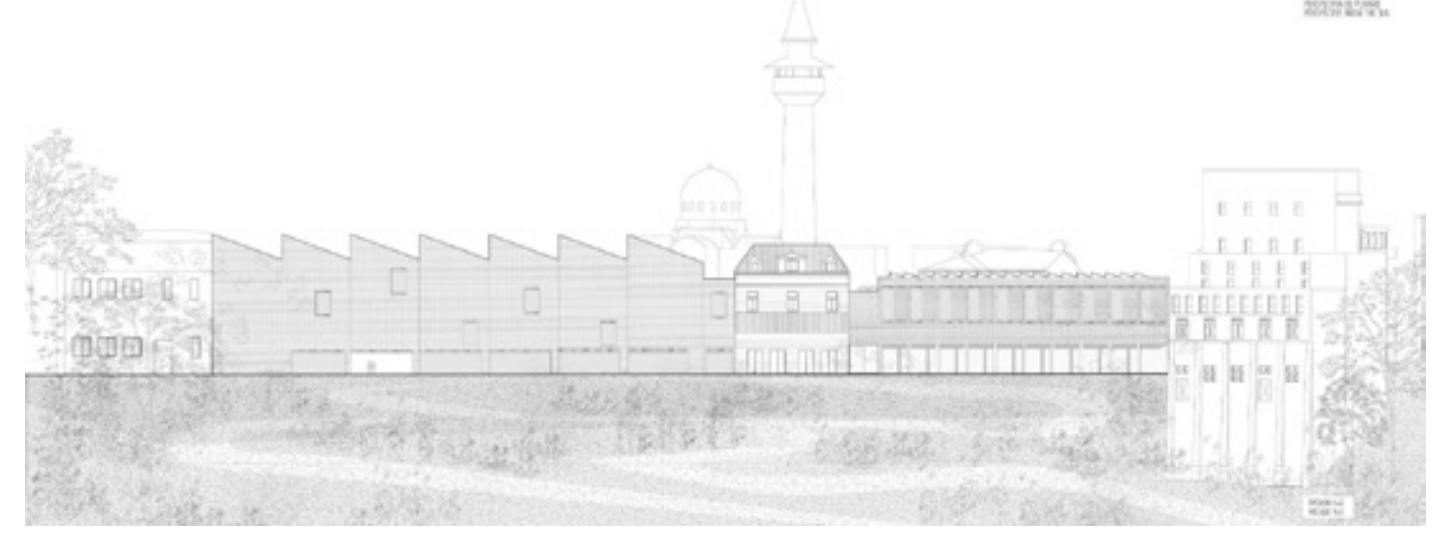














# Archaeological Research and Exhibition Centre in the Constanța Peninsula

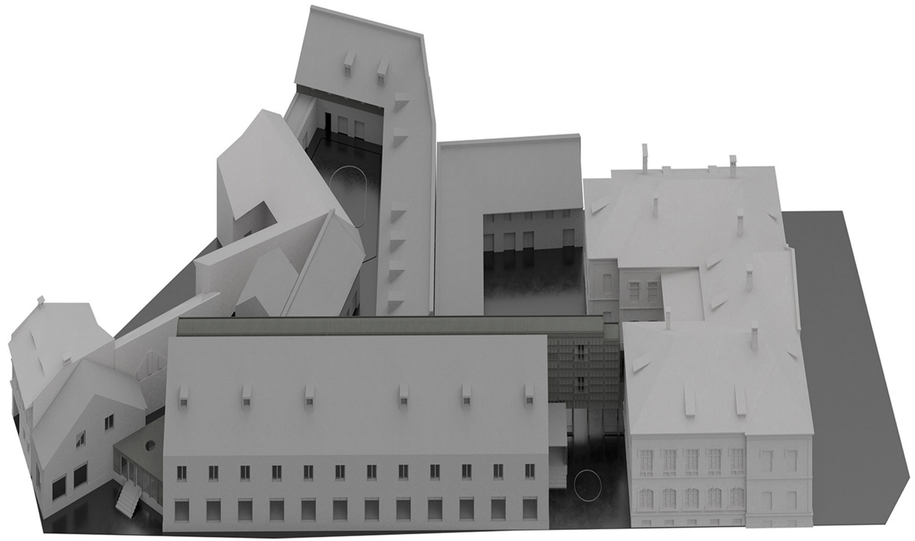
Maria-Magdalena Defta, tutors: prof.dr.arh. Radu Teacă





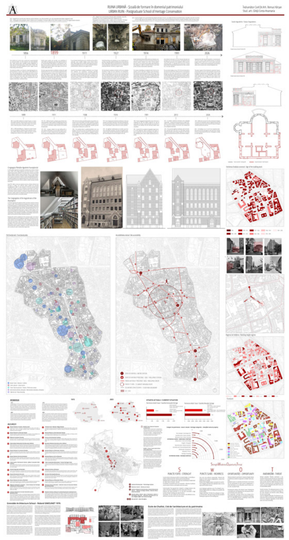
# The new premises of the School of Architectural Conservation and Restoration and the School of Urban Planning in Sibiu

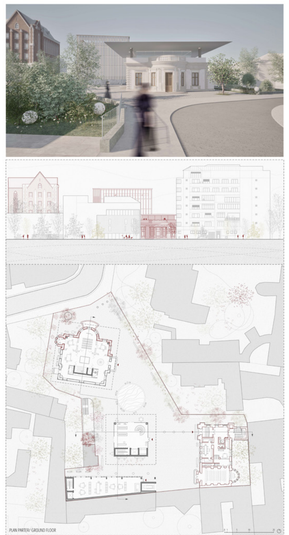
Ana-Maria Marțiș, tutors: conf.dr.arh. Andrei Șerbescu, drd.arh. Roberta Frumușelu, drd.arh. Eduard Untaru

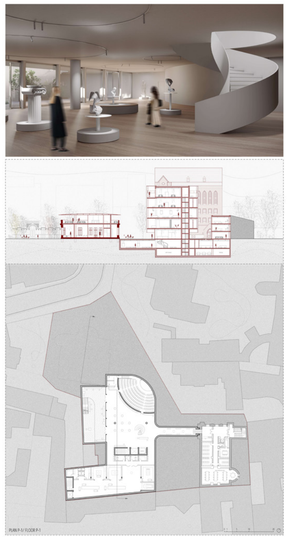


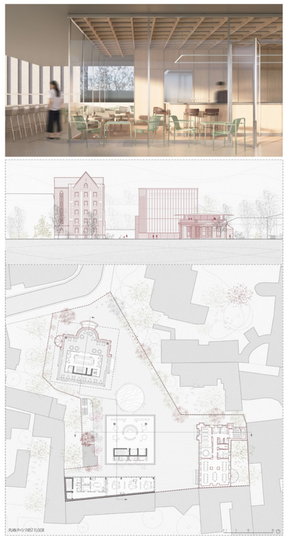
# Archaeological Research and Exhibition Centre in the Constanța Peninsula

Maria-Magdalena Defta, tutors: prof.dr.arh. Radu Teacă









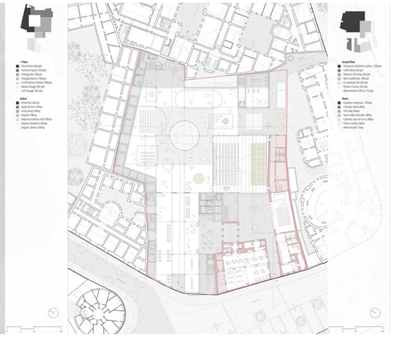


# Revealing the Character of a Place with a Strong Identity. The Blanduzia Cinema Centre

Ioan Alexandru Leica, tutor: prof.dr.arh. Andra Panait













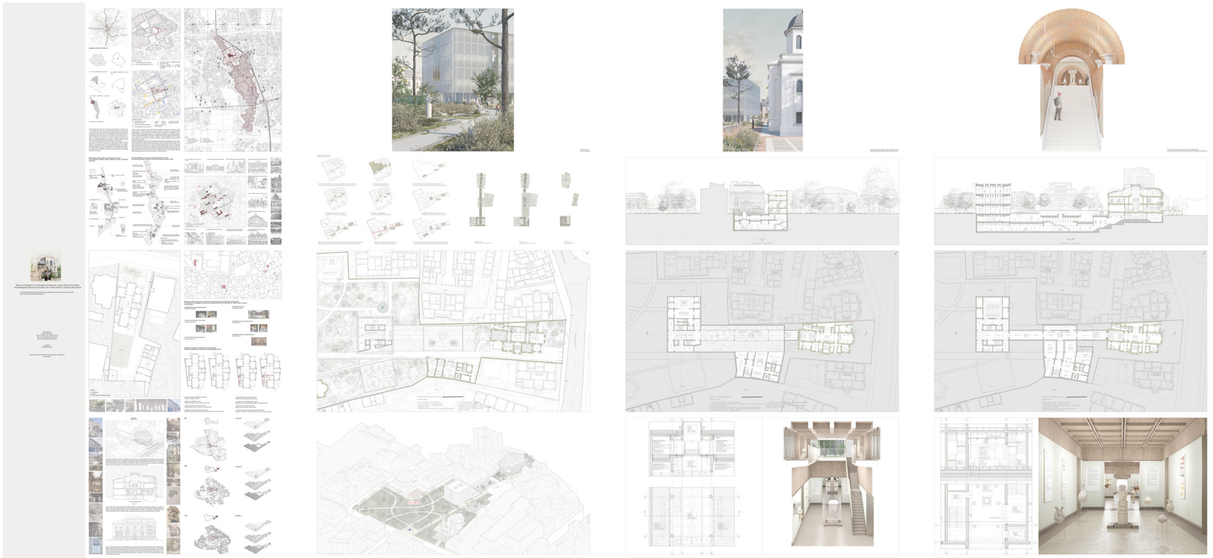




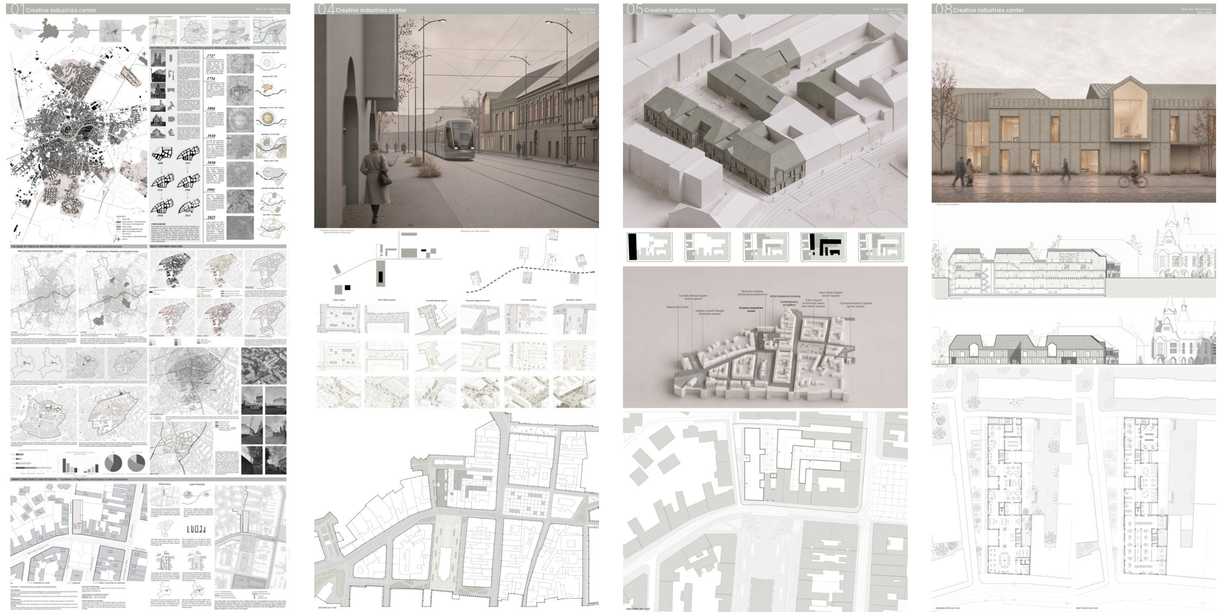


# Archaeological Museum – Extension of the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology

Daria Mogildea, tutors: prof.dr.arh. Mihai Ene, Șef lucr.dr.arh. Andreea Marinescu, Șef lucr.dr.arh. Mariana Duțescu, prof.dr.habil.arh.  Hanna Derer








# Creative Industries Center

Mara Pauliuc, tutors: șef.lucr.dr.arh. Alexandra Afrăsinei, conf.dr.arh. Maria Enache, asist.dr.arh.Tudor Patapievici, asist.dr.arh. Laura Popa-Florea



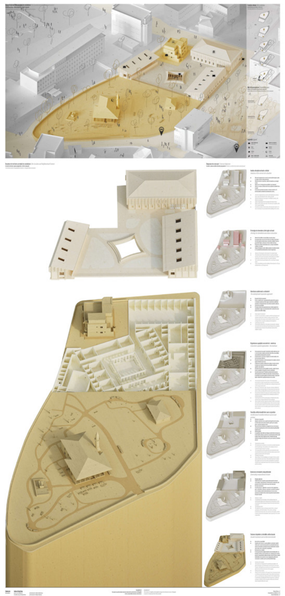
# SP4TIO, Creative hub on the site of the former vocational school “Scoala Ciocanul”

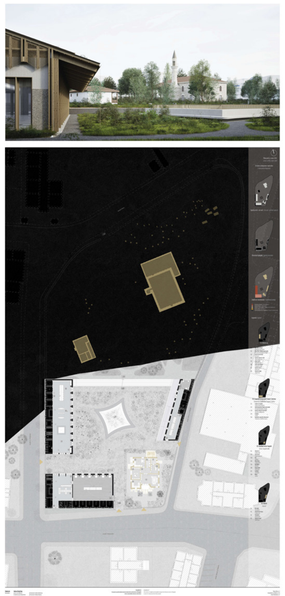
Matei-Stefan Muller, tutor: șef.lucr.dr.arh. Justin Baroncea, asist.dr.arh. Cosmin Gălățianu











# PALIMPSEST. The recovery of tangible and intangible heritage in the historical center of Mangalia. A center for cultural and interethnic plurality.

Andreea-Florina Popa "tutors: prof.dr.arh. Mihai Ene, Șef lucr.dr.arh. Andreea Marinescu, Șef lucr.dr.arh. Mariana Dușescu, prof.dr.habil.arh. Hanna Derer"



# Adaptive Reuse of an Industrial Hall as regional event infrastructure and urban catalyst

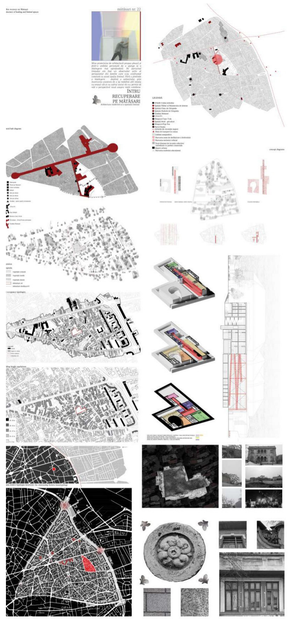
Eduard Daniel Ardelean, tutors: prof.dr.arh. Marian Moiceanu, șef lucr.dr.arh. Dardari Yahia, șef lucr.dr.arh. Cristina Mândrescu





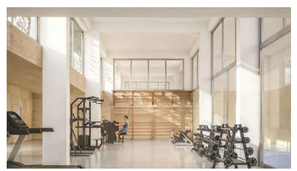
# In pursuit of recovery on Matasari Architecture of healing and liminal space

Mara Misosniky, tutors: asist.dr.arh. Matei Stoean, șef.lucr.dr.arh. Vladimir Vinea

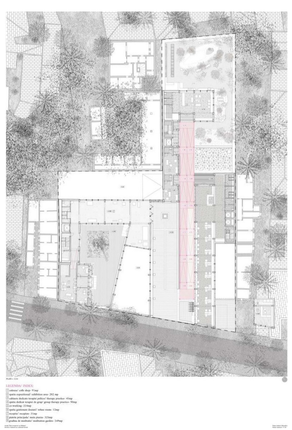


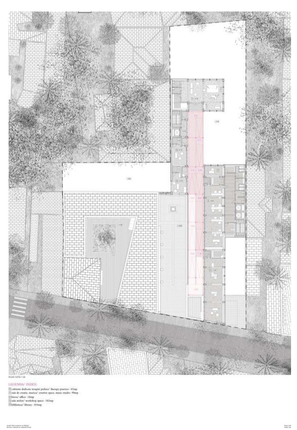


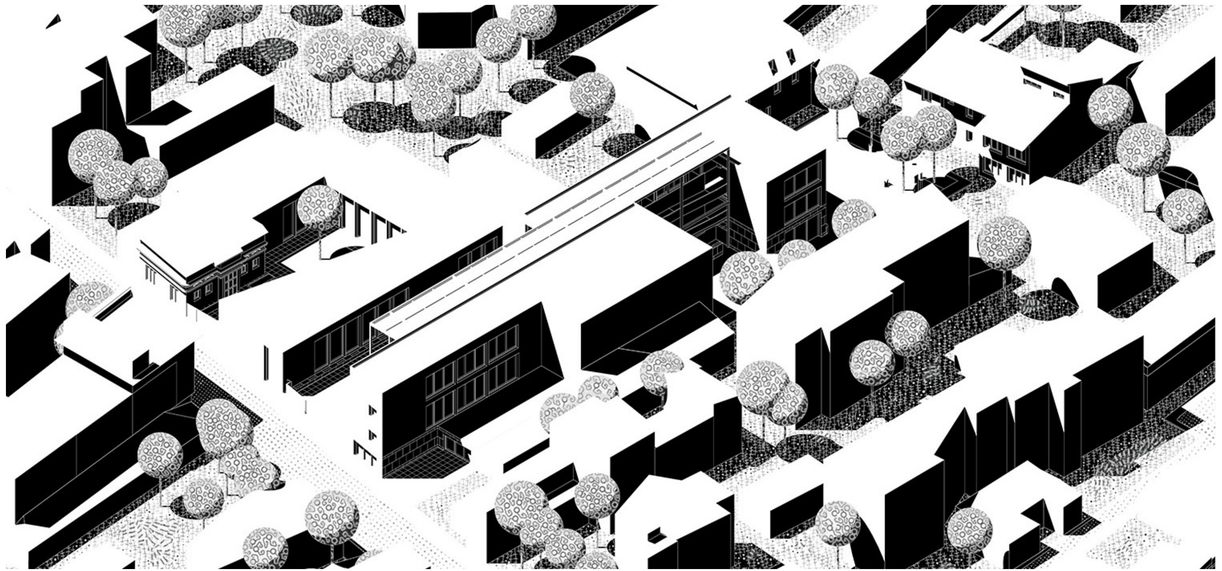








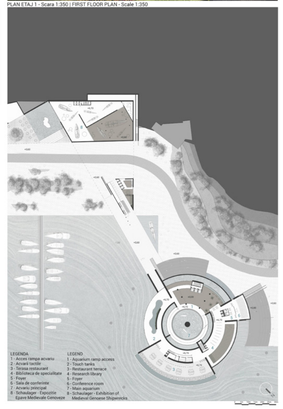






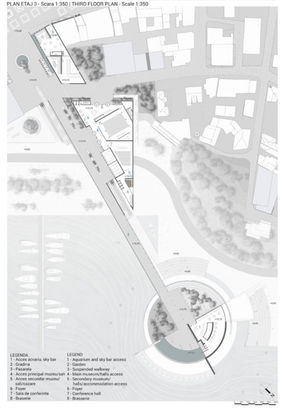






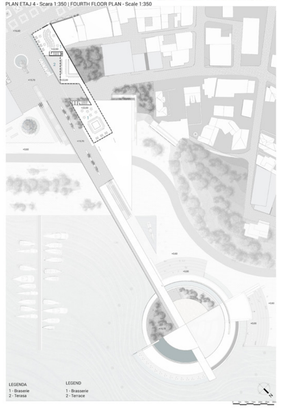






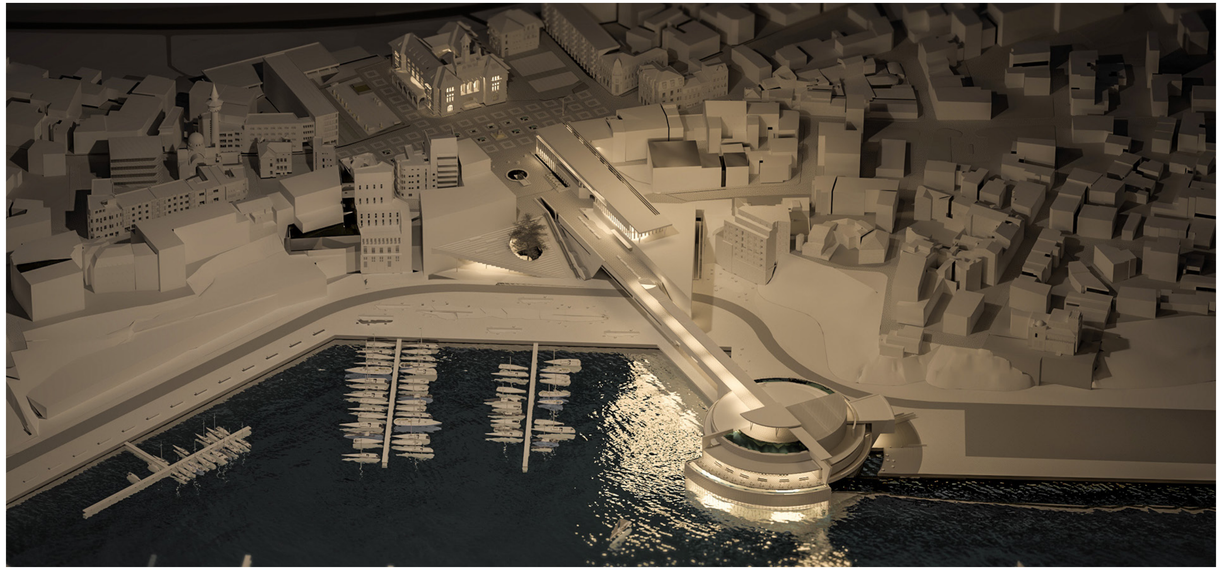


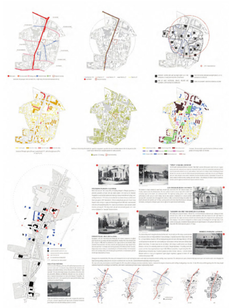




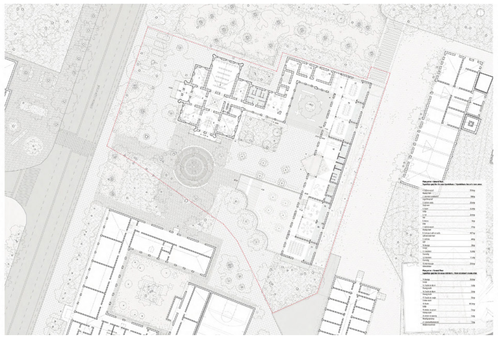

# The Aquarium and the Marine Life Museum: developing museum capacity in the context of the revitalization of Ovidiu Square and Tomis Port

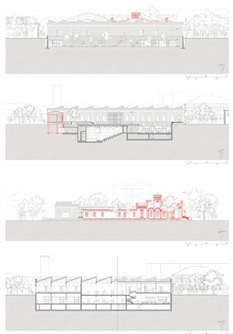
Andreea-Bianca Tudoran, tutors: arh. Adrian Zerva, șef.lucr.dr.arh. Marius Solon

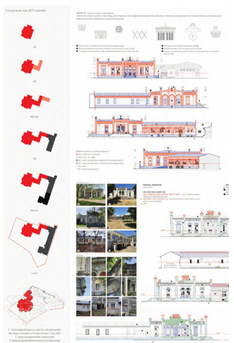




















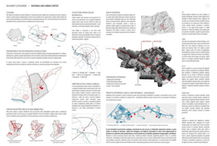




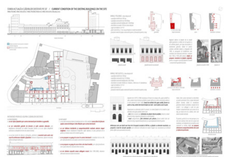
# Activation of the Apostoleanu boyar residence on the Cuza Voda cultural axis - Youth Center

Mihai-Teodor Leica, tutor: prof.dr.arh. Andra Panait

















# Rehabilitation of an Urban Fragment. Student Centre on Calea Mosilor

Claudia-Cezara Roșu, tutor: prof.dr.arh. Andra Panait





# Community Center for Mothers and Children. Extension of the N. N. Săveanu Hospital, Vidra, Vrancea

Georgiana-Alexandra Constantin, tutors: conf.dr.arh. Ionuț Anton, drd.arh. Florin Pîndici



# PARIALITHOS - Archeological Research Center and Marble Park

Sebastian Stoici, tutors: șef.lucr.dr.arh. Mihăilă Marina, asist.dr.arh. Anca Păsărin, dr.arh. Maria Cristina Clenciu



PARIALITHOS
ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER AND MARBLE PARK

The island of Paros, situated in the heart of the Aegean Sea and the Cyclades archipelago, has a long and rich history, with evidence of human occupation dating back over 4,000 years. Historically, however, Paros was characterized by a predominantly agricultural economy, managed baseline, and a landscape of picturesque settlements defined by their whitewashed cubic architecture, narrow streets, and traditional windmills. Over the past few decades, the island has undergone significant transformation, driven by the rapid growth of tourism. Many of its historic areas and sites are at risk of neglect or further damage due to a lack of adequate protection and management. This project aims to address these challenges by proposing a new archeological research center and museum on Paros, dedicated to the study, preservation, and presentation of the island's rich cultural heritage. The center will serve as a hub for research, education, and public engagement, fostering a deeper understanding of Paros's unique history and its significance within the broader context of Cycladic culture. By integrating state-of-the-art facilities with sensitive architectural design, the project seeks to create a space that not only protects the island's archeological treasures but also inspires visitors and researchers alike. Ultimately, it aims to contribute to the sustainable development of Paros, ensuring that its cultural legacy is preserved for future generations while also promoting responsible tourism and economic growth.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

The project explores the integration of traditional architectural craft and techniques implementation into new buildings projects as an argument for the preservation of local craftsmanship and the visual coherence of the built environment in relation to historical settlements on the island of Paros through the local material culture and building techniques. Due to the increase in tourism on Paros, many traditional buildings have been replaced by modern structures that disregard the island's architectural heritage. This project proposes a new archeological research center and museum on the island of Paros, dedicated to the study, preservation, and presentation of the island's rich cultural heritage. The center will serve as a hub for research, education, and public engagement, fostering a deeper understanding of Paros's unique history and its significance within the broader context of Cycladic culture. By integrating state-of-the-art facilities with sensitive architectural design, the project seeks to create a space that not only protects the island's archeological treasures but also inspires visitors and researchers alike. Ultimately, it aims to contribute to the sustainable development of Paros, ensuring that its cultural legacy is preserved for future generations while also promoting responsible tourism and economic growth. The project also includes the preservation and revitalization of Paros' stone masonry in order to preserve the island's traditional architectural character. Through the use of traditional techniques and materials, the project aims to maintain the visual harmony of the settlements and prevent the loss of traditional craftsmanship. Additionally, the project proposes the creation of a marble park, which will serve as a space for the display of contemporary sculptures and the promotion of local artists.



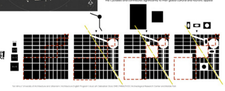
GREECE + THE CYCLADES

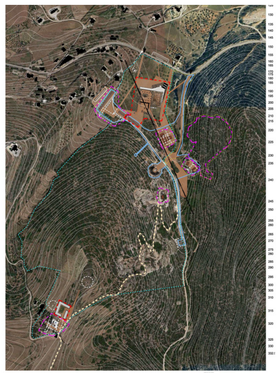
Greece is a country in southeastern Europe, strategically located at the intersection of Europe, Asia, and Africa. It has a long coastline and is surrounded by the Aegean Sea to the east, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Greece is known for its rich history and culture, which have had a significant impact on Western civilization. The country is also famous for its beautiful landscapes, including mountains, islands, and beaches, which attract millions of tourists every year.

Lying within Turkey, Greece is a modern parliamentary republic and a member of the European Union (EU) since 1981. It is also a member of the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The Greek economy is classified by the services sector, with tourism and shipping playing an important role in it's economic success. Tourism alone contributes an estimated 18% to the country's GDP and employs a significant portion of the workforce. Greece is also a major producer of olive oil, wine, and agricultural products. The country's economy has been affected by the global financial crisis, which began in 2008. Greece's economy went into a deep recession, and the country was forced to implement austerity measures in order to receive financial assistance from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These measures have had a significant impact on the Greek people, leading to high unemployment, poverty, and social unrest.

A resurgence and complex history spans thousands of years, beginning with prehistoric settlements and the rise of ancient civilizations. Greece is known for its rich cultural heritage, which has had a significant influence on Western civilization in the fields of philosophy, democracy, literature, and the arts. The country is also famous for its beautiful landscapes, including mountains, islands, and beaches, which attract millions of tourists every year. Greece is a member of the European Union (EU) since 1981. It is also a member of the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Greek economy is classified by the services sector, with tourism and shipping playing an important role in it's economic success. Tourism alone contributes an estimated 18% to the country's GDP and employs a significant portion of the workforce. Greece is also a major producer of olive oil, wine, and agricultural products. The country's economy has been affected by the global financial crisis, which began in 2008. Greece's economy went into a deep recession, and the country was forced to implement austerity measures in order to receive financial assistance from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These measures have had a significant impact on the Greek people, leading to high unemployment, poverty, and social unrest.



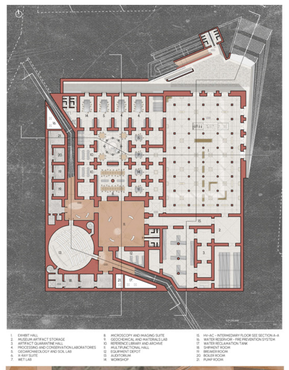


Site - Marathi Quarry, Paros, Greece

The area of the site is 35,171 hectares, composed of two separate plots of land. One owned by the municipality of Paros, and the other by the Greek state. The goal is to collaborate with both actors with the owner of the large privately owned property to transform it into a national park and museum.

Area / Site
Existing Protection Area as proposed by Municipal Authorities
Area of Proposed Development ( PARIALITHOS ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER )
Proposed Protection Area for Existing buildings
Individual Protection Area
Axis
Pedestrian Access
Automobile Access
Hiking Trail
Municipal Land
Private Land





1. EXHIBIT HALL
2. MUSEUM ARTIFACT STORAGE
3. ARTIFACT QUARANTINE HALL
4. CONSERVATION LABORATORIES FOR FULL LABORATORIES
5. CONSERVATION LAB FOR SOIL LAB
6. X-RAY SUITE
7. ARTIFACT
8. ARCHEOLOGY AND IMAGING SUITE
9. EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING CLUB
10. REFERENCE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE
11. STAFF OFFICES + ADMIN
12. EQUIPMENT DEPOT
13. AUDITORIUM
14. RESTAURANT
15. HVAC - INTERMEDIARY FLOOR SEE SECTION A-A
16. WATER RECIRCHUN - FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM
17. WATER RECLAMATION TANK
18. MECHANICAL ROOM
19. BREAKROOM
20. BOILER ROOM
21. PUMP ROOM









