Prototyping the Sustainability of Urban Form

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Prototype

-a first or preliminary version of a device or vehicle from which other forms are developed.

-the first, original, or typical form of something; an archetype.

This workshop focuses on the topic of the sustainability of urban form, in the context of specific urban projects in Tirana, and it will be based on the results of two previous workshops. By 'sustainability' here we mean the disposition of the urban form to persist at different scales of the city in history and play a formative role in the city's future development at different scales and performative levels, such as symbolically, morphologically, and functionally, among others. This topic can be encapsulated under two research problems:

Objectives

How to read an existing city (or parts of it) in terms of the sustainability of its form at different scales

How to design prototypes a future city (or parts of it) according to the principles of the sustainability of urban form.

How do we measure, evaluate, or demonstrate such predisposition of the form the city?

How much has an initial situation in a given site remained intact in a particular historical interval, and which is the form of this configuration?

What is the predisposition of such landscapes toward the future, based on the formal intelligence addressed through the first questions?

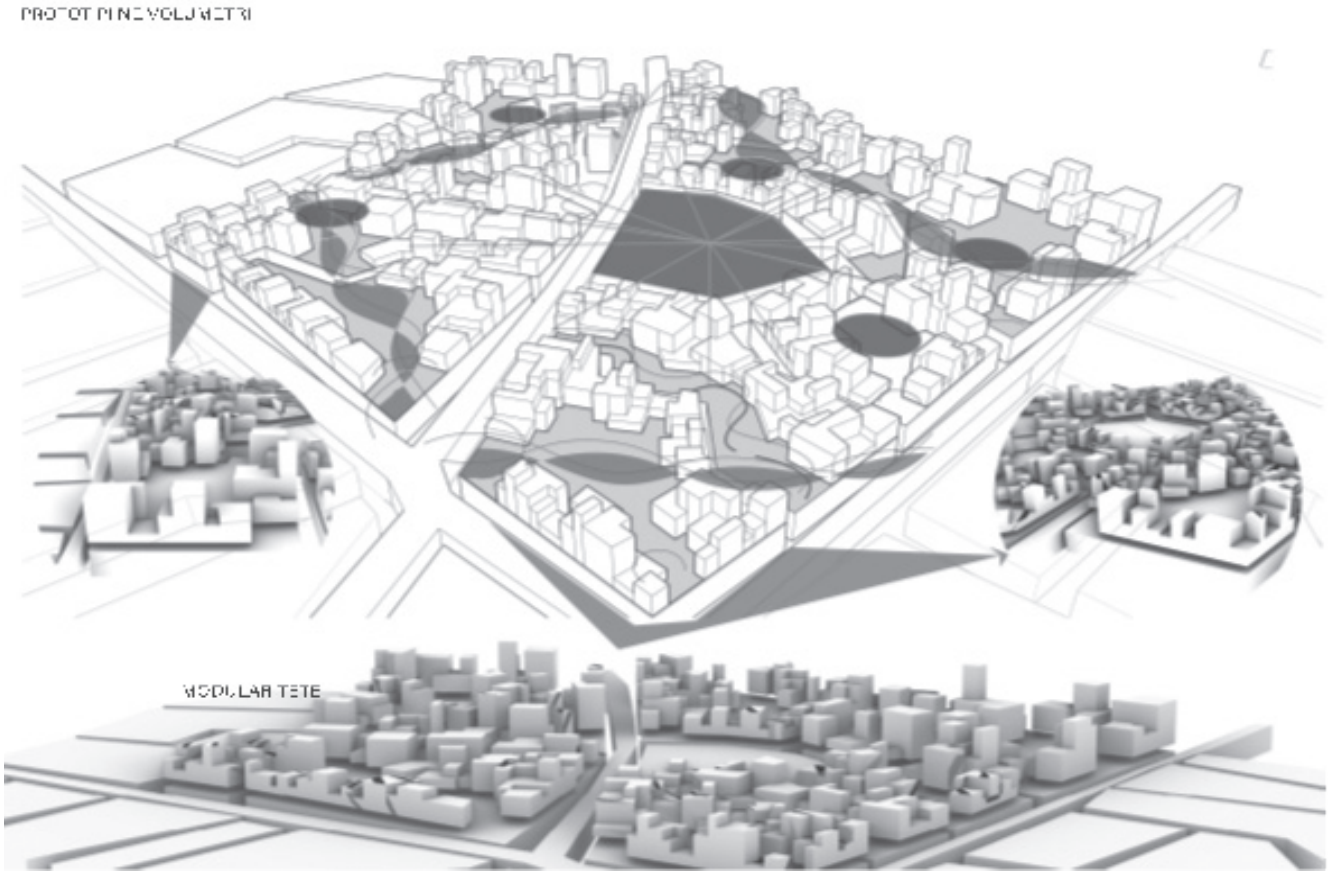
Methodology

This research project is motivated by the urban transformations of cities, like Tirana. This transformation is not only an expansion of the city beyond its former boundaries but also a destruction of the existing historic city from within those boundaries and its substitution with new high-rises. It is observed, however, that some urban areas have been more sustainable and resistant to building speculation and urban degradation than others. The fundamental hypothesis of this proposal is that such sustainability or its lack thereof is an inherent predisposition of the form of the city. It is also our hypothesis that more formal layering and adjacency reciprocates a more sustainable form. In this project we are addressing specific urban sites from Tirana, and we are addressing problems or questions regarding the sustainability of their existing formal predisposition and future potential for transformation at different scales and contexts:

Conclusion

The students expanded their skills in reading the city, conceptually in history produced drawings and models of these prototypes.





Workshop Process Image