

THE HISTORY OF THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN OF THE GEORGIAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY



I corps. of the Georgian Technical University

The originality of the heritage of Georgian architecture surviving to our day, clearly speaks to the fact that our country has seen many talented architects since ancient times. Georgian historical sources preserve their names and the heritage they left to the future generations are masterpieces that belong to universal cultural values.

The oldest archaeological data, namely Greek inscriptions of the 4th century indicate that Mtskheta, the old capital of Georgia, even at that period had its own master architect and artist, Aurelius Akolis.

The Life of Grigol Khandzteli mentions the builder of the church of Khandzta, a certain Amona, who worked during the first half of the 10th century. History also preserves the names of architects working at the same period: Grigol, the builder of Oshki cathedral; Theodorus Taplaisdze, the master builder of St. George cathedral at Eredvi; Michael Opizari the builder of the western portal of the cathedral of Martvili; Sakotsari, the architect of Kumurdo cathedral. The builders of the 11th century include: Bavreli, the builder of Foka church; Michael Khutsesi, the builder of the cathedral of Our Lady of Gomareti; Vache of Khanchaeli, later bishop Hilarion Samtavneli, the master builder of Samtavisi cathedral. We also hear of Chichaforisdze, the builder of Gudarekhi cathedral from the 13th century and many more. A mural inscription on Svetistkhoveli Cathedral still preserves the name of its

architect Arsukidze, who worked in the 11th century.

Architectural and constructional analysis of the surviving monuments indicates that the long and remarkable history of Georgian architecture created by personalities of great knowledge and learning. But the historical sources fail to provide information concerning medieval architectural educational centres.

At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Georgian youth obtained their architectural education at institutions in Russia and Western Europe.



The foundation for higher architectural education in Georgia was laid on January 16, 1922, when the Polytechnic Faculty at the Tbilisi State University opened its doors. The Dean at the time was Professor Alexander Didebulidze. The Polytechnic Faculty included three departments (Construction, Mechanics, Mountain Mining). One of the branches of Department of Construction, apart from road infrastructure and hydrotechnics, was architecture. It became the hearth of contemporary architectural education. Leon Meiqsed-Bekov, Mikheil Neprintsev, Sergei Ukraintsev were among the prominent personalities involved in academic life at the time.

In October 1928 an independent higher technical school, the Georgian Polytechnic Institute, was created from the Polytechnic Faculty of Tbilisi State University and the Tbilisi Polytechnic Institute (founded in 1917). It had three faculties: Construction, Mining and Chemical, and Electromechanics.

Archil Kurdiani, and Ketevan Sokolova-Poraqishvili, who would become very prominent on the Georgian architectural scene, were the first graduates and diploma holders to be educated in Georgia at the State Polytechnic Institute in 1928.

In 1936 this higher educational institution was renamed into the Georgian Industrial Institute. Since 1947 it has been known as the Georgian Polytechnic Institute and since 1990 _ as the Georgian Technical University.

In 1969, the Faculty of Architecture emerged from the Department of Architecture in the Faculty of Construction of the Georgian Polytechnic Institute. It was headed in succession by: Akaki Berishvili (1969-1972), Nodar Mgaloblishvili (1973-1974), Tinatin Chichua (1974-1975), Mikheil Lortkipanidze (1975-1978), Giorgi Salukvadze (1978-1983), Constantine Amirejibi (1983-1987, Nikoloz Shavishvili (1987-1989), and Gocha Mikiashvili (1989-1991);

In 1991 the Georgian Polytechnic Institute was transformed into the Georgian Technical University, and from the Faculty of Architecture there was created the Institute of Architecture, the director of which between 1991 and 2005 was Professor Giorgi Salukvadze, Doctor of Architecture.

In 2005, in accordance with constitutional changes in the law “On higher education”, the Institute of Architecture changed its name again and was named the Faculty of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design. The elected head of the faculty since then has been Professor Gocha Mikiashvili. It is noteworthy that Georgia joined Bologna process in the same year 2005 at the Bergen Summit of the Ministers of Education.



Stuff of the faculty



Levan Beridze, Giorgi Salukvadze, Tamar Chanturia



Stuff of the Deans office

In accordance with fundamental principles of the Bologna Declaration, learning process at the Faculty of Architecture, Urban Studies and Design consists of three stages. The first four years include professional and undergraduate (Bachelor's degree) programmes; the second stage takes two years and includes Master's programmes; the third, three-year long step is the Doctorate. The Faculty of architecture enrolls around seven

hundred students and enjoys the expertise of 130 professors and teachers.

Academic programs on the Faculty include the different aspects of architectural education, which provides the students with ability to create architectural design, that satisfy both aesthetic and technical requirements on the bases of knowledge of the history and theories of architecture, technologies, technical and human sciences and fine arts, as an influence on the quality of architectural design.

There are two departments in the Faculty: **the Department of the Basics of Architecture and Theory** (led by Professor Mzia Milashvili) and **the Department of Architecture and Urban Design (Urbanistics)** (led by Professor Nino Imnadze).

The following Courses are included in these Departments:

- The Course in the Basics of Architectural Design
- Fine Art
- The Structural Engineering of Buildings and Architectural Physics
- History and Theory of Architecture and Urbanistics
- Architectural Design
- Urban Design (Urbanistics)
- Interior and Environment Design.



mzia milashvili



nino imnadze

All these courses enjoy their special role in the process of fulfillment of academic programs at the faculty. Each of them brings together related academic disciplines that are structured as modules. Our courses are aimed at deepening the knowledge of our students and increasing their sensibility toward human, social, cultural, urban and environmental values, as well as developing their sense of responsibility towards architectural heritage, at the same time providing them with the knowledge of methods and means required for ensuring environmental conservation and rehabilitation in the process of sustainable architectural design.