

# Ia Kupatadze

## Education

- 2010-2015 Georgia Technical University, Institute of Architecture, Urbanism and Design  
**Ph.D.**  
Aesthetics in Sustainable Architecture
- 2001-2004 Lamar Dodd School of Art and Design  
Master in Fine Arts (**MFA**)
- 1994-1999 Georgian Polytechnic Institute, Institute of Architecture  
5 Year Program equivalent to Master in Architecture

## Professional Experience

- 2023-2026 The Future of Modernist Housing - Living Labs in Socialist City'  
**Urban Planner/Architect; Managing the Living Laboratory in Saburtalo District**  
Living Lab "Green Superblock"  
Collaboration between Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Ilia State University  
<https://greensuperblock.com/>
- 2023 -2024 Fall Semester **„ Urban Resilience: Concepts and Challenges for Sustainable Planning Strategies"**  
Invited Lecturer (online)  
Realized by Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany) in cooperation with Ilia State University, School of Technology (Georgia), Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv (Ukraine), Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture (Ukraine), National Aviation University (Kyiv, Ukraine), Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (Finland), RWTH Aachen University (Germany)
- 2014 - present Ilia State University, Faculty of Business, Technology and Education  
School of Technology, Architecture Program  
**Associate Professor**  
Courses taught  
Principles of Sustainable Architecture - BA Level  
Integrated Design Studio Course - BA Level  
The Open City - Seminar course - MA Level  
Sustainable Architecture - Seminar - MA Level  
Final theses project - MA and BA Level (Research+Studio)
- 2014- present Ilia State University, Faculty of Business, Technology and Education  
School of Technology, Architecture Program  
**Head of Architecture Program (MA Level)**  
Curriculum development  
Collaboration with professors/students  
Organisation of international summerschools/seminars/workshops/exhibitions  
Collaboration with Public/Private sectors
- 2025 - 2026 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
**Sustainable Mobility for urban and regional development in Georgia**  
Community Engagement Services – supporting participation activities within the CG Project

- 2010 - 2022 Ilia State University, Faculty of Business, Technology and Education  
School of Technology, Architecture Program  
**Head of Architecture Program (BA Level)**  
Curriculum development  
Collaboration with professors/students  
Organisation of international summerschools/seminars/workshops/exhibitions  
Collaboration with Public/Private sectors
- 2016 - 2021 "Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects — Support Mechanism Eastern European Neighbourhood Policy countries" for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine  
**National Non-Key Expert Technical Design Buildings Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia**  
Assessment/consultation/review of the architectural projects  
Site supervisor carried out in the demonstration projects
- 2015 - 2016 "Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects — Support Mechanism Eastern European Neighbourhood Policy countries" for Georgia  
**National Non-Key Expert Technical Design Buildings Georgia**  
Assessment/consultation/review of the architectural projects  
Site supervisor carried out in the demonstration projects
- 2014 - 2016 **Ilia State University and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation** Collaboration  
Social housing project in Zugdidi area  
**Team Leader and an Architect**
- 2005 - 2010 "architects.ge" - architectural studio  
**an Architect**  
Architectural design project  
Working drawings  
Collaboration with adjacent professionals  
Researching  
Working with client
- Architectural projects designed within the group**  
**Green Building** – Reconstruction/New Building – worked on schematic design, working drawings, surveillance of the working process, prepare  
**Kutaisi Rehabilitation Project** – Renovation, which included to make measurements of the existing buildings, research and prepare new  
**Mukhrani Palace and Winery** - Architectural Project – worked in group of three persons, where my duties were to prepare working drawings, design
- 2008 Free lance  
**an Architect**  
Old Tbilisi – Sololaki Region - (Asatiani Street #27)  
To research history, make measurements, develop architectural project/proposal to renovate the building façade.
- Awards:**
- 2025 -2026 **Institutional Development Research Grant**  
The Architecture and Urban Studies Laboratory (Center) at Ilia State University  
"Urban transformation of the Saburtalo district"  
Urban Transformation of Tbilisi through the Lens of Saburtalo

- 2025 (Oct.-Dec) **Colab4Change: Education and Science for Climate-Resilient and inclusive Cities**  
Promoted the development of public and neighborhood green spaces through sustainable and participatory urban planning
- 2021-2022 **Research Scholar at RWTH Aachen, Faculty of Architecture**  
The research focuses on Soviet City Urban Planning processes as well as housing developments
- 2020- 2023 **Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundations of Georgia**  
*Tbilisi as Urban Assemblage*  
<https://urbanassemblage.iliauni.edu.ge>
- 2019-2020 **Institutional Development Research Grant**  
Ilia State University  
Urban Research Group - Tbilisi's Formal and Informal Spaces  
The research focuses on City Structure Development starting from 1934 till today
- 2013-2014 **Fulbright Research Scholar** at Cornell University, USA;  
Research theme: Ethics vs. Aesthetics in Sustainable Architecture
- 2016 - 2017 **Book Translation Grant (into Georgian) Published by Ilia State University**  
"The Philosophy of Sustainable Design" - Jason McLennan

#### **Seminars/Workshops:**

- 2025 (Sept.-Dec) "Urban transformation of the Saburtalo district"  
The research team organized three international seminars related to urban transformation processes
- December, 2025 **Colab4Change: Education and Science for Climate-Resilient and inclusive Cities**  
Sustainable Design for Green Spaces  
**Workshop** together with Ludger Krabbe - Bryum, a basel based studio
- October, 2024 **A Neighborhood Transformation**  
Tactical Urbanism - reimagine the open space  
**Workshop** was held together with Ilia State University (Georgia), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany), and Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture (Ukraine)
- November, 2023 **The Future of Modernist Housing in Vazha-Pshavela, Saburtalo District**  
Redevelopment of Block #6 Quarter  
**Workshop** was held together with Ilia State University (Georgia), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany), and Odessa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture (Ukraine)
- 2016 - 2017 **Reduce, reuse, recycle + RETHINK**  
Democracy Outreach/Alumni Grant Program, US Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia  
**Workshop** together with Markus Penell, Ortner and Ortner Baukunst, Berlin
- 2015 **Pop-up Space in Urban development or Temporary Pavilion**  
Democracy Outreach/Alumni Grant Program, US Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia  
**Workshop** together with visiting professional from Burro Happold Engineering - Ana Serra  
Project goal was to lead and prepare next generation to preserve and use natural resources for design purposes. Live and consider green architecture philosophy

- 2014 - 2016 Social housing project in Zugdidi - a competition  
**Ilia State University and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Collaboration Organizer**
- 2015 **Ilia State University and OTH Regensburg – Regensburg University of Technology**  
Workshop with German and Georgian students  
**Organiser and an Instructor**
- 2013 - 2014 **KTH - Royal Institute of Technology** (Sweden). Technology-Economy- Design  
Multi-Disciplinary Workshop  
**Organiser and an Instructor**
- 2012 **Pilot Project**  
Creating Students Consulting Centre and Internship Development Program at  
Architecture Program, School of Natural Sciences and Engineering, Ilia State  
University

### **Conferences:**

- January, 2025 **Architecture as a Tool for Social Stratification in Soviet Tbilisi**  
In the framework of the symposium: *The Social Experiences of Urban Space in Socialist Cities of Eastern Europe*
- November, 2024 **Mapping Green and Public Spaces in Post-Soviet Tbilisi**  
Legacies in Leaf: A Century of Making and Mapping Greenery in Soviet and Post-Soviet Contexts  
ASEEES Annual Convention, 2024
- November, 2024 17th annual International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation  
**Preserving the past, shaping the future: A case study of research and didactics in Georgian and Italian academic collaboration within Erasmus+ programs**  
Seville, Spain
- November, 2023 **Architecture as a Tool for Social Stratification**  
Building with a Purpose: Reinforcing Social Norms through Different Mediums  
ASEEES Annual Convention, 2023
- May, 2023 **Exhibition - Soviet City: Tbilisi's Urban Transformation**  
Tbilisi, 14-17 June, 2023  
material prepared during the project *Tbilisi as an Urban Assemblage* was presented along with the international conference held at **Ilia State**
- February, 2023 **War in Ukraine - Prospects for the Interdisciplinary Post-Soviet Urban Research**  
International Symposium and Workshop organized by RWTH Aachen  
Hannover, February 21-24, 2023
- December, 2021 **"The Soviet City as an Ideological Space"**  
Studying Eurasia through an Urban Lens: Memory I  
ASEEES Annual Convention, 2021
- September, 2021 **"The Influence of Western Architecture on Tbilisi during Soviet Times"**  
International Conference at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies  
Regensburg 9-11 September (online presentation)
- January, 2021 **"Urban Theory and Urban Praxis: Past, Present and Possible Futures"**

Research Network 37 (Urban Sociology)  
Bologna, 27th-29th of January 2021 (Online conference)  
Oral Presentation - "**The Open City: a post socialist city Tbilisi**"

- May, 2019      **"Three decades of Post-socialist Transition"**  
Technical University of Darmstadt  
**Paper - "From Soviet Utopia to New Opportunities"**
- March, 2019      **Land Use and Urban Planning Practices**  
I.Javakhisvili Tbilisi State University, City Institute Georgia  
**Panel Discussion - Teaching Urban Planning and Design**  
International Conference - Georgia
- March, 2019      **Education in Technology World**  
Ilia State University  
**Oral Presentation**  
Georgi
- June, 2017      **Urban Ecology - Biomimicry in Architecture**  
German-Georgian scientific relations: Partners between tradition and innovation  
DAAD - Deutscher Academics Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service  
**Tbilisi, Georgia**
- October, 2015      **The Empowering City: Social Innovations for Sustainable City Development**  
Social Impact Days  
**Tbilisi, Georgia**
- June, 2015      **Smarter Cities for a Better Europe**  
6th ENAM Conference  
Rome, Italy
- June, 2015      USG Alumni for Better Georgia  
**Oral Presentation + Organizer**
- January, 2015      Green Laboratory: Culture and Environment  
Tbilisi, Georgia  
**Oral Presentation + Organizer**
- September, 2014      **Eco-Architecture V - "Ethics vs. Aesthetics in Sustainable Architecture"**  
Wessex Institute of Technology  
**Sienna, Italy**

**Membership of Professional Bodies:**

Green Building Council of Georgia  
US Government Exchange Program Alumni Association

**Selected Publications:**

**Preserving the past, shaping the future: A case study of research and didactics in Georgian and Italian academic collaboration within Erasmus+ programs**

E. Bersani, M. Koyava-Kipiani, I. Kupatadze (2024)

ICERI2024 Proceedings, pp. 3376-3383. doi: 10.21125/iceri.2024.0877

Tbilisi city transformation processes during Soviet Period (1930s till 1990s)

**Collection of works: მრავალშრიანი თბილისი - Tbilisi as an urban assemblage**

Edited by Ketevan Gurchiani, December, 2023

The work also includes a. maps of Tbilisi from 1934, 1950s, 1970s; b. Tbilisi re-development concept maps from 1934, 1970s; the material was digitalized by the group headed by I. Kupatadze;

Project website developed by I. Kupatadze -

Kupatadze I., "**Tbilisi and an Open City - Hermetically Sealed Soviet Dwelling**"

Tbilisi Architecture Biennial, November 4, 2020

Kupatadze I., Alavidze I., "**From Soviet Utopia to New Opportunities**",

Darmstadt, tprints, In: International Conference on Cities and Change "Three Decades of Post-socialist Transition", Darmstadt, May 17-18, 2019

Kupatadze I., **Ethics vs. Aesthetics in Sustainable Architecture**, Eco-Architecture

V- Harmonization between Architecture and Nature; Edited By: C.A. Brebbia,

Maisuradze M., Kupatadze I., "**Contemporary architecture and natural, alternative energy**", Ganatleba #1(4), 2012;

Maisuradze M., Kupatadze I., "**Contemporary architecture expressive tendencies**", Ganatleba #1(4), 2012;