



Construction site of the House of Academics, with architect Ketevan Sokolova-Qurdiani (1905-1988), first women architect in Georgia

# TBILISI

## A TYPOLOGICAL JOURNEY

In Tbilisi, we expect to encounter a city and a country of immeasurable architectural and cultural wealth.

Tbilisi's history is marked by many turbulent periods. Its strategic location in the South Caucasus, on the edge of ancient and modern Eurasian empires (Persian, Byzantine, Arab, Mongolian, Ottoman, Russian), and on major trade routes, has given the city geopolitical and economic importance. This dynamic history has left its traces in the social and cultural hybridity of the city until the more recent events of the Soviet occupation and the new democracy.

This cultural polyphony has profoundly influenced the architecture of the city, creating hybrid building typologies specific to Tbilisi. We will discover these influences by walking through the streets of different residential areas of Tbilisi's urban fabric, ranging from the 17th to the 20th century.

We will discover urban structures, architectural types, ornamental styles and landscapes, which we will capture through photographs and sketches, while leaving room for discussions, specific to each architectural encounter, among ourselves or with experts. We will actively interact with the Tbilisi University of Architecture and be accompanied by its students, who will share their unique vision of their city and help us to critically reflect on the typical Tbilisian buildings, amalgams of various cultures and periods.

Furthermore, the Tbilisi Architecture Biennale, an internationally acclaimed event, will be held during our stay and we will have the opportunity to participate in the event's discussions and activities which gather people from the whole region.

In order to delve into the origins of Georgian architecture and the traces it may have left on the fabric we encountered, we will move away from the capital for two days to explore landscapes, provincial towns and ancestral buildings.

The trip will be an intense encounter with Tbilisi's architecture, facilitated by local personalities, artists and experts who will allow a unique interaction with this exotic yet unexpectedly familiar context.

### TEAM

Julien Bellot  
Victoria Easton  
Tina Küng  
Meng Li  
Mariapaola Michelotto  
Christian Portmann  
Léonie Zelger  
Stefano Zeni  
Francesco Zorzi

### SEMINAR WEEK

22.10. – 29.10.2022  
Expense category  
D (max. 1000 CHF)  
10 – 21 participants  
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