



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master's degree Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

RESILIENT REMAINS

A Strategy for Post-War Collective Housing in Kharkiv, Ukraine

Tutor

Prof. Massimo Crotti

Candidate

Co-Tutor

Arch. PhD Ilaria Tonti

Arch. Prof. Elena Guidetti

S300776

Begüm Sera Savaş

December 2024

ABSTRACT

This research defends a shift in the perception of Soviet-era residential stock from demolition to adaptive reuse, emphasizing its potential to transform in response to changing needs. It argues for reuse not only as a means of physical transformation but also as a potential catalyst for regenerating social bonds and fostering collective identity in a war-torn city.

The research investigates the rehabilitation of Soviet-era panel buildings into adaptable, collective living spaces as a response to contemporary housing demands and the need for resilience in war-affected cities.

Guided by a historical and critical lens, the thesis explores manipulations to Soviet panel buildings, examining how the rigid remains of an inflexible past can be reconfigured to meet contemporary needs through targeted interventions that foster resilience. These manipulations center on the reconfiguration of space, addressing issues like limited distribution, spatial repetition, and the absence of shared areas.

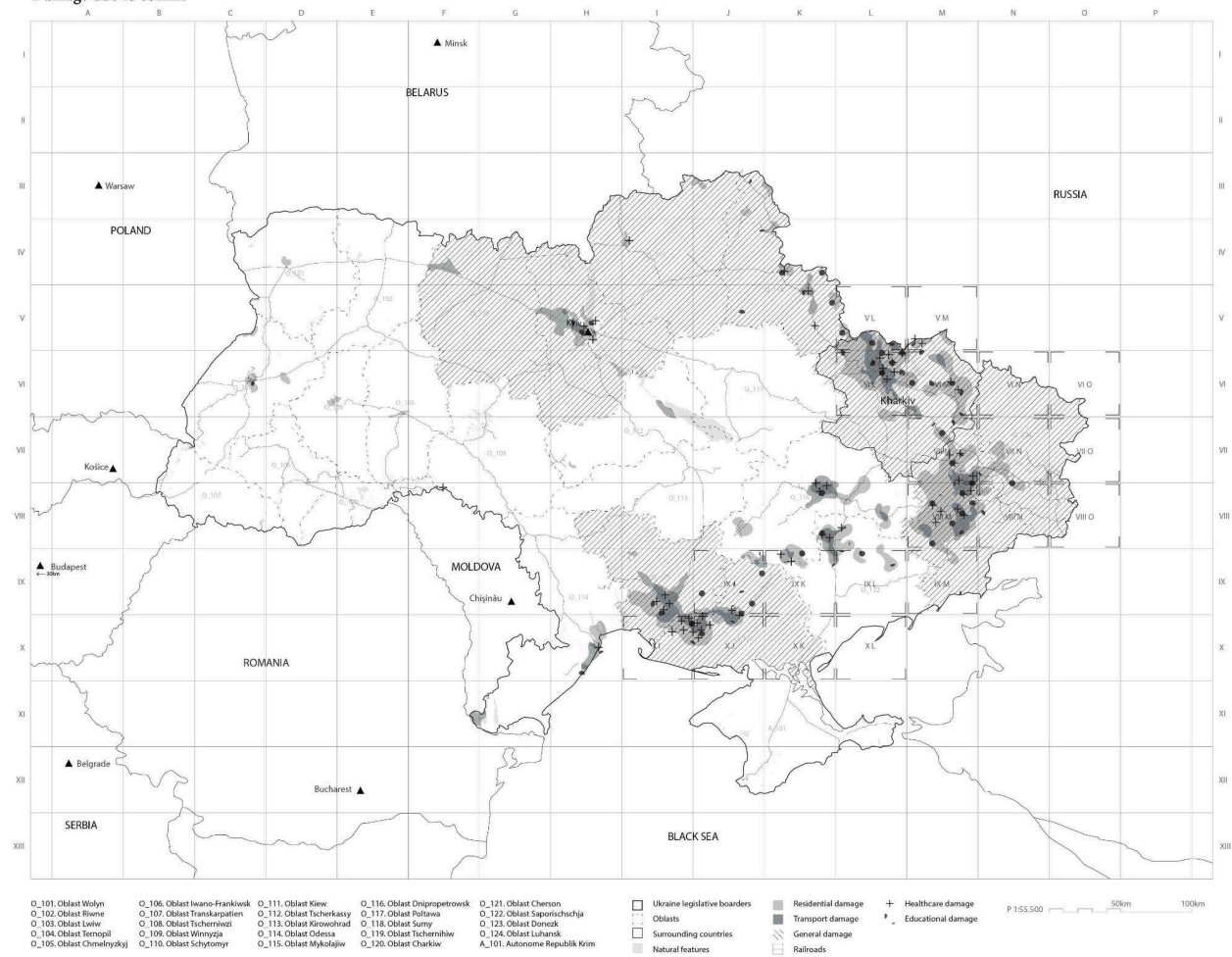
These manipulations emphasize a dual focus on resilience: both structural and communal. Resilience, in this context, embodies the building's capability to accommodate shifting demographic patterns and evolving housing demands while creating spaces that foster social connection.

This study employs a "research by design" methodology, combining design experimentation with theoretical analysis. It originated from my participation in the Norman Foster Foundation Kharkiv Housing Competition, which forms the basis for the design exploration and theoretical research articulated in this paper.

By reimagining Soviet panel buildings as adaptable frameworks for collective living, this thesis challenges the perception of these structures as symbols of urban failure. Instead, it repurposes them as opportunities for architectural and social renewal that can meet contemporary housing needs without being demolished.

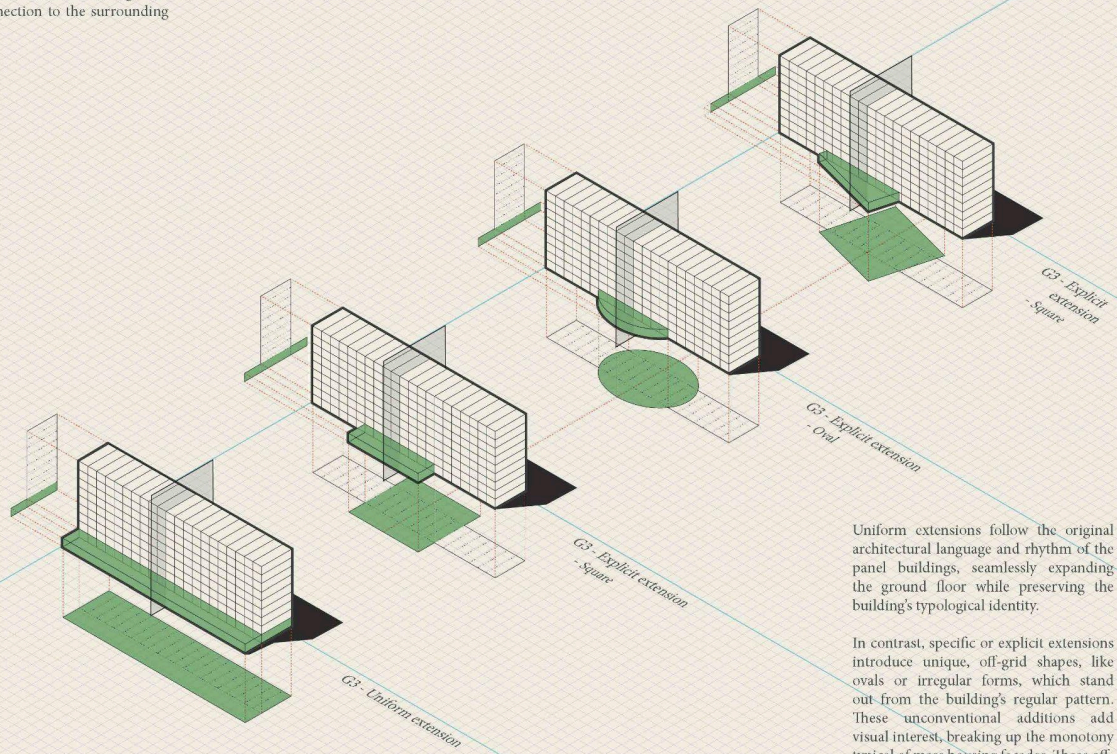
Images

Damage due to conflict



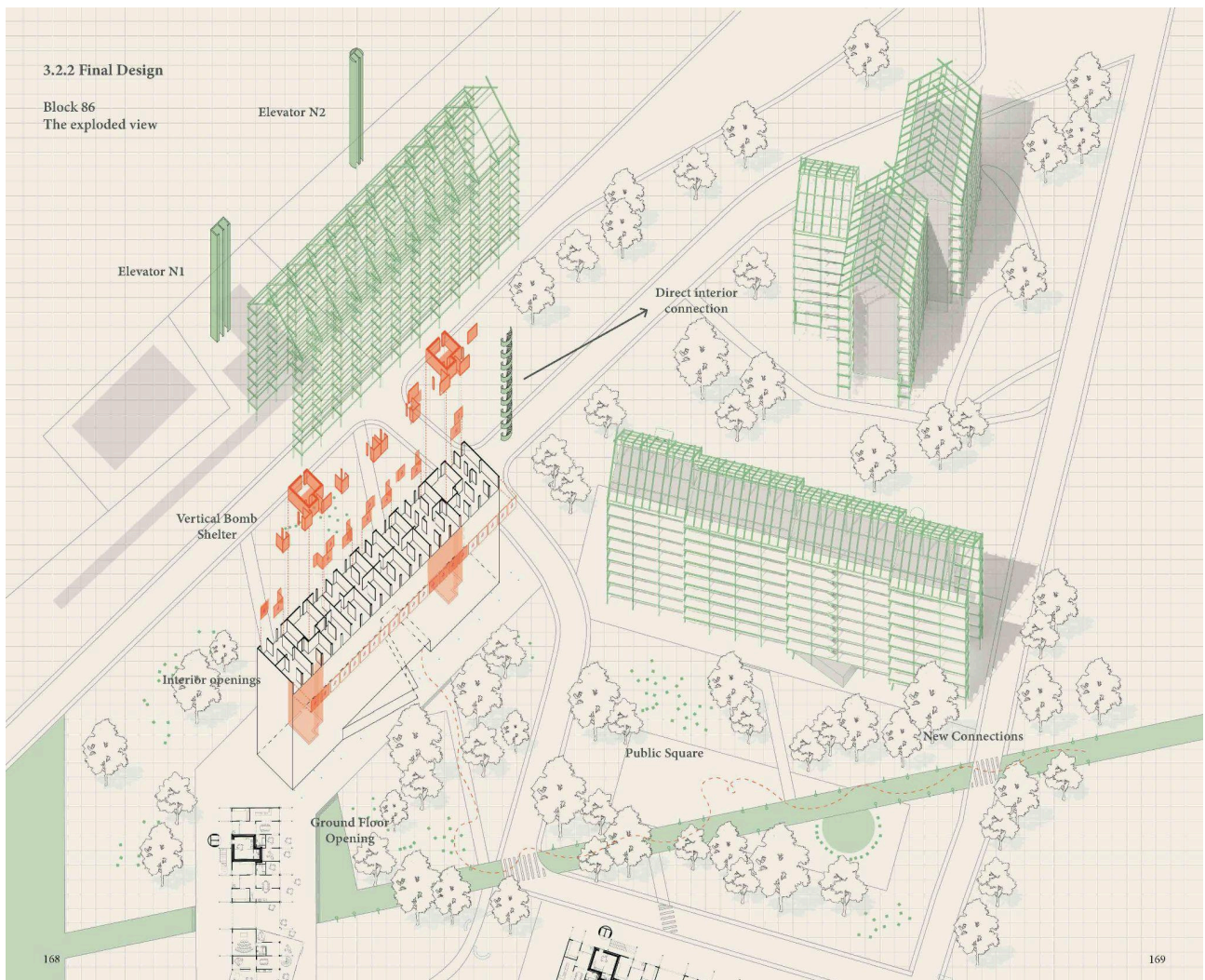
G3 - Extension

Extensions appear to increase the functional area of the ground floor, possibly by adding spaces for collective or commercial use, enhancing the building's connection to the surrounding community.



Uniform extensions follow the original architectural language and rhythm of the panel buildings, seamlessly expanding the ground floor while preserving the building's typological identity.

In contrast, specific or explicit extensions introduce unique, off-grid shapes, like ovals or irregular forms, which stand out from the building's regular pattern. These unconventional additions add visual interest, breaking up the monotony typical of mass housing facades. These off-grid shapes often house special functions, that draw in both residents and visitors, giving a dynamic presence to the existing structure.



For info:
(inserire indirizzo mail, facoltativo)