GLOSSARY

apartment building extension (ABE)
Apartment building extensions (ABEs) are structural enlargements of dwellings in multistory apartment blocks that extend beyond the original footprints of their host buildings. ABEs are mainly present in housing estates in the post-communist cities of the Balkans and Caucasus, where their magnitude and ubiquity often rival the original built structures in terms of size and function.

bottom-up approach
A bottom-up approach in urban planning emphasizes community involvement and local knowledge to shape development. It contrasts with top-down planning, which is initiated and directed by influential entities and governing bodies. The bottom-up approach prioritizes the needs and desires of residents, who are actively involved in the planning procedures.

bus rapid transit (BRT)
A bus rapid transit (BRT) system is an express system of public transportation designed to improve capacity and reliability in congested cities. It is based on separate bus lanes that can only be used by the large buses operated by BRT companies.

cadastre
A cadastre (or cadaster) is a comprehensive record of the property boundaries, the so-called metes and bounds, of real estate parcels. It is often represented graphically in a cadastral map. In most countries, legal systems have developed around the original administrative systems and use the cadastre to define the dimensions and location of land parcels described in legal documentation.

compartmentalization
In the context of development in Georgian neighborhoods, compartmentalization means the extension of apartments by privatizing and occupying vacant spaces between buildings or green areas between residential districts. Collectively owned areas like courtyards have been compartmentalized, with a bewildering variety of walls, fences, hedges, and markings.

district management
District management in the context of Tbilisi refers to the administrative entity responsible for governing, maintaining, and developing a specific district of the city. Its functions on the local level include preparing district development documents, coordinating infrastructure and greening projects, managing social and humanitarian programs, overseeing public property, protecting existing cultural heritage monuments within the district, and responding to the needs of the area's residents.

Five-Year Plan
The Five-Year Plans for the development of the national economy of the USSR [Union of Soviet Socialist Republics] (Russian: пятилетние планы развития народного хозяйства СССР, pyatiletniye plany razvitiya narodnogo khozyaystva SSSR) were a series of centralized, nationwide economic plans for the Soviet Union that began in the late 1920s. The Soviet state planning committee, Gosplan, developed these economic plans based on the productive forces theory, which was an essential part of the Communist Party's ideology for developing the Soviet economy. Fulfilling the current plan became the guiding principle of the Soviet bureaucracy.

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general plan
In Russia, a general plan, often referred to as a "genplan," is a strategic document that outlines the long-term spatial development of a city or region. It serves as a comprehensive blueprint for urban planning, addressing various aspects such as infrastructure, land use, transportation, and environmental considerations. It essentially serves as a roadmap for how a city or region should grow and develop over a specific period, typically 20–30 years.

homeowners' association (HOA)
A homeowners' association is a governing body formed by the owners of residential and non-residential spaces, including commercial spaces, in a specific apartment building in a community. HOAs are responsible for managing common areas and enforcing rules.

Nikita Khrushchev
Khrushchev (1894–1971) was the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1953 to 1964 and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers (premier) from 1958 to 1964.

large housing estate
A large housing estate is a large residential complex consisting of multi-unit apartment buildings or single-family homes located in a single area. These estates often include shared infrastructure, such as parks, schools, shops, and transport hubs.

living lab / real-world lab
A living lab is a field of scientific experimentation in which practitioners from municipalities, professional associations, and interest groups are involved in the research process from the outset. It is a research environment where innovations and solutions are tested under real-life conditions with the participation of end users. Living labs enable the integration of users into the development process of products, services, and/or systems to enhance their efficiency and alignment with real-world needs.

microdistrict
A microdistrict (Russian: микрорайон, microrayon) is a planning unit located outside a core city, typically comprised of standardized multistory buildings in large panel construction. According to Soviet planning standards, a microdistrict usually covers an area of 10 to 60 hectares, with a maximum of 80 hectares. It should not be divided by main roads. Furthermore, maximum distances to infrastructure facilities apply (e.g., schools should be no more than 500 m from the farthest residential block). Depending on its size, a microdistrict usually has its own kindergartens, schools, and leisure infrastructure, such as playgrounds and sports fields, as well as retail, healthcare, and administrative units.

modernism
Modernism was an artistic movement that swept across various artistic disciplines in the early twentieth century, including literature, the visual and performing arts, and music. It placed a strong emphasis on experimentation, abstraction, and subjective experience.

Mtkvari River
The Georgian name for the longest river (1,364 km) in the Caucasus, which flows through Tbilisi. Its Turkish name is Kura.

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non-governmental organization (NGO)
A non-governmental organization (NGO) is an independent entity that is not part of government structures and does not aim to generate profit. NGOs address social, environmental, humanitarian, and/or other issues of public concern and are funded through donations, grants, or voluntary support. They operate independently of governments.

participatory urban planning
Participatory urban planning is an approach to planning in which the community is actively engaged in decision-making processes.

pocket park
A pocket park is a small green space designed for recreation and environmental improvement in a densely populated urban area.

round table
A round table is a discussion format in which a group of people, often with diverse perspectives, engage in a structured conversation focused on exchanging ideas, opinions, and expertise on a specific topic. This format emphasizes open dialogue, equal participation, and collaborative problem-solving and is often facilitated by a moderator.

Saburtalo
Saburtalo is a central administrative district in Tbilisi. It covers 75.14 km² and includes the neighborhoods of Saburtalo, Vedzisi, Vashlijvari, Didi Dighomi, Patara Dighomi, Dighomi Village, Zurgovana, Telovani, and Didgori. The district is currently experiencing highly dynamic development.

scenario
In the context of urban planning, a scenario is a possible future developed to explore different possibilities rather than relying on a single, linear projection. This approach helps urban planners anticipate challenges and explore opportunities.

socialist city
The socialist city is a specific type of city developed within the framework of socialism in the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc. These cities were based on the general principles of modern urban planning set forth in the Athens Charter of 1933. The implementation of a socialist way of life was reflected in the evolving urban planning concepts of these cities. The conditions and prerequisites for realizing the socialist city included centralized planning, nationalized land ownership, and a dirigiste housing industry. Technological prerequisites included industrialization, standardization, and the typification of construction.

socialist realism
Socialist realism is an articstic an literary style that emerged in the twentieth century in socialist states, particularly the Soviet Union. It flourished under under Joseph Stalin's leadership, particularly from the 1930s until the mid-1950s. The style is characterized by its depiction of an idealized socialist life, often portraying ordinary people engaged in work and leisure activities and promoting socialist ideology.

superblock
The superblock is an urban planning concept that is used, among other things, to calm traffic in residential areas. It employs suitable means to prevent motor traffic from passing through the area and instead directs it back onto main roads. This improves traffic safety and quality of life for the residents and increases their health and climate resilience. Barcelona is a well-known example of a city that has implemented the superblock concept.

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Tbilisi General Plan
The Tbilisi General Plan was the first comprehensive plan for Tbilisi's development and shaped the city's expansion. It was approved in 1934.

Transport and Urban Development Agency (TUDA)
The Transport and Urban Development Agency of Tbilisi City Municipality (TUDA), is a key entity within Tbilisi City Hall. The TUDA plays a crucial role in managing and developing the city's transportation and urban infrastructure.

Vake
Vake is an administrative district in the southwestern part of Tbilisi, including the neighbourhood of Vake, Bagebi, Upper Saburtalo, Nutsubidze Plateau, Tskneti, Tkhinvala, Agaraki, Akhaldaba, Betania, and Kveseti.

well-being map
A well-being map is a tool for analyzing and visualizing spaces in a specific area or neighborhood. It shows the places and spaces that people appreciate most, as well as the places they dislike and/or avoid.

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