BUILDING PUBLIC-NESS

ACUPUNCTURE STRATEGIES FOR ZALOG, LJUBLJANA

KUD C3
Urban development in contemporary cities is spreading disproportionately under the imperative of capital. The disproportionate development of the city center and the conditions in the periphery creates a non-homogenous advancement of urban contents in these two entities. Neighborhoods in the suburbs are abandoned, subjected to vandalism, marginalization and violence. Community life is lacking in suburbia and this project will try to re-activate it again.

The generations of teenagers from the suburbs are without meeting places, where they could collectively participate in the neighbourhood life (squares, parks, playgrounds). Because of this, an increasing lack of contents, appropriately equipped facilities and public spaces is present in suburban public life. For the development of a new collectivity in these neighbourhoods, creating physical and functional implements for places of meeting, playing games and developing a dialogue, is necessary. The society, which had grown up in a socialist background, is burdened with the culture of censorship. As a result, people living there are not aware of their rights to the city, which ought to be enjoyed in their everyday life.

The advantages of community life are represented by connections obtained with social networking that enable the organization of various activities built on the notion of creative participation.

This encourages the inhabitants to solve the problems in their environment. The strategy of acupuncture points in the neighborhood is a strategy of minimum interventions. It is not only a suitable solution for our contemporary economic situation but it also encourages a shift from consumer society to society, which is not only aware of the importance of cultural and spatial aspects of housing, but also ethical and ecological.

The advantage of acupuncture interventions lies in the activation of open spaces and setting the communication between users. This activation also establishes a series of activities (urban campaigns, presentations, conferences, exhibitions) that brings the project closer to all interested parties. The main areas of activity will take place in the open public spaces of the neighborhood in Zalog, collaborating with the neighborhood youth center ČMC. The direct participation of the population in Zalog in creating new public spaces and hence cultural content will increase the social interaction between the people of Zalog. The long-term objective of this project is to implement a model of integrated urban development. With participation of an international team of experts new approaches to transforming urban neighborhoods on the outskirts of Ljubljana will be introduced.
The first mention of Zalog dates back to Roman times, when the Romans built a fortress in the 2nd century AD. The fortress was used as protection for the road leading to Atrans (Trojane) and for the sailboats on river Sava.

Zalog with its slovenian name is first found in a document from 1336, written in Gothic script. Shortly after, the name Zalog got its german form Salloch, which stayed in everyday use until the end of the 19th century.

In the past, rivers Sava and Ljubljanica contributed a great deal to living in this area and to the fast growth of the dwelling. It is assumed that the first inhabitants were simple people who worked as craftsmen - carpenters, blacksmiths, fishermen, farmers, day laborers, workers, coppersmiths... River transport was simple in the beginnings of the 17th century, but by the year 1850 Zalog became one of the most important harbours on Slovenian ground, providing groceries, tobacco, wine, grain and other goods for Ljubljana and further on to Trieste. Towards Croatia and Hungary canvas, textiles and iron products were transported.

Alongside Hungarian and Croatian towns and the harbour of Trieste, Zalog was one of the most important places and combined with the fact, that it was a good place for farming as well, it is no wonder that Zalog developed rapidly in those years with the number of people living there increasing fast.

Because of Zalog's growing needs, a port, warehouses and other buildings needed for the harbour in Zalog were built. On the river Sava and consequently in Zalog bigger and bigger ships sailed. Ten ships a day sailed through the area and people living there worked in the harbour.

This way of life remained until the construction of the south railway after the 1st WW, which connected Vienna and Trieste and bypassed Zalog. Sailors and other ship workers found new employment as construction workers and later on as workers at the railway station. The newly built railway was a catalyst for the small town of Ljubljana, because of it, the city started expanding, the empty lots between the old city and the railway were being filled with new buildings, once empty places now became lively built environment. As a consequence, nearby villages were annexed to the city and Zalog became a part of Ljubljana.


After the 1st WW economy and commerce in Zalog's region strengthened and advanced. The working class in Zalog was growing in numbers and that lead to the establishment of educational facilities and other institutions, organizing people in a tightly knit community.

The 2nd WW devastated the area. Zalog bridge served as a border between the german and italian occupiers. After the war the damage done to this area was trying to be repaired. New factories came to the area, barracks were taken down and new housing blocks were built, the rail yards expanded. The demographic shifted from farmers to workers, employed at the local factories. In the 1960s to the late 1980s the number of inhabitants increased, mostly due to immigrants who moved to Slovenia from other former Yugoslav republics. As a result of that, Zalog is characterized by a generation of descendants from other cultures.
The rise of economy in Zalog continued until Slovenia declared its independence in 1991. It seems as though Zalog has been stagnating ever since. The industry has mostly left Zalog, the remaining part of it is an employment source for most people living there. But as the number of businesses is decreasing, inhabitants are finding work mostly in the capital Ljubljana. Zalog is fast becoming a town of sleepers, as daily migrations to the capital and back prevent any form of extra activity in the area and the district itself offers no prospects to young adults. The latter seem to be determined by the time and place in which they have found themselves, a time which common denominator is stagnation and a place that seems forgotten by new developers and the city. As is situated outside the Ljubljana bypass, it seems to be cut off from the rest of the city by the ringroad, both physically and mentally.
As Zalog's future goes it is dependant on the spatial strategic plans for the municipality of Ljubljana. Zalog is intended to get a new Ecological park with a central sewage treatment plant in 2010, a hydroelectric power station on the river Sava by 2025 (map 13 – power system) and a intermodal transport terminal by 2020. The latter would be placed between the rail yards and production zone Zalog II and as such could provide a complete logistic service. It would enhance the development of logistic service and the economic progress, that stagnated until now.
In addition to the above mentioned project, the strategic plan places great importance on preserving the agricultural land of great relevance, which is intended to be used only for intensive agricultural farming (map 06 -guidelines for development in the landscape).

Reference: https://urbanizem.liubljana.si/index3/files/OPN_MOL_SD_06_krajina.jpg, map 06 -guidelines for development in the landscape
A waste collection center is planned for Zalog and it will probably be set as facility for recovering energy from waste as well. (see map: network of waste management centers).

Zalog is situated outside the Ljubljana bypass and therefore falls within the peri-urban area for which, in the future, the strategic spatial plan provides the following guidelines:
- protecting and enhancing the identity of the landscape and establishing clear boundaries (built, green) between the built space and natural hinterland
- building and creating a distinctive identity of the place and a better orientation in space with designing local centers and edges of settlements
- renovating and upgrading leading landscape features
- condensing and rounding up the existing areas of settlements
- overall conservation, protection and renovation of high-quality components of the built space and the preservation of natural values

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maps ZALOG: LJUBLJANA
ANALYSIS OF THE EDGES
MORPHOLOGIC ANALYSIS