

Short Projects 2nd Trimester

Projects for Banská Štiavnica

IMLA 2009 | Nürtingen-Geislingen University | Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University | Rapperswil University

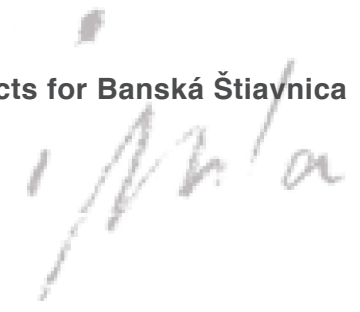
Golden And Silver Corridors | Lars Wolfer | Chinyi Gu | Agnieszka Gorniak | Juliana Aschwanden

Hand In Hand Project | Sofia Lopez | Denise Ascione | Christoph Dankers

Landscape As A Goldmine | Roman Häne | Nils Pudewills | Louis Wenger

Strategic Toolbox For Banská Štiavnica | Franziska Schüller | Martina Tuda | Yvonne Keller

Turning The Outside In | Turning The Inside Out | Markus Peter



Annotation

All works presented in this documentation were part of the second Trimester organised by one of the three Schools of the International Master of Landscape Architecture (IMLA), the Weihenstephan University of Applied Sciences, South - Germany.

The aim is to give an overview over all five projects worked out for the Slovakian City of Banská Štiavnica.

So, all works were shortened and missing parts or sentences were marked by brackets "[...]".

Each work contains an annex where more information about authors and sources can be found.

Location

Banská Štiavnica (German: Schemnitz; Hungarian: Selmecebánya).

It is a small and charming city consisting of five districts which are situated in the West Carpathian Mountains. The city is located in the south part of Slovakia; in the so called Pohronie Region. In 1993, it was designated as cultural UNESCO World Heritage.

Inhabitants (2006): 11.000

Area: 46,74 m²

Population density: 228 in/km²

Altitude: 600 m above sea level

Geographical information: 48° 28' N, 18° 54' O

Website: www.banskastiavnica.sk

History

Gothic times, Renaissance, Mining Academy, Austrians and Hungarians, Turks and the gallery-system of Glanzenberg are some terms which formed the history of the city.

Banská Štiavnica was the most important mining city in Slovakia since the 13th century. The excavation of gold and silver forms the economical, social and political development for centuries and also influences the appearance and the self-understanding of the city.

Besides, this goes along with outstanding engineer and scientific work which can be seen in the city itself and its near surrounding. So, the city is designated as UNESCO World Heritage under the title "Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its vicinity".

1/2/3/a



Linking the urban context

Golden and Silver Corridor





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Profile Team

Lars Wolfer



IMLA since 2008

University

University of Applied Sciences Rapperswil

Graduation

Bachelor of Science (FHO)

Branch of Study

Landscape Architecture,
Specialisation Open Space Planning

Nationality

German

Languages

German (mother tongue)
English
French

Chinyi Gu



IMLA since 2008

University

Shanghai Normal University

Graduation

Bachelor of Science

Branch of Study

Applied Biology
Specialisation Urban Landscaping

Nationality

China

Languages

Chinese (mother tongue)
English
German

Agnieszka Gorniak



IMLA since 2009

University

Warsaw Agricultural University

Graduation

Master of Landscape Architecture

Branch of Study

Landscape Architecture
Specialization (from professional experience): urban green spaces, UE projects

Nationality

Polish

Languages

Polish (mother tongue)
English
German

Juliana
Aschwanden



IMLA since 2009

University

Fundação Armando Álvares Penteado
(FAAP), São Paulo

Graduation

Architect and Urbanist

Branch of Study

Specialisation Landscape Architecture
Postgraduation Environment Management

Nationality

Brazilian

Languages

Brazilian Portuguese (mother tongue)
English
German
Spanish



Analysis - Seeking the traces

1. Analysis - Seeking the traces

History

In the very beginning of the town's glorious history, there existed a legend about a goatherd. He was grazing goats on steep rocky slopes bathing in sunlight when he spotted two lizards – it appeared as if one of them was covered in silver and the other in gold powder.

The goatherd ran towards the lizards trying to catch the glittering miracles, but the lizards were faster and hid under a rock. The young lad rolled the rock aside, and at that very moment he was blinded by the shine of gold and silver ore.



The symbol of Banská Štiavnica, two lizards indicate the origin of this city.

The urban structure (agglomeration)

As a typical European medieval town, the main settlement in the long history of Banská Štiavnica was built along the valley, following the lowest level of the terrain. [...]

In the centre of the old town, the standalone houses grew from the bottom of the valley to the mountain side to a large extent due to the limited space. [...]

Scope

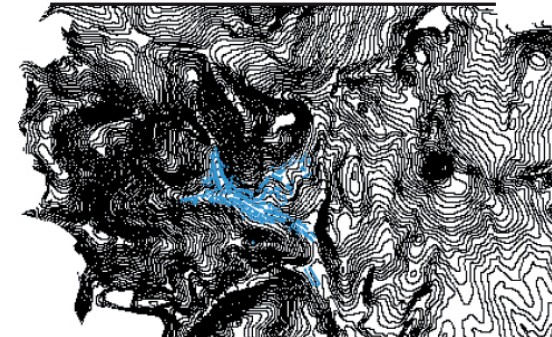
Here in this design the target scope includes the part protected by World Heritage cultural list, including the old town of Banská Štiavnica and Kalvária area. This is a unique complex of settlement in symbiosis with the landscape changing during a long period of time during a long period of time into a culture technical landscape.



Topography

The area of Banská Štiavnica includes the region surrounding the town itself, [...]

Štiavnica Vrchy is the largest volcanic mountain range containing mineral and rock from all periods of neovolcanism. The area is known as the "Mecca of Minerals" with more than 150 types of mineral in evidence.



Left: The scope of the target area in Banská Štiavnica

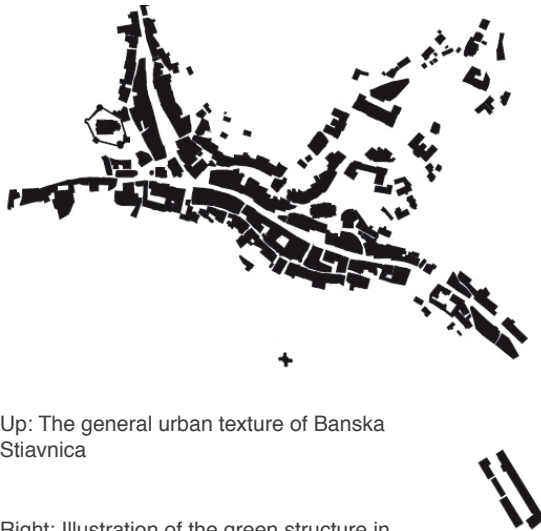
Up: Topography in Banská Štiavnica and its surrounding



Analysis - Seeking the traces

Urban texture

Urban texture is harmonised with conditions of life and natural factors and uses these factors in the very unsuitable climate of this city. The compact inner city is of a dense texture, in which a narrow irregular, elongate dalley pattern could be found. Similar to the other medieval city, the buildings are connected together to be shaped by sun and wind direction.



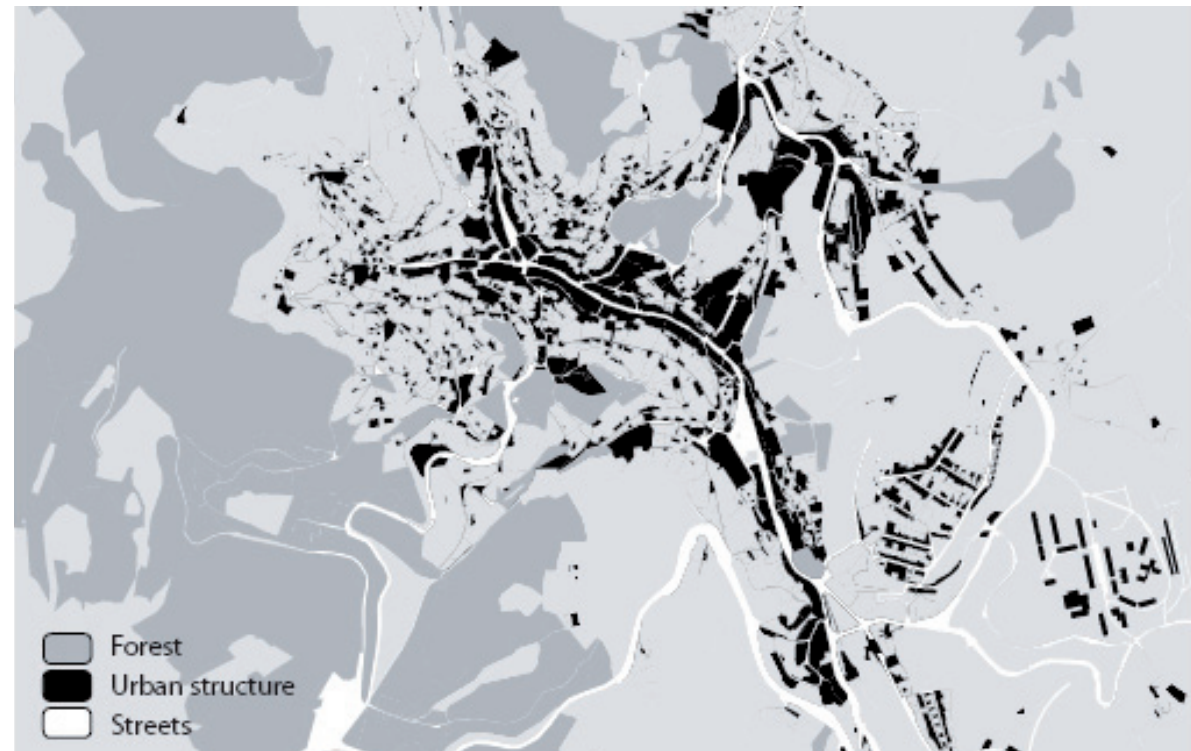
Up: The general urban texture of Banská Štiavnica

Right: Illustration of the green structure in Banská Štiavnica

Green structure

Around Banská Štiavnica there is an attractive Landscape, which is mainly composed of mountains covered with forest and grassland. [...] However, due to the missing cultivation, this landscape becomes over exuberant. Even to maintain the open landscape adapted to the need of recreation costs huge efforts. From the inner city a wonderful view up to the

landscape and the green belt in the outskirts could always be easily obtained despite the fact that in the historical core there are nearly no trees but the row of miners houses. So the landscape and the tree population of the gardens make Banská Štiavnica a city with high green rate. New plantation in the core is a not desirable because of both practical reason and historical reason.

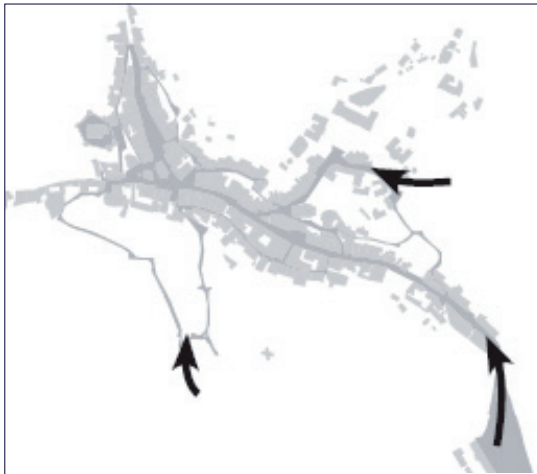




Analysis - Seeking the traces

Entrances

The situation of the entry to the inner city is quite clear. The plaza in front of the Tobacco factory is obviously served as a major entry to the historical inner city for the people drive in. [...] The other two entries are acting as the gateway for the most people using public traffic system. The entry located in the new castle provides a extensive parking possibility [...] The other entry, which is situated in the northeast side close to Calvaria, is a must-pass-by location for the bus [...]



The entrance situations of the historical core

Pedestrian

The pedestrian system in Banska Stiavnica is basically formed in a spontaneous manner by local residents. These plastic pedestrian go through from the city centre to the outskirt, [...]

However, like all other spontaneously developed pedestrian system, the organization of the whole system is out of order, [...]

On the other side, some pedestrian, [...] are in poor condition, [...]



Down: The Illustration of main pedestrian system

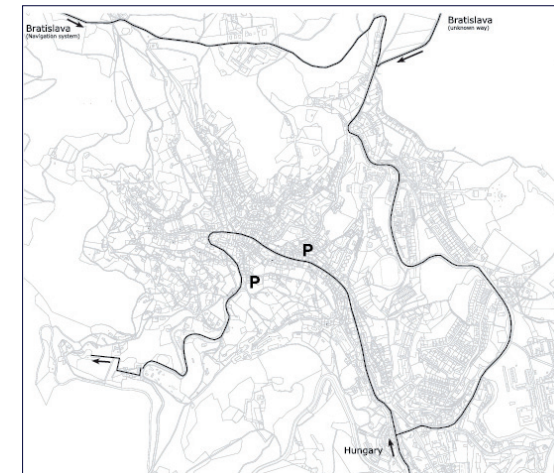
Right: The Illustration of main traffic route of Banska Stiavnica.

Traffic

Banska Stiavnica can be reached by three different "traffic gateways", two from north side and other from southeast.

The north gateways are mainly reached by people from the capital city Bratislava.

The one from southeast is considered as the main gateway of the city, It is situated near by the tobacco factory and by the main supermarket, Billa. [...] There is no railway station in the historical centre, [...] The nearest rail-station hasn't good connections with the main cities. Consequently the use of car and buses



in the small town overload the parking possibilities. [...]. At summer time there aren't enough places for so many buses. [...]



Analysis - Seeking the traces

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Open spaces

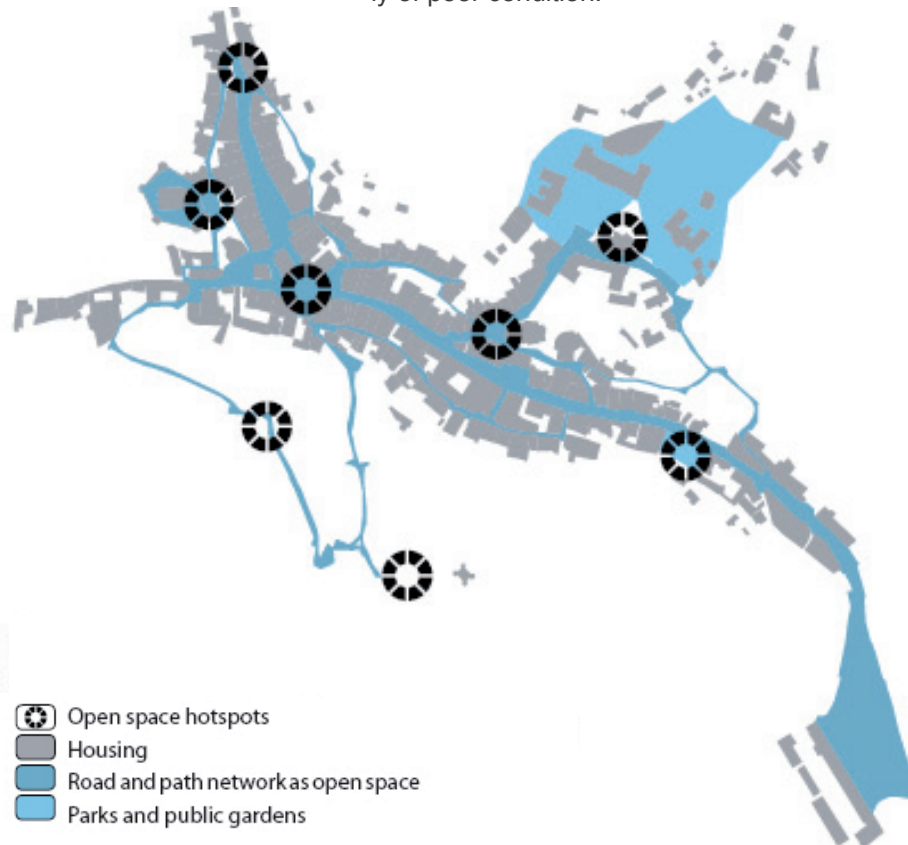
Four different form of open spaces were defined here as the basic representatives in the old town of Banska Stiavnica. They are:

- > The open spaces along the main road
- > Square
- > Side alley
- > Side terrace

The open spaces along the main road and square are situated in the main axis of the inner city. They are usually made up of different faces of the building. Consequently, the current status of the building facade plays a crucial role in deciding the attraction of these open spaces.

Usually the front facade of the buildings along the main road is in relative fine condition, [...]

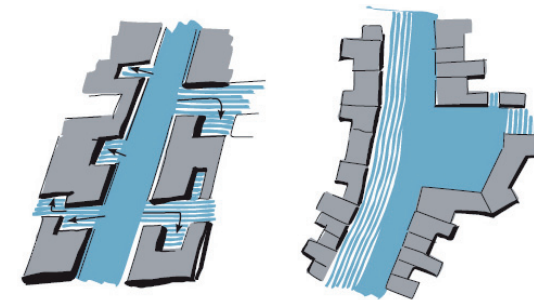
The open spaces in the side terrace and side alley are situated out of the main road, They are enclosed by row house structure and always in various form and size. [...] the open spaces in side alley and side terrace are mainly of poor condition.



- Open space hotspots
- Housing
- Road and path network as open space
- Parks and public gardens

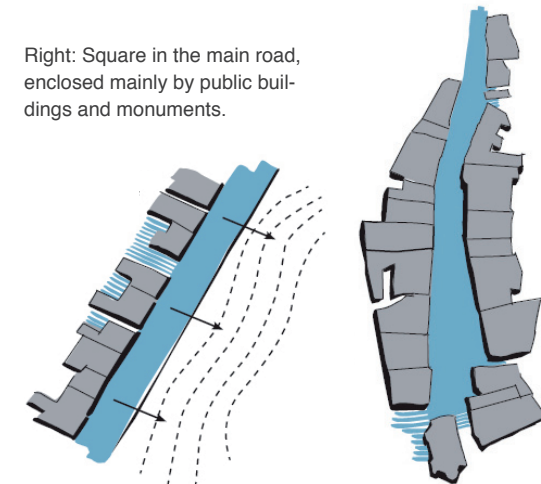
The Illustration of important open spaces along the main road and the alley parallel to the main streets.

To make these open space more attractive [...] measures refer to plantation, paving, lightening were taken into consideration.



Up left: The open spaces along the side alley with different forms and sizes.

Up right: The open spaces in the main road. Enclosed by public building and private house.



Right: Square in the main road, enclosed mainly by public buildings and monuments.

Up left: The open spaces in front of the terrace with the row of building in the back.



Aims - Find the sequences

2. Aims - Find the sequences

Raising the awareness of open space

Banská Štiavnica, like the other medieval towns, is always considered to be a place that devoid of open spaces. From the first glance, the compact developed old town seems to have only few areas that can be considered open spaces, mostly along the main road. The main one situated in the key point of the main road is Trinity Square, which is considered the centre of Banská Štiavnica. The history of the town is directly connected with its location. Rich houses were built around as a result of the prosperity time when gold and silver were explored. [...]

One side of the square is being used as a parking area. In the middle there are a font and the Holy Trinity Monument, a strong mark of the town.

At the other side a narrow side walk contoured the historic houses. [...]

Another open space in the main road is the square known as "mushroom", where are situated the public toilettes. The place works also as a bus stop. The area is in a bad condition [...]

The tobacco factory, an impressive classical building, involves a huge area that is being used nowadays as an unrepresentative parking site. This area is located at the end point of the main road. However, it is not in a good condition and the biggest part of this site is covered by spontaneous vegetation. [...]

Besides [...] more open spaces along the alleys, which are parallel to the main road are even harder to count and recognized. Considering to these status, it is crucial to enhance the awareness of the existence of open space in this town instead of creating new open spaces.



Connection to the open space

To realize the aim of enhancing the awareness of open space, especially these open spaces hidden in the alleys away from the main road, it is critical to induce the public to discover and visit these spaces. Connecting these open spaces and therefore providing an easy access to the visitors and local inhabitants is obviously a premise for a high visit rate.

Left: The distribution of open spaces in Banská Štiavnica

Right: The possible connection between various open spaces in Banská Štiavnica

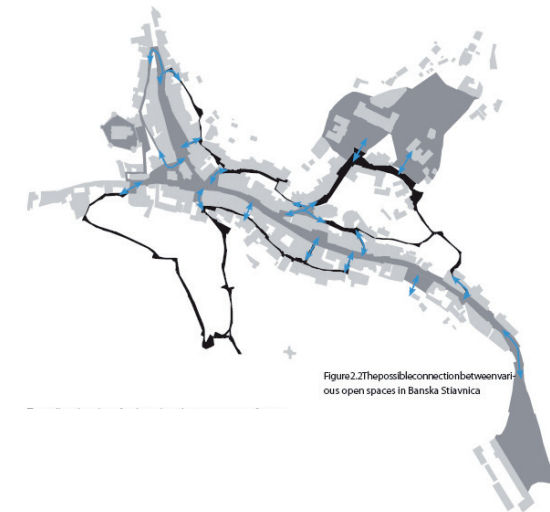


Figure 2.2 The possible connection between various open spaces in Banská Štiavnica



Concept - The ladder to the destination

3. Concept - The ladder to the destination

Golden and Silver corridors

The open spaces and the linkage of the open spaces of the innercity are claimed to be the most crucial issues in this project, which are meanwhile experiencing serious problem ready to be solved.

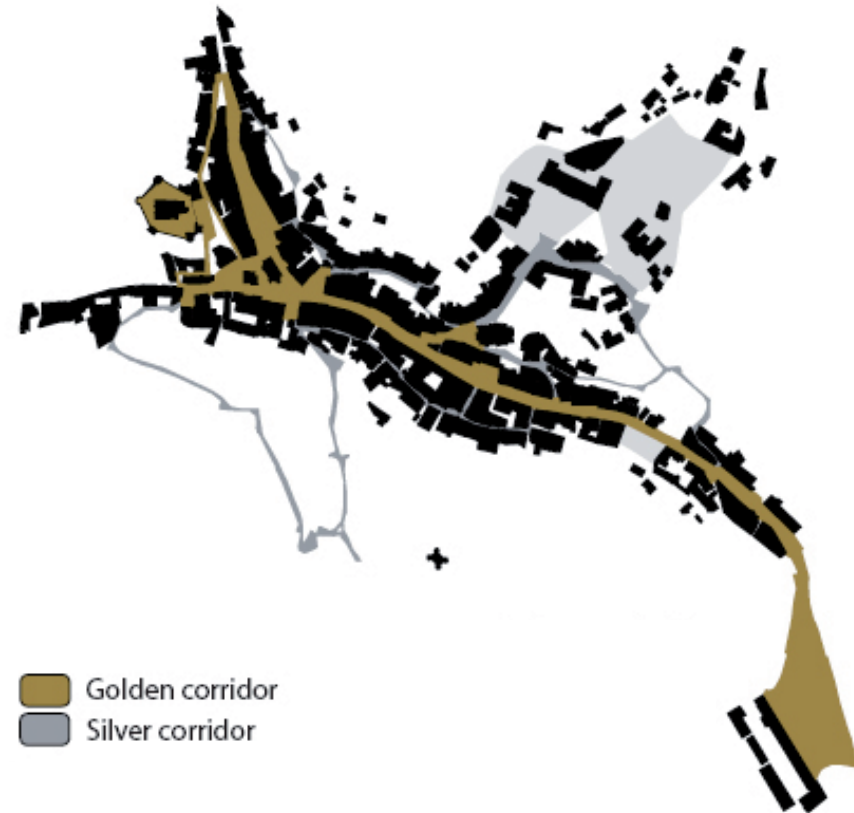
Hereby the general idea of Golden and Silver corridor are defined in respect of the legend of gold and silver, which used to be the origin and most important economic support in the development history of the city.

The so-called golden corridor is the union of all the open spaces along the main road in the historical core. [...] the golden corridor is in a relatively wellpreserved condition, with a more open, symmetric, and magnificent character.

The silvercorridor, which include all the other open spaces and alleys along

the old town, is apparently more subtle, quiet, tranquil. always with a hiddenentrance connected to the golden corridor. [...]

Golden and silver corridors is an systematic concept which could be not parted company. The golden corridor is the backbone relying on the silver corridor as a extension and support system. [...]



The location of Golden and silver corridors in the old town of Banska Stiavnica. The yellow color filling indicates the golden corridor while the grey color filling indicates the silver corridor.



Design - The ladder to the destination

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4. Design - The ladder to the destination

Traffic

- Electric shuttle bus

The existing several bus lines provide the options for people go through the whole city.

Obviously, the current running status is still in good condition due to the appropriate setting of bus stops and routes, which deliberately cover the main spot like Drienova and trinity square.

[...] the frequency of bus line is apparently low [...] Problems are seriously detected when the tourist season comes, [...]

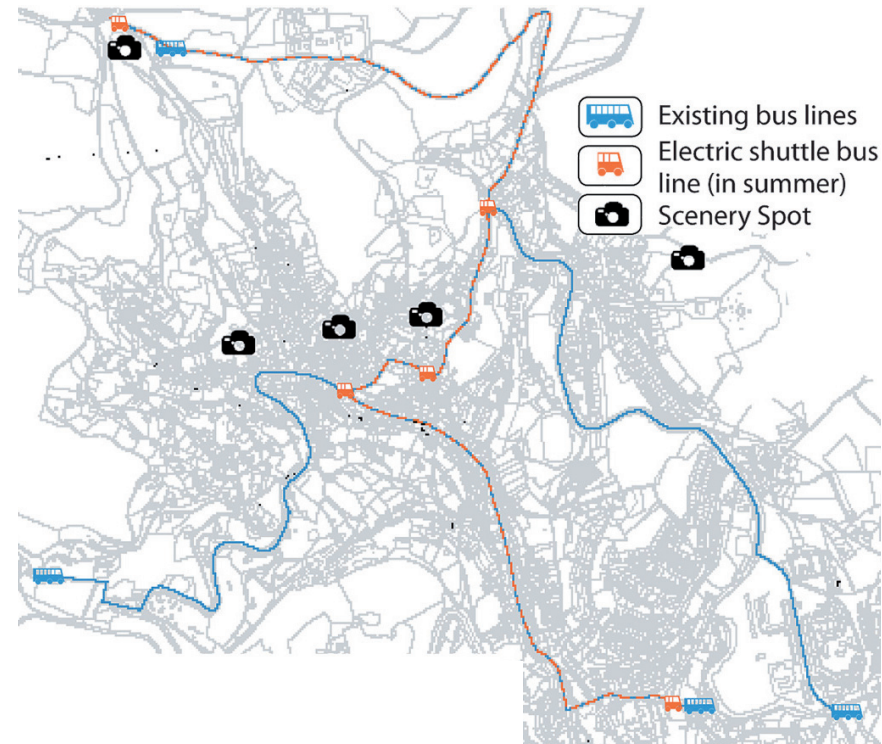
The lack of public traffic facility could be eased by the so called electric shuttle bus line during the summertime.

The route of shuttle bus line will cover almost all the scenery spots in the inner city includes city centre (Trinity square), botanical garden, the foot of mountain where Kalvaria is located.

The starting stop and ending stop are also deliberately set to be localized in Cerveba stydna, where a great overview is offered to look down upon the old town, and Drienova, where the massive residential area is situated.

Even for the local residents, the shuttle bus line would certainly feed their needs. [...]

In the winter, when tourists are not in the peak, the electric shuttle bus will stop to reduce the cost.



The proposed traffic plan.

Blue line indicates the existing public bus line, the orange line indicates the shuttle bus line run in the summer tourist season.



Design - The ladder to the destination

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- Parking System

Lack of parking spaces is a serious problem besieged to the citizens and municipality for years.

The existing massive parking places are situated mainly in two places, one is in front of the new castle, where even tourists bus could be accommodated. The other is also located in the centre of old town, which can only offer no more than 20 cars.

Concerning this situation, three more parking spaces are proposed here to mitigate the parking problem [...]

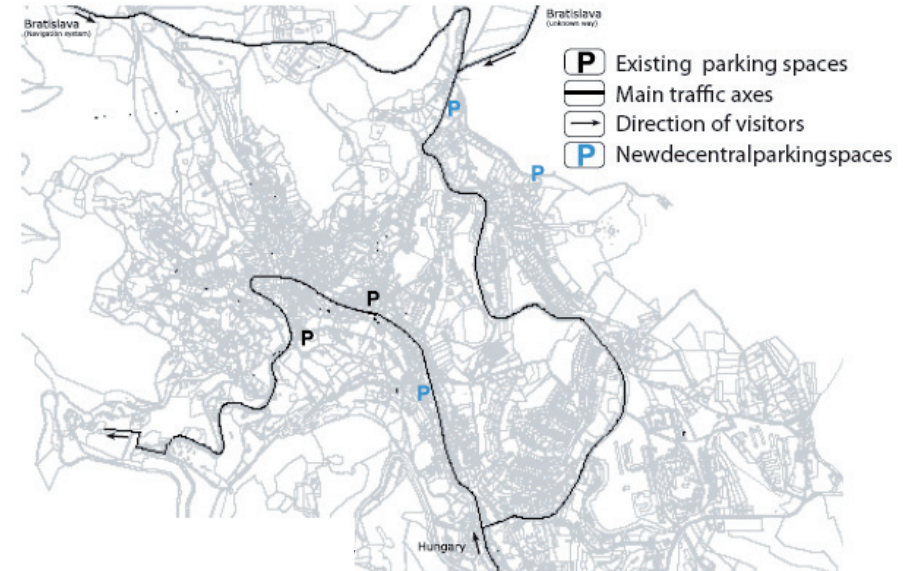
The former tobacco factory will be designed to serve as a gateway for the Hungary tourists to enter into inner city. [...] transformed to a parking centre.

The two proposed parking spaces near calvaria is actually a illegally used parking space, [...]

With the available parking spaces, tourists or visitors from north side to get into the city (from Bratislava) can easily acquired the parking possibility and take the public traffic afterwards.

The parking place in inner city is only available for local residents. In this sense, certain spot of the mountain would be exploited as parking spaces. Banská Štiavnica is geological surrounded by slopes those could serve for internal constructions. [...]

Moreover a parking inside the hill doesn't disturb the landscape, it integrates to it.



The location of proposed parking spaces , serve as main parking center for visitors.



Design - The ladder to the destination

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Open space - Golden and Silver corridor

- Golden corridor: Main road



Left up: The distribution of the typical open spaces along the main road.

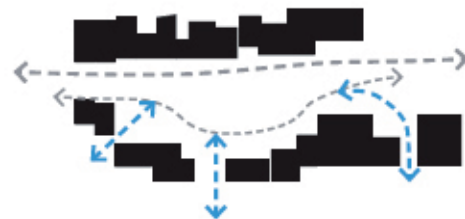
Right up: The distribution of the squares in the golden corridor.



Left down: Illustration of the typical open spaces in the main road.

Current status: visitors pass through the main road without longer stay.

After: the open space tends to be more attractive and provides an alluring access to the open spaces in golden corridor.

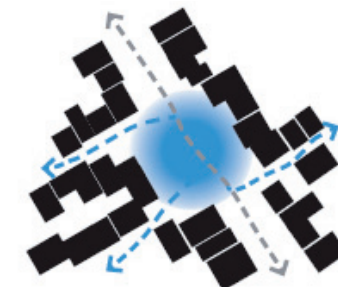
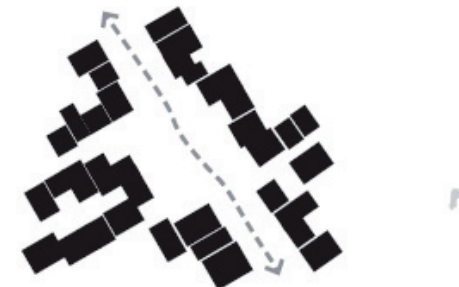


Right down: Illustration of the square.

Current Status: The square, usually served as a open space for gathering, controlling, communication lost its function. A passed by route is preferred by visitors or local residents.

After: The space is more cohesive to induce people to stay, the adjacent alleys are also formed to be more inviting.

- Golden corridor: Square





Design - The ladder to the destination

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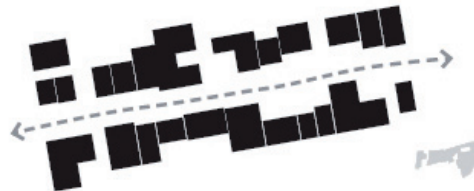
- Silver corridor: Side alley

- Silver corridor: Terrace alley



Left up: The distribution of the open spaces in the alleys through out the silver corridor.

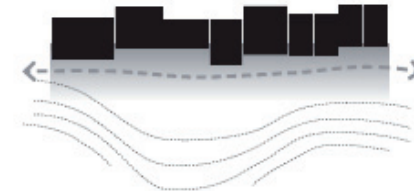
Right up: The distribution of the open spaces in the terrace alley.



Left down: Illustration of the open spaces in the alleys.

Current status: The alley works only as a pathway to reach the destination.

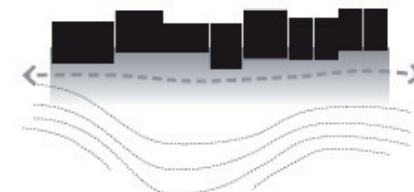
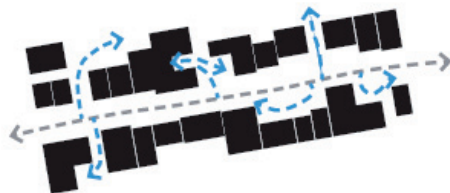
After: The little open spaces are more likely to be visited and the connections between these spaces are reinforced.



Right down: Illustration of the open spaces, which one side faces the terrace.

Current Status: In appropriate retaining wall, fences impede a good view to the city centre, which endows a good opportunity for visitors to stay.

After: The renovation in certain spot offers more view down to the city and building complex, which, consequently, enhance the attraction of open spaces.





Design - The ladder to the destination

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Open spaces - Others

- Tobacco factory

With an area beyond 12,000 qm2, the open space in front of Tobacco factory [...] is currently abandoned and covered with the overgrown plantation. [...]

Here the vacant space is designed as a parking center. The 146 parking lots could extensively mitigate the parking pressure in the inner city. Theme trees would be planted along the main street as a buffer zone to prevent the visual effect of massive parking space to the main road. The residual spaces would be covered by small vegetation to let a free view around. Some functions would also be proposed to integrated into the factory building. [...]



- Cross Andreja Kmet'a - Dolna ruzova

The cross Andreja Kmet'a - Dolna ruzova is actually a covered bus stop with toilettes in the underground floor. [...]

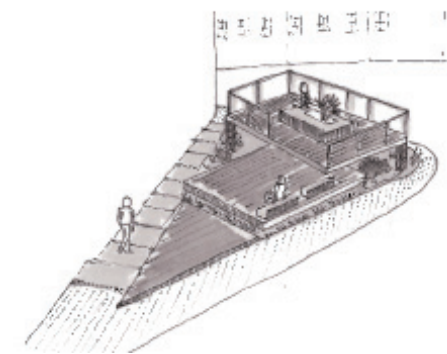
Furthermore the square is located in a very strategic place in the historic centre, where touristic leisure options should be available.



The suggestion for this area is to bring back the idea of cross as a public space for leisure. The square would need space for sitting and don't disturb the architecture's style of the town. The site is a little bit steeply, what allows the construction of a square like a balcony. By this way people could have a pleasant corner segregated from the main street.

The square would be formed through three big steps or three low terraces those follow the in-

clination of the terrain. The space under these terraces would get free, in other words: as low terraces the cross would allow the formation of a covered garden, integrating the cross to the town without competing with its architecture. The material would be similar with some those are used in the town, like stones and wood.



Up: Representation sketch for cross.
Ground floor filled with greenery, upper terrace for resting.
Down: Isometric sketch for cross, wood deck terrace.



Design - The ladder to the destination

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Materialization

• Paving and Planting

To stress the distinguished character of golden and silver corridors, various materials are screened out.

For the paving which is currently not in good condition in golden corridor, regular cobble stone is proposed to be paved to mark the antique characteristics of the historical core.

Irregular katzenkopf cobble stone is selected to emphasize a casual and relaxing feeling of silver corridor.

In the section of Planting, Boston ivy and rambler roses are chosen to fill the gap between settlements, [...]

• Furniture

[...] The bench with backrest, which appear to be relatively formal, would be localized in golden corridor.

Two options of benches, which are either fitted on the facade, or stand alone without backrest would be placed in the silver corridor due to its small size and compatibility to the surroundings.

• Sign system

A sign system is formulated here to strengthen the connection between the open spaces and enhance their attraction, accessibility as well.

The signs for golden and silver corridor are basically in uniform with two lizards as symbols. Either golden or silver lizard is hollowed (or embossed) to mark the golden or silver corridors.

In each open spaces, the corresponded sign will be hang on in a noticable place to mark the property of this open space.

• Lightening

The historical legend, the story of well-known people who related to the city could also be inscripted.



The design of sign for golden and silver corridors.



Various options of light in golden and silver corridors.

Up left: Standalone light for golden corridor. Up right: embedded in light for silver corridor.

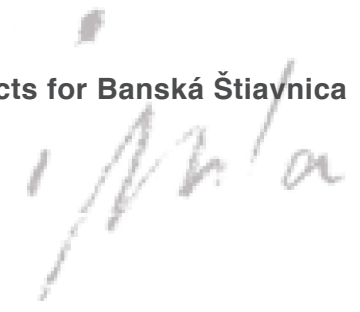


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2. Steffek, Jozef, Natural and culture – historical values of the towns and landscape around Banská Štiavnica and Zarnovica, Banská Štiavnica, 34 p. 1998
3. http://www.visiteurope.com/ccm/where_to_go/city/detail/?nav_cat=677231&lang=pt_GL&item_url=/NTO-Slovakia/uniquepages/regions/cities/absolute-history.pt, (12.07.2009)
4. <http://www.tourist-channel.sk/banska-stiavnica/indexen.php3> (12.07.2009)
5. <http://wmf.org/watch2008/watch.php?id=S585> (12.07.2009)

* All the images and grafics used here are made by individual work or taken during IMLA 2009 summer excursion in Banska Stiavnica.



Imprint

Documentation of five projects concerning the 2nd Trimester of the International Master of Landscape Architecture (IMLA) | Summer 2009.

For more information about IMLA

HSR University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland
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Nürtingen - Geislingen University of Applied Sciences, Germany
www.hfwu.de

Weihenstephan University of Applied Sciences, Germany.
www.hswt.de

International Master of Landscape Architecture
www.imla-campus.eu

Students

Agnieszka Gorniak | Christoph Dankers | Denise Ascione |
Franziska Schüller | Juliana Aschwanden | Lars Wolfer | Louis
Wenger | Markus Peter | Martina Tuda | Nils Pudewills |
Qinyi Gu | Roman Häne | Sofia Lopez | Yvonne Keller

Supervisors

Prof. Dr. Frieder Luz | Prof. Christoph Jensen
Weihenstephan University of Applied Sciences

Documentation by

Franziska Schüller | Martina Tuda

Rapperswil | September 2009.