

International Master of Landscape Architecture

SIGHISOARA

SCHÄSSBURG,
TRANSYLVANIA



**Urban Open Space and
Landscape Concepts**

PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

The view is always from the top. Sighisoara.
author: Abdulmalik Begovic



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CONTEXT



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The region of Transylvania is known for the scenery of its Carpathian landscape and its rich history

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The historic city of Schäßburg lacks concepts and visions for handling historic buildings and heritage, public squares, new developments, urban opens space and vegetation.

Sighișoara (Schäßburg) is located on the Tarnava River (Große Kokel) in Mures county, Romania. It is located in the historic region of Transylvania just west of the Carpathian Mountains. German craftsmen and merchants, the Transylvanian Saxons, were invited here by the King of Hungary during the 12th century, to settle and defend the frontier. Central Sighișoara has preserved in an exemplary way the features of a small medieval fortified city and it has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Each year a Medieval Festival takes place in the old citadel in July. Sighișoara is a popular tourist destination due to its well-preserved walled old town.

The landmark of the city is the Clock Tower, a 64 meter high tower built in 1556. It is presently a Museum of History.¹

The historic city of Schäßburg lacks concepts and visions for handling historic buildings and heritage, public squares, new developments, urban opens space and vegetation. Our Project will have local support from the City of Sighișoara and the Mihai Eminescu Trust who are interested in the results and ideas for their local development projects. The Mihai Eminescu Trust is dedicated to the conservation and regeneration of villages and communes in Transylvania². ■

1 <http://wikitravel.org/en/Sighisoara>
2 www.mihaieminescutrust.ro



The area of the Sighișoara and Baragan village; @Google Earth



Sighișoara; @pixabay



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PROJECT



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The four thematic sites

Here follows a short description of the four proposed thematic sites including a selection of recommended key tasks. These can vary and depend strongly on each team's specific aims, interests, background and approach.

CITADEL HILL



author: Abdulmalik Begovic

A concept for vegetation management for the citadel, including the walking paths and old cemetery around the citadel.

Key tasks:

- The history of the citadel and the hillslopes
- Assessment of the current state and functions of the vegetation on slopes, parks and cemetery (ecological, social, cultural...)
- Assessment of the current state of the pedestrian pathways
- Assessment of relevant cultural heritage

protection legislation or other restrictions on changes to the site

- Assessment of current users of the park
- The role of the citadel park for the local population
- Immediate measures to be taken to prevent further deterioration
- Alternative visions for future use (recreation, study, tourism etc).
- Conceptualization of restoration and new development
- Guidelines for historic preservation and contemporary use of historic buildings



Uncontrolled succession of vegetation has led to many visual and ecological as well as structural conflicts on the city hill. Many small pedestrian walkways are neglected and unsafe.



@Google Earth

@Google Earth

“NEW” SIGHIȘOARA



from the group report

Key tasks:

Concept for leisure and open spaces in the contemporary urban quarter “Baragan”.

It is characterized by high urban density, so called panel houses with poorly designed (or undersigned) opens space, lack of common areas and surrounded by garages and allotment gardens. The open area between residential area and the river hosts new single family homes, a sports-ground and unused openspace with spontaneous vegetation. Parts of this area shall be developed as multifunctional common open space (leisure, park, sport etc).

- Analysis of the urban structure and infrastructure (accessibility, services etc.)
- Analyses of the open spaces
- Special attendance shall be given to the allotment gardens and their role to compensate high urban density
- User needs analyses including local residents and actors
- Develop concepts for improvement of open spaces within the residential area
- Develop a concept for the adjacent free space linking Baragan to the river
- Develop perspectives for financing and maintaining your solutions/proposals



The relatively recent urban quarter of Baragan is located at the eastern end of town as part of the industrial/residential area between Sighisoara and Weisskirch. It is quite isolated between the highway/railway corridor and the river.

DOWNTOWN



Concept for development of opens spaces and pedestrian zones in the part of down town which is located directly south of the Citadel Hill including the redesign of the central park. - Analysis of the open spaces along the corridor from central park to the river.

Key tasks:

- Analysis of the historical development of the square,
- Analysis of the existing design and use, state of structures and vegetation,
- Attention to urban ecological functions

(climate, biodiversity, habitat),

- User need assessment – today’s users, nearby inhabitants etc,
- Evaluation of existing plans for development,
- Development of design alternatives with strong user involvement,
- Concepts for existing and new use with people and cultural heritage in mind
- Site specific design details, vegetation, installations etc.,
- Concept for maintenance, management and financing,
- Models for public engagement in the park’s redesign and programming.



Concept for development of opens spaces and pedestrian zones in the part of down town which is located directly south of the Citadel Hill including the redesign of the central park



VILLAGE RENEWAL



Village and landscape development concepts for the traditional village of Malancrav (Malmkrog).

Key tasks:

- Assessment of the landscape ecological factors and values characterizing the Malancrav Valley
- Conflict maps to underline the importance of a landscape development concept) – only if landscape planners are in the teams,
- Assessment of the village with emphasis on architecture, cultural heritage, regionalism, infrastructure, tourism, development,
- Analysis of different lifestyles in rural areas

of the valley and their impact on landscape values (“subsistence agriculture versus supermarket”),

- Visions both for landscape and village,
- Concept for future sustainable development based on your visions,
- Development of a concept for a multifunctional village commons (suggested by the Mihai Eminescu Trust),
- Detailed implications of the realisation of your plans: consequences for land use, agriculture, nature protection, local economy, tourism, new urban development,
- Assessment of existing EU programmes- can they help to preserve Transylvania’s treasures.



The village of Malancrav is located about 30 km southwest of Sighisoara and over 700 years old. It has the largest Saxon population in the region and benefits from several projects sponsored by the Mihai Eminescu Trust. Students have the opportunity to experience a traditional village and lifestyle in a unique landscape – and can build upon.



INSTRUCTORS



CO-INSTRUCTORS





transition
flow of the landscape



@pixabay

Working Strategy

The main aim of strategical team work planning was to reach the most efficient results within existing contemporary methods of urban space analysis and inventive methods of design answering the local identity. The team members are coming from different cultural and professional background, that's given comprehensive view to the project.

The starting point of group work - was a brainstorm on the task, concept map for working strategy shown below, group priorities.

Firstly we have set valuable group principles, found the site borders and the focal areas. The next step according to the strategy, was the analysis from the large scale overview of the landscape typology, where found out main project goals in a large scale. Coming to the scale of open space network, we made sectional analysis of network and street zoning, which brought us to demand overview and potential for additional spaces. Further we analyzed the focal areas, and found potentials and conflicts on 3 major open space and came so certain guidelines for design. The last stage - the solution composed three parts: the design including master plan, 3D visualizations and sections; small intervention guidelines and the implementation strategy.

All the analysis, evaluations and the design solutions have been consistently checked for compliance with initials aims and principles of the team.

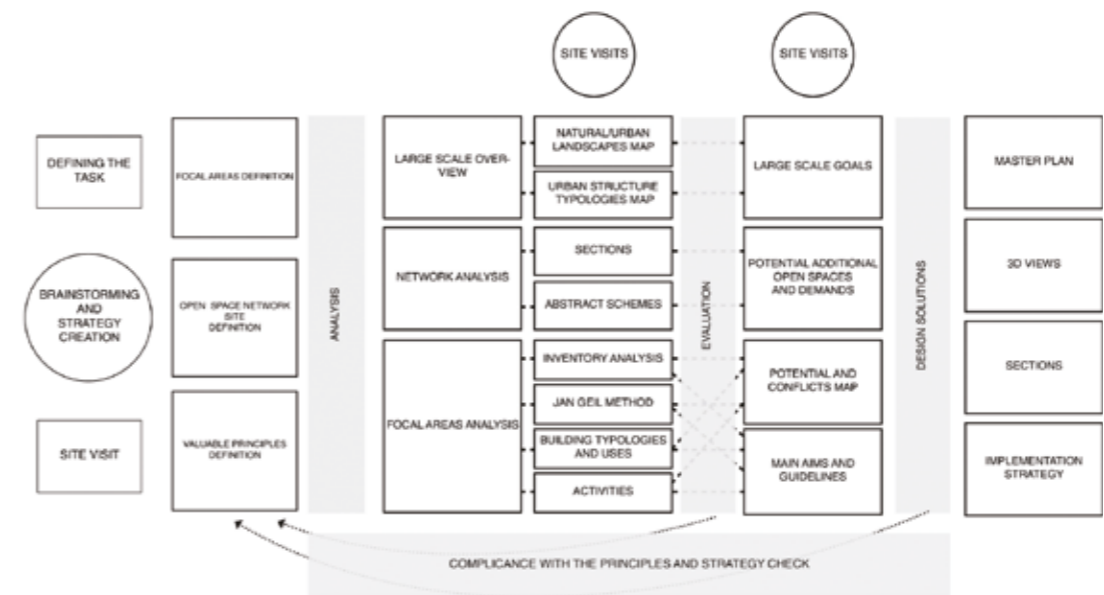
Analysis

For our analysis we included the following methodology to have a holistic approach in a short period of time:

- Map analysis,
- Elements and behavior mapping,
- Site visits,
- Photography and sketch documentation,
- Assessment through Jan Gehl quality criterias,
- Written documentation.

In order to understand better the context of the city of Sighisoara, our first approach was to observe it from the large scale. We studied the aerial maps that we had access to and sketch our main ideas on top of them. The main features that drawn our attention from the large scale maps were the river as natural element shaping the city development and the green structure embracing the surroundings. (see Figure 2 and appendix: large green space analysis) Continuing with the analysis flow, we zoom in into the city to evaluate its characteristics.

From the urban structure of the city we identified the time frame development; dividing the city into medieval (citadel), modern (organic shape) and contemporary (orthogonal structure). Within this three structures an open space network appeared as a connection between the urban fabric.

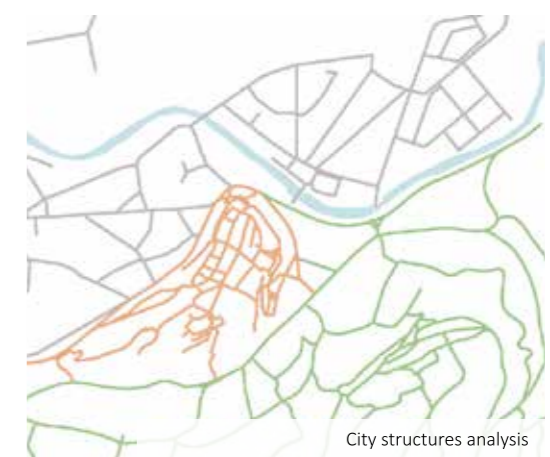


Concept map of group working strategy

We considered important to analyze deeper the open space network, understood not only as surface elements, like squares and parks but also on linear elements, such as roads. Which led us to analyse streets as well as empty space with potential areas.

Within the open space network, we divided it into three focal areas to identify their spatial characteristics and assess their qualities: Riverside space, parking area and central park (see appendix: focus open space analysis). We also included the analysis of the traffic network, which was relevant for us because the road also acts as a connection of spaces.

Once we identify our areas of analysis we performed different site visits to get the feeling of the place and get used to the new surroundings. On each of our group or individual site visits we documented elements or characteristics that were of interest for us and



City structures analysis

our analysis. As well we drawn sketches of important features of potential or conflict zones. As first step we observed the current landuse of the buildings surrounding the open space network, in order to understand the functions of the different spaces.

Later on this information allowed us to map the different elements and characteristics of the spaces. We consider urban and natural elements like benches, lights, trash bins and trees; as well as the existing conditions and type of the pavements and their accessibility to walk, cycle and drive. We create different maps for the three focus areas and the analysed element (see appendix: analysis maps).

We also observe on a more objective manner, how the spaces were used by locals and tourists, mapping which activities they perform and on which locations. Following the 12 quality criterias of Jan Gehl, we analyze the



Large scale green space analysis

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Open space definition

“

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focus areas in a more subjective way, with our own perception of the area as landscape architects assigning a number from 0-7, where 0 was absence of that criteria and 7 was the fulfillment of that criteria. We identified 2 main interesting points. First is width transition of function. For example, in the main road, the pedestrian way is getting narrower from the city centre to the residential area. Second are popping up spaces, how a green space or a parking area is popping up suddenly and disappear immediately. Those are representing as sharp, pointed shape in the diagram. Those are adding unique characteristics into the periphery.

At the end we summarized the quality assessment on a spider chart to visualize our areas of opportunity for intervention; for each of the individual sites and one collective.

For the traffic network connection we did sectional analysis, drawing several sections along the streets in order to understand the spatial composition. Unlike analysis through plan view, the sectional analysis gives us height information. We can obtain the difference in height of the surrounding buildings and small interventions, and the way the dynamics of the street change creating potential areas along it.

First, we define 3 street typologies based on traffic intensity and surrounding elements, those are the main street, entrance street and residential street. Then we wrote a set of the section along each street.



Jan Gehl criterias

Then, we extracted street zoning, such as road, pedestrian way and car parking, from each section. Next, we made street zoning proportion. Based on this information, each street typology was re-identified with activities. As well as identities with human activities, demands of each street could be read from street zoning proportion. For example, there are many parked areas, not proper design for that purpose but used by people, in residential streets. Which shows the lack of parking areas on these streets.

Next, we made a transitional diagram of the street in order to understand spatial characteristics along the streets. This analysis has three steps; first, to represent each section by one line only with function and its width information. Second, to align these lines in order at regular interval. Third, to connect edges of functions of adjacent lines by straight lines. This analysis provided us information of the street structure and potential areas for improvement.

Evaluation

The previous analysis of the open space allowed us to evaluate the current conditions, conflicts and potentials of the area. From the initial large scale analysis of Sighisoara, we became aware of the importance of the green structure for the city development and the cur-

“

Following the 12 quality criterias of Jan Gehl, we analyze the focus areas in a more subjective way, with our own perception of the area as landscape architects assigning a number from 0-7, where 0 was absence of that criteria and 7 was the fulfillment of that criteria.



Potential map

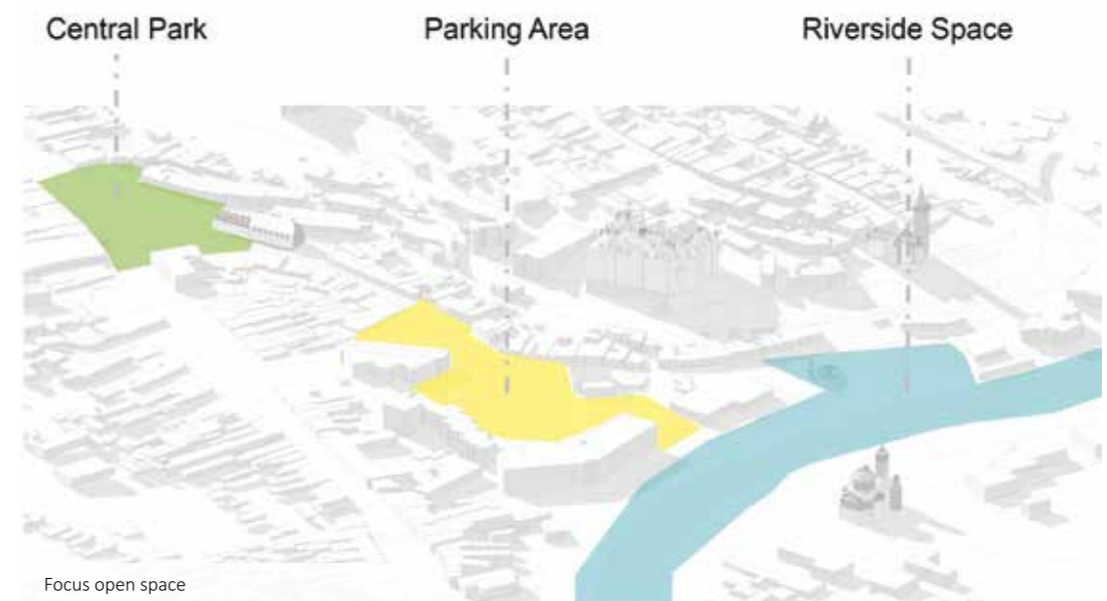
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The individual analysis of each space showed us the areas of conflict as well as the areas for future possible development.

rent missing connection, that we consider as an opportunity for planning.

The definition of the open space network, made it possible to set the borders and evaluate their spatial characteristics within the urban structure. This network constituted a focus point in our analysis in order to find a connection between the settlements, providing a mixture of activities and spaces. The individual analysis of each space showed us the areas of conflict as well as the areas for future possible development. We were able to identify the spatial elements that composed the 3 focus areas, the current state and the quality of the elements and the uses of the space.

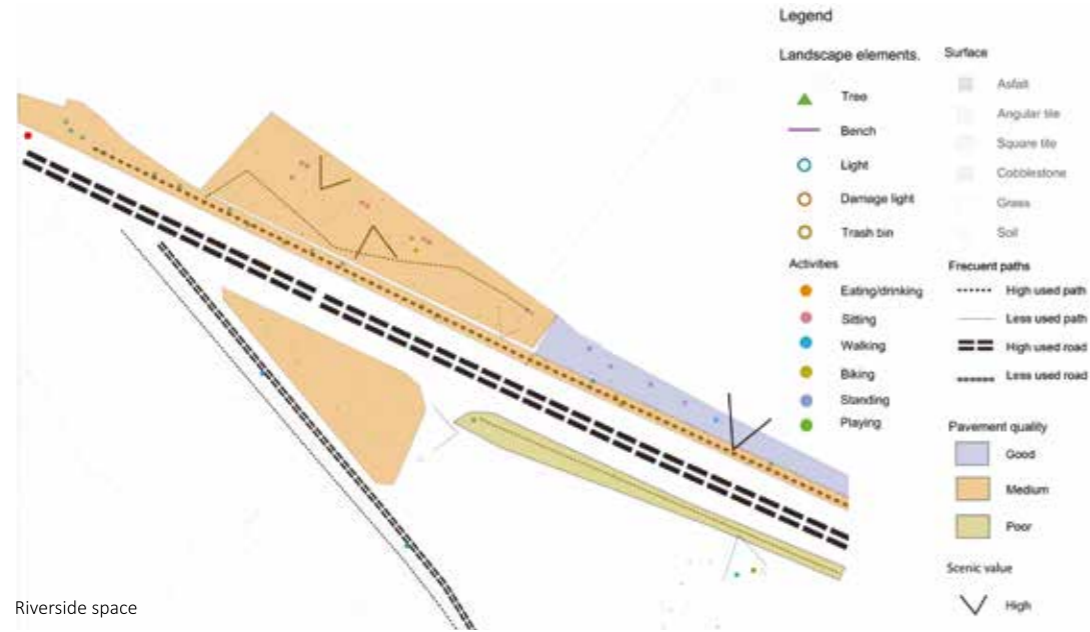
The riverside space showed an even distribution of spatial elements, with some areas with low quality or deteriorated materials. A variety of uses was poor, since there is not space for outdoor activities rather than biking. And even the bike line has not the appropriated hierarchy and definition. The behavior mapping reveal low pedestrian uses and few people using the space on different times of the day. Due to the intensive traffic, the riverside is view just as a connection road without further recreational purposes. Which show us the potential for introducing new activities to the site.



Focus open space

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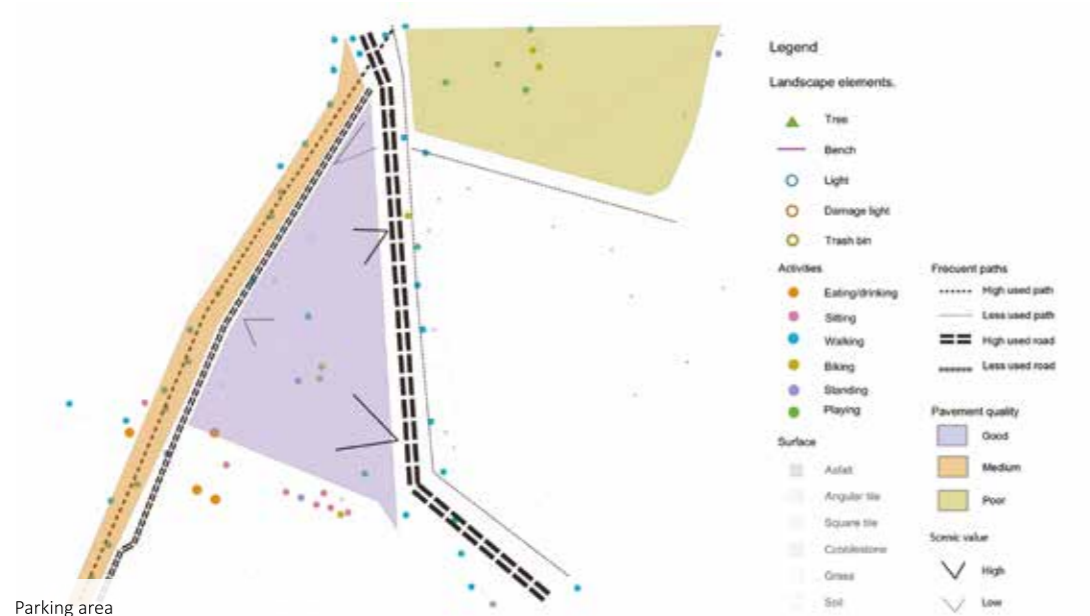
Riverside space

The parking area has a lot of qualities as open space because of the potential of scenic views of the citadel. This space was the one with lower quality assessment in terms of materials and spatial elements because of its lack of definition and use. Mostly use for parking purposes. The behaviour mapping reveal the intense activity of touristic flow as an entrance point and the existing separation between locals and tourist. The experts input also show the importance of this place as an event location for different activities. We also saw this potential to foment the interaction between locals and tourist and also the new daily life with the historic citadel.

ements since it is the only space well identify by urban borders and it is also part of the collective mind of the people. It is a focus point of the city with all the historic background as a former market place. However some elements of the park showed some deterioration or lack of maintenance which reduce the accessibility of the place. Since it is an important node of the city, different activities took place on the site even if the place is not well suited for them. For example, a defined bike line. The area is highly used both by locals and tourist during all day. Due to the intense activity of the place, we saw potential on re arrange the structure of the central park but maintaining the current activities.

The central park analysis show the higher quality assessment regarding spatial el-

From street zoning proportion, we can



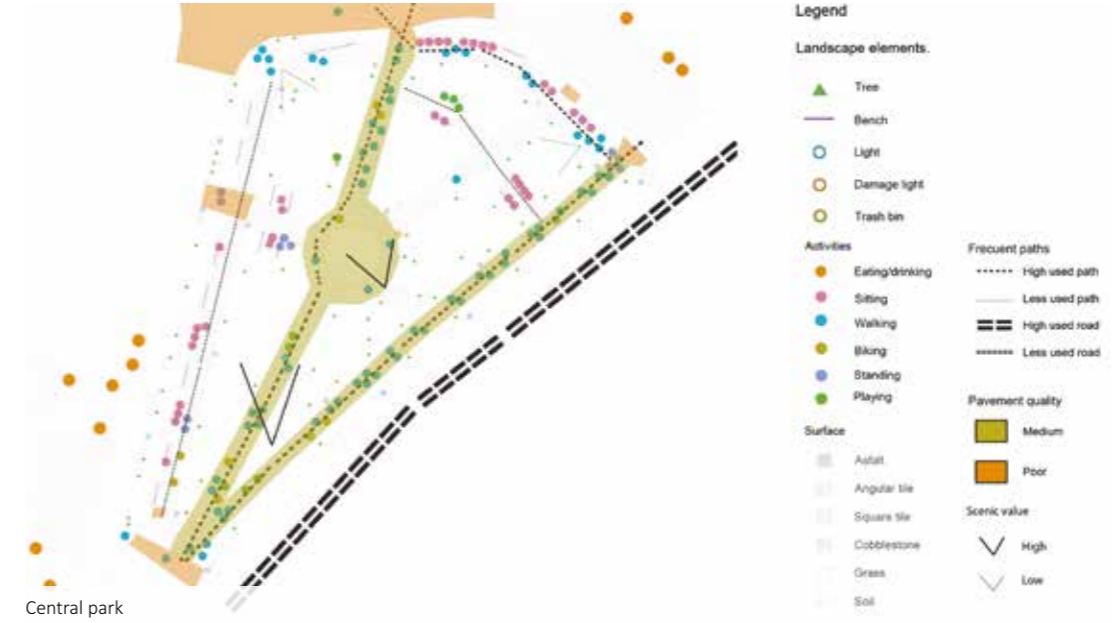
Parking area

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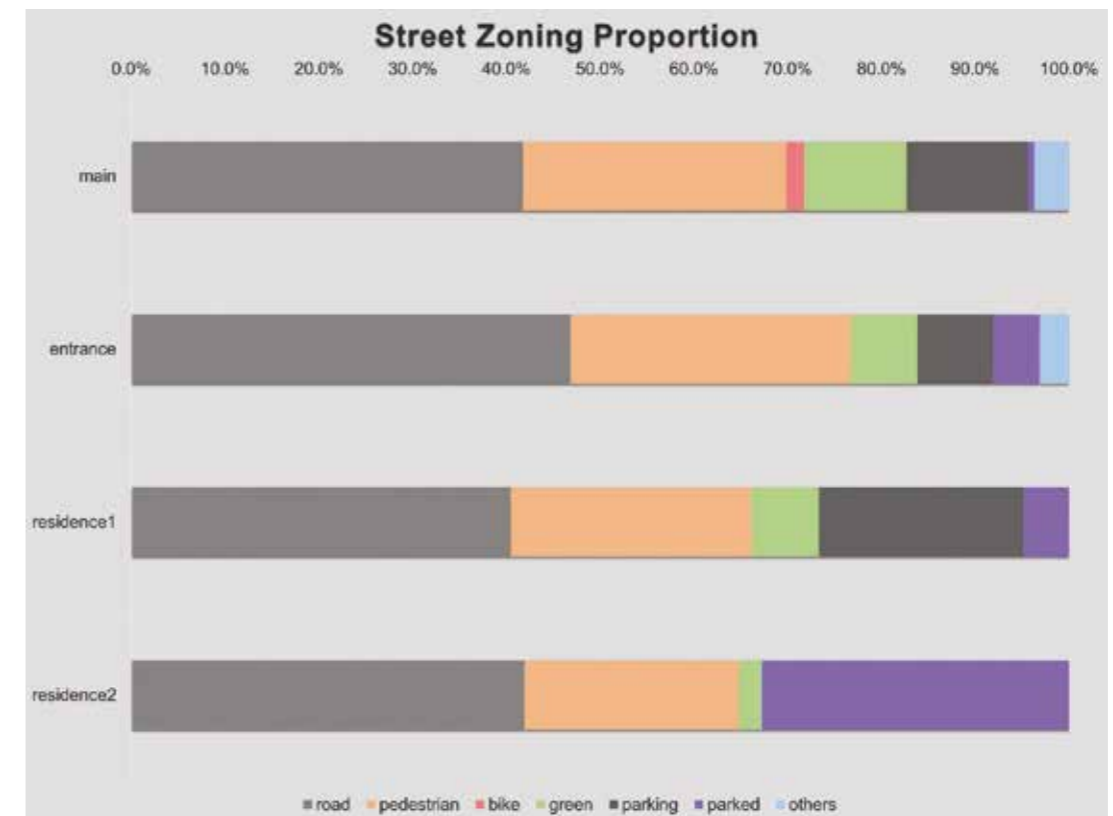
The central park analysis show the higher quality assessment regarding spatial elements since it is the only space well identify by urban borders and it is also part of the collective mind of the people. It is a focus point of the city with all the historic background as a former market place.



Central park

extract excessive function and demands of each area. On entrance street, almost 50 percentage of the street is covered by road for a car even though entrance area of Sighisoara has many potentials to be open space. Therefore, car road on the street can be redeveloped as a pedestrian way or "shared street". Then, on the residential street, there is no proper parking area but there are many parked areas. Hence, car parking could be installed on current parked area, then, small open spaces could be made instead of parked area with controlling car amount.

Through transition diagram of the street, we can find popping up spaces giving unique characteristics to surroundings. Most of them are green areas but sometimes those are parking areas. No matter what these popping up spaces are, there is a potential to create an intervention as open space in those areas. Especially parked areas should be definitely redeveloped as a different function such as proper parked area, green area or small open space. Additionally, we can also find a quite narrow pedestrian way and bicycle road, which



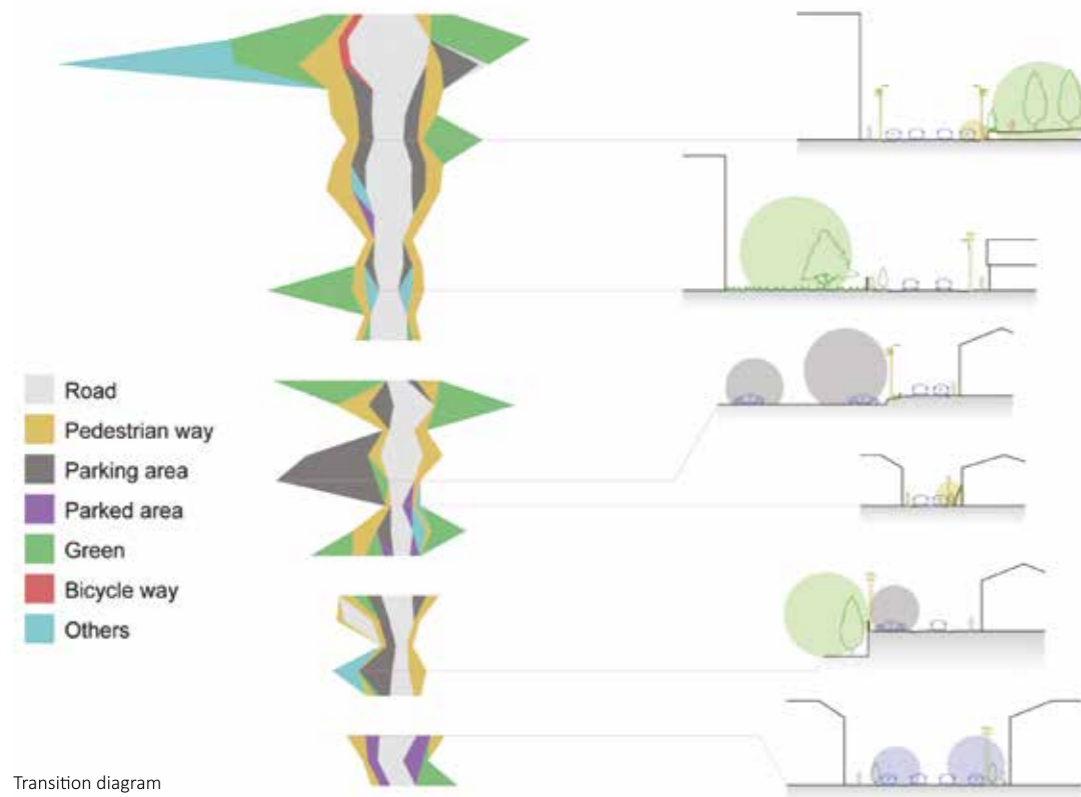
Street zoning proportion

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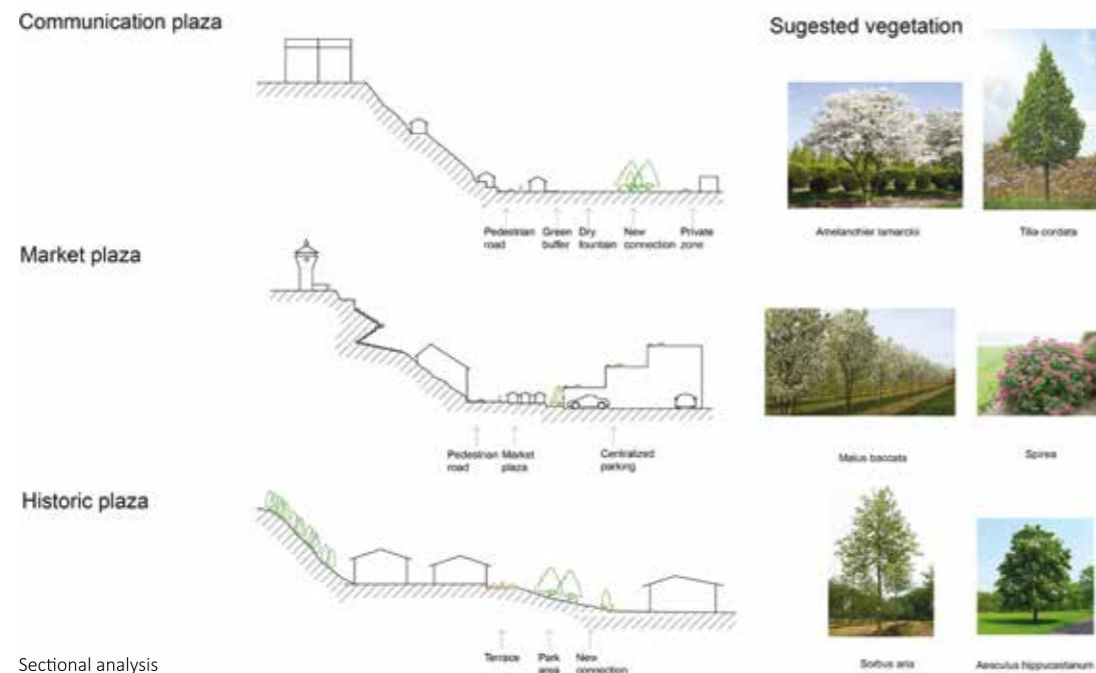
does not go into the city center and residential area. These ways could be improved as “shared street” in conjunction with the replacement of car road on entrance street.

Throughout the whole sectional analysis, we found a lot of potential spaces to be open space, not only large square but also small space. It is probably difficult to create continuous open space line covering the whole

city, but we can draw open space “dot” line in the city. As the conclusion of the sectional analysis, we can implant open space dots in each potential space and improve the connection between these dots. Then, we can connect the old city and new city, tourists and residents, and nature and people.

“

Throughout the whole sectional analysis, we found a lot of potential spaces to be open space, not only large square but also small space.



Sectional analysis

Concept

The evaluation of the focus areas and the traffic network gave us the main points to include in our concept proposal for spatial planning. Which can be summarized into:

- Connection citadel-downtown
- Urban-natural connection
- Enhance the citadel from outside
- Transition of spaces and activities

With all these points in mind, we came out with the idea to connect the three main spaces using a flow path similar to a river structure that blend into the urban settlements. Creating a spatial connection providing different activities as a transition from the more natural environment with the river to the urban landscape into the city core. Creating a series of entrances into the citadel, from the recreational river, to the interaction plaza and market square until the city historic meeting point.

The concept shape was the result of the abstraction of identifying the three focus open spaces inside the downtown area, as well as the existing road connections and the possible ways to connect those areas. We wanted to create a soft transition that allow users to discover the changes in the landscape as you go through it; suggesting a path that reflected the natural movement of the water.

Based on the historic structure of one of the streams that used to go through the city, we create the abstraction of an organic path that seems to collect part of the nature from river to bring it inside the urban fabric to an end point in the central park. The flow of this path shows the versatility of the open spaces,

allowing us to proposed different activities and to create different ways to experience landscape from outside the citadel; enjoying the views from the strategic spots defined by the path shape and the design elements.

The spatial concept was defined by the flow path using a specific pavement material to enhance the transition and separation of surfaces. Then it was complemented by the mixture of soft and hard landscapes. With the addition of open multi-functional spaces with different pavement materials, we suggest uses like: interaction plaza, playground, recreation area with water fountains, market and events plaza and main central plaza. The spatial definition of this spaces it is given by the path texture, the tree planting separating public and private spaces and the urban elements like benches along the path.

We proposed the transformation of the existing road into a pedestrian street, by adding a tree line to avoid cars from parking on the street. For this purpose we implemented two centralized parking areas, in order to remove cars from the street and to provide specific areas for this use.

The culmination point of the flow path blends into the central square, providing a pedestrian connection to the historic meeting point. The new open square gives the possibility for different activities and enhance the scenic views of the citadel. And the trees elements provide a buffer zone between the road and the square; they also create a green atmosphere for the outside terraces.

The overall flow will be perceived more like a transition of spaces, activities and textures, showing different views along the way as an introduction of the citadel; giving the

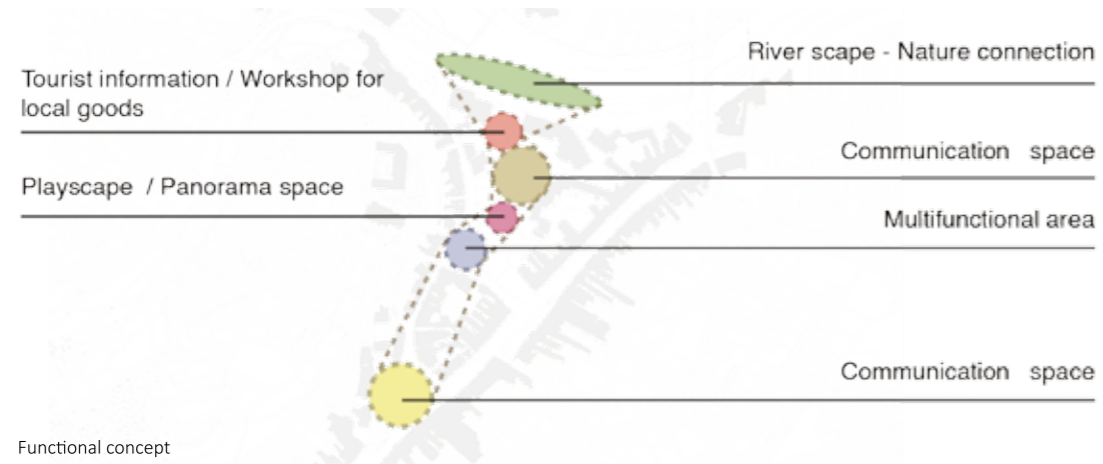
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possibility to get in touch with the local daily life as well with the historic context of the medieval city.

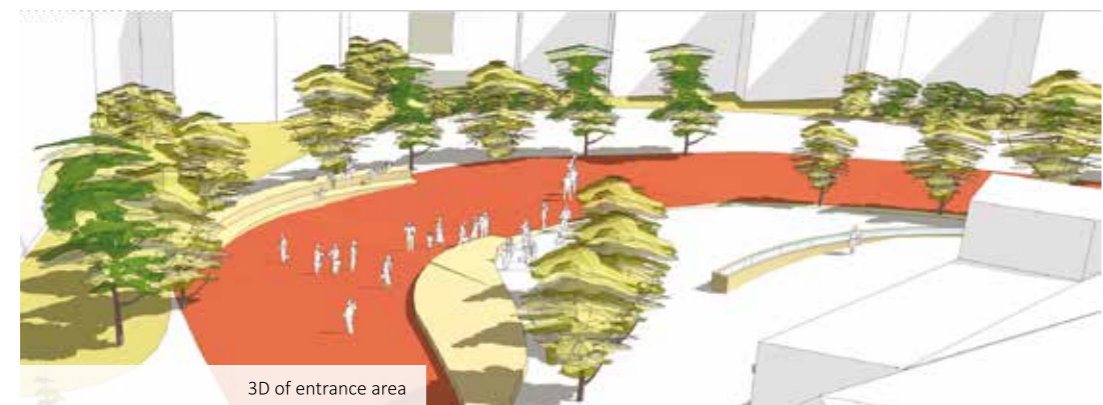
Details

This chapter contains an explanation of 4 design details. Those are vegetation structure, surface material, urban element, and multifunctional space.

First of all, we installed 3 vegetation structures in our target area. Grid vegetation is put on spaces with an urban function which is entrance parking area and central park. In entrance parking area, we put middle size trees at the 5m grid in order to mitigate visual and environmental car effects to space. Additionally, this grid guides each parking area. In the central park, we planned large size trees at the 20m grid to make shadow areas and rest spaces under the trees. Only 7 trees are planted in the central park because Vistas from central park to the citadel are quite important for us. Then, linear vegetation is planted along the street from the parking area to city centre showing guideline to the visitor. We use the human-scale plant, which has about 2m height not break-

ing the city façades. Although this tree line is standing on near the centre of the street, the width is being kept with at least 5m. That means emergency vehicles can go through this street when it is necessary. Finally, random size trees are planted near the private spaces, giving diversity to the place. These trees were put to protect the private area from open spaces, however, some places are opened for the visual connection and accessibility between private and public spaces.

Second, regarding surface materials, we paved grass, stone, and wooden materials in our target area based on the main street and surrounding buildings. The main street is paved by wooden material because there is no wooden surface in the current situation and it could be a clear sign by which people can be induced to the city centre. Next, surfaces surrounding buildings are covered by grasses. It is vaguely separating private spaces from open spaces in combination with random trees. Furthermore, it makes a flat green connection in our target area. Then, between wooden street and grass surfaces, there is a stone pavement with enhancing existing paving material. Also, this area becomes "shared space", which means people, bicycle, and the car can go through this



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road considering each other.

Third, we set benches, fountain, dry fountain, and playground equipment as urban elements. The benches are placed in spaces with the good view in order to afford people to look the Citadel from outside. The fountain is put in the central square in the central park to add small intervention which people can gather naturally. The dry fountain is located near the playground to make it easier for children to enjoy the water element as well as the playground equipment.

Fourth, we made open spaces multifunctional space. We have natural recreation area, entrance area, meeting point, playground, market, and historical park with the specific function, however, it could be used for other purposes as well. For example, market plaza can be used not only the regular market but also concerts or open-air-theatre. Normally, historical park is supposed to be used by daily recreation such as walking, resting and looking around but it is possible to be used as event space. Many scenarios will be accepted these spaces and it reflects people's demands all the time.

Implementation strategy

Comprehensive analysis from the first stage gives us proper base for implementation strategy development due to network of locals interested in the project, as well as clear demands of the users. To start identifying stakeholder maps, we propose to hold on a workshop together with local experts, governors and local businessmen. Within the workshop our design and ideas can involve the public and be adapted to their needs. In that case the locals can make our design solutions their own. Public participation could be an important method of implementation as well as a guarantee of communal maintenance.

The next part of strategy is dividing the project in several stages: experimental, core projects and guidelines for small intervention designs.

Experimental implementation. means the use of "dot" spaces for the first income of changes with minimum costs and risks. Such an experimental new spaces can be the play-



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“ we made open spaces multi-functional space. We have natural recreation area, entrance area, meeting point, playground, market, and historical park with the specific function, however, it could be used for other purposes as well.



“ New dot areas can also be temporary low budget solution, helping to develop the main project and funding the next steps.

ground for observation of local behavior, extraction of real demands and frequency of use, strong and weak points of the designs. Evaluation and feedback from small change can save lots of resources and give us several guideline for bigger areas, investments, resources and risks.

Such a starting mini implementations can also be helpful in identifying the gradation of importance of parts of the design and well filtrating the core projects.

New dot areas can also be temporary low budget solution, helping to develop the main project and funding the next steps.

In this meaning, information center with Mensa on the entrance area, workshop space and souvenir shop should be implemented in order to gain money within interconnection of local markets and tourist industry, for further interventions. Which has a huge potential around UNESCO World Heritage Site. ■





Sabrina Hertlein
Germany

Bircan Gizem Kömürçü
Turkey

Arber Krasniqi
Kosovo

awaking “kalaka”
community spirit



Aim of the project

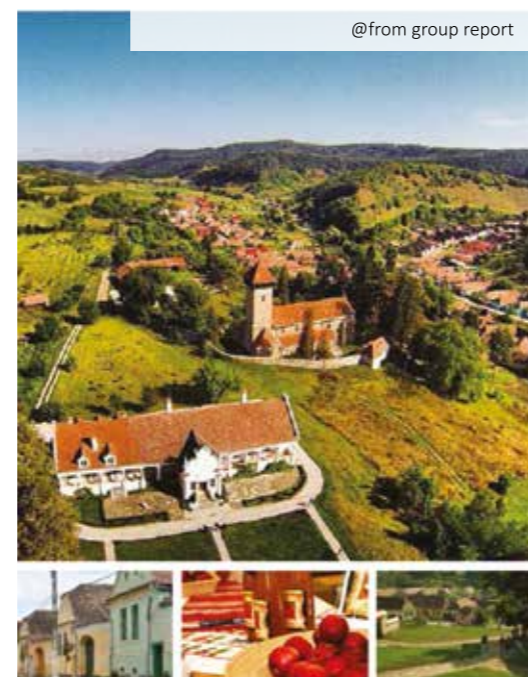
Before starting to the project, we all wished to work in a different environment where we haven't experienced working on before, and try to find some simple, possible solutions to be able to be realized in the end rather than developing only conceptual designs. In Malancrav, we could experience a very different life-style in two weeks, tried to understand what could be the essence of this life-style, that we have never dealt with before.

With this beginning, we aimed to touch to those lives, and supply what they need to keep living like this, as well as to develop to fix some points in certain situations. In order to achieve that, we needed to spend time with the villagers, with different type of people, so that we could get used to their situations and start to develop the project from the biggest scale: human scale. We hope that we succeeded in developing our design project in this way, and we could have created useful solutions to make Malancrav community life better.

Analysis

Our group was focusing on the social aspect of Malancrav Village by analyzing residents' lifestyle and what does it make the village have the unique identity it already has. We tried to understand the lifestyle of different ethnic groups mainly by analyzing their daily routine and the importance of the community

spirit to each group as well as where are the most common space they use for interaction purposes. During this process and to better understand their needs, we have interviewed different village stakeholders, such as children, youths, local women and men, church community, tourists, firefighters, and investors/ organizations. In this process we found four basic needs that the community is looking forward to support their lifestyle: multifunctional open space for community gatherings, new activities for the young population, new activities for touristic attraction, and integration strategies for overcoming ethnical barriers. These needs



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helped us to understand the relation between the people and the landscape. By taking into consideration the strong influence of driving forces such as demographic change and the search for economic opportunities among the youths, we wanted to react on these ongoing changes and provide a livable public park and strengthen its value with respect to village's identity.

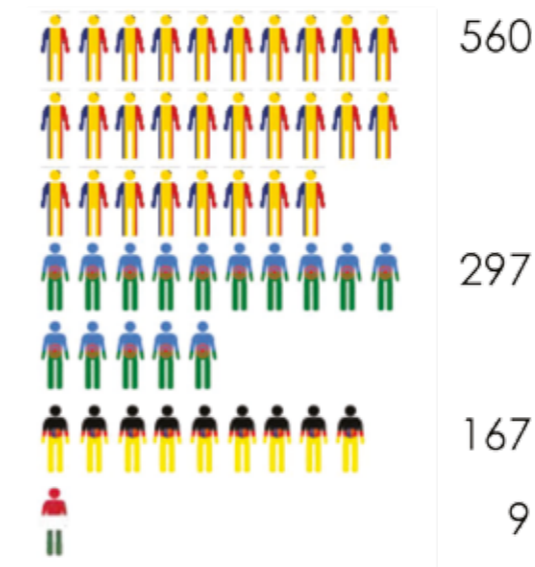


Occupations of the people

“ Kaláka, in Romanian language, means to make a single work; like harvesting, milking the animals etc. in a collaborative way. From this point of view, the most important thing which keeps the village life alive, which makes people to stay there; not to leave the village so easily, is this community spirit, Kaláka.

The Village of Malancrav

Malancrav is a small village that dates from the 14th century and where time almost stood still. It is a village surrounded by the dreamy landscape and green slopes of Transylvania, in which the largest Saxon population lives in. This cultural bridge to village's past makes Malancrav one of the finest villages in Transylvania where traditions, Saxon architecture, ethnic diversity and local flavors create a unique experience for all the tourists who visit it as well as for local residents whose predecessors where first settled centuries ago.



TOTAL 1033

Population of Malancrav village

Kaláka, in Romanian language, means to make a single work; like harvesting, milking the animals etc. in a collaborative way. From this point of view, the most important thing which keeps the village life alive, which makes people to stay there; not to leave the village so easily, is this community spirit, Kaláka.

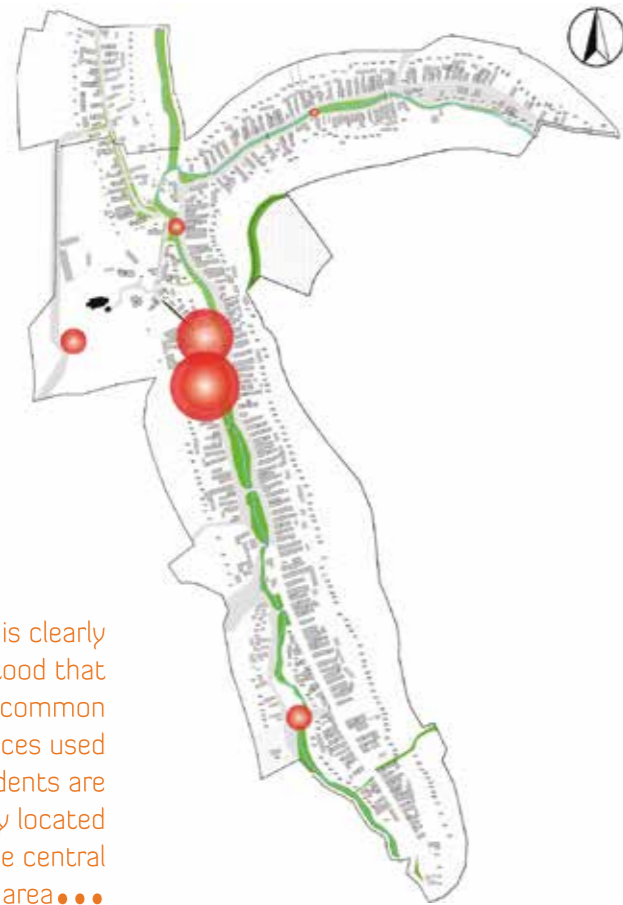
With a simple keyword, it is possible to explain the reasons of reflections many of those community behaviors, such as the meeting points for collecting milk, taking the animals to water drinking areas, knitting and pleaching, and many other activities together. For the next steps, the idea of Kaláka will help us for collecting the necessary information about social and spatial structures of village and shaping concept of design according to those findings. Since community spirit is directly related to social life in the village, we would like to focus more spatial solutions derived from social aspects in detail.

Open space function



“...it is clearly understood that the most common public spaces used by residents are mainly located in the central heritage area...”

“Malancrav similarly to all the traditional Saxon villages is settled along the stream. All of the housings have a small public space in front, and private garden in the back yard used for planting private vegetables or fruits.”



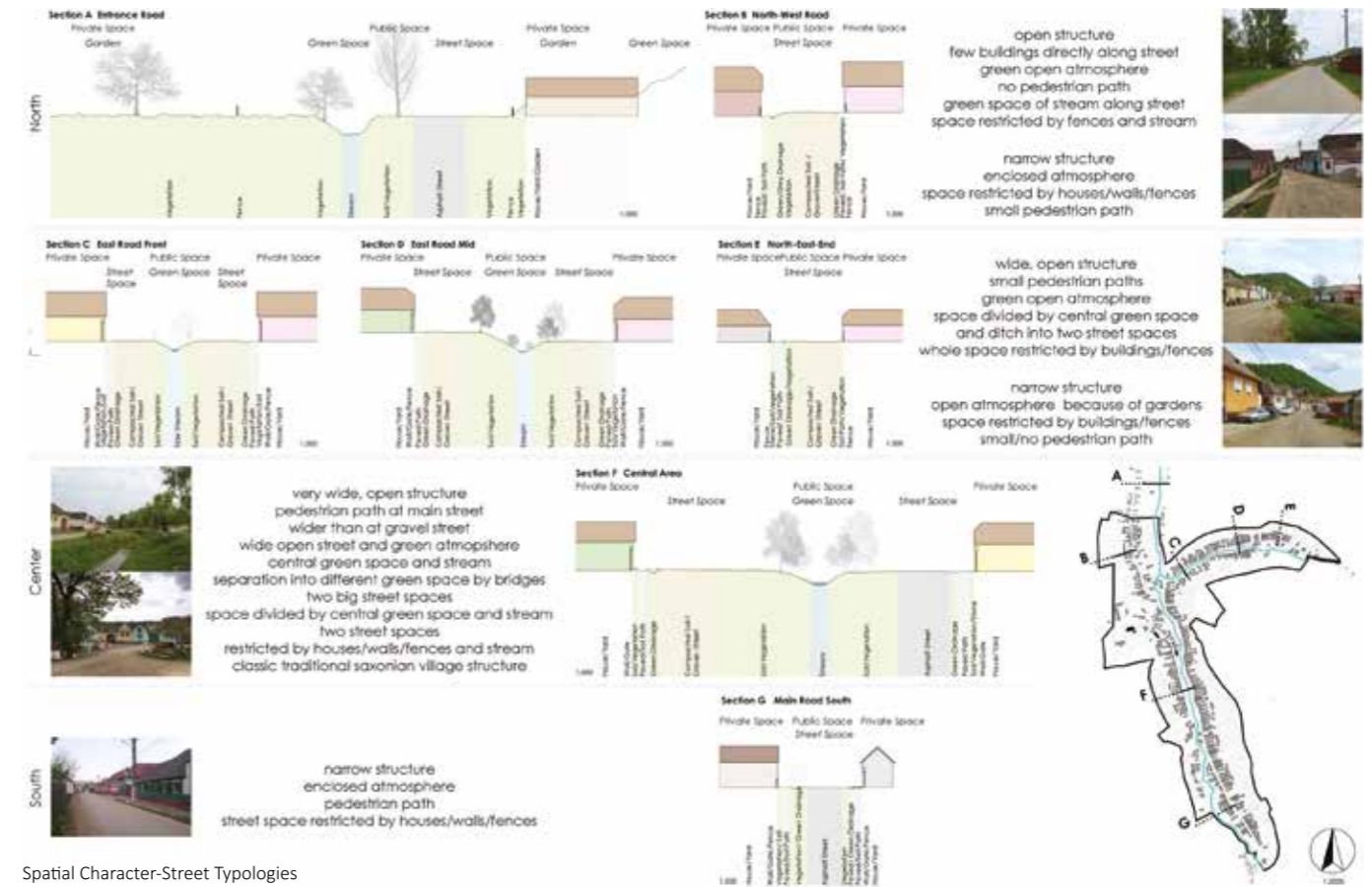
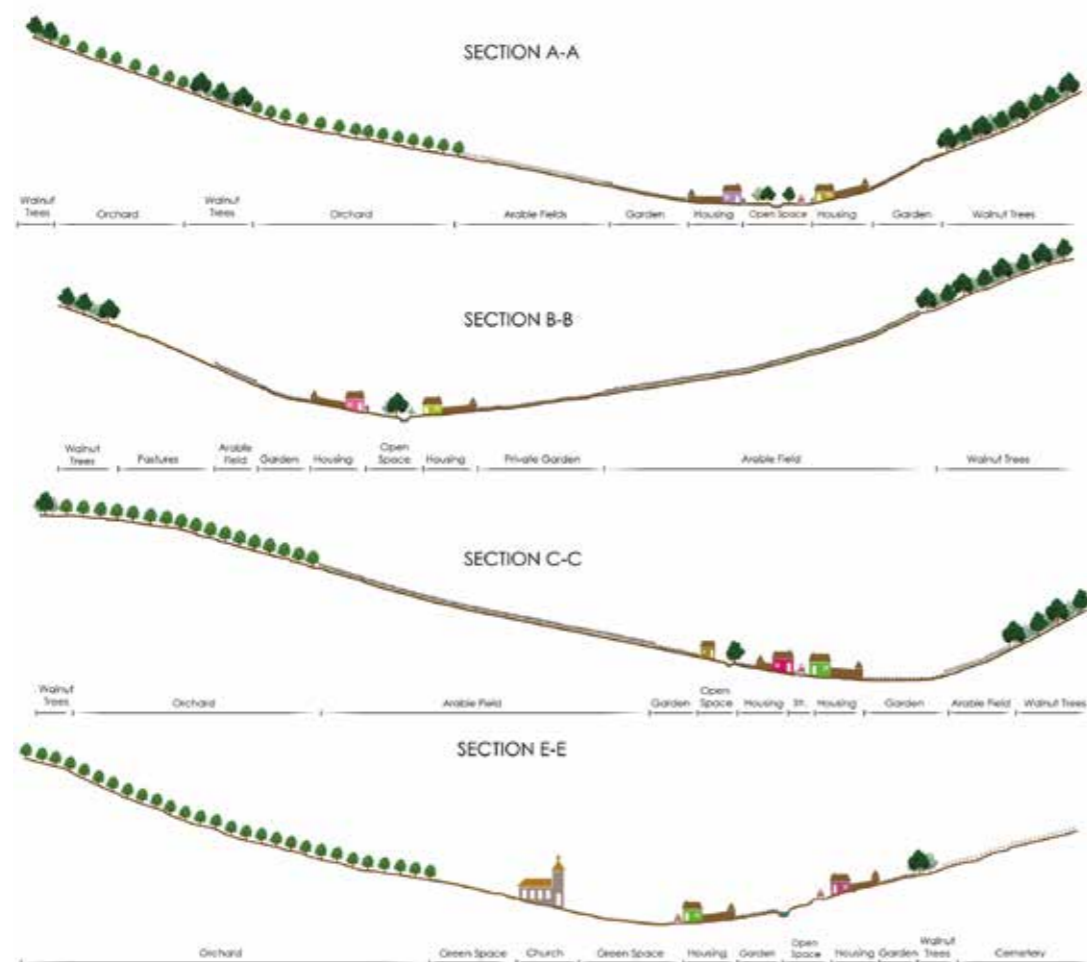
Hot-spots of Common Public Spaces

From the in-site analysis, we were capable of identifying the current location of the services and open spaces that gives the village of Malancrav the unique character, as well as where the most common public spaces used by the village's residents for social activities and social interactions take place.

By these mappings it is clearly understood that the most common public spaces used by residents are mainly located in the central heritage area because that is where most of the services that brings people together are located.

Landscape Characteristics

Malancrav similarly to all the traditional Saxon villages is settled along the stream. All of the housings have a small public space in front, and private garden in the back yard used for planting private vegetables or fruits. The higher elevations have either arable fields followed by a small forest where walnut trees dominate, or followed by pastures and again walnut trees at the end.

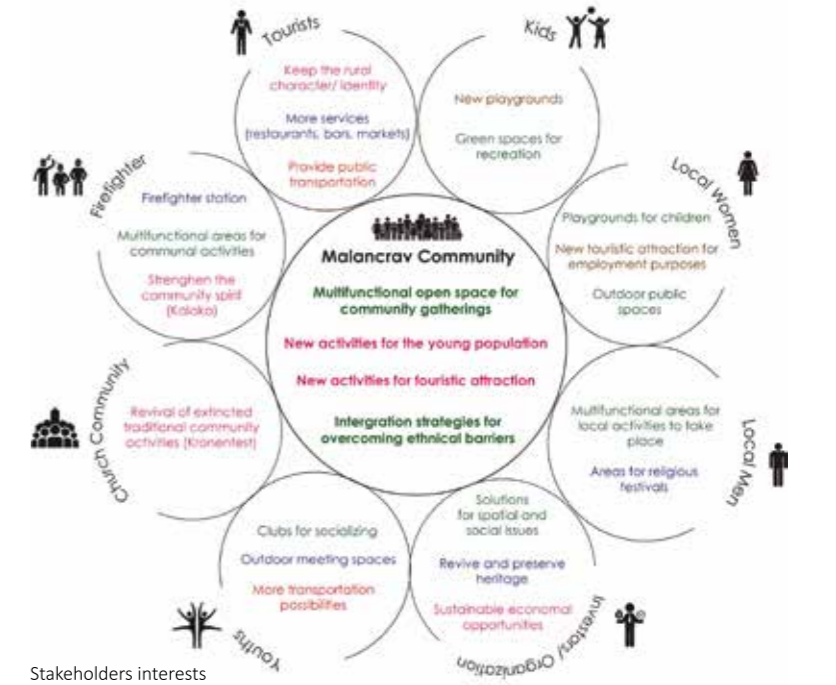


Spatial Character-Street Typologies

According to the interviews with local people in Malancrav and experts from Mihai Eminescu Trust Organization, some useful information about daily life, social activities, occupational distribution, perception towards the landscape and their environments and economic activities is collected and the interests from different stakeholder groups has been defined in this way. In this context, eight stakeholder groups have been defined as a result of those interviews, which are local women and men, children, young people, tourists visiting the site, firefighters who are voluntarily participating to firefighting, investors and organizations that playing a very significant role on development of village, and the Lutheran and Orthodox church communities. In the diagram, all those stakeholder groups can be seen as single bubbles around the biggest bubble of 'Community Interests', which is created by the intersections of common wishes and interests of all stakeholders.

As a result, a multifunctional open space for the gatherings and festivals is the most needed since there is no such place where is especially defined by the community and place makers consciously. The second very important issue is keeping the young genera-

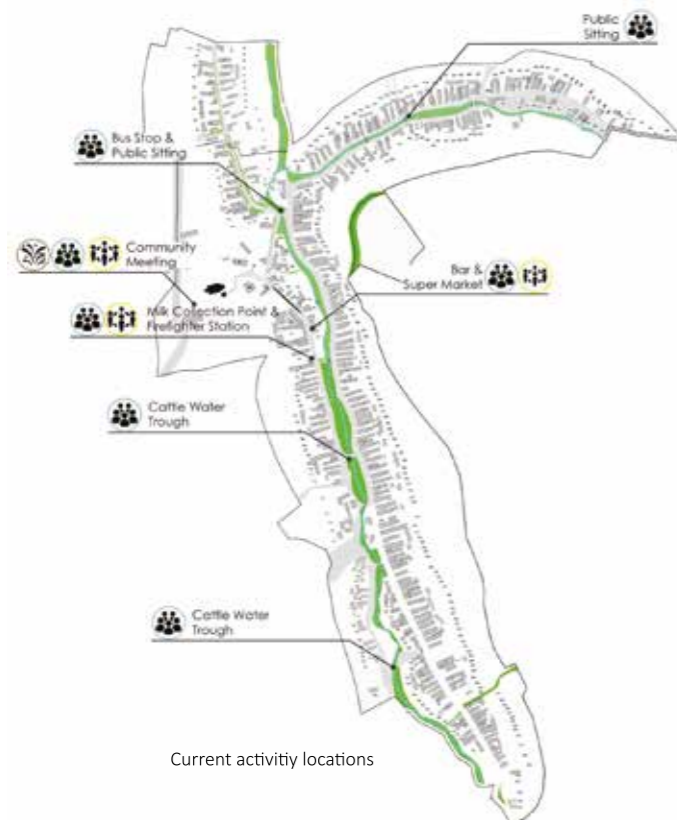
tion in the village, as a result, better activities and reasons for them to stay in village. For the development of local economy, the image and touristic attraction of village is also very significant for locals to keep this idyllic life-style in the village. Lastly, more strategies for integration of different ethnical groups in the village is another important issue for the villagers and also investors.



Stakeholders interests



As a result of stakeholder interest analysis, activities which could find an answer to the needs of stakeholders are listed and located on the hot spots and potential areas for common public places. The activities will be shown on the exact locations in the next page, and activity placements will be held further.



Current Activity Locations

On the left, the locations of current activities listed in the previous page are shown in order to use the current potentials of those areas and to have reference points for further planning implementations. According to that plan, the most common activities are gathering at some points, and social activities around commercial places, such as bar and small market. Playgrounds, small venues in the open spaces, traditional market areas, well-defined event areas and a central open space is missing; when we take the interviews and this activity location plan into consideration. Besides, small neighborhood gathering areas are not well-considered and those places where people used to meet are often neglected, under-maintained areas that needs to be considered.

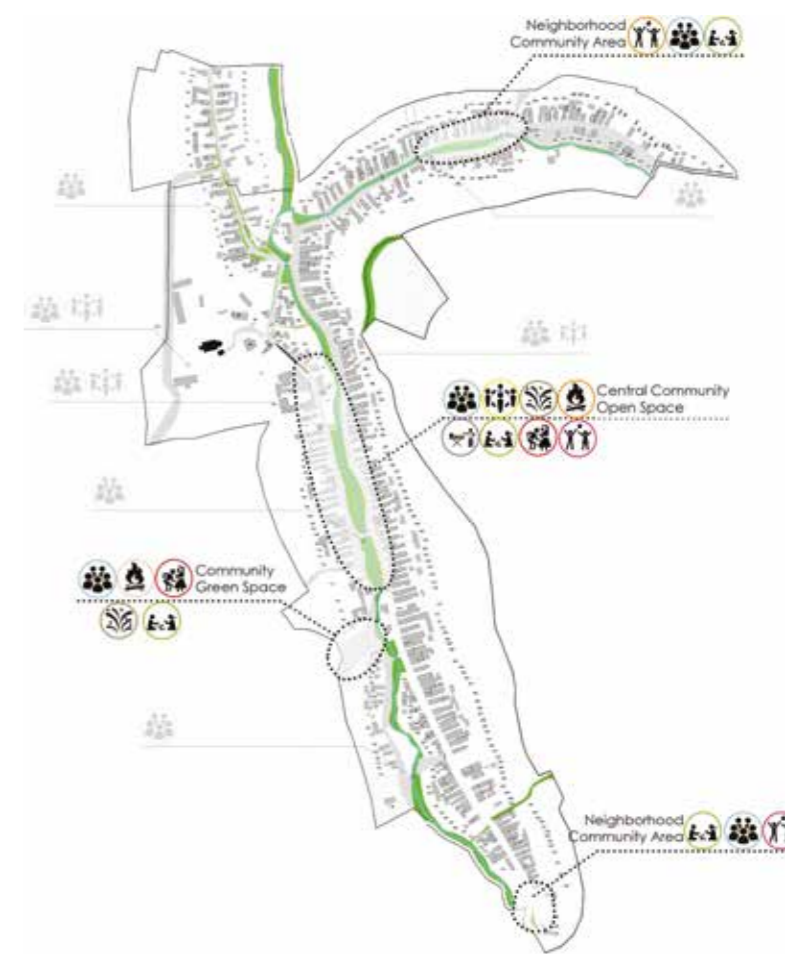
Proposed Activity Locations

In this activity diagram, four centers for such activities are shown as one "Central Community Open Space", one "Community Green Space" and two "Neighborhood Community Areas"; one is locating on the south extension, another is in the middle of east extension of village.

In the Central Community Open Space, many of those activities are held due to its focal location in the village and a wide, calm green space and stream in between houses and two streets. This place offers to its users the possibility to spend longer time with recreational activities, such as dancing, playing, relaxing, eating and shopping.

Community Green Space locates on a wide and empty green space between two private properties, and has the potential to be a recreational areas for group meetings, small celebrations and festivals. Moreover, grilling and picnicking is another attractive activities for the users.

In Neighborhood Community Areas, some basic play equipment for children and board games are situated for daily meetings and entertainment, which are located in two furthest points of village to reach there easily.



Mapping activities

For well-organized social events and an active young generation, social clubs are the key stones of small communities. For this reason, a Youth & Recreational Center is proposed. The center is located at an abandoned building

in front of current bar building, where the Central Community Open Space starts. Open spaces of the bar and new building of firefighter station is integrated for a better social interaction, and a communal storage is offered for storing the temporarily-used public furniture (market stands etc.) where the old firefighter station building was situated.





Social Clubs



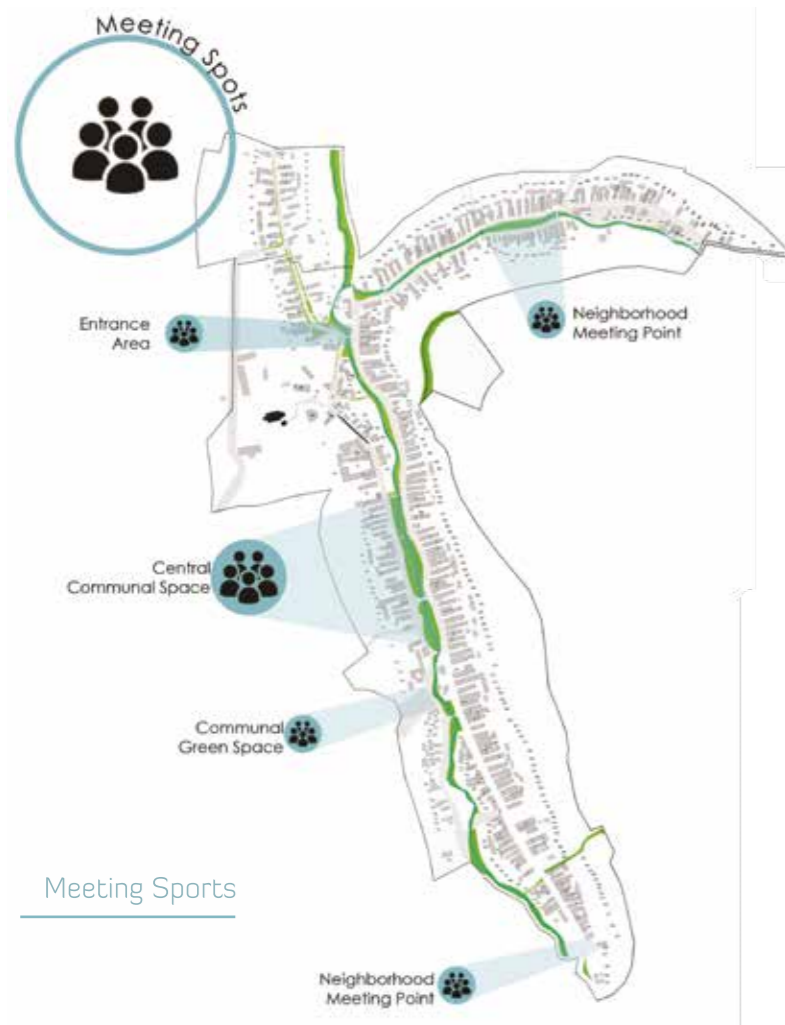
Recreational Centre

Social Club



Firefighter Station

Youth Centre



Meeting Spots



Entrance Area

Central Communal Space



Communal Green Space

Meeting Points



Event Area



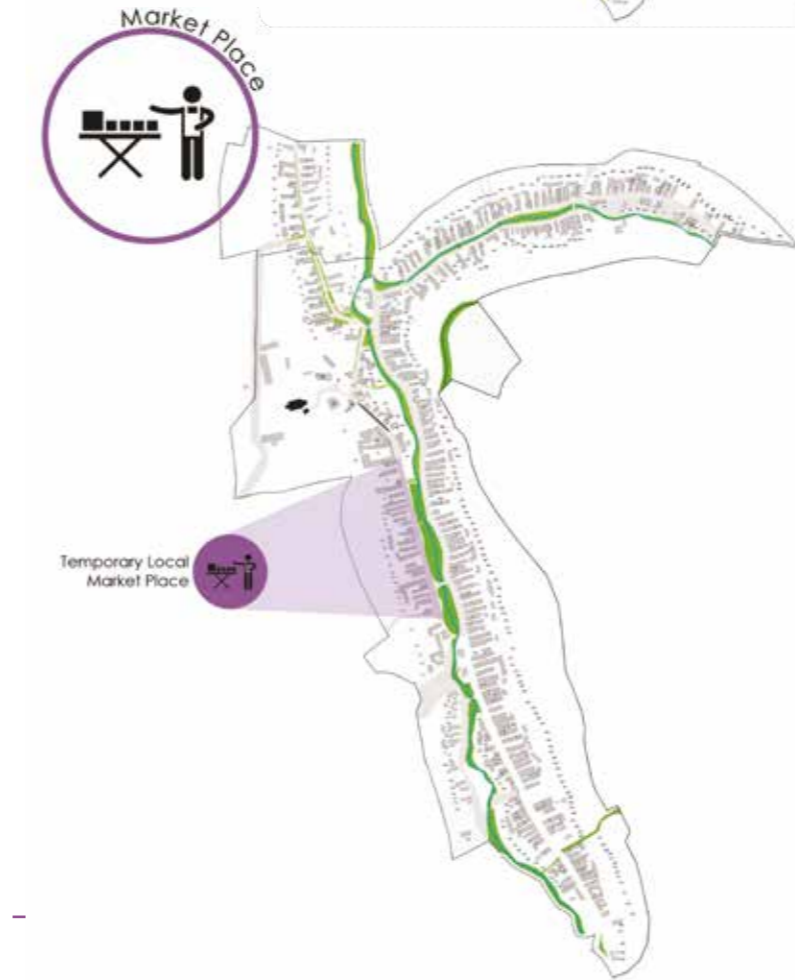
Main Event Area

Small Event Area



Special Event Area

“The Main Event Area is proposed on the Central Community Open Space and street space as this area has the most potential with its centrality and dynamism.”



Temporary Local Market Place



Temporary Market Place

“A Temporary Local Market is necessary for local people to sell their products more to tourists, as well as for tourists to find those products in one place at the same time. This means, of course, the economic development of the village and a better way of communication in the community and integration of different ethnic groups.”



Games and Single Toys



Board Games

“ The interaction among different groups in the community can be strengthened with the simplest thing: playing games. Because of this, some play equipment for all age groups is proposed in the community meeting areas, to have more fun with the neighbors.



Fire Area



Grill

“ For grilling, inhabitants usually use their back yards to meet and celebrate some certain things. However, a common space for making fire and sitting around is not possible to see in the current situation of village. For this reason, Communal Green Space is the main grilling and fire area, while some possibilities for firefighters is offered on the garden of station.



Dancing

“ According to the interviews and researches, dancing is the most popular activity among young people, as well as all the community. This potential can be used mostly in the central community areas for gathering, dancing together and celebrating.

Detailing





Spatial plan

The spatial plan is based on the characteristics of a traditional saxonian village and open space structure as well as materials and provides space for the proposed functions of the functional plan. The special placements of elements in this plan are not fixed but can and should be further developed by the villagers. Also the use of movable furnisher could offer variability of the space.

Village centers

The area around the bar offers a big potential for the development of a village center. Already now essential functions are concentrated in the area, like the administration, the school, the bar, the fire fighters, a shop. Though those functions the area is not welcoming at the moment. The problem of the area is it's bad condition of building substance, abandoned buildings and a lack of proper open space for activities and meeting. By reuse of buildings, the addition of a new fire fighter station and the reorganization of the space.

Main streets

The main asphalt road in the village is important for the village traffic and should stay like it is but get some improvements of it's surface, as well as the side walks and drainage greens should be restored. The big gravel street on the other side of the creek should get the same treatment. As this road is not busy except at milk collection time, the road can be also used for events like e.g. a temporary local market where then booths can be added.

Central Multifunctional Green Space and Watercourse

The central green space in the middle of the village should keep it's traditional character. The green area should stay and the creek become an appreciated element of the area. Small interventions can structure space and offer usage opportunities. Areas of stepstone with grass could be implemented at some parts of the edges of the grass area to offer parking or storage space, so the cars and stuff can be placed there and not on the grass. The



creek will be widened and some shrub be taken away so that the creek is accessible. Some single benches as well as agglomerations of sitting opportunities and toys offer spaces for communication or to have a rest.

“ Opening the garden of the ancient church opens the center and welcomes people to enter. The implementation of new pathways can give access to the new village square and the bar event area.

Upgrade of Green Space Behind Church and Bar

Opening the garden of the ancient church opens the center and welcomes people to enter. The implementation of new pathways can give access to the new village square and the bar event area. The space can be used for festivals and other activities in connection with the new square of the bar and fire fighter area. New Bridge and Pathway The removal of the existing narrow concrete bridge and the construction of a new wide wooden bridge would invite people to cross the creek to enter the central area.

Cultural and Touristic Services

The renovation and reuse of the ancient catholic church to new village museum as well as the renovation and reuse of the abandoned

building to an information point and local products- and souvenir shop could support village identity.

School and Kindergarten

Upgrading the school's/ kindergarten's open space for break or after school activities with small interventions could have big effects. The hard surface playground could be treated by drawing on the concrete paving like e.g. playfields with resistant colors or one could give the children chalk to draw so they can implement their own games. Also to add simple game furnisher, which could be manufactured by the children in workshops would enhance the area. The green open space could be used as chill out area with benches and sitting stones but also as activity space for sports and games. Some simple toys (swing etc.) which could be manufactured by the children in workshops



“ Upgrading the school's/ kindergarten's open space for break or after school activities with small interventions could have big effects.

could be added. Leveling the slope would offer space for sportive uses like ballgames.

Atmospheric Event Area with Different Floors

The area between the new fire fighter house and the existing bar could be developed to a friendly place by connecting the buildings with a pergola that gives shelter. The adjection of the existing bar cabin to the bar house by implementing a new floor structure enlarges the celebration and meeting area as well as the functionality. A (removable) board over the creek and benches on the slope could be used like an amphitheatre with a stage for local dancing shows or for activities as well as to chill out on the water. All locations can be used for different reasons and be furnished as it is needed e.g. with tables or free for dancing etc.

Bar and Shop

The renovation and embellishment of the existing bar and shop building as well as developing an friendly outside area connected to the backyard of the church and the fire fighter station would change the uncomfortable space to an lively atmospheric area.

Fire Fighter Station and Garbage Collection Station

A new fire fighter station with space for two fire fighter trucks should be built new-

ly. In front of the entrance for the trucks there should be big space, for the trucks, as well as for exercises or barbecue. The new building should include besides the garage rest-, storage and clothing rooms for the fire fighters. Besides fire fighters there could be also a community waste collection station with containers for non organic waste included as well as a recycling material collection station, where reusable materials can be collected and be recycled to new furnisher or decorations (in local workshops with the villagers or with tourists).

Community Storage and Workroom

The ancient fire fighter station could be used as communal storage or workroom.

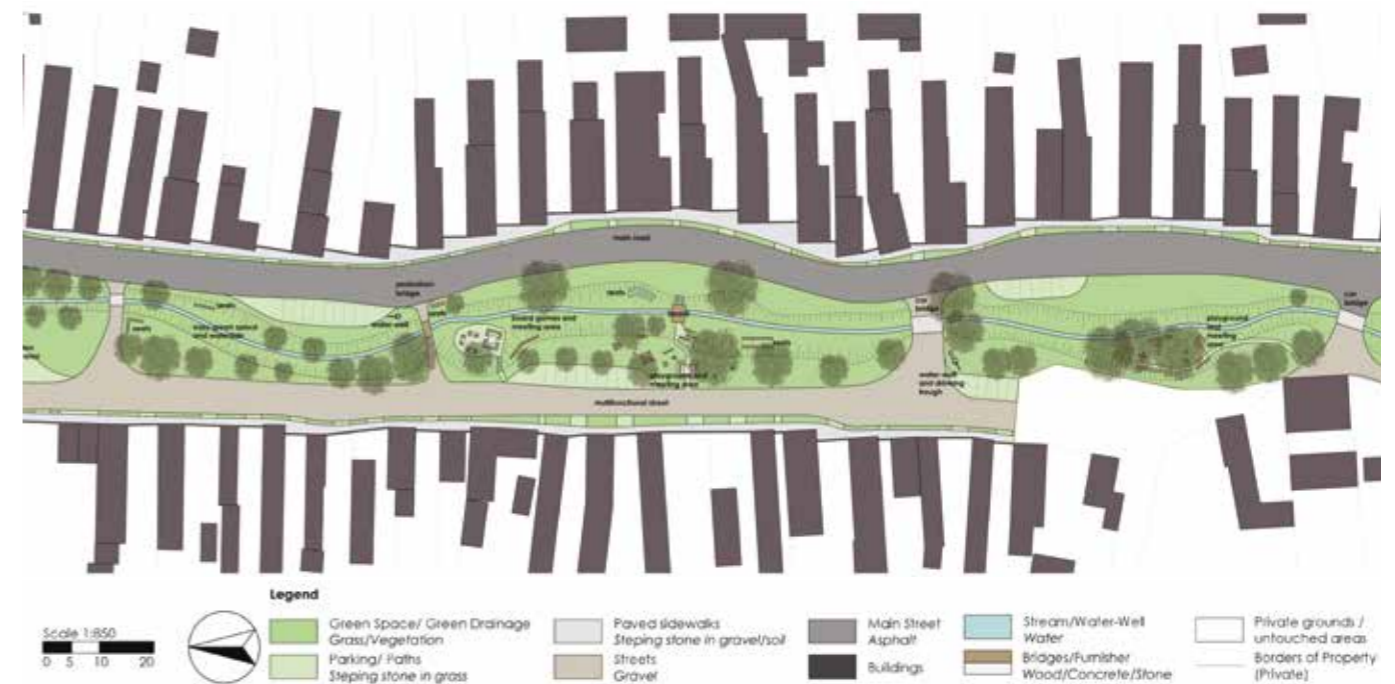
Recreation and Common Activity

The abandoned buildings (88, 91) could be renovated and reused as recreation centers, for special uses, communal activities, workshops, courses and events to vitalize village life.

Community Administration

The renovation of the existing building would offer space for all administration/ official issues of the village and make it a representative official building like a community hall.

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Multifunctional Street

The surface and structure of the existing big gravel street should be improved and be used temporarily for local markets or also other events that require a big linear space. Huts and tables for the market sellers can be stored in the old fire fighter station and be put on the street at market time - the market ends in the village center area.

Green Space Simply

Not all parts of the central area must to be busy or need special activities. It can be also quite pleasant to have just some benches to sit, observe, meet, chat and enjoy the atmosphere.

Board Games, Playground and Meeting

At the edge of the middle part of the central green area a terrace could be modeled and a playground for board games could be set up e.g. with some tables from wood or stone with the game scratched on it or a big game field on the ground a big benches around for players and observers, benches on the slope could also invite others to meet and chat.

Central Playground and Meeting Spot

In the centre of the big green space a playground with some toys like a seesaw, cabin, swing, board etc. for children and a meeting point for adults with sitting opportunities could be implemented. The creation of the furnisher could be done in workshops of the vil-

lagers and their children with local or recycling material.

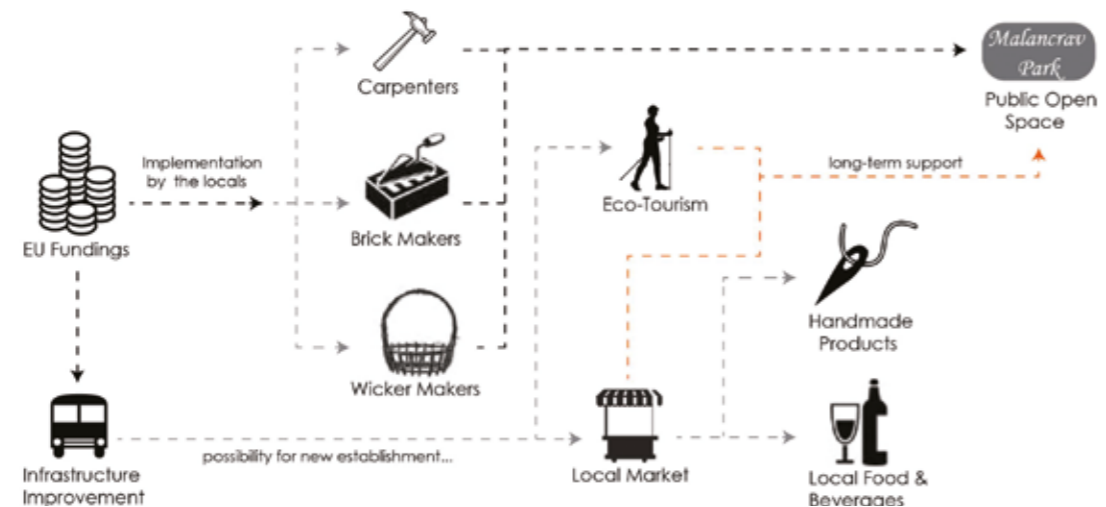
Green Waterfront and Playground

The green space behind the stone bridge is separated from the big central green area and offers with the given enclosed structure and the existing trees a cozy green room bordered by the slope and the creek. Here would be the perfect place for a calm and snug playground for small children and a chatting spot for the mothers (and fathers).

Funding and Implementation

We propose a timeline that reflects the project's progress stages of implementation and financial support in order to be completed. The timeline is based on six sub-implementation levels: Procurement of resources, implementation of activities, delivery of results, progress monitoring, revise operational plans, and progress report. Once the project has been suited to meet residents' needs, then the resources would be deployed and ready for project start-up. All of the activities would be distributed to the local contractors, which is also the project's initiative to bring all ethnic groups to have their hands-on the project by using the local available resources. From time to time, monitoring and report on projects progress would be completed in order to revise the status of completion and quality.

The main financial support would be delivered by the EU suitable programs. Selling local food and beverages, handmade products in the transformable local market, and entertaining tourists through different local program and museums would be possible af-



“ We propose a timeline that reflects the project's progress stages of implementation and financial support in order to be completed. The timeline is based on six sub-implementation levels: Procurement of resources, implementation of activities, delivery of results, progress monitoring, revise operational plans, and progress report.

Local Material Resources

The material catalog has been created to guide the contractors who participate in completing the public park project in Malancrav, and provide ideas to the local residents on how they could build up furniture with their existing natural resources. We also believe that the participation of the locals would help the project to be completed according to their needs because once they have their hands-on the project, they will also get more attached to the space and maintained what it has been built by them.

Conclusion

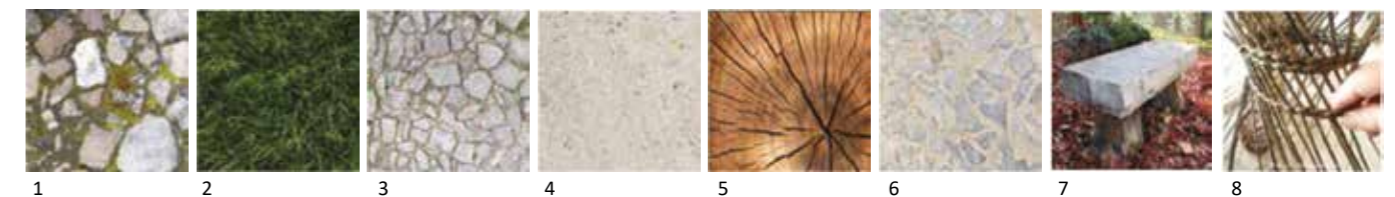
With our project, we propose easy, cheap and realizable possibilities to support the revival of Kaláka – community spirit in Malancrav, not like in former times for special neighborhoods but for the whole village and all ethnic groups as one community. By considering the proposed activities, further development and implementation of design ideas and furnisher proposals, people will come together to realize the project and finally, they will be able to use the space together. The progress of working as a community for the community, as well as the result of a village created by villagers for their own needs will bring common spirit and identity. ■

“ With our project, we propose easy, cheap and realizable possibilities to support the revival of Kaláka – community spirit in Malancrav, not like in former times for special neighborhoods but for the whole village and all ethnic groups as one community.



ter strengthening the infrastructure. Parallel to the organizational stage, temporary events will take place in the public open space such as different festivals, which will be organized by the locals of the Malancrav. With the possibility of interaction in the communal open space in the central heritage area, the villagers will begin to overcome ethnic barriers and freely participate in all measure of the communal activities. By developing a public open park where different activities can take place, the profit will start to increase progressively.

However, everything should be done in accordance with Village's identity so its uniqueness does remain still and does not get lost in the future.



The material catalog :
 1 Stepping stones in grass
 2 Stepping stones in gravel
 3 Gravel
 4 Stones in the soil
 5 Grass
 6 Wood
 7 Stone
 8 Willow





Klaudia Jaskula
Poland



Azra Kunic
Bosnia - Herzegovina



Abdulmalik Begovic
Bosnia - Herzegovina



Murtasif Hasan Dip
Bangladesh



reclaim
sighișoara



About the city

“

Today Sighisoara stands as one of the most beautiful and best-preserved medieval cities in Europe.

Sighisoara is a city located in Mures county, Central Romania. Sighisoara, inhabited since 6th century BC, is firstly documented in 1280 AD. However, the origins of the city that we know today go back to Roman times. In the first century AD, the Dacians (ancient inhabitants of the territory of modern Romania), built a fortification that was called Sandava. However, during Roman administration, it was known as Castrum Stenarum. During the 12th century,

the Transylvanian Saxons (German craftsmen and merchants) were brought by the king of Hungary to protect the land and defend its frontiers. In addition, they dominated economy and built a new citadel called Schäßburg. Soon after, Schäßburg became a part of the seven walled citadels called Siebenbürgen. This area, inhabited by the Transylvanian Saxons during the medieval time, consists of: Bistrita (Bistritz), Brasov (Kronstadt), Cluj (Klausenburg), Medias (Mediasch), Sebes (Mühlbach), Sibiu (Hermannstadt) and Sighisoara (Schäßburg).

Today Sighisoara stands as one of the most beautiful and best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. Therefore, it has been listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO thanks to its nine towers, cobble streets and burgher houses that are well preserved.

Sighisoara is made up of two parts: first part is historic citadel located on the hill and second part is lower town area that is located on the Tarnava Mare river. While citadel is mostly touristic oriented with small shops, hotels and partly living, lower part area contains commercial, administrative and larger housing. Although most of people perceive Sighisoara through the lenses of citadel and its medieval towers, inhabitants of Sighisoara relate largely to the lower area because most of them work and live there. Lack of water and other life supplies made life on the hill quite difficult. On the other hand, life in lower part of city started to develop in the end of 15th century and the



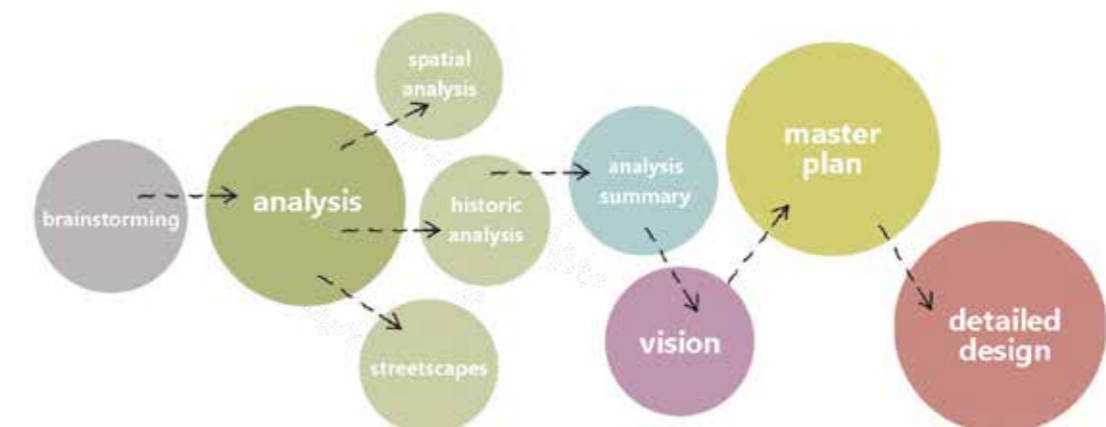
conditions were much better than on the hill. Today the lower part of the city is less picturesque than the citadel but it also has its charm. The downtown area of the lower part of the city developed mostly around historically important marketplace (today's Hermann Oberth park) and Strada 1 Decembrie where once can see 17th century houses. The downtown area furthermore stretches to the river, covering commercial and administrative zones. Despite its charm, downtown area lacks an overall concept and approach when it comes to open spaces and their connection. The topic of our team's work is open spaces, their connections and (long term) concept.

Approach

This project is envisioned as 2 weeks on site work with following 2 weeks of finishing what was started on the site. Being on site allowed us to deeply analyze and understand the Sighisoara downtown area and its problems and potentials. Our work is based on in-depth spatial analysis that served as a basis for the concept. After completing analysis, our focus remained on long term concept for the corridor starting from the Hermann Oberth park going to the river. Furthermore, our approach relies on the solutions for the problems that we identified while analyzing this area.

Methods

Our work is based on several methods that we used in this project. After site visit, we started our work with the kick off session of brainstorming where we collected the first ideas that we had about the place. The brainstorming helped us canalizing our thoughts and deciding how to approach the project.



The second method that we were dealing with during first week in Romania was analysis. Our analysis process was divided into spatial, historical and eye-level streetscape analysis. The third and most important method was the master plan design and the design of our focus areas.

Analysis conclusion

Spatial analysis and streetscape analysis provided profound data base when it comes to problems and potentials of downtown area. In addition, it defined focus points of our concept design. The main focus points that emerged from analysis are: connectivity, traffic, lack and condition of open spaces, lack of green spaces, unused spaces, undefined spaces and pedestrian linkages.

“

Being on site allowed us to deeply analyze and understand the Sighisoara downtown area and its problems and potentials. Our work is based on in-depth spatial analysis that served as a basis for the concept.

- old urban ■
- post rural ■
- new urban ■
- downtown ■
- citadel □
- suburbs ■



City structure



Open space walls



Schwarzplan



Space sequences

- maintained public green
- unused green spaces
- private green



- parking surface



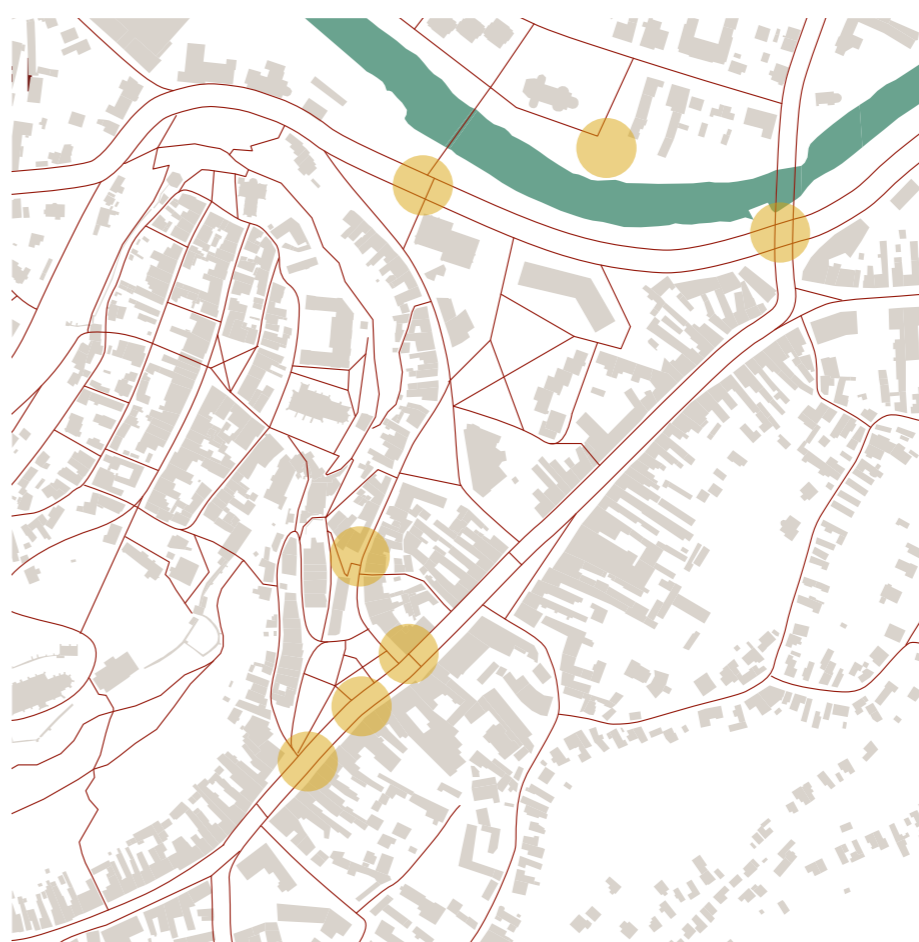
	surface	number of places
total:	14 730 sqm	654
downtown:	13 120 sqm	572
citadel:	1 610 sqm	82

Parking

- national road
- regional road
- local road
- service road



- walkway
- barrier / conflict



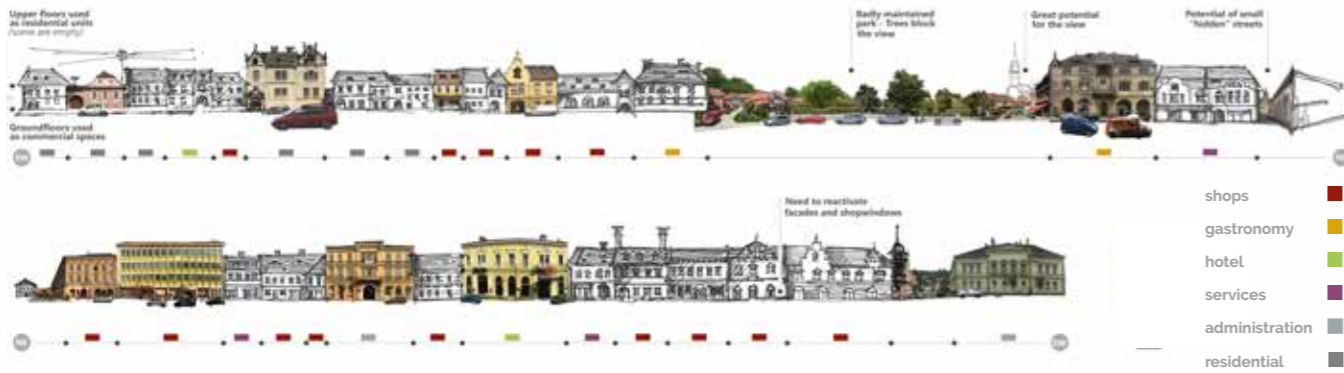
Pedestrian connections

- shops
- gastronomy
- hotel
- services
- administration
- residential

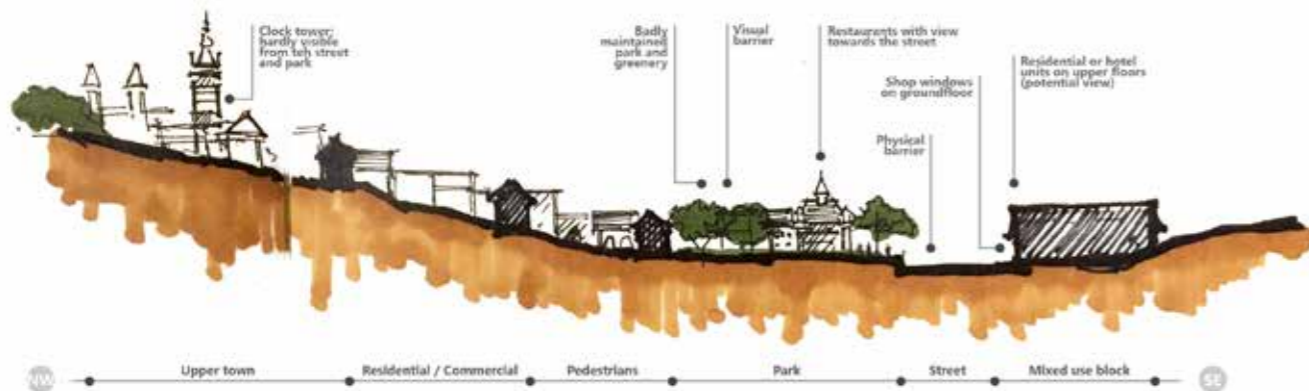


Landuse

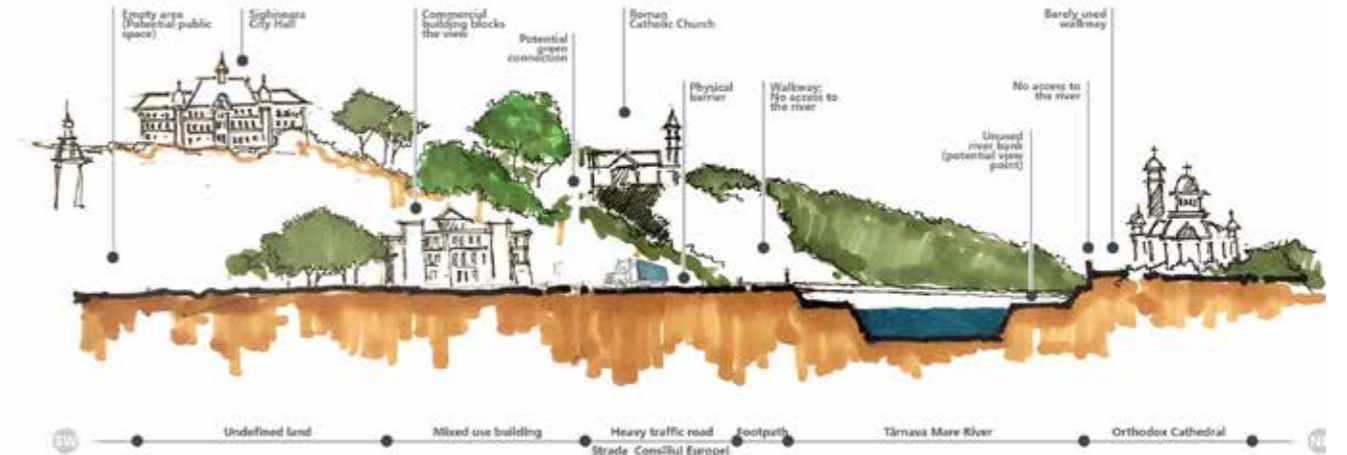
Streetscape



Sections



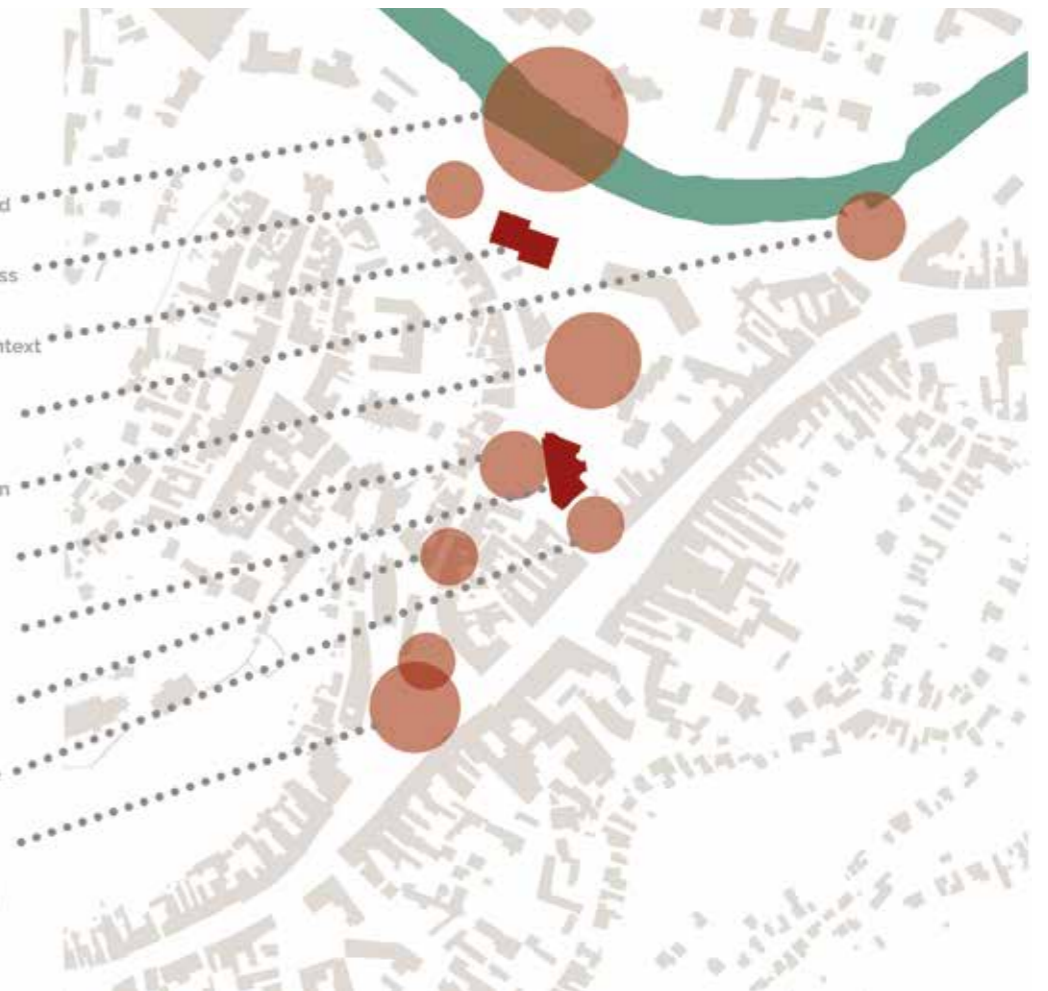
Hermann Oberth square



Riverside and the downtown

Problem sites

- riverside inaccessible | not maintained
- green island inaccessible | difficult to cross
- building blocking the view | out of context
- crossing border to the riverside
- empty lot undefined | ownership problem
- parking undefined | not aesthetic
- empty building not used | out of context
- octavian goga street no space for pedestrians
- empty site not used | gap in streetscape
- hermann oberth park out of context | separating the space | no access to the south facade |



Concept

The starting point of the concept emerged from defining main areas of our interest. These are: Hermann Oberth Park (former market square), existing large parking lot (that is sometimes used for events), undefined lot that is partly used as parking and river bank that is completely neglected at the moment. Our concept greatly relies on the word RECLAIM as we think that public places are taken from Sighisoara people and are strongly overtaken by cars and parking. The main aim of our concept is to RECLAIM old square, RECLAIM local market, RECLAIM public park and RECLAIM riverbank.

In next step we translated this to **RESTORE** (culture, identity, heritage), **REGEN-**

ERATE (local economy, craftsmen, products), **BREATHE** (recreation, leisure, play) and lastly **ESCAPE** (nature, green corridor, river, connection).

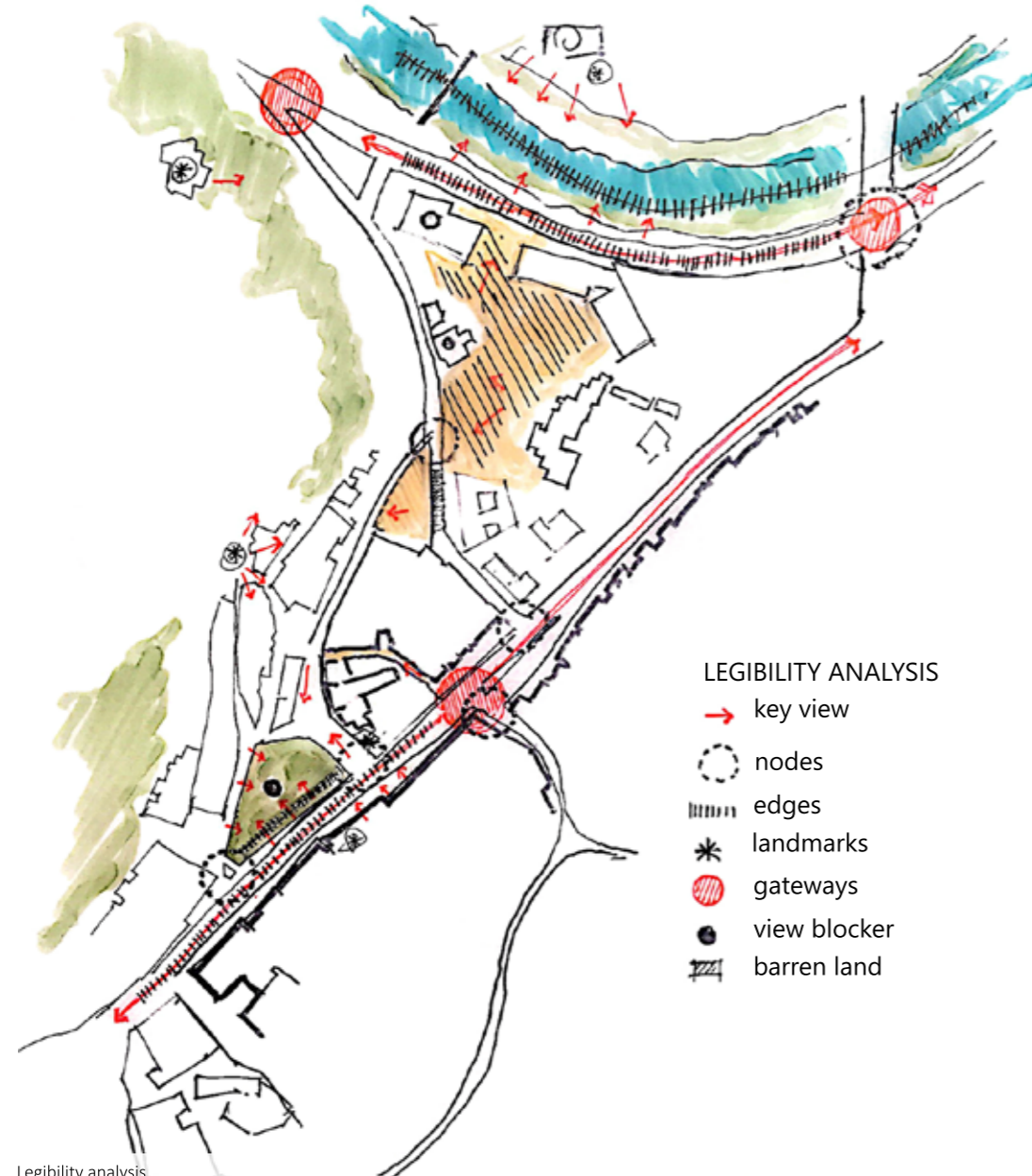
The concept offers sustainable solutions for traffic, makes Sigishoara more livable and more walkable, offer tourists new routes and experiences, strengthening local economy, increasing the quality of open spaces and lastly giving back Sigishoara downtown area to its citizens. Moreover, the corridor from old historic square to the riverside takes you from the most urban to the most natural experience of Sigishoara. Lastly, all interventions that are done are minimalistic in order not to take attention from the real jewel of Sigishoara - the citadel itself.



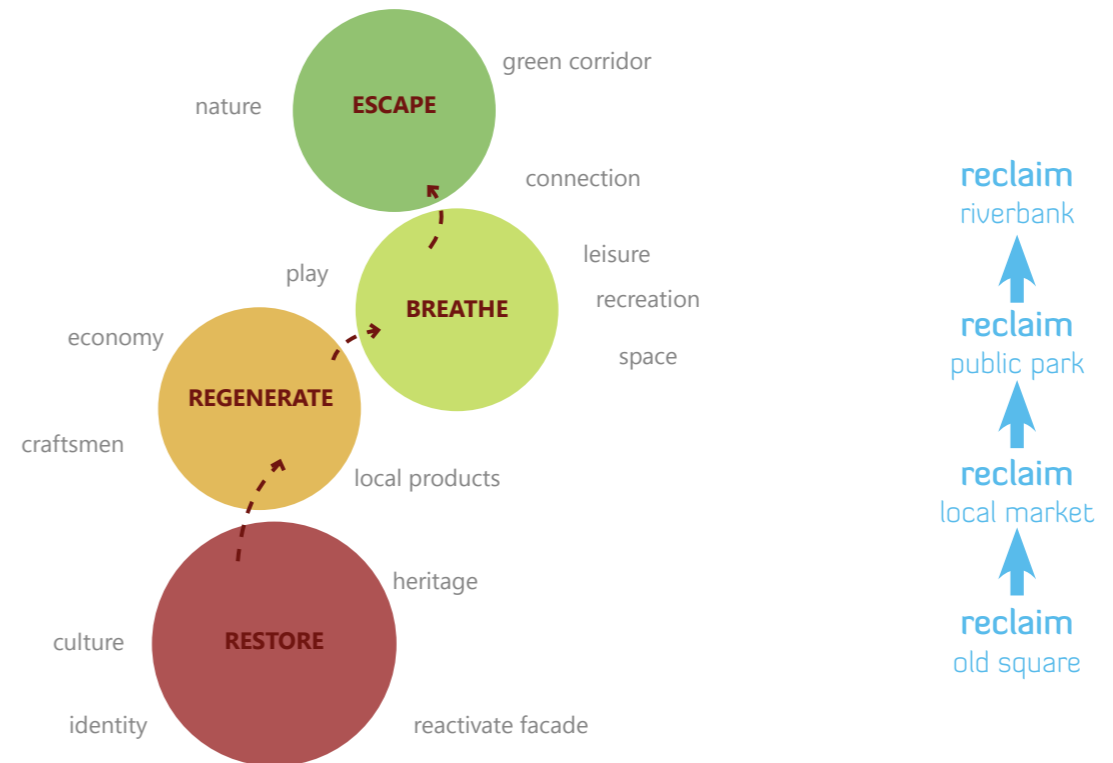
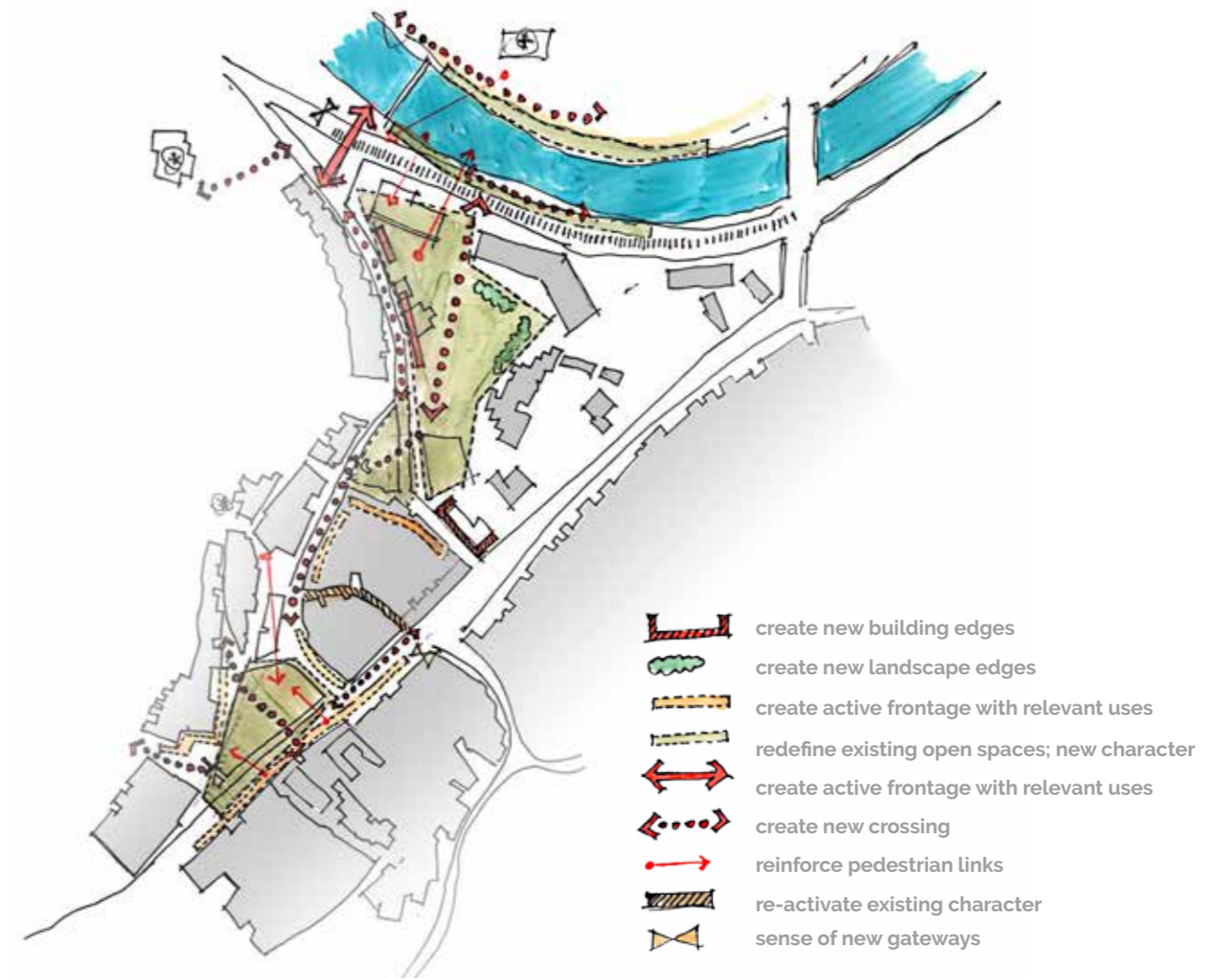
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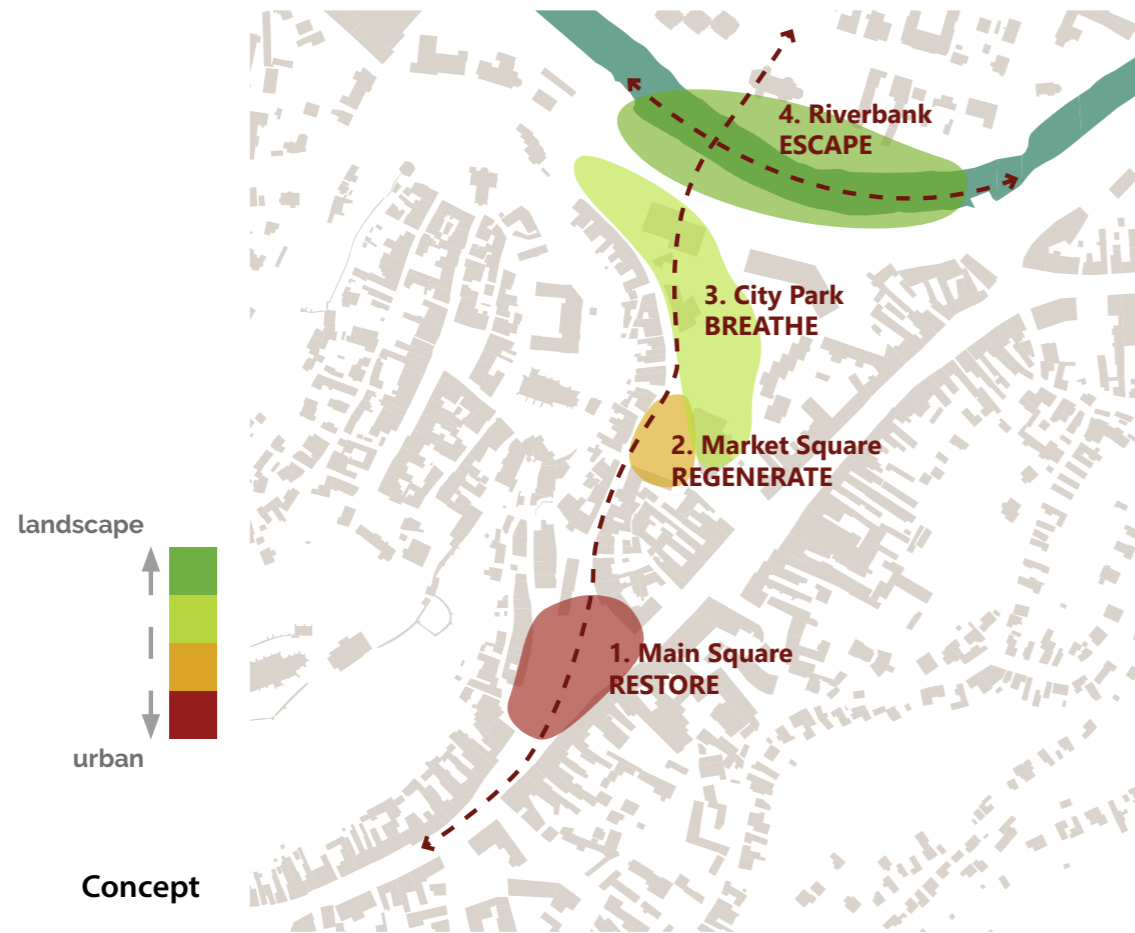


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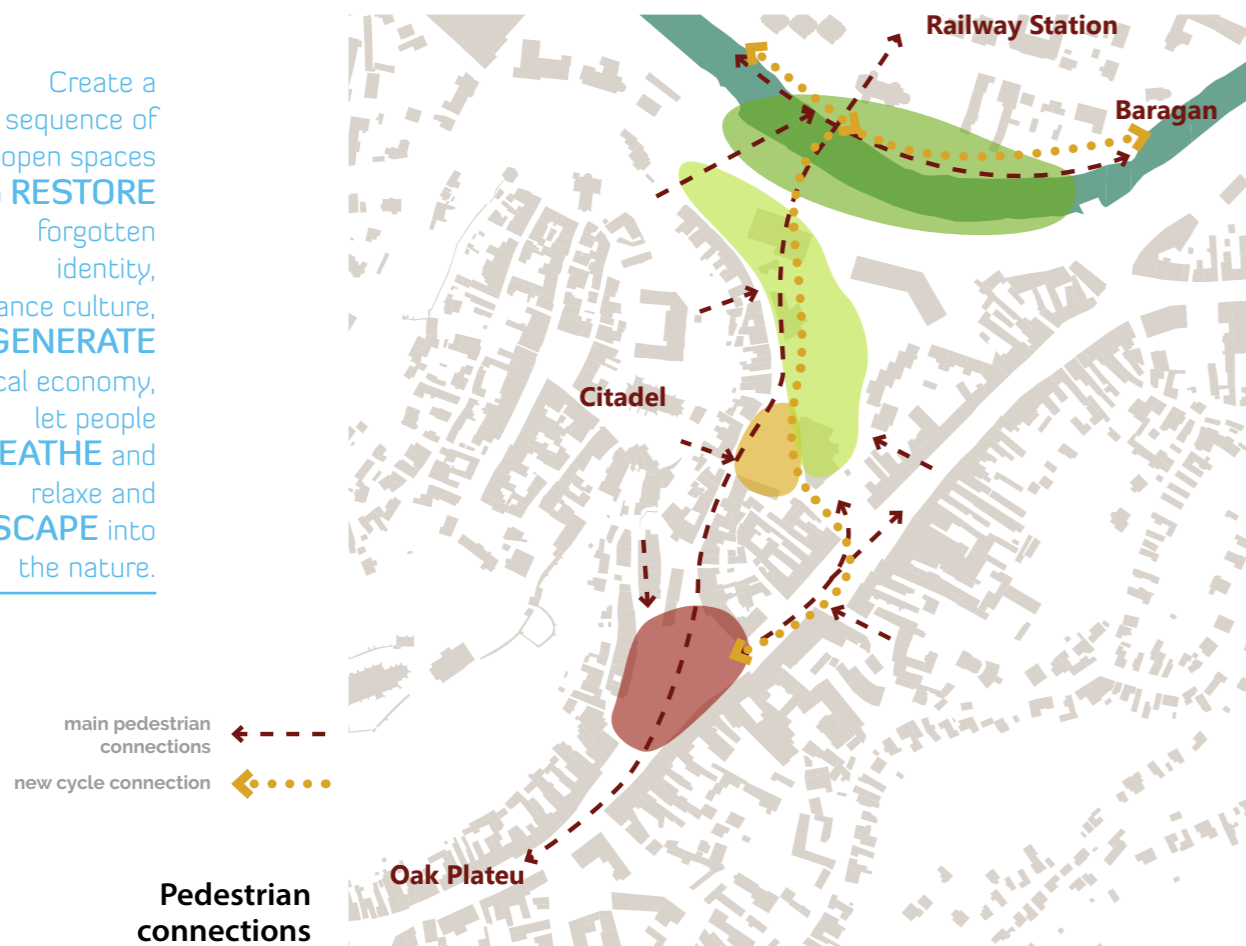


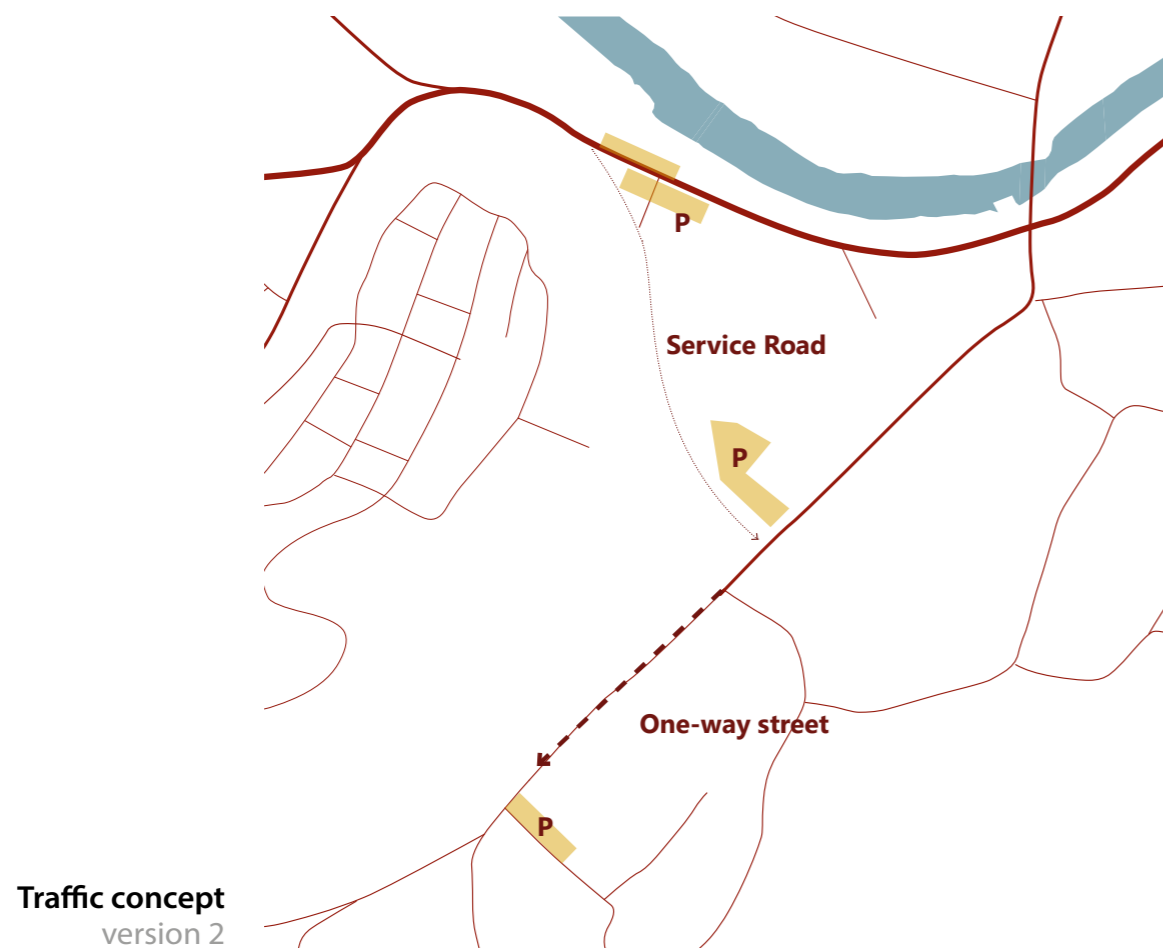
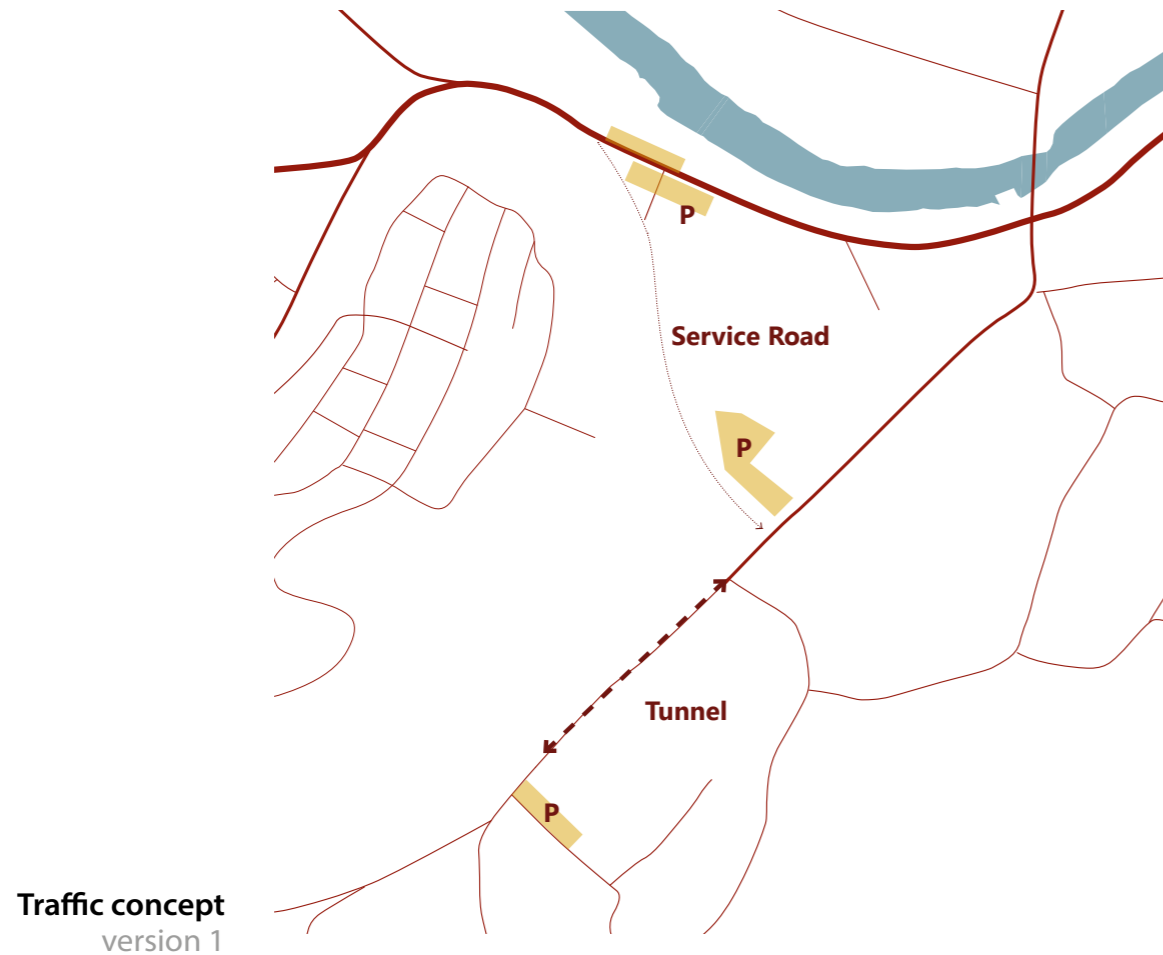
Legibility analysis





Create a sequence of open spaces to **RESTORE** forgotten identity, enhance culture, **REGENERATE** local economy, let people **BREATHE** and relax and **ESCAPE** into the nature.





Hermann Oberth square

New old square

The Hermann Oberth park is probably the focal point of current downtown area of Sighisoara. It was named after Hermann Oberth, one of the forefathers of astronautics and rocketry. Historically, the current park was used as a main square and a market place. However, in 1960s under communist regime, the square was converted into a park in order to minimize the possibilities of public gatherings and crowds. Given the poor quality of the park

and the lack of communication with surrounding as well as the historic importance, our concept defines this area as a main square and the most urban point of Sighisoara. Minimalistic design approach with one central detail makes it a very flexible space. Having restaurants and cafes around and closing the traffic around the square, makes it very pedestrian friendly and a place of interaction for the entire city. Also, one of the main connections to the citadel are provided from the square making it a pre-entrance to the one of the best preserved medieval citadels in Europe. In addition, different kind of events can take place in the new square.

“ Having restaurants and cafes around and closing the traffic around the square, makes it very pedestrian friendly and a place of interaction for the entire city.”



forgetten identity heritage
 car-free restore pedestrian friendly
 restoration culture

version 1
 one-way car traffic



forgetten identity heritage
 shared space restore pedestrian friendly
 restoration culture

version 2
 two-way car traffic + tunnel



Future look of Hermann Oberth square



Our concept envisions this area as a new local market space that would endorse local products and craftsmen that are well-known historically in this region.

New market square

The next sequence of open space would be a large parking lot that is occupying one of the most valuable sites in the city. This space is connected to the Hermann Oberth square via Octavian Goga street that is overtaken by cars. Our concept envisions this area as a new local market space that would endorse local products and craftsmen that are well-known historically in this region. This would support local economy and inbreath new character

for this area. Closing the Octavian Goga street for cars, makes it much more approachable by both, locals and tourists. In addition, this zone includes a large unfinished building that we find inappropriate for this place, therefore our concept replaces it with the new cultural centre since Sigishoara lacks public cultural buildings. In a same time, this building is used for providing an underground parking for cars and in this way solving a big parking issue that Sigishoara has.

economy local products
culture regenerate
craftmen interaction

New market square



Future look of new market square

Park and river side

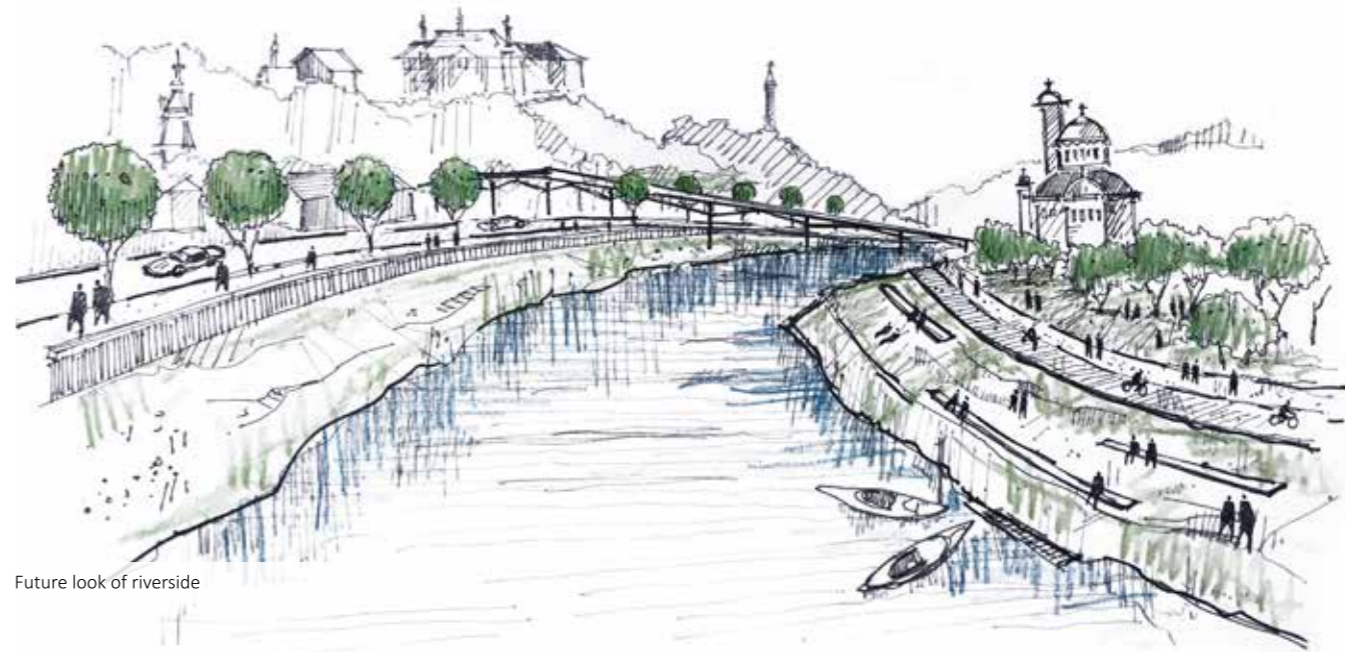
One of the areas with the most potential for us was the undefined area that was mostly empty. In a same time one of the biggest problems we noticed is a lack of green areas in the city. Therefore, the new definition of this area would be a public park that would let people of Sigishoara relax and enjoy. In a same time, park would be one of the first sights that tourists see when they come to Sigishoara. Therefore, a parking for buses is provided and the entrance of the park. This way, tourists would have a chance to go through new pedestrian-friendly open spaces of Sigishoara on their way to Citadel. When it comes to design,

park is very minimalistic with large tree areas and clear visual and connecting axes.

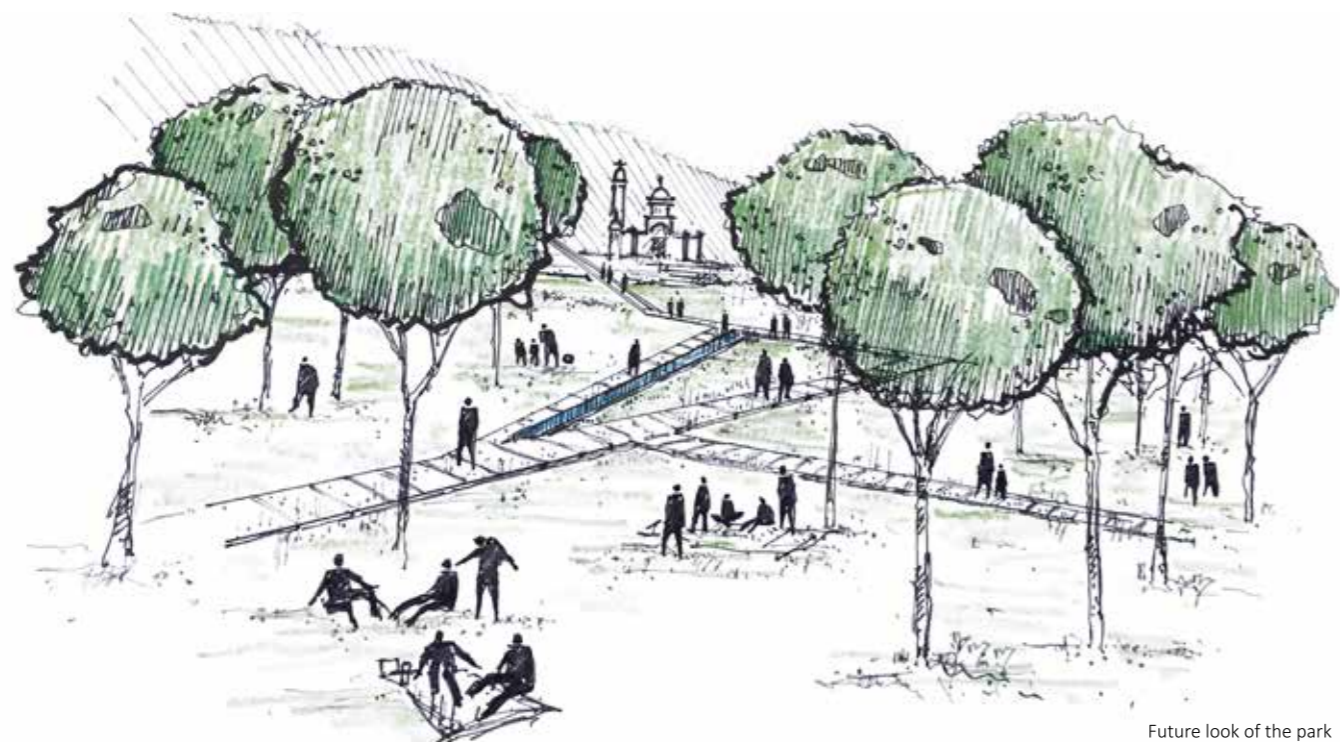
One of the most neglected, and in a same time one of the areas with a lot of potential is river side. Currently the river side is cut mostly by the very frequent national road. Therefore, our concept includes a pedestrian bridge that is starting in park and connecting a downtown area to the river bank. This connection is significant because of numerous accidents that occurred on this street and secondly because other side of river is highly populated. Second aspect for this area covers a revitalization of a river bank, including sitting areas and direct contact with the water, as well as the excellent view to the hill and citadel.



One of the areas with the most potential for us was the undefined area that was mostly empty. The new definition of this area would be a public park that would let people of Sigishoara relax and enjoy



Future look of riverside



Future look of the park

play leisure
 green corridor **breathe** recreation
 connection nature open space

Park and river side



Conclusion

Sighisoara is known as a touristic place generally for its medieval character and citadel. While tourists mostly spend their time on citadel, residents are living, working and dealing with everyday life in lower part of the city. Thus, the quality of lower part of the city has big importance. Our intention with this project was to RECLAIM the open spaces and give them back

to people of Sighisoara. The Restore, Regenerate, Breathe, Escape concept is mainly focused on the residents of Sighisoara but it also includes tourists. The concept touches the topic of connectivity, green spaces, cultural quality and generally the quality of open spaces. In addition, the concept generates a strong idea of interaction, social inclusion and improved life quality. ■



Ani Nalbandian
Armenia

Fernando Montaña
Colombia

Gabriela Lazuardi
Indonesia

contemporary -
medieval citadel



Aim of the project

With its approximately 28.000 inhabitants, which represents just the 5% of the entire Mures county, the small town of Sighisoara stands out by its historical and cultural heritage, making proud not just the inhabitants of the region but also all Romanians.

This strong heritage is mainly based on its medieval past and it is seen through its preserved Citadel, a small fortified city located on a hill with beautiful medieval architecture and, what is more extra-ordinary, still inhabited. By this reason, this special place became as part of the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

However, different facts such as: tourism pressure, car-mobility and urban expansion of Sighisoara have done that this small citadel starts to lose part of its original identity and gradually falls in negligence and abandonment. This struggling between past and present and the compromise for a sustainable future make this project: Contemporary medieval citadel a reason to explore, through a landscape architecture point of view, how to combine the different historical and cultural values with the needs of the current city, both for the spontaneous visitors and for the everyday users.

To do so, a clear methodology was used to identify the main problems and, besides the short time of this project, to propose a part of a possible solution which defines a general concept and some design ideas that could be deepened further.

Methodology

The methodology used consists of:

1. Identify the problems and potentials of the Citadel, as a result, there were set the main goals of the project.
2. Analyze and map all the problems found out and collect them in a conflict map
3. Make a spatial concept which propose a solution for these problems
4. Design a concept idea
5. Detail the idea.

Problems

- Car traffic inside the Historical citadel blocking pedestrian movement and disconnecting areas.
- Cars parked on public spaces destroying views and blocking accesses.
- Bad quality paving condition impacting pedestrian flow.
- Lack of public open spaces answering the needs of local people.
- Lack of infrastructure - the existing one oriented only to tourists.
- Most of the connections to the citadel are abandoned.
- The pruning of trees is done incorrect.
- The invasive asian plant destroying native vegetation
- Closed with fences or chaotic vegetation Vistas.

“

With its approximately 28.000 inhabitants, which represents just the 5% of the entire Mures county, the small town of Sighisoara stands out by its historical and cultural heritage, making proud not just the inhabitants of the region but also all Romanians.

Potentials:

- It has a medieval atmosphere
- It is still well preserved and full of historical monuments.
- There are some public spaces which just need more quality.
- A lot of existing pathways and trails that can be improved.
- There are already a lot of tourists bringing economic activity for the citadel.
- There are residents living on the citadel and creating vegetable gardens for example. It can be used and developed further as it is something special inside such a space like medieval citadel.
- There are a lot of landmark old coniferous trees. A lot of types of chestnut trees which were not studied and over important native species.

Analysis

Connectivity

Only two connections are much in use, but they are disrupted with frequent car traffic. They are wide enough and provide a security feeling at the same time cars use it as a main entrance to the citadel.

As well the accesses to the citadel are better defined for those two connections.

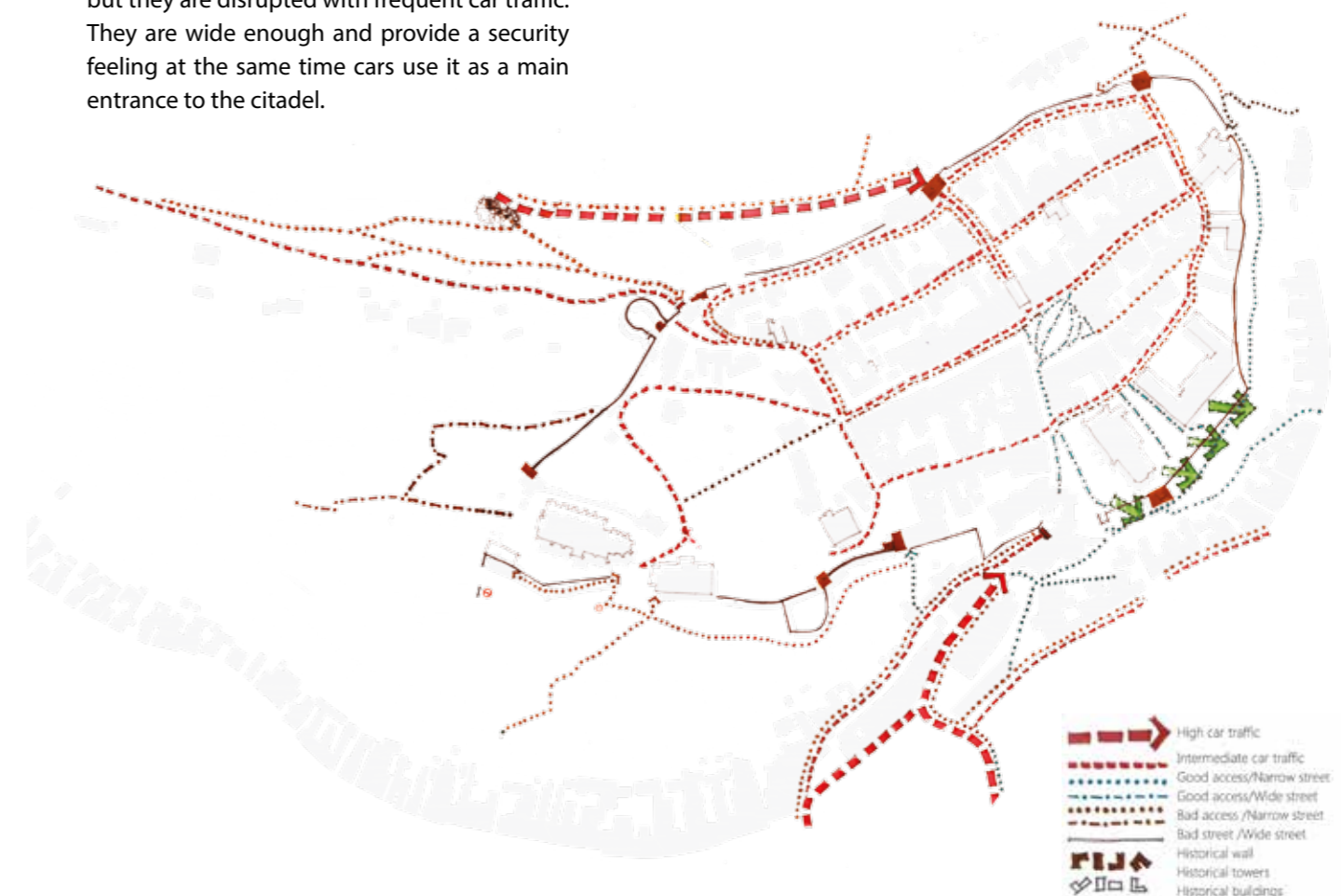
The rest of the accesses are hidden and not visible for someone who does not know the area very well. Rest of the connections to the citadel are in a bad condition and not very much in-use. The surfaces and vegetation are not maintained. The staircases are not fully prominent and at some points are interrupted.

The connection to the school used to be more prominent and lively. Students were using it, but due to the lack of maintenance it is completely abandoned. The vegetation is very dense in this part and creates too much seclusion what lets some people to use it as a 'toilet'. Mainly there is a good structure of routes to the citadel, so the structure exists.

However, the conditions do not invite pedestrian to use them. The connectivity inside citadel as mainly interrupted but car traffic or car parking. Cars park chaotically and only flowerbeds or bollards stop them to park on several public areas.

“

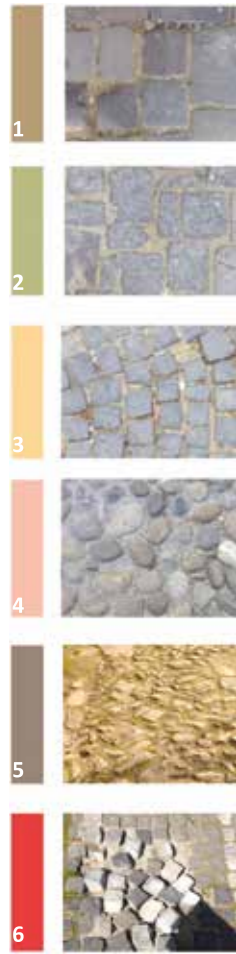
The connectivity inside citadel as mainly interrupted but car traffic or car parking. Cars park chaotically and only flowerbeds or bollards stop them to park on several public areas.



Paving map

For the further analysis of connectivity the map of paving has been done. The main result was the discovery that paving 4 is prevalent in the citadel. It was supposed to keep the spirit of the citadel as the original stone was a river stone, but the implementation of the new river stone was not quality work and currently it is difficult to walk on it. Because of the heavy cars the stones are popping out from the concrete, they are located to far from each other and create a discomfort while walking. The paving number 1 is situated only in a small area not far from the Clock tower. However, the stones are too polished and on the slope and rainy weather they might be dangerous to walk. It was noticed that people with age are having problems to walk on it.

The paving 2 seemed the most comfortable and esthetically fitting to the context. On the other hand, the paving number 5 is the original one and emphasizes the atmosphere. But the stone for such a paving needs to be chosen manually as it has to have certain form and dimensions. As well it has to be installed more dense on site what all together requires a lot of work. The paving 3 is comfortable to walk on, but it is used on big public spaces and creates a wrong feeling of dimensions of the squares. At the end non accessible or ruined paving areas were mapped to find out the most inaccessible areas. (see map below)



“ For the further analysis of connectivity the map of paving has been done.

●●● non accessible or ruined paving areas were mapped to find out the most inaccessible areas.

Functions of buildings

In order to understand the citadel life the functions of buildings were researched. After talking to a local experts it was discovered that a lot of people still live inside the citadel what is very special. There are also some schools and cafes, but that is all infrastructure for citadel locals and as well residents of Sighisoara. The existing facilities are mostly tourist oriented. There are mostly souvenir shoppes, restaurants and hotels. There is no single bakery or small hardware store.

The second discovered problem was the location of the existing facilities. They are situated mostly in the central axe of the citadel and they cause a tourist crowded.

There were quite an amount of houses for sale. Although the citadel lacks infrastructure, due to its history an importance of the space the prices are quite high and not attractive for younger families to move there. The buildings have a chance to attract mostly an entrepreneurs to develop a business there.

Most of the existing shops are not providing local products and are not offering the local crafts products. Only three local product shops and one tanner workshop was found. (see the map on the next page)



“ After talking to a local experts it was discovered that a lot of people still live inside the citadel what is very special.

Although the citadel lacks infrastructure, due to its history an importance of the space the prices are quite high and not attractive for younger families to move there.

Visual Connections - Viewpoints

During walks and observations a lot of visual connections inside the citadel and towards the city were discovered. However, most of the views were blocked with fences or chaotic vegetation. The visual connections were mapped in order to develop a potential public spaces in a from of a platforms with an interesting vistas.



“ The visual connections were mapped in order to develop a potential public spaces in a from of a platforms with an interesting vistas.

The 'crowed' map

There are only several streets intensively used by people. As it was mentioned before the tourist crowded is using the streets with the heels and shops and the rest of the citadel is relatively empty. It was observed that people walk to some point of the citadel and just go back to the center. There is nothing attracting their attention.



“ It was observed that people walk to some point of the citadel and just go back to the center. There is nothing attracting their attention.



The waves of construction

In the research through the history of the citadel showed the the majority of the buildings come form the period of 17-18 century. The initial structure of 13th century is present only with the wall and the towers. From the observations there were a lot of conflict points noticed on the belt of the Town hall. Conflicts like abandoned spaces, relatively big parkings and no connectivity inside this belt.

The belt from 19th-20th century does not fit into the original urban fabric of the citadel as before it was an area of the monastery. It was a closed area and there was no direct access to the wall.



“ In the research through the history of the citadel showed the the majority of the buildings come form the period of 17-18 century. The initial structure of 13th century is present only with the wall and the towers.

Conflict map

The conflict map is a compilation of all the negative outcomes from analysis maps. It also contains the observed conflicts. It shows that the most problematic areas are on the periphery of the citadel. The conflicts are mostly created by non walkable paving, abandoned routes and accesses, car traffic and car parkings. The center is highlighted as the most crowded place. The amount of people is even higher during festivals and holidays what makes people living in the citadel to feel uncomfortable.



“ The conflict map is a compilation of all the negative outcomes from analysis maps. It also contains the observed conflicts. It shows that the most problematic areas are on the periphery of the citadel.

It is important to mention again that there is lack of public spaces in the citadel. There are interesting spots, but the potential is not used. There is a lack of infrastructure like services and again more functional public spaces as there is no single playground.

During the day the citadel is full of tourists but in the evening it is quite empty. The locals of Sighisoara are not going to the citadel very often. However, the citadel has not much to offer to the citizens as even the great history and the medieval atmosphere is in a way lost.

Aims

Connectivity:

- Restore abandoned routes and pathways,
- Rearrange car/pedestrian mobility,
- Identify different characteristics of routes/ pathways.

Open spaces:

- Use potential of current open spaces,
- Relate new contemporary interventions with the identity and the context,
- Use and manage vegetation to strengthen the identity.



“ The first ideas in improving citadel are: bringing more quality in existing public spaces, discover and create new potential ones and connect them all together

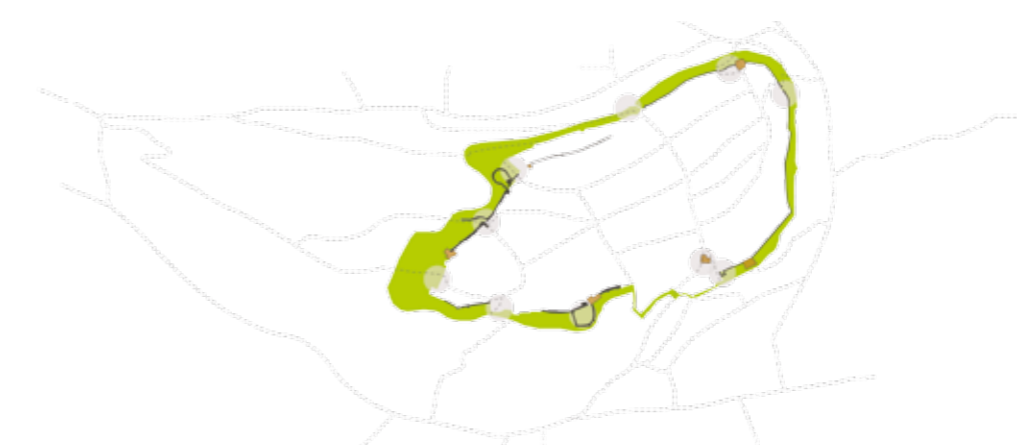
cal cooper jewelry maker it was discovered that there is a demand in crafts, but it is difficult to sustain it and keep competable prices against salesman who bring the products form China. However, the craftsman said that he has a lot of clients and it is an attractive business. It is important all to attract small scale business to the citadel and provide more services for the locals so one of the main aims would be to answer not only the needs of the tourists, but especially the needs of people living inside the citadel.

Concept: Embrace the Citadel

The first ideas in improving citadel are: bringing more quality in existing public spaces, discover and create new potential ones and connect them all together.

The next steps are related with the connection of the citadel with the city of Sighisoara. The solution is improve accessibility and revive the abandoned routes towards the citadel. The last aim was to try to bring back the medieval spirit and atmosphere to the citadel by, for example, attracting local craftsmen back to the towers as initially each tower had a craftsmen and a workshop. In the interview with a lo-

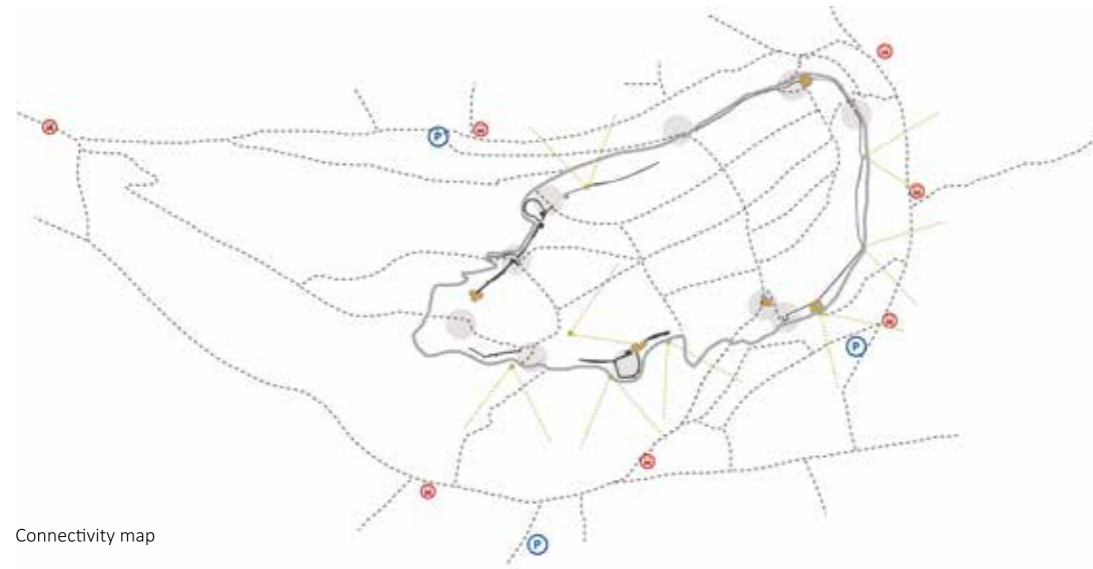
The concept is to create one big public space around the citadel which will already solve several problems like: improving accesses and a security state on the citadel hill, providing an alternative, more natural public space experience for the locals and attracting citizens of Sighisoara to the citadel itself. The routes towards the citadel are getting more important too and become a part of the Loop park around the citadel. To achieve a better connectivity it is proposed to have the citadel entirely car free. For that several parkings, new bus stops and drop-off areas are proposed.



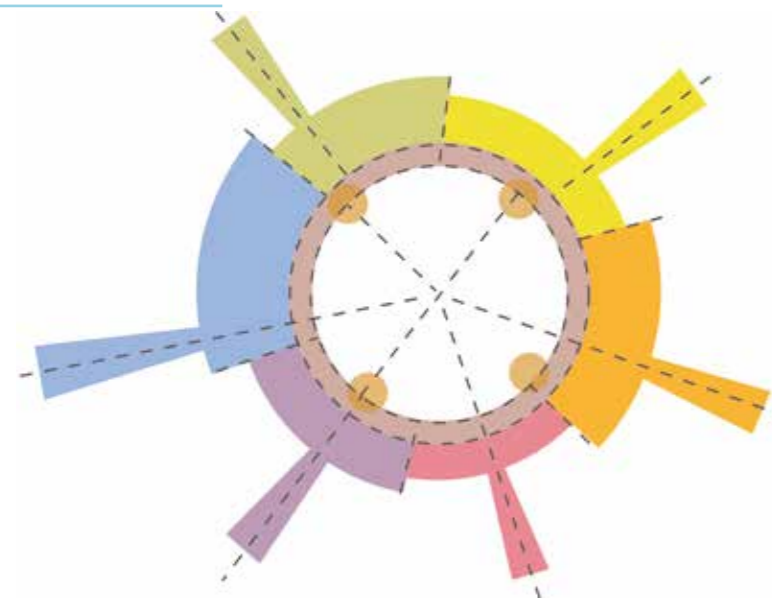
“ The routes towards the citadel are getting more important too and become a part of the Loop park around the citadel. To achieve a better connectivity it is proposed to have the citadel entirely car free. For that several parkings, new bus stops and drop-off areas are proposed.



There are 6 typologies created and the all have a directing element - the paving surface and the wall. Sometimes the wall is not visible from the trails and in this case only paving material is a directing element.



Connectivity map



The area around the citadel has already a lot of different characters and just by emphasizing and structuring them an interesting typology appears.

Also in order to revive the existing connections it is suggested to give different characters to them too. However, to achieve coherence the connections follow the character of the type they are arriving into.

There are 6 typologies created and the all have a directing element - the paving surface and the wall. Sometimes the wall is not visible from the trails and in this case only paving material is a directing element. In another situation only the wall stays as a direction. During the walk one of the elements is always present to help the visitor to orientate.



Concept map

1. Memorial Trail



Longitude: 210m approx.

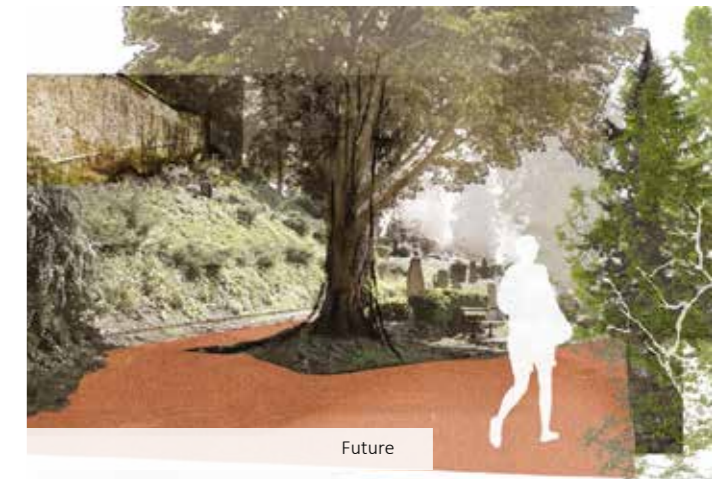


Character:
A warm place of remembrance and history. The trail connects the Saint nicolas church , the Totenhall, the Turnul Franghierilor tower and a long part of the cemetery.

Vegetation characteristics:
High, dense trees. Coniferous forest. Old mature trees.



Cross section



Future



Present

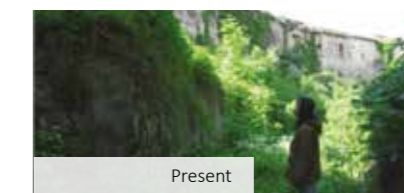
Future (Suspended Platform)



2. Windows to Sighișoara



Longitude: 237m approx.



Present

Character:
A bright, shadowed trail where there is an intimate connection with the nature of the Citadel hill and some viewpoints of the city that can be seen through high trees.

Vegetation characteristics:
Vegetation characteristics: high, big trees, not shrubs or low vegetation. (*Amelanchier Lamarckii, Tilia Cordata, Sorbus aria, Juglans regia*)



Cross section

3. Urban Trail

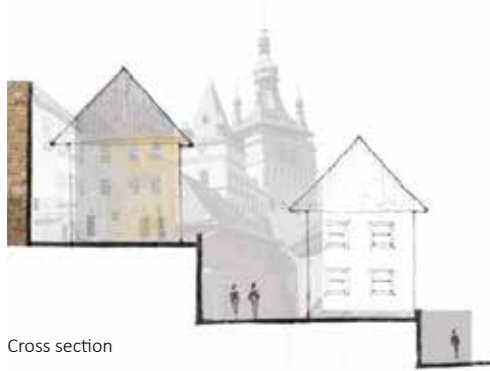


Longitude: 170m approx.



Character:
This Trail goes through the streets of the city to connect the next part of the loop. Its atmosphere is predominantly urban. The pavement and light will be used to lead visitors and users to the next trail.

Vegetation characteristics:
Shrubs in some parts.



Cross section

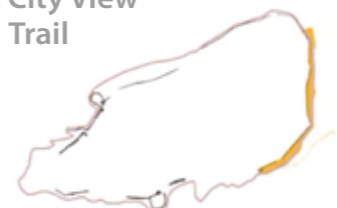


Future



Viewpoints

4. City View Trail



Longitude: 260m approx.



Present

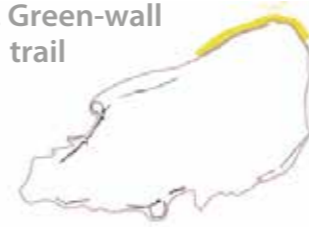
Character:
Open, bright atmosphere near to open public spaces and important buildings such as: the town hall, the Turnul Fieranilor tower, and the Manastirii and Sf. Losif churches. With potential view points to the city.

Vegetation characteristics:
Shrubs and low vegetation. (*Spirea, Sambulus nigra, Corylus Avelana*) *Current trees need special mantainance



Cross section

5. Green-wall trail



Longitude: 210m approx.



Cross section

Character:
This trail has the appearance of a sort of "tunnel" between the ancient wall and the dense vegetation of the Citadel Hill; its atmosphere is cold and shady. It is near to the Turnul Ci marilor and Turnul Croitorilor towers.

Vegetation characteristics:
High, dense trees and shrubs.



Future



Present

6. Forest trail



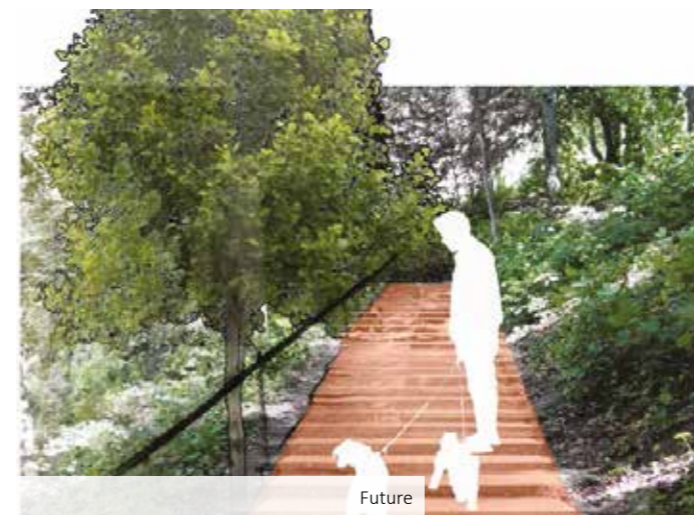
Longitude: 280m approx.



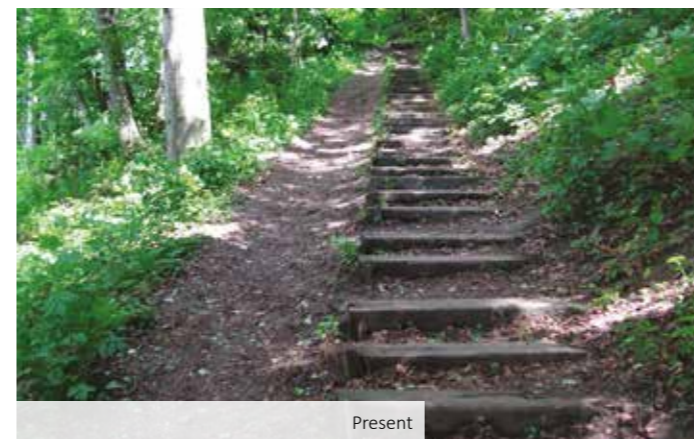
Present

Character:
this trail has a very natural green atmosphere, it is in the middle of the forest at the main entrance to the Citadel. Along this trail are located the Turnul Cojocarilor and Turnul Macelarilor towers.

Vegetation characteristics:
High, big dense trees and shrubs.



Future



Present



Cross section

Next steps

In the next steps it will be important to make a decision about paving material which has to match the context but at the same time to be self-sufficient enough to lead the visitors. It has to match to the wall and all the atmospheres of the types. In the visualizations the surface is marked with an abstract color just to highlight the idea that it has to be something coherent through entire loop.



“

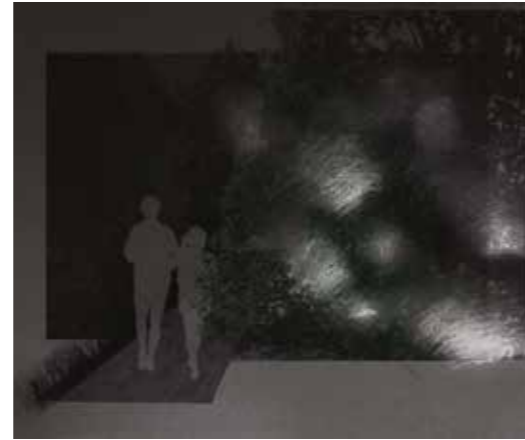
There are several options brainstormed for the lighting.



“

...the entire process of the project was an interesting experience. The idea to come to a non-acquainted area, explore it and try to propose solutions for the discovered problems is very challenging.

It is still a question if it is a more linear pattern, or it is very regular or the opposite. Is it something contrasting to the wall or not? Those are difficult questions to answer in the given time frame, but the paving is decently the focus for further developing of the project. There are many elements to add to and emphasize the atmosphere. The furniture and lighting for example could play a big role.



There are several options brainstormed for the lighting. One where the wall is the main lightened element again as a tool to direct the users. In the second one is a light line following the surface and lighting it from a side and again helping with orientation.

The last thought is more about the light coming from the vegetation as a contrast to the day time when the vegetation side is perceived dark, especially in the dense parts, in the night it could be very light to provide more secure feeling for the people having a walk there.

Conclusion

To sum up, the entire process of the project was an interesting experience. The idea to come to a non-acquainted area, explore it and try to propose solutions for the discovered problems is very challenging. The citadel of Sighisoara has a great potential to develop, but also a lot of problems. By the fast proposed concept only some of them are covered, but there is an incentive created, an incentive to bring attention to this place. ■



Evgenia Rozalsky
Russian Federation



Christian Soria Ramirez
Chile



Kovács Lóránt*
Romania



*from Sapientia EMTE

new
sighișoara



Baragan; from the group report

Introduction

Sighisoara is located on the Tarnava River in Mures county, Romania. The focus area is a contemporary urban quarter located at the eastern side of the town. The name of the neighbourhood is Tarnava or so called “Baragan” among the locals.

It is part of a relatively recent industrial zone between Sighisoara and Weisskirch. The neighbourhood is characterized by high urban density blocks, so called panel houses with poorly designed (or undersigned) green spaces, lack of common areas and surrounded by garages and allotment gardens.

The open space between the residential area and the river hosts new small groups of single family homes, a sports complex called “Stadion”, and an undeveloped open space used in some areas for grassing and with an unplanned vegetation structure.

Urban structure

The urban structure of Sighisoara shows that the main concentration of constructions are located around the historical center of the city, spreading also through the hills to the north, east and south.

Among this ramifications, two significantly expand to the east creating an unclear structure of urban developments. One spreads along “Strada Viilor” street connecting with an major factory of bricks, meanwhile the sec-

ond one goes along the “Strada Mihai Viteazul” street, which represents the main access to the city when coming from the East.

This last two extensions of the city draw on a metropolitan scale an important area with a very low density of constructions in a privileged situation next to the historical centre, configuring therefore a sort of very well located white canvas that represents a huge opportunity for the city in terms of urban and landscape planning.

Natural structure

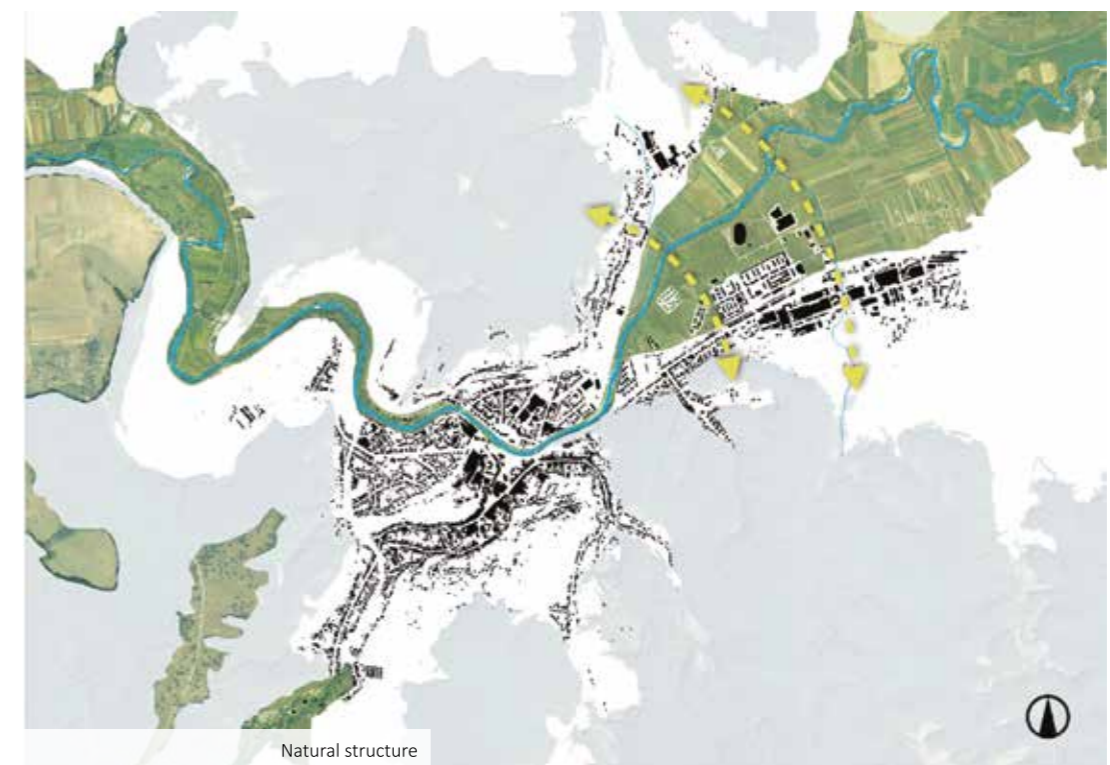
The focus area represents an important green open space which is mostly unprogrammed. Enclosed by forests regions that “squeeze” it from north and south, and in contact with the rural zones to the east, this green space should contribute to the construction of a natural system around the city of Sighisoara. It might become a green connection between two separated urban zones: the historical center and Baragan urban quarter.

In this line, the case study area has the potential of a natural corridor because of its location next to the river, with the possibility of acting as an important recreational and natural space for the city of Sighisoara.

Despite there are other important forest areas (Broad-Leaved Forest) in the surroundings of the city, the spatial qualities of



Urban structure



Natural structure

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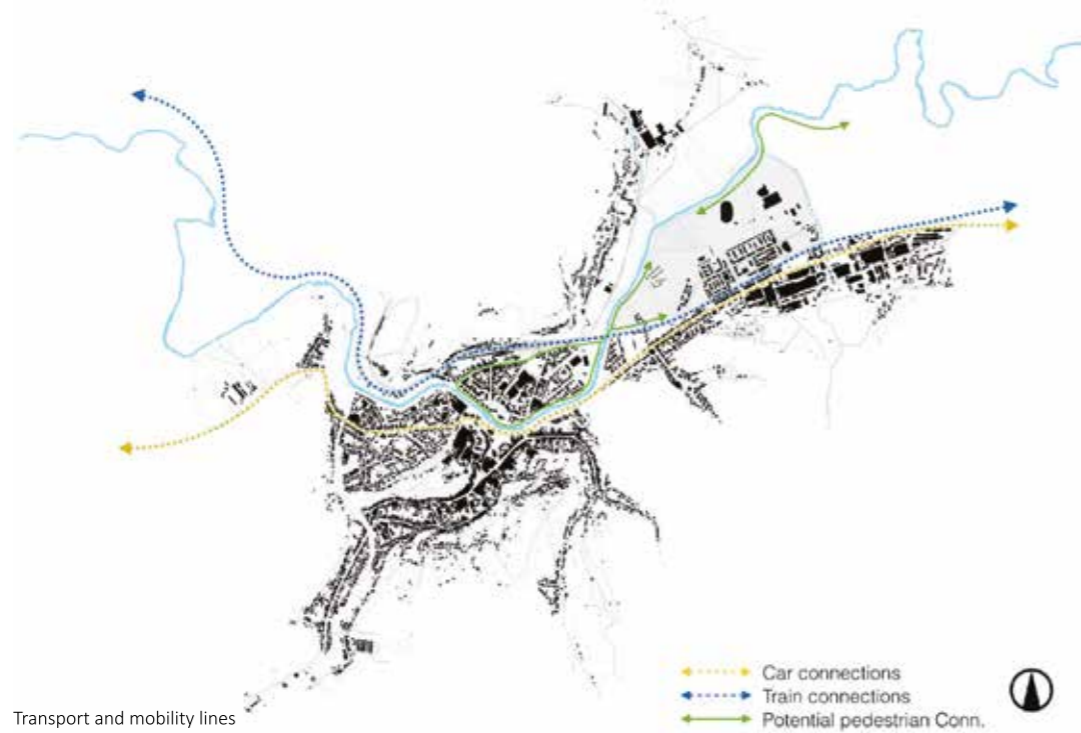
the Baragan fields as an open space represents another type of landscape with other properties and possibilities for planning, programming and activities. Also, the study area has the potential to create ecological bridges as green connections between the natural forest regions, today segregated by the urban fabric and other man-made interventions.

Transport and mobility lines

Three types of mobility lines connect the study area with the core of the city, with surrounding rural areas and also with other towns within the region, providing a full connectivity through different means of transportation: car, train and by foot.



Mobility lines show the good connection to the study site. Potential pedestrian connections are marked along the river.

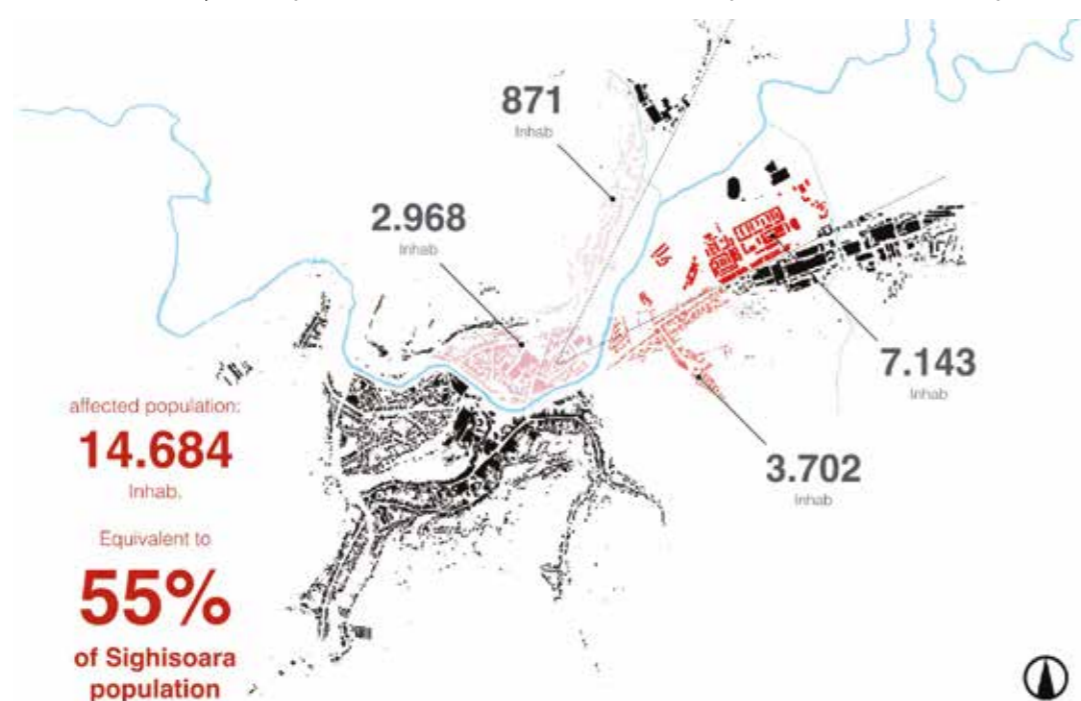


The first transportation line is the Mihai Viteazul Street which is the main access for vehicles to the city coming from the East. This street goes across the entire city and connects directly to the centre of it. For car users it is a very good alternative to reach the Baragan Neighbourhood from different points as well as from more distant areas, like from the neighbouring community of Albesti.

The second line correspond to the train, which also goes through one of the borders of the study area, parallel to the Mihai

Viteazul Street. This opens the possibility for the creation of a train station, considering the amount of people living in this area, as well as the relevance of this zone. Also, the fact that the train line goes along the study area highlights the importance of this space as one of the first landscapes that visitors perceive when entering to the city, showing how the rural becomes urban and vice versa.

The third line, lays on the Tarnava river existence. The river provides another alternative to develop more connections for pedestri-



Demographic analysis taken from GIS data. The different groups represent sub-regions identified by the researchers based on typology and proximity.



Mobility lines show the good connection to the study site. Potential pedestrian connections are marked along the river.

ans going by bike, foot or even boats or kayaks using the river basin. Both the water stream of the river as well as its border can be used for recreational mobility purposes. Besides the possibilities to connect with the historical centre of the city when moving to the west, in the other direction the study area connects with the rural landscape of Sighisoara. This transform the river as a corridor not just for nature, but also for culture and recreation, going from the historical and highly urbanized areas to the rural open fields.

Demographic analysis

One of the particularities of the study area is the concentration of inhabitants within the residential buildings. Just within the Baragan neighbourhood approx. 7.000 people live, representing almost one quarter of the entire population of the city.

If we extend the scope to neighbourhoods in direct contact to the borders of the study area and therefore with a good connection to it, we can see that approximately 55% of the total population would be benefit by the natural qualities of the Baragan fields. This opportunity meets the need of green spaces and places for recreation, due to the lack of them

in most of those residential areas. Any intervention would upgrade the quality of life not just of Baragan inhabitants, but also from other communities around.

Distribution by age

This geographic information derives from local data and represents age distribution within an area of 1 square kilometer. The graphs indicate that the majority of local population is middle age group (18-65 years), followed by young people (0-17 years) who are active and require certain quality of open green space and infrastructure for sport, active leisure and recreation.

Also we can find a third minor group which represents elderly people (66 and more years), with less relevance in the spaces with the highest concentration of population. This does not mean that they should not be considered as a potential user, but the opposite. Because of their lack and difficulties to access to means of transport, this user tends to stay in the area where he or she resides, acting as a permanent user of the spaces and infrastructure provided for recreation.



Just within the Baragan neighbourhood approx. 7.000 people live, representing almost one quarter of the entire population of the city.

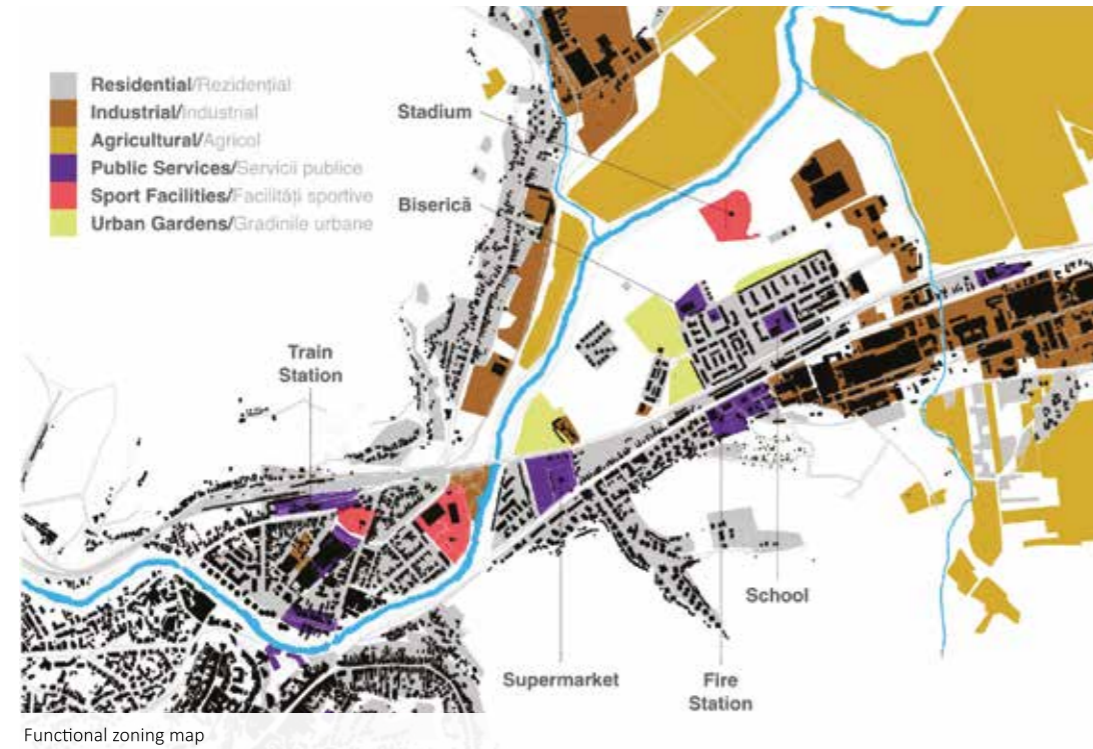


Functional zoning

The presence and distribution of various land uses and functions was analysed in the urban area around Baragan, concluding four relevant aspects for the design and argumentation of the project:

As a result of the analysis we can see that first of all there is a lack of recreational open spaces on the city. Secondly, the vast presence of industrial zones and the way they

are spreading, represents a threat by cutting the connection that exist between the open fields of Baragan and the rural areas to the east. Thirdly, the project area has a high potential for the development of leisure activities because of its undeveloped fields. Lastly, the existence of sport facilities and urban gardening within the study area need to be improved and adjusted to the demands of a plan that considers its integration with mobility lines and the direct vegetational structures.



“...there is a lack of recreational open spaces in the city.”



“The focus area is pretty much isolated in terms of good accessibility for its location between the railway and the highway, both corridors to the south, and by the Tarnava river to the north.”

Accessibility

The focus area is pretty much isolated in terms of good accessibility for its location between the railway and the highway, both corridors to the south, and by the Tarnava river to the north. Possible accesses to the neighbourhood were investigated, finding few crossing points for cars and or for pedestrian, as formal and improvised paths through the railway:

- Yellow arrows: one of them goes under the trainlines as a short tunnel with a narrow path for pedestrians together with the road for cars. The other two crossing points go over the surface. All of them lack of a secure space for pedestrian, being this a problem during rush hours when there is heavy traffic.
- Red spots: Improvised crossing points, with no security garanties, which have been organised randomly by local people.

Summary of challenges

To sum up, we can visualise all of the problems we faced in the Baragan fields by the photographic record taken during the study trip.

They provide a first person visual perception of the lan scape conflicts.

- 1. Unclear planning**
Proximity of various life housing typologies with unclear relation and distribution, underdeveloped infrastructure and no prioritization of spaces.
- 2. Urban sprawl**
New private houses disrupt the natural landscape and take over the open space continuity.
- 3. Accessibility**
Dangerous paths, plenty of obstacles, unclear legibility of space.
- 4. Connection between natural and urban**
No recreational trails/paths from neighbourhoods to natural/rural areas and through the city important spaces.
- 5. Landscape perception through Baragan boundaries**
Few openings to the Baragan fields between the garage lines around the residential areas do not provide a proper relation with the landscape.

“...we can visualise all of the problems we faced in the Baragan fields by the photographic record taken during the study trip.”



6. Non-aesthetic and unpractical street elements

Dirty, lack of design, open garbage spots affect the perception and valorization of the neighbourhood.

7. Infrastructure and use conflicts

Trash containers located right next to kids playground.

8. Overcrowding of parking lots

Cars are everywhere. No underground parking and no multi storey parking building, push locals to park in every available space.

9. Impacts on behavior and spatial perception of inhabitants

Children's drawing parking lots with chalk on asphalt reflect catastrophic consequences of open space configuration.

Existent Urban Zonal Plan (PUZ)

There is a partially approved master plan from the year 2001, called Urban Zonal Plan (known as Plan Urbanistic Zonal PUZ in Rumanian) which we got from the chief architect of the city Sighisoara. All unused space for the moment is designed for residential area and sport facilities. In next decades it is planned to

build here around 300 houses for more than 1200 inhabitants.

As we know 7000 people are already living in the Tarnava neighbourhood . This means to load this quarter will only increase the indirect (and negative) relation between inhabitants and green spaces. Here we deal with an urban sprawl process that might consume natural soil, and add more stress to the urban structure, having social, economic and environmental consequences.

At first local citizens will loose open space and any connection to the Landscape/nature.

Secondly, local population growth will cause heavy/high traffic in this direction. Density of panel housing makes providing of public transportation complicated. Remoteness from the city and difficult access by foot or bike is causing car dependency.

Thirdly, building private houses near to blocks of flats means separation of social classes and a disruption in the spatial configuration.

At the top of that we have depletion of resources, pollution, destruction of wildlife habitat, significant growth of infrastructure costs. All of them are obviously negative effects of urban sprawl.

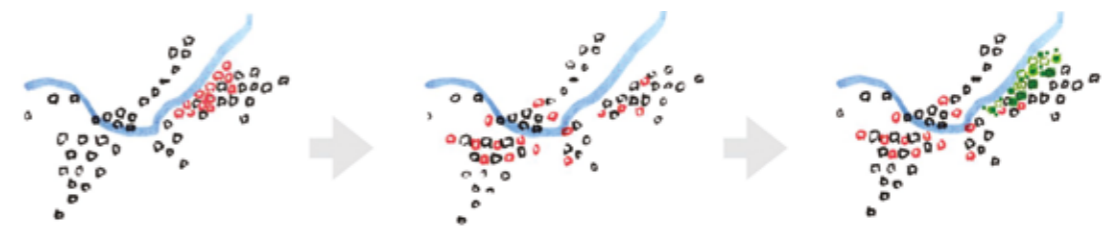


Area for the future urban development and loss of open space

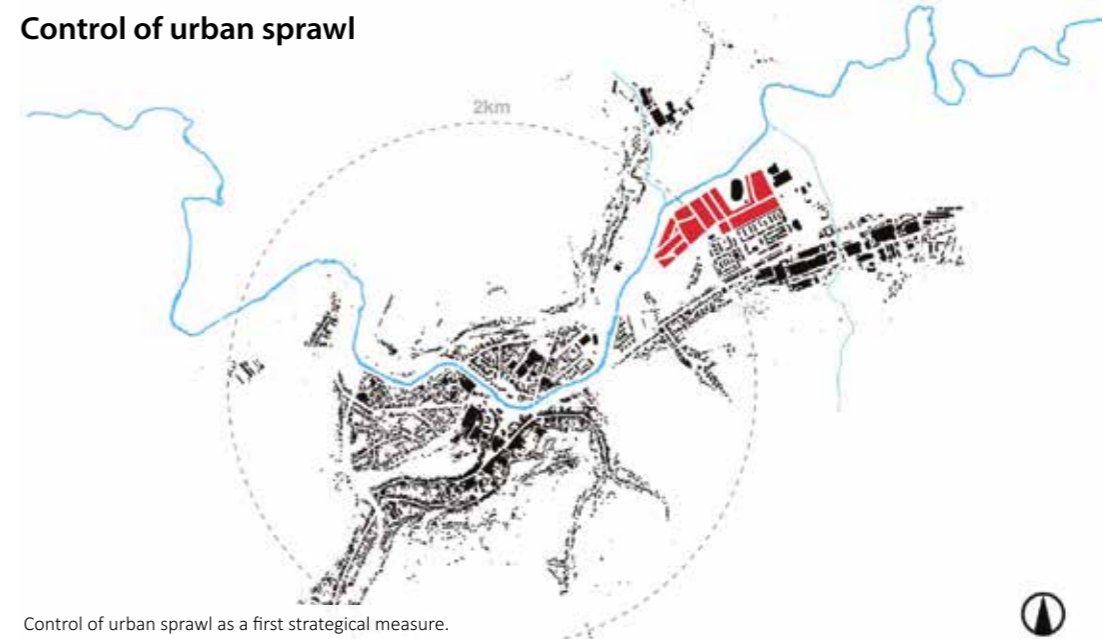
Planning Strategies

In order to achieve project goals and tackle mentioned above challenges, we developed a step-by-step strategy, starting with the control of urban sprawl and the stop of new

constructions in the study area. A proposal for the redistribution then is needed. This will make possible the preservation of the natural structures and the creation of a green space for the city.



Control of urban sprawl



Control of urban sprawl as a first strategical measure.



There is a partially approved master plan from the year 2001, called Urban Zonal Plan which we got from the chief architect of the city Sighisoara. All unused space for the moment is designed for residential area and sport facilities.



Existing PUZ of the focus area



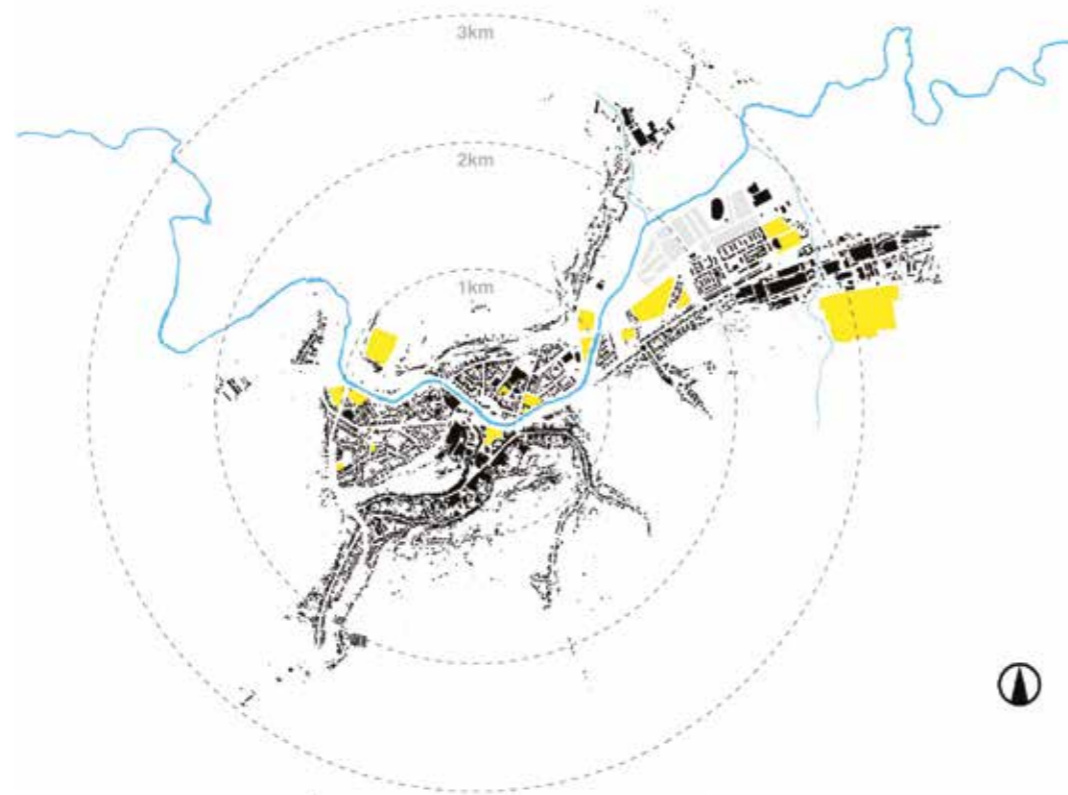
In order to achieve project goals and tackle mentioned above challenges, we developed a step-by-step strategy, starting with the control of urban sprawl and the stop of new constructions in the study area.

The first step demands to put under control the urban sprawl process. That is why our recommendation is to avoid constructions and freeze permits for building within the red marked area. These 300 private houses should not disrupt the continuity of the existent open space.

Redistribution of population

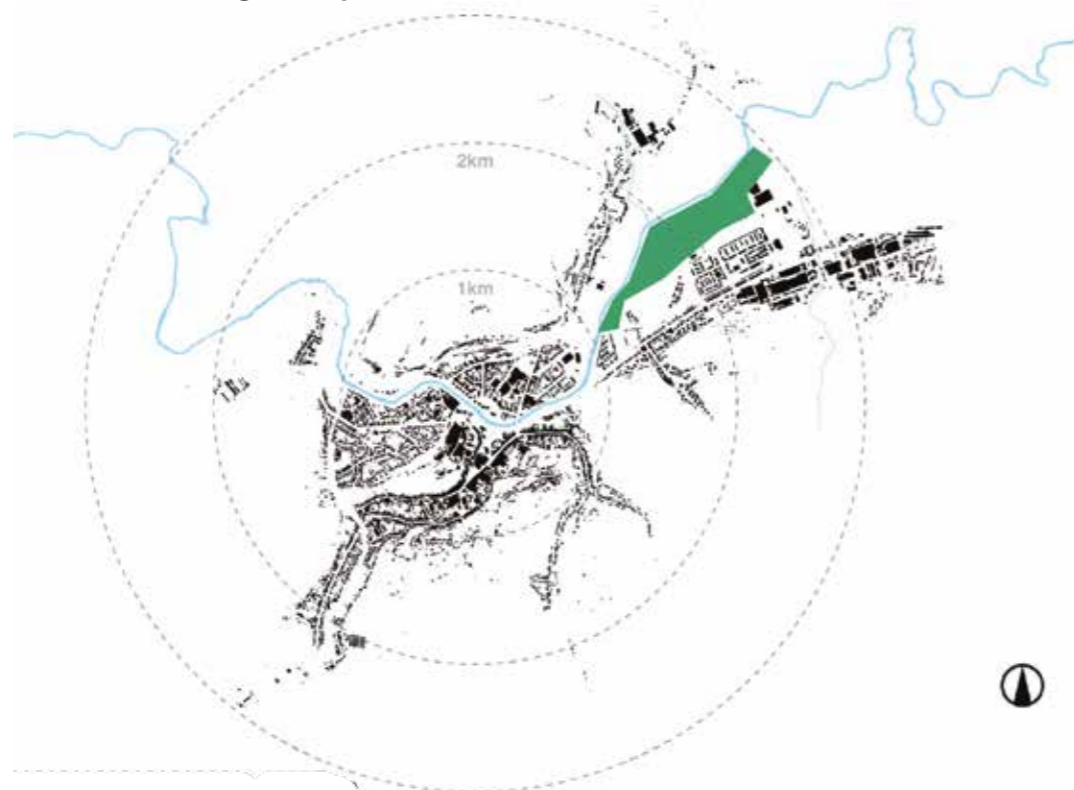
We propose to redistribute future population in spots where the urban fabric has available spaces, presented as unused land, abandoned buildings or just as part of an urban reconversion process. This is feasible according to the concept of retrofitting the city.

The goal of retrofitting the city is to create a more sustainable urban environment within the context of the existing urban form, considering the potential spaces that exist within it and that can ensure better quality of life for his inhabitants. The availability of big lots for residential projects exist within the core of the city as well as in the boundaries of it.



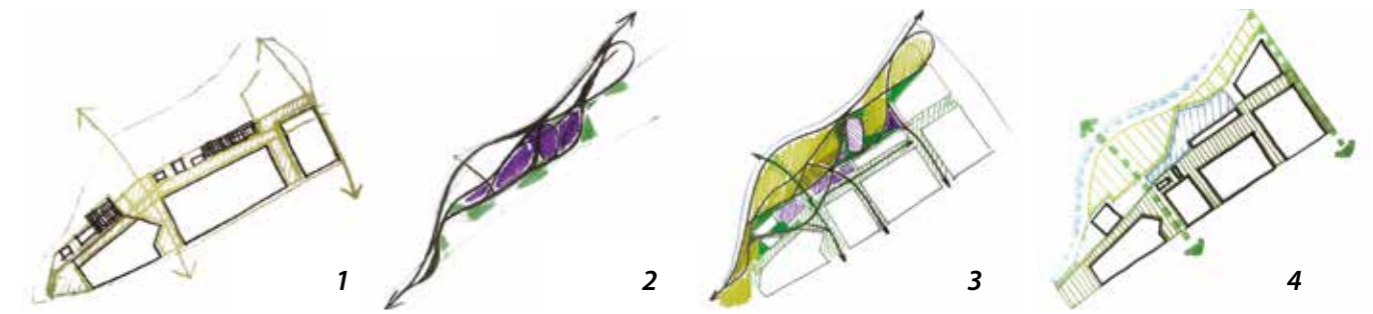
“ We propose to redistribute future population in spots where the urban fabric has available spaces, presented as unused land, abandoned buildings or just as part of an urban reconversion process.

Preservation of green space



“ The third step is the preservation of the open green space and the developing of a precise programme /plan for use, administration and funding in next decades.

Designing process



- 1 - Main categories of land use were defined. Main green axes go through the elements connecting natural values.
- 2 - After a principal functional structure we started to think about spatial structure of a Landscape.
- 3 - We chose natural lines and long axes repeating the curve of the river. Due to that the space is not cut to separate parts, but has the core wave of connections.

- 4 - To finalise the idea of the whole concept, we divide the space into three layers: 1- residential, 2- transition green space (which acts as a buffer) with dense vegetation, 3 - open green space with extensive recreational use. There are strong green axis connecting green parts through power lines belt and small creek belt. One long axes goes through urban gardens making a backbone for community interaction and green transition from blocks of flats to the Landscape park.

New Urban Zonal Plan (PUZ) proposal



“ The first essential goal was to protect private gardens and determine them as a separate category. In the borders of this area it is not allowed to build anything.

New Urban Zonal Plan (PUZ) proposal

We assume that we could upgrade the existing Urban Zonal Plan based on our concept. The first essential goal was to protect private gardens and determine them as a separate category. In the borders of this area it is not allowed to build anything. There is one more specific category - transition green area - between residential blocks which plays the role of buffer zone and doesn't content any built elements. Urban gardens are part of it.

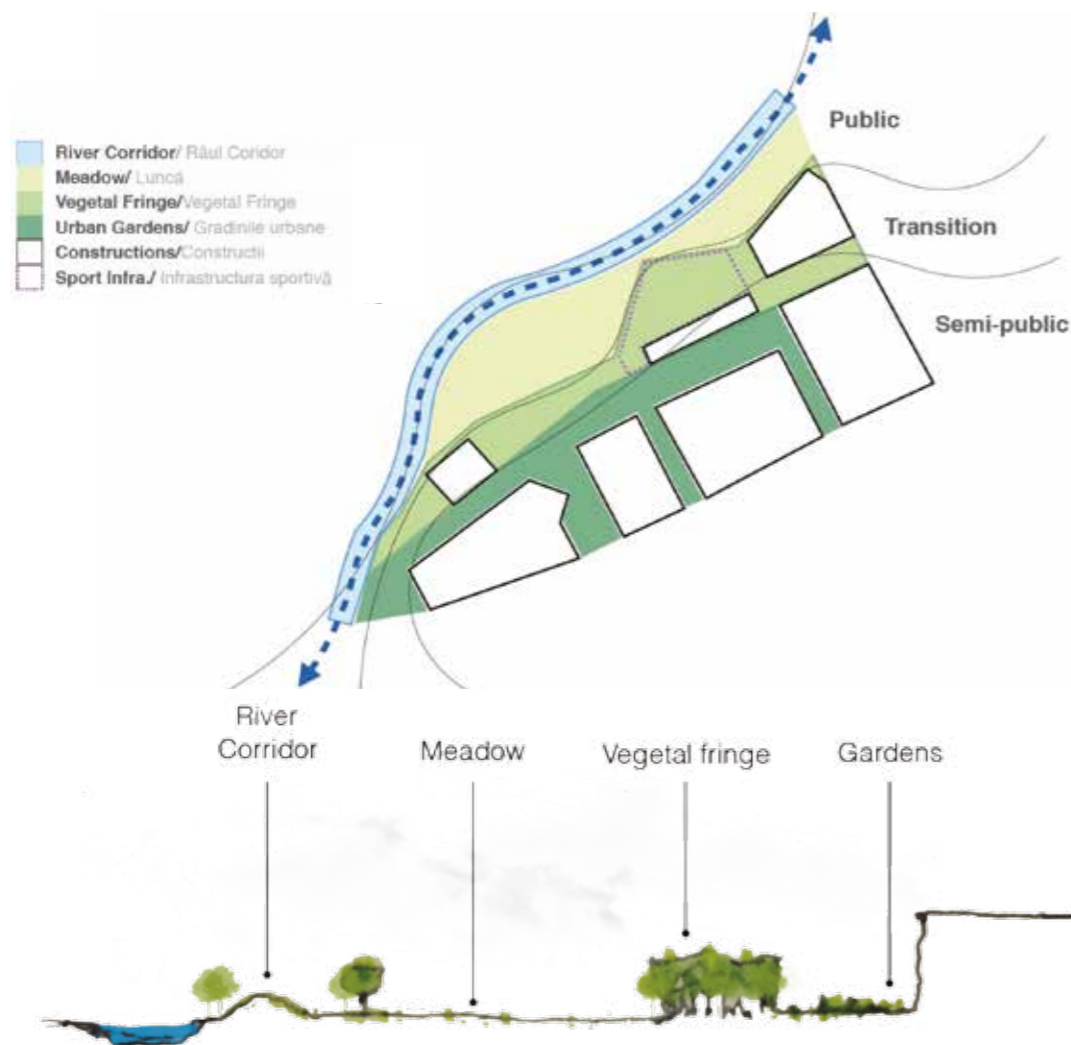
Light greenish area is a city park with extensive recreational use, blue hatched space mean more intensive use; inside it's borders it is allowed to place various sport facilities including the stadium, swimming pool, play fields and playgrounds, skate park and ice rink. Important green corridors give to wildlife a habitat that goes along the river and creeks protecting it from pollution and railways.

Residential area is divided in 2 subcategories: first is multifamily housing with maxi-

mum 6 storeys, second is single and 2-family housing with maximum 2 storeys. Housing area is strictly kept in existing borders. We could like to draw attention to areas outlined by red line - residential area chaotically disrupting the open green space making the obstacle for natural-flow of landscape elements as well as leading to expansion of housing and continuing urban sprawl.

Spatial Structure Plan proposal

The proposal recognize the three areas with different categories of activities and privacy. Because of these it determines three layers that progress from very public uses, located in the open grass fields, to a semi-public or more private situation in the space between the buildings, where there most of the urban gardening is located. In between there is a transition area, which is represented by the vegetal fringe, where there is a major density of vegetation and abundance of trees.



The proposal recognize the three areas with different categories of activities and privacy.



In this schematical section is possible to see that the role of the vegetal fringe is not just as a transition area from public to private uses, but also an element that provides a transition in terms of height, from the tall buildings through the tree lines, until the horizontal grass field.

Master Plan Proposal



Based on the Plan of Urban Zoning and the spatial structure plan we developed a Master plan of the neighbourhood with all the components mentioned.

The picture represents the enhanced situation of the Baragan urban quarter, with the development of the Sport complex with all its stages, the integration of the river together with a recreational corridor along it, the urbanization and construction of residential buildings in a compact way, and the creation of the city park maintaining some of the essential characteristics of this landscape, which is the openness of its fields.

It is important to highlight the creation of connections that provide accessibility to this new urban park, as well as the effort on introducing ecological bridges that extend from and through the study area to the forests regions.

Master Plan detail area

The detail area is a sample of the spatial transition from the very dense residential areas, up to the river. It was selected because this the combination of this situations represents one of the biggest challenges of the project.

In the picture is possible to see that the proposal redistribute the parking lines that exist to the north of the neighbourhood, creating a wall to the grass fields. The spatial reorganization of the parking lots in two lines, makes possible the creation of openings related to the existent structure of internal green spaces between the buildings. We believe that this improves the connection with the new landscape visually but also in terms of identity, because of the integration of this pre existent open spaces structure.



Based on the Plan of Urban Zoning and the spatial structure plan we developed a Master plan of the neighbourhood with all the components mentioned.



The detail area is a sample of the spatial transition from the very dense residential areas, up to the river. It was selected because this the combination of this situations represents one of the biggest challenges of the project.

The creation of two lines of parking lots demands the creation of a service path for vehicles. Since this garages are used just by locals, it is possible to create a sort of street shared by people and cars that need to access to their garages.

It is possible to control the speed and the spaces for cars flow just to the functional needs. The idea of this wide street (brown textured color) is that it creates a space for pedestrians more than for cars, as a sort of open border in between the buildings and the urban gardens area. Narrow paths come and go through the urban gardens, trying to break the rigid structure that the private gardens naturally create. It is possible to observe that from the main brown street there is an important arm that extends vertically from the interior of



the buildings to the urban park. It takes one of the main streets that already exist within the neighbourhood and establish a hierarchical access to the park. It connects with the sports infrastructure and with the system of paths that lead to the river or through the grass fields.

From the narrow recreational paths (in white), there is access to the sport facilities, to playgrounds, and to other structures for the contemplation of the landscape.

Next to the river, recreational paths allow people to do sports, move by bike, or find spots where to stop and achieve the river border. The project tries to keep this last layer the most natural and free of infrastructure.

Funding the project implementation

The project can find funding from four different sources simultaneously. This stakeholders are the State of Romania, international organizations like the UNESCO, from private investors and from the locals.

The important part is the organization and coordination of this stakeholders in different times and stages of the project. The main funding for the public areas is the Romanian estate, together with private investors. In this particular case, the development of the sport facilities is responsibility of a private company of supermarkets that bought the original land where the Sport complex was going to be located, and as a compensation (because of the difference in land prices) it offered itself to build the Sport complex in three stages. This investment might be accompanied by public budget whether to support or improve the project.

The expropriation of the land properties today destined to the constructions of houses might need a significant budget for the state. However inside the study area we propose new developments, more compacts and built vertically as buildings, providing special regulations to allow it. This might be interesting for private investors, who might see the opportunity of building more flats, spending less money buying land. The business of residential buildings is more convenient than the business of houses.

Also, it is important to notice that the creation of an urban park is not just positive in ecological or social terms, but also in economic aspects. For all the families today living in this

area, the most concentrated from all Sighisoara, the realization of this project is a contribution for the increment of the value of their houses, allowing them to overcome socioeconomic barriers and jump one step in the process of growing.

The EEA Grants and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway to reducing economic and social disparities and to strengthening bilateral relations with 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics. The EEA Grants and Norway Grants support projects through 150 programmes.

Romania has one of the most unique and diverse ecological systems in Europe. Approximately 20% of its territory is protected under Natura 2000, the EU-wide network of nature conservation areas. However, in Romania and across Europe, the speed and scale of the loss of biodiversity underlines that urgent action is needed. Through the Grants, Romania is increasing its capacity to protect and manage ecosystems and restore areas damaged by human activity.

What is funded in Romania related to the project?

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage
- Environmental monitoring and integrated planning and control

Where do the project goals match the funding programmes outcomes?

All supported projects need to contribute to achieving a set of clearly defined development results:

- Avoided fragmentation of ecosystems
- Halt loss of biodiversity
- Cultural and natural heritage for future generations safeguarded and conserved and made publicly accessible

Who can apply for funding?

A wide range of institutions and organisations can benefit from the funding:

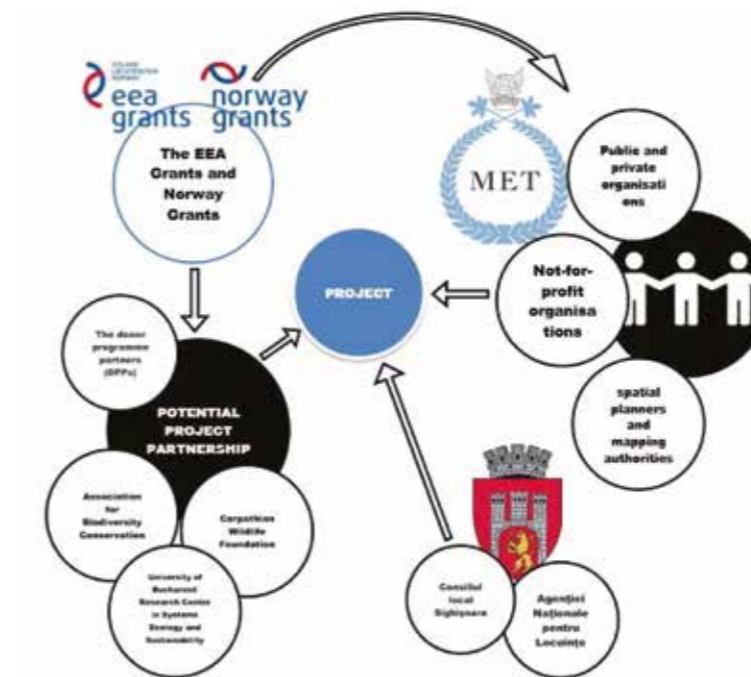
- National and local authorities
- NGOs and civil society organisations
- Private and public enterprises, and public-private partnerships
- Educational and research institutions
- Students and educational staff

How to involve a partner?

- Find the donor programme partner involved in the area
- Find out how we may be eligible for this support
- Find bilateral interest between donor and beneficiary states
- Search calls for proposals. ■



Romania has one of the most unique and diverse ecological systems in Europe. Through the Grants, Romania is increasing its capacity to protect and manage ecosystems and restore areas damaged by human activity.



Funding opportunities diagram

Visualizations and details

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View from the river corridor to the open grass fields. The new Stadium of Sighisoara and its contemporary architecture works as a landmark in the landscape.



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People using the river corridor as a connectivity and recreational line. Others rest in the open grass fields.



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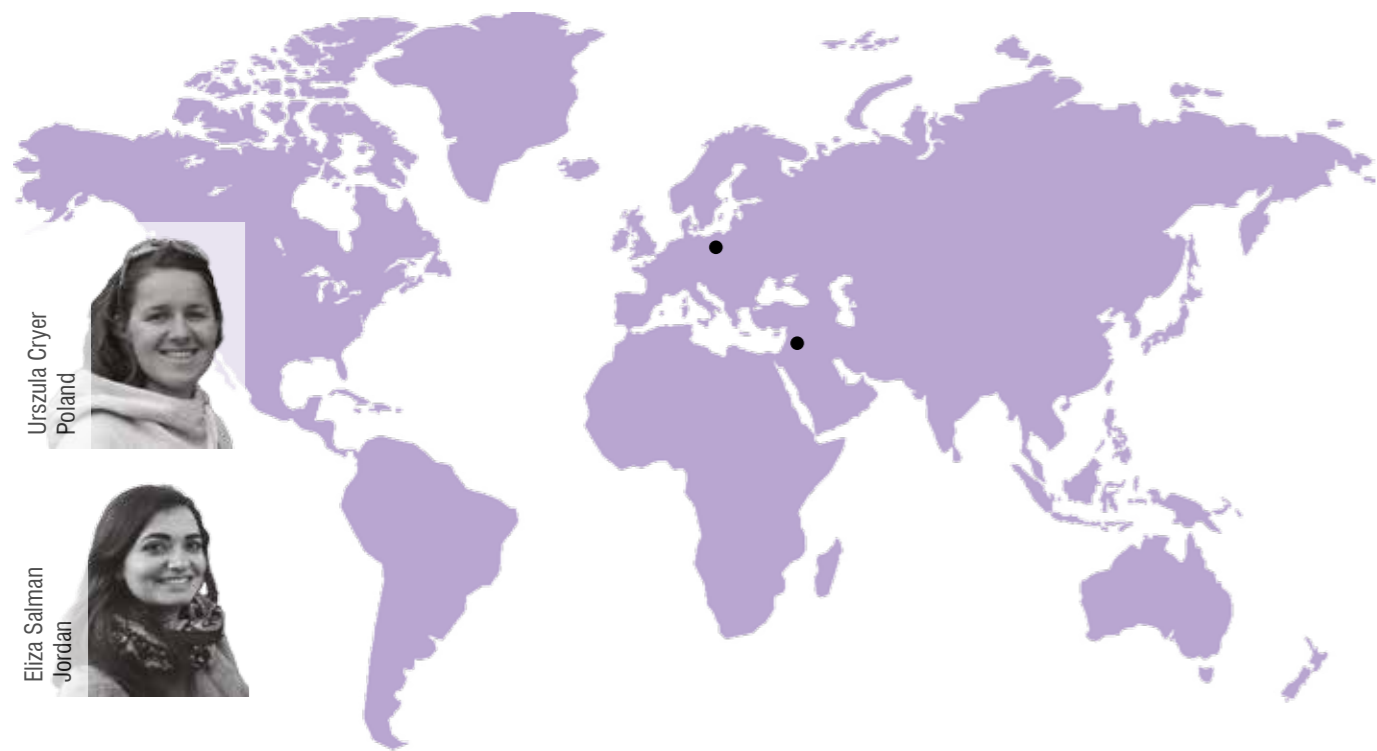
This section shows the dam between the grass fields and the river. Different activities are possible in the three situations.



“

Paths along the river between Baragan and city centre. The river can be an important corridor for the connectivity of people.





Urszula Cryer
Poland

Eliza Saliman
Jordan

preserving rural heritage of transylvania



Baragan; from the group report

1. Introduction

This report is divided into five chapters, the first one being the introduction. The second chapter explores the situation in Malancrav and analysis it in three different dimensions, the Urban fabric, Landscape character and social context. The Urban fabric part analyses the rural typologies within the village and different sections and describes their general characteristic, after that Architectural context of the village is analysed providing also some guidelines for do's and don'ts related to new buildings and expansions, afterwards observations of the infrastructure in the village are provided. Landscape character section provides an overview of the different landscape typologies and related issues than need to be addressed. The Social context section offers a summary of the ethnic mix of the village along with key points related to the needs of the village and its residents collected through series of interviews conducted during our visit to Malancrav.

After painting the complete picture of the situation in the village the third Chapter provides conceptual ideas and possible solutions that address the problems and needs within the area, mainly concerning with a masterplan that brings together multiple issues; Water management, Landscape concept, new development areas, and public spaces.

Additionally a concept for the community space project in the centre of the village is provided as an example and further detailing to the masterplan, mainly addressing some of

the problems and concerns expressed by the residents of the people.

The fourth Chapter suggests an implementation timeline and the fifth chapter discusses possible funding programmes and entities and different possibilities for acquiring capital for implementation of different parts of the masterplan, such as EU funds and interested parties that are active in working on similar projects.

2. Analysis

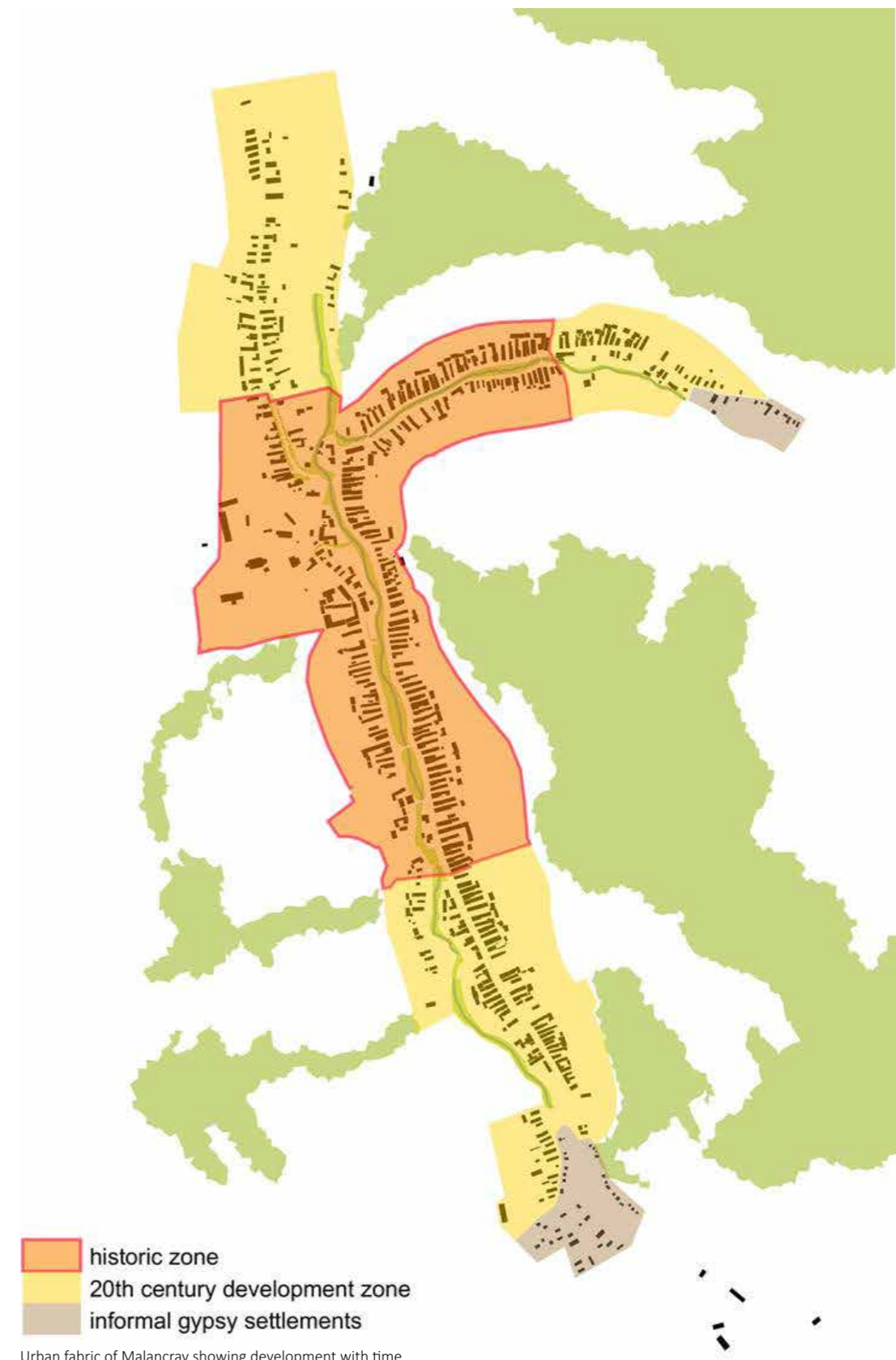
Urban fabric

Malancrav is a typical Saxon village built in a dense structure along the main street and village stream. Three zones of the village are easy to differentiate. Oldest central zone is very dense and the stream with the green zone flows in the middle.

The newer 20th century expansion zones can be found to the north, south and east of the village. They leave the stream aside and are concentrated along the road only. The third, peripheral zone belongs to informal Roma settlements, which have a very random urban structure of groups of very small buildings.



Malancrav is a typical Saxon village built in a dense structure along the main street and village stream.



Rural typology: Historic Area :

It is the most densely built part of the village. Here are located the most important heritage objects in the village, like fortified church and manor house with adjacent

small park. The core green zone of the village belongs to the stream, which in its neglected state holds little aesthetic or community value.

Suggestions: focus on cultural development, arts, crafts and services. Recommended revitalization of public spaces along the stream.



The newer 20th century expansion zones can be found to the north, south and east of the village. They leave the stream aside and are concentrated along the road only. The third, peripheral zone belongs to informal Roma settlements, which have a very random urban structure of groups of very small buildings.



Left- Evangelic Church. Right- Central village green space.

Northern Extension

This extension zone was built away from the stream, along a narrow street with no trees or green stripes. It is the least dense area in the village and holds a potential for further development.

Many buildings were built overscaled, not following the historic structure and painted in aggressive colours, which gives an impression of chaos and lack of identity.

Suggestions: densification and new construction following the historic urban and architectural structure



Northern extension of the Village.

Eastern extension

Another extension built away from the stream and lacking the central green zone. Some buildings were modified and extended upwards, which ruins the harmony of the street facade and the roofscape of the village. Many new homes are oversized. The buildings are

spaced less densely with many gaps after missing houses. The village ends with Roma houses, which are visibly poorer but are not in a critical state.

Suggestions: Available space for new construction, introduction of street trees, harmonization of the facade colours.



Houses in the eastern wing of the village.

Southern Extension

Probably the oldest extension of the village with relatively dense structure of buildings located along the street. Some new buildings do not follow the historic plan. The village ends with an informal Roma settlement of very small huts constructed with clay and branches

or simple ceramic blocks. Most of the houses in the settlement have no fences and seem to be grouped into communities. The area is very poor, untidy but has a special character that could be an asset if taken care of.

Suggestions: Possible future expansion areas, stream and public space revitalization, cleaning and gardening around Roma settlement.



Left- Street view in the southern extension. Right- Gypsy house.

Street Sections Main Street

Image shows the typical cross section through the historic village common space. The space is limited by the facades of the houses with big gates. Behind them happens private life. Right in front of them passes the pavement, on which we can find small benches and chairs where residents rest in the evening. After the pavement comes a narrow strip of low greenery, sometimes connected with rainwater drain. The next zone belongs to the street and after the street is the common green zone with

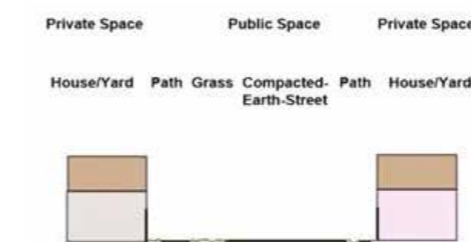
the stream. Green zone contains of numerous fruit and nut trees. It is a space where cows or horses can sometimes be found grazing and farming machines are randomly resting.

East Extension

The size of this space is limited. The houses with gates are forming the street facades on both sides. Narrow footpaths run along the walls of the buildings and are divided from the street by a green strip of grass or a ditch. The street lacks greenery and shadow in the summer months.



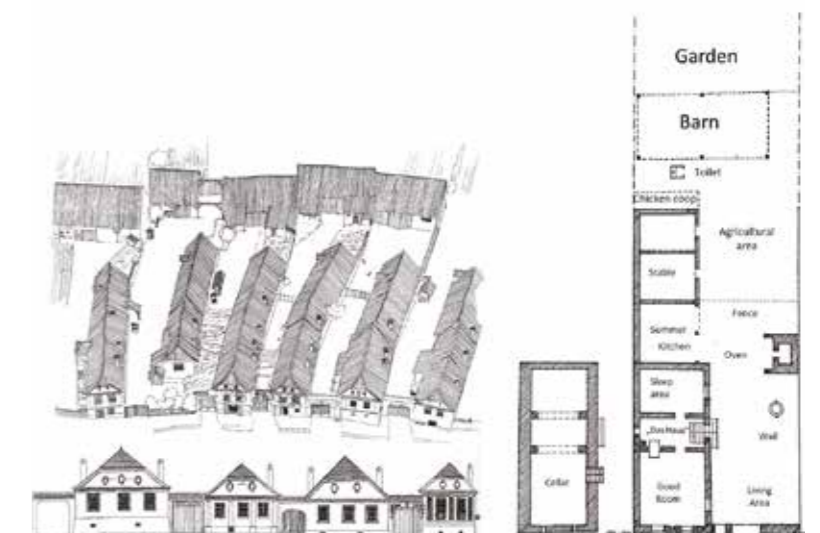
Main street section.
Image Credit: Sabrina Hertlein.



Eastern extension street section.
Image Credit: Sabrina Hertlein.

Architectural Character

Malancrav is an old Saxon village with predominantly Saxon architectural style. Saxon houses are more or less linear building perpendicular to the street, parallel to it is the open living and working space and the agricultural area separated by a fence to keep the farm animals. A barn is built to close the space and separate it from the garden behind the house. All houses are adjacent to each other making a seemingly uniform tight pattern of house.



Illustrations showing typical Saxon architectural style.
@Das Sächsische Bauernhaus in Siebenbürgen. Jan Hülsmann. Mihai Eminescu Trus, 2011



Examples of façades of Saxon houses in Malancrav.



Examples of outdoor living space of Saxon houses in Malancrav.

New Housing Typology

Around the village there have been new houses or renovated houses that do not follow the aesthetic character and style of the Saxon village architecture. Some of them do not follow the traditional form, and there has been not of using new material and aggressive colours.

Suggestions: Following the do's and donts and suggestions for architectural style provided by the Architectural guide for rural Saxon ar-

chitectural style provided by the Architectural guide for rural Saxon ar- eas "Ghid de arhitectură pentru încadrarea în specificul locului din mediul rural. Zona săsească by Arch. E. Vaida, Arch. D Raicu, Arch. V. Vaida, and Arch. K. Birthler." The following images showcases some key examples from the manual. Image 13 shows the accepted form of the roof of a Saxon house. Image 14 the correct scaling of the house to avoid negative impact on the surrounding landscape while by fragmenting the overall volume of the building with maintaining the built area significantly softens the visual impact on the environment.



View from the gardens into the houses.



Housing in the north in new architectural style.

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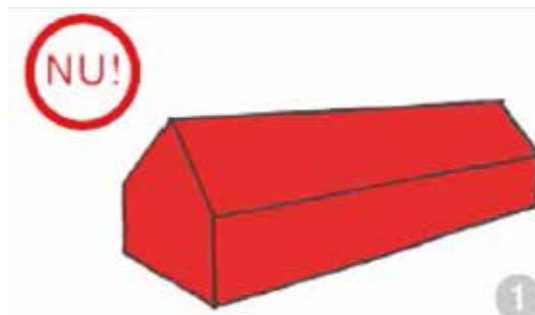
Around the village there have been new houses or renovated houses that do not follow the aesthetic character and style of the Saxon village architecture.



The style of the roof, wall and window orientation of Saxon villages.



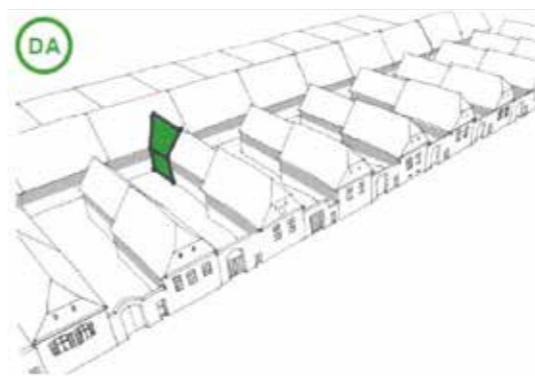
Source: Ghid de arhitectură pentru încadrarea în specificul locului din mediul rural. Zona săsească by Arch. E. Vaida, Arch. D Raicu, Arch. V. Vaida, and Arch. K. Birthler



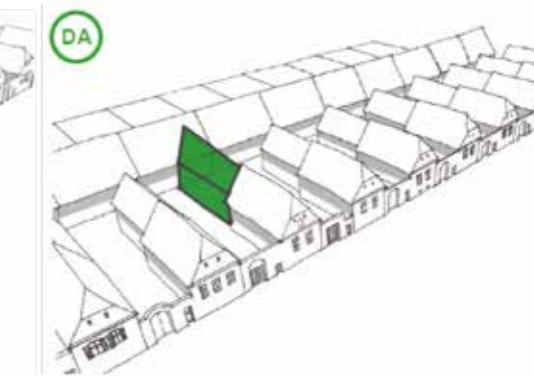
Scaling and fragmentation of the building to maintain proper visual impact in context.



Source: Ghid de arhitectură pentru încadrarea în specificul locului din mediul rural. Zona săsească by Arch. E. Vaida, Arch. D Raicu, Arch. V. Vaida, and Arch. K. Birthler



House extensions between building and barn. Image shows possible house extensions between stables and barn if needed or in absence of stables, an extension could be built to fill the space between the house and the barn.

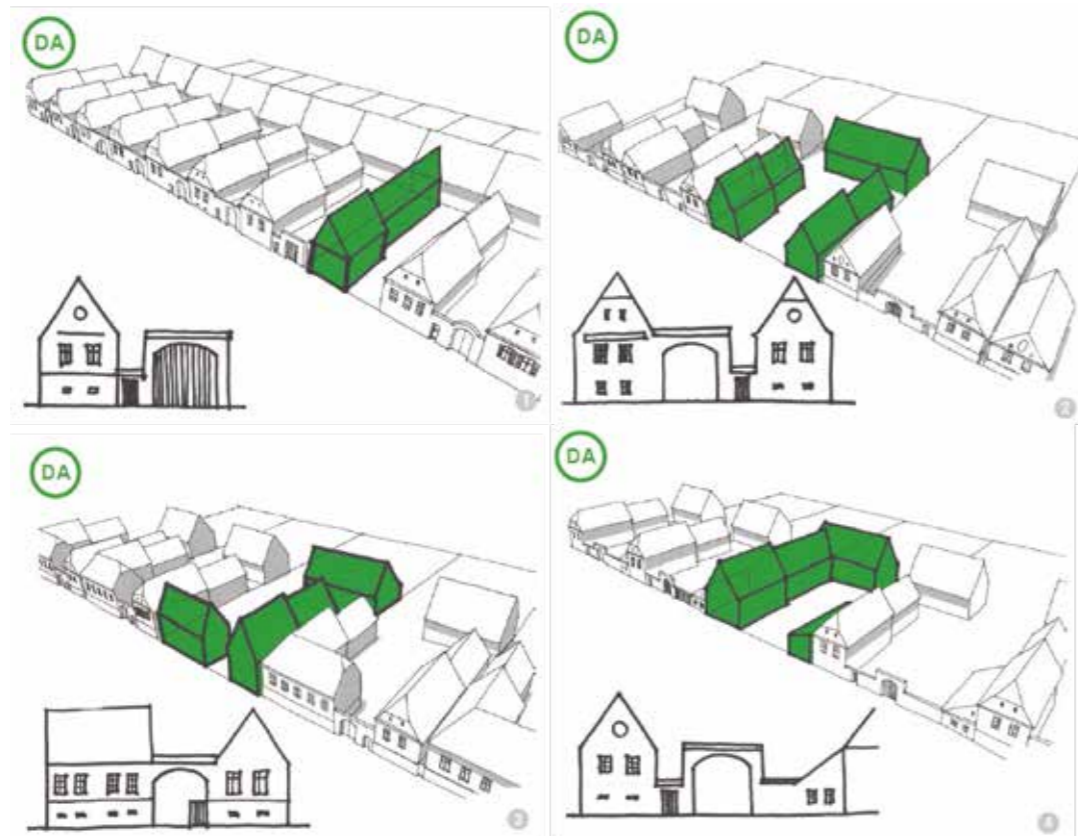


Source: Ghid de arhitectură pentru încadrarea în specificul locului din mediul rural. Zona săsească by Arch. E. Vaida, Arch. D Raicu, Arch. V. Vaida, and Arch. K. Birthler



Form, orientation and volume hierarchy accepted in Saxon villages. Shows a variety of different building possibilities.

Source: Ghid de arhitectură pentru încadrarea în specificul locului din mediul rural. Zona săsească by Arch. E. Vaida, Arch. D. Raicu, Arch. V. Vaida, and Arch. K. Birtler



The new buildings should generally respect the character and specifications in the neighborhood and the village and hierarchy of the building mass should also be respected. In Malancrav houses are built longitudinally (Perpendicular to the street) only barns are built transversally. However in other (wealthier villages) it is also common to have transversally built housing unites as demonstrated before.

Gypsy Housing South Side

The building materials of the gypsy houses are different from the Saxon village style. They are selfmade houses generally from willow sticks and mud and plastered and painted and some are built with brick. In the southern Gypsy area, houses are in poor conditions and are not finished.

The areas around them are also very chaotic and not organized, garbage is thrown out around the houses and into the stream which in turn contributes to the pollution of the water downstream into the village. The image of that gypsy area is negative and unappealing.



The building materials of the gypsy houses are different from the Saxon village style. They are selfmade houses generally from willow sticks and mud and plastered and painted and some are built with brick.



Gypsy housing in south area.



South housing area in a poor condition and garbage in the stream.

Infrastructure

Several aspects of the village infrastructure have been observed, documented and evaluated. These aspects cover Bridges, rainwater and sewage drainage, sidewalk paving, street furniture and derelict buildings.

aesthetic value of the village and are suitable for the overall appeal of the village., however concrete bridges especially with aggressive paint are not aesthetically pleasing in this context, they need to be reconsidered and redesigned to be softer, less aggressive and more matching to the village style.

Bridges

The village contains two types of bridges, wooden pedestrian bridges, and concrete vehicle bridges. It is a fact that concrete bridges are durable and more suitable for vehicular traffic, however the examples currently implemented in the village do not suite the general character, they have unaesthetically pleasing aggressively painted railings. The wooden bridges are in different shapes and conditions, but overall they are good looking and more suitable for the context.

Rainwater and sewage drainage

Rainwater is currently collected from properties into little ditches across the street, that lead the water into the stream. Likewise, sewage water in a lot of houses is dumped into the stream, making in unusable for recreational and social purposes.

Suggestions: Developing proper rain water collection and drainage is important for keeping the water level at the stream. An ecological sewage system should be installed and drainage into the stream should be avoided.

Suggestions: Wooden bridges preserve the



Pedestrian wooden bridges.



Vehicular concrete bridges.



It is a fact that concrete bridges are durable and more suitable for vehicular traffic, however the examples currently implemented in the village do not suite the general character, they have unaesthetically pleasing aggressively painted railings.



Rainwater and Sewage drainage systems examples.

Side Walks

Currently most sidewalks in the village are turning into concrete which is poured right on top on whatever paving is below it, in some cases over cobbled paving. In other places, sidewalks are from cobbled stone, gravel, simply grass pathways or concrete tiles. Some of the concrete pathways are already cracking and in bad condition. The village requires a more sustainable sidewalk paving that matches the general aesthetic character.

Suggestions: Cobbled, gravel or fine gravel paving are most suitable for the situation at the village.

Street Furniture

Some interesting self-made benches have been observed in the village in front of houses or along the stream. They are made from wood planks or whole wood logs, cut and fashioned in ways to be used as sitting places.



This kind of street furniture adds to the character of the village and provides spaces for social interaction among all generations equally.

Suggestions: Self-made furniture are a value in the village that has to be preserved and developed, they could be added around the stream as social gathering places to increase resident's interaction with the village green space.

Unused Buildings

There are few abandoned buildings in the village, such as the old German school and the catholic church. There are other houses that are also abandoned whose owners have moved to Germany and refuse to sell their houses.

Suggestions: Abandoned buildings should be used for different purposes. The village shows need for a community place, a library, a small museum and a shop for local products, arts and craft.



Sidewalk paving examples in Malancra and concrete paving



Left: street furniture. Right: abandoned building



There are few abandoned buildings in the village, such as the old German school and the catholic church.

Landscape character

Forests, pastures and crop fields cover relatively equal surfaces in the area. Additionally, orchards, vineyards and home gardens add to the visual and biological diversity.

Malancrav is surrounded by exceptionally beautiful and diverse landscape. The equal amounts of areas covered with forest, pastures and crop cultivation, create a rich environment, allowing for high biodiversity. Additionally, Malancrav is home to vast orchards and small scale vineyards, which add to the landscape identity and seasonal uniqueness.

The area holds a great potential for a development of an outdoor tourism, but at this point lacks required infrastructure. The paths connecting the village with natural areas are few and very difficult to find.

Landscape Problem areas

There are several landscape related problems around Malancrav, which are the result of land and resource mismanagement. First of all, erosion has been destroying the south facing slope above the eastern branch of the village. The land slid in large sections due

to overgrazing by sheep. The vegetation with bigger roots has no time to establish and thin layer of topsoil washes down with every rain.

Suggestions: no more grazing, erosion control measures and rainwater management.

Second main landscape related issue concerns water in the area. During the 20th century water demand greatly increased due to the change of supply technology and habits of people. Since water is still sourced locally, the groundwater table sunk considerably. This had influence on the level of surface waters, in particular the central village stream. Moreover, the introduction of flushable toilets resulted in sewage discharge into the stream, which lost its community gathering and recreation character to change into an open sewer. The section of the stream became steadily more deep and narrow due to the waste deposition along its banks. Some bridges were constructed with the use of culverts, which greatly reduce the rate of water flow and cause flooding during heavy rainfall.

Suggestions: construction of sewage system, complex water management system aiming at landscape rehydration, revitalization of the stream area



Landscape typology.



To the left: pastoral landscape around Malancrav. Right: Old orchard above the village.



There are several landscape related problems around Malancrav, which are the result of land and resource mismanagement.



Erosion control needed on the hillsides.



Central stream works as a sewage disposal channel.



Social context

Ethnic Composition

In the last century, the demographic composition has changed in Malancrav. In the 19th century, the population was mainly German, with Romanian, Hungarian and Roma minorities. In the late 20th century, the situation has flipped, where the village is mostly Romanian, with little German residents left, and the Roma population has almost tripled.

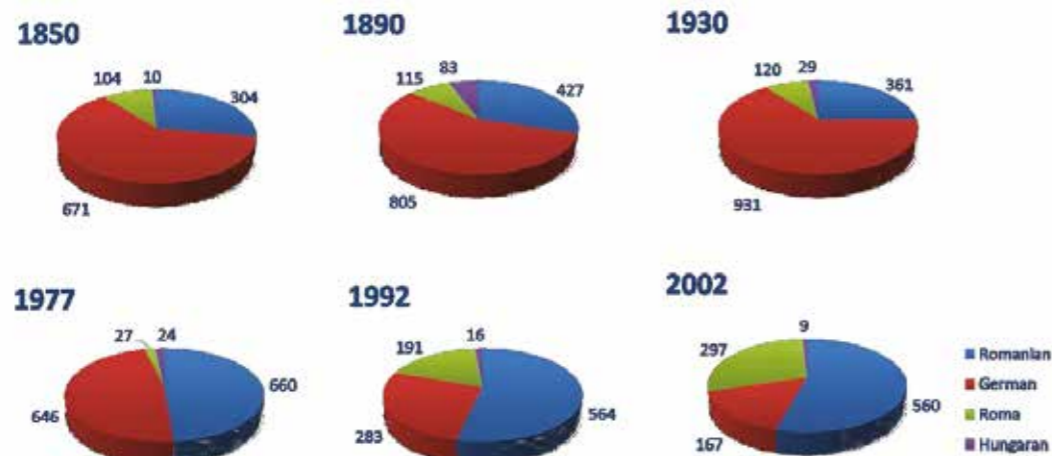
Community Associations

Due to availability of subsidies, some local residents choose to gather together and create certain cooperatives. This could be seen as an opportunity for future developments and

a source of funding for projects. Currently there is a milk farm cooperative in the south west of Malancrav, where farmers from the village take their cows and leave them to graze on grasslands, and milk them every day there. There is also an active firefighters association that is currently based in Malancrav and working in other surrounding villages as well.



Examples of cooperatives in Malancrav: Milk Farm cooperative.



Change in ethnic composition from the 19th century to early 21st century in Malancrav. Source: Ethnic and Denominational Statistics of Transylvania (1850-1992).

There have been other social organizations in the past, that are not as active in the present. Examples of such organizations is a Dance corps that used to perform traditional dancing, and a Football club that used to play in the football field in Malancrav and compete against clubs in other villages.

Crafts and Professions

Many traditional professions and crafts are still practiced in Malancrav, such as sewing and embroidery, weaving, hunting, carpentry, gourmet, and dairy production among many others. This mix of different professions is valuable to the cultural capital that needs preserving and more investment and development. The residents of the village do produce high quality products that could have a poten-

tial local, regional and international market and are attractive for touristic activities.

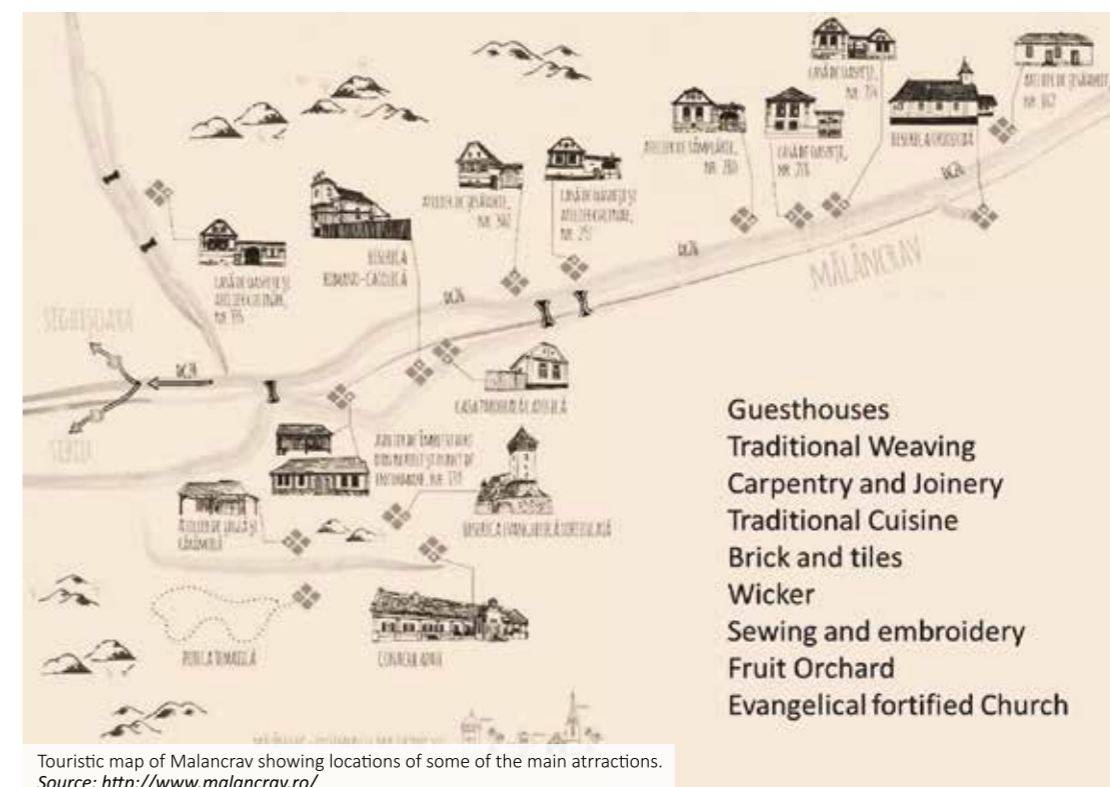
Tourism

With the help of Mihai Eminescu Trust and other organisations and funders, Touristic activities have been developed and organized. There has been some restoration work done to the Evangelical fortified Church and some of the houses converted into guest houses to accommodate tourists. There has also been further organization of local crafts where tourists can book and attend workshops in some of the traditional crafts such as weaving, carpentry, wicker and sewing. Moreover, the Trust is already managing about 107 ha of apple orchards producing the only organic apple juice in Romania.



Examples of professions and crafts that are practiced in Malancrav.

The residents of the village do produce high quality products that could have a potential local, regional and international market and are attractive for touristic activities.



Touristic map of Malancrav showing locations of some of the main attractions. Source: <http://www.malancrav.ro/>



During our observations and field study of the village we have met and interviewed a variety of people to get more in depth insight about the culture, current situation of the village, assets and needs of the people.

Interviews with people

During our observations and field study of the village we have met and interviewed a variety of people to get more in depth insight about the culture, current situation of the village, assets and needs of the people. People that have been interviewed were various in gender, profession, age and background. They are as follows: Andreas, the Firefighter; Jennika and her husband, Romanian couple; German Tourists.; Two Romanian women; Church curators family; Community meeting; A young Romanian.

Stakeholder interests

From the interviews, a list of stakeholder interests and needs have been organized and they are as follows:

The Community:

- Multifunctional open space for community gatherings and festivals,
- Activities for the young generations (sports, dancing,...)
- More investments for development of village life for attracting more tourists,
- Need of the integration with Roma people in a better way,
- Renovation of streets (a lot of damage from wood trucks)
- Edible trees rather than non-edibles in public areas

Young People:

- Activities to do, such as sports, dance, ... etc.
- Clubs for socializing (sports clubs, dance courses...)
- Gathering / meeting points to hang out with their friends, families...
- Jobs
- Car parking area
- More possibility for transportation to the city
- Staying in this village rather than migrating,
- Open spaces for walking, hiking, etc...

Local Women:

- Gathering areas to work together with their friends, families...
- To be able to invest more for attracting tourists,
- Playgrounds for their children,
- Activities for the teenagers

Local Men:

- a multifunctional place for activities rather than parks
- Religious festivals
- Staying in this village rather than migrating,
- Open spaces for walking, meeting etc...

Kids:

- Playgrounds to play
- Green spaces for recreation

Firefighting Club:

- A building to keep the equipment and vehicles, that could be also used for events if needed
- Multifunctional place for people to gather for communal activities
- Community spirit

Church Community:

- Revival of almost extinct traditional community activities in the community (Kronenfest)

Tourists:

- A better transportation system for reaching to the village,
- More services such as restaurants,
- Keep the rural character

Investors and Organizations:

- Solution to the current spatial and social problems in village,
- Reviving and preserving heritages of village,
- Development of the economy of village in a sustainable way respecting to its culture, heritage and life-style.

Conclusion

To conclude all of that into few main aspects:

- 1) Infrastructure development in several aspects including but not exclusive to sustainable water and sewage management, to ensure quality of water in the stream and maintaining a stable water level along with avoiding seasonal flooding in some areas of the stream.
- 2) Landscape and erosion management in some of the surfaces, especially on the northern edge of the eastern wing, and the western hill slope.
- 3) Economic development and tourism, to ensure quality of life and sustainable income for

village residents and stable growth, this could be achieved by expanding traditional touristic attraction points, and developing strategies for local products.

4) Social development in the form of community areas for outdoor gathering and celebrations that includes enough space to accommodate a large number of people and a variety of different activities. Also there's a need for indoor spaces for gathering, smaller social events and meetings for different associations and clubs as well as Recreational zones and possibilities for activities for children and young people, such as sport, dance, and music and other possibilities.

5) Village Safety by providing proper facilities for Fire brigade for storage, exercise and changing areas, as well as water ponds for filling the fire truck tanks.

More points synthesized from experts advice:

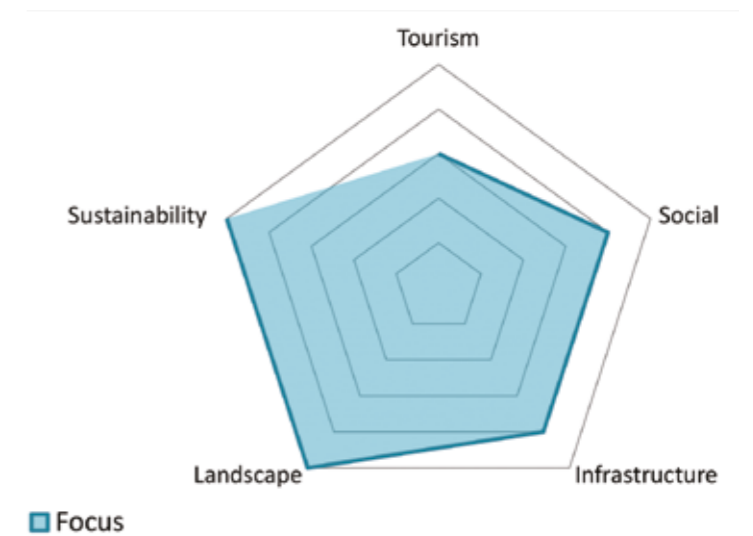
- 6) Preserving the architectural and aesthetic character of the village.
- 7) Preserving cultural diversity and local traditions.
- 8) Preserving nature and landscape.
- 9) Touristic possibilities: guided hiking tours and horseback riding.

3. Concept

Addressing the issues identified in the analytical part formed the main goals of the new Malancrav masterplan. The most important are water related issues, including construction of sewage system with a local treatment plant, water retention system including protection against flash floods and landscape rehydration, and stream cleaning and revitalization. Those measures should bring significant ecological, health and also social benefits to the village, as the stream forms the centre of the communal zone. Rebuilding the community is a second aspect of the future Malancrav development and should be aided by strengthening the village centre by adding more services and providing a quality gathering /event open space. This part of the village should also be well connected with the manor house and the fortified church, which are tourist attractions and hold a great potential for further developing tourism in the area and building the positive identity of Malancrav in the conscious-

ness of residents and visitors.

Another important issue is the development of Malancrav, with many young families and very few houses for sale, the village faces the threat of exodus of young people to the cities or construction of new houses or extensions in a chaotic manner. To avoid losing the historic character of the village, the masterplan should define the location and structure of new construction areas. To further develop its touristic potential, the village should be easily and clearly connected to the surrounding landscape with the hiking trails and encompassed by a village loop, that runs along the hilltops and shows the diversity of the landscape surrounding Malancrav.



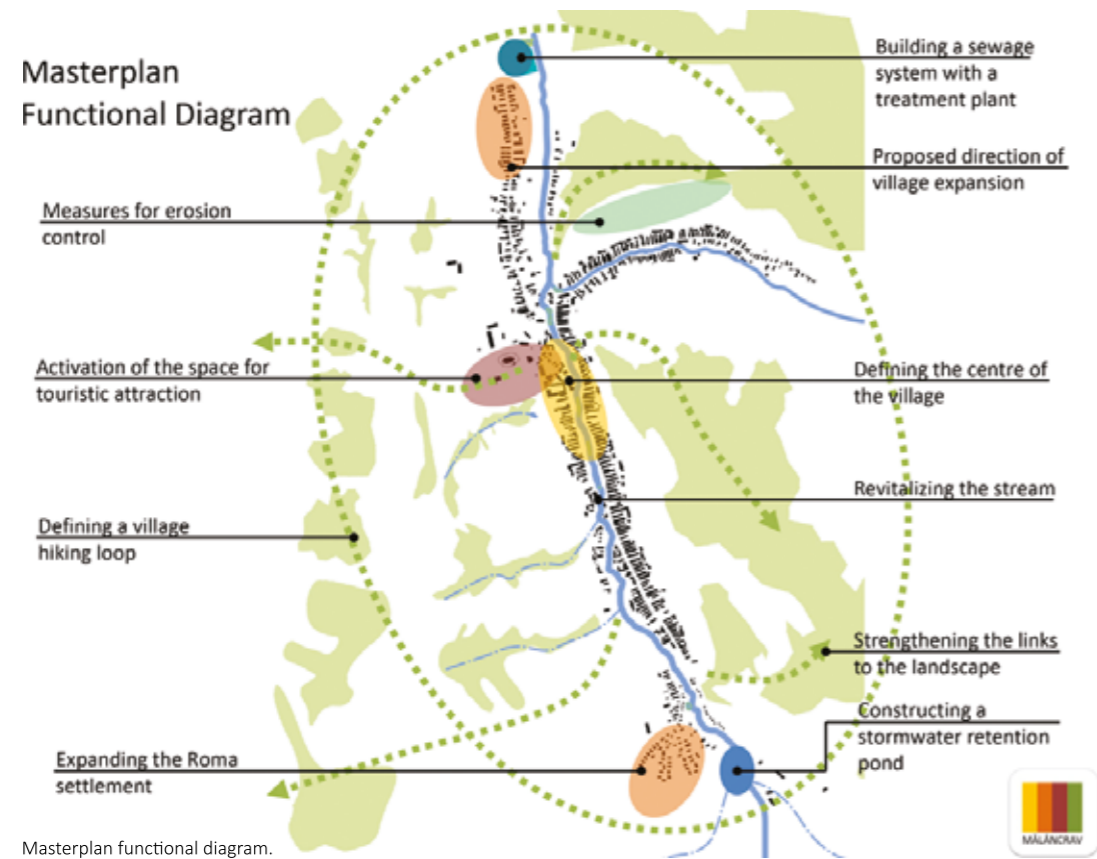
Malâncrav Brand

Building an umbrella brand for local products and cultural tourism, elaborating on the work that the MET has already done and creating a more sustainable approach to further develop the whole village approach. Some of the suggested products to label and brand are Cheese and dairy products, Local wine, honey baked goods and pastries. However there are also some other potentials for social activities, such as traditional Roma dancing. For touristic purposes there is a potential for local hiking guides that can show tourists around the area and discover with them the beauty and secrets of the surroundings of Malancrav.

This all could be achieved through creating an umbrella brand that could act as a label for all of the products and services and an indicator of the high quality and traditional, environment friendly standards under which they are provided.



Malancrav umbrella brand logo and quality label.

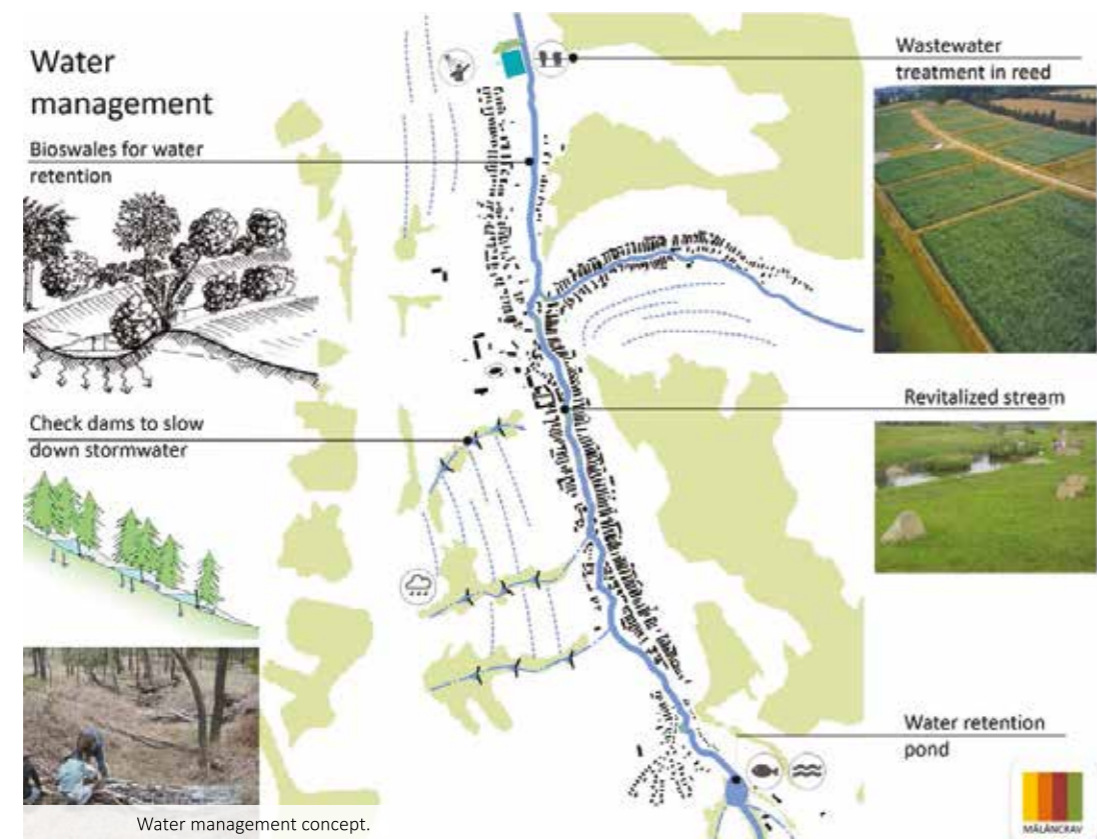


Masterplan functional diagram.

Water management strategy

First of all, this masterplan proposes construction of a village sewage system with the natural treatment plant in the reed bed filters downstream from the village. Filtered

water is directed to the adjacent infiltration pond, which can play a second role as a reservoir with access for the fire brigade. Second part of the water strategy is protection against flash floods and complex landscape rehydration. Increasing water demand in households



Water management concept.

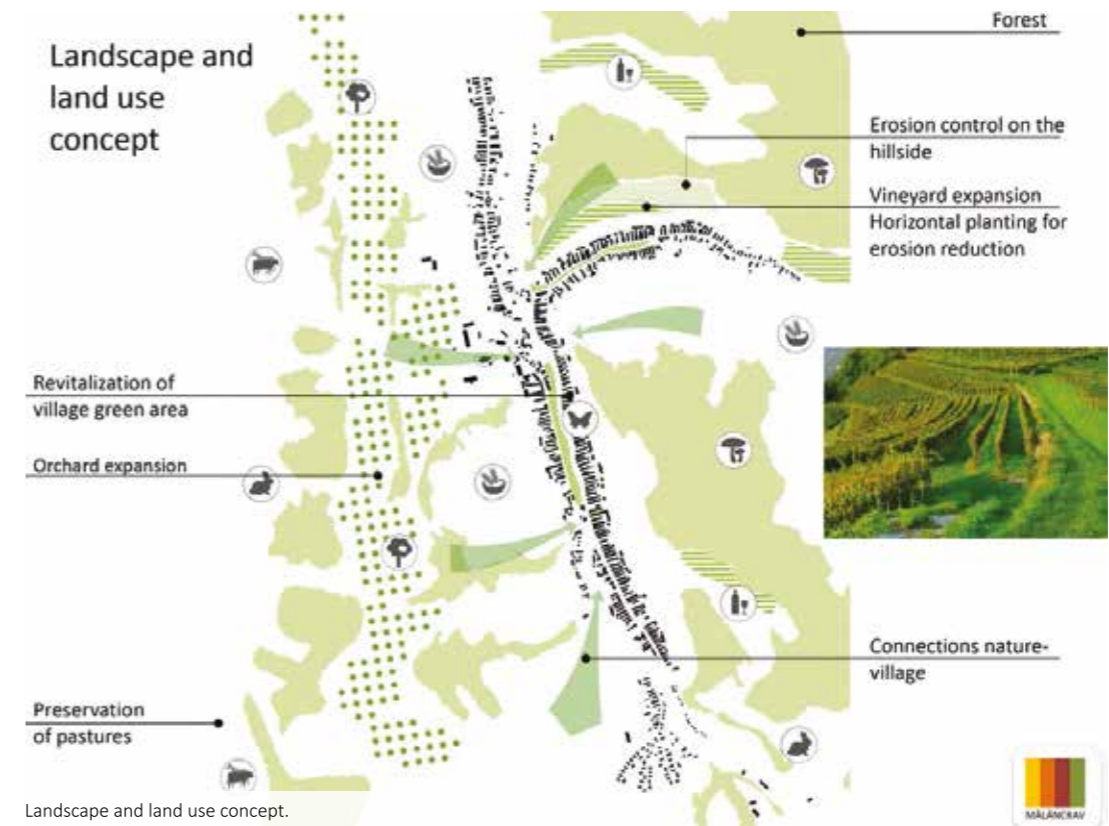
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As mentioned above, water management is the crucial issue for the development of Malancrav.

and modern agriculture together with the changing climate patterns caused the drop in both surface and groundwater level, as well as an occasional flooding of the village during heavy rainfalls. Introducing a number of water retention techniques may reverse or minimize those trends. The proposed interventions include: 1) construction of water retention pond upstream from the village in the south should detain bigger amounts of water flowing from the higher parts of the valley; 2) check dams in the gullies coming down to the village are often porous structures from natural materials, built not to stop but slow down the water flow. Water still seeps through gaps between the stones or branches, but this temporary detention gives the water more time to infiltrate the soil, evaporate or be taken up by the plants; 3) construction of swales (shallow ditches built along contour which harvest rainwater and reduce soil erosion) on less steep slopes or re-terracing the fields; 4) revitalization of the village stream – free from sewage and recharged with more fresh water the stream has a chance of becoming the spine of village public life again and play an important role as a recreational hotspot for the residents.

Landscape Concept

The new Malancrav masterplan puts a great importance in landscape preservation



Landscape and land use concept.

and development. For the local community building process, the concept starts with revitalization of the village central green zone along the stream as a future recreational zone. For economic development and job creation the expansion of orchards and vineyards is desirable along with the fruit processing in the village. The change in vineyard planting from perpendicular to contour to on contour system is advisable to minimize the loss of top soil and maximize rainwater capture. Heavily eroded, south facing slopes above the western branch of the village should undergo implementation of erosion control measures. Continuing to simply allow the animals to freely graze it will guarantee that it can't improve, and will in fact only get worse. The slopes need to be planted with deep rooting herbacious plants and shrub legumes to restabilise them. Plants in the Fabaceae family, such as Cytisus genus have very deep roots and are perfect for revegetating degraded soils. Planting as many legume and forage plants, preferably shrubs, which can be harvested manually could fix the soil and also provide the feed for the animals if needed.

The physical connections between the village open spaces and surrounding nature area should be made visible and strengthened, and last but not least, the surrounding pastoral landscape should be preserved for its great aesthetic and ecological value.

“

The new Malancrav masterplan puts a great importance in landscape preservation and development. For the local community building process, the concept starts with revitalization of the village central green zone along the stream as a future recreational zone.

New development areas

The village needs new housing development areas, which have been designated at the north and south ends of the built area. Moreover, advisable is filling in the empty lots between already existing houses to keep the dense character of the village and limit the unnecessary sprawl. New houses should follow the dense historic structure of buildings, built perpendicular to the street. The dimensions and form of new buildings should be in line with the historic ones, although architecture could follow more contemporary trends. Southern extension was planned for development of Roma community located in that area and can take up a different form, more fit to the culture and way of life of its inhabitants.

The big number of empty and deteriorating buildings in the central area of the village gives an opportunity to create new service functions, such as shops, restaurant, community building, hostel or community museum, thus creating a real service and community centre. Other proposed investments that could become a motor for tourism and economy development could be horse riding centre offering riding holidays and eco-farming centre upstream from the village, offering training and producing healthy food for local market or export.

Public spaces

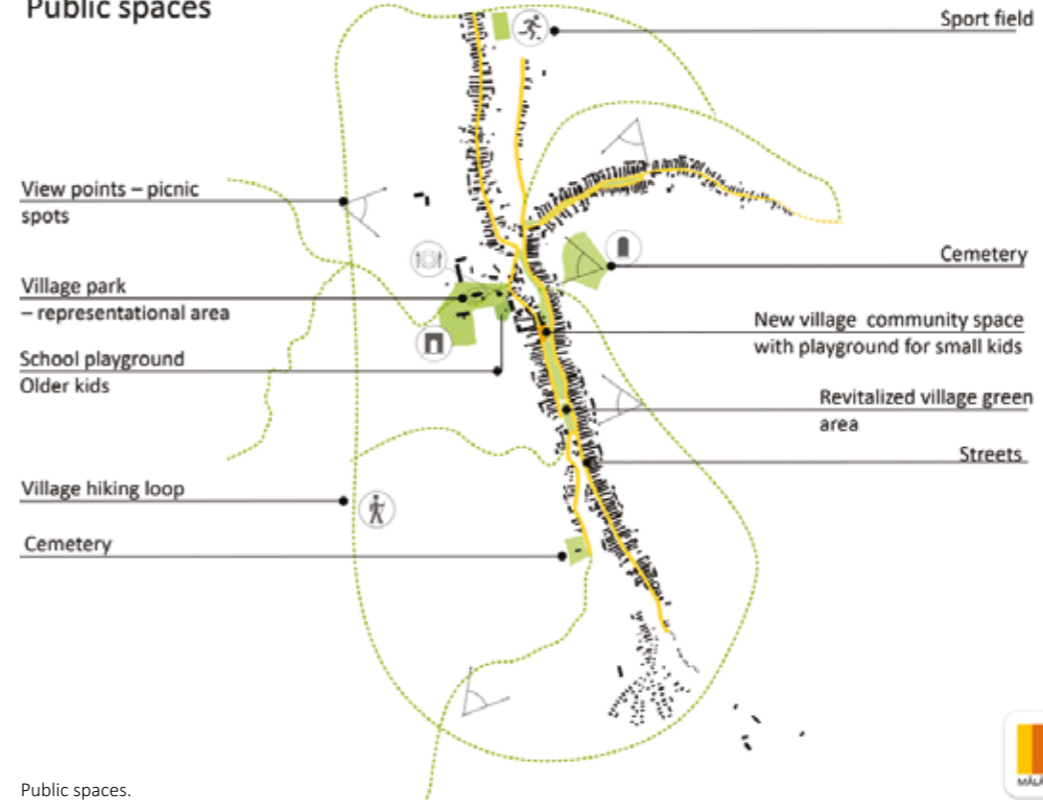
The existing network of public spaces is based on the streets along which the village was built and the green zone in between them, that currently lost the function of a community gathering place. This zone should be revitalized for the public use, along with construction of a new public "square" and a water playground along the stream. A second playground should be located behind the school, to provide pupils with interesting recreational zone during breaks and opportunities to develop dexterity and other physical capabilities. Moreover, the masterplan proposes creating a park around the fortified church and the manor house that will provide a proper exposition ground for the valuable historic monuments. This will be a representational area for the visitors and will "tie" the touristic hotspot with the centre of the village. The village should be encompassed by a "village loop" with picnic spots that takes hikers through different types of landscape surrounding the village with open panoramic views. This intervention could play a big role in developing outdoor tourism in the area of Malancrav, thus attracting visitors.



The big number of empty and deteriorating buildings in the central area of the village gives an opportunity to create new service functions, such as shops, restaurant, community building, hostel or community museum, thus creating a real service and community centre.



Public spaces



Public spaces.

Masterplan

The final masterplan integrates the measures described above and shows the structural characteristics of the new development areas.

The northern extension follows the traditional Saxon village structure, whereas the Roma village extension is organized into smaller, clan-like communities.





Concept Action plan

It is advised to take multiple measures in developing this area to achieve optimized and functional spaces for public and touristic use. As discussed in the masterplan, the village green area should be revitalized and adapted for public use through creating positive recreational area along the stream and construction of a new public “square” used for daily and occasional community and social gatherings and functions including festivals with a nearby water playground for recreation for kids suitable for younger generations that are not of school age yet. For older kids and young people another playground shall be placed in the school’s backyard, additionally re-managing the connection of the school to the street and creating soft terraces for students to use during their lunch breaks and as recreational social spaces.

As a part of the village park that acts as a representational area around the fortified Evangelical church and the Manor house, The space in front access to the park shall be reactivated and reorganized, with use of cobbled stone paving materials leading to the stair access to the church along with designing an improved access to the manor house for pedestrians.

Proposed reuse of abandoned buildings includes adapting the old German school into a Café and a community house for the public for space for social development and education such as dance classes, courses in

arts and crafts and business skills. The adjacent building could be used as a shop for local products and crafts produced in the village all under the Malancrav quality brand.

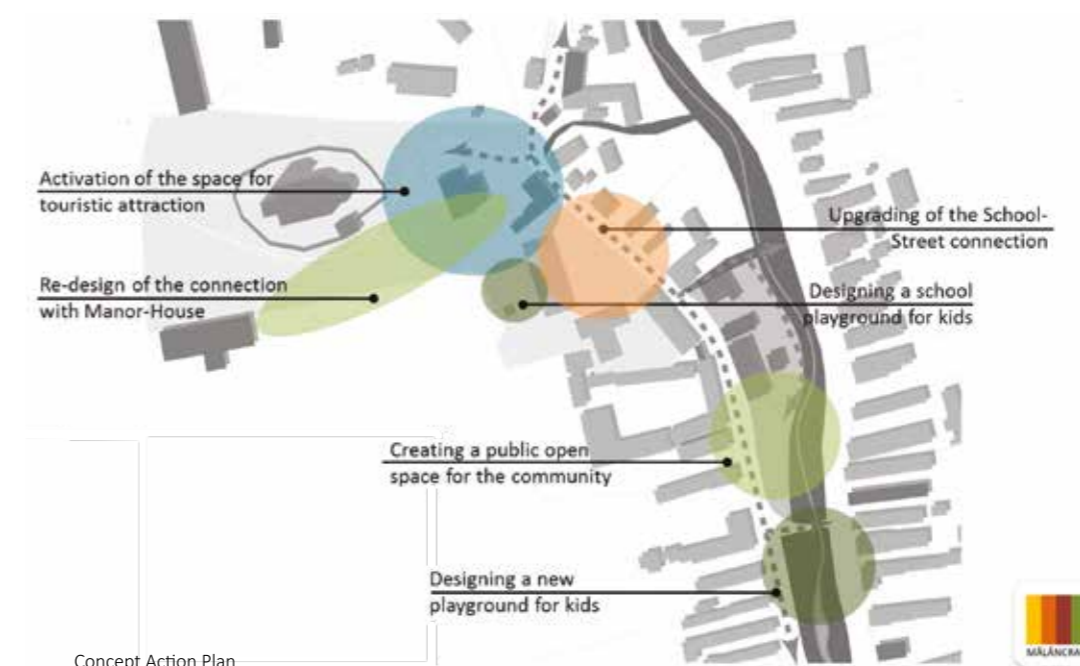
The Catholic church could be adapted into a museum of history of Malancrav and the region along with an art space and a public library with books for both kids and adults and occasional book reading sessions for children of different ages.

Community Space Project

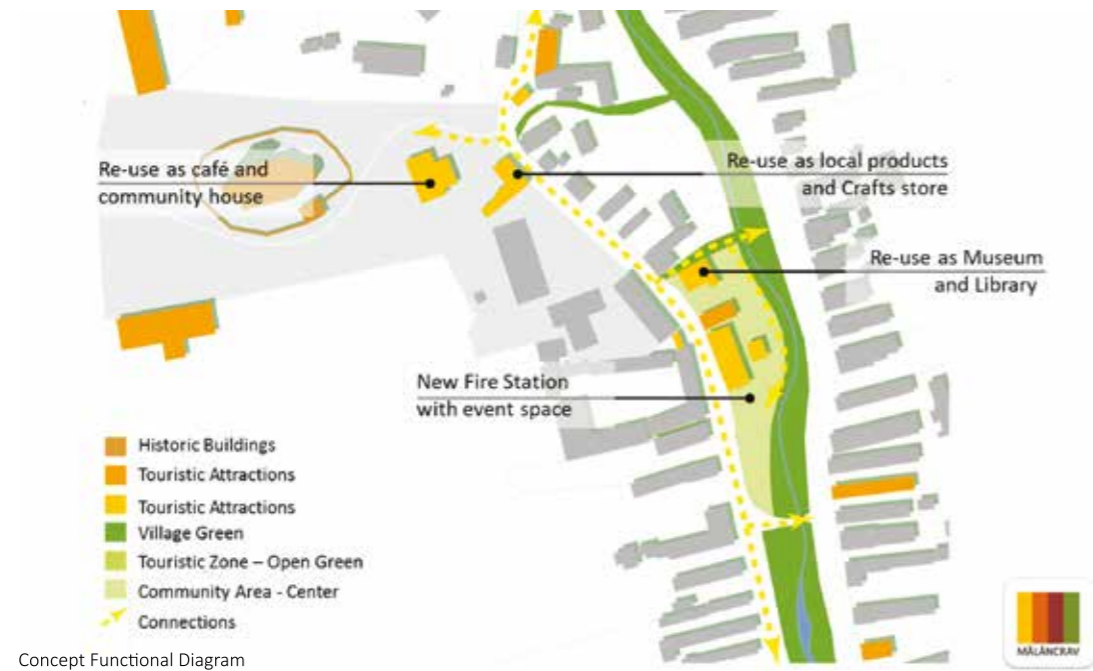
The proposed concept for the community space, as illustrated in Image 49, includes first of all, a stream recreational zone with widened water space, and adapted water playground for kids. Second, reuse of the church as a museum and an library along with using the space around it as a small public outdoor garden. Moreover, Access to the garden along the stream passing through a beer garden to the museum. Addition of a new building for the use of the fire brigade for keeping equipment and changing area.

This building should be suitable for the architectural style of the village and could be inspired by other buildings used for similar functions such as the building in Viscris shown in Image 50. The building could be also used for community functions, meetings and gatherings. The area in front of the building shall be paved for facilitating fire truck access as well as an open space for open public events.

“ It is advised to take multiple measures in developing this area to achieve optimized and functional spaces for public and touristic use.



Concept Action Plan



Detailing

Keeping in mind the sensitive context and the special village character, the paving material for the open space, the street and the pathways should be carefully chosen. Most suitable types of paving in the area are Cobbled stone paving, sand and gravel paving. For the paving of the street we have chosen to use fine gravel, keeping the general

quality of the street in a similar state. However for the paving of the square, sand has been chosen, as a different material to the street to help mark the space visually and separating it from the road.

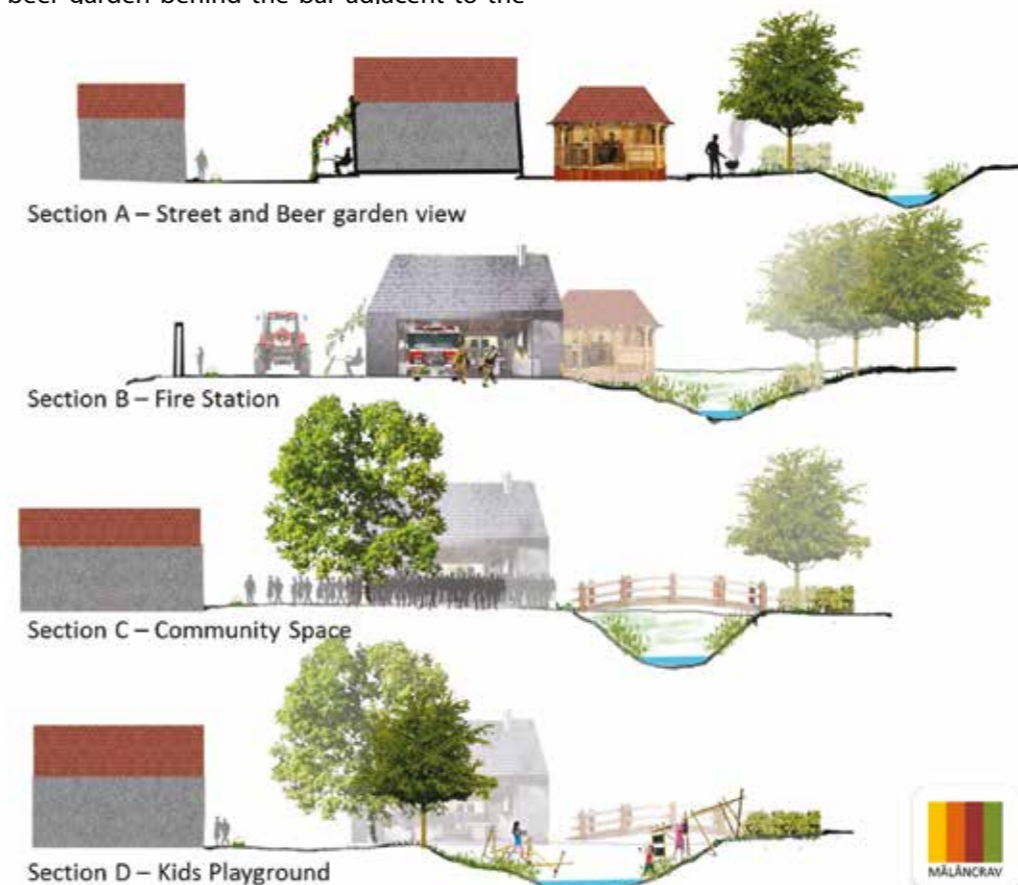
Likewise, Granite stone paving for the front of the fire brigade building and the back path along the stream leading to the museum shall be left as a natural foot path.



Sections

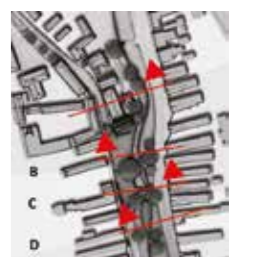
Image below illustrates different sections taken along the community space project area to show the flow of activities and the special character of the place. Section A Shows the space in front of the bar and the beer garden behind the bar adjacent to the

stream space. Section B shows the new fire brigade building and its relationship with the street and the stream. Section C shows the function of the community square. And Section D shows the widened stream area along with the recreational space and kids water playground.



“ Keeping in mind the sensitive context and the special village character, the paving material for the open space, the street and the pathways should be carefully chosen.

“ Keeping in mind the sensitive context and the special village character, the paving material for the open space, the street and the pathways should be carefully chosen.



Collage



Before - Village open space



After - Village community space

4. Implementation

(see the diagram on the next page)

5. Funding: European Regional Development Fund

The ERDF focuses its investments on several key priority areas. This is known as 'thematic concentration':

- Innovation and research;
- The digital agenda;
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- The low-carbon economy.

The ERDF resources allocated to these priorities will depend on the category of region.

- In more developed regions, at least 80 % of funds must focus on at least two of these priorities;

- In transition regions, this focus is for 60 % of the funds;

- This is 50 % in less developed regions.

Areas that are naturally disadvantaged from a geographical viewpoint (remote, mountainous or sparsely populated areas) benefit from special treatment. Lastly, the outermost areas also benefit from specific assistance from the ERDF to address possible disadvantages due to their remoteness.

Suggestions: In Malancrav, such proposals as eco-agriculture research and training centre could apply for funds from this program, as well as vineyard and orchards development projects and building of the sewage system. Potentially, ERDF could fund development of hiking trails around Malancrav and organization of local hiking guides.



Implementation timeline of the Project.

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

The Common Agricultural policy(CAP) is financed by two funds which form part of the EU's general budget. The European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) primarily finances direct payments to farmers and measures regulating of supporting agricultural markets. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) finances the EU's contribution to rural development programmes. The EU's rural development policy is funded through the EAFRD is worth €100 billion from 2014- 2020, with each EU country receiving a financial allocation for the 7-year period.

Rural Development Programme (RDP) for Romania 2014-2020 focuses mainly on 3 priority areas:

- Promoting competitiveness and restructuring in Romania's large agricultural sector
- Environmental protection & climate change
- Stimulating economic development, job creation and a better quality of life in Romanian villages, where the situation is frequently well below both EU and average national levels

The four biggest RDP measures in budgetary terms (total public funding) in Romania are allocated to:

- Investments in physical assets
- Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

- Basic services and village renewal in rural areas
- Farm and business development.

Suggestions: In Malancrav, Development of the local agricultural and dairy products as forms of SME's could apply for funds from the EAGF and could potentially be funded by RDP. The Water management systems and erosion control projects could be eligible to apply for funds from RDP.

European Social Fund

- promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
- promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
- investing in education, skills and lifelong learning
- enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration

In addition, 20 % of ESF investments will The ESF invests in people, with a focus on improving employment and education opportunities across the European Union. It also aims to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people at risk of poverty.

The ESF investments cover all EU regions. More than € 80 billion is earmarked for human capital investment in Member States between 2014 and 2020, with an extra of at least € 3.2 billion allocated to the Youth Employment Initiative.

For the 2014-2020 period, the ESF will focus on four of the cohesion policy's thematic objectives: be committed to activities improving social inclusion and combating poverty. This is known as thematic concentration.

Suggestions: This fund could be used for building community centre, adapting old church for the local museum and library for integration and education.

Grants:

The European Commission makes direct financial contributions in the form of grants in support of projects or organisations which further the interests of the EU or contribute to the implementation of an EU programme or policy. Interested parties can apply by responding to calls for proposals.

Source: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/funding-grants_en

The EEA Grants and Norway Grants

The EEA Grants and Norway Grants are the financial contributions of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein towards the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area (EEA) and to strengthen bilateral relations with 16 EU and EEA Member States in Northern, Central and Southern Europe. Through the Grants Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are also contributing to strengthening fundamental European values such as democracy, tolerance and the rule of law.

Suggestions: These grants could be used for establishing the Malancrav community centre in the old german school , building community square and integrating all the ethnic communities in the village. They could also contribute to creation of organic farming centre and training of Roma population.

Swiss Re Foundation

The Swiss Re Foundation is active around the world, but it is primarily committed to emerging economies and developing countries. And locally, the Foundation supports projects that benefit the communities in Swiss Re locations, prioritising the environment, social care and welfare, and children and youth. "The International ReSource Award for resilience in water management is a prize acknowledging social entrepreneurial

thinking and leadership in implementing the principles of sustainability in water management. Every year, an international jury awards USD 150 000 to new social entrepreneurial initiatives driving sustainable water management practices. The award is one concrete initiative of how the Swiss Re Foundation contributes to the advancement of water resilience in low, lower-middle and upper-middle-income countries."

Suggestions: The sustainable water management project in Malancrav could apply for the funding from this program.

Source: <http://www.swissrefoundation.org/>

Interested Parties

Other parties are active in development and preservation of rural and cultural heritage in Romania specifically in Transylvania.

Prince of Wales Foundation

Prince of Wales Foundation is a charity which supports heritage preservation, agriculture and sustainable development of Romania. The organization's mission is to improve the quality of people's lives, especially those living in rural areas. Most of our work consists of practical training courses, to assist in finding a job.

The foundation is contributing by providing various courses in restoration using traditional tools and materials technical repairing and maintenance of historic buildings. Another programme was concerned with planting of vegetables and fruit trees and providing seedlings and seeds suitable for different soil types.

There are other planned programs to be launched soon, such as Courses for handcrafting using fabric and stitching inspired by Romanian traditions. Other courses are planned for business development in countryside by teaching residents about making business plans, preparing budget and looking for existing sources of funding.

Moreover, the Foundation is interested in other issues and projects, One are of interest is projects that will help farmers in mountain areas develop local products and provide access for markets abroad, other areas of interest forest management and bat-

ting deforestations as well as preserving architectural heritage.

Suggestions: Prince of Wales Foundation could be a potential partner in helping the development of Malancrav, through providing educational programmes and courses related to local handcrafts and starting a business to local villagers. It could also help in promoting local products regionally and internationally.

Source: <http://printuldewales.org/>

Mihai Eminescu Trust

Another example of active parties in the region is the Mihai Eminescu Trust (MET). The Trust is has developed an idea that is called Whole Village Projects, it is a holistic approach that aims to develop villages through parallel strategies that involve historic preservation by restoring houses and churches and economic regeneration through equipping the villagers with means of earning a living.

This model has been implemented in many villages and some of them are already models of success such as Viscri Village, therefore this approach is seen as a model for the future rather than just rescuing the past.

As a testimony to the success of the Whole Village model, it has been estimated

that more than half of Viscri's population has benefited from the Trust's work. The work has included 180 house restorations, mended cattle troughs, re-cobbled roads, planted trees and a school bus provided.

Stables for horse trekking have been built and some buildings have been converted into guesthouses. Also an ecological sanitation scheme has been installed using money raised with the help of Prince Charles. Other Villages are following the tracks of a self-sufficient village similar to Viscri, such as Malancrav, and Alma Vii. In Malancrav the Trust is already managing about 107 ha of apple orchards producing the only organic apple juice in Romania, this Orchard is generating funds and jobs for locals, moreover, The Trust has already restored houses, some buildings converted to guest houses and supported local handcrafts through providing workshops for tourists.

Suggestions: Mihai Eminescu Trust could continue supporting Malancrav through expanding their projects to include more variety of agricultural products, and include more variety of handcrafts into their program. ■

Source: <http://www.mihaieminescutrust.org/>
Source: <http://www.malancrav.ro/>



Julian Kerremans
Belgium



Jan Persoons
Belgium



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Poland



green
heaven



from the group report

Introduction

Romania is a country located at the crossroads of Central and Southeastern Europe. It has a coastline on the Black Sea and borders Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, and Ukraine. Romania has mountain ranges running from the north and west in the interior, which are collectively known as the Carpathians. The government system is a republic; the chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister. Romania has a mixed economy which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Romania is a member of the European Union (EU).

Transylvania is a historical region located in what is today the central part of Romania. Bound on the east and south by its natural borders, the Carpathian mountain range, historical Transylvania extended westward to

the Apuseni Mountains. The term sometimes encompasses not only Transylvania proper, but also the historical regions of Crisana, Maramures, and the Romanian part of Banat.

The region of Transylvania is known for the scenery of its Carpathian landscape and its rich history. It also contains major cities such as Cluj-Napoca, Brasov, Sibiu and Targu Mures. The area of Romania is 238,391 km², from which Transylvania takes a surface of about 102.834 km².

Sighisoara is located on the Tarnava River in Mures county, Romania. It is located in the historic region of Transylvania. German craftsmen and merchants, the Transylvanian Saxons, were invited here by the King of Hungary during the 12th century, to settle and defend the frontier. Central Sighisoara has preserved in an exemplary way the features of a small medieval fortified city and it has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Each year a Medieval Festival takes place in the old citadel in July. Sighisoara is a popular tourist destination due to its well-preserved citadel. The landmark of the city is the Clock Tower, a 64 meter high tower built in 1556. It is presently a Museum of History.

In the history there were Saxons, protestants and Catholics living together. Also the cemetery shows the diversity of beliefs that people had and some still have today. The cemetery has its unique character because of its natural, old and mystical look.



“ Transylvania is a historical region located in what is today the central part of Romania. The region of Transylvania is known for the scenery of its Carpathian landscape and its rich history.

Methodology

Problems	Methods	Goals
Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of infrastructure maintenance • Wrong choice of infrastructure materials • Weak access from cemetery to the hill • Big tourist flow • Spatial conflicts between space users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path and stairs inventory and evaluation • Setting up the hierarchy of the paths • Interviews with different target groups • Inventory of existing trees and plants • Guidelines how to handle and maintain trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the state of existing paths and create new connections for all the target groups • Improve accessibility and infrastructure of cemeteries and the Citadel hill • Strengthen heritage of the city wall, historical towers and gates • Create or clean up vista points • Improve vegetation management
Vegetation management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive plants species • Lack or wrong vegetation maintenance, need of guidelines • Destruction of historical wall 		

Analysis

The cemetery of Sighisoara has a very unique special and beautiful character. This is one of the most amazing cemeteries ever seen. The wild flowers in between the gravestones give it a more natural and mythical character. This will be important to take into account into the new design for this area.

During the visit of the project area it became clear what the conflicts are. The main one and most obvious one is the lack of proper path infrastructure. The old path infrastructure is damaged too much and not well accessible any more. The new path materials are badly chosen and totally not comfortable to walk on. Path infrastructure needs to be improved.

Concerning the vegetation there is a need for guidance how to prune and maintain the vegetation. There are too many dead trees, widow makers and dead branches to be found in and around the cemetery.

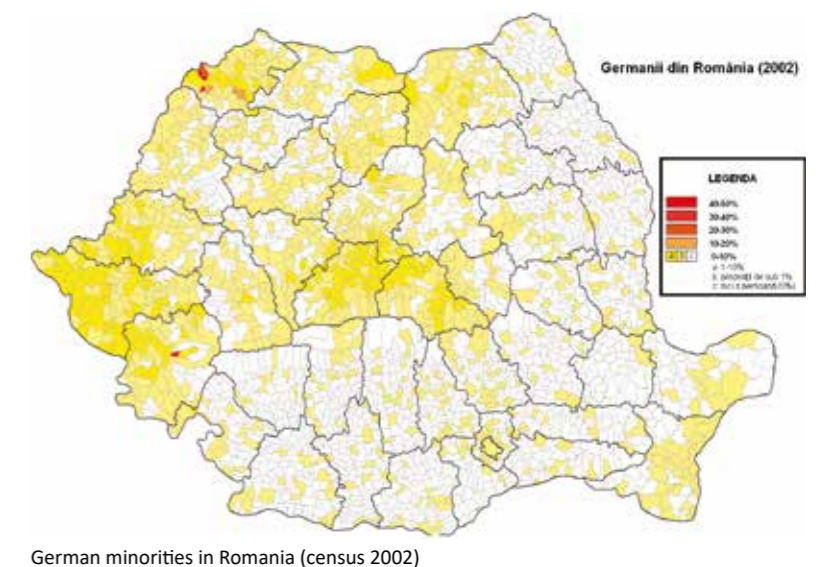
The trees are currently very badly pruned and will slowly die or have an ugly shape because of it. Seedlings can be found in many places and some of them grow out to a small tree, this sometimes in inconvenient places where it damages the infrastructure. In some locations vegetation is blocking the ac-

cessibility of certain paths leading towards the top of the citadel.

The cemetery needs maintenance concerning the state of some of the gravestones. Some of them are not stable anymore and can cause danger for visitors of the cemetery.

The cemetery is very clearly divided in the different religions. To create this division metal fencing and barbed wire is used. This is quite a drastic way of creating a division between the different parts of the cemetery.

“ During the visit of the project area it became clear what the conflicts are. The main one and most obvious one is the lack of proper path infrastructure.

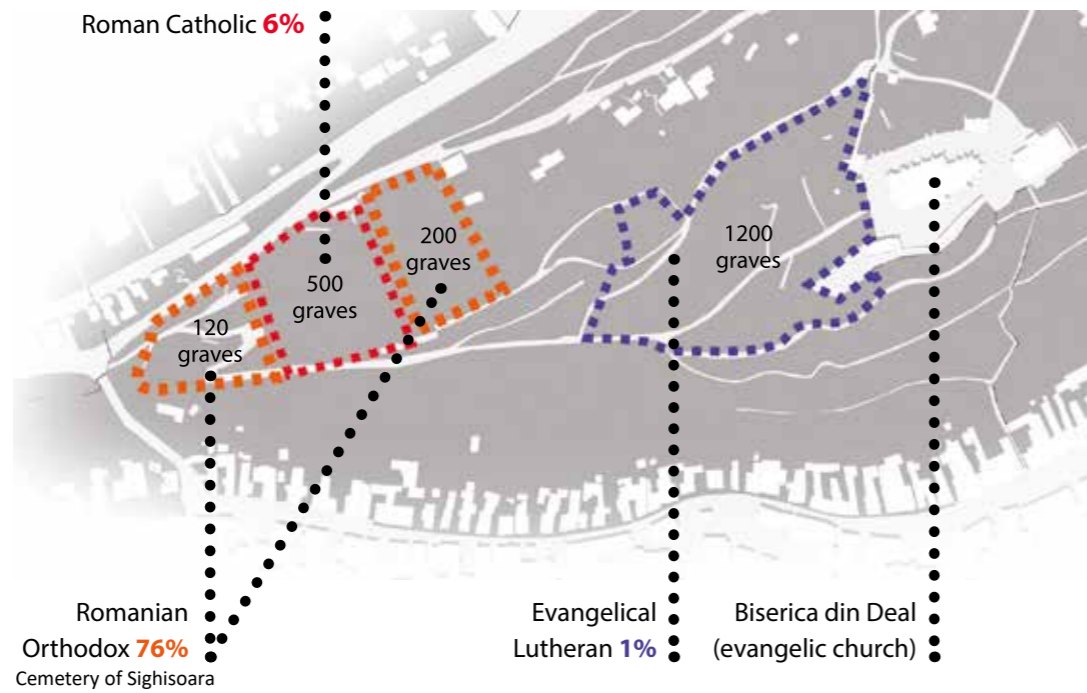


German minorities in Romania (census 2002)



Population of Sighisoara (2011)
28 000

German population in Transylvania
1930 - 230 000
1977 - 170 000
2002 - 18 000



Conflict area uptown

Tree seedlings all over build-up areas



Dead branches in the trees "widow makers"
Wrong trees pruning



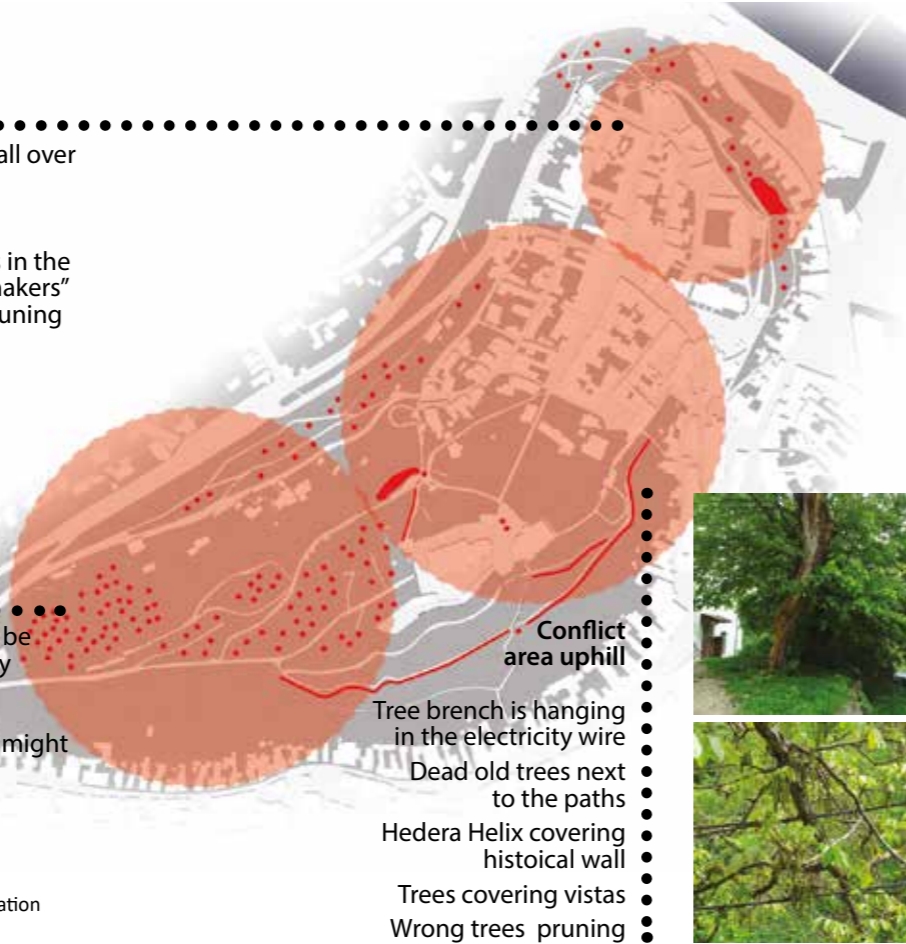
Conflict area Cemetery

Dead trees can be a treat for safety



Invasive plants might destroy graves

Conflict map: Vegetation



Conflict area uphill

- Tree branch is hanging in the electricity wire
- Dead old trees next to the paths
- Hedera Helix covering historical wall
- Trees covering vistas
- Wrong trees pruning



Conflict area uptown

Car traffic interrupts the circulation of the people



Bad quality pavement and usage of wrong materials

Mass tourism



Conflict area Cemetery

Destroyed fences

Aesthetical conflicts

Wired fences between cemeteries

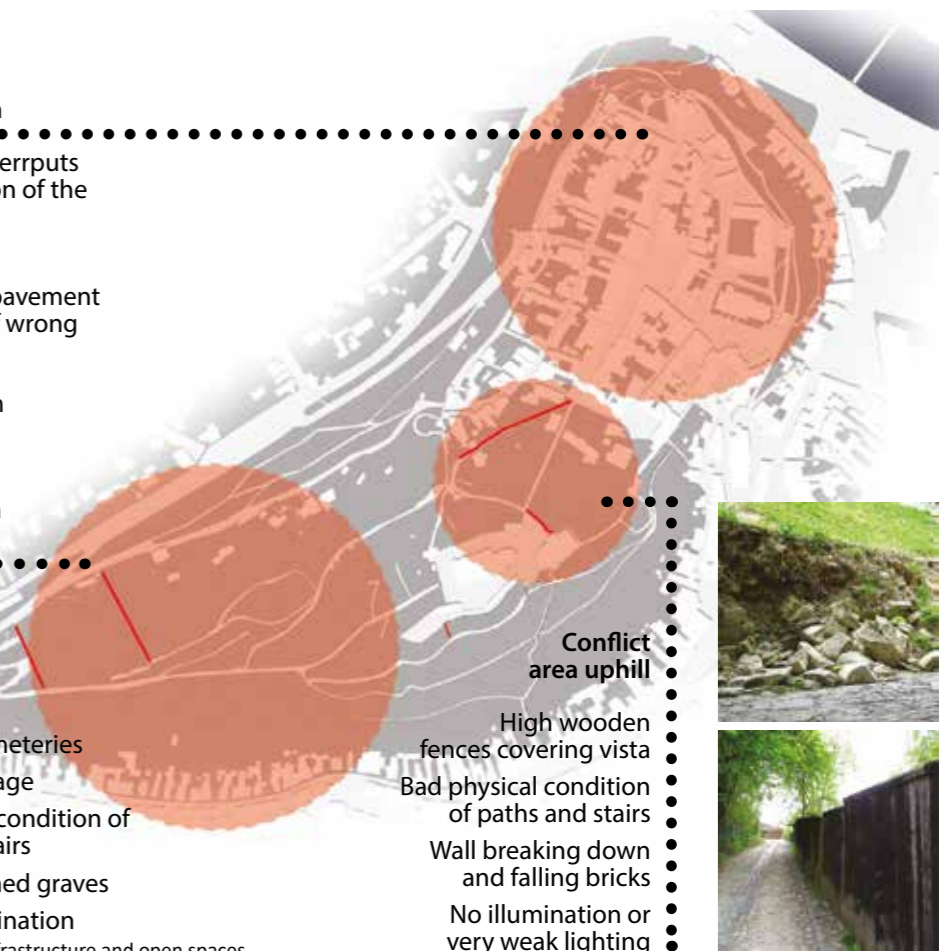
Piles of garbage

Bad physical condition of paths and stairs

Not maintained graves

Lack of illumination

Conflict map: Infrastructure and open spaces



Conflict area uphill

High wooden fences covering vista

Bad physical condition of paths and stairs

Wall breaking down and falling bricks

No illumination or very weak lighting



Evaluation

From the analysis several evaluations can be made.

The first one is to create a better path infrastructure. The current situation is not in a good shape for people to walk on smoothly. The new paths that were restored with new round Chinese river stones are done badly and are a wrong choice of material. The pedestrians have difficulty to walk on and cars take out the stones by driving over it. The new materials to restore the paths should be chosen thoroughly.

Also within the cemetery new paths will be created to become connections between the different religions divided by barbed wires and metal fencing.

The vegetation needs proper maintenance. The current situation reveals that the local people who maintain the vegetation need guidance and advice how to do this in a proper way. The dead trees should be removed, widow makers taken away, trees pruned in a proper way. By doing this the place will get a better and nicer look with a different but better feeling to it.

From the citadel through the cemetery there is an opportunity to create a link with the surrounding landscape. The bastion within the cemetery is property of the guy who maintains the cemetery. This place has the opportunity to become a public place for all the people visiting the cemetery, the church and enjoying the view.

The citadel is to be found on top of the hill in Sighisoara. This is an opportunity for beautiful views towards the surrounding landscape. But because of lack of vegetation maintenance these views are completely or partially blocked. This is an element that pushes people away instead of attracting people.

Around the Church on top of the citadel there is a chaotic vegetation to be found. It gives a chaotic not organised and confusing feeling to the place. Even the entrance to the cemetery is partially blocked and difficult to find. The place around a church should give an atmosphere of serenity, structure and simplicity.

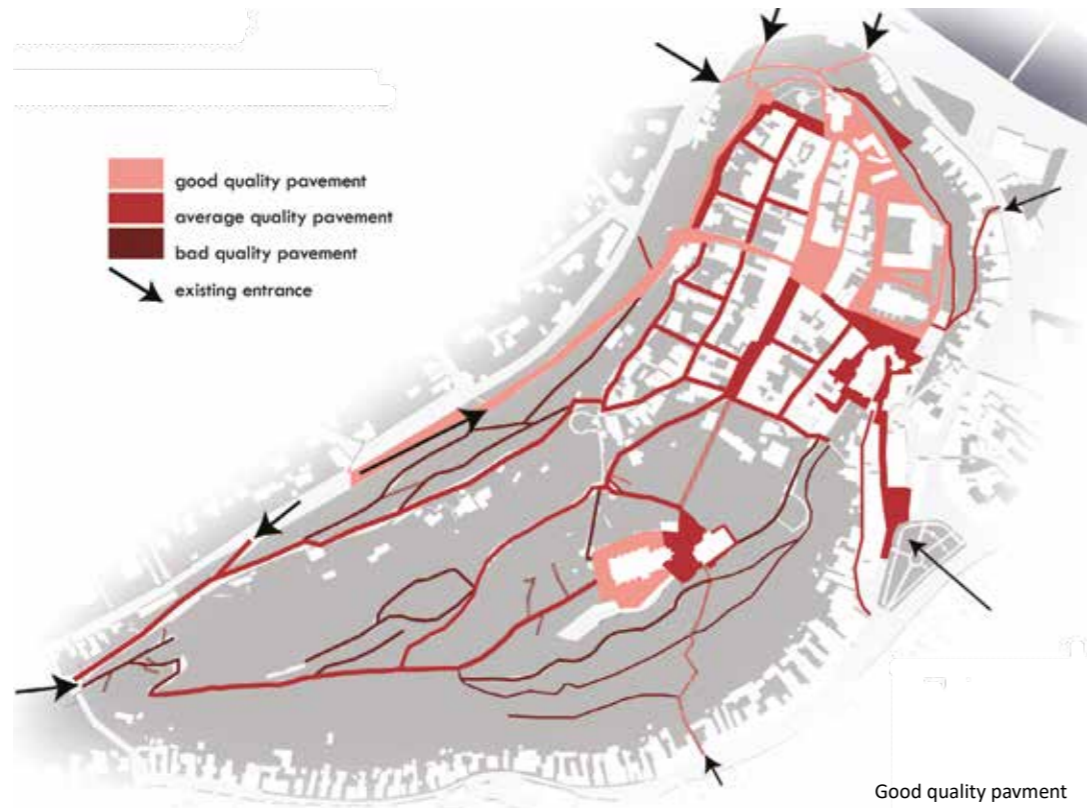


From the citadel through the cemetery there is an opportunity to create a link with the surrounding landscape.

Bad quality pavement on the stairs



Average pavement on the main and side road



Good quality pavement



Evaluation: Paths and accessibility

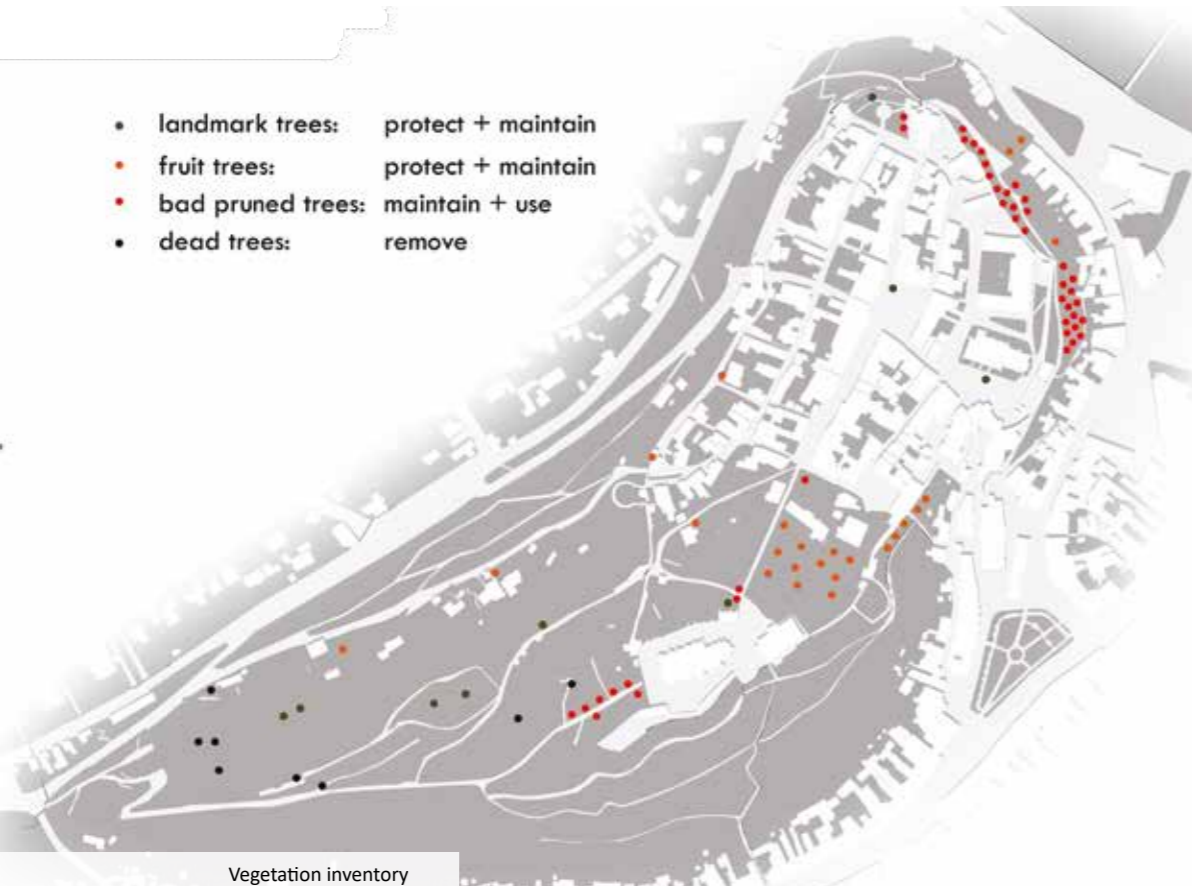
Trees

- Tilia cordata
- Acer campestre
- Acer pseudoplatanus
- Thuja plicata
- Picea abies
- Quercus robur
- Ginkgo biloba
- Amelanchier alnifolia
- Fagus sylvatica
- Buxus sempervirens
- Carpinus betulus
- Cotinus cognyacensis
- Augustinia nigra
- Malus

Perennials

- Polygonatum multiflorum
- Aquilegia vulgaris
- Bergenia cordifolia
- Frunella vulgaris
- Fragaria vesca
- Vinca minor
- Chelidonium majus
- Anemone nemorosa
- Digitalis purpurea
- Ranunculus gramineus
- Bellis perennis
- Taraxacum officinale
- Hedera helix
- Geranium robertianum
- Asarum europaeum
- Convallaria majalis

- landmark trees: protect + maintain
- fruit trees: protect + maintain
- bad pruned trees: maintain + use
- dead trees: remove



Vegetation inventory

1 year old trees

- found in the whole city and green belt
- needs to be taken away in the city



2-3 year old trees

- found on the edge of the city and green belt
- needs to be taken away in the city



grown up trees

- found at multiple places in the city and green belt
- needs maintenance

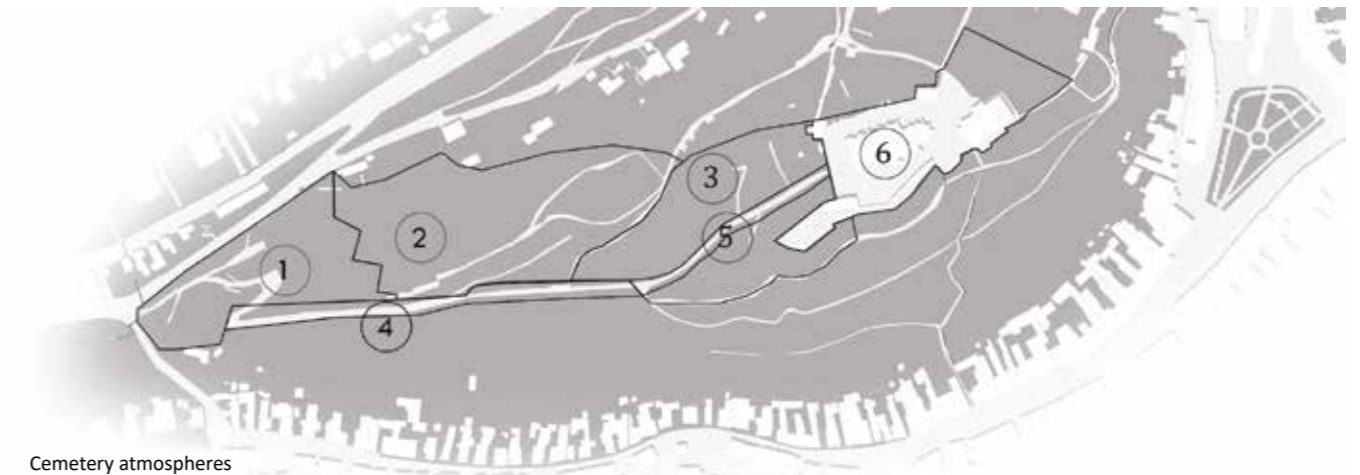


old trees

- found at multiple places in the city and green belt
- needs maintenance



Stages of a tree



Cemetery atmospheres

Catholic and Orthodox cemeteries

Hard accessible, hidden cemeteries are harmonious and peaceful

Green space between cemeteries

Wild green space creates spatial synergy with the World War monuments. Adventurous, connected with the nature

Evangelic cemetery

Unique character of this place shows the traces of the history. Very old graves and rich vegetation creates mystic atmosphere

Connection path

Path covered in the trees connects the atmosphere of the surrounded places

Trees and graves alley

Guidance through the cemetery area. Tree and graves alley introduces the cemetery from the citadel hill

Top of the citadel hill

The goal of the Citadel - top of the hill with the evangelic church surrounded by pathways and lawn. Place to rest, relax and enjoy views on the city



Concept

The general concept for this project is to use green elements to create a better place. The green infrastructure is of great importance to for the atmosphere, the feeling the identity and the strength of the place or area. The first important element is to create a better path infrastructure. This is of great importance so the accessibility to the project area, in this case it is the cemetery, can go smoothly and attracts more people.

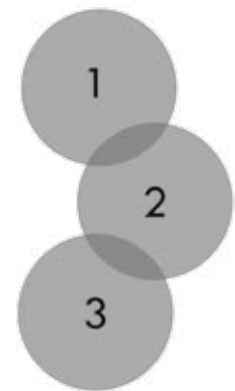
The views towards the surrounding landscape but also within the cemetery are of great importance. In the current situation they seem to be lost and well taken care off. It will be important to open up views towards the surrounding landscape. The visual connectivity towards surrounding landscape with certain landmarks will attract people to visit the place. The possibility to have certain view axis gives a feeling of security and possibility of orientation.

Around the church there is chaotic and not well maintained vegetation to be found. This will be changed to a more simple

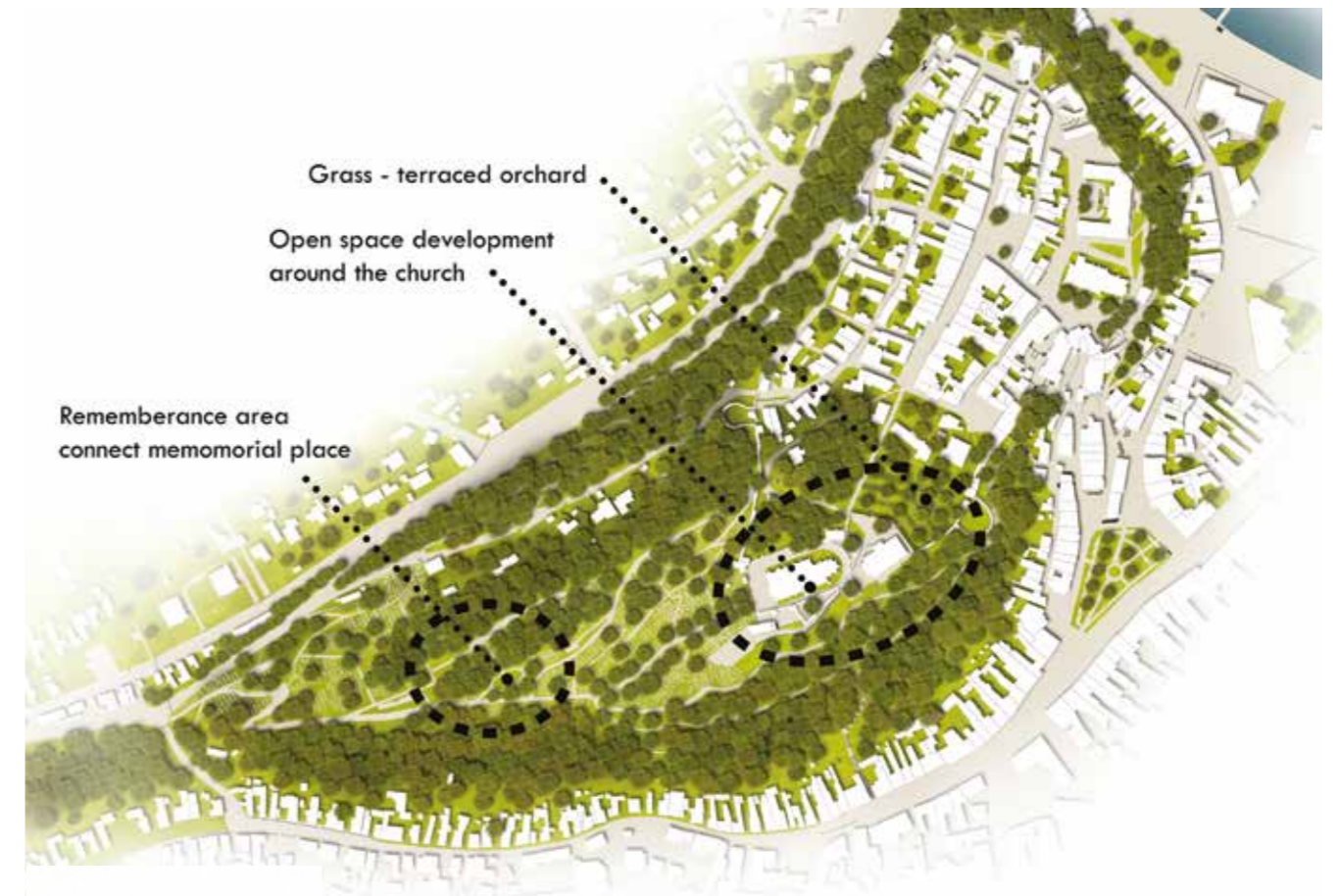
but structured and clear design. This new design will allow to keep overview on the location and being able to orientate yourself and also to keep certain important view accesses clear.

The cemetery has its own special nature and mystical character. It will be important to keep this character and keep the interventions to a limit not to change the character. The trees along the main path are badly pruned will be replaced by new trees. The guidance of vegetation maintenance will help to keep the shape and the health of the new trees. The alley will be strengthened by them and guide the people to go deeper into the cemetery and discover the special places hidden within.

Within the cemetery three WW-cemeteries can be found. They are positioned in a triangle shape. This will give the opportunity to link those three WW-cemeteries with a green designed link and open space. This will be done in suitable way so people can find a place to find rest, peace and a space for contemplation. The space will indicate that we are all equal and will unite the different cemeteries with different people with different beliefs into 1 unified place.



- 1 Better accessibility and connectivity on the Citadel
- 2 Good quality open spaces
- 3 Preservation of the natural character of the Citadel



Masterplan

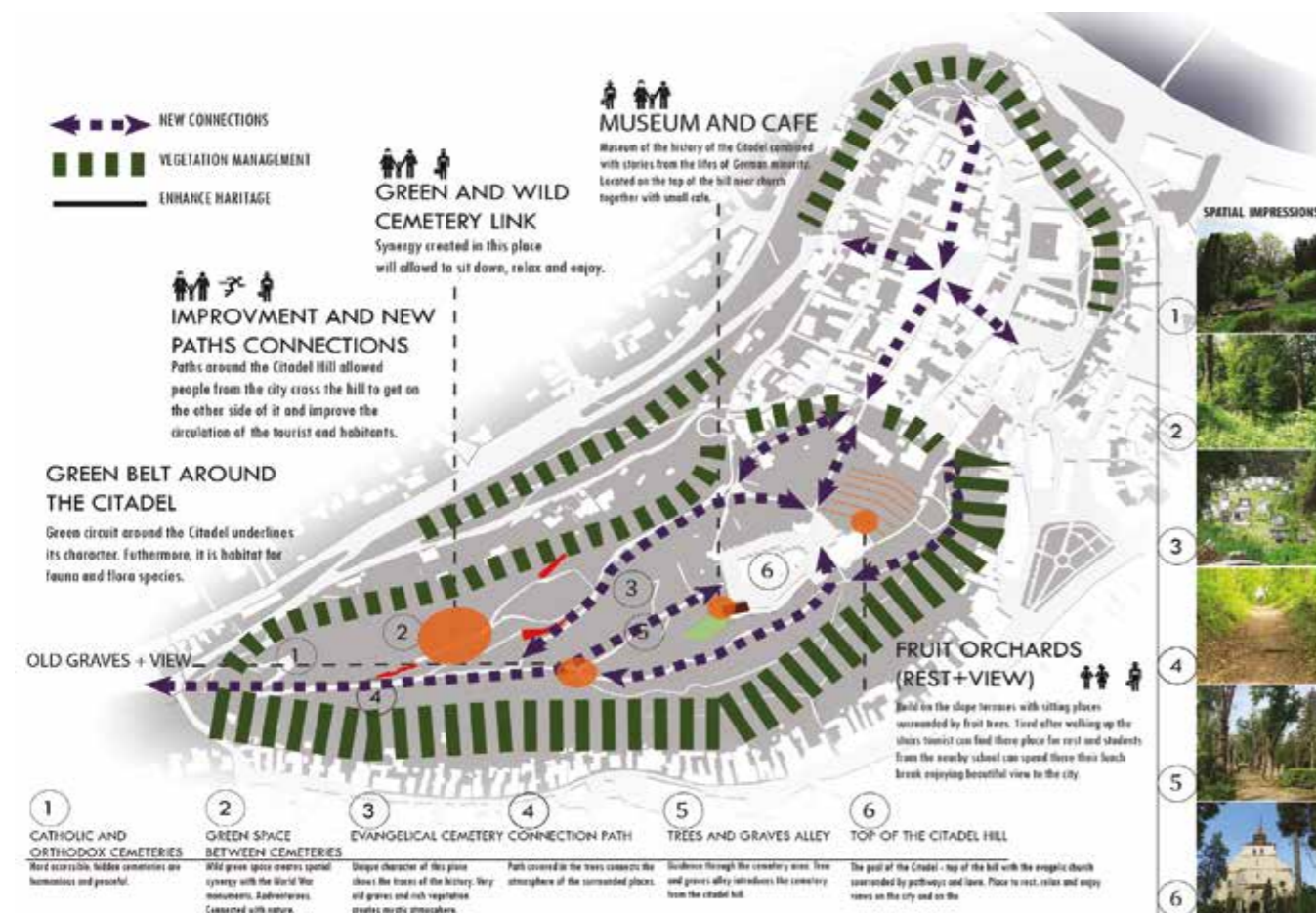
Masterplan was born as an effect of comprehensive and complex analysis and evaluations on the project site and shows the future vision of the Citadel Hill in Sighisoara. Considering needs of all the target groups like residents, tourists, students or bikers & hikers, but also respecting the ecological aspects and big potential of the vegetation on this site, new design will be introduced. In the concept, we were looking at the Citadel Hill as the whole: with its urban part, the top of the hill and the cemetery. We tried to touch its identity and search through different atmospheres and impressions of this unique place to awake its great recreational, historical and ecological potential.

Design is touching many different aspects. Firstly, the accessibility to the hill. Now, there are just a few paths and stairs leading on the top of the hill, mainly coming from the urban part. This leads to the concentration of traffic and tourist crowd on this side of the Citadel. In new concept, access will be stressed to new entrance axes, coming especially from the cemetery and from the other sides of the slope.

For instance, the "Teachers Path" - way, which used to be taken by the professors from the local school (from the east side) and now unused and inaccessible, would be revitalized and lead along the historical wall just up to the school. Residents who live on the one side of the cemetery must take a long loop around the hill to get on the other side. In this concept, connection will be possible also through the cemetery. For new and renewed ways and paths a better material will be chosen. At the moment, general quality of pathways is very low: there are big holes in the pavement, ways are hard to walk on, uneven, and with many gaps. The master plan includes quality improvements in the pavement, but keeping it original and historical character. Many other pathways and stairways will be revived in similar way to introduce renewed network of access and connections to all the space users.

Another important part of the design is a green circle around the Hill. It is very important habitat for many fauna and flora species. Unfortunately, its recreational potential is not well used. In this concept, we would like

“ Masterplan was born as an effect of comprehensive and complex analysis and evaluations on the project site and shows the future vision of the Citadel Hill in Sighisoara.



to introduce this green circuit as a connection between different parts of Citadel and place to walk, run or bike. Furthermore, we would like to connect the Citadel with the other part of the hill, which is now divided with the street (south – west side). This concept would include connecting Citadel with open greenery and big open spaces, perfect to hike, bike or run.

Details of our design will show more specifically assumption of the concept. The area around the Evangelic Church will include development of open spaces and vegetation improvement. Adjacent to this area slope, now inaccessible for users because of high wooden wall, will become grass – terraced orchard – perfect place for tourist to rest after climbing up the hill or for students to spent there their lunch break. The third detail area is introduced in the zone in the middle of the cemetery and it underlines its special atmosphere and character. Located between the three World War memorial – Remembrance Area – will be an open space in the middle of wild nature – to sit down, mediate and recollect the memories about close people.

Open space at the church

The first detail area is situated around the Evangelic church on top of the citadel. Since ages this area was an important religious and strategic place for the town. Many vistas give an outstanding view to Sighisoara and the surrounding. The link with the surrounding and the history of the place was a very important el-

ement that had to be taken into consideration.

The existing space around the church and school will be united with a uniform pavement and structure. The existing, sometimes chaotic greenery around the church will be removed and only major trees will be kept. In this way vistas will be opened again towards the landscape and the space around the church and school will me more open. The open space, guided with a new tree alley on the cemetery, will improve the connection between the top of the citadel and the cemetery.

By improving the visual link between different places people will have more opportunities to walk and explore the citadel. Attracting people means also providing some infrastructure for them in order to make their journey more attractive. That is why a museum about the history of the citadel and a cafe will be implemented in the existing building of the mortuary. From this former building and neighbouring garden people can have a drink while having a beautiful vista to the south west side where the Breite Tree Oak Reserve is situated.

The students of the school are also one of main users of the space around the church. They will have more space to relax during their breaks thanks to enlargement of the pavement. The implementation of an orchard on the nord side of the school will also create more space for students, but also for visitors and locals. Stairs will lead the visitors through the orchard from where they can sit on the grass an look to the historical part of the city.



The existing space around the church and school will be united with a uniform pavement and structure.



Historical Museum of Sighisoara's Citadel



Not accessible, privately used place
Mortuary is almost not used
Loss of historical character of the bastion

New Historical Museum of Sighisoara's Citadel with cafe
Accessible to public
New view points

Front of the church



Bad vegetation maintenance
Widow makers
Dead trees
Vistas blocked by vegetation

Well maintained vegetation
Opened structure around the church
Cleared vistas

Entrance to the cemetery

Badly pruned trees and chaotic vegetation
 Character of the alley is lost
 Blocked view to the cemetery entrance



Before

Strong green corridor through the cemetery
 Clear visible entrance
 Bigger attraction for the visitors



After

Grass - terraced orchard

Blocked view to city centre
 Inaccessible, unstructured orchard



Before

Accessible orchard
 Place for resting and relaxing
 Open space for students during their lunch breaks
 View corridors



After

Remembrance area

The second detail area is situated in the cemetery on the citadel of Sighisoara. In fact three cemeteries are found on the Sighisoara citadel, as early mentioned in the analysis. The problem is that they are not well connected, on the contrary, they're even fenced with barbed wire. The connection between the cemetery and the area around the church could also be improved.

This design will improve the connections inside the cemetery and the connection to the outside, especially the area around the church. In order to attract more people to the cemetery, a remembrance area will be created in the middle. This place will connect the three world war cemeteries and the other areas of the cemetery with each other.

From the north side of the cemetery, where the World War II memorial place is, people can climb up the stairs to the remembrance area. The area between the World War II memorial and the remembrance area is a natural area with many species. In order to preserve this place, only one connection will go through it. In this way the species will be not interrupted, but people can still perceive this more natural, wild character of the cemetery.

Two other paths, one from the World War I memorial and one from the main road in the cemetery lead to the remembrance place, where people can reflect and have a seat on the concrete benches. The oval shape is flanked by hedges, so that the vistas stay inside. The place is open and in the middle is grass, only outside this oval shape trees are planted. In this way the only long view is up, to the bright sky.

“ In fact three cemeteries are found on the Sighisoara citadel, as early mentioned in the analysis. The problem is that they are not well connected, on the contrary, they're even fenced with barbed wire.



WW I memorial : viewpoint to Breite plateau



Initial situation

No clear connection between war memorials
 No vistas inside in the cemetery
 Different 'spontaneous' created paths in the natural area of the cemetery

Green connection between war memorials
 Contemplation area
 Accessible orchard
 Vista inside the cemetery
 Design allows to experience the natural character of the cemeteries



Vegetation inventory
Perennials



Shrubs



Trees



Birds inventory

Citadel Hill, Sighisoara, May 2017



Vegetation maintenance guide

Trees



wrong

Chaotic and unsystematic

Cutting too big branches

Cutting more than 1/3 of the tree



correct

Systematic observations

Start pruning trees from a young age for a healthy and balanced development

Eliminate dead, sick or damaged branches

Pruning not more than 1/3 of the tree crown

1. The pruning of trees is best to be done or in the early spring, in autumn or if it is a species that is sensitive to bleeding to prune it end of the summer (end of August until September).

2. The pruning of trees begins with eliminating the damaged, dead or sick branches.

3. The following is to cut away the shoots at the base of the tree trunk together with the suckers that take the energy of the tree away. Never cut more than 1/3 of the tree crown away.

4. Prune only the branches in the tree crown that are at least 2cm in diameter. Leave the base of the branch when you prune it.

Species: (*Tilia cordata*, *Acer campestre*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Thuja plicata*, *Picea abis*, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Quercus robur*, *Juglans regia*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Taxus baccata*, *Fagus sylvatica* F. *Purpurea*, *Fagus sylvatica* F. *purpurea*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*)

Spring or summer pruning: *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Juglans regia*, *Taxus Baccata*, *Fagus sylvatica* F. *Purpurea*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Horse-chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)

1. Pruning of this species recommended to do in the early spring, in autumn or at the end of the summer (when it is a sensitive specie for bleeding)

2. The pruning of this tree begins with removing the damaged, dead or sick branches.

3. The next step is to cut away the shoots at the base of the stem together with the suckers that take the energy of the tree away. Never cut more than 1/3 of the tree away.

4. Prune only the branches that are at least 2 cm in diameter. Leave the base of the branch when you prune it.

5. Cut lower branches on the tree to clear the

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mai	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Pruning period - Trees

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mai	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Pruning period - Grassland

first 2,5 meters of branches of the adult tree.

When this is done, prune only the tree when it is required:

- When the crown of the tree is too heavy/full, then eliminated some branches.
- When branches are leaning against each other and damaging each other.
- When the branches are of danger for the open space infrastructure and people.

Common lilac (Syringa vulgaris)

Prune the branches that finished flowering, but leave the branches that are new of this year. They will provide flowers for the next year.

Don't let the Sering grow too high because they the flowers won't be visible because they can be found all on the top of the shrub.

When you have an old Sering, keep some younger shoots and cut the oldest branches until 30 – 50 cm above the ground. In 3 years you have new flowers.

Cut dried out flowers away until the first shoot on the branch. Wild shoots coming from the base of the plant should be cut off. You can make a shrub younger by cutting an old branch away once in a while.

Grassland

To maintain the grasslands in the citadel it should be cut 4 times a year. This will prevent from the grasslands to grow too high and will give the possibility for different functions and uses branch away once in a while.

Improving bird diversity:

- Cut the grassland after the breeding season, starting end of June the earliest.
- Put some of a Blackthorn, Hawthorn, That are not touched by maintenance. The birds feel safe and can breed in there.
- Create plant variation into the grassland vegetation.

Grassland type 1:

This type of grassland stays really short so it can be used by the people. The grass needs to be mowed every 2 weeks (grassland in the little parks between the settlements of the citadel).

Grassland type 2:

The grass should be cut every month. This type of grass is longer and will have a bigger variety of plant species. (around the church on top of the hill)

Grassland type 3:

This grassland will contain many more species because it will be cut only once or twice in a year.

Grassland on the cemetery should be cut twice a year. Once in spring (April) and once in the late summer (September). The cut grass should stay for a couple days so the seeds of the wild flowers have time to fall onto the soil. Then cut grass should be taken away.

Hedges

The hedges that were found on the cemetery where not continues, but broken up in smaller and bigger rows of hedges. There was also not just one specie chosen, but several ones. The species that were used are: *Acer campestre*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Buxus sempervirens*.

The hedges should be pruned until a height of 1m so they don't block the view towards the surroundings landscape or the cemetery.

Design implementation and funding

To consider the implementation process, we start from the stakeholder's analysis, thinking which parties might be interested in the project and could benefit out of it, but also could support the funding of the project.

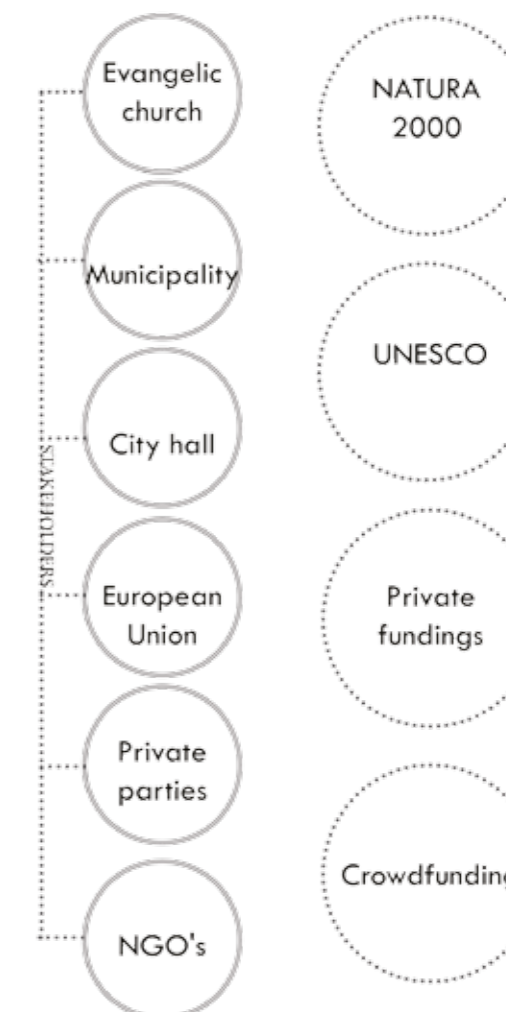
For implementation, Municipality and City Hall need to give an approval. This could be supported with the public participation process. Giving voice to the people and getting to know their opinion could help with the decision-making process. Here a big help could

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Mai	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Pruning period - Hedges

come from NGO's working in Sighisoara, for instance Mihai Eminescu Trust, who could carry on the campaign about the project, showing and explaining the concept to the people.

Very important stakeholder for the project is Evangelic Church. It is especially important, because the detailed design assumes change of use of the property belonging to Evangelic Church. Every year, number of members of this church is sinking and it is naturally to consider change of the use, for example of the mortuary, where would be a cafe. Here, it would be necessary to get an approval from the church and offer benefits from the project (not just material benefits, but also use the big potential of creating Museum, which would hold the memory and spread the historical heritage of German Saxons). For this reasons also private parties (families of German Saxons buried in Sighisoara) could express the urge of supporting the project.



“

To consider the implementation process, we start from the stakeholder's analysis, thinking which parties might be interested in the project and could benefit out of it, but also could support the funding of the project.

Historic centre of Sighisoara is recognized as the World Heritage Site UNESCO. Improvement of connections and accessibility of this place, as well as implementation of design which is contributing and underlying the importance of world heritage, could be considered as a part of UNESCO support.

As the cemetery and the circuit around the Citadel is a habitat for many fauna and flora species, especially birds, the site could be proposed as Natura 2000 site. Therefore, the revitalisation and maintenance of the Cemetery part of the project, could be supported from this funding source.

Finally, we should not forget about new ideas of funding, like for instance crowd-funding. It is a way to finance a project through the small contributions from a big number of participants.

Summary

The main goal of the "Green heaven" project was to underline landscape conflicts that exist on the Citadel Hill in Sighisoara and introduce possible conceptual and spatial solutions that can solve them.

Firstly, it is urgent to bring up a vegetation maintenance guide at the project site. Understanding of nature conservation was in many ways wrong and this was a reason of spatial conflicts and safety hazards on the Hill. The preservation of the natural character and underlining the special atmosphere, as well as to implement new trees, are the main intention of this project. The memorable feeling of this site is mostly built upon the vegetation, so without proper guidance it can be lost.

Improvement of the quality of open spaces, as well as development of new activities on the Sighisoara's Citadel Hill was another objective of the project. State of pavement and stairs, as well as general condition of many access paths on the hill were disturbing its right perception. Creation of new connections and accesses to the Citadel Hill, as well as renewing the old ones could encourage people to contact this extraordinary place.

In the design, we tried to focus on all the target groups that might benefit of it – inhabitants, tourists, students, but also hikers and runners, who might enjoy the further access to the open space and connection between the cemetery and the adjacent green hill. ■



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