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***A Processual
Development
Vision as a
Material-
Discursive Tool***

***Approaching a disused Kīšezers
waterfront territory in Čiekurkalns***

Abstract

This article will introduce the case study of a marginal, degraded, and underdeveloped territory in Riga, alongside the authors' attempt to create a vision for the future of this territory in search of balanced and coherent development. This does not presuppose economic growth and building a lot of new buildings and roads as a cure-all. Development here is seen more broadly as the change and becoming of the territory over time. We depart from the question of how to develop a vision for the transformation of a marginal territory that would balance public and private interests, work across multiple scales, and respond to changing circumstances over time. The article will describe the particular situation of the site, outline the research methods, set out tools for developing a vision, and discuss possible steps for its implementation.

Keywords

urban regeneration, material-discursive practice, vision development, relational thinking, assemblage theory, affordances, urban intervention

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Introduction

The city is composed of many overlapping layers – some material, some not – and their juxtaposition defines the city as we know it, not just as physical space but also its cultural, political, and economic processes, all of which together create a distinct framework of possibilities. These layers are not static but ever flowing and changing, continually impacting one another, sometimes making the possibilities difficult to see. Even so, there are places in the city that seem to be blank spots in the collective imagination, where the urban form disintegrates, giving way to fragmentation and scarcity of flows. These may be marginal spaces or overlaps where one type of urban logic clashes with another. These may also be undeveloped areas or degraded territories in need of revitalisation, and often it is precisely their marginal condition that hinders their transformation. Adding to the complexity, there are many stakeholders involved in city development, and the development itself has varying drivers and executors, be they top-down or bottom-up, privately driven or publicly initiated. While these actors can work together, more often than not they seem to be at odds, leading to a power disbalance, privileging certain kinds of interests over others, and resulting in further fragmentation of the urban fabric that neither addresses the public needs for a liveable environment, nor creates strong communities.

This article will introduce a case study of just such a marginal, degraded, and underdeveloped territory in Riga, alongside the authors' attempt to create a vision for the future of this territory in search of balanced and coherent development. This does not presuppose economic growth and building a lot of new buildings and roads as a cure-all. Development here is seen more broadly as the change and becoming of the territory over time. The article will describe the particular situation of the site, outline the research methods, set out tools for developing a vision, and discuss possible steps for

its implementation.

The territory in question is located next to Ķīšezers lake in the Čiekurkalns neighbourhood in a blank spot on most Rigans' mental map of the city. The initiative for this project came from the latest *Free Riga* undertaking, which aims to bring new life to the old building of the Riga Technical University Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Transport and Aeronautics in Viskaļu Street 36 (later in the text referred to as the 'V36 building'), which became disused when the faculty moved to the new campus in Ķīpsala. The concept for the *Free Riga* project is an Institute for the Design of Quality of Life (*Dzīves kvalitātes dizaina institūts*), aiming to bring together artists, innovators, and educators, and so the idea of *quality of life* is also a theme when looking at the development of the territory as a whole. Considering the large scale of the building and the unprecedentedly long *Free Riga* lease contract of 25 years, it seems certain that a significant amount of new activity will arise in this area and create plenty of change over time, not only bringing new actors and flows but also putting this site on the map and potentially making it attractive for further development. While the V36 building itself is huge, covering around 15'000 m², it is only one among many abandoned buildings in a much larger territory spanning approximately 40 ha of a distinctly shaped peninsula of Ķīšezers (Figure 2). It might seem surprising that this territory has not been developed until now, being in such a desirable location, but it is also disadvantaged by being enclosed by manufacturing and infrastructure zones, as well as areas of limited accessibility due to containing State defence-related functions.

Taking into account these challenges, we at the *Urban Institute* felt it relevant to look at the site more broadly, beyond the scope of immediate *Free Riga* activities, and ask how this site could connect in meaningful ways to the rest of the neighbourhood and the city. Taking this as a test case, we pose the question of how to develop



Figure 1. Intersection of spatial moments in the project territory (Riga: Signe Pērkone, Ramón Córdova González, 2021)

a vision for the transformation of a marginal territory that would balance public and private interests, work across multiple scales, and respond to changing circumstances over time.

Approach and Theoretical Framework

This project differs from standard practice due to the fact that there was no client as such. While, indeed, the work focuses in and around the territory *Free Riga* is occupying, they were not the ones to commission this research and the strategy for the general development of the territory. This creates an unusual freedom, rarely experienced in spatial practice, but also poses a whole set of new questions and challenges. Commonly there is a client, be it a private developer or a government institution, which defines location, programme, and implementation of any project, implicitly mandating the architect to protect the client's interests. In these cases, the architect's and urbanist's creativity is employed in the search for the most appropriate arrangement of the brief's components in the given plot of land. However, in this case, since there was neither a specific client nor a determined plot of land and therefore

no brief, the work was not bound by the typical problem-solution dialectic, enabling the authors to firstly step back and consider how to approach and understand this territory, and then what kind of work would be useful and retain its relevance in this strangely loose situation. Being private-sector trained architects, we would have found it all too easy to play the part of both the client and the artist – draw a clear boundary around a site and, to the best of one’s ability, design a masterplan for general development. But such an approach would naively replace the ambiguity of the situation with wishful thinking, smoothing out the questions, contradictions, and unknowable aspects. Furthermore, such an approach also presupposes definite urban growth, which in a city like Riga is by no means certain. As such, the work would only serve as an intellectual exercise, without much possibility of realisation, as the slightest change in the circumstances surrounding the potential development could render the proposal useless.

Instead, we choose to develop a vision as a material-discursive tool. Following Barad (2003), the term ‘*material-discursive*’ is used in order to indicate that discursive practices and material phenomena are always mutually implicated in the processes of becoming. In these processes, one does not precede the other, nor can they be reduced or explained in terms of the other. Within the framework of this project, a vision for the territory is developed as a process, using tools that enable working simultaneously on both the material and the discursive level, focusing on the process itself rather than forcing preconceived discourses onto the territory or working solely towards a material conclusion. The vision is developed, then, with the full awareness that not all challenges can be addressed architecturally or even spatially and that the design of built form is but a small part of the negotiation-based urban transformation processes in the field. It is an experimental approach and as such should not be done single-handedly but in close collaboration

with interested parties and should incorporate different types of knowledge and expertise.

In order to work in this unconventional way, it is necessary to wholly reconfigure how one approaches a territory, for it is not simply an expanse of land with its physical limits and properties. It is a complex system or ‘*assemblage*’ that is never static but rather formed and reformed by the constant encounter between various human and non-human entities. Working a territory as an ‘*assemblage*’ (a concept developed by Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari (1987)) shifts the attention from the individual elements or even the whole that they form to their interrelations and the originating properties that are irreducible to any of the components in themselves (DeLanda, 2016). Thus, the assemblage is not a passive constellation of heterogeneous elements, but has true agency gained through the novel capacities that arise from the relations within and those to the outside. Relational thinking acknowledges the constantly changing and evolving nature of being, as well as the fact that it can never be fully known, as what an assemblage can do “is never exhausted by the appearance of what it seems to be doing” (Kousoulas, 2018:298). This approach allows for accepting ambiguity and contingency as conditions that bring possibilities as opposed to something that should be eliminated. The theoretical framework of assemblage theory also changes the significance of creative intervention. As opposed to striving for definitive solutions, an intervention needs to plug into the existing and enter into relation with other components. Its effectiveness is measured by productive transformation within the assemblage or *vis-à-vis* the relation to the broader context. Therefore, it is an approach which, instead of attempting to impose from above, strives to work within what is immanent to the territory, what is already there and what it can already do.

Working the territory as an assemblage also requires a re-examination of our own position and role as spatial practitioners. There is a myth in the architectural profession that an architect can observe and enter a situation as an independent and objective outsider, when in fact nothing can be further from the truth. The moment one interferes in space, one becomes part of the assemblage and brings one's own agency to it. In that moment, the assemblage already changes. A reciprocal relation of mutual affectivity is established. Our role should thus be considered as simultaneously an external actor and an internal component of the territory, no longer attempting to control from the outside but entering the assemblage and accepting its changing impact on oneself as well. As Guattari suggested, an architect is no longer the artist of built form but someone who offers one's services "in revealing the virtual desires of spaces, places, trajectories and territories [...] an intercessor between these desires, brought to light, and the interests that they thwart. In other words, [...] (one) will have to become the artist and artisan of the sensible and relational lived experience" (1989:232). This means that one is required to constantly individualise one's approach, instead of striving to find the recognizable aspects of a given situation and reacting to them with premeditated solutions. Of course, it is not possible or even reasonable to assume the need to forget all one's previous knowledge and experience when embarking on a new project in order to avoid preconceptions and impositions. The knowledge and experience that one brings to the assemblage simply needs to be applied in its situated capacity (Haraway, 1988). This means coming with one's embodied knowledge but leaving a sort of gap, a space where a gradual and tentative connection between the particularities of the unfamiliar and those of the already grasped and experienced can connect in productive ways, enriching the praxis of intervention and enabling more ethical decisions when intervening.

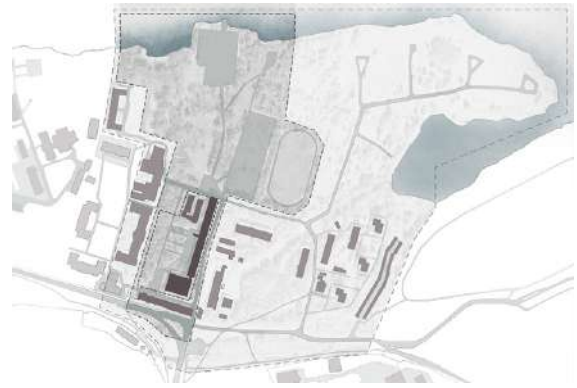
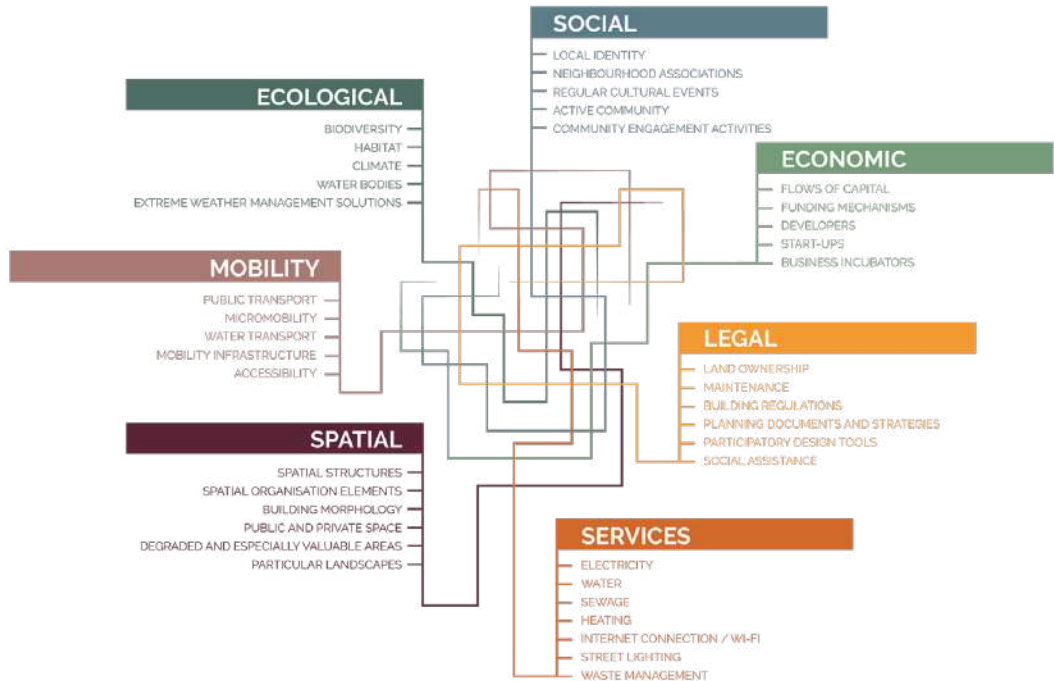


Figure 2. Working the territory in multiple scales
(Riga: Signe Pērkone, Ramón Córdova González, 2021)

Research and Synthesis

With this approach, we aim to undertake a careful investigation of the territory covering multiple scales, in order to enable any intervention to plug gently into the existing. This necessitates working in a non-linear way and moving back and forth between scales, findings and proposals for one informing those for the others. Thus, in order to better understand the site and its development capacities, the territory was considered in four scales, drawing inspiration from Rem Koolhaas' and OMA's 1995 book *S,M,L,XL: the XS scale with the V36 building and its courtyard, the S scale connecting V36 to the lake, the M scale encompassing the whole peninsula until Ezermalas Street, and the L scale looking at the wider neighbourhood* (Figure 2). This does not mean that each scale could be addressed in exactly the same way; after all, each one provides particular challenges and opportunities. Rather, each scale had to be addressed with specific tools relevant for that particular scale, which enables gaining a better understanding of the assemblage as a whole. This opened the door to look at and address different kinds of relations, such as those between the



building and the courtyard, the courtyard and the lake, the development area and the neighbourhood. The work entails a careful search for what can be done now so that the work does not become redundant if some unforeseen aspect is revealed or there is a shift in existing power relations.

In order to broaden our view beyond the spatial aspects normally prioritised in architectural investigation, we decided to take different types of infrastructure as the basis for our research. Importantly, ‘infrastructure’ here does not entail only underground communications or roads but is viewed more broadly as ‘enablers’. Infrastructure is a valuable point of departure in its capacity to “create conditions and provide possibilities for change without dictating what is going to happen” (Sendra, 2020:53). This is also how ‘infrastructure’

Figure 3. Research framework – overlapping types of infrastructure (Riga: Signe Pērķone, Ramón Córdova González, 2021)

links the research part of the project and the proposal, which can thus retain an aspect of ambiguity. There are many layers of different kinds of infrastructure that enable the city, but for the purpose of analysing and reading the territory in different scales, we primarily looked at seven types: social, economic, legal, communications, ecological, mobility and spatial infrastructure (Figure 3). Some aspects under investigation pertain to more than one mode of infrastructure, evidencing how all components of the assemblage are interrelated. All these types of infrastructure form an underlying structure of possibilities from

which other, more complex, phenomena can emerge.

This approach is about looking beyond phenomena as distinct objects or even relations between different phenomena and asking the more relevant question of how phenomena constitute themselves from the relations which are interwoven before their very existence (Debaise, 2012). For instance, a school is a complex phenomenon enabled by many layers of infrastructure, from spatial resources to the institutional framework, from teaching practices to available funding. It follows that, if there is a problem with education in the neighbourhood, we might ask which layers of infrastructure this problem stems from. By analysing infrastructure networks and the emerging services (or lack thereof) on the neighbourhood scale (*L*) we are able to identify gaps, which signal what might be necessary for balanced neighbourhood development or what deficiencies on the larger scale local development could address. On the other hand, infrastructure analysis on the local scale (*M*) enables a close reading of the territory, revealing borders, barriers, and obstacles, which need to be addressed to enable productive development that would promote social and material flows. In other words, structuring the research and analysis based on different types of infrastructure respects the existing while revealing gaps, where the energy of intervention could be applied the most effectively. The conclusions from this first stage of research were synthesised by identifying *strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats* of the assemblage and grouping these key points into categories that correspond to the types of infrastructure researched. All future intervention needs to neutralise the threats and actualise the opportunities while taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the territory.

Developing a Proposal Through Research by Design

Since we have established that a singular large-scale masterplan would not be an appropriate response to the particular situation and the outlined approach, it becomes necessary to diversify the ‘proposal’ part of the project. A vision for the territory is developed with a set of heterogeneous tools, which are applied and revised in their use in a non-linear way. Furthermore, there is no clear boundary between research and design; rather, the work continues as research-by-design, where proposals and interventions reveal further information about the site and its capacities. In this case the vision combines guideline-based strategy for balanced overall development, speculative work with potential scenarios, and testing interventions on a scale of 1:1 in the site. The initial research is synthesised into development guidelines, which help establish a strategy for the transformation of the site. Looking further, findings from the research and analysis let us guess what kind of constraints could impede development of the area or what kind of collaboration models between stakeholders could enable it, thus creating particular starting points for testing development scenarios, which in turn show how the guidelines can be implemented under different constraints. The 1:1 interventions, on the other hand, form a link between now and the future, which could actualise some version of the scenarios. The scenarios are speculative snapshots of possible futures meant to foment discussion and not necessarily create a template for definitive action. Research and analysis remain a fundamental part of a project like this even in its further stages so that necessary adjustments to the strategy and proposals can be made while not losing sight of the whole, if new information is discovered or other stakeholders appear.

The elaboration of development guidelines as one of the tools for the vision comes from a

desire to address all scales while acknowledging the complexity of the larger scales and the impossibility of encompassing all of the stakeholders and balancing the whole scope of their needs in one concrete proposal. Instead of trying to provide specific design solutions, the guidelines speak more about *how* an intervention works and what it *does*. Most importantly, the guidelines encompass aspects of development that go beyond the spatial and the physical, touching on social and legal aspects as well. In a way they correspond to general good practice in designing liveable neighbourhoods while at the same time also being specific to the territory. The three pillars set forth in the project are ‘spatial variety’, ‘accessibility’ and ‘collaboration’.

Spatial variety includes integrating different functions within a development to avoid large monofunctional areas which necessitate a high intensity of motorised transportation; heterogeneous density and various typologies of outdoor space, which means creating a gradation of public, semi-public and private outdoor spaces while increasing the building intensity around the public areas (for example, along the main streets) in order to liberate and make more open the private and semi-private areas; also, aesthetic variety is important in providing engaging urban space and encouraging people to move around and experience it, and the movement of people at different times of the day helps local businesses while making the neighbourhood safer in general (Sim, 2019). Throughout all this, it is essential to preserve and nurture the existing natural values and specifics of the site, creating a mixture of old and new, intervention and preservation.

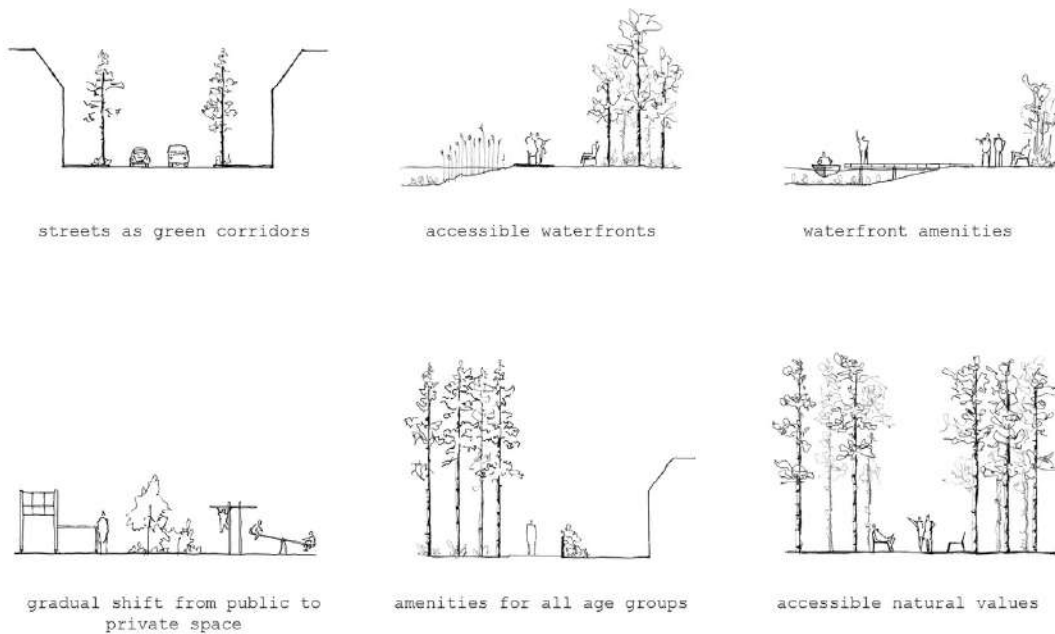
The *accessibility* aspect of the guidelines covers the need for better connections between the site and the neighbourhood, as well as official public access by the neighbourhood inhabitants to the lake. It also means access to public outdoor space with amenities for different age groups and interests.

More broadly, there is a need for access to basic services, including affordable housing, education and health services.

This leads to the *collaboration* aspect of the guidelines, one of its main points being collaborative planning tools and balancing interests and needs of different stakeholders in order to avoid gentrification, increased social tensions and disenfranchisement of certain groups. *Collaboration* is an important tool for building strong and sustainable communities. All of these are general principles that should be taken into account if the territory is to develop in a balanced way. In essence, these guidelines strive for equal political representation of all actors so that those who are impacted by change have an actual say in it. Every actor and every stakeholder can take part in implementing them, whether through official steps or in everyday action.

If we consider the points outlined in the guidelines as goals that guide us in all scales, each scale still has its own specifics and thus needs a particular approach, which can entail sub-goals and specific strategies towards achieving them. It is clear that the sheer scale of the neighbourhood makes it impractical to offer a strategy for its overall development, but it is still possible to work towards achieving particular improvements that are steps in the direction of overall liveability and a rise in the quality of life. For the purpose of this project, we look at the neighbourhood from the perspective of development in the M-scale territory – how it connects to the wider area and what it means for the neighbourhood on the whole. Synthesis involves identifying other underused areas in the neighbourhood with the potential for development, and problematic areas with obstacles, as well as barriers between these areas and the project territory.

In the interest of merging new development in the M and S-scale territory seamlessly into



the neighbourhood, the first task is to identify necessary links (whether existing ones to be improved or new ones to be created) between the development territory adjoining the lake, the existing neighbourhood centre, and other neighbourhoods in close vicinity. Given the publicly desirable location of the territory in question, it is important that meaning and enjoyment are created in the new development not just for new users but also for existing inhabitants nearby, and physical connections along with freely accessible public outdoor space are prime tools to this effect. New real estate developments on the outskirts of the city, where structured street patterns disintegrate, usually result in patchwork urban form that either cares little for the space around the buildings or strives to make the development inward-looking to provide privacy to the inhabitants by controlling who comes and goes. We argue that precisely the leftover spaces

Figure 4. Public outdoor space guidelines for the neighbourhood (Riga: Signe Pērkone, Ramón Córdova González, 2021)

– streets and open areas, green spaces that can be shared between various buildings or complexes – are those that merit the most attention in striving for a concise cityscape and neighbourhoods that support the full spectrum of activities of a rich life, not just disconnected functions and commuting (Figure 4).

Buildings need to be designed giving particular care to the narrow space where the ground floor meets the street – how the inside spaces relate to the outside ones and whether this intermediary layer promotes lingering, encourages micromobility and provides opportunities for interesting encounters. Large developments do not need to be uniformly dense throughout but should ideally provide users

with different degrees of private, semi-private and public space, as well as varying levels of openness and enclosure, achieved by increasing the building intensity along the main streets and leaving more open space in the interior of the block. Such an approach to spatial design carefully directs and focuses flows, thus enabling functions that depend on urban activity (such as culture and commerce) while also rationalising, for instance, the planning of public transport links.

While the principal guidelines are public and can be employed by anyone planning, building, or intervening in the territory in any way, whether on a small scale or in a wide sweep, they also help us to develop an urban transformation strategy specifically for the site on the S scale. The main difference and reason why it was decided to propose a strategy as opposed to a phased masterplan is that, even though both would propose serial spatial interventions in accordance with the guidelines, a strategy can be more flexible and adapt in the face of contingency. The goal of the strategy is to connect the V36 site to the neighbourhood on the one side and the lake on the other while enlivening the territory, bringing activity and flows, and creating a much-needed public green space for the Čiekurkalns neighbourhood. Since there has been no top-down impetus from the municipality to create public access to Ķīšezers yet (even though there is a large plot of land belonging to the State which could easily facilitate this), the idea is to occupy the disused territory bit by bit and prove that it has active public use potential. The gradual occupation of the territory will serve to test various solutions and find out what works so that, when more solid investment (hopefully) comes, there will already be a first-hand source of information about activities and uses that have the potential for further development, offering the chance to balance the interests of the territory and its community with those of whoever intends to carry out the development.

To that effect, the strategy branches out from the current moment, when specific, if limited, steps can be taken, to the future, where possibilities multiply based on different possible constraints and development impulses that could arise, introducing more ambiguity in the scenarios, which envision a more distant future. Time is as important as space when working on urban transformation, as time is what links the first steps that can be implemented now with the speculations about possible futures. A strategy does not finish after the physical intervention on site takes place but requires mechanisms for feedback, adjustment, and revision over time, creating a continuous, contingent process. As the work on site continues, some early possibilities laid out in the strategy are eliminated while other new ones are revealed. In this way there is no clear distinction or break between the research part and the proposal, as design and intervention become another way of gathering information about the territory, its processes and potentials. Each intervention merits close observation to see how it works within the assemblage, whether it is absorbed or rejected, and how the whole changes over time.

Devising specific, physical 1:1 scale interventions that could be applied immediately on the XS scale to start implementing the urban transformation strategy of the site makes clear the necessity of conceiving these as affordances, and not objects whose use precedes and predetermines their form. Affordances are possibilities for action provided to an actor by the environment (Gibson, 1989) and thus they are neither part of the environment, nor the actor, as they depend on the relation between the properties of the environment and the skills of the actor that enable one to pick up the affordance. “By the virtue of our many abilities, the landscape of affordances we inhabit as humans is very rich and resourceful” (Rietveld and Kiverstein, 2014:325) and so substances, surfaces, objects and other living beings offer many



Figure 5. Creative reading of functional spaces – looking for affordances (Riga: Signe Pērkone, Ramón Córdova González, 2021)



Figure 6. One of the future scenarios – developing the site through experimentation and revision (Riga: Signe Pērkone, Ramón Córdova González, 2021)

ways to engage with our environment. Creating the strategy for intervention entails reading the site as it is currently, experiencing it as any user visiting the territory does. Any component of an assemblage has both material and expressive properties. For instance, there are several wide expanses paved with concrete slabs or asphalt in the otherwise green territory. They have obvious material properties but at the same time, for the knowledgeable user, they express the military history of the site, as these plots were used to store heavy machinery and military vehicles. However, these areas also have an aspect that merges the material and the expressive by how they draw a user in with the simple variation in surface, its contrast of openness and enclosure. Doing a kind of embodied ‘creative reading’ of the space and identifying still latent and emergent possibilities based on existing user flows, uses and physical aspects such as surface cover, vegetation groupings, topography changes and the presence of water, we can start to both pick up existing affordances of the site and speculate on how to supplement them. The existing structure of the site is overlapped by groupings of desirable activities, which can then

start to be tested in real life (Figure 5 and 6). Since this emergent layout is not set in stone, it is bound to be revised and updated as solutions get assessed in real time.

With this in mind, the first intervention we designed is a robust modular structure that can be used singly or combined in various ways with others of the same kind to provide a more varied scope of potential uses. The structure has a sturdy frame for easy construction and relocation, a roof, and a horizontal surface that can be moved in three different heights, thus suggesting different affordances. The modules will first be used for displaying the vision project in the upcoming opening exhibition but afterwards they can be taken outside into the territory and freely used, moved, and adapted by V36 residents and guests (Figure 7). In the words of Pablo Sendra, “none of these elements has a fixed function, but rather they contain capacities that will vary depending on how they interact with other material and non-material elements” (2020:74-75). The structures are introduced as disruptions in the territory that trigger new relations and possibilities to actively

engage with the environment. Instead of defining and mandating, they encourage discovery and play.

The act of intervention needs to be understood as a parameter as opposed to something that produces finished objects, in the sense that it is not the final form or aesthetics of the object that matter the most but rather what it actually does in the territory and what affordances it offers to further explore the potentials of it. Referring to an intervention as a parameter alludes to the fact that it is meant to be manipulated and later on updated according to the discoveries made throughout its use. A series of such interventions together works as tactical acupuncture of the site, which is an appropriate first step in its development, given the large scale of the territory, limited resources and restrictions resulting from ownership issues. This urban acupuncture approach is a way to ‘palpate’ the territory lightly (May, 2005) in order to reveal its virtual capacities and activate different areas. The idea is that by intervening with, or palpating, different aspects of the assemblage, it will reveal possibilities to “eventually intuit the reciprocal affectivity of a system’s actions, not only in relation to the one intervening with it but also in relation to its own, system-specific organisational levels” (Kousoulas, 2018:298).

Here is where the gap between the research stages and the creative stages is bridged, since in order to gain a certain understanding of an assemblage it is necessary to manipulate it. On the other hand, the aforementioned strategy for the urban transformation of the site helps us evaluate how the parameters are working. The strategy does not overrule the reality of the parameters; we learn from them along the way and find out how to change and update them in order to achieve better results and more productive interactions while being open to the parameters telling us how to update the strategy and the overall goal.

Every component of this development vision project is meant to do more than one thing and serve more than one purpose, all of them being interlinked and mutually related. Among other things, the vision as a product becomes an open-source tool (as it includes both analysis / research, and synthesis / proposal) for civic agents to lobby the interests of the community in the development process of the territory. For us, it is proof that theory does not precede design and it is possible to produce knowledge by doing, to do research by design, and to produce a development vision as a material-discursive tool. In the context of this article, which is distributed through the realm of institutionalised education, we wish to point out how architectural education gives students the training to ask questions, define briefs, and employ experimental methodologies, while there tends to be rather little room for this in standard architectural practice. However, this project aims to illustrate the possibilities to still look at the city with wide open eyes, being proactive and thus opening avenues for different kinds of creativity and experimental approaches, in order to foment discussion and work across professional disciplinary boundaries. We would like to conclude with a quote that speaks to the potential of alternative approaches to design and development, which acknowledge contingency and uncertainty, as well as the undeniably social and public realm in which such urban interventions play out:

“Designing disorder means designing urban interventions that are flexible, adaptable and open to constant change; which encourage the emergence of informal, spontaneous and unplanned uses of the public realm; which stimulate cultural expression; and which create an atmosphere of tolerance toward difference and the unknown through the construction of common places where people can interact and share interests and experiences.”

Pablo Sendra (2020:52)

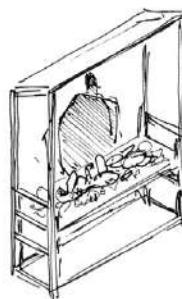
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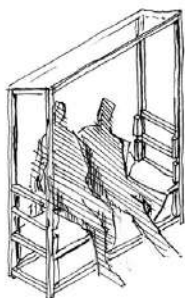
exhibition



plant exchange



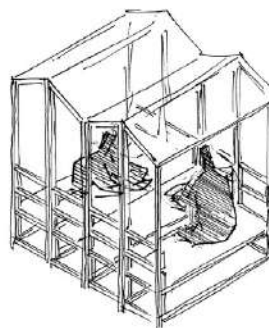
market stall



bench



double-tier bench



picnic table

Figure 7. Various ways of using the modular structures
(Riga: Signe Pērkone, Ramón Córdova González, 2021)



Figure 8. Inhabiting the site
(Riga: Signe Pērkone, Ramón Córdova González, 2021)

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