



CATEGORY urban/architectural
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE architect/urban planner/landscaper

LOCATION BUDAPEST - Zugló
POPULATION City 1 730 000 inhab., district 123 000 inhab.
STRATEGIC SITE 420 ha **SITE OF PROJECT** 23 ha
SITE PROPOSED BY Municipality of the 14th district of Budapest
OWNER(S) OF THE SITE municipality, private owners

COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION
 design of public space interventions; strategy for the development of the public space zone; local masterplan

HOW THE SITE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADAPTABLE CITY?

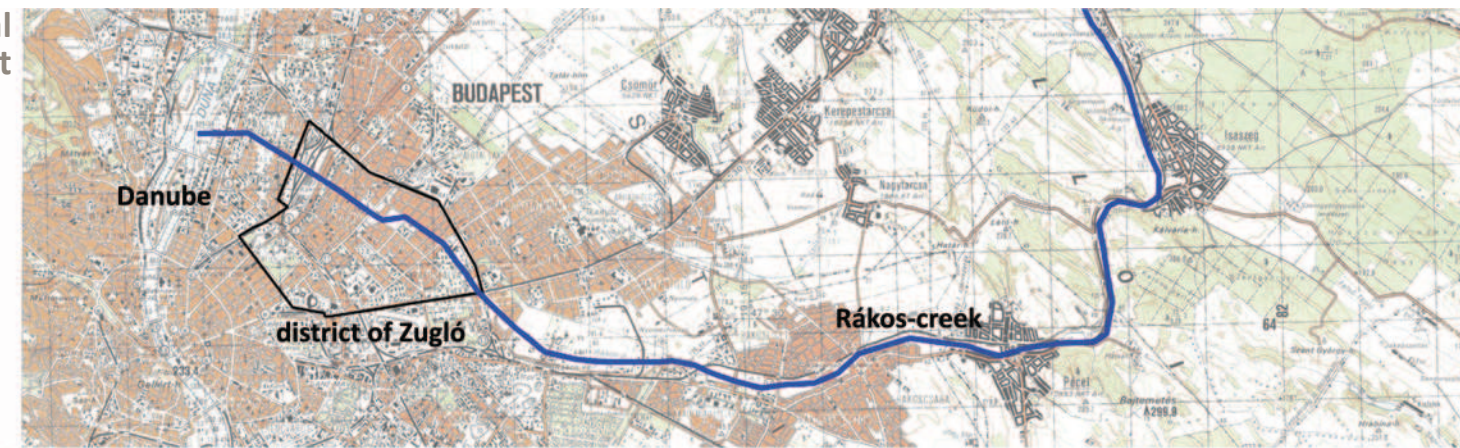
The site is located along Rákos-patak (creek) that had played a vital role in the development of the urban agglomeration within the Budapest region. In the mid 20th century the water-course had been regulated and its role in the urban tissue had slowly degraded into its current state. The creek became a hydrological infrastructure that creates an obstacle the city tries to overcome ever since. The result of this conflict is an ambiguous, fragmented urban fabric around the creek, with various residential areas and slowly transforming brownfield industrial zones. Today a new strategy is needed to (re)activate the Rákos-creek and its vicinity and to reintroduce its former ecological, cultural and social values. The site provides the possibility for developing a model for a new urban infrastructure that is able to initiate, connect and transform future developments and can be applied on other locations in the city as well.

CITY STRATEGY

The city district of Zugló, together with six other municipalities along the creek, is investigating the potential for the rehabilitation of the creek. The aim of the project is to establish an ecologic green strip along the water that connects touristic destinations, public functions and able to act as a recreational / eco-touristic corridor which revitalizes the urban fabric. The goal of the local government, beyond the cooperation of the municipalities, is to develop a strategy for the complex renewal of the urban fabric around the creek, within the borders of Zugló. The aim is to develop the creek's side through contained, local interventions within a short timescale, but with a vision of a long term strategy on the renewal of the whole area. The primary goal of the competition is to enhance this process by defining strategies and interventions that would positively affect local communities.



regional context



SITE DEFINITION

The site is defined by the Rákos-creek and the urban contexts surrounding its water-course. The strategic site comprises the whole six km section of the creek within the borders of the city district. Inside this area a large scale analysis is necessary to get a complete overview of the spatial/social background of the usage of the green strip. The coexistence of the various different urban structures on the study site generates a diverse character that lacks cohesion. The designated project sites seek links to existing or future developments such as leftover rail-tracks, new local city center with public amenities and housing estates. They also provide opportunities to define a new toolkit for dealing with public space issues all along the creek as elements of an overall strategy. The creek should be developed as the defining element of a new public space network reinventing the urban public life of the district.

ADAPTABILITY : MAIN ELEMENTS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

The urban surrounding of the creek has huge potential considering the fact that the district does not have a civic center. The strip of the river has a relatively small width, yet even in its current state creates a network which defines a new type of centrality along a linear zone. The creek offers connection to the 10th and 13th districts, but also connects urban tissues of completely different qualities. The direction of their future transformation (railway yards, new commercial development in the central area) has a great level of uncertainty. The task is to develop a network that would reconnect the pieces of the fragmented tissue and initiate new conditions at the level of the human scale that would serve as a generator of new developments and transformations. Since the context which defines the roles of the creek has an open future, the answers also have to be open at

the levels of programme and intervention. The task is not merely a question of designing a new urban public space, but also an issue of reprogramming public spaces in line with the changing needs of the surrounding tissue. The vital issue is to set up an urban strategy to react to the uncertain conditions incorporating the time factor. Competitors have to develop a multilayered solution, which deals with the complexity and the stratification assessment of the site and investigates the feasibility of the development. The main goal is to create an overall strategy on the whole area with interventions at an urban, architectural and infrastructural level, including visions for the project sites. The proposed designs could include strategies and toolkits for program/event based urban interventions.

Budapest - Hungary - european 12



project site - crossing the motorway and the railway yards



project site - the new city centre



project site - integrating the housing estate



study site



bicycle road of the study site



Rákosrendező railway yards - project site



Füredi road housing estate - project site