

REGAINING THE CITY

IDEAS AND INTERVENTIONS IN URBAN PUBLIC SPACES

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INTRODUCTION

- „It's in human nature to surround himself with a world of his own. To build a shelter and to form a settlement. To shape the nature and to improve the environment built by previous generations. To establish boundaries, landmarks, structures, symbols.” (Triscu, 1985, 15)
- Public spaces are the structural elements of any built framework, spaces of social cohesion, areas of coexistence and of urban outbreaks, designed to attract all types of audience, to bring together all citizens and to boost the city's urban area; shortly, the showcase of the city. The image of the city and, therefore the definition of life's quality, depend largely on public spaces which occupy a major and heteromorphic role.

MOTIVATION

- Architecture and reason usually go together: we build for a specific purpose, for specific functions; we use materials and methods that are directly related to the situations in which we need to interfere in; we calculate, anticipate, and ensure as much as possible that our interventions in the public space will be used in the way that we have imagined. But what would happen if we didn't have these motivations? If we would only build to change the image of the city, to renew the relationship between man and architecture. Can we rebuild so that we sublimate our present experience?

MOTIVATION

- This paper proposes an incursion that provides an answer to these actions:
to build, to beautify, to regain, to experience, to plan, to perceive, to criticize, to program and to transform our relationship with architecture and the city.
- These actions, with their possible variations and associated ramifications, are the main directions or, rather, the interactions of small landscape designs in the lost or forgotten spaces of the city.

DESIGN TASK

- Together with 5th year students from the Faculty of Architecture "G.M. Cantacuzino" Iași, we tried to propose **a series of small landscape designs** that would **add quality to the urban environment, favour social contact and at the same time generate a new, more appropriate urban image of unused and abandoned spaces.**
- The study focused on **unused and undeveloped small public spaces**: we aimed to identify these locations in the city of Iasi and transform them into small landscape designed spaces, into "mini-gardens. Particular attention was paid to pedestrian traffic spaces and those located in their immediate vicinity, small, unused, with a predominantly mineral structure and constituent elements (fronts, fences, floors, buildings, etc.) lacking special spatial-volumetric, architectural, and plastic qualities, or even completely destructured public spaces.

RESULTS

- The study was carried out in several stages. The first phase involved identifying, studying and multi-criteria analysis of the areas. The analysis criteria of the public spaces used by students were established because of a previous study conducted at the Landscape discipline. In the second phase of the project solutions to revive the urban deconstructed areas were proposed.
- The obtained mini-parks are developed on small areas and most of them use vegetal elements for arrangement, the presence of mineral elements (benches, small fountains, works of art, architectural installations, billboards, floors with different textures and colours, etc.) being minimal. Also noteworthy is the versatility of these gardens, the proposed landscaping solutions being possible to be multiplied and adapted to allow their use throughout the city.

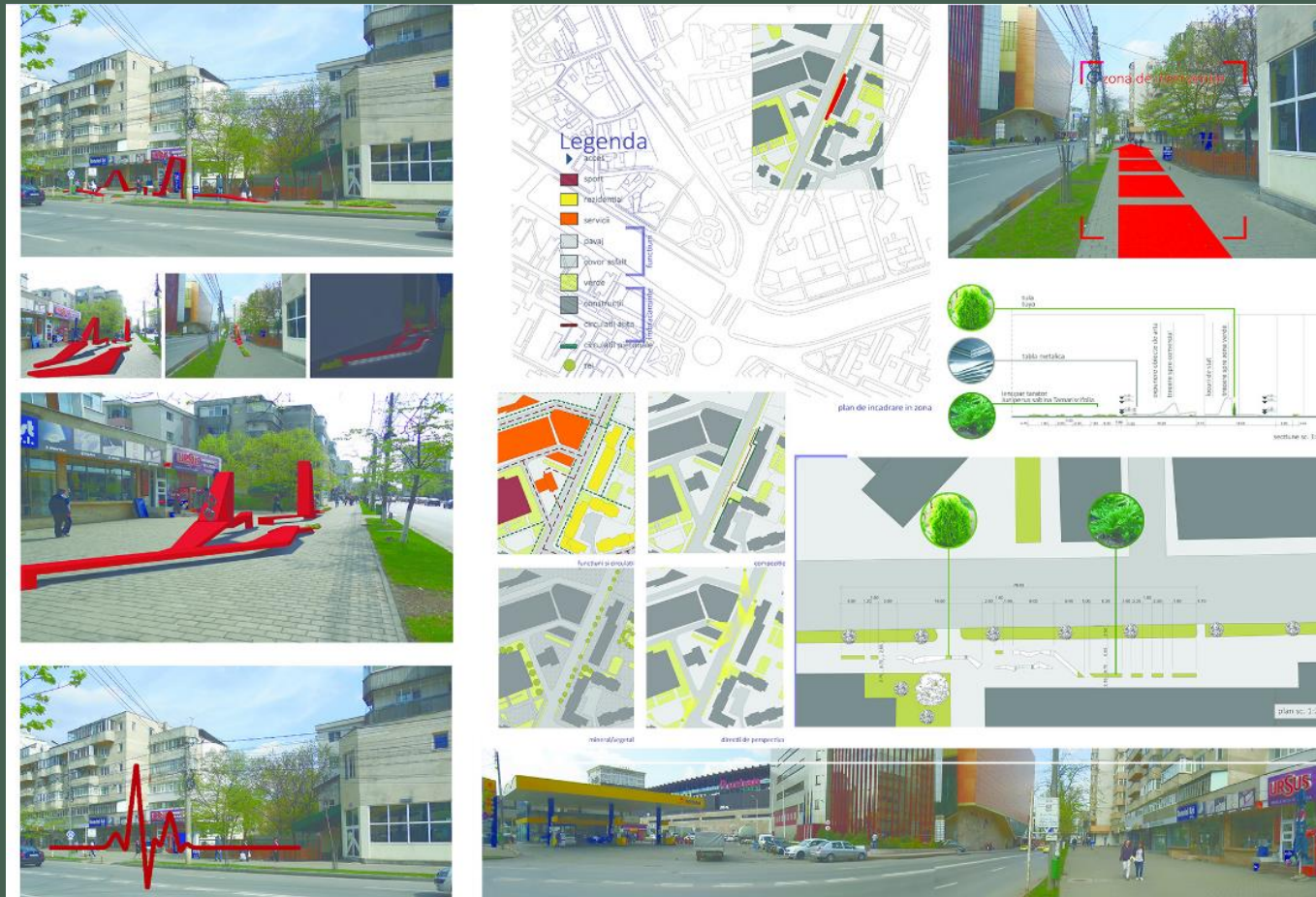
RESULTS



Landscape design proposals in Iasi: the crossroad between Sf. Lazarus street and the esplanade of the Faculty of Constructions;

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RESULTS



*Landscape design proposals in
Iasi: Sf. Lazarus street*

RESULTS



*Landscape proposal in Iasi: crossroad between
Independence Blvd. with Alexandru Lapusneanu street*

RESULTS



*Landscape proposal in Iasi: crossroad between
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CONCLUSIONS

- The city, although a coherent whole, appears as a complicated agglomeration in a continuous transformation.
- Landscape designs in the city must meet the following conditions in order to fulfil the essential purpose of raising the quality of life of the human settlement residents:
 - a) to be equally through the city;
 - b) to be qualitative;
 - c) to be accessible to all residents and city visitors.

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