

Lost and Found **Urbanities**

Introduction to the graduation cluster May 2026

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URBANITY

A definition

Urbanity

'the being-together of strangers.' (Young, 1990)

'ensembles of individual and communal assets' (Wolf & Fox, 2024)

The urbanism that emerges is contingent upon the social interactions that occur; hence, there are many urbanisms to be found (Fox & Wolf, 2025).

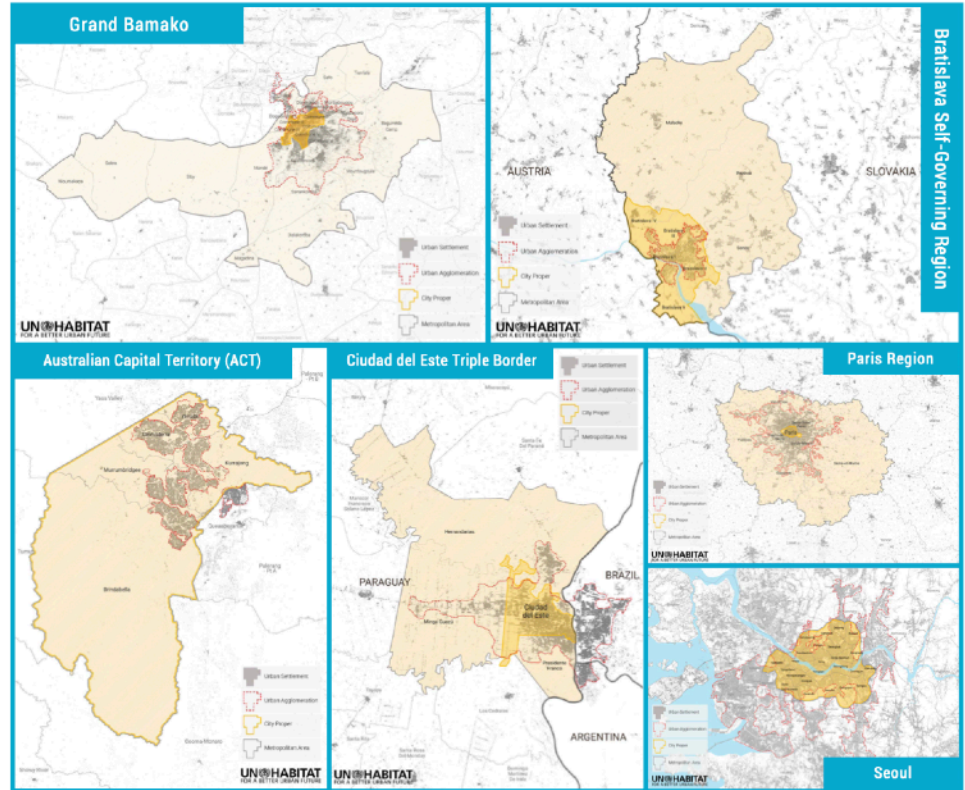
METROPOLITAN AREA

A definition

Metropolitan area:

a city and its commuting zone, which consists of suburban, peri urban and rural areas are economically and socially linked to the city.

> dynamic interaction



METROPOLISATION BETWEEN THE MARKET AND THE PLANNED: increasing commodification of space

Pre-industrial: economic life = part of civic and cultural life

Emergence of industrial capitalism = market principles and mechanisms begin to dominate first the economy and ultimately society as a whole

Financial market capitalism - as it emerged after 1989 = Everything is for sale, everything can become a commodity



London City Hall until 2022 ownership: More London - St Martins Property Group (controlled by the Kuwaiti state) - private rules and control



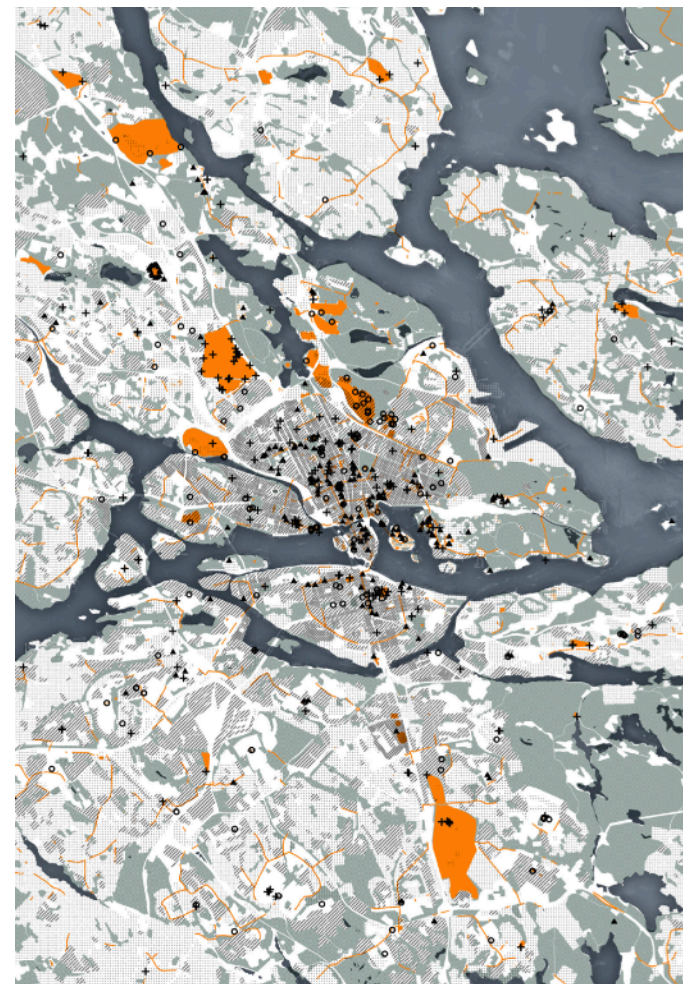
UNEVEN ACCESS TO PUBLIC LIFE

In walkable proximity

- Greenery
- + Places of worship
- Community places
- ▲ Culture
- Public amenities
- The main connecting roads between the districts are ACw2kml

		Public
Amsterdam	top	28,2%
	middle	43,3%
	low	9,5%
Copenhagen	top	38%
	middle	-
	low	62%
Malmö	top	18,7%
	middle	-
	low	81,3%
Stockholm	top	30,3%
	middle	-
	low	69,7%
London	top	32,1%
	middle	31%
	low	10,4%
Paris	top	27,3%
	middle	49,2%
	low	23,5%

top - Top 25% (>= Q3); low - Zero (== 0); middle - rest



THE PERIPHERY AS MIRROR OF SOCIETY

- Conflicts
- Inequalities
- Exclusions
- Aspirations
- Metabolic dependencies

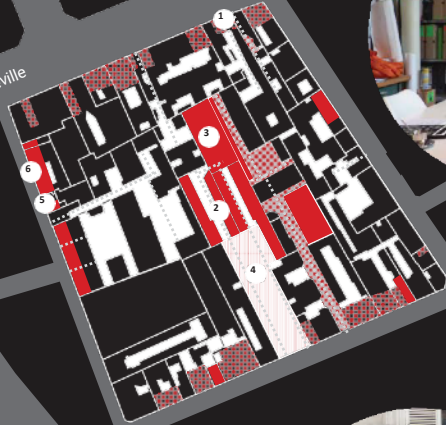
London, South Bank regeneration



> This community started as squatting movement 20 years ago, since five years this area is owned by the municipality<

urbanist Mark, community La Forge, Rue Rampeau

Rue de Belleville



Hairdresser, Rue de Belleville



artists facility - collective working space
- Community La Forge



Jardin Partagé, Rue Rampeau



Tailor, Rue Dénoyez



artist Silvia, Rue Dénoyez

> Affordable space to work is absolutely rare - our ateliers are owned by the Marie de Paris, the rent is 200€ per year<



SPATIAL DESIGN CHALLENGE

Accelerated by the commodification

*Urbanity is challenged where
Essential public spaces and functions are increasingly replaced by private ones,
Potentially eroding civic life itself.*

*The spatial reorganisation and adaptation of places and territories triggered by these
challenges become political acts that shape who gains access to space, people, and
resources, and under what conditions.*

CENTRAL QUESTIONS

In graduation projects

What spatial form could enable publicness within predominantly peripheral and often privatised environments?

What conditions create opportunities in less central places? How are these opportunities distributed across the population and species?

What spatial design can increase the porosity of commodified spaces for 'the other'?

How can the tension between polluted or waste-oriented peri-urban conditions and the aspiration for a "restored" periphery be addressed spatially?

What spatial form facilitates future sustainable territorial metabolism of the periphery?

SUGGESTED METHODS FOR READING, INTERPRETING AND TRANSFORMING

A morphological approach

Cultural-historical methods

- *Fieldwork*
- *Tracing of spatial practices*

Relational and systemic methods

- *Systemic section*
- *Pattern language*
- *Space Syntax*
- *Adaptive pathways*

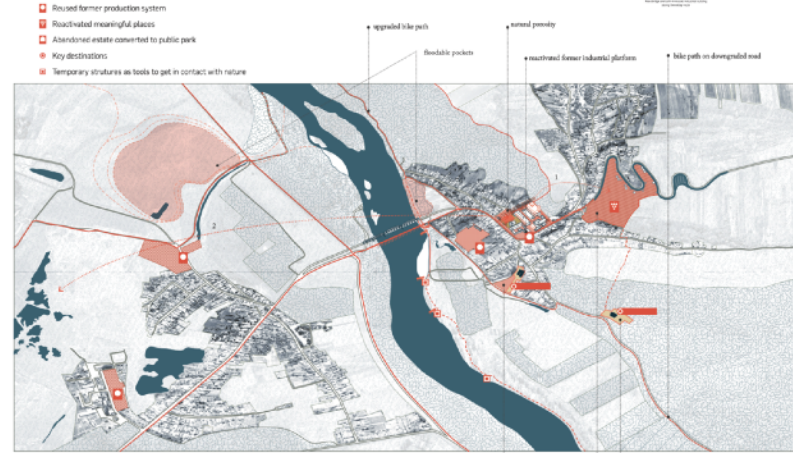
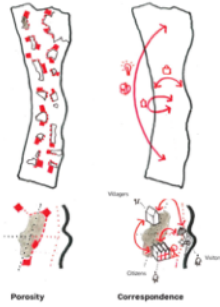
*Reading and projecting engage
a precise representation of
spaces and places*

Design methods

- *Scenario construction*
- *Explorative and Disruptive
design testing*
- *Strategic design*

SEARCHING FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION

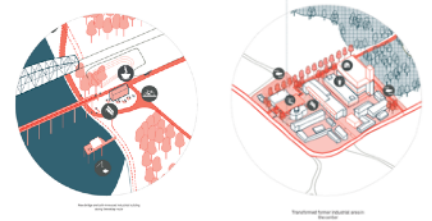
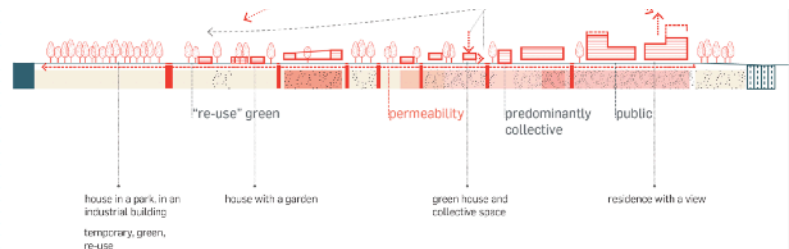
Ioana Ionescu: A territorial city



proposed strategy

1 correspondence between victory greenfields and the workspaces

2 correspondence between city and the new urban spaces: knowledge, housing



A POLITICAL COUNTER PROPOSAL - CONTEXTUALISED SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

Fruszina Kovács (2025). Towards a transformative battery territory

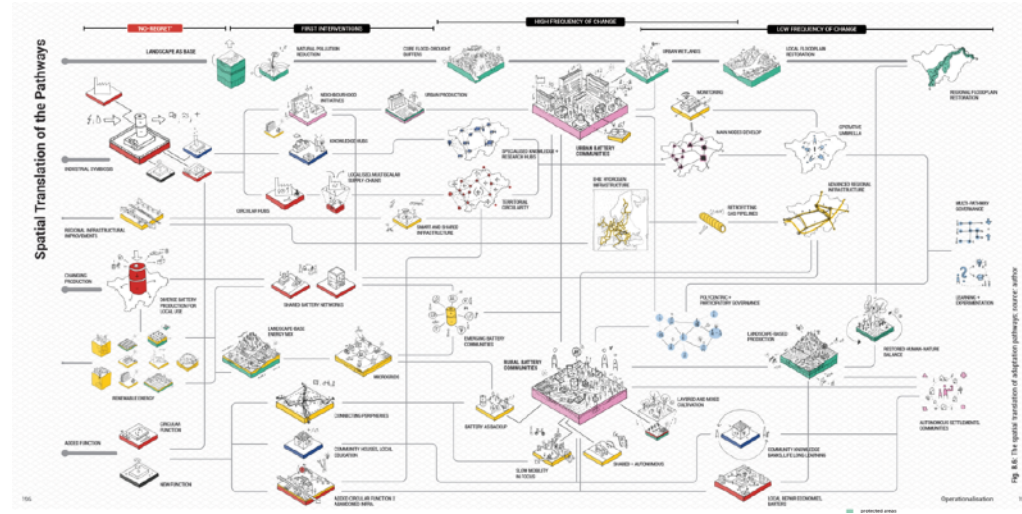
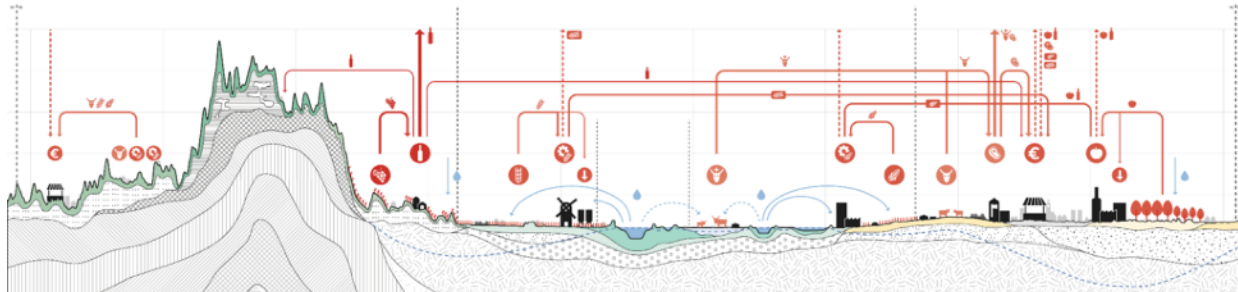
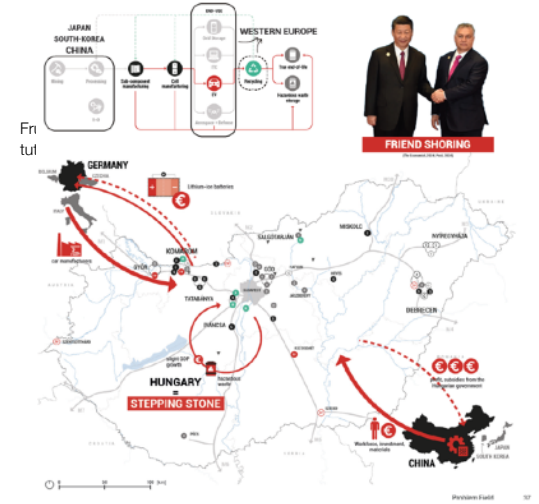


Fig. 8.6: The spatial translation of migration pathways. Source: author



FINDING STRATEGIES FOR A JUST TRANSITION IN A POST MINING AREA

Aleksandra Kurkierewicz (2025). In-Between

Between industries and city

Studied place

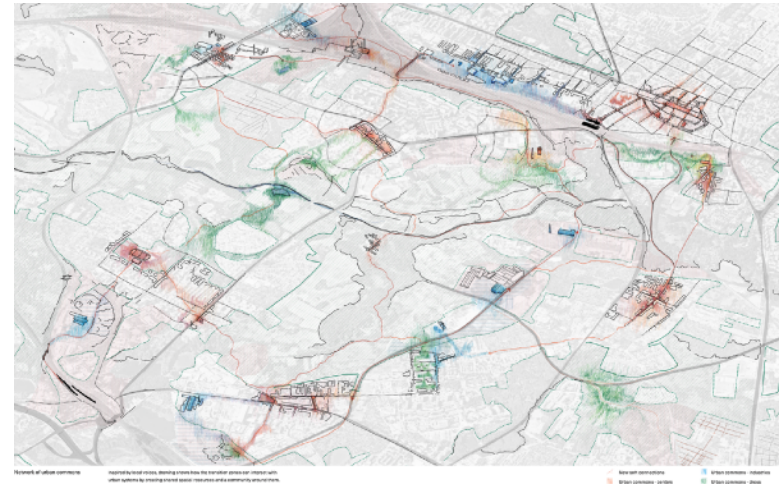
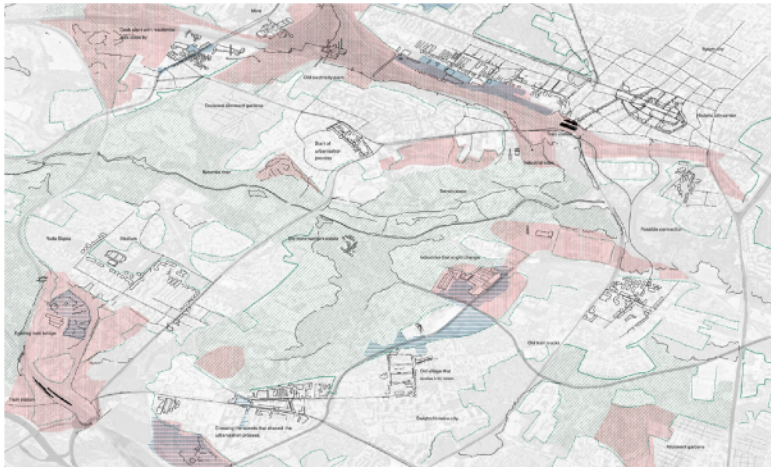
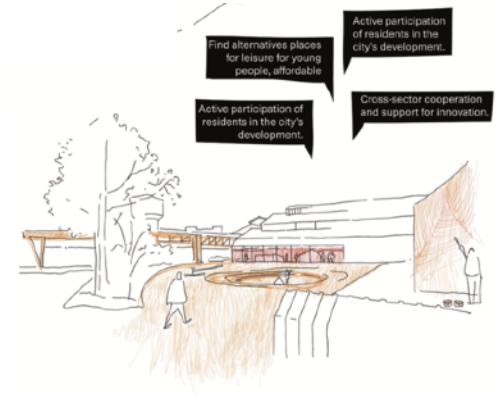
A steel-related industry is located in the middle of the neighborhood. The vast industrial site is almost entirely built up with warehouses, creating an irregular layout.

Spatial quality

- Closeness to the neighborhood and city
- Variety of indoor-outdoor spaces
- Visibility

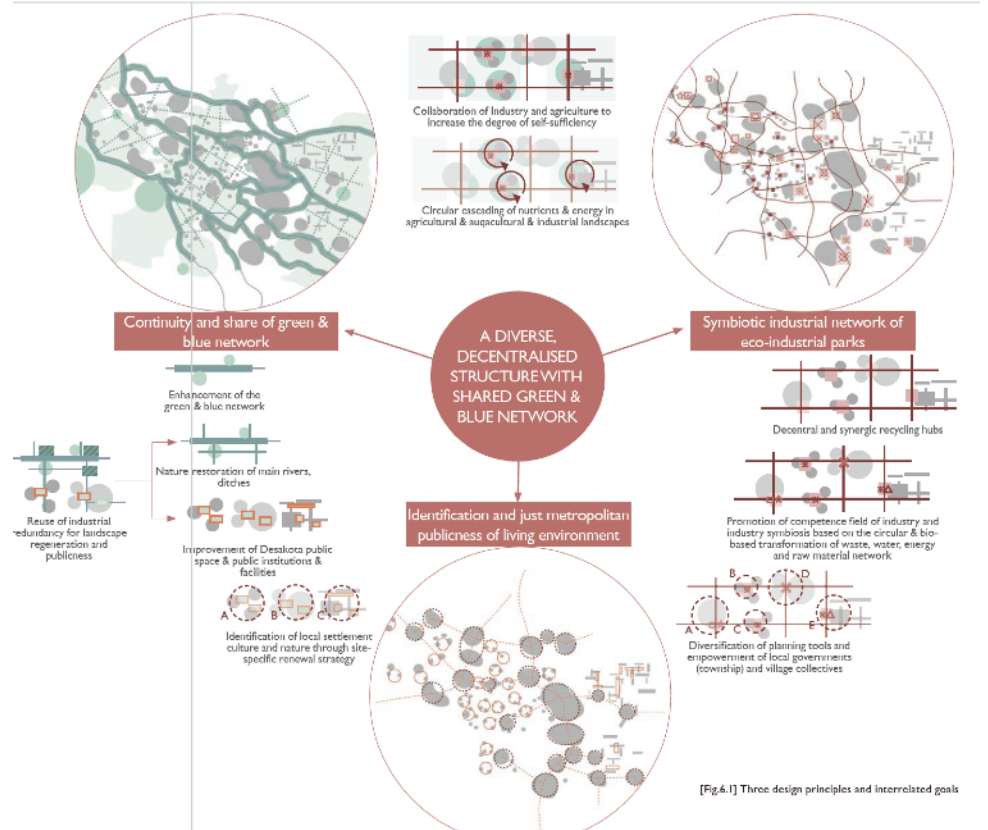
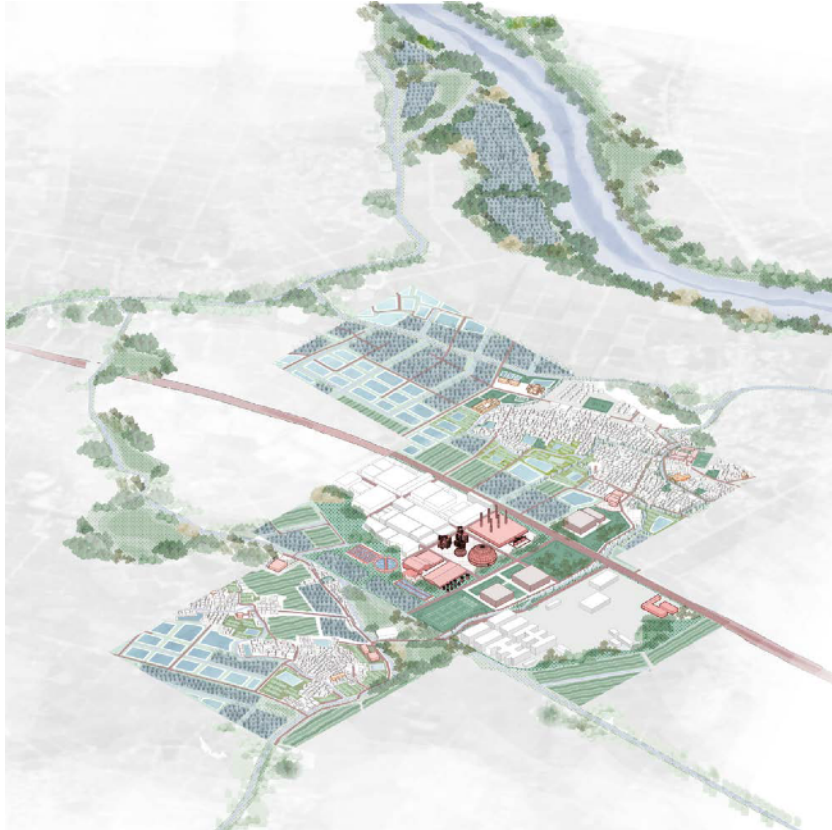
Possible urban common

Cultural hubs, workshop and workspace with open access. Sharing skills intersect with local street art and community creativity.



REFRAMING A SYMBIOTIC INDUSTRIAL NETWORK TO REGENERATE PUBLICNESS

Shiru Liu (2023). Towards a Sustainable and Liveable Desakota



[Fig.6.1] Three design principles and interrelated goals

Lost and Found Urbanities

First mentors



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Alexander
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Thank you for your attention.