

Lost and Found **Urbanities**

Introduction to the graduation cluster May 2026

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Check our weblog for more
information in the following weeks:
<https://lostandfoundurbanities.city/>

URBANITY

A definition

Urbanity

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

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

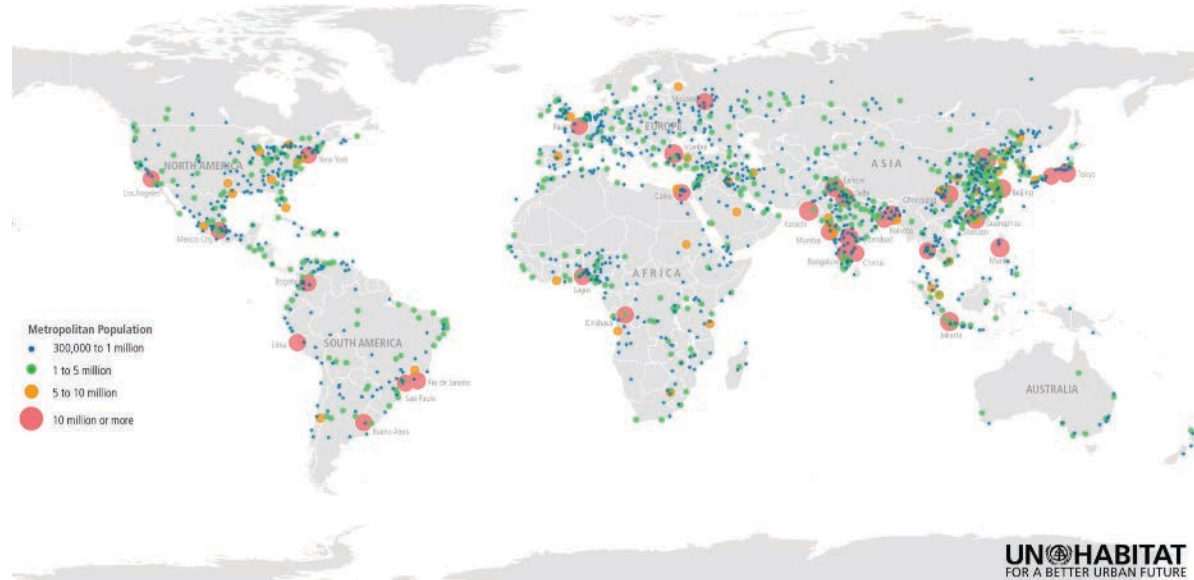
The urbanism that emerges is contingent upon the social interactions that occur; hence, there are many urbanisms to be found (Fox & Wolf, 2025).

METROPOLITAN AREAS: predominant typology of cities in the twenty-first century in 2020.

*at least 2.6 billion people live
in 1,934 metropolises
= ca.60% of the world's urban
population
or one third of humanity.*

Metropolitan dynamics are constantly
changing impacted by global challenges:

- armed conflicts,
- climate related hazards and
- economic recession prospects all over the world



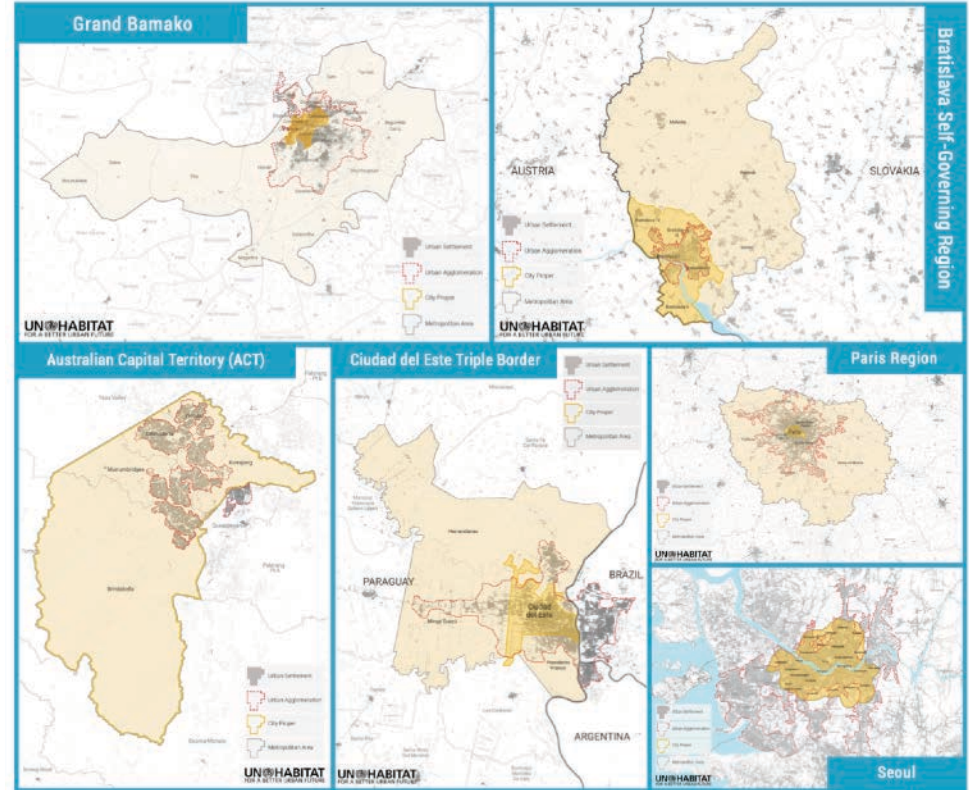
METROPOLITAN AREA

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



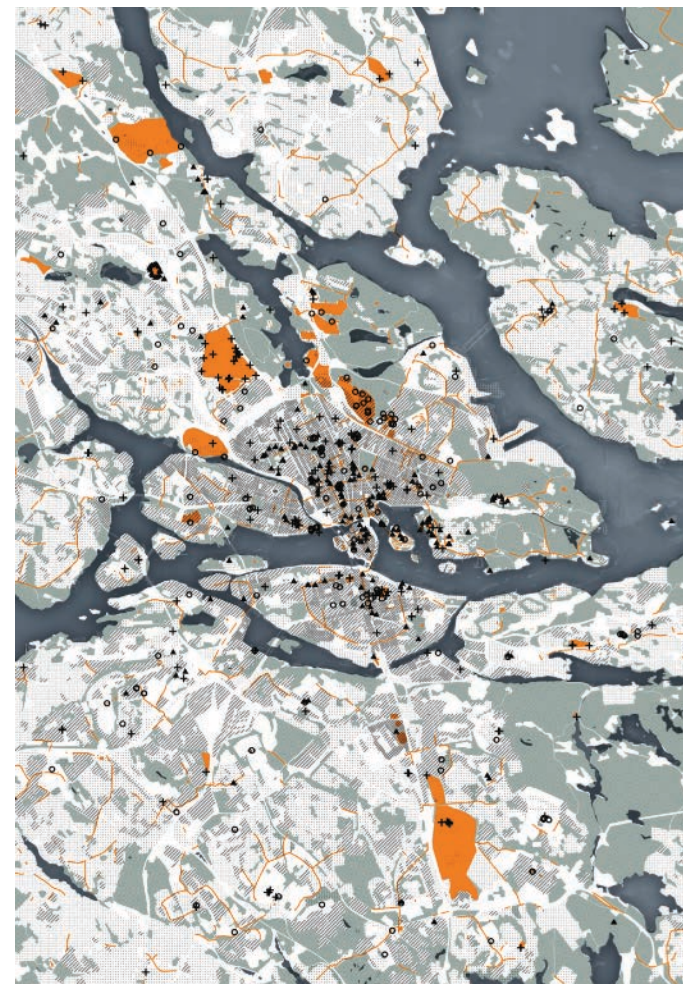
UNEVEN ACCESS TO PUBLIC LIFE

In walkable proximity

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

Amsterdam	top	Public	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% ($\geq Q3$); low - Zero ($= 0$); middle - rest



THE PERIPHERY AS MIRROR OF SOCIETY

- Conflicts
- Inequalities
- Exclusions
- Aspirations
- Metabolic dependencies



*London, Lea Valley
Inner Urban Periphery*



London, South Bank

THE PERIPHERY AS MIRROR OF SOCIETY

- Conflicts
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*London, Lea Valley
Inner Urban Periphery
in transformation*

THE PERIPHERY AS MIRROR OF SOCIETY

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Ederveen, peri-urban NL
Side by side of dwellings
and out of scale
production facilities

THE PERIPHERY AS MIRROR OF SOCIETY

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Greater Bay Area, peri-urban China
Agriculture, industry and related settlements
serving the mega-city region

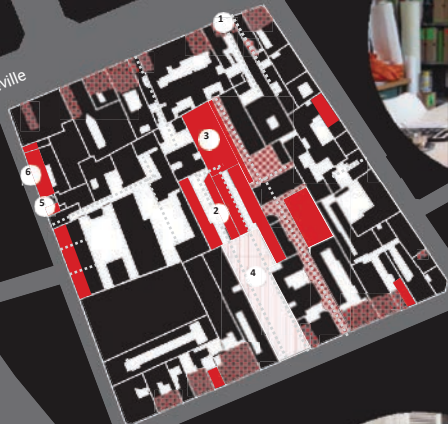


> This community started as squatting movement 20 years ago, since five years this area is owned by the municipality<

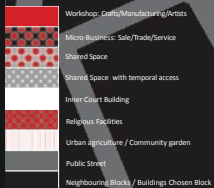
urbanist Mark, community LaForge, Rue Ramponeau



Rue de Belleville



Tailor, Rue Dénoyez



Paris Case Study [Block 2]

Tracing Scopes Of Action

artists facility - collective working space
- Community LaForge



Hairdresser, Rue de Belleville



Jardin Partagé, Rue Ramponeau



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*

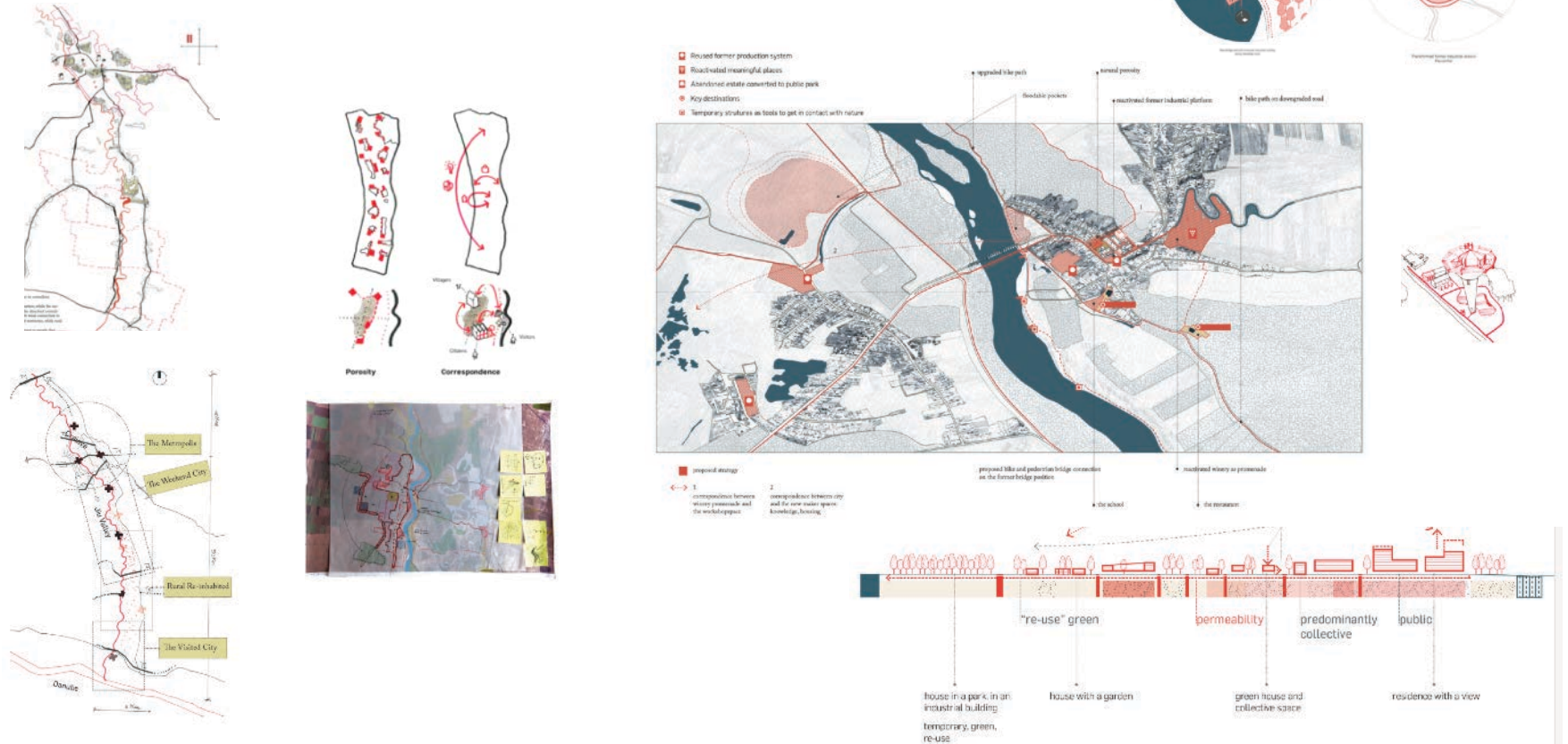
*Reading and projecting engage
a precise representation of
spaces and places*

Design methods

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

SEARCHING FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION

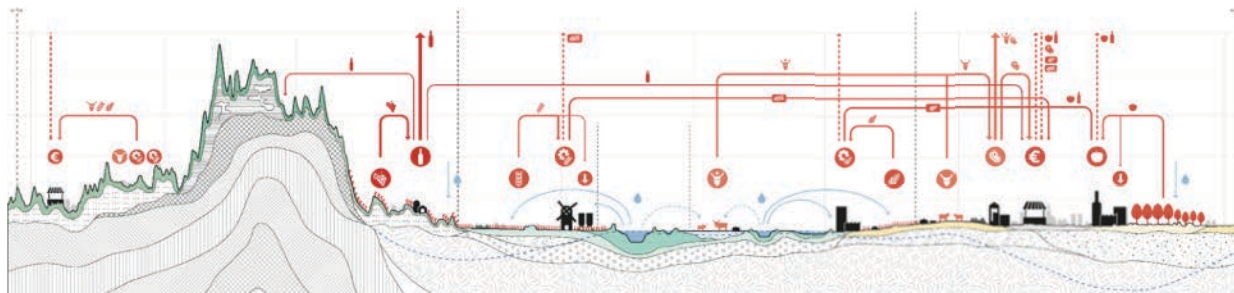
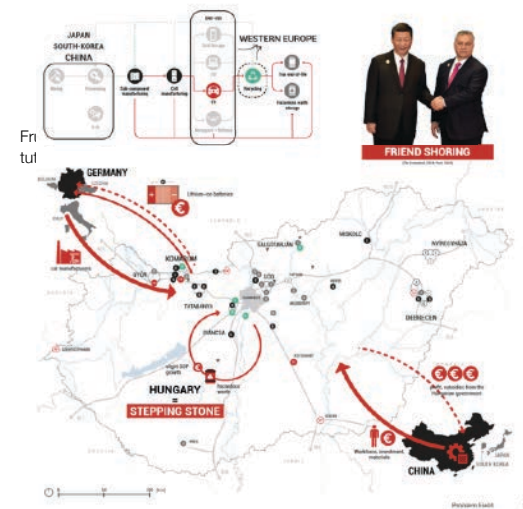
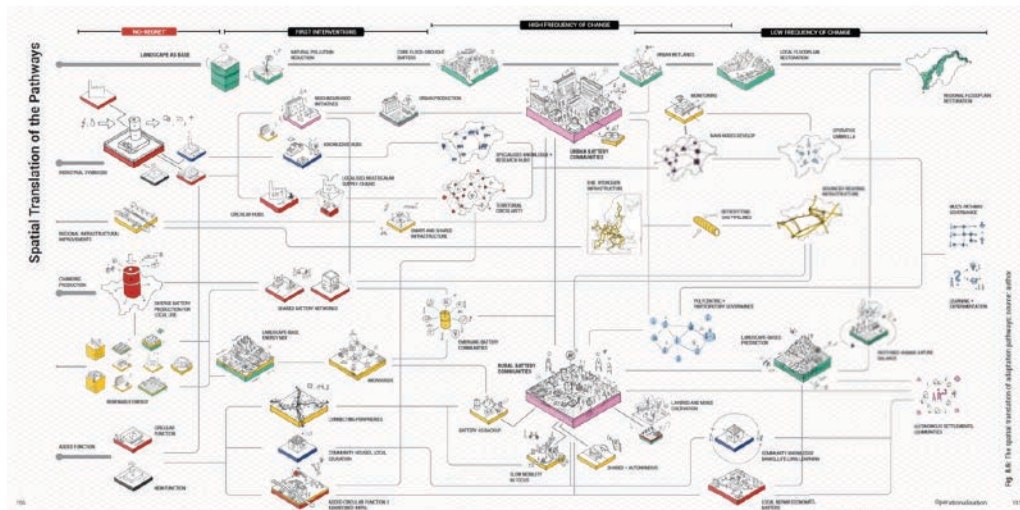
Ioana Ionescu: A territorial city



Source: Ionescu (2016) Towards a Territorial City. The case of an Eastern European mid-size city and its surrounding territory. Mentors: B. Hausleitner, S. Verhoeven

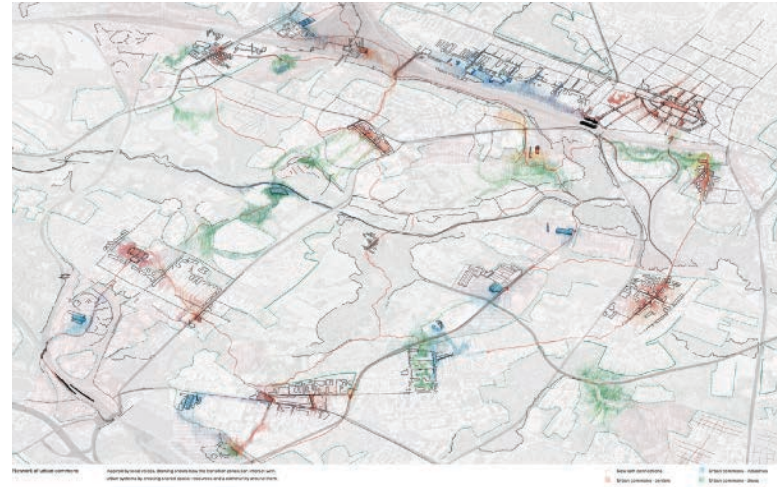
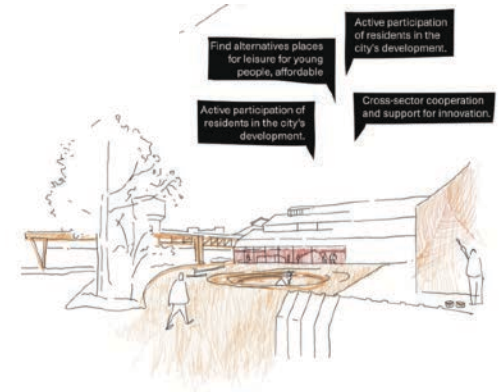
A POLITICAL COUNTER PROPOSAL - CONTEXTUALISED SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION

Fruszina Kovács (2025). Towards a transformative battery territory



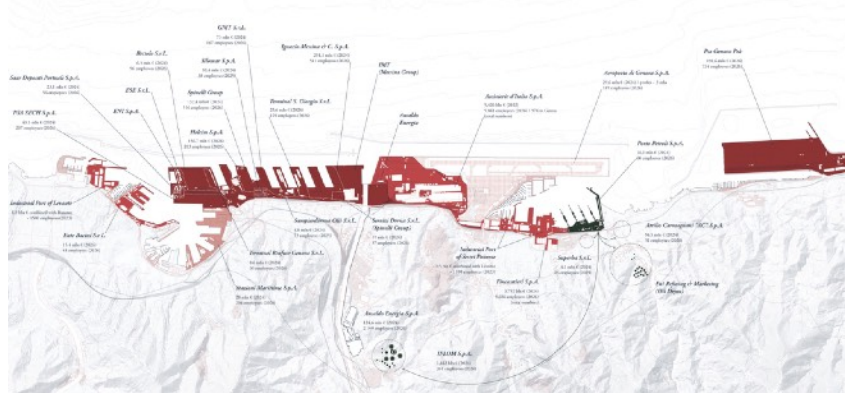
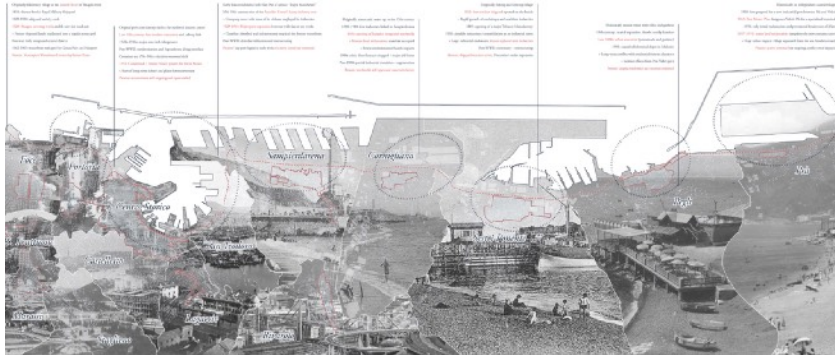
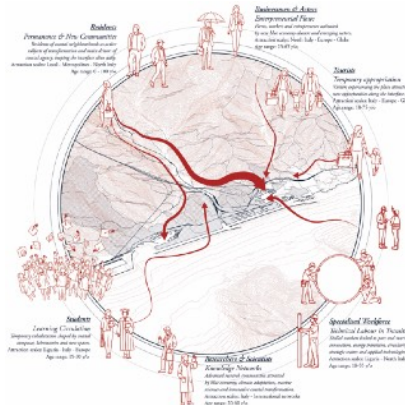
Aleksandra Kurkierewicz (2025). In-Between

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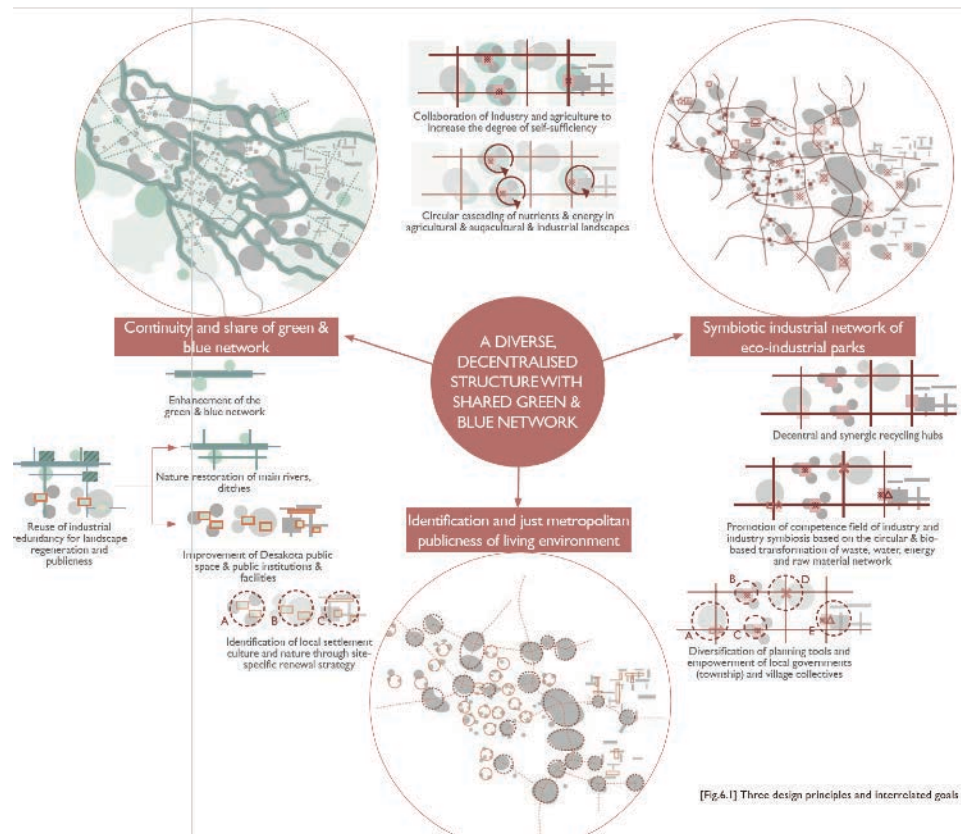
EXPLORING SPACES OF CIVIC LIFE IN A COMMODIFIED PORT-TERRITORY

Giovanni Antonio Cappa (2026). Genoa Liguens



REFRAMING A SYMBIOTIC INDUSTRIAL NETWORK TO REGENERATE PUBLICNESS

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



Lost and Found Urbanities

First mentors



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Thank you for your attention.