Bordering Chaos

Reinforcing productive relationships in ERODING territories

By Purvika Awasthi
Location

Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Neretva Valley & the city
Fascination

Ganges in Kanpur, India
Why Neretva?
Entangled affects of Mostar

Urban and social transformations affecting Neretva

Energy generation source  Landscape of waste  Mental divide

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Natural transformations of Neretva
Legend

- Neretva and Radobolja
- Riverbank
- Floodplain of Neretva
- Floodplain of Radobolja

Direction and range

Floodplains and range of flooding
Legend
- Neretva and Radobolja
- Riverbank
- Floodplain of Neretva
- Floodplain of Radobolja
- Direction and range

Floodplains and range of flooding
Ottoman Period (1468-1878)  Austro - Hungarian Period (1878-1918)  Yugoslavian Period
Bosnian War, 1992 - 1994

Neretva and Radobolja
River banks
Bosnian side
Croatian side
Buffer zone
Former line front line
The psychological targets were the structures with which people identified themselves and their culture. When the facades of a city are destroyed, its face lies beyond recognition, but when the cultural, historical and public spaces are targeted, it deprives the city of its legibility, disconnecting the inhabitants from their surroundings.

- Arna Mackic (Mortal Cities, Forgotten Monuments)
Heterogeneous Urban Pattern
Heterogeneous Urban Pattern

Decaying Social Space
Heterogeneous Urban Pattern

Decaying Social Space

A Landscape of Waste
Neretva and Radobolja

Sniper location

Safer spaces - hiding

Target zones

Range - 800 M

Legend

SNIPER LOCATIONS AND MAJOR TARGET ZONES AS PER THE LANDSCAPE
Entangled affects of Mostar

Legend
- Neretva and Radobilja
- Riverbank
- Public buildings
- Ruins
- Abandoned buildings

Ruins and abandoned territories - 2019
When any phenomenon goes beyond control the damage or addition it does can be compared in both the cases, the war in the past and the river currently are producing similar affects.
Conclusion Map

Legend
- Neretva and Radobolja
- Riverbank
- Public buildings
- Ruins
- Abandoned buildings
- Floodplains of selected area
- Phase 01 boundary
- Former public spaces

Bordering Chaos 21/89
a. THEORIES

1. Theory of Affordances
2. Chaos, Milieu and Territory
3. Territorialisation and De-territorialisation
4. Desire
5. Rhizome

b. STRATEGIES

1. Urban Acupuncture
2. Temporality of Landscape
Theoretical Framework
Urban Acupuncture is an urban environmentalism theory which combines urban design with traditional Chinese medical theory of acupuncture.
- Casagrande

- small-scale interventions to transform the larger urban context.
- small-scale but socially catalytic interventions into the urban fabric.
All the points - interventions are equally important in this network.

No fixed routing

No beginning or end of this network and can grow in whichever direction

All these acupuncture spots can be identified as a part of a larger system by experiential qualities.
The project aims to create a **network of social spaces** in the city, which enforces social cohesion and stimulates inhabitants to read and write their city.
Research Questions

CAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE PROVOKE PRODUCTIVE AFFORDANCES IN ‘CHAOTIC’ HETEROGENEOUS TERRITORIES?
Sub questions:

1. How can social formation (infrastructure – affordances) reconfigure the concept of ‘desire’.

2. How can the ‘degree of power’ (what it ‘can do’) of abandoned or not defined elements can be exhumed through design.

3. How can the temporality of landscape like erosion & flooding be interpreted productively through to create adaptive landscapes. What strategies can be adopted for the same?

4. Does limiting or being selective about affordances empowers a territory? How can more productive affordances be identified and highlighted through design?

5. How can a rhizomatic network be created by using the concept of territorialisation and de-territorialisation.

6. How to contribute to the perspective of the city which overlaps with the idea of various stake-holders like war survivors, migrants, tourist and children?
Scales - Chaos, Milieu, Territory and Object
Scales - Chaos, Milieu, Territory and Object

Neretva and Object

Neretva and Territory

Neretva and Milieu

Neretva and Mostar
Territories picked for Initiation Process
Neretva and Milieu

Decayed Territories

River & it's affects

Ruins
Decayed landscape

Flooding
Erosion

Test site 03
Donja Mahala

Test 01
Square outside HIT

Test site 02
Between Bunur and Stari Most

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Location of Test Sites

- Square outside HIT
- Between Bunur and Stari Most
- Boundary of phase 01

Legend:
- Riverbank
- Stari Most
- Test sites
- Boundary of phase 01
Neretva and Territory

Along Neretva - Between Bunur and Stari Most

2019
"The affordances of the environment are what it offers the animal, what it provides or furnishes, either for good or ill" - Gibson, 1979
“Desire” - refers to the state of our unconscious drives and inclinations. - Deleuze

“What can I do, what am I capable of doing” - Jun & Smith
Spatial Analysis

Translating and demarcating desires or feelings as per existing spatial and natural conditions on site.

Legend

- Permanent
- Temporary
- Neretva
Spatial Analysis

Translating and demarcating desires or feelings as per existing spatial and natural conditions on site.

Legend
- Permanent
- Temporary
- Neretva

Bordering Chaos
Combination of these elements and objects are used to create an environment that is a combination of Affordance and Desire.

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<th>Staircase/Ramp</th>
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<th>Wall</th>
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Solitude
Solitude
Vulnerability
Neretva and Territory

Bordering Chaos

56/89
Detail 01 of the erosion barriers cum walkway

Access points directing the view and giving the idea of enclosure

Detail 02 of the erosion barriers cum walkway
Neretva and Territory

Square outside HIT
Spatial Analysis

Translating and demarcating desires or feelings as per existing spatial and natural conditions on site and surroundings.

Legend:
- Permanent
- Temporary
- HIT

Bordering Chaos

Permanent
Temporary
HIT
Spatial Analysis

Translating and demarcating desires or feelings as per existing spatial and natural conditions on site and surroundings

Legend
- Permanent
- Temporary
- HIT

Bordering Chaos

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1. Continuation and adaptation of incomplete staircase and rainwater garden
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2. New planting scheme to differentiate the old and new. Also, adding smaller elements.
1. Continuation and adaptation of incomplete staircase and rain-water garden

2. New planting scheme to differentiate the old and new. Also, adding smaller elements.

3. Manipulating levels and sensory marker
Legend

- Croatian Theatre (Former HIT)
- Ruins/ Abandoned spaces

Layout of test site 02 - Square outside HIT
Legend
- Cercis siliquastrum
- Prunus cerasifera
- Chaenomeles japonica
- Veronica cymbalaria
- Croatian Theatre (Former HIT)
- Ruins/ Abandoned spaces

Planting Scheme
1. Continuation and adaptation of incomplete staircase and rainwater garden.
1. Continuation and adaptation of incomplete staircase and rain-water garden

The staircase is adapted to an amphitheater and during the dry months it can serve as an activity space for open air shows or even just sitting under the trees.
During the rainy season, this works as a rainwater pool with a depth of 600 mm and replicates the feeling of watching the river from the high banks.
2. New planting scheme to differentiate the old and new. Also, adding smaller elements.
2. New planting scheme to differentiate the old and new. Also, adding smaller elements.

Small elements like concrete blocks are added which serve as multifunction spaces. *Chaenomeles japonica* is introduced in this part of the site and it can later on develop into a wild spring garden.
Neretva and Object

3. Manipulating levels and sensory marker

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Section CC' - acoustic spaces and the garden with different levels

Layout of the sensory garden with the pre-war fountain and flooring
3. Manipulating levels and sensory marker
Neretva and Mostar

Rhizomatic Network
Sensory markers in relation with religious buildings
Video for time planning and involvement of inhabitants
Probable scenario after 10-15 years