**reflection of the design through scales**

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The main research question of this thesis that is what the relation of a contemporary city and nature and natural landscape could be, remains open to new interpretations and design approaches. This thesis aims to research and reveal a new way of analysis of the city and selection of the elements-spatial tools to create the conditions of a narration of the city. In an urban context, the notion of the nature and the natural landscape is a blend of natural, cultural and urban characteristics that constructed a new ground which is what is the natural landscape for the city. This thesis defines as natural the processes that intervene in that new ground and transform it to a natural one. In order to answer this broad research question I select the case of Bratislava as a place that it is right now in fast transformation and experiences all the positive and negative aspects of globalization. The design approach is through scales to answer in a spatial way at this research question. The design region is two edges that consists by the river Danube and a stream. The urban context of the edges is the medieval city and the natural context is the large natural flow of the juxtaposition of Danube and Carpathians.

The site-specificity that this thesis suggests is a strong analytical and design approach that underlines that uniqueness of a region and a landscape in different scales. In the period of globalization that large projects transform the image of a city into one-two months without any kind of respect in the scale of the city, the atmosphere of it and the social characteristics of the residents, the site-specific approach is an essential idea that could lead to a connection of the natural, the urban and the new intervention ground.

This is a critical position and eye on master plans or three dimensional images that big offices propose nowadays, for cities like Bratislava that are under massive reconstruction. One important example on this, is the proposal of Zaha Hadid for a part of Bratislava.

In that context, in a metropolitan scale the selection on working in the edges of the city is an approach that leads to positive results as the edges offer the opportunity of empty or low-densed areas which have ground for future interventions and give the potential for future sustainable expansion of the city. The selection of the edges of Danube and the stream is essential as far as the research question is considered because the result in the metropolitan scale, is the interaction of two large green systems of Danube and Carpathians. The Little Carpathians is the first part of the large range of Carpathians which is developed through the whole East Europe and the corridor of Rhine and Danube connect the central and the East Europe. So, this intersection has an essential role for the function of theses systems. Within this fact Bratislava obtain a crucial role because of this intersection which was the initial reason of sheltering the city. Also, its urban form takes a new meaning because of the interaction with these two green systems.

In an intermediate scale, the selection of working on the existent road flow of these edges and relate them in a positive interaction with the natural flows(rivers) is crucial for the city. Moreover, the spatial link between the City, the Danube and the Carpathians offers the opportunity for a new big public space for the city that change the image of it and the life of the residents. Also, the intervention change the environment of a main edge of the peripheral zone of the city which is
the part that the city tends to expand. The motorway stops to have a negative impulse on the landscape and becomes a part of a big public space (park). This public space creates a new natural landscape and sparkles the residential expansion around it in different terms and towards a way with balance with the natural elements.

In the large scale, the design is related with the research question via the transformation of the riverfront and the recovering of the forest at the edge of Carpathians. These natural elements interact with the added and the existent cultural layer of public spaces. The natural elements of Danube and Carpathians are introduced again at the contemporary city with different terms and reaction with the cultural layer. The meaning of the natural processes, the dynamics of the landscape, the production and the experience of a natural landscape are crucial parts of the design at that scale. The water garden, the vineyard with the educational shelters and the forest gardens are the design outcomes at the largest scale towards the answer of the main research question.

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The general theme of the graduation thesis in the master of Landscape Architecture is the Flowscapes. The Rhine and Danube create a corridor which runs the central Europe and ends at the Black sea. In that context, the studio aims to work on the green, water and road infrastructures that create different flows in the landscape. The studio research these flows in the context of the corridor of Rhine and Danube.

In that Frame, the case study of my thesis is Bratislava which has a river front at Danube. The selection of this case study is in relation of the unique geomorphological position of it. Bratislava is located at the intersection of two different infrastructures and flows: the green and the water, as the Little Carpathians and the Danube create a corner which Bratislava has constructed.

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The methodical approach of the thesis is based on two different themes: the site-specific and site-generated theme and the industrial remains as a natural landscape in an entropic situation. These two themes leads to the selection of the research on the edges of the city and finally, the selection of the specific site. They are two themes that they are related to the natural processes and dynamics of a site and lead to a design that works as a narration for the city of Bratislava. Carpathians, Danube and medieval city interact and are reactivated all along this site intersection.

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The thesis is involved with the wider social context as it deals with a big question of the future development and expansion of the contemporaries’ cities as to obtain a better standard of life for the citizens and a balance between the natural system and the human intervention. Also, this idea is more essential for the cities of the East Europe and the cities after the Soviet Union as they seem to be in a crucial moment of their development. Also, this design suggests a general attitude that should be developed towards the positive or neutral impulse of the massive road systems that define the most of the peripheral zones of the contemporary cities.
Regarding the site, the design is involved with degraded regions in the city of Bratislava and aims to the production of new public spaces that would create a new ground for development and social interaction. The design works on the basis of a reading of the existent social structures of the city. The social aspect is integral part of a design which is concentrated at regions which are in the city context and receive all the pressure of the city activity. The site-specific approach deals with the social context. Also, the final design at the largest scale has to do with the creation of new public spaces in the city for cultural exchange and interaction. The proposed gardens become cultural surface for interaction of the peoples. The education on the nature, the living in the gardens(eco-residences) and the creation of routes that activate the city, the castle, the riverfront and the forest is the cultural layer that this thesis introduce and could sparkle social changes. Moreover, from a social point of view, the public space in the peripheral edge of the motorway and the stream suggests a future residential development with new terms and the natural space as a line that the future developments should be developed around it.

The design goes through three different scales: the metropolitan, the intermediate and the small scale. The site selection of that edges of the city is essential as the analysis of the current situation indicates that they are two regions that consist crucial moments of the city’s future development. In different scales, the intervention areas react with the existent urban and natural patterns. The selected functions of the design indicates that use of the natural processes, the regional characteristics and the promoting of the educational and the cultural character of a city could lead in a sustainable future development of it. The industrialisation with the massive construction and fast technological rhythms causes an uncontrolled expansion of the cities and big social changes. The public spaces as one of the most important images of the spatial and social changes, present undefined without a powerful important role for the society.

The design at a large scale which is the moment that all the urban, natural and social interactions are obvious in a real level, achieves to regenerate the riverfront in correlation with the city existent elements and the urban and natural flow works creating the port and the river garden. The concern on this situation, is if the proposed public spaces and the garden could really work as powerful points in the city realm. We design the condition but not the events in a city environment. So, the question is how and what the duration that these public space would be essential elements of the city.