CURONIAN SPIT - A PLACE TO LIVE!
Sustainable development proposal for the Curonian Spit, Lithuania

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MSc Thesis

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Sources:

http://www.impressions.lt/

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Graduation Studio: Complex Cities and Regions in Transformation
The work throughout this project has been one of the most memorable academic journeys. I learnt a lot during past year and I would like to thank the following people for their contributions throughout the process:
To my mentors. For your guidance, knowledge and passion.
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Rene van der Velde

To the people back in Lithuania, who helped me to get a sense and acknowledgement about the problems in site.
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Jolita Gedžiuvienė,
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Lina Dikšaitė,
Ramūnas Barkus.

To my family, for being proud of me no matter what and giving me all support and inspiration I needed.
To my friends. To Ignas, for your unconditional love, belief and help. And to my computer, that did not disappoint me this year.
My choice of studio was concerning the complexity of problems in the site located in Lithuania seaside. Curonian Spit is located on Peninsula and has a complex administrative structure. The project aim is to look at the preserved area in the Curonian Spit, Lithuania which is important internationally as a Unesco nominated place. These conditions bring a lot of tourists to the place during the summer season. Although the formal population is shrinking, the land price gets really high. With my project I would like to concentrate on the people who are living in the place and maintaining the unique landscape and settlements within. In addition I would like to improve their welfare and accessibility to the settlements. Create unique identity in site, that young people could come to the place and built up their life.

The area has nice landscape and old architecture from old fishing villages that was not covered by sand storms. It has UNESCO criteria V:

- An outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture [...] or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

! Human is part of the Unesco heritage !
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INTRODUCTION
PERSONAL MOTIVATION

My homecountry Lithuania has a few must see places. Curonian Spit is the biggest site in Lithuania with UNESCO world heritage status. I always go there for my holidays during summer time or New years. Visitors always see this as a dream place to live in. Although if we look at statistics - people that live there are really unhappy. The houses are too small, new construction is forbidden and government officials are always on the debate about any development plans. With this project I wanted to get a deeper look on the world scale importance area. Find out how people live and feel in area with such a unique condition.

The aim of this project is to analyse the existing management of development plans in the area - Curonian spit, which has Unesco status and national park borders. See how laws and regulations contribute and conflict in between governmental institutions and how it affects the local residents. The goal is to find the recommendations for governmental institutions that could advance the decision process, which would improve the development of settlements in the Curonian spit. Mapping analysis, interviewing locals and people responsible for decisions made on the area are part of the methodology used in project. As a project driver taken Rem Koolhaas thoughts from his lecture “Preservation of history” which rises the question what is the future of our preserved places? Who benefits and who loses? How can we change the point of view of these places - to learn and use the preserved history. The nominated unique landscape suppose to be part of liveability value, instead it becomes big obstacle for future development plans. Main aspects of these problems are: infrastructure, ecology, public domain and governance.

The location currently is most wanted resort destination during the summer time. Although it used to be a place, where fishermen used to live and later created the landscape that we see now. My aim for this project is to make area livable again instead of growing tourism. Therefore, during working process my focus is on local people - improving welfare for inhabitants. My main vision is to create the place I would want to come not only for holidays but also for future career opportunities.
The Curonian Spit is situated on the border of two countries - Lithuania and Russia. Just on the edge of Lithuania seaside - sand dunes between the Baltic sea and Curonian Lagoon.

The place was nominated as an UNESCO heritage in 2000. Status is shared also by the Russian part in Kaliningrad. Lithuanian part of the Curonian Spit is separated by the water, the only access to the cities is via ferry from Klaipeda (harbor of Lithuania) to Smiltyne. The unique landscape of the area is also national park although it has some settlement: Nida, Preila, Juodkrante, Pervalka, Alksnyne and Smiltyne. Which makes them one of the most popular summer holidays destination.

Area has a lot of restrictions and any development plans are hard to make. Although some people find their way to go around the rules and develop new buildings in the unique protected area when the old, valuable heritage remains untouched and falling apart.

The Peninsula from mainland is reachable only by boat or ferry Klaipeda-Smiltyne. There is a road from Kaliningrad (Russia) but to access Russia most of the tourists from Europe needs visa. Although many tourists from Russia part in Curonian Spit comes for holidays to Lithuanian part.

Alternative ways to come to the site is by train from capital Vilnius or bus from any city. Most of the tourists come by car taking ferry in Klaipeda or plane to Vilnius or Kaunas and then by vehicle to the seaside.

For Lithuania it becomes like an island. Slowly becoming uninhabited island with services just during the summer time.
SETTLEMENTS ON THE CURONIAN SPIT

Settlements location made by author.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE SETTLEMENTS

Settlements located at:
- SMILTYNE
- ALKSNYNE
- PERVALKA
- JUODKRANTE
- NIJA

5 km scale

Settlements location made by author.
IMPRESSIONS OF THE SETTLEMENTS

(4 inhabitants) ALKSNYNE

(100 inhabitants) SMILTYNE

(20 inhabitants) PERVALKA

(720 inhabitants) JUODKRANTE

(1850 inhabitants) NIDA

(205 inhabitants) PREILA

Settlements in proportion of inhabitants
Made by author

5 km
CONTEXT.LITHUANIA

Lithuania (officially Republic of Lithuania) (Lithuanian: Lietuvos Respublika) is located in Northern Europe the biggest of the three Baltic countries. It has five cities with population over one hundred thousand which makes it different and unique from the other Baltic states. It is situated along the southeastern shore of the Baltic Sea.

Major economic sectors in Lithuania are (in decreasing order by Gross Value Added per sector) (Department of Statistics, 2011):

- 60% - services (health care, education, public/social services, administration), construction, real estate operations, science and research related businesses, finances related businesses, recreation industry, and other activities,
- 37% - manufacturing and industry,
- 3% - agriculture, forestry and fishery.

Lithuania is considered to be a transit country due to the location on the main connections between southern and northern parts of Europe and Baltic sea and Asia.

In 2003, before joining the European Union, Lithuania had the highest economic growth rate amongst all candidate and member countries, reaching 8.8% in the third quarter.

In 2004 – 7.4%;
2005 – 7.8%;
2006 – 7.8%;
2007 – 8.9%;
2008 Q1 – 7.0% growth in GDP reflects the impressive economic development and as a result is often termed as a Baltic Tiger. However, 2009 marked a dramatic decline in GDP at -14.74% attributed to overheating of the economy. In 2010, the rate was 1.33%. As of June 2013, the unemployment rate is 10.4%. (source Wikipedia.org)

At the moment population in Lithuania is rapidly shrinking.(see table 3.2.)

|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|

Population in Lithuania

Source: Department of Statistics, 2012
Curonian spit is one of the national parks in Lithuania. It stretches from the Sambian Peninsula on the south to its northern tip next to a narrow strait, across which is the port city of Klaipėda on the mainland of Lithuania. The northern 52 km long stretch of the Curonian Spit peninsula belongs to Lithuania, while the rest is part of the Kaliningrad Oblast, Russia. The width of the spit varies from a minimum of 400 m in Russia (near the village of Lesnoy) to a maximum of 3,800 m in Lithuania (just north of Nida).

Official population in Curonian Spit is 3540 inhabitants, while 30% of people declare their living place in the site, although the rest of the year they spend in another place.

54% of “real” habitants migrate because of too expensive living, seeking career and better life, also for children education.

### Context: Curonian Spit

**Resident Population**

- 2271
- 0-15 years
- Working age
- Pension age

- 414
- 1756
- 474
- 103 people listed for social housing

**Registered Economic Entities**

- 392

**Working Economic Entities**

- 179

**Optimize Not Maximize**

**Unemployment Rating**

**New Job Places**

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<th>2006</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2028</th>
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<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>-2</td>
<td>-3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Migration saldo</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2280</td>
<td>2271</td>
<td>2266</td>
<td>2259</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Government officials don't agree what can be done and what is restricted to do in Curonian Spit. (It is mainly because of the difficult administrative structure which protects the land from any development)

Government corruption. (Currently there is a demand to tear down the homes on the Curonian Spit. These homes are owned by people who were given permits to build by corrupt local government officials. The demand to tear the homes down is based on the fact that the Spit is a UN World Heritage Site and the only structures that were to be allowed there were fishing shacks (wikipedia.org)

There are huge traffic jams at the ferry during summer time. There were always talks about making the bridge to Curonian Spit, but there is a threat that it will be more accessible and that can destroy the national park and its heritage. At the moment, there are costs for ferry per person and per car and then there are taxes to enter the national park, this way not everybody can afford to go there and it is some kind of tool for preservation.

Because some of the existing general plans weren't followed, the UNESCO experts suggest to do a new plan. From this I can see that there is a demand for a new plan.

There has been talks and some plans making a water amusement park in the area, which would be alive all seasons, which is the main goal for municipality.

The heritage should be used and maintained instead of staying the way it is until it gets rotten (Prof. J.Bucas)
Last survey made in 2011 showed how people feel living on this island for Lithuania.

People revealed that if they would have a chance they would probably leave Curonian Spit because: it is too expensive to live here, there are no higher career possibilities, too many asocial people live there and they do not see many police on the roads, what is more there are no shopping center and not enough post boxes. They also need dentist in the Curonian Spit. Some people think that Klaipeda seems like a better place to live. Additionally, many move abroad, which is a common problem in Lithuania.

53% of people think that the main reason why there are still some people living in Neringa is because of tourism.

54% claim that 1/4 of their yearly income is from tourism.

There are also some objects that local people do not want tourists to see: vacant buildings, garbage and garage complexes where they move when subrenting their own house.

People also feel pessimistic about future. They see Curonian Spit as a place occupied mainly by rich and businessmen. Other think that only old people will be living in Neringa in the future and they think that sad future is determined if municipality and national park continues to conflict with each other.

Objects that locals DO NOT want tourists to see:
- vacant buildings
- garbage
- garage complexes where locals move when they subrent their houses

Locals describes the future of the Curonian spit in 20 years:
- rich and businesssman place
- damaged place
- only old people living
- municipality and national park conflicts

53% say:
- tourists are the main reason why Neringa is still alive

54% say:
- they get more than 1/4 of their income from tourists
- would move from Curonian Spit to live in another places

WHY?
- it is too expensive
- offers no career opportunities
- many asocial people
- no police on the roads
- no shopping center
- not enough buses to other cities
- not enough post boxes
- no dentist

The purpose of preservation is to maintain the building, site of monument, as it is, so that our future generations would be able to acknowledge our past. Rem Koolhaas together with his students from Harvard University analyzed the history of preservation which was publicized with the presentation “Preservation of history”. There, famous architect gives attention to growing amount of preservation: we started from 1882 Ancient monument protection act, preserving monuments that were built before our era. Now we preserve almost everything from casinos, bridges and amusement parks that were built recently.

In addition, the scale of preservation is growing. The heritage just keeps on emerging and we do not really know where this expansion is leading us to. The same trend is happening in Lithuanian location - Curonian Spit.

The government just implements the restrictions creating more regulations. This way government officials try to protect values of the place from extreme overuse and load of tourists. Consequently, it brings problems to the local habitants, because the land price gets really high and unaffordable for young families. Existing houses in time becomes uncomfortable for new demands and it is hardly possible to change because it stands under authentic heritage status. Many people buy summer houses on the site and the rest of the year live somewhere else. The population officially is growing but people who were born there and maintain the land are in fact leaving because of these conditions.

In this context, we just put the heritage objects behind the glass and open it for public to watch, but what is the real meaning of preserving things.

Source: Rem Koolhaas, Preservation of history, lecture in Harvard University
Modified by author
Today there is a huge increase in nostalgia – we all respect the past more than ever – but also a corresponding reduction of memory. It is easy to think of preservation as the opposite of development: there are architects, who make change, and there is preservation, which resists change. But preservation itself has become an element of radical transformation without us realizing it.

When we first started to preserve in the late 19th century, there were 2000 years between what we preserved and the now. In 1900, the gap was already shrunken to 200 years, and now we are in a situation where what we preserve is almost coinciding with the present. Preservation is no longer something you look at in retrospect. You don’t say, “That is nice, let’s keep that.” Preservation becomes a prospective activity, it becomes a prediction.

Nearly 12% of the planet is currently marked as ‘preserved’, continuing to cordon off greater areas as ‘off-limits’ at an alarming fast rate. These areas are declared as so without having actually been thought through on a transparent level. Today, preservation does not quite know what to do with its new found empire (Koolhaas, 2010) (Source: Preservation and Thinning by Rem Koolhaas).

My project is one of the examples when preservation is overtaking people social welfare. Although preservation is for people, it becomes big obstacle on the Curonian Spit. When famous architects are wondering about the role of preservation in world context, I want to look in the future of my site in Lithuania.

“Preservation is a highly artificial term,” Koolhaas explained. “History happens and leaves its traces . . . I have to say, I prefer history without preservation.”

Growing amount of regulations and restrictions on the Curonian Spit complicates any development or maintenance of houses. Architects and planners have to be familiar with all these regulations and institutions that give confirmation to development. This leads to complicated renovation of heritage houses and long process of new building. As a result we have many rotten wooden houses and a few illegal houses instead.

The red squared are the most important documents and plans that define the boundaries and main functions in the territory.
I analyzed the three written documents and searched the words mentioned that are related to my research aspects:

**NATURE**
**LANDSCAPE**
**ENVIRONMENT**
**DEVELOPMENT**
**SETTLEMENT**
**PEOPLE**
**INHABITANTS**
**ECONOMIC**
**TOURISM**

If we make combination of the most mentioned words UNESCO is focusing on NATURAL DEVELOPMENT, municipality - landscape settlements and national park - natural environment.

This can be grouped to main goals of three institutions: environmental, economical development and social welfare. The problem is that some documents concentrate more on one thing.
CONCLUSION

Finally we have main problems in shrinkage of resident population, because young people move out to other places seeking higher career. Because of the resort status real estate prices are growing and local people can not afford new houses. Bad accessibility is one of the things that rise all the prices of services and goods for locals.

Preservations common problems are also present on site, like growing restrictions and nomination which is changing without proper maintenance.

Problems in societal and academical relevance of the Curonian Spit creates lost identity and fragmented governance.

CONCLUSION

SOCIAL RELEVANCE

SHRINKAGE
YOUNG PEOPLE MOVE OUT
GROWING REAL ESTATE PRICES
BAD ACCESSIBILITY - HIGH PRICES

ACADEMICAL RELEVANCE

GROWING PRESERVATION
RESTRICTIONS STOPS DEVELOPMENT
WITHOUT TAKING CARE OF PRESERVATION IT IS STILL CHANGING

LOST IDENTITY OF THE PLACE
FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE

Conclusion of academical and societal relevance
Made by author
All problems like overlapping governance, growing amount of preservation rules without knowing how to implement them, only seasonal tourism and lack of authenticity definition bring the site to no possibilities for development. People are leaving, houses are limited, no building is available on the island and this way people do not see the future in having full living experience in this place.

If we try to solve these problems by including local people in governance, optimizing the tourism throughout the year and defining authorities in decision making we should be able to develop with existing conditions, which means using existing vacancies for local people.

In order to prevent losing its nomination, clear guidance of authenticity elements needed for the developers. These regulations should include typologies of houses, nature which is already dominating in area and how it can be implemented in new development, accessibility issues, like street sections and public spaces and roads inside the settlements. Furthermore, the history of cultural landscape should be included in order to understand the importance of nomination and how we can use development in order to combine new and old.

“In adaptation, the aim is to maintain some level of performance: income, comfort, safety, adequacy, speed, purity, biological health, delight, visual or social character - or whatever. The aim is also likely to include the prevention of irreversible change or of an excessive rate of change...  

... The important step is to develop the means and the clients for an interchange. An important factor in transmitting intelligence of change is a knowledge of how the inhabitants of an area image the past, present, and future.” (Kevin Lynch, “What time is this place?”)
PROBLEM ANALYSIS
PROBLEM STATEMENT

Curonian Spit is a peninsula which is shared together with Lithuania and Russia (Kaliningrad). Since it is only accessible by water transport on Lithuanian side, it becomes hardly reachable for lithuanians.

The place also share UNESCO status with Russia under criteria V - an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture[...], or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

In this context we have few problems:

1. Hard accessibility. Unreachable condition increase shrinking problem in the area and rise taxes for goods.
2. Growing real estate for second holiday house. Many people become seasonal tenants owning property but not maintaining the land. Land and rent price are incredibly high and unaffordable for people who work in settlements.
3. Heritage houses are not suitable anymore for nowadays living conditions and there are too many regulations and requirements for reconstruction.
4. Governance conflicts. There are many institutions that have authorities on the island and development plans. There are overlapping in administrational boundaries and values vary depending on authorities. In this level many development plans become unproved.

The social, economical and physical complexity requires coping with the higher levels of management.

These problems form 4 keywords for research questions which lead to sub-questions in each aspect:

1. NETWORKS:
   • How can we improve network system in the Curonian Spit in order to advance accessibility to the settlements?
   • What kind of infrastructure development strategy could generate economy growth and maintain the ecological sustainability?
2. PUBLIC DOMAI:
   • What actions for spatial planning can bring more economical opportunities for the young local people, together increasing tourism during the non seasonal time?
   • What is the role of local people in governance?
   • What are the potentials for new activities that would create different types of employment during the winter season?
3. ENVIRONMENT:
   • What is the role of people in ecosystem of the Curonian Spit?
   • What ways of nature protection should be implemented in area in order to create economical development and social welfare?
4. GOVERNANCE:
   • What are the aims of governmental institutions and how they can cooperate with each other in order to bring beneficial to regional development?
   • How legal acts and planning influence spatial development of the region?
   • Which tools can be used to combine top-down plan with bottom-up interventions?

Consequently we have main research question:
How can we use existing values of the area for sustainable development that would improve livability for local people?
WORKING FRAMEWORK

My main interest for literature review is to analyse the existing management of development in the preserved area in the Curonian Spit. See how laws and regulations contribute and conflict in between governmental institutions and how it affects the local residents in such place. According to professor J.Bucas “Current motto of the cultural heritage is preserve how it is until it gets rotten”. Nearly 12% of the planet is currently marked as ‘preserved’, continuing to cordon off greater areas as ‘off-limits’ at an alarming fast rate. These areas are declared as so without having actually been thought through on a transparent level. Today, preservation does not quite know what to do with its new found empire (Koolhaas, 2010).

Places in shrinking countries, like Lithuania which have been preserved are especially in danger to become vacant. I will try to find a ways to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes (Unesco convention, 1972).

I want to read about the scenario planning which is lacking in my project location. Documents about strategy making plans. As well as policies that would provide the space to talk between institutions and involve the local people in workshops about the area.

Following diagram shows the tools and methods used in project. The importance of study defined by survey and observation. Theoretical analysis is used to get overview of the legal documents applied on the area and theories used for rural management. Analytical framework is used to define administrational boundaries and urban structure within the settlements.
MOTIVATION
Personal motivation of location
World heritage site

ACADEMICAL RELEVANCE
Heritage future demands
Shrinkage problems in rural areas
Spatial impact to human welfare

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Planning system in Lithuania
Protected areas regulations
UNESCO documents
Development plans
EU projects
Rural management
Municipality strategy plan
National park management plan
Governance on the curonian spit
History analysis

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK
Accessibility to Curonian Spit
Statistics
Context analysis
General plan of municipality
National park management plan
Settlement structure analysis
Heritage analysis
Historical structure
Landscape analysis
Local observation

PROBLEM STATEMENT
NETWORKS - PUBLIC DOMAIN - ENVIRONMENT - GOVERNANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS

NETWORKS
New administrative boundaries
Infrastructure improvement plan

PUBLIC DOMAIN
Economical development plan
New cultural identity

ENVIRONMENT
Ecological environment maintenance
Eco-tourism development model

GOVERNANCE
Local people involvement in decision making process
Governmental model

AIMS
Sustainable city model
Economical development
Social welfare

PRINCIPLES
Rural management
Eco-tourism

STRATEGY
New strategic model combined governance role on protection including economical and social development
Finding strategic points and functions inside the settlements

OUTPUT
Testing strategy on the urban design
Creating sustainable landscape design

EVALUATION
Projecting new possibilities with implemented strategy
TIME SCHEDULE

Phasing of the project is based on P1,P2,P3,P4 and P5 reviews. With the tasks we have to finish for them. The actions as follows: literature review, research, analysis, strategy (scenario), design and completion of the project. These parts include:

- Literature review: theory of literature review
- Research/analysis: historical analysis, context analysis, normative dimensions, policies structure on the area, mapping, making conclusions
- Strategy: vision for the whole Curonian spit, concept territorial land-use plan
- Design: define the problematic space, urban design
- Completion: finalizing the project

FINAL OUTPUT

Vision
To make long-term future strategy plan of development that would complement UNESCO plans for landscape and improve livability for humans who maintain the land. Create the governance model that would generate new career opportunities and improve living conditions for local people together rising the cultural value of the area bringing in new economy flows to generate job opportunities. Testing these models on small scale interventions by creating sustainable design.

Aim
In order to tackle planning process in Lithuania on the protected site, the thesis goal is to define existing social importance of shrinkage. Analyze contemporary regulations and implementations of national, international and local level on the heritage sites. Discover the solutions in governance level. Combine legal systems with human needs on the site creating sustainable development plan that would create cultural identity to the site.
The final output in the project will be multi-scaler approach on the area. Making conclusions of the analysis I will provide the recommendations for the administrational structure and policies on the location. Concerning the needs of each party I will make the scenario plan of the management of the area. Suggesting strategy for regeneration of the area comforting the local people. Territorial land-use plan suppose to consist of different functions in each settlement offering different occupation for certain types of people.

With this scenario my goal is to find the place for highest potential and need to change and implement policies and recommendation on testing them on the specific location by making urban design.

In future I imagine this place as one of the most popular place to live, because of its healthy environment and easy connections. Since most of the shopping can be done nowadays improving accessibility might open new possibilities to better living.

There are certain actions we need to take to create strategic scenario for social welfare. One of the main goals is more stable population.

<table>
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<td>Hard accessibility. Unreachable condition increase shrinking problem in the area and rise taxes for goods.</td>
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<td>GOVERNANCE</td>
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<th>ACTIONS, PROJECTS</th>
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<td>CREATE NEW IDENTITY MAKING CO2 FREE CITY</td>
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<td>LOCAL PEOPLE COUNCIL INTEGRATION IN GOVERNANCE</td>
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City bee project in Lithuania
Services online possibilities
Made by author
AUTHENTICITY

In order to start analyses and concept suggestions, I had to define what is authenticity in the Curonian Spit and which elements create authentic experience for tourists. An additional essay was created for project research to help me analyse psychological aspect of landscape and houses on Curonian Spit. In order to compare former fisher villages on Curonian Spit I visited Marken and Volendam in Netherlands. My observation and conclusions are described in this writing.

When present value is not obvious, a careful analysis may be required to disentangle the valued qualities (What time is this place? by Kevin Lynch)

AUTHENTICITY IN CURONIAN SPIT, LITHUANIA

Preservation role creating unique identity of place

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Abstract – In this paper, I will analyze the term authenticity in the case of Curonian Spit. Looking back to past when the cultural landscape in the site was created, subsequently leading to nomination of UNESCO heritage site. With this paper, I want to define existing values of the site and use it for future image of the place. What elements make Curonian Spit unique? Why people are so attractive to this place but do not really want to live there?

Key words – preservation; Curonian Spit; UNESCO; landscape

1. Introduction

The purpose of preservation is to maintain the building, site of monument, as it is, that our future generations would be able to acknowledge our past. Rem Koolhaas together with his students from Harvard university analyzed the history of preservation which was publicized with the presentation "Preservation of history". There, famous architect gives attention to growing amount of preservation: we started from 1882 Ancient monument protection act, preserving monuments that were built before our era. Now we preserve almost everything from casinos, bridges and amusement parks that were built recently. (Fig 1) In addition, the scale of preservation is growing.

The heritage just keeps on emerging and we do not really know where this expansion is leading us to. The same trend is happening in Lithuanian location - Curonian Spit. (Fig 2)

The whole site stands under UNESCO status. The government just implements the restrictions creating more regulations. This way government officials try to protect values of the place from extreme overuse and load of tourists. Consequently, it brings problems to the local inhabitants, because the land price gets really high and unaffordable for young families. Existing houses in time becomes uncomfortable for new demands and it is hardly possible to change because it stands under authentic heritage status. Many people buy summer houses on the site and the rest of the year live somewhere else. The population officially is growing but people who where born there and maintain the land are in fact leaving because of these conditions.

In this context, we just put the heritage objects behind the glass and open it for public to watch, but what is the real meaning of preserving things.

Figure 1 Growing preservation objects

Figure 2 Growing preservation scale
people experience the history? Why people are so attractive to historical places but do not really want to live there?

2. Case study - Curonian Spit

In the case of Curonian Spit, the landscape was created together with humans and wind force to protect shifting sand dunes from covering villages. Because of its history, the peninsula was nominated as UNESCO cultural heritage site under criteria V: an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture [...], or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change. According to document "Outstanding universal value of Curonian Spit" - it is cultural landscape formed, and still being formed by the sea, wind and human interaction, whose survival may be threatened by irreversible changes. Unfortunately, Lithuanian government implementing UNESCO tasks went too extreme into preservation face. More and more laws appeared to restrict the use of the Curonian Spit landscape. Some places gain reserve status with no possibility to access. The construction in this island became impossible. Now there is only possibility to reconstruct existing buildings that do not have heritage value (in Curonian Spit many Soviet Union buildings are determined as inappropriate for the site). We can make conclusions that the landscape, which was made slowly, by around 600 people per day planting greenery on the dunes, now is inaccessible for human beings. Moreover, landscape is not something you can conserve or put behind the glass. All these plants continue to grow creating different landscape that was preserved in 2000. In this way, by protecting heritage, we destroy the main value of this cultural landscape: it becomes shabby and looses its past image.

3. Definition authenticity

Robert Cowan in dictionary of urbanism described authenticity as the quality of a place where things are what they seem: where buildings that look old are old, and where the social and cultural values that the place seems to reflect did actually shape it. When we talk about building, it is easy to define what are the authentic elements and materials of it. However, what about landscape elements?

Landscape is not a painting that you can hang in the museum. Besides, landscapes, unlike paintings have different owners and users. People live, work and rest there. Protecting these places can limit some of the actions that people are use to do in their landscape. Consequently, it leads to some lost of these owners. Landscape is not creation of one person, but the result of community work that was made during long years. (Ashworth, Howard, 1999)

Tourist use heritage as a tool to run away to fantasy or run away from reality. (Dann, 1981; Cohen 1979) identified that travel is considered as a way of liberating tourists from the shackles of their everyday life. It is postulated, that people travel because the difficulty of enacting "deviant", "taboo", or culturally sanctioned desires in the home environment becomes bearable with the realization that such a possibility exists elsewhere. (Faireclough, Harrison, Jameson, Schofield, 2008)

Tourists coming to Curonian Spit expect specific sense of calmness. This way they manage to run away from existing comparatively tall built up areas to the modern place for tourists that managed to keep small one-storey height gabled roof houses. People feel small in the city urban environment and arriving in Curonian Spit gives a feeling of being big among nature and small village houses. (Fig 3, A)

The elements above are the main characteristics that form the island. All of these elements mentioned in UNESCO nomination document as a heritage and it shapes the identity of the place.

5. Future vision

If we look to the future from the existing conditions of today in Curonian Spit, the place becoming uninhabitable island and only rich people can afford summerhouses, which become empty during the winter. There are not a lot of possibilities for construction, and projects mainly done by top-down approach, from general plan to intervention.

Investors that get possibility to build, do it as high and big as possible. This way the image of the place destroyed with oversized houses. I took an example of two settlements on Curonian Spit: one - Preila has the least destroyed image with the most village houses remained. (Fig 10) Another one - Pervalkia has big houses dominating in the landscape. (Fig 11)

My goal in a project is to use existing abandoned places that are intent to change in upcoming years. Make them as transition zones between fisher village and soviet buildings with services and functions needed for the local habitats. As Kevin Lynch explains in his book “What time is this place?” environment can make us aware of being alive now and together in a common present, in which we sense the flow of events and to which we can attach our hopes and fears.

The struggle is to make development in such way that the history would be apparent from past to present without destroying the values of authenticity elements.
6. Case studies

In order to see how other fisher villages have been maintained over the years I visited Marken and Volendam in the Netherlands. Both are former fisher villages, currently used as tourist attraction.

6.1. Marken

Marken is the former island, nowadays connected with the mainland by dikes. Arriving at Marken is not as hard as arriving at Curonian Spit, since there is straight bus from Amsterdam. However, it stops away from the settlement and the vehicle traffic forbidden inside. (Fig 8) This makes tourist to be aware that they are not part of the place, but just visiting guest. Houses are all renovated and well maintained. You could see people back yards from the harbor and people actually living there. The only access to go to another settlement was by boat from the authentic harbor of Marken.

6.2 Volendam

On the other hand, arriving in the Volendam gave different experience to tourists. The front of harbor is the street full of souvenir shops and cheese making museums. (Fig 9) It felt like place is living for tourism. All the houses had the first floor dedicated to tourism services. Nonetheless, if you step out of the main street, you get the opposite impression. The deeper you get into settlement, the more city image appears. Streets are wider and houses are bigger. I soon assume Volendam used as suburbia of Amsterdam.

7. Online preservation

We as an architects and designers often feel powerless when the design relates to conservation and preservation. Although, we are the ones that have power to visualize possibilities of changes. To give you an example: a group of architecture students from Universidad de Talea, in the south of Chile, decided to spend their summer working with a community in Lebu, an old city that was very active at the beginning of the last century thanks to coal mines nearby. Beautiful wooden buildings were erected during the bonanza, but once the coal mines started to shut down, the city lost its economic base and entered into recession until today. All of this beautiful buildings were endangered because of lack of maintenance, and as of today some of them have even been demolished.

So, these students decided to teach the community how to use Google SketchUp as a way to help them preserve their historic buildings. Being a free tool, all they had to go was to get a space and some computers. The local authorities helped them by providing a space for the workshops, and lots of people got interested on this program. They gathered old plans from the city hall and some historic archives, and each one of the 24 assistants to the workshop started to learn how to model in 3D using one of these historic buildings as a case study. No experts panel, no expensive funding, no pricey software... Just the motivation of a group of architecture students and the local community to preserve their historic buildings. (taken from Archdaily.com)

8. Conclusions

The peninsula - Curonian Spit is the most attractive place for summer holiday destination. In fact, if we want to keep it like that there should be people living on the island maintaining the place, which was nominated as the World heritage site with its landscape and living conditions. New technologies allow us to work away from our employment place in city center and there comes new opportunities to rural areas, like Curonian Spit. The trend is going for healthier person in more natural environment.

In order to achieve this, we have first to create spatially healthy environment, keeping in mind the authenticity elements of space in order to create stable population, which is also part of heritage in Curonian Spit. How does the Spit should develop as a resort in the future - does it need larger hotels, more restaurants, marinas, indoor and outdoor visitor attractions, better infrastructure, in order to draw in many more visitors and compete with other resorts in the world or on the mainland of Lithuania. Alternatively, should it focus on delivering a unique experience to fewer, but higher value tourists? Emphasizing its exceptional, cultural and ecological assets, I will try to use transition zones between historic houses and soviet buildings in my project as part of authenticity in the place generating new functions for local people, creating new identities in each settlement and concluding with the strategic steps in order to reach that.

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Formation of the Curonian Spit began some 5000 years ago. Despite the continual shifting of its sand dunes, Mesolithic people whose main source of food was from the sea settled there in the 4th millennium BCE, working bone and stone brought from the mainland. In the 1st millennium CE West Baltic tribes (Curonians and Prussians) established seasonal settlements there, to collect stores of fish.

The temperature increase in Europe during the 9th and 10th centuries resulted in a rise of sea level and the creation of the Brockist strait at the base of the Spit. This provided the basis for the establishment of the pagan trading centre of Kaup, which flourished between c 800 and 1016. This is unique in being the last unexcavated large proto-urban settlement of the Viking period.

The invasion of Prussia by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century marked a major change in the historical development of the Spit. They were gradually driven out, but armed conflict continued in the region up to the 15th century. The Spit had great strategic importance, and in consequence the Knights built castles at Memel (1252), Noihauz (1283), and Rossitten (1372). They also settled German farmers around the castles, building roads and clearing woodland for agriculture.

The influence of the Knights ended with the peace treaty signed with Lithuania in 1422. Groups of Baltic peoples set up settlements on the Spit and the population increased. However, since their main activities were fishing and beekeeping, this had little impact on the natural environment of the Spit. The early 16th century witnessed the economic and political rise of Prussia, accompanied by intensive industrialization. Industries such as glassmaking, shipbuilding, and salt and metal production required large amounts of wood, charcoal, and potash, all of which could be obtained easily and cheaply on the Spit. Most of the woodland was felled to meet this demand. Loss of tree cover resulted in degradation of the vegetation and exposed the underlying sand to wind erosion.

In the 16th century a new process of dune formation began and settlements became buried in sand. By the early 19th century woodland only survived in a few places on the Spit, which took on the topography that has survived to the present day. Large sums were made available by the Prussian State Land Management from the beginning of the 19th century to prevent further destabilization of the Spit. The works took the form of the construction of a protective bank of sand to prevent further ingress of dunes (a process that took most of the century) and the stabilization of dunes by means of brushwood hurdles, accompanied by reforestation. By the end of the 19th century nearly half of the Spit had been converted to woodland thanks to these works.

The battles of January 1945 saw considerable destruction of the woodland cover from fire, bombing, and the movement of heavy vehicles. Restoration work began after World War II and has continued with success, despite some serious incursions from the sea; nowadays woodland covers more than 71% of the surface area of the Spit.

Source: Demereckas, Ramauskienė, Janusevičius, Balsrune, Adomaitis “Kursiu nerijos tradicine architektūra”
10 000 years ago
Curonian Lagoon
First people settled on islands

13 000 years ago
Curonian Spit was largely inhabited

12 000 years ago
Iceberg started shrinking, water collected in hollow.

7 - 11th Century
Sambians were living in the Curonian Spit

1253
During Christening, the King Mindaugas gave these territories to Livonian Order
The Knights had two ways: strategic and communicational - the last one went through Curonian Spit

1278 - 1283
Yotvingians moved in Curonian Spit

1526
Curonian Spit belonged to Prussia

1525
Belonged to Prussia

1701
Belonged to Prussia again

1708 - 1711
Napoleon walked through Curonian Spit - destroyed a lot of settlements

1768
J. Titius project

1812
Russians came to Lithuania, Curonian Spit belonged to German Empire

1869
Prussian government started implementing Titius project

1914
Independent Lithuania, Curonian Spit still depended to Germany

1923
After Versailles Klaipeda region together with North part of Curonian Spit detached
As we can see from historical analysis, Curonian Spit was most of the time part of Germany. Only after 1923 it was connected to Lithuania. During Soviet Union most of Germans left Curonian Spit and families were moved from Kaunas and Vilnius to this peninsula where they used already existing houses to live. This situation allowed to maintain German typology houses in Lithuanian border. Historical situation brings many german tourists nowadays.
Until XV century
UNITARY EVOLUTION
result of changes

XVII-XVIII
BIO SURFACE DESTRUCTION
period

XIX
CREATION OF ETHNO BIOCENOSIS
characteristics of changes

1951-1955
ETHNO BIONT DESTRUCTION

1956-
HETEROGENEOUS SOCIALIZATION

OPTIMAL BIOCENOSIS
NATURAL LANDSCAPE
Up to XVII century

MOOR
BIO CATACLYSM
XVII-XIX

OPTIMAL ETHNO BIOCENOSIS
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
XIX-XX

DESTABILIZED ETHNO BIOCENOSIS

EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPE

14 SETTLEMENTS COVERED UNDER SAND
XVIII

PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT STARTED ESTABLISHING D.J.TITIJUS PROJECT 1869

D.J.TITIJUS PROJECT REALIZED XIX

NATIONAL PARK OF THE CURONIAN SPIT 1991

UNESCO NOMINATION 2000

ANTROPOGENIC LANDSCAPE CONVERSION

D.J.TITIJUS PROJECT 1768

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D.J.TITIJUS PROJECT

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UNESCO NOMINATION
In 1768 Professor J.D. Titius from Wittenberg University developed a plan to replant the Spit with forest to prevent the further shifting of sand. His ideas included the construction of a protective dune embankment on the seaside shore and reforestation of the main dune crests on the lagoon side (Strakauskaite 2005, 79). In addition he separated the landscape into two categories: first, the so-called green or protective zone including the protective dune embankments, coastal plain and reforested dune crests and secondly, the protected zone, including settlements (Bucas 2002). Hence, he can be considered to be the first to separate the landscape on the Curonian Spit into different functional zones. However, it took more than 35 years from the publication to be implemented by the Prussian government in 1803. (Moritz Albrecht, 2008)
RESERVES AND SANCTUARIES

According to the Nature Protection Directive the areas of reserves and sanctuaries cutting through the four traditional landscape belts with a single regime from the lagoon to the sea. Excerpt from a planning scheme (general plan) of the Curonian Spit National Park.
NATIONAL PARK OF CURONIAN SPIT

National park of Curonian Spit divided it’s administrative zones according to the nature that is protected. Most of Curonian Spit is covered by forest area.

‘Neringa is a national treasure of Lithuania, and the Curonian Spit, as a World Heritage site, belongs to humanity’, says Jonas Glemža, a member of the State Cultural Heritage Commission and an admirer of Neringa. ‘I first travelled from Kopgalis all the way to Zelenogradsk in 1962’, he recalls. ‘At that time there were no asphalt paths in Nida’. The Republic of Lithuania pursues the goal of preservation and protection through a national park operating with a Management Plan since 1994. According to Rūta Baškytė, director of the Protected Territories Service at the Environment Ministry, the status of a national park (versus strict reserve) allows the reconciliation of protection with both cultural and educational tourism and recreational use. The town of Neringa (about 3,000 inhabitants) also enjoys the status of a health resort, and this has multiple implications.

Applicable legislation and the National Development Plan prevent development of the Spit at the expense of protection and preservation goals; all the land is state owned and construction is strictly regulated. The plan does not make provision for any other connection of the peninsula to the mainland so the Spit can only be reached by ferry from Klaipeda (a lovely ride with an escort of seagulls). This naturally slows down the influx of people into the fragile area. Yet the peninsula is also a lucrative beach location attracting private capital and urban development, under free market conditions that are relatively new to Lithuania. Although a lot of possible conflicts are precluded by zoning, according to Rūta Baškytė, some do arise in the settlements and beach area over infrastructure development and construction. Also, wealthy businessmen from the larger Lithuanian towns would like to make Neringa their summer residence.

‘The current Management Plan does have the potential to address the needs of the local population. But it would really be impossible for all Lithuanians to have a summer residence on the Spit’, Rūta Baškytė says.

Meanwhile, renovations and adaptations should not disfigure the architectural layout, the sense of proportion, volume and balance of the historical settlements. Preservation of the nineteenth-century villas, built on the Spit when its recreational potential was discovered, is yet another task that the management must assume. To aid the state with its work of protecting and preserving this unique location, a new law on Protection of UNESCO World Heritage sites is being drafted. Jonas Glemža is convinced that the law will give additional impetus to the preservation of all World Heritage sites on the territory of Lithuania, and highlight cultural values by attributing direct responsibility for the site to the local government in their territory. The Commission has also decided to request separate funding for the preservation and management of the World Heritage sites and an increase in state funding for the Kuršių Nerija National Park.
In the classification of natural landscapes of the Southeast coast of the Baltic Sea the Curonian Spit is defined as a distinct type of eolian coastal-sea landscape. The most important value of the Curonian Spit is its unique and sensitive landscape created by interaction of sea, wind and human activity. The main features are as follows: great dune ridge with an old parabolic dunes in Juodkrante, grey (dead) dunes in Agila-Nagliai segment, moving dunes in Parnidis segment, the sand covered layers of old soils, as well as the blown sand plains, coastal dune ridge, specific vegetation and fauna. Important authentic cultural values include the following: ethnographic buildings of fishermen, old villas, cultural layers of old settlements covered by sand, memorial sites. The relief forms resulted from the sea and wind activities.

Without any doubt, the dominating element of relief is represented by a large high-dune ridge, which stretches for about 72 km and is from 250 m up to 1.2 km wide. The average height of this ridge makes 35 m, however, some dunes exceed 60 m in height. In some places the windward side of the ridge is steeply sloping down to the lagoon. The dune valleys divide the ridge into separate dune massifs, and as a rule, in front of these dune valleys the capes are formed. At present over a half of the considered ridge is covered with forests.

Only 2 % of the peninsula is covered with built up areas.
DOMINATING TREES

**Mountain pine**
- See through
- Covered top
- Curvy narrow stem

**Scots pine**
- Creates long and narrow corridors
- Long, translucent conifer
- Moving stem

**Birch groves**
- Widens to top
- Deciduous small leaves
- Bright narrow stem

**Spruce**
- Narrows to top
- Inaccessible stem
- Dense conifer

**Willow**
- Branched out to top
- Long pendulous branches
- Dark stem covered by long branches

**Black alder**
- Exuberant branches
- Round covering with deciduous leaves
- Dark visible stem
**CURONIAN SPIT**

Municipality according to the land-use divided Curonian Spit to protection areas. From the map on the left we can see the nature areas that are strictly protected from any human interventions. The least protected areas are recreational lands.

Conservation areas separates into land use purposes and then conservation type of each. Below you can see the division of land and its protection type.

![Diagram of land use and protection types](image)

Source: General plan of Curonian Spit

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**Road system**
- Main roads
- Secondary roads
- Bike routes

**Restriction meter**
- Strict protection
- Ecosystem conservation
- Areas to preserve
- Regulated protection
- Renovation/recuperation/ transformation
- Recreation

Made by author
The administrative boundaries are overlapping each other. Klaipeda municipality controls part of Curonian Spit settlement Smiltyne. While Neringa municipality is the authority of the rest part of Curonian Spit, national park has its own management plan for the whole Curonian Spit with its settlements.

Curonian Spit settlements are part of the national park which is divided in two spheres of management responsibility as named by the Deputy Director of Natural and Cultural Heritage as the “city zone” and the “forest zone” (Diksaite 2007). These are not the official terms; they determine the areas “city zone” which are managed by the Neringa and Klaipeda Municipalities and the “forest zone” managed by the KN Administration. The “city zone” includes the settlements of Nida, Preila, Prevalka Juodkrante and Smiltyne as well as the public beaches and recreational areas while the “forest zone” includes forested or sandy areas and the coastline including beach and protective dune (Diksaite 2007).
The Law on Territorial Planning describes the participants’ role as well as their competence in planning twice: generally and in more detail – speaking about preparation of plans in separate regulations for the drafting of plans (sometimes introduced by the Government resolution, sometimes – by the Order of the Minister of Environment).

Planning in Lithuania consists of the following elements:
- organization of planning;
- formulation of plans (preparation of plan projects);
- public participation in the preparation of a plan;
- co-ordination of plans;
- control of plan projects;
- approval of plans;
- supervision of the implementation of the approved planning document solutions (monitoring). (COMMIN.org, Country and Planning Systems, LT Planning System in English)

The administrative structure of the KN (Curonian spit National park in Lithuanian side) is divided into two departments which are both headed by deputy directors and maintain the appearance of the park. Additionally, four resorts, directly responsible to the Director are building the first level of the internal governance structure (See Fig. 5). These resorts, Book-keeping and Financing, The KN's Lawyer, Landscape Specialist and the Personal Inspectors carry out specific tasks by the needs of the directorate or the two main departments (Diksaite 2007)

In table 4.2, you can see the role of different stakeholders on the Curonian Spit. Starting from the top, the most important word has UNESCO World Heritage together with the European Union in the international level, coming down to the local people which feel least listened to when it comes to decision making.

Table 4.3. shows different binding documents and regulations on the Curonian Spit. After European Union and Unesco regulatations just keep on increasing and less implemented on the island.
GOVERNANCE

To conclude the governance structure I made this visual diagram about the process for the decision making.

In existing situation if someone has an idea for development first he has to find the owner or he is an owner and then he finds the investors or the institution that money comes from. They go to the architect to explain their needs and wishes in the design. Then the design has to be confirmed by municipality and national park. Most of the times the design gets denied, because national park thinks that it is going to destroy the nature and municipality do not agree on economical development for someone’s needs.

Then the only possibility is to bring money in these institutions in order to get signature for development.
At the moment there are many projects organized together with European Union support. Some of them are already implemented on the Curonian Spit, some are on the process. They all have different aspects to focus on, but there are still opportunities to improve the environment together creating social welfare for local people.

| PROJECTS |

## PROJECTS

### Studies - research
- Sustainable development of fisheries strategy (2010)
- Tourist flows in Kursmariu region (2006)
- Info stands (2007)
- Neringa information services system development (2007)
- Curonian Spit visitor survey (2005)
- Environmental problems analysis (2007)
- Neringa municipality public opinion survey (2007)
- Neringa resortological resource evaluation and utilization of health in the field of a feasibility study (2010)
- Neringa municipality heat Agricultural Development Feasibility Study (2011) [6 versions]

### Implemented projects
- Neringa Municipality coastal recreational area detailed plan
- Neringa municipality strategic development plan for 2014-2020 Preparation
- Heritage Tourism for Increased BSR identity
- Water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure renovation and expansion of Neringa
- Neringa municipality planning system optimization
- Neringa primary health care center infrastructure services modernization
- Non-stationary social services in Neringa municipality installation
- "One -stop " principle implementation in Neringa municipality
- Nida and Preilos old | ethnographic | cemeteries renovation
- The sub-project "Spit and Vega Archipelago - UNESCO World Heritage – conservation through international cooperation ”
- Nida kindergarten Ažuoliukas building modernization
- Public tourism infrastructure development in Neringa
- Juodkrante kindergarten “ Skylark “ building exterior and energy systems reconstruction, improving energy performance and efficiency
- Neringa business, tourism, leisure and cultural services, image building and brand strategy development and delivery
- INTERREG III project of cooperation on both sides of the border in order to support and strengthen the development of yacht tourism
- Development of the area on both sides of the wall construction and modernization of ports - three ports
- Tourist water transport route in the Curonian Lagoon: Klaipeda - Kaliningrad | Rybačij |
- Natural and cultural heritage in the southern part of the Baltic - Challenges and Prospects for Regional Development | Lagomar |
- Neringa tourist information service system development
- Water tourism infrastructure in Russia and Lithuania on the Curonian Lagoon border areas development
- TACIS Project Bike trails on both sides of the wall installation of the Curonian Spit in the old post road
- Neringa municipality territory and the parts of the general plan
- Neringa Municipality short-term strategic | business | plan

### Ongoing projects
- Regional Feasibility Study "West Bank": Enjoy south baltic! (CAB)
- Pervalka street reconstruction
- Transport building, Purvynės g. No. 12 reconstruction
- Lagoon shore region fisher festival
- Lagoon as crossroads for tourism and interactions of peoples of South-East Baltic: from the history to present.
- Nida kindergarten Ažuoliukas building modernization
- Tourism information infrastructure development in Neringa municipality
- Sustainable mobility in Neringa municipality special plan
- Cormorants population reasonable limitation

### Planned projects
- Fisherman’s Festival 2014
- Curonian Lagoon coastal landscape improvement, by cutting the excess beds and installing review turrets
- Neringa fishing communities and organizations representing the interests and performance improvement training and strategic objectives
- Ethnographic Fisherman’s homestead farm buildings’ cultural heritage exhibit fishermen and tourists to take
- Fishing equipment rent point installation for Culture and Tourism Information Center “Agila” developing tourism in Neringa

Source: neringa.lt

Table made by author
SETTLEMENTS
Smiltyne (German: Sandkrug) is a part of Klaipėda city municipality in Lithuania. It is located on the northern tip of the Curonian Spit, next to a narrow strait which connects the Curonian Lagoon to the Baltic Sea. Across the 0.5-kilometre wide (0.31 mi) strait, on the Lithuanian mainland, is the port city of Klaipėda. Ferries transport vehicles and people daily between the two cities across the strait, as there is no connecting bridge. Smiltyne serves as a public beach for Klaipėda residents, as ports take up the coastline around Klaipėda. The village began as a travel point between Memel (present-day Klaipėda) and Königsberg (present-day Kaliningrad). Travelers would stay to rest or wait for better weather to cross the strait. Smiltyne is first mentioned in 1429. An inn and tavern were built in 1525. It largely depends on travelers for revenue, and thus was hurt during the wars of the 19th and 20th century. Until the beginning of the 20th century, the village was just an inn with a handful of fishermen houses, but later turned into a popular resort among wealthy residents of Klaipėda.
Smiltyne. Recreational and urbanized areas
Made by author
SMILTYNE

The most northerly part of the Curonian Spit Smiltynė and Kopgalis. Smiltynės appearance determined by the transit road: Marienburg - Klaipeda. It was the ultimate road-mail land point. Sometimes travelers stayed here for a few days, so in 1616 Smiltynė established a tavern. Since 1836 settlement was accommodated.

From nineteenth century Klaipeda County aims to transform into park. Smiltynė and Kopgalis as summer resorts began to grow in 1900: launched to build villas, Kurhaus built in the central part, omnidirectional path network, recreation and playgrounds, on both sides of the central part - villas blocks.

In twentieth century third decade the establishment of the yacht club, made Smiltyne the settlements of water sports center.

Single street was shaped historically in connection between Smiltyne and Kopgalis. Small pathways crossed spit and led to coastal beaches.

Single houses stand in the plots: villas, summer houses, catering and trading pavilions, kurhaus, summer stage, rest and games playgrounds.

Source: Recommendations for building management, project proposal preparation by Rimas Adomaitis
Several families are living in Alksnyne's steading. Formerly, a gulf of the Curonian Spit was in this place. While canalizing the watercourse for ships to navigate, this gulf was filled up with the ground excavated. In the end of XIX century, while planting the dunes, a dune supervisor's farmstead was constructed, which was given the name of Alksnynas.

This settlement has Alksnyne's control post located, where local toll for entrance of the territory of the National Park of the Curonian Spit is, which is administered by the Municipality of Neringa, is collected.

Approximately 500 m from Alksnyne, on the left side of the road, you will see a monument designed for the soldiers of the Red Army, who lost their lives at the end of January, 1945. 3 km from Alksnyne, on the right side of the road, where the forest is somewhat distant from the road, even now you will see the verduous foundations of buildings. In the house that was formerly here, postal road supervisor was living here since the old times.

It is important point of the Curonian Spit because of the control post. The red line marks the bridge place that government is planning to built. It would be the only built connection to Curonian Spit and Alksnyne might become important settlement.
Recreational areas
Urbanized areas
Living function
Public function
Hotel areas
Commercial areas
Historical protected structure
Historical protected boundaries
Main roads
Attraction points

Alksnyne. Personal observation
Made by author
Juodkrantė (literally: Black Shore, German: Schwarzort [Black Place]) with permanent population of about 720 people is a quiet Lithuanian seaside resort village located on the Curonian Spit. A part of Neringa municipality, Juodkrantė is the second largest settlement on Lithuania’s part of the spit.

Juodkrantė was first mentioned (as Schwarzort) by the Teutonic Knights in 1429 in a letter describing storm damages. It was initially situated along the Baltic Sea shore, about 2.5 km from the present location. In the early 17th century, due to the Black Death, and moving sand dunes threatening to bury the village, it lost almost all of its inhabitants. In the 1680s, the village relocated to its present location along the Curonian Lagoon shore. After 1724, the sources do not mention the village along the Baltic Sea shore any more. The village did quite well in the new location: a tavern was opened in 1673, a school in 1743, and a wooden church in 1795. Until 1740 the village belonged to German: Kreis Memel (Klaipėda County), then from 1740-1795 to Church District German: Kirchspiel Karwaiten (Karvaičiai). It grew in importance after Carwaiten/Karvaičiai/Karwaiten village was swallowed by traveling sand and the seat of the Church District relocated here. The wooden church burned down in 1878 but was soon replaced by a red brick Lutheran church in 1885.

Major developments took place in 1860s. In the late 1850s the lagoon waterway was deepened and now ferries could arrive. It was the easiest way to travel. In the course of the work, samples of amber were found. In 1860 the Stantien & Becker company was founded to dig amber just north of the village. During 30 years of operations, it dug out about 2,250 tonnes of amber. At its peak the company employed about 1,000 workers. The company had a positive effect on the village as it built barracks for its workers, a second school, a luxurious villa Flora, and a dock suited for ferries. The earth dug out was used to reinforce the shore and swampy areas. After the company relocated to Palmnicken (now Yantarny) in 1890, the population of Schwarzort dropped from 851 in 1885 to 423 in 1895.

The tourist business was started in 1860s by Edward Stellmacher, who turned an old tavern house into a hotel named Kurischer Hof (Lithuanian: Kuršių kiemas, now Gintaras). Because of the amber business, a new Juodkrantė was developed north of the old fishermen village. Many villas and hotels were built there. In the beginning of the 20th century there were 5 hotels, 20 villas, and a convalescent home Luisenbad (Lithuanian: Luizės maudykla). The new town was considered a luxury resort and attracted about 3,000 visitors a year. World War II destroyed the tourist business. Neringa was a strictly regulated border region. Only in the early 1960s tourists started to come back. However, Nida became a more popular destination for tourists. This allowed Juodkrantė to retain its old business - fishing. Sometimes it is referred to as the “capital of fishermen” and holds annual fishermen festival in July.
In the eighteenth century in Juodkrante was only one tavern, post station, school and 9 fisher houses. Few villages connected to one settlement and it would be waiting long for better living environment and resort status, but amber excavation industry took place. Juodkrante as resort development was associated with amber company „Stantien&Becker“.  

In XIX century Juodkrante was already one of the biggest settlement on the whole Curonian Spit. More villas and guest houses appear on the north side of the village.  

One of the main accent appeared in 1905 when the recreational complex “Luisenbad” with therapy water and mud baths appeared.  

In urban and architectural structure of Juodkrante you most can see fisher village becoming resort.  

Single street in the settlement separates urban area from water and is built-up along with mixed functions houses: church, school, villas, fisher houses, hotels.
PERVALKA

People lived in Pervalka long time ago - in the neighborhood archaeologists discovered stone, bronze and early iron age products. It is believed that Pervalka village is named after the sand buried Nagliai village, villagers dragged their homes to this place. Other sources claim that the name comes from the word “pervalkas” (“portage”), meaning the area of land between two bodies of water, through which boats were hauled. When seasons changed, Spit fishermen hauled their boats out of the sea coast to the bay, and vice versa.

By the first half of the nineteenth century on the southern shore of the Cape Pervalka there was Karvaičiai - a village, which was later covered by sand.

In the middle of nineteenth century current Pervalka village was founded by villagers of new Nagliai village, whose homes also were claimed by sand. At that time, here were established five homesteads with population of about five hundred, mainly fishermen. In the end of the nineteenth century the new homes also were whet by sand, so settlement was moved for about 1.5 km to the north.

In 1933 Pervalka gained the status of a resort, here were built new houses, old buildings renewed and decorated with wood carvings, fishing port was built, a shop opened.

After World War II, the old Pervalka population almost disappeared, the settlement was almost gone but by late 1960’s a resting place started forming, which has evolved into a wonderful, quiet resort.

There are about twenty guest houses, villas and cottages for rent, rooms in private homes, apartments.
PERVALKA

First houses were built in 1846. Then Pervalka had 5 fisher houses. In 1900 a school and Pervalka lighthouse were built, and 1961 this settlement became part of the city of Neringa.

In 1933 Pervalka gained the status of a resort, here were built new houses, old buildings renewed and decorated with wood carvings, fishing port was built, a shop opened.

1939 - 1942 old houses were rebuilt in bigger and more spacious with tiled roofs. But the biggest changes were made during Soviet era.

Single street shaped double sided fisher village.
Pervalka. Functional zoning
Made by author
This is the third biggest settlement of Neringa town, which is located in the gulf between Preila and the Goat Cape. During 1836 - 1843 Preila was founded by the residents of sandbound Nagliai and Karvaiciai villages. The settlement stands in 39 km distance from Klaipeda, and in 10 km distance from Nida. It has approximately 200 local people permanently residing there. About 1.5 km north of Preila, so-called Karvaiciai Dune is looming. Under the sand of this dune, the settlement of Karvaiciai village is buried.
Preila. Recreational and urbanized areas
Made by author
PREILA

1849 there were 12 fisher houses and a school. Farmsteads settled in groups on the lagoon shore creating small complexes.

After 1933 Preila was nominated as a summer resort. Preila maintained the fisher village impression. During Soviet times urban and architectural structure was destroyed.

Single street lays between forest and lagoon shore. Houses are situated on the lagoon shore, on the other side of the road was cemetery.

Street parallel to lagoon, on one side of the street fishers houses on the other side cemetery.
Fisher village divided into 3-5 farmsteads, in 1933 after nominating Preila resort many houses where moved closer to street.
Other buildings single houses in the site (for example school).

Source: Recommendations for building management, project proposal preparation by Rimas Adomaitis
A lot of parking
Long visual distance
Empty
Sports field used as a parking
Old garages
Illegal buildings
Not accessible waterfront
Sports field used as a parking

Preila. Personal observation
Made by author
This is the biggest settlement and an administrative center of Neringa. Currently, Nida has approximately 1,550 of permanent residents living there; every summer, around 50 thousand visitors spend their holidays here. Nida was mentioned for the first time in the documents of Teutonic Orden in 1385 by the name of "Noyken" and "Noyden". According to historical sources, the old Nida village was situated on the northern coast of Grobistas Cape’s gulf. The second Nida was located 2 km south of the present Nida. In 1730 migrating fishermen founded the third Nida beside Parnidis Gulf. Three former villages - Nida, Skruzdyne and Purvyne – currently comprise the Nida settlement. Nida is located 48 km away from Klaipeda and 4 km away from the border of Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. Previously, mainly fishermen lived here; from the end of XIX century Nida started to be famous as a resort. Currently, this is a great place for rest. The settlement is spread on the seacost for about two kilometers from the south to the north. With its south end it reaches the Parnidis Gulf, and with its northern end it gradually disappears in the sands of the Cape of Bulvikis.
Nida. Historically urbanized settlement
Made by author
When the old Nida was covered under the sand, fisher families moved to the north of Nida, closer to lagoon. 1732 current Nida was accommodated. Settlement consists of three villages: Skruzdyne, Purvyne and Nida.

Nida has linear urban structure: single street going along the lagoon. Other small roads crosses the main access in some points. Mainly fisher houses are attached to this street, other houses, like villas and hotels settled on the Urbo mountain footsteps. This created two zones in Nida: resort or recreational and ethnic.
Camping
Warehouses
Used to be sports field
Overcrowded parking
High rise
Jachts
Living function
Public function
Hotel areas
Commercial areas
Historical protected structure
Historical protected boundaries
Main roads
Attraction points

Garages
Social housing
Empty
Empty
Empty
Empty
Overcrowded
Used to be
Nida. Personal observation
Made by author
CONCLUSIONS

Until 1933 settlements in Curonian Spit had fisher village status. The plots were oblong square shaped reaching from lagoon to the main street. Houses were situated with the sides to water and road this way entrance was on the side to protect it from wind. Houses did not exceed 7.5 meters heigh and had gabled roof. The width was about 6 meters. There were smaller building spread in the site like shed, eiderdown and smokehouse.

In 1933, Curonian Spit was nominated as a resort and buildings in settlements started to change. Many of them were demolished and build bigger with the entrance facing the main road, because at that time it was dedicated for tourists. They took bigger space in plot.

After 1940, Curonian Spit together with Lithuania was occupied by Soviet Union. During Soviet Era many building blocks were built on the landscape. Most of them were hudge complexes for living or companies vacation house. They did not fit in the context, were dominating in the nature and had weird different shape.

Some of the houses now are abandoned, some were reconstructed or rebuilt. Some were well maintained and remained the fisher village regular plot. Most of the changes now are being held on garage complexes that were built during the Soviet Union. In existing demand people intend to built up two more levels on top and this way create resort house instead of old garage.

Due to difficult heritage reconstruction regulations, many development plans take place in new sites, becoming illegal buildings. Governance have overlapping authorities, which makes it difficult to find the ones responsible for new construction plots.
Plots were divided into linear system, from street to water
- Buildings with the back to water and street
- Entrance to the building on the side of the building

- Buildings turn their front to street
- Entrance on the road side

- Free building in the landscape
- Higher buildings
- Big complexes with less nature in between

1933
Curonian Spit became Summer resort

1940
Curonian Spit together with Lithuania occupied by Soviet Union

1933 Curonian Spit
NOMINATING
CURONIAN SPIT AS A RESORT

1940 Curonian Spit
NOMINATING
CURONIAN SPIT AS A RESORT
STRATEGY
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE PROTECTED AREA</th>
<th>INFRASTRUCTURE</th>
<th>HOUSES BUILT UNTIL 1940</th>
<th>1940 - 1991</th>
<th>After 1991</th>
<th>Other buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SMILTYNE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUODKRANTE</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analysis on house age and condition
Made by author
## Analysis on house age and condition

Made by author
## Development Trends

If the development continues in existing situation, there are three possible extreme scenarios: environmental protection takes over any development and it becomes unlivable place dedicated only for nature; another trend that is going on now is territory becoming more and more seasonable, many services shut down during the winter season and private appartments become empty. If the government allow economical development it might become highly built up island and villages with protected houses may become as amusement park with fake habitants.

All of the extreme trends have bad consequences on the locals daily life, but it also have positive aspects.

Taking only positive consequences of extreme possible scenarios, I create my own possible strategic actions in order to reach goals that prevent radical changes in sensitive environment of the curonian spit.

These goals allows to see me which interventions should be made in multiscalar drawings. As we can see we need higher education, new functions for locals and tourists as well as green infrastructure in order to achieve our positive development trends.

Each goal gives a guideline for three models: Governance, technical and spatial. Which later applies to smaller scales.

### EXTREME ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
- **Unlivable Place**
- **Protected Nature**
- **Shabby, Inaccessible Island**
- **Biodiversity**
- **New Research Possibilities**
- **Less Pollution**
- **Keeps Village Type Atmosphere**
- **Number of Locals Decreases**

### ONLY SEASONAL SERVICES
- **Unavailable Services During Off-Season**
- **Job Opportunities for Young People (Students, Schoolchildren)**
- **Summer Tourism Development**
- **Keeps Village Type Atmosphere**
- **Number of Locals Decreases**

### EXTREME ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT
- **Place Becomes Amusement Park**
- **Development Takes Place in Protected Landscape**
- **Privatized Appartments**
- **Higher Career Opportunities**
- **Available Diverse Facilities**
- **Attracting New Inhabitants**
- **Better Connectivity**

### GOALS AND AMBITIONS
- **Protected Nature**
- **Biodiversity**
- **New Research Possibilities**
- **Less Pollution**
- **Higher Career Opportunities**
- **Available Diverse Facilities**
- **Keeps Village Type Atmosphere**
- **Job Opportunities for Young People (Students, Schoolchildren)**
- **Attracting New Inhabitants**
- **Better Connectivity**

### Development Trends

Table made by author
GOALS AND AMBITIONS

HIGHER EDUCATION

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

NEW FUNCTIONS

GOVERNANCE MODEL

TECHNICAL MODEL

SPATIAL MODEL

Development models
Table made by author
At the moment services on the settlement are centralized in Nida and Juodkrante. Next to Curonian Spit is the Third largest city in Lithuanian - Klaipeda with international harbor.

Compared Curonian Spit as a one working urban structure to one of the main cities - Klaipeda it is obvious that few main functions are missing. In the whole Curonian Spit there are no hospital or higher education possibilities.

The government already planned Sea therapy center and fish market in Nida, that would be alternative place to go instead of getting main services in Klaipeda.
### Existing services:

**Nida**
1. Municipality
2. Forestry
3. Police
4. Emergency
5. Rescue station
6. Fire station
7. Post
8. Meteorology center
9. Church
10. Cemetery
11. National park
12. Culture center
13. Secondary school
14. Kindergarten
15. Library
16. Harbor
17. Aerodrome

**Preila**
1. Community center
2. Rescue station
3. Cemetery
4. Library
5. Harbor

**Pervalka**
1. Rescue station
2. Cemetery
3. Harbor
4. Observation
5. Research center

**Juodkrante**
1. Community center
2. Emergency center
3. Rescue station
4. Church
5. Cemetery

**Alksnyne**
1. Control post
2. Observation

**Smiltyne**
1. Museum
2. Rescue station
3. Delphinarium
4. Ferry harbour
5. Cemetery

**Klaipeda**
1. Municipality
2. Police
3. Hospital
4. Fire station
5. Post
6. School (primary, secondary, gymnasium)
7. University
8. College
9. Church
10. Cemetery
11. Library
12. International harbor
13. Train station
14. Bus station
15. Culture center
16. Kindergarten

### Planned services:

**Nida**
- Information center
- Social houses
- Sea therapy center
- Bus parking
- Car service
- Fisher harbor
- Fish market

**Preila**
- Information center
- Cultural center
- Harbor
- Fishing harbor
- Sport square
- Observation

**Pervalka**
- Exposure in air
- Rescue station
- Harbor
- Parking
- Social houses
- Camping
- Children games complex
- Observation
- Summer camp

**Juodkrante**
- Visitors center
- National park
- Fire station
- Harbor
- Fishing harbor
- Cargo harbor
- Petrol station
- Bus station
- Social houses
- Cadet school
- Amber museum
- Event place
- Observation
- Fish market

**Alksnyne**
- Rescue station
- Harbor
- Observation

**Smiltyne**
- Kindergarten
- Parking
- Fire station
If we take the Curonian Spit size and analyze it according to Andrew Right “the basic ingredients of social life”, we can see that Neringa has the size of a city, but ingredients only for local community. In my project I took Curonian Spit as one urban structure and try to find the missing functions for the full functionan social life that city has.

In the next page Curonian Spit is compared to main city next to it - Klaipeda. As we can see main functions as higher education and hospital are missing on the Curonian Spit. We do not have train station as well in Neringa municipality, but only the biggest cities in Lithuania has railway connection. There are some secondary functions planned by municipality in peninsula. These are sea therapy center and fish market, which might be an alternative to other cities in Lithuania.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURONIAN SPIT</th>
<th>KLAIPEDA</th>
<th>MAIN MISSING FUNCTIONS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Municipality</td>
<td>1. Municipality</td>
<td>HOSPITAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Police</td>
<td>2. Police</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Emergency</td>
<td>3. Hospital</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Fire station (Rescue station)</td>
<td>4. Fire station</td>
<td>COLLEGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Post</td>
<td>5. Post</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. School (primary,secondary)</td>
<td>6. School (primary,secondary, gymnasium)</td>
<td>TRAIN STATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. -</td>
<td>7. University</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8. -</td>
<td>8. College</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Church</td>
<td>9. Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Cemetery</td>
<td>10. Cemetery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Library</td>
<td>11. Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Fishing harbor</td>
<td>12. International harbor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. -</td>
<td>13. Train station</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Culture center</td>
<td>15. Culture center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Aerodrome</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Meteorology center(Observation points)</td>
<td></td>
<td>SEA THERAPY CENTER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CURONIAN SPIT AS A CITY?

At the moment services on the settlement are centralized in Nida and Juodkrante. Next to Curonian Spit is the Third largest city in Lithuanian - Klaipeda with international harbor.

One of the main reasons of shrinkage in Curonian Spit is lack of higher education possibilities. If young people leave peninsula for higher career possibilities they find higher job possibilities in big city instead of Curonian Spit.

If we create higher education possibilities in the Curonian Spit we might save some of shrinking population and also attract newcomers. During the summer season most of the students go home to their home towns, others come to seaside for summer jobs. This way we might create full year population. Also private appartments might be rented to students during the study season. Some of the students might create their own small businesses and use it for tourism during summer time.

Curonian Spit comparison studies with cities social life
Made by author
Students contemporary play important role on the Curonian Spit. During summer time most of the students come to work in the Curonian Spit. Because of seasonal tourism it is easier to hire students and accommodate them temporary in small apartments.

Local people use their houses to subrent to tourists during peak season and themselves move to garages or basements this way they manage to earn more money for winter. In this condition local people spend their toughest working hours during summer holidays.

*To search for underground Neringa, one has to employ underground methods. Rise with the sun and creep into cellars. Drive around looking for cellars like paparazzis. Peek through the cracks in windows. Pretend to be a tourist, tenant, customer, or a collector of exotic things. Stand breathlessly behind the door of the cellar and listen to a monotonous recital of a rosary. If you fail to get in, you can walk around and make sound recordings of what’s happening from the outside. Invisible Neringa remains so; its secret life can only be imagined by hearing a conversation through an open window of a cellar. It may be, though, that it is better this way – instead of intruding into the lives of strangers followed by feelings of fear, shame, and distrust, instead try to catch the sounds and reconstruct inner space and its inhabitants according to them.*

Laima Kreivyte “Nida from the Perspective of a Mole, or Underground Anthropology”

1. Students living in yacht
2. View from the basement
3. Students that live in the basement
4. Three students in one pantry
GOVERNANCE PROPOSAL

Looking back to governance structure, there should be a representative person in main authorities. This person should be responsible for organizing workshops inside the settlements to figure out what are the local needs, that he could inform the municipality about the development people need.

The decision making should be given to municipality because they are the ones who represent people and development should be for people. National park are the one who knows the authenticity elements of the Curonian Spit. Clear guidelines for development typology and nature should be given by them in order to prevent any kind of nature lost.

So in this structure, when someone has an idea, first he goes to other people and together with investor and owner figure out the needs, idea and money for development. Using the given guidelines from national park he asks the architect to make a design. What is left now is municipality confirmation, which should not be denied because it is what people need and accepts the national park requirements.
The given guidelines of National park should include authenticity elements like nature, infrastructure, culture and typologies. Settlements now have front side which is mainly the first layer of village and it is the one who remained most of the fisher houses built until 1933. Second layer is where the houses were built after 1940 or reconstructed. After that there are many random hudge complexes from Soviet era.

The new typology of houses should have the primary orientation of fisher village houses - with the green corridors towards the water. The house itself should have gable roof. Might be a bit higher with the basement, but should remain the proportion. This way we still have the existing feeling of fisher village, but will be able to adopt these houses for bigger demand and more useful functions.

New typology proposal
Made by author
Infrastructure in Curonian Spit is in a linear system. One main road from Smiltyne leads to Russian part Kaliningrad. Other secondary roads cross spit to settlements or beach creating cut ends.

There are many bike pathways which could be used as connection during winter but are frozen and not in use. Nevertheless, bike routes are in good condition and intensively used during the summer by tourists.

Because of picturesque landscape many observations points are located along the Curonian Spit. Many more are planned by government to complement growing interest in bird watching.

Many parking plots were placed around settlements during Soviet era. Unfortunately, people now have more cars, and they intend to park next to apartment or villa. This condition leads us to empty parking plots around the settlement and new ones are planned by the government to give a solution for growing amount of cars.

Water transportation is based on sightseeing. There are many boats that gives boat excursion along the Curonian Spit from the lagoon side. Other boat routes go to Minge and a few villages on the other side of lagoon. There is also one boat that takes to main city Kaunas by the river Nemunas. Ferries from Klaipeda to Smiltyne goes every hour but during the winter it stops for a night. That means that during winter accessibility to place is very complicated. Especially during emergencies.

Government already planned a construction of bridge near Alksnyne settlement. This would improve connectivity for local people since they have only ferry connection to main city.

Another boat connection is funded by National park to connect Klaipeda to main settlement Nida. There are many malls and docks that government is planning to restore and create public water transport connection to reduce pollution on Curonian Spit from vehicles.

In my project I create electromobile renting system in order to open bridge and avoid higher pollution. As a charging points I used abandoned parking plots.
If we want to create new functions for tourists we have to know first what is there now and what can we improve in order to optimize territory using during off season.

Programmatic diagram shows touristic activities during the year. As we can see most occupation takes place during the summer and local people complaining just about the lack of tourism during autumn and winter seasons. Knowing that we can focus on certain activities that could be activated more during off season.

Spacialy we can dedicate more observation points for bird watching, implementing wifi points in the place would attract young people into nature and more comfortable bird watching since you can check online information.

More mushroom picking areas could be dedicated for recreational use, integrating information boards and creating forest park with directions to avoid picking wrong mushrooms.

Origin identity was fisher villages of the settlement, but nowadays historical foundation is not obvious in site. I would suggest collaborate local people with other investors and create recreational fishing with renting equipment and cooking fish in place. In order to maintain primary activities and go hand in hand with modern times.

Winter activities could be used replace biking activities, maybe bike routes could be transformed into skating routes during winter.

Nordic walking is another new trend in Lithuania, unfortunately nowadays it is organised only once in September.

Programmatic schedule is applied spatially to optimize tourism during the whole year.
EDUCATION NETWORK IN CURONIAN SPIT

Nida
1. Kindergarten
2. Secondary school
3. Art school
4. Sports school
5. Art colony

Preila Pervalka Juodkrante
1. Kindergarden
2. Primary school
3. Institute of Agriculture research point

Alksnyne
1. Kindergarden
2. School (primary, secondary, gymnasium)
3. Vocational school
4. College
5. University

Klaipeda

Missing network link
Made by author

UNIVERSITY
SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY SCHOOL
KINDERGARDEN

... KLAIPEDA
NIDA
NIDA, JUODKRANTE

PREILA
PERVALKA
SMILTYNE
ALKSNYNE
NETOWRKS

Following drawings show analysis of different networks on the Curonian Spit: education, hospitality, health, administrative and leisure activities in the Curonian Spit.

Hospitality network shows how many accommodation objects are on Curonian Spit and their concentration in Nida. Analysis also include Klaipeda city as a comparison.

Social networks on Curonian Spit
Made by author
IDENTITIES

Mainly all services are concentrated in Nida or Juodkrante, making other settlements secondary attraction points.
I defined the authenticity of Curonian Spit formerly, but if we look in identities of each settlement some has centralized services, others have just hotels and accommodations. With my projects I want to create different identity to each settlements using existing tools that government already planned to implement and suggest new ones, like recreational fishing, new docks for public water transport and electromobile system and new bridge, as well as new wifi points.

Toolbox should be applied in existing settlement on the places that intent to change in near future without creating new developed areas, I use existing buildings to generate better environment for local inhabitants and stabilize population.

Possible combinations with toolbox
Made by author
In order to solve defined problems I decided to give each settlement its own identity of services.

Shrinking population is the major problem that consequence the others. To solve this problem we analysed that there is no higher education possibilities. I am suggesting with my project to reconstruct two multistorey buildings in Pervalka. It would be short time intervention, because it is only one project needed.

Concerning the lost of primary identity I suggest to use empty parking plots for fish market. The best place would be Preila and Alksnyne. Preila is the settlement that kept most of fishers houses, so it still has the village image and fish market would add higher value to it.

Neringa is missing many specialized doctors. Municipality already has plans to use empty building near the sea in Nida and reconstruct it to sea therapy center. With new facilities of health there should be more specialized doctors and job throughout the year.

If we want to implement new governance model, we have to create places were workshops with local people will be held. The best place is to use garage complexes in Juodkrante.

One of the longest term intervention would be changing the infrastructure system. Starting from implementing shared car system using empty parking plots for charging electromobile cars. Furthermore, creating water public transport on the lagoon side.

There should be also short term developments for cultural activities for young people. There is Maritime museum in Smiltynė already and giving it cultural identity by creating more cultural activities would be logical in this point next to big city Klaipeda.

Depending on short or long term intervention and the need of services in social facilities I created phasing using vacancies on the peninsula. I defined authorities involved in the development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problems</th>
<th>Strategic goals</th>
<th>Strategic actions</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Settlement</th>
<th>Long term</th>
<th>Short term</th>
<th>Authorities involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shrinking population</td>
<td>Spread services, create new identities:</td>
<td>Create possibilities for higher education</td>
<td>Multistorey building reconstruction</td>
<td>Pervalka</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government, private investors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Stabilize economy throughout the year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost authentic function of the settlements</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Bring back to settlements former identity as fishing villages</td>
<td>Use existing empty parking plots for fishing</td>
<td>Preila</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government, national park, local people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>market, recreational fishing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of specialized doctors</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Improve health facilities</td>
<td>Build planned rehabilitation center</td>
<td>Nida</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Private investors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlapping governance</td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>People involvement in governance</td>
<td>Social communities, workshops for development</td>
<td>Juodkrante</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government, local people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard accessibility to peninsula, between settlements</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Improve infrastructure system</td>
<td>Alternative infrastructure, more options:</td>
<td>Alksnyne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government, national park, private investors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>bike, water public transport, electromobile system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of youth occupation during winter</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>Improve cultural facilities</td>
<td>Ecological tourism, create more occupation</td>
<td>Smiltynė</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government, national park, private investors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>for young people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHASING
PHASING

In order to reach my goals, strategic interventions should be taken to create phasing. For that reason I took existing empty buildings and parking plots to start developing strategy.

PHASE I
First and the most important point is to bring more people during off season. As we learn from previous analysis - lack of higher education possibilities is one of the missing function on Curonian Spit. To place higher education facilities I use two empty multi storey buildings in Pervalka. Making the settlement as education identity. Students would be able to occupy empty rooms that are normally rented for summer tourists. Students also are known as green bike users. Despite these advantages students could activate tourism services during the winter time.

If we have more common population, we can think about infrastructure upgrade. In this phase bridge should be implemented and to avoid vehicle increase in Curonian Spit we can establish electromobile system using existing empty parking plots.

PHASE II
In this phase we can implement planned fish market. The best place is to use Preila, since it lost less houses for reconstruction and maintained the urban structure of fisher village. We can use empty parking plot to create fishing market and fishing dock should be implemented as well at this stage. Another fishing market could be created in Alksnyne as an infrastructure hub it would offer fresh fish for Klaipeda citizens.

Since the activation of water facilities we can suggest water public transportation, for that we can renovate old docks and use it for water public transport. Water infrastructure should start at the infrastructure hub - Alksnyne and connect all the settlements.

PHASE III
Since Nida is now centralized in health facilities I suggest to implement project for sea therapy center and improve health facilities in this settlement. This would give the identity of health center on Curonian Spit. Therapy center would be another attraction for tourists during the winter time.

The last empty places should be converted to community houses and social housing. This would give Juodkrante administrational identity because of its location workshops could be organized in this settlement and social housing should take place in the second biggest settlement.

Smiltyne, because of its location would gain cultural identity. There is already sea museum and delphiunarium, empty house should be converted to cinema or theatre for local people and attract people from Klaipeda.

In the end all empty places should be renewed to new functions and facilities. Infrastructure upgraded by less pollution and better accessibility. One of the main starting point would be settlement Pervalka, which has most empty houses and only 20 inhabitants.

Another important strategic point would be Alksnyne as main exchange hub and infrastructure service.
PHASE I

In the first phase, we use existing empty multistorey houses in Pervalka to give higher education possibilities and improve infrastructure systems by eco car traffic services in order to avoid an increase of pollution when we bring more people.

**PHASE I**

- NIDA
  - 1 empty parking plot
  - 1 charging/parking electromobile
  - 1 old garages complex
  - 1 dormitory

- PREILA
  - 1 empty parking plot
  - 1 charging/parking electromobile
  - 1 old garages complex

- JUODKRANTE
  - 1 charging/parking electromobile
  - 1 old garages complex
  - 1 higher education department

- ALKSNYNE
  - 1 charging/parking electromobile
  - 1 old garages complex
  - 1 electromobile service

- SMILTYNE
  - 1 empty house
  - 1 parking plot

Made by author
Klaipėda University was formally founded on January 1, 1991 by a decree of Seimas (Lithuanian Parliament). The new university incorporated existing institutions of higher education in the city. At its inception, it comprised 3,000 students and three faculties (Humanities and natural sciences, Marine Engineering, and Pedagogy). It has since grown to seven faculties and eight institutes: faculties of Natural Science and Mathematics, Humanities, Marine Engineering, Art, Pedagogy, Social Sciences, and Health Sciences; Maritime Institute, Seascape Institute, Institute of Continuing Studies, Coastal Research and Planning Institute, Institute of Baltic Sea Region History and Archaeology, Institute of Regional Policy and Planning, Mechatronics Institute, and Musicology Institute. Having 9,700 students and 600 persons in educational staff (in 2006), the University offers 67 undergraduate (bachelor degree), 4 specialized professional, 48 graduate (master’s degree), and 3 postgraduate (doctoral) study programs.

To implement higher education in Curonian Spit I found some statistics of one of the biggest universities in Lithuania which is situated in Klaipėda. At the moment they have development projects for dormitory relocation. There are many specialties related to nature and mathematics. We can use these facts to suggest this university expansion in Curonian Spit, inviting students that can learn from surrounding nature.

Department of Social Geography of Klaipeda University already is implementing the project CROSSROADS 2.0: “Lagoons as crossroads for tourism and interactions of peoples of South-East Baltic: from the history to present”. Project partners are Neringa Municipality. From this we can make statements that Neringa municipality and Klaipeda university already is cooperating. Bringing students to Pervalka would improve this relationship and stabilize the population throughout the year. This way not only children from Curonian Spit has possibilities for higher education, but university also attracts new students from the mainland Lithuania.

**Bachelors degree**

**Nature and mathematics (GMMF):**
- Biology
- Ecology and environment management
- Geomatics
- Hydrology and oceanography
- Computer science
- Mathematics

**Health science (SMF):**
- Biomedical engineering
- Ergotherapy
- Physiotherapy
- Radiology
- Recreation and tourism
- Nursing
- Social work in the community
- Public health

**Masters degree**

**Nature and mathematics (GMMF):**
- Ecology and environment management
- Geomatics
- Ichthiology and fishery
- Computer systems
- Shipping hydrology
- Statistics and operational research

**Health science (SMF):**
- Recreation and tourism
- Nursing
- Social work in the community
- Health care management
- Public health

Statistics of Klaipėda University
ELECTROMOBILE SYSTEM

National park denies any infrastructure development plans because they bring more vehicles to peninsula. This might create big problem of pollution. If we want to create better transport facilities and prevent higher pollution we can suggest car sharing system with electromobiles. Car sharing system is already working in Lithuania’s main cities. The product is called “City Bee”. It gives possibility to rent a car for an hour or more and travel between renting points. Implementing system in Curonian Spit would give possibilities to travel more easy between Curonian Spit settlements and Klaipeda city. This way government would save money for public transport and local people would have more convinient transportation.

Tourists would be required to leave their vehicles in the mainland Lithuania, reload baggages to Eco car and bring it till the next renting point in Neringa.

ECO CAR TRAFFIC

Eco car traffic system
Made by author
PHASE II

Looking forward to development in second phase, we bring back fishery to settlements by creating fish market in existing empty parking plots. More possibilities for water transportation should be given by renovating existing docks.
WATER PUBLIC TRANSPORT

HOVERCRAFT

BOAT TRAFFIC

Made by author
NEW INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

The new infrastructure system creates circle system: tourists can come by car, bus or bike and come back by boat, or the other way around. For the tenants in the peninsula there are more options depending on the time and money they want to spend for trip to another settlement or Klaipėda. This way people move more easily between settlements depending on their needs and leisure activities. Students also can choose their living place according to their income or preference.

Municipality already has plans to make bridge near Alksnynė. This way it could become infrastructure hub for exchange. Although if the system would be implemented first we can consider building bridge again.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car traffic</td>
<td>4 € per hour</td>
<td>90 km/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>0 / 2 € per hour</td>
<td>15 km/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat</td>
<td>1 € per ticket</td>
<td>50 km/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,7 € per ticket</td>
<td>60 km/h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Made by author
PHASE III

In the last face we use empty garages to make places for local people workshops, community houses etc. Sea therapy center in Nida should be implemented at this stage because we will attract more tourists during winter time and we have better infrastructure to facilitate them.
NEW IDENTITIES

NIDA  PREILA  PERVALKA  JUODKRANTE  ALKSNYNE  SMILTYNE

BRIDGE  WIFI  ELECTROMOBILE  DOCK  PROHIBITED  TRAFFIC  FISHING

HEALTH  FISHING  EDUCATION  ADMINISTRATION  INFRASTRUCTURE  CULTURE

New identities
Made by author
SPREAD SERVICES

Existing situation

Centralized services

Strategy proposal

Spread services - better connections between settlements
IMPLEMENTATION
EXPLANATION OF CHOICE

At the moment Pervalka is one of the emptiest settlement during the winter time. It has capacities to accommodate 1500 tourists during the summer time, but there are only 20 people living in winter.

We use two vacancy multistorey houses to reconstruct it to higher education facilities and dormitories for students. We use the empty green plot in front of these buildings to implement guidelines given from National park. We also create green corridor from parking plot to water and create community houses in the middle.

Bringing university to Pervalka would give stable population throughout year and educate people that are concerned about the surrounding environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement</th>
<th>Resident population</th>
<th>Summer accommodation</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smiltyne</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alksnyne</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juodkrante</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pervalka</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preila</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nida</td>
<td>1650</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>3.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Made by author

Stable population of ~ 1000 people
A joint stock company “Baltic ship building”
Building A ~2000 sq m
Building B ~1200 sq m
Green area ~ 5000 sq m
BUILDINGS RECONSTRUCTION

We use existing empty multistorey houses for reconstruction. Also empty parking plot behind and the green space in front of the building. Two houses will be changed in near future because of their bad condition. We use them to visualize further change and new functions. Connecting Pervalka with water public transport we use existing dock for stop.

Red buildings are the ones I suggest to demolish and rebuilt and yellow color shows renovation.
GREEN CORRIDORS

New typology applied to reconstruction creates green corridors to water. Authenticity elements create the feeling of fisher village.
FUNCTIONAL ZONING OF PROPOSAL

New design has small houses with the type of fisher house. Each house facilitates different function dedicated for higher education building next to it. Functions consists of: canteen, conference house, workshop house, digital center, explore house. These houses are located in the crossing of entrance and main street of Pervalka. These buildings might be used by local people as well in order to educated locals and include students in daily life. Student housing are also located in small houses behind the multistorey block, this way we give more silent place for students to live and study.

From parking plot to water we open new pedestrian route and this way create green corridor were people exchange. On this way we reconstruct old wooden houses to make them community houses were workshops with representative person can be organized. Along the coast line we introduce many entertainment things like floating amphitheater, walking bubbles and floating cafe.

These new functions show new corridors that bring people to walking and social interaction. The area looks much more sustainable preventing place from major constructions and development that brings more pollution.

“Preservation rules ought to be simpler and more flexible and yet also more widely applied. In now concentrating our historical anxieties on a few sacred place, where new construction is taboo, we encounter multiple dilemmas: everyday activities progressively decamp, leaving behind a graveyard of artifacts: tourist volume swells, making it impossible to maintain the site “the way it was”; what is saved is so self-contained in time as to be only peculiar or quaint. A sense of a stream of time is more valuable and more poignant and engaging than a formal knowledge of remote periods. New things must be created, and others allowed to be forgotten.” (Kevin Lynch “What time is this place?”)

Program:
1. Multistorey buildings
2. Green cars parking
3. Main road becomes shared space
   Kiss and ride = unpack and ride
4. Water public transport
5. Public buildings in the center
FUNCTIONAL ZONING OF PROPOSAL

- Electromobile parking
- Green corridor to water
- Main higher education building
- Student housing
- Conference house
- Workshop house
- Common house
- Canteen
- Digital center
- Explore house
- Main entrance square
- Pedestrian pathway
- Floating amphitheater
- Walking water bubbles
- Community house
- Water public transport stop
- Floating cafe
- Conference house
- Workshop house
- Common house
- Canteen
- Digital center
- Explore house
- Main entrance square
- Pedestrian pathway
- Floating amphitheater
- Walking water bubbles
- Community house
- Water public transport stop
- Floating cafe
PERVALKA CENTER MASTER PLAN
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All the pictures in the booklet are impressions of the Curonian Spit nature and settlements.

APPENDIXES
The role of preserved areas nowadays

The role of government in the maintenance of preserved areas

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January, 2014

Abstract - In this paper, I will analyze the existing urban management of development in preserved areas. See how laws and regulations contribute and conflict in between governmental institutions and how it affects the local residents in such places. According to professor J.Bucaș “Current motto of the cultural heritage is: preserve how it is until it gets rotten”. Cities in shrinking countries which have places that been preserved are especially in danger of becoming vacant. I will review the history of preservation, ways to adopt a general policies which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programs (UNESCO convention, 1972). Therefore, in order to find the examples where the real aim of preservation was adopted within the urban structure: continuous changes in functional use, social structure, political context and economic development that manifest themselves in the form of structural interventions in the inherited historic urban landscape may be acknowledged as part of the city's tradition, and require a vision on the city as a whole with forward-looking action on the part of decision makers, and a dialogue with the other actors and stakeholders involved (Vienna memorandum, 2005).

To show importance of growing heritage I will look to nowadays opinions on preservation to find the counsel for governmental institutions that could advance the decision process, which would improve the development and management of urban settlements in the areas that have preservation regulations. The conclusions will give recommendations for the spatial planning how to deal with the preservation in order to advance welfare of residents in these worldwide important places where their role is necessary.

Key words – preservation; conservation; UNESCO; urban management

1 Introduction

Most cities are in state of continuous reinvention and redevelopment. New projects often result in the alteration or removal of existing buildings, bridges, or other human creations that make up the urban fabric (Bayer, Frank and Valerius, 2010). Preservation is not only keeping buildings the way they are, it is also protecting the areas that tells us stories about our past. This way management of the land gets certain conditions. With this essay, I will try to find out what are these conditions. Examine the conception of preservation and conservation in unique areas. The aim of this paper is to build the knowledge that we need to take into account if we make development plans in these areas as urban planners. Specifically it consists of analysis about UNESCO preservation and what is the future of the places that are under UNESCO status. I will look through the history of The United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture creation due to find out changes of their reasons of creating organization and also goals for future plans. I will use their documents and criteria for study cases.

2 Definition preservation

Main words used in world heritage documents are conservation and preservation, although there are different scales and types of the things we want to save and this makes conservation difficult to define. So what is exactly conservation or preservation in urbanism world?

Historic preservation is a term used only in the United States and it did not gain prominence until the 1960s when it started in response to urban renewal (an earlier failed planning movement). Other English-speaking countries often use the term "heritage conservation" to refer to the same process while "architectural conservation" refers just to the preservation of buildings. Other terms include "urban conservation," "landscape preservation," "built environment/heritage conservation," and "immovable object conservation." (Briney A.) The Australia Burra Charter defines conservation as all the processes of looking after place so as to retain its culture significance. It includes maintenance and may, according to circumstances, include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaption. Therefore, we can see that preservation is
part of conservation form. Defined by the same change - preservation is maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retardation deteriorating. We learn from these definitions that depending from its resources places can be preserved or conserved.

Although, The World Heritage Convention does not specifically define conservation. In the document number of references made to “identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmittance for future generations of the cultural and natural heritage” (UNESCO 1972). Additionally, The Nara Document on Authenticity defines conservation, specifically with reference to the cultural heritage, as: all efforts designed to understand cultural heritage, know its history and meaning, ensure its material safeguard and, as required, its presentation, restoration and enhancement (World heritage committee, 1996).

Later in 2008 ICOM-CC document remarks conservation being all measures and actions aimed at safeguarding tangible cultural heritage while ensuring its accessibility to present and future generations. Conservation embraces preventive conservation, remedial conservation and restoration. All measures and actions should respect the significance and the cultural heritage item.

As we can see, conservation is not something easily defined but a process changing conception. What we learn from definition analyses - conservation is the way of activity on areas that have unique, mostly historical value that needs to be presented to future generations. Robin Maguire has identified four values of conservation:

a) The academic or archaeological value of an object as a historic document
b) Its aesthetic value
c) The value of continuity and identity, which is affected by the rate of environmental change.
d) Ecological values, embodied in the broader concept of conservation and of the wise use of resources. Planning management priorities depends on these values and it is important to evaluate the history of the area before relating stakeholders in conservation plans. Much of the vocabulary used in conservation is at least partly clarified by government legislation and circulars.

Alan Dobby defined gradations of meaning of some of the central terms used in conservation, according to the implied amount of change. But what is the history of preservation documents that we need to know before we start analyzing the site?

3 History of preservation

In the previous chapter, we learnt that preservation planning is about recognizing the history. The history of organizations working on preservation started in 17th century. That time English people collected historic artifacts, leading to their preservation. This brought to historic preservation law in England in 1913. (Briney A.)

UNESCO and its mandate for international co-operation started in League of Nations resolution on 21 September 1921. The International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation was officially created on 4 January 1922, as a consultative organ composed of individuals elected based on their personal qualifications. The International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation was then created in Paris on 9 August 1925, to act as the executing agency for the Intellectual Co-operation. On 18 December 1925, the International Bureau of Education began work as a non-governmental organization in the service of international educational development. However, the work of these predecessor organizations was largely interrupted by the onset of World War II. After the signing of the Atlantic Charter and the Declaration of the United Nations, the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education began meetings in London, which continued between 16 November 1942 to 5 December 1945. (UNESCO, 1987)

Early activities of organization also include projects like relocation of important monument all around the world. Conservation areas were first introduced by the Civic Amenities Act in 1967.

Unesco recommendations on safeguarding the beauty and character of landscapes and sites, which includes both natural and cultural landscapes, was accepted in 1962, with no further policy consequences. The organization’s work on heritage led to the adoption, in 1972, of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The World Heritage Committee was established in 1976 and the first sites inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1978. For twenty years since the 1972 Unesco World Heritage convention, the world heritage list focused merely on cultural artifacts, the concept of cultural landscape being too vaguely defined to have any further practical implications. The 1992 Santa Fe Conference, however, explicitly broadened article 24 of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in such a way as to enable cultural landscapes to be added to the World Heritage list. Although cultural landscapes were initially not considered for nomination under the convention, a review in 1992 at last led to their acceptance as a Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value (cf von Droste et al.,1995) Those considered and designed so far are essentially “...a product of the evolution of human society and settlement...”; it is landscapes which are of archaeological and/or historical importance because of the religious, artistic and other cultural associations they feature. (Klijn, J.A., Vos, W.,2000)

The Vienna Memorandum itself focuses on the impact of contemporary development on the overall urban landscape of heritage significance, whereby the notion of historic urban landscapes goes beyond traditional terms of “historic centers”, “ensembles” or “surroundings”, often used in charters and protection laws, to include the broader territorial and landscape context. (Vienna Memorandum, 2005)

As we learn from historical analysis, the amount of buildings and their territories that we preserve is growing. From preservation of monuments in 1882 with the Ancient monuments Protection Act to Outstanding universal value adding to convention of 1992 in order to preserve cultural landscape.

4. Management of heritage sites

Conservation implies keeping in safety or preserving the existing state of a heritage resource from destruction or change, i.e. the action taken to prevent decay and to prolong life (Feilden, 1982: 3) UNESCO has selection criteria for territories of outstanding universal values. Until the end of 2004, World Heritage sites were selected on the basis of six cultural and four natural criteria. With the adoption of the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, only one set of ten criteria exists. These criteria help to determine the main preference for the management of planning process. Operational guidelines for implementation of the World Heritage Convention is the main working tool with the world Heritage.

The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization meeting in Paris from 17 October to 21 November 1972, convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stated that purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as cultural heritage:

monuments : architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;

sites : works of man or the combined works of nature and of man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.

The heritage is constantly changing, especially the landscape which is influenced by natural impacts. Archeological recourses are not renewable. UNESCO is now giving a whole field of intangible heritage including the character or “feel" of a place, its aura, as well as customs, traditions,
thought through on a transparent level. Today, areas are declared as so without having actually been 'preserved', continuing to cordon off greater areas organizations in order to develop further the site. New economical development to the site. When governmental institutions work on keeping heritage the way it is, new development plans are being introduced to the place because of its status. Criticism of conservation comes from all directions, often in extreme form and in the most unlikely combinations. (Appleyard, D., 1979)

One of the famous attack against the UNESCO was Rem Koolhaas exhibition in Venice Biennale 2010. His exhibit illustrates the present year as the perfect friction point between two directions: the world's ambition to rescue larger and larger territories of the planet, and the global rage to eliminate the evidence of the post-war period of architecture as a social project. Both tendencies—preservation and destruction—are seen to slowly destroy any sense of a linear evolution of time. That year, AMO (OMA's research studio) introduced Convention concerning the demolition of world cultural junk (Figure 3). This was a first strong statement about awareness of growing scale of heritage.

Despite these criticisms however, historic preservation has been an important part of urban planning. As such, many cities around the world today were able to retain their historic buildings so future generations can see what cities may have looked like in the past and recognize that time's culture through its architecture. Lynch (1972:35-6) outlined a series of questions encapsulating various debates about the purpose and practice of conservation:

"Are we looking for evidence of climatic moments or for any manifestation of tradition we can find, or are we judging and evaluating the past, choosing the more significant over the less, retaining what we think of as best? Should things be saved because they were associated with important person or events? Because they are unique or nearly so or quite the contrary, because they were most typical of their time? Because of their special usefulness as sources of intellectual information about the past? ...Or should we simply (as we often do) let chance select for us and preserve for a second century everything that has happened to survive the first?"

Exposition in Venice Biennale also includes quote from 2006, with zelche zollverein's kolenswache, we nearly achieved the utopian ambition of doing "nothing" to strip away, no sublimity, no ruin, just nothing... we were very proud. Although Vienna Memorandum states that the principles and aims of future urban conservation - really, landscape calls for mutual understanding between policy makers, urban planners, city developers, architects, conservationists, property owners, investors and concerned citizens, working together to preserve the urban heritage while considering the modernization and development of society in a culturally, environmentally, socially, economically, and aesthetically balanced manner, strengthening identity and social cohesion. (Vienna Memorandum, 2005)

As we can see documents on preservation have certain principles for future development, but it need careful review of the documents and knowledge about history. Modern technologies now allow better accessibility to information. There are special programs like www.preservapedia.org which focuses on technical material related to cultural resource management and its allied fields. Their goal is to create a community reservation professionals to share their knowledge and expertise with the world

6 Conclusions

There are many debates nowadays about heritage sites and landscape. Many buildings, streets and other urban dimensions are unsustainable for contemporary use. "The cost of adapting them would be greater than demolishing them and replacing them by new buildings.\n
"The role of preserved areas nowadays Egle Varapeckyte\n
The role of preserved areas nowadays Egle Varapeckyte
Instead of conserving heritage and leaving it behind we should make use of potential economy by using historical sites as the presentation and educational tool in order to maintain its value and authenticity.

"Preservation is a highly artificial term," Rem Koolhaas explained. "History happens and leaves its traces . . . I have to say, I prefer history without preservation." (Rem Koolhaas, 2010)

7 Recommendations

Urban planners making decisions on heritage sites should evaluate the authenticity of the area. Analyze the history of site and estimate what is that makes it valuable. Taking into account the knowledge that we want to use for future generations, create new identities that combine history preservation and new technologies that we use to educate and inform. New interventions should emphasize heritage and be implemented in order to let people experience history better. We should not forget that people created cultural landscape, buildings and sites. Humans are part of this heritage and they should maintain the places of history instead of leaving it to nature. Vienna memorandum states continuous changes in functional use, social structure, political context and economic development. That manifest themselves in the form of structural interventions in the inherited historic urban landscape may be acknowledged as part of the city's tradition, and require a vision on the city as a whole with forward-looking action on the part of decision makers, and a dialogue with the other actors and stakeholders involved. We as planners should be able to adopt historical site to our daily use.

To preserve the capacity for change, environments must be capable for evolution - able to...welcome the future and accommodate the present without serving the thread of continuity with the past. (Burtenshaw et al 1991: 159)

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GRADUATION ORIENTATION

AR3U040 Graduation Orientation
Egle Varapeckyte 4241932
Msc Complex cities studio

Abstract of your research in 300 words:

Curonian Spit - a place to live!

Curonian Spit is a peninsula which is shared together with Lithuania and Russia (Kaliningrad). Since it is only accessible by water transport on Lithuanian side, it becomes hardly reachable island for Lithuanians. The place also has UNESCO status under criteria V.

After independence major constructions were banned in Curonian Spit national park. Since this place is one of the main resort destinations and brings a lot of income during the summer time the land value really rose up and people are competing for the few Soviet Union houses that are left and can be reconstructed. Consequently people who actually grew up in the area or work in the site can not afford housing anymore.

The location is the world heritage site with the outstanding universal value. UNESCO nominated the place for its unique landscape made by nature together with human. Thesis raises the questions such as: what is the future of preservation? How do we, as urbanists implement regulations given?

The project aim is to combine legal systems with human needs on the preserved site creating sustainable development plan that would create new cultural identity to the place.

My vision is to create new ecological environment, giving unique sustainable identity to the site. The main condition by testing planning models on urban design create environment where people act as part of a nature system.

Using theoretical and analytical framework strategic plan is created for the Curonian Spit. Observation and people survey represents people needs. Combined governance and physical conditions strategic model for spatial planning is created. Furthermore, strategic points defined to test this strategy on the local scale.

I expect to develop new strategic model for the Curonian Spit. Design urban space to test this strategy. In this way create the green, developing place I would like to live in.

My research should force people to look at the rural places as highest potential areas. In new technology world we do not need to be concentrated with the functions around us. Also try to find new ways to integrate protected areas and preserved buildings to daily use instead of just keeping them as a monuments or reserves.

Keywords: regional planning, UNESCO preservation, sustainable development, strategic planning, urban design.

Link to research of the department:

My graduation research belongs to urbanism department theme - regional governance, planning and design. The aim of the research is to look at preserved areas, their governance on the national and international level. Compare how they reflect on the local scale and how local authorities implement regulations on the decision making level. The research theme raises questions such as what is the future of preservation and how people implement regulations on the design?

Research focuses on political positions of stakeholders, such as national park and municipality in the Curonian Spit amongst other policies of European Union and UNESCO. New international actors give their own policies and regulations making spatial changes. Governance arrangement seems to be working well preventing unique preserved cultural landscape from being built up, but on the other hand area becomes rural and faces the problem of population shrinkage. In this context we have environment protection which causes economical decline.

The theme is directly connected to studio Complex cities and regions in transformation which stands under Spatial planning and strategy chair. My theme also looks at the strategic governance arrangement with integrated policy making, suggesting tools and methods for regional design on the cultural landscape. This way research should come up with strategic governmental solutions in planning process which could complement local people, create more stable economical development and better physical conditions on the design scale.
INTRODUCTION

In this section I will reflect on my Master thesis. The relationship between the research and design, as well as my subject in wider relevance.

Before I started my project I had in mind the location I wanted to work on. Coming with the bachelor's degree in Architecture I wanted to focus on the small settlements on the peninsula in Lithuania part. My main interest as an urbanist was urban design. Afterward, in the beginning of the graduation year I found myself more and more interested in the theme of preservation. I analyzed from what people know as preserved houses to preservation of cultural landscape. The research continued on academic relevance of preservation meaning worldwide.

The project is the different way to show another view to seasonal resort area. Most of the times, national park management is decided by the government or park direction. In this case municipality is representative of people, who live within the national park boundaries and any development is contradiction to landscape preservation tasks. On the other hand, local people income is based on tourism, which is dominant activity inside the settlements. My approach is to treat peninsula as an one urban structure with difficult condition (preservation rules). Focusing on basic local needs, taking tourism as an advantage and using local preservation values to develop areas that are attempt to change in a near future. Giving guidelines with the toolbox I created new identities on existing settlements supplementing local people needs.

One of the main difficulties was to arrange the system between all these different models: infrastructure, governance and spatial in different scales, together applying authenticity elements. In the end I feel like strategic points taken complements local people needs and I am glad that I went the hard way and found these points by doing analyses. On the other hand solving one problem creates another one. Creating better conditions for stable population can increase the number of tourists radically. That can cause the damage to the nature. Which is the main concern at the moment for national park direction. Moreover, UNESCO nomination is dedicated to the places which informs and tells the history to people. In order to know the history we have to use and maintain the houses and landscape, in this case the population and people who created this unique landscape. In order to know the history we have to use and maintain the houses and landscape, in this case the population and people who created this unique landscape. In order to know the history we have to use and maintain the houses and landscape, in this case the population and people who created this unique landscape. In order to know the history we have to use and maintain the houses and landscape, in this case the population and people who created this unique landscape. In order to know the history we have to use and maintain the houses and landscape, in this case the population and people who created this unique landscape. In order to know the history we have to use and maintain the houses and landscape, in this case the population and people who created this unique landscape.

THE REALTIONSHIP BETWEEN THE THEME OF THE STUDIO AND THE SUBJECT

The theme is directly connected to studio Complex cities and regions in transformation which stands under Spatial planning and strategy chair. Because of its complexity in governance, preservation condition, networks and urban structure in the settlements it requires multiscalar approach. This approach applied in order to study valuable elements in the case location to determine authenticity in place. As a result, it helps to manage the area creating development strategy for the development together keeping the preserved value.

THE REALTIONSHIP BETWEEN THE METHODICAL LINE OF APPROACH AND THE METHOD CHOSEN BY STUDENT

As mentioned previously the research dictated multiscalar approach in different layers. If the urbanized area would be in one place instead of spread along the lagoon with preserved cultural landscape in between there probably would be less scales. In addition, the peninsula is hard to reach which needs another examination of networks. This way we have scales that include: context (together with main city Klaipėda), region (the peninsula with all six settlements) and local (village scale). Different models of: governance, networks and spatial. And strategic points taken by steps which appears in urban design inside the village.

THE REALTIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROJECT AND WIDER SOCIAL CONTEXT

My project tackles one of the main problems of urbanism and architecture - preservation and conservation. There are many institutions like UNESCO which gives the rules of keeping remained elements of history but it does not have clear guidance of developing and implementing them for nowadays needs and interests, loosing opportunities of combining history with economical development. If preservation means remain it - is still changing with time and ignorance to this problem is what makes changes in a wrong way and creates conflicts in governance. With my project I am trying to find additional ways to preservation management via spatial and functional arrangement.
Curonian Spit - a place to live
Sustainable development proposal for the Curonian Spit, Lithuania

Egle Varapeckyte
Master thesis plan