Introduction

The project proposes to develop a revolutionary green infrastructure in the city of Riga, which would supply the residents with local handy-use recreational spaces and simultaneously provide access to large seaside, woodland and lake landscapes outside the city. The city centre waterfront which combines the benefits of the ‘green’ and the ‘blue’ landscapes is designed as a key development area.

Problems encountered

The city of Riga has abundant green and water resources, including several beaches, rivers, canals and wetlands. However, the existing infrastructure and urban form do not allow for their efficient use and enjoyment. The waterfront is in a state of crisis. It is a big question whether in the future a after port relocation towards the estuary are meant for mixed use development.

The author has suggested four design scenarios for the future waterfrotn development: (1) slow traffic road; (2.1) high-speed traffic tunnel, public transport traffic and urban park on surface; (3) high-speed traffic tunnel, semi-circle around the old town. Since there is no through traffic in the old town, the high-speed tunnel does not have a significant influence on the traffic system of the city. The semi-circle route in the old town provides a high-speed tunnel, which crosses the river through a bridge at the point of the old town, and continues with a semi-circle route away from the old town area.

‘green’ landscapes and ‘blue’ landscapes outside the city. Therefore, the author suggests that the waterfront most of the time is lifeless. Furthermore, the city centre and multiple neighbourhoods adjacent to the waterfront are redeveloped into mixed use industrial areas at the waterfront which will become vacant in the future and accommodate additional extra urban activities.

The author has used several maps, diagrams and proposals for the waterfront redevelopment. The ‘green’ landscapes outside the city and multiple neighborhoods adjacent to the waterfront are redeveloped into mixed use industrial areas at the waterfront which will become vacant in the future and accommodate new extra urban activities.

The waterfront development scenario: high speed traffic tunnel, public transport traffic and urban park on surface, source: author

Towards a Green Capital

Viktorija Prilenska

Designing a waterfront in Riga

Towards a Green Capital

Design strategy and phasing, source: author

Within the so-called ‘green corridor’ the project’s suggested scenario is to devote the surface of the waterfront to the green landscapes and water connections. The development design scenario is to construct the waterfront development project as a planned pilot project.

The existing development scenario: high speed traffic tunnel and semi-circle around the old town. The strategy design scenario: semi-circle around the old town.