Towards a Territorial City

The case of Craiova, an Eastern European mid-size city and its surrounding territory

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I Theories

II Context

III Research by Design

IV Design

Reflection
I Theories

**Territory**: definitions

**Territorial cities** redefine the territory as a critique to present or as a future need

**Framing the territorial city**
Territory: definitions
Definitions

- Middle English: [territorium] land around a town, a district equivalent to terr(a)land;

- a land of which an agent is responsible: a dog’s territory;

- 15th c., from latin: land around a town, domain, district;

- in US 1799, a self-organizing region not yet a state;

- a geographic area marked by an animal;

- the site: a territory of action.

- “A territory is often defined by a border, while natural territories are defined by more ambiguous ecological delimitations. [...] In globalisation, the territory is seen as a space of exchange.” (Sheppard, 2013)
The city, rural, valley territory from 3 perspectives:

- **Administrative and legal territory**: a geographical domain under political jurisdiction. In Romanian planning, the territory is divided into Territorial Administrative Units (TAUs), often determined by geographical territories such as hydrographic basins. In city administration, territories are defined in terms of land ownership.

- **Territory defined by morphology**. For example, The river’s territory is a topographically and geologically defined territory: the valley. On a geomorphological (time)scale, both the boundary (the valley edge) and the centre (the river) are constantly negotiating their position.

- **Social territory** is defined as a “lived-in space” (Lippard, 2008), “by acts of occupation” (Habraken, 2000), a *cognitive space* of all the known and *meaningful places* of an individual or a community.
“What are the limits of a site when engaging questions of ecology? What are the site’s boundaries with respect to hydrology, species migration” (Sheppard, 2013) or... what is the people’s territory of action?
Territorial cities

photograph source: No-Stop City, A.Branzi 2006
Ecology, Valley section (Geddes 1909)

Post-modernism, Agronica (Branzi 2006)

Andreea Branzi in Landscape Urbanism (Waldheim 2016)

Ecological rationality (Vigano 2009)

Classification of approaches and how they construct the territorial cities.
Scaffolding: A Topological Design Tool

Fig. Mecano Game

Photograph source: https://scaffoldingsupplieslondon.files.wordpress.com/2015/091.jpg
Conceptual framework

1 Porosity
“Porosity 1: A porous city is a density of meaningful places. [...] Porosity 2: The project of a porous city gives space to the water.” (Vigano, 2009)

Drosscapes
The territory of waste landscapes can be “actual waste, wasted places (abandoned or contaminated sites), or wasteful places (for example, parking lots or big box retail venues).” (Berger, 2006)

2 Permeability
“Permeability is characterised by movement of percolation of water, people and practices.” The concept of permeability is adopted by Secchi and Vigano from hydraulic engineering and it is expressed in terms of ‘pipes’ and ‘sponges’. (Secchi, 2012)

3 Correspondence refers to the coupling between different actors and/or different places and it promotes reciprocal advantages.
II Context

The case of Craiova, a mid-size Eastern European city in the South of Romania
Craiova City [krajina: the city at the border]

villages

valley of Jiu River

Jiu River meets The Danube
The River Valley intersects 34 administrative rural units.
Craiova a city on the Danube? XVIII century map draws Craiova as an important settlement on the Danube trajectory. Back in XIII-XV centuries, Jiu trajectory is thought to have been a county in itself and Craiova is stated to have been its capital.
Craiova City from the opposite hill, first field trip, November 2015;

image sources: google maps
Hypothesis

Jiu valley could develop as a social-ecological corridor, revealing Craiova’s link to the Danube.
The administrative, social and morphological territory are explored in the case of the city, rural and valley territory.

The main components: the edges, and main lines to the core are the structures to guide the definition in each case.

Further, edges and lines to the core become design fields.
Craiova City
administrative boarder

Craiova City
main historical roads
Territorial road lines: changes in the routes network between 1945-2015.

was the basis: the economic, social and mobility infrastructure

the road to Bucharest is the most important line
City core structure XVIII, a complex system of markets, where territorial lines intersect.

City primary routes structure:

- Danube route
- Bucharest route
- Leipzig route

The Old Market
- Elca Market
- The Old market
- Peasants at The Old market
- Middle class and boyard houses
- Italian workers neighbourhood
- Economic residential core
- 'Mahala' structure
- The New market
- The New market
- Italian workers neighbourhood
- The travels Inn

Image sources: Croitoru 2005 (maps), Zazara and Ciobotea (2005), Buce Radut (2008);
City Edges change

1790
The main roads of the town core are visible.

1916
The road network starts to change, but the main E-W and N-S flows remain the same.

1931
Large parks act as elements of separation between city and its countryside.

image sources: maps scanned from the National Archives Romania, Dolj; Arhitectura Magazine 1982
Sprawl, new economic developments after 1990: the greatest edge change.
The Valley Territory

Valley administrative territory: the Rural Units, Natura 2000, Water board

The River: an administrative border.

Natura 2000 corridor is a puzzle of 34 units.

Natura 2000 corridor

34 rural units
The floodable area and topography: dynamic edges

The roads limit the valley
Changes in the natural territory of the Valley

Cut forest (in red) and dried ponds (bottom black)

River dynamics: 1964-1964-2016
Jiu River 'walks' to its right
Consequences

- **1947**: Flood risk area highlighted in red
- **2015**: Comparison with 1947 highlighting the extent of the risk area

Neighbourhood at Craiova’s margin, 2015

Rast Village, 2008

- **Flood risk area**
‘The Valley Villages’ follow the natural and infrastructure lines: **Linear Village type**

The topological nuclee of the Valley Village is along its main lines, where main local destinations are placed.

Image sources: Google Maps

Info source: interview with worker at the planning department 1980
The ‘Valley Village' territory: Literature Mapping, 1920

The lived in territory overpassed the administrative borders. The village functioned together with its natural sorroundings.
The Edge are a cummulation of dross
The core is 'cut' in two by regional roads.
The Social Territory

Population in Dolj county in 2016.
(Census data processed in GIS. Data source: INSSE Dolj)

300,000 inhab. in Craiova

700,000 inhab. in Dolj county

135,000 inhab. in the rural
Statistics and Numbers 2014, 2015 in the County
-extreme differences between city- valley and villages-

Poor, but the self-sufficient

Extreme difference between village and city (isolation, no facilities (diagram above), severe poverty (CJD 2011)

info source: International Statistics Institute, Dolj Statistics institute;
Pupulation decline in Dolj

Alarming Ageing population in the rural

Urban polpulation equals rural

Aprox. 50% live in the country side
50 % live in the city
Middle aged people return to country
Population change between 1992-2011 (left) and 2011-2016 (right). (Census data processed in GIS. Data source: INSSE Dolj)
Changes in Morphology and Changes in Society

**Balanced territorial division**
- and active middle class
  - 5-10 ha: middle class peasant
  - 10-15 ha: boyard;

**People worked the ‘tarla’ together** and used it according to the seasons;

**Collectivisation** of all property---the colhoz model
- all land and animals become state property

**1989- the total privatisation**
- very fragmented territory, expanded over the natural territory, people can’t work together---degradation

*Image source: Google Maps
Changes in Society

1945<

80 000 killed or tortured to give in their properties and believe in Communism

1947-1949

tens of thousands of peasants killed; new agricultural program: collectivisation 'queing for food- portions on card'

1945-1989

1990 ‘revolution’

1989-2015

a fragmented society: people were used to spy other people for secret service--> fear of the community

SITE VISIT RESEARCH
Current Social trends between city and villages in Dolj County

village leisure

topology

glocal commerce

mobility: carriages and bikes

desired path - valley

fishing and waste

mobility

bridge

commerge at crossing roads in villages
The social and spatial disconnection between the territories of Craiova city, the rural surroundings and the Jiu river valley led to the degradation and abandonment of spatial structures, social imbalance and ecological problems.
How to **design a common territory** between Craiova city, its rural surroundings and Jiu River Valley that could **develop enhanced social and ecologic relations**?
SITE VISIT

- mind mapping
- narrative mapping
- literature
- GPS tracking
- sketching
- talk with locals
- filming
SITE VISIT RESEARCH | Photo Journal
Where different worlds meet

Meetings on the Road

"everybody has and uses a carriage in the rural areas"

Droscapes: wasted industrial systems from 1900 tp 1960 and empty houses

The paths: desired paths and part of ‘former production systems as described in 1964 Soviet map

Meeting at the Crossings

"everybody bikes?"

Attractive topography

The Bridges
While searching paths towards the Jiu River, I met the baker near Calopăr village: "[...] I pick brushwood in the forest and I bake bread at home in 'țăst' and earth oven. This is my local business, all my neighbours buy bread from me for more than 20 years. Two times per week I go an pick brushwood with my bike. I am very attached to this forest [...] Best place to go? The wild beaches around here!"

Flower merchant near Ișalnița industrial platform: "This place used to be very polluted, now it is better. My favourite place... my house! At the edge of the forest, it is my grandmother's traditional house, we refurbished it and moved back, we have a glasshouse family business. It’s nice to live here again! I used to live in Craiova for many years."

Man in Breasta Village: "Conte Estate? I know none... here? You mean the abandoned children camp built during the regime? There is a park near the church, but I have no clue what is happening there, no clue!"

Banker and postwoman in Calopăr and Podari villages: "I bike through all these villages and I love it, I am the banker! [...] My children go to University at Craiova! I am sometimes bored here, but I am used to the healthy food, nature, I would never move back to the city!"

Children on a bike trip from Zavala to the Danube: "Jiu River edge it’s my favourite! I live here and I go to school here. I am actually the best in my class so to say! [...] have a good trip and see you soon!"

Vegetables merchant on the road margin: "My favourite place in village and what I enjoy doing most? Are you from the municipality or a newspaper? [...] None, I have no favourite place, I have nothing to tell... and I do sell here all the time, I just can't reach markets. [...] Have a good day and a good trip!"

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Research by design

Exploration of common grounds
Exploration of common grounds

EDGES

KEY LINES

KEY CROSSINGS

Types: 19
- natural
- dross
- agriculture

Types:
- natural
- dross
- desired path
- sponge
- pipe

Types:
- dross
- natural
- economic
- mobility
- leisure
Actors at the intersection

City meets Village (a)
1 family commuting to the countryside to visit relatives (weekly)
2 young villager studying in Craiova
3 countryside tourist
4 young person moving in the countryside
5 wine and food antrepeneur
6 historian born in Padea (88 years old)
7 land grabber

Village meets Valley (b)
1 village bikers and carriage users
2 the fisherman
3 the bird watcher
4 the sheperd
5 the gardener
6 children playing
7 the farmer

City meets Valley (c)
1 municipality
2 NGO character
3 Group working for Natura 2000 project
4 the explorer biker from city
5 the european tourist biker
6 the fisherman
7 the leisure antrepeneur and the weekenders

City meets Valley meets Village (d)
1 the wine taster and the wine researcher
2 children playing
3 Waste heritage research group
4 the explorer biker from city
5 the citizen moving at the edge of village or city
6 the bird watcher
7 the journalist
8 the sheperd
9 the ecologist
10 the village biker and the carriage driver
11 the agriculture student
22 interviews with characters that determine links and common grounds through their activities.
The story of each character is described through mind maps and narrative drawings.
### WEAKNESSES

#### THE ACTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>VALLEY</th>
<th>VILLAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>journalist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ecologist</td>
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<td>weekend commuters</td>
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<tr>
<td>young - visiting family</td>
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<tr>
<td>family and job</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Table centralising the problems identified by the interviewees:**

- **Drosscapes** (waste, wasted and wasteful places),
- Car aglomeration,
- Inaccessibility for carriages and bikes,
- Lack of jobs,
- No recreation places

Problems intensity according to the votes:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
Natural Limits on Administrative Borders as Drosscapes

The correlation between the River as an administrative limit and illegal waste deposits
Pastures and industrial land use as dross.

Natural areas on administrative border as lines where actual waste cumulates.

Former production systems and abandoned technical infrastructure.
Limits as Natural and Ecological Resources

The fuzzy limit between nature and agriculture
Limits Surpassed

Pipes (white) and sponge (pink) in the territory and the sponge of desired paths in the valley (red). **The village is not a cumulation of cul de sacs; the roads are continued by desired paths.**
The link between the two large cities, Craiova and Calafat on the Danube, is highly integrated, while the link between Craiova and the Danube along the Jiu valley is weaker.

The addition of desired paths enhances the integration of the smaller settlements in the valley.
MAP OF ACTORS AND PROJECTS
support for the territorial city

Integrated Management plan
ROSCI0045 Coridorul Jiului 2016- 2020
Natura 2000

Romania-Bulgaria crossing boarders program
2016- 2020

image source: (1) http://jiu.dev.zoel.ro/obiective-activitati.html
MAP OF ACTORS AND PROJECTS
makers and new actors in the valley
Four images
Four images

THE WEEKENDER'S CITY

THE METROPOLIS

THE VISITOR'S CITY

THE RURAL REINHABITED
A combination of different city images is proposed to build the territorial city.

The superimposition and collaboration between images aims to design a needed collaboration between different actors and a correspondence between different zones is proposed.
Four scenarios

I: People Act as an Individual

II: People Gather in Centralities

III: People Sprawl

IV: People Act As a Collective
Four scenarios

People act individually and sprawl

People act individually and gather in centralities

People act collectively and sprawl

People act collectively and gather in centralities
Craiova is a city disconnected from its local territory. The triangle that is formed with the road to Calafat, the Jiu valley, and the Danube is uncertain.

Jiu River Valley anchors the city to the Danube and thus completes the triangle and strengthens Craiova as an integrated territorial city.
IV Design
DESIGN SCALES

The Metropolis
The Weekend City
Rural Re-inhabited
The Vacation City
The Valley Scale
The image
The transect
The project
The Transect— a line, a route that displays relations between the three territories.
A superimposition of horizontal layers

A scaffolding between systems
A territory of vertical transects, sewed together at the valley scale, transect scale, project scale
Strategy principles

Permeability  Porosity  Correspondence
Strategy principles

Permeability

Mobility...

Natural...

Porosity

Villagers

Citizens

Visitors

Correspondence
**Strategy components**

1. **The valley route** is a territorial slow mobility backbone connecting Craiova to Danube and all the settlements on the way.

2. **Transversal link** connects the valley route to settlement centers and to key places with secondary routes.

3. **The promenade at the edge** connects the former production systems at the interface between nature and settlement.

4. **Secondary paths** provide access to key remote destinations and to the water shore.

5. **The crossings** are key locations for interaction between different scales and speeds.

6. **Downgraded roads** provide continuity in the new territorial mobility system.

The strategy uses six components that follow existing paths in the valley, and have specific functions.
Strategy at the valley scale. Mobility permeability and porosity of meaningful places.

The slow mobility backbone from Craiova to Danube

Transversal links between the valley route and village centers

Secondary paths gathering remote locations and meaningful places

Crossings between different elements of the strategy become meaningful places

Promenades on the edge linking former production systems and meaningful places
Mobility permeability and the porosity of meaningful places.

- Water bodies
- Settlements and street network
  - Main roads along the valley

Permeability 1: mobility
- Main valley path
- Transversal link
- Link to key locations
- Field of possible connections
- New bridge across the river
- Test crossing across the river

Porosity
- Strategic crossing
- Reused former production system
- Reactivated meaningful places
- Abandoned estate converted to public park
- Key destinations
- Temporary structures as tools to get in contact with nature
**Strategy at the valley scale.** Natural permeability

**Floodable areas** along the Jiu valley store water upstream and reduce flooding downstream.

**Corridors** between ecological patches along the strategic links in the valley.

**Edges** between forests and pastures are strategic locations for ecological reinforcement, creating a balance between agriculture and nature.
Nature Permeability (2)

- connects ecological patches
- supports water permeability
- reinforces ecological edges
Correspondence

- designs reciprocal advantages created through collaboration between different actors and territories.
- principle to be applied at the valley scale, image scale, transect and project scale.
- couples the strategy to planning rules
Ișalnița Former Industrial Platform

Craiova City and its 4 bridge connections.

Calopar village, disconnected, yet close to Craiova

The Metropolis

The Weekend City

The Experimental Rural

The Visited City

Dranic village, in between the weekend city and the rural experimental areas

Valea Stanciului, the village that need to be reinvented

Zaval, where Jiu meets the Danube
Project scale: Bucovăț Village- Craiova City
Reading of the site in terms of dross, meaningful places and water permeability.
- Reused former production system
- Reactivated meaningful places
- Abandoned estate converted to public park
- Key destinations
- Temporary structures as tools to get in contact with nature

- Reactivated winery as promenade
- Reactivated former industrial platform
- Natural porosity
- Floodable pockets
- Reactivated former industrial platform
- Bike path on down-graded road

- Proposed strategy
- Correspondence between winery promenade and the workshop-space
- Correspondence between city and the new maker spaces: knowledge, housing
- Proposed bike and pedestrian bridge connection on the former bridge position
- The school
- The restaurant
- New bridge across the river
- Test crossing across the river
- Strategic crossing
- Reused former production system
- Reactivated meaningful places
- Abandoned estate converted to public park

Water bodies
Settlements and street network
Main roads along the valley
Main valley path
Transversal link
Link to key locations
Field of possible connections
New bridge across the river
Test crossing across the river
Strategic crossing
Reused former production system
Reactivated meaningful places
Abandoned estate converted to public park
Key destinations
Temporary structures as tools to get in contact with nature
Transformed former industrial area in the village
Economic common grounds and knowledge exchange between villagers, citizens, weekenders and explorers. The site invites to local business occupation, workshop spaces and temporary accommodation.
New bridge and café in reused industrial building along the valley route
New bike and pedestrian bridge between Craiova city and Bucovăț village on former bridge location. A café in a reused water station is at the bridge foot.
The proposed *winery* designs a meaningful place for all actors: the panoramic spot occupied by wineyards and un-used lands.
- Reused former production system
- Reactivated meaningful places
- Abandoned estate converted to public park
- Key destinations
- Temporary structures as tools to get in contact with nature
The Project Scale:
Ișalnița industrial site - Craiova Transect

Ișalnița industrial site  Craiova City  Jiu River
Ișalnița chemical industry closed in 2013. The industrial buildings was 90% demolished at the end of 2015. Some buildings, technical infrastructures and the road structure remained.

The site is very well connected to Craiova.
From City Center to Isalnita Industrial Site by bike

S1_Crossing The City Center waste technical space re-used (T1)

S3 The City-Isalnita Boulevard (T1)

proposed design
To Craiova

Water bodies
Settlements and street network
Main roads along the valley
Existing buildings
Meadow
Forest
Trees

Existing public space
playground
local economy
swimming point
wild beach kayak
knowledge economy
sitting area
residential fishing point
nature point

Strategic crossing
Wifi tree
Water collector tree
Reused former production system
Re-used industrial sites
Re-used buildings
New additions to re-used buildings

Key destinations
Meaningful places
Temporary structures as tools to get in contact with nature

Permeability 1: Mobility
Porosity
Permeability 2: Nature
Correspondence

Proposed Specific functions
gathered or emerged through the correspondence principle
slow mobility path
water permeability
public space

Re-used/Used to determine the new system
Permeability

temporary, green, re-use

house in a park, in an industrial building

house with a garden

green house and collective space

residence with a view

A gradient of densities and groundfloors

re-used road infrastructure

densities to grow upon the grid

from dense to re-used, to nature
Play with height, Public groundfloor
Play with ground occupation, collective groundfloor
Nature, Re-use
Natural Restoration
Re-use
Re-use and Nature Restoration
S5_ The canal (T1-T2)
Water towers occupied by public functions or temporary accommodation, waste water tower in Dranic village, THE WEEKEND CITY
Former mill and CAP in Calopar Village, temporary accommodation, local business
THE WEEKEND CITY
Former stalls and CAP in Dranic Village, temporary-permanent accommodation, local business
In-between THE WEEKEND CITY and THE REINHABITED village
Path near the water Dranic Village, floodable areas, fishing point
In- Between THE WEEKEND CITY and THE REINHABITED village

The forest as public space, secular forest, near Dranic village
Transformation of the **Irrigation canals** into **ecological corridors**; waste technical infrastructure, in **THE REINHABITED VILLAGE** Valea Stanciului Village
The Project Scale in *The Visited City*

**A natural Transect at Zăval**
Zaval is at the confluence with the Danube. A site where many projects were recently funded. An island is created by re-using former irrigated polder in order to protect Copanita Island, but also open the site to economic development. Nature Permeability is the key principle for this site. Jiu River is reconnected to its former trajectory in order to create floodable areas, compensate the dried ponds and create room for the water.
### Permeability

**The valley route, a slow mobility backbone**

- Slow mob. on existing up- and downgrad-ed routes.
- Bike bridge at Bucovat
- Marked paths
- Lit paths
- The other two connections are tested.
- Solar and elevated bike paths on the valley edge upgrade the valley route.
- Secondary routes and transversal links are built.

**Improved natural and water permeability**

- Cleaning the land
- Enlarge the edge
- Adopt and support natural grounds
- New economies in natural areas
- Biodiversity
- Clean air
- Clean water
- Flood proof

### Porosity

**Crossings**

- Solar trees
- Mixed-use flood safe platforms
- Former production sites are open to free markets for villagers and urban makers.
- Former industrial structures are reactivated as mixed-use facilities. Some sites are used for waste collection and recycling.

**Former production systems**

- Temporary events (festivals, fairs) support the former production system’s transformation.
- Mixed-use platforms, together with the intersections are designed with public facilities and waste collection points.

**Meaningful places**

- Former production spaces are
- Participatory planning sessions with local actors used to identify potential correspondencies.

### Correspondence

**The functioning of the territory is fuelled by correspondencies between city, villages and the valley and between different scales.**

- The strategic framework finds correspondencies between local initiatives and large scale plans and projects (EU programs, regional development plans, Cross-border plans, etc.)
- Planning instruments (policies) encouraging correspondencies between economic drivers and abandoned or underused former production sites in the territory.

**The valley becomes an attractive territorial park.**

- The valley as a boulevard provides a common ground for new economies and lifestyles.
- Images support each other on the valley scale

**Correspondencies create social-economic synergies between the urban, rural and natural territories.**

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**Strategy Phasing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testing / Scaffolding</th>
<th>T1</th>
<th>Complete network</th>
<th>T2</th>
<th>T3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Local spatial structures and actors are identified. The strategic module (transversal link) is outlined locally. | **T1** | Transects are developed and the identity of each image is consolidated. The tests run in the first phase are evaluated and crystallized in key interventions. | **T2** | The territorial city
The four images work together. The strategy functions on multiple levels of scale (territory, image, transversal, and project scale) in an integrated way. | **T3** | **The limits consolidate cores or the valley remains a natural park.** | **The valley supports the tri angle city.** | The network of strategic connections in the valley is complete. |

**Strategy Phasing**

- The valley route, a slow mobility backbone
- Improved natural and water permeability
- Former production systems
- Meaningful places
- Crossings
- Former production spaces are
- Participatory planning sessions with local actors used to identify potential correspondencies.
Reflection
Thank you!