A Territorial Journal

of Craiova
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Introduction
The collection of 22 semi-structured interviews supports the process of design, simulating a form of collective design. This method links the process of design with the project problem statement and case study: how to design a spatially fragmented territory in the context of a fragmented Eastern European society. The current diagnosis could lead in time to the synchronised disappearance of ecological patches and rural communities, supporting at the same time the ecological and cultural degradation of the city. The method seeks to build upon small scale, yet powerful existing links traced by people's actions, and activities around the territory. The people selected for the interviews are actors which create links between the three territories (city-rural-natural) through their actions.

The same interview was used to investigate people's stories and perception about the urban, rural and natural territories around Dolj County. The structure of the interview tests the possibility of an ecological continuity between urban, rural and natural systems at a larger territorial scale, mainly indicating the natural main structures as guiding backbones for a new development framework. The interviews support the construction of the proposed design framework, by scaffolding small scale stories and creating the condition for a cultural and ecological continuity in time.

Each interview is visualised and processed into maps and sketches. The interviews are used as a tool to explore and understand the territory through local perspectives, sometimes being put in the designer position. Finally, all the local actors' visions and stories are overlapped, revealing how the territory is perceived and lived in. On the one hand, types of places and trajectories are highlighted on the map and on the other hand, the method contours a collective design product, with conflicting or similar visions of individualistic characters that would never interact, due to the post-communist past or present political circumstances.

The final product of this method is a simulated collective design, visualised through maps and sketches. The outcome is critically used for the design of a territorial framework of development in Dolj county. Even though the general method and the vision are build around a highly relevant topic at European scale, the Eastern European context adds more constraints and particularities in terms of public-private matters and collective design. This method is both an analytical and a design step.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 The journalist</td>
<td>Ștefan Voinea</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 The historian</td>
<td>Prof. Ștefan Bârsanescu</td>
<td>79</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 The ecologist</td>
<td>Mirela Ridiche</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>4 The architect</td>
<td>Bogdan Tiparu</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 The urbanist</td>
<td>Radu Ionescu</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 The wine expert</td>
<td>Mirela Vladu</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>7 The agriculture expert</td>
<td>Prof. Marius Vladu</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Natura 2000</td>
<td>Emilia Florea</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 The heritage explorers (1)</td>
<td>Mihai Popescu_Lost Monuments</td>
<td>32, 36</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 The heritage explorers (2)</td>
<td>Dragoș Andreeescu_Lost Monuments</td>
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<td>11 The antrepreneur artist</td>
<td>Vlad Dragulescu</td>
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<td>12 The writer</td>
<td>Marius Dobrin</td>
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<td>13 The bikers (1)</td>
<td>Tavi Harega</td>
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<td>14 The bikers (2)</td>
<td>Dumitru Purcaru_Oltenia Bike</td>
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<td>15 The city gardener</td>
<td>Lila Ionescu</td>
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<td>16 The fishermen (1)</td>
<td>Nicu Staicu</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 The fishermen (2)</td>
<td>Nini Nițu</td>
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<td>18 The new villagers</td>
<td>Dan Cherciu</td>
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<td>19 The weekend commuters (1)</td>
<td>Virgia Mateescu</td>
<td>60,27</td>
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<td>20 The weekend commuters (2)</td>
<td>Loredana Mateescu</td>
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<td>21 The weekend commuters (3)</td>
<td>Elena Baran</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 The artist</td>
<td>Valentin Boiangiu</td>
<td>45</td>
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Zaibă Festival in Bailești, watermelons, traditional costumes, bike trails, kayaking, bird watching, most beautiful memory about Jiu area.
reading in nature

Drătic village

Jitianu monastery

Padea village

Brâsta

a park...

Craiova

Sports on water... a mini ferry... a zoo

I was fascinated by the mobile bridge at Padea. There is only one left in the country (at Mureș River).
Olená, Závot, Váňovu Forests ... Bistro Lake ... bird watching

local community events, small workshop business
He is a famous director, known for his innovative approach to filmmaking. He often incorporates real-life events and figures into his movies, creating a sense of monumentality and historical significance.

He grew up in a family of cowboys and his love for horses and the natural world is evident in his work. He has a deep understanding of the rural life and the challenges faced by those who live in the countryside.

Doean Tiganu:
For this kind of people your parents are important.

Ioan Costeancu:
She is the only one who maintained the tradition of making traditional clothes. She is the guardian of the craft, and her work is considered a precious legacy.

Dumitru Gush:
In the beginning of the 20th century, D.G. and a group of intellectuals started a movement. What does it mean, to be Romanian?
To me, it is very hard to find the right words to describe this feeling.

A great novelist said: "I cannot imagine a country without identity. I cannot imagine a country without a soul." This is the essence of Romanian identity.

D.G. was one of the main contributors to the creation of the Romanian school of sociology.
I hate sprawl

I dream to have a boat and use it on a lake

I like the space but cultural land, settlements & water.
What I like

- bike through the village

What is there

- orchard
- farm

natural and wild beaches, sand banks and islands

bread factory

re-use rice platforms near the Danube

* Bratava - oak forest

gramium silic; fire cutting, the landscape design
More local ec. strategy, but many resources and vulnerable old people.

Large modern farms do not offer anything to the locals.

Water transport could be useful for agriculture and tourism.
What is there? nature

- Picnic areas with designated water valves.
- Lake in the forest.
- Guest house in Brotovci.

What could be?

- Sun, solar panel.
- Natura 2000 area.
- A new facial brand.
- Restaurants, cafes next to Bejaút commune.
5:00 am Bistaut Lake

Fami

nature

"the bird sound"

village

the hills

East

portage along Rodmic River in my home village.
Favourite place in village, activity

- Barbeque

The road to the church, the church is always placed in a natural beautiful area.

I would move if I would stay connected to my workplace.

Researching every corner of the valley.

Visiting friends or searching for monuments.

Nature
- Photography

Village
- Sport gym
- Cultural centre
- Theatrical square
- 2 km walk
- Flat tire
- Umbrella
Perișor. Henry Coanda's childhood village

Argetoia mansion in Bresta... Baicoiua mansion in Salciu
Palitelna meodavn
Music festival

Najde

Anadolu Pastori

"from Palitelna Meodavn you can see the mountains if the sky is clear."

Vlad Dragulina
What could be?

![Diagram of a person]

"a coffee shop in the popular story "Hamlet Amunisi" (Amunsi's Inn)
a place to share ideas,
eat local delicious food,
a brainstorm place!"

Martin's favorite city places.

Parking's street: a street at the edge

Parking's Street at the edge: a street with a view

"due to the topography and more complicated building techniques,
consumers did not demolish the house fabric."

fav. village

The Amunsi's House of a collage artist
next to Amunsi's River.
Johnny keeps an eye on what is new.
drinking a beer or enjoy food in a village
Jin River beach at Išakuța

In search of mushrooms

the lake in Mihaița forest
Funtânele lake
The vegetables grow too big! Small scale industries.
"people sell vegetables
and fish and the
woodcarving. No
scheme to support them."

District Lake.

"cayak cause / and more public
spaces near the water."

"dedicated fish places,
accessible;"

"fourt (fruit?) maybe a collective
business? to pick & process?"

a lot of agriculture.

* "Fast" cooking method!!

I miss the sounds of
the metal & wood workshops.
They dissipated.
fishing, biking, jogging

more concerts outside, rafting, a terrace, an aqua park
What is there

charming river, but full of garbage

What caused be
Cherche's dream, politician

I would put car route so housing & economies could take place next to the river
The street where I live is full of parked cars. You can't drive, you can't walk.

Mind map

Favourite City

*Botanical garden*

Home

Pedagogic Pak

Timberdell

I walk to city parks

Romanesco
I would move in the village if I could. Home utilities, a young community & easy accessibility."

favorite place

Favourite place

Strow's Valley

Strow's Valley, I go there since I was 6. In my grandparents' village: a green meadow, nature cow's drink water & an old mountain. Huts like a monument on the grass.
Bucovăț Hill

"it is forbidden to explore the hill"
August 2014

Less far nature

Garbage illegal deposits.

36 Km from Craiova

Route to my grandparents village: hills, forests, cultivated fields.
The bench is a public gathering space with amazing stories.

Interaction with the Danube by boats and ferry.
Bârdânu beach, near Dâlqa, empty.
The sand is soft.

art exhibition in Dâlqa village...
Table centralising the problems identified by the interviewees:
- Drosscapes (waste, wasted and wasteful places)
- Car aglomeration
- Inaccessibility for horse-drawn carts and bikes
- Lack of jobs
- No recreation places
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VILLAGE</th>
<th>lack of contemporary ID</th>
<th>lack of historical ID</th>
<th>safety</th>
<th>poor accessibility</th>
<th>weak links with the city</th>
<th>no jobs</th>
<th>weak ecologic links</th>
<th>no services</th>
<th>boring</th>
<th>floods</th>
<th>forest felling</th>
<th>deserted structures</th>
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Problem intensity according to the votes:
- ×: Low
- ×: Medium
- ×: High
- ×: Very high
Map of meaningful routes and places as described by the interviewees: liked places (red), disliked (green).
Too many cars, no bike path

The park is the most attractive point of the city

City life pushes the citizens to search refuge in gardening
Spots with water are always attractive

High point offering views on the landscape

The city longs for the idyllic forest
Talks with Experts
Meeting with specialists

1. the anthropologist
2. the planner
3. the historian
4. the ecologist
6. the agronomy professor
Meeting an Agronomy Professor, famous council of Del County

Agronomy Professor: The basque ornaments in the city of our greatest buildings from 1900, they have the motif of the wine.

"You should work with vineyards, wine is the future of this place, yes! You could start a PhD on this, I already have students working on vineyards."
Meetings with the Ecologist

The meetings were several, inspiring and made me understand the ecological values & dynamics in the valley. The Ecologist became a friend.

Ninoba Tsuboihe researched Jin Valley for many years. Together with her husband, she put the base of an international ecology-archaeology camp, at the Janwad, Decaw village.

Meeting the Historian: stories and books

The historian (82), spent his life in Sai County, inhabited a village in the valley before communism and further became a researcher, with a focus on teaching and exploring the local history.
Preparing the interviews. Consulting an anthropologist.

I think it is fine. Keep it semi-structured! Let me know how it did go. Best, Ioana Petrace.

Ioana Petrace led projects in villages in Doli county for social integration. She is a founder of Lake Tei Community Association, Bucharest.

Meeting with a planner.

You should follow a model to design the village. I will send you one. The project is too philosophical? Maybe... think about the concept of distance?

Meeting with a young planner, educated at LCA. Mirela Neagu is involved in a government regional project and is founder for Make Better Bucharest. April 2015.
The Designer’s Site Trips
The Designer’s Site Trips

The site visits are a complementary method to the interviews. It completes the territorial journal with on-site observation, explorations and talks with locals. The trips were recorded with photos, films, sketches and gps trackers. The scope was to understand the existing trends, habitual and spatial patterns by experiencing the site. Several trips happened in autumn, winter and spring seasons, following 10 to 150 km loops starting and ending in Craiova city. The trips combined car mobility with walks. Even though indicated as mobility options, both biking or public transport seemed not feasible, because of the bad connections, lack of information or insecurity feeling.

Both interviews and site trip methods are used for the scaffolding of a territorial development framework using the existing social and morphological patterns on site as resources for the new strategy. These method do not stand alone, but together with quantitative methods such as statistics, EU reports, scientific literature, GIS and Space Syntax mapping and calculations.
The Royal Winery is closed during the weekend.

Failed visit at the winery.

Empty houses, wasted mansions, wasted industries.

Valea Stanciuli

empty mills

Breeze

Emptiness
- flooded paths; waste; no River

the bridges are balconied towards the River! Oh.... fast bridges.....
A fast day on the Danube bike trail – Calafat to Corabia

A great biking day especially with a gale force wind pushing me along. Poor old boys coming the other day were walking their bikes. I did the 90 miles at an average speed of 15mph. Not bad for a loaded up touring bike ridden by a 55 year old 😊

Today makes it that I have now cycled 2,922 miles since leaving Cambridge 77 days ago. I’ve now completed about 87% of the Danube having ridden 2,472km of it in 24 cycling days.

Today was an good read with heavy traffic in only a few places. Puzzlements today were:

- Why when a big truck is passing me does it seem there is always another truck coming in the opposite direction?
- Why do Romanians cross the road diagonally without looking?
- Why do kids think it is great to rush across the road to say hello and try and give me a high five. Making me cringe.
- Why does the charioteer of the horse follow its owner.
- Why don’t shops (mazzez) sell chocolate, nuts etc or small bakery items.
- Why do they go just outside the village limit to dump all their dubious especially plastic bottles.