

A Territorial Journal
of Craiova

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Introduction

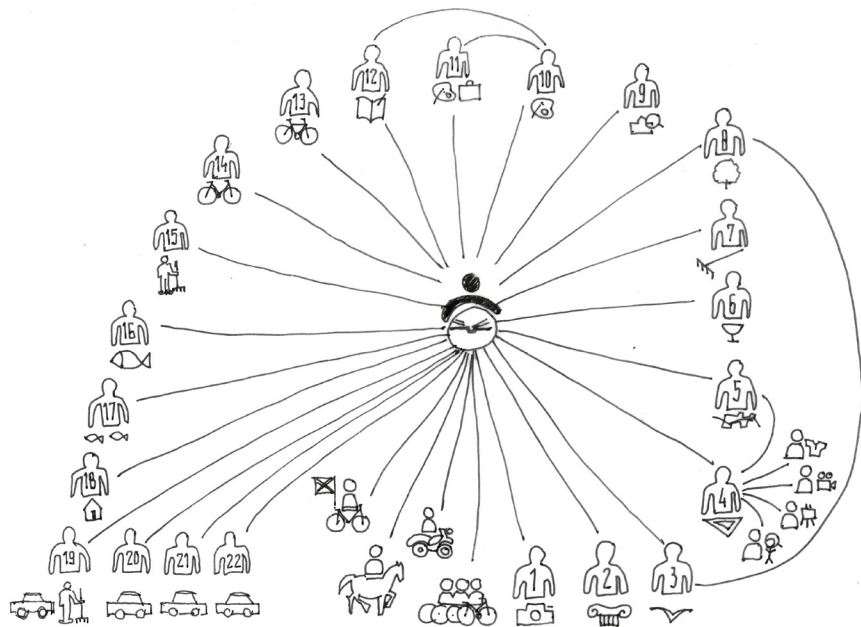
The Collective Journal

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.



	Character type	Name	Age
1	The journalist	Ştefan Voinea	33
2	The historian	Prof. Ştefan Bârsanescu	79
3	The ecologist	Mirela Ridiche	42
4	The architect	Bogdan Tiparu	42
5	The urbanist	Radu Ionescu	62
6	The wine expert	Mirela Vladu	43
7	The agriculture expert	Prof. Marius Vladu	48
8	Natura 2000	Emilia Florea	43
9	The heritage explorers (1)	Mihai Popescu_Lost Monuments	32, 36
10	The heritage explorers (2)	Dragoş Andreescu_Lost Monuments	48
11	The antrepreneur artist	Vlad Dragulescu	35
12	The writer	Marius Dobrin	57
13	The bikers (1)	Tavi Harega	26
14	The bikers (2)	Dumitru Purcaru_Oltenia Bike	42
15	The city gardener	Lila Ionescu	63
16	The fishermen (1)	Nicu Staicu	64
17	The fishermen (2)	Nini Niţu	32
18	The new villagers	Dan Cherciu	55
19	The weekend commuters (1)	Virgia Mateescu	60,27
20	The weekend commuters (2)	Loredana Mateescu	36,7
21	The weekend commuters (3)	Elena Baran	49
22	The artist	Valentin Boiangiu	45

▽



Zaibär Festival in Baileşti watermelons Dabuleni traditional costumes

○



bike trails Kayaking bird watching



*



most beautiful memory about Jiu area

▽



reading in nature

▽

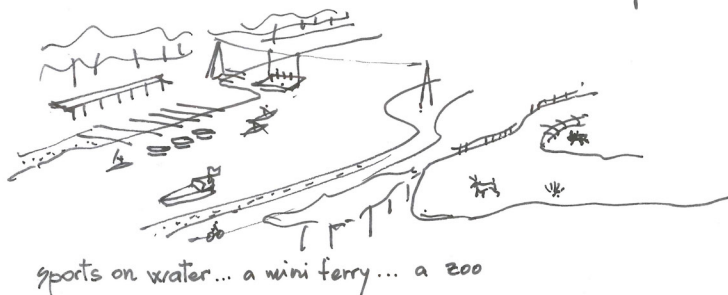


○



a park...

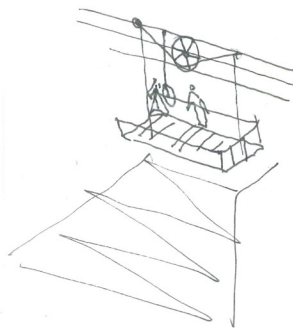
○



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 Hures River.

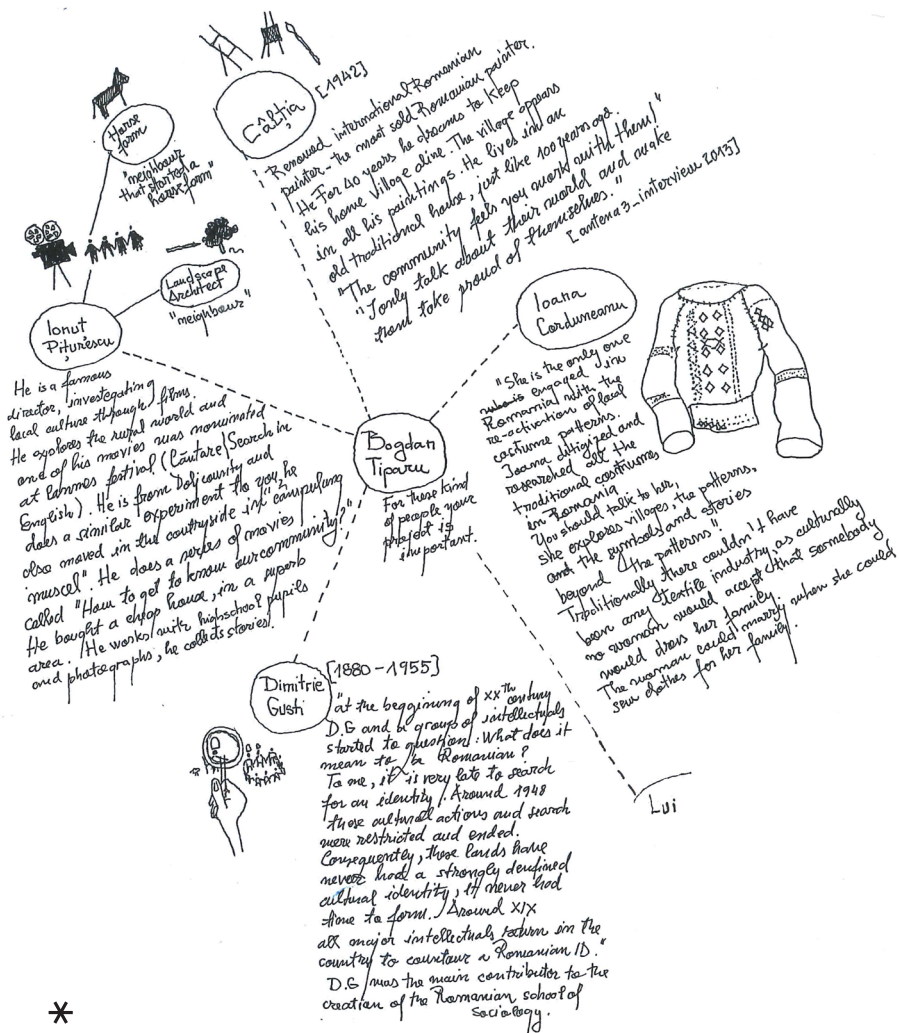




▼ Bucevat, Zaval, Värvoru forests ... Bistret lake ... bird watching



○ local community events, small workshop business



*



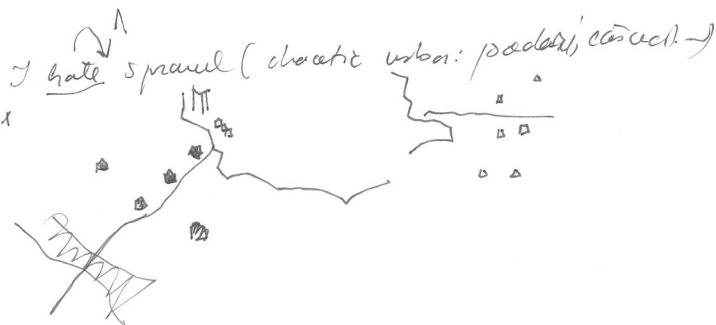
▽



▽



▽



I hate sprawl

*

2



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

3

○



I like the space
bet. cultural land,
settlements & water.

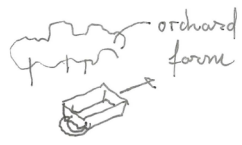
What I like



bike through the village



What is there



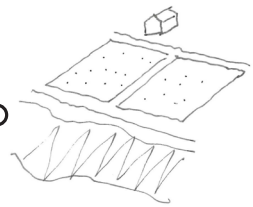
orchard
fence



natural and wild beaches, sand banks and islands



bread factory
bakery



re-use rice platform
near Jil Danube



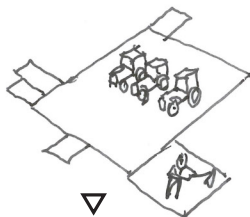
Bratovaesti forest
Caugasa vila; the furniture,
the cutlery, the landscape design



no local ec. strategy, but many resources and vulnerable old people.



Har 7



large modern farms do not offer anything to the locals



What is there? nature



prima areas
with designated
water valves.



Lake in Hhwaite forest



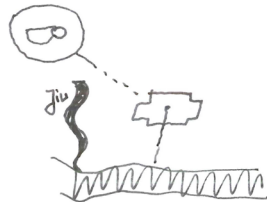
guest house in Bratavogel

What could be?

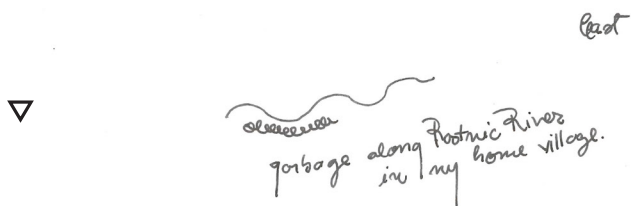
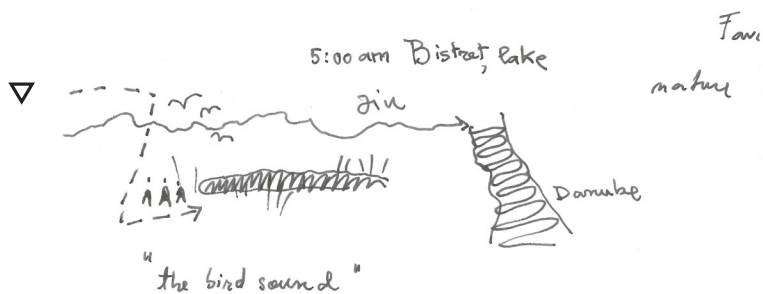


Natura
2000

a new local
brand.



Danube
restaurants, cafes next to
Bechet commune





"each village has a sport field,
they love it."

M.P.



"glass houses
1/family?"



"cayak canoe on Jiru River"



Local
breading



a home "can industry?"
it's a pity!

A smart agriculture scale
in between

Europe

April boat trip



?



*

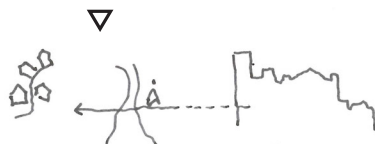
my boat hit a
mound of sand,
I fell. It wasn't
risky, water was cold.

Favorite place in village, activity



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

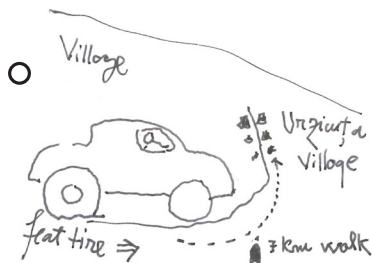


visiting friends
or searching
for monuments

Nature



hikes photographing



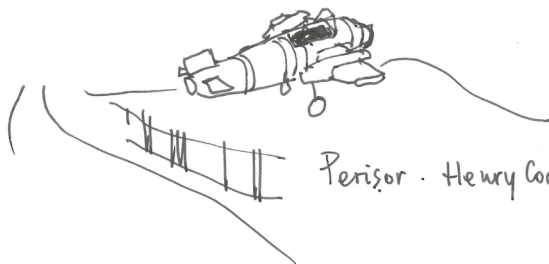
sports gym
club



no consumerism
: theater square



▽



Perişor - Henry Coandă's childhood village

○

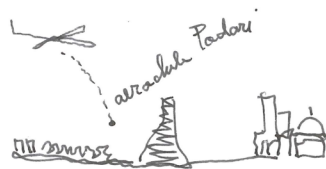


Argetoian mansion in Breaza... Baicoian mansion
in Salcia

Nature



Pălilela meadow
Music festival



Aradului Padari



"from Pălilela Meadow you can see the
mountains if the sky is clear"

Vlad Drăgulescu



What could be?

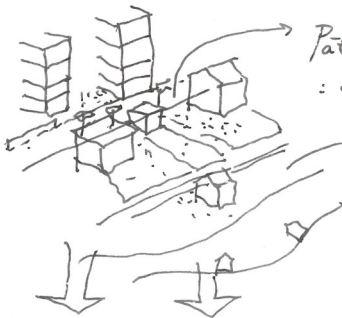
○



"as in the
popular story "hamul Amcuta"
(Amcuta's Inn)
a place to share ideas,
eat local delicious food,
a brainstorm place!"

Marius Dobson fav. city places.

Paltinis street; a street at the edge



Paltinis Street at the edge
: a street with a view

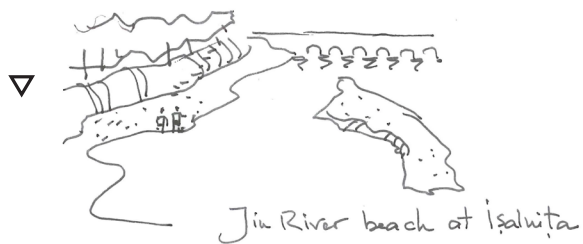
"Due to the topography and
more complicated building techniques,
conservators did not demolish the
house fabric."



fav. village
! house of
a collage
artist
next to Amarado
River.
I always stop
and check
what is new





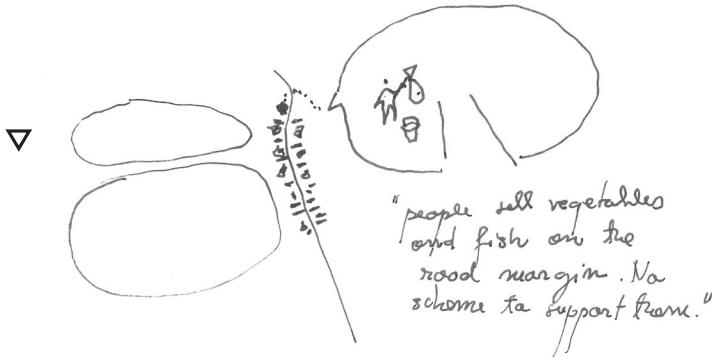


In search of mushrooms





The vegetables grow to big! Small scale industries.



"people sell vegetables and fish on the road margin. No scheme to support them."

District Lake.



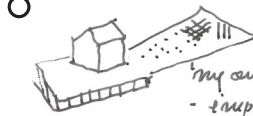
"kayak canoe! and more public spaces near the water."



Georumi Lake

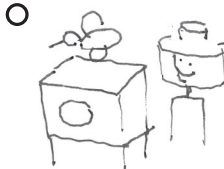


"dedicated fish places, accessible;"



"my own garden" - important for every villager

four fruits! maybe a collective business? to pick & process?



a lot of apiculture.

*



I miss the sounds of the metal & wood workshops. they disappeared.

*



"fast" cooking method!!



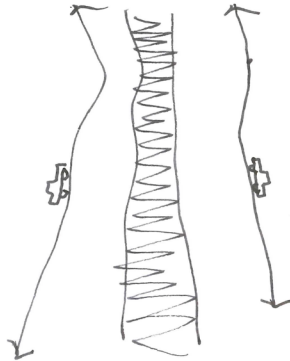


What is there

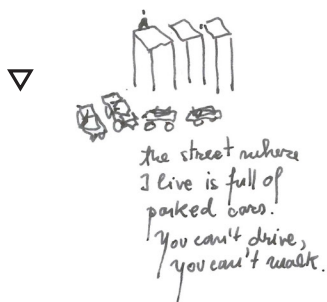


charming River,
but full of garbage

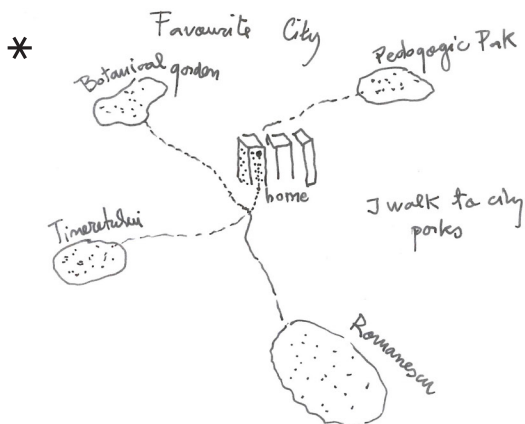
What could be
Cherria's dream, politician



I would put car routes. so housing
& economies could
take place next to
the River



Mind map





for route



from
grama

to

Stann's
Valley

1'

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

fav. place



goat farm
at Notoi village
L.

Favorite pl



*

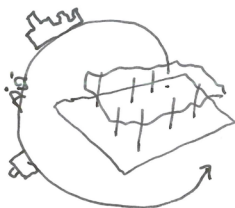


sliding on
hills during
winter. I spend
my childhood
in the village



theme parks, water parks.
L.

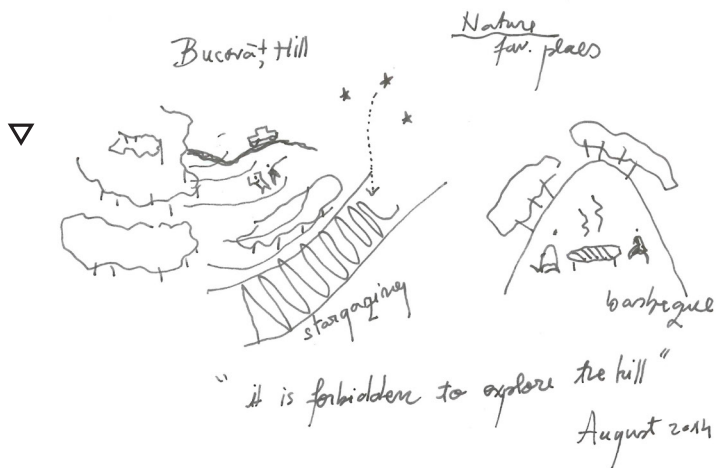
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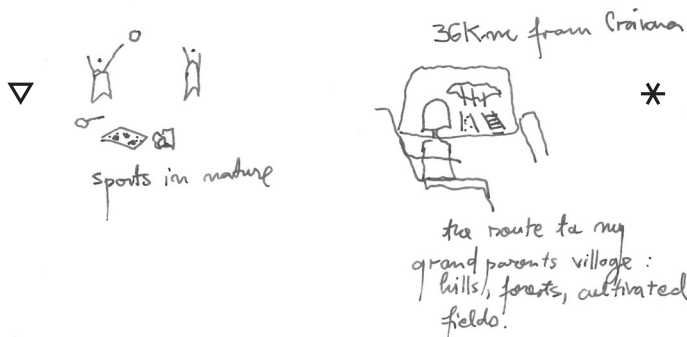
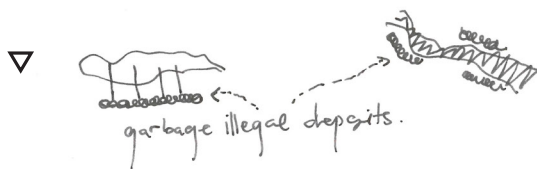
-expensive tree plantation.
business through scales!



Stann's Valley,
I go there since I was 6.
In my grandparent's village:
a green meadow where
cows drink water
& an old fountain tip-plays
like a monument on the
grass.



less fav nature



▽



The bench is a public gathering space
with amazing stories.

○



interaction with the Danube by boats and ferry



Bārdāna beach, near Dālga, empty.
The sand is soft.



art exhibition in Dālga village...

THE ACTORS \ WEAKNESSES		CITY								VALLEY				
		lack of cultural ID 	weak territorial links 	boring 	cars +++ 	no bike infrastructure 	irrelevant big projects 	bad public transport 	jobs lack 	poor accessibility 	safety 	no destinations 	no services 	pollution and
	journalist	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗
	historian	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	ecologist		✗		✗	✗		✗	✗				✗	✗
	architect		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗			✗			✗	✗
	wine expert	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗				✗
	agriculture expert				✗	✗			✗	✗		✗	✗	✗
	Natura 2000 1		✗		✗	✗		✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗
	heritage explorers 1	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗			✗	✗	✗
	2		✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗
	artist	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	artist entrepreneur	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗					✗	✗	✗
	writer	✗	✗			✗						✗	✗	✗
	extreme city biker 1		✗	✗		✗			✗	✗		✗	✗	✗
	biker 2	✗			✗	✗	✗	✗		✗			✗	✗
	city gardener	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗		✗
	fisherman				✗				✗	✗	✗		✗	✗
					✗	✗	✗		✗		✗	✗	✗	✗
	new villagers	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗			✗	✗
	weekend commuters	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	young - visiting family	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	family and job		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗		✗	✗	✗

Table centralising the problems identified by the interviewees:

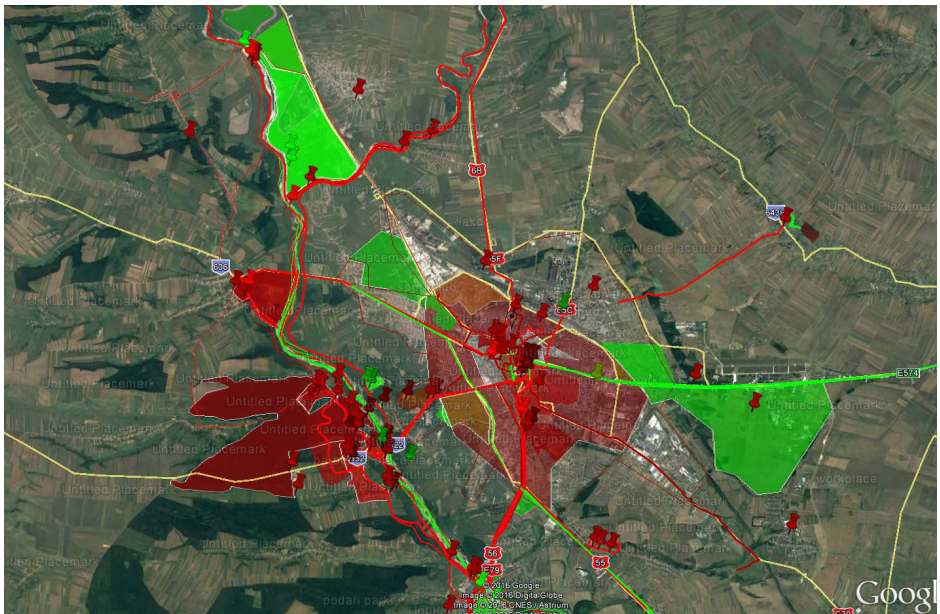
- Drosscapes (waste, wasted and wasteful places)
- Car agglomeration
- inaccessibility for horse-drawn carts and bikes
- lack of jobs
- no recreation places

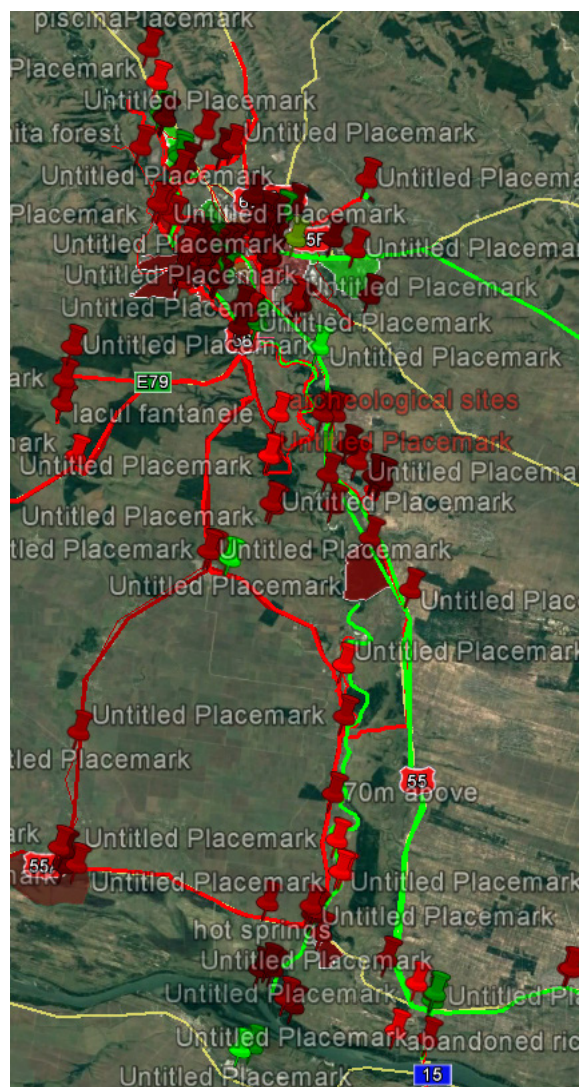
[illegible]

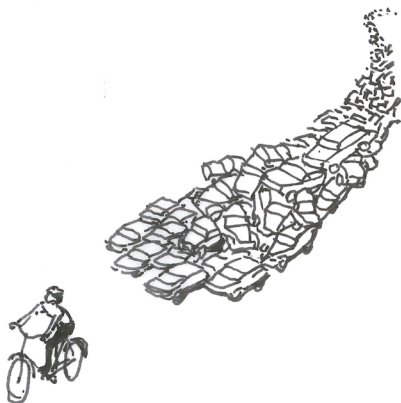
Problem intensity according to the votes

Map of meaningful places

Map of meaningful routes and places as described by the interviewees: liked places (red), disliked (green).







Too many cars, no bike path



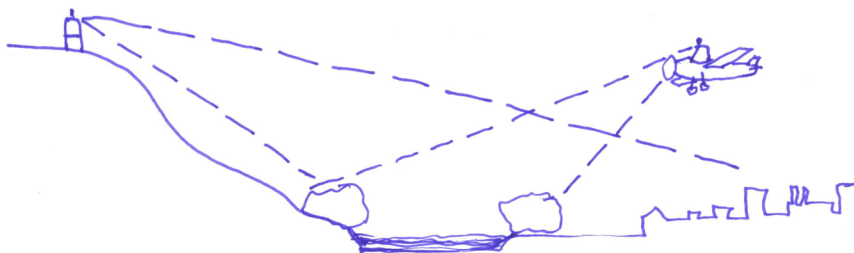
The park is the most attractive point of the city



City life pushes the citizens to search refuge in gardening



Spots with water are always attractive

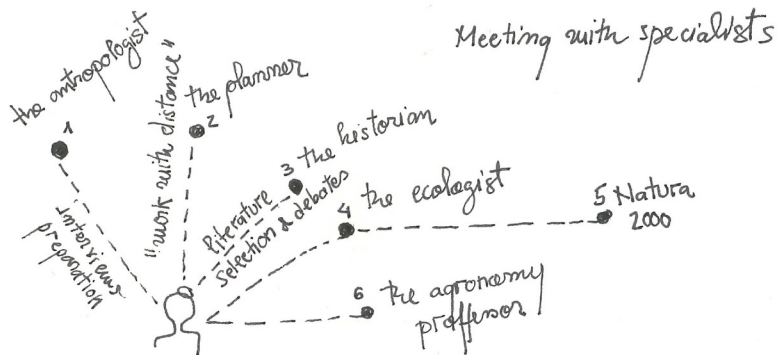


High point offering views on the landscape



The city longs for the idyllic forest

Talks with Experts



Meeting an Agronomy Professor,
former council of Doly County



The baroque ornaments in
the city & on greatest buildings
from 1900, they have
the motif of the mine!

"You should work with mineyards, mine is the
future of this place, yes! You could start a PhD on
this, I already have designers working on mineyards."

3 Meetings with the Ecologist

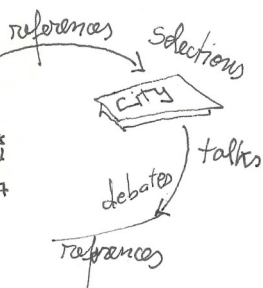
pictures; books,
stories; interview,
site trip together;
story do; "interviewing"

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



Hirela Rüdiche researches Jin Valley
for many years. Together with her
husband, they put the base of an
international ecologist-archaeology
camp, at the Danube, Dera village.

Meeting the Historian:
stories and books



The historian (82), spent his life
in Dofj 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



Ioana Petrache led projects in villages in Dolj 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 villages, I will send you one. The project is too philosophical! Maybe... think about the concept of distance!?



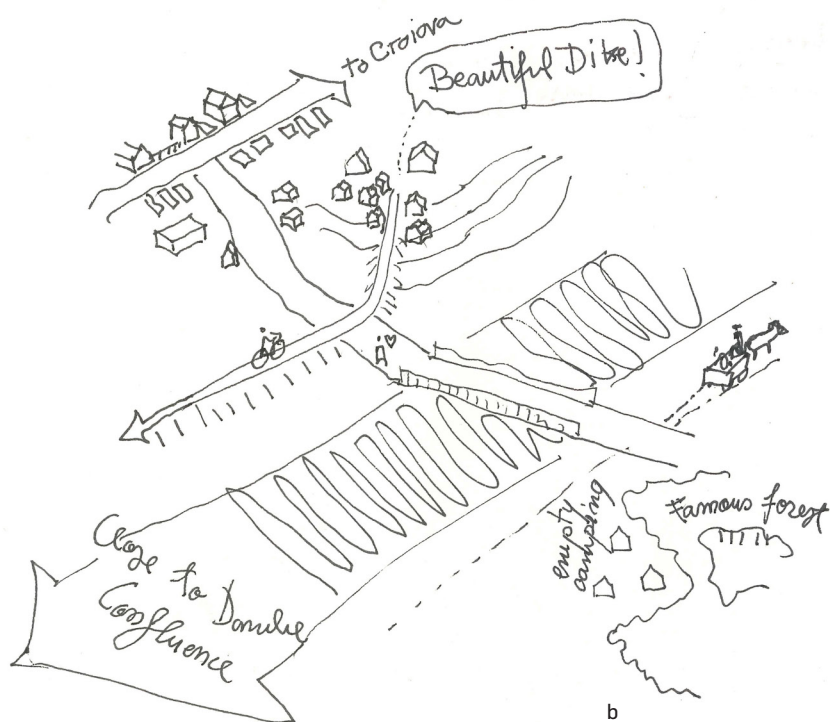
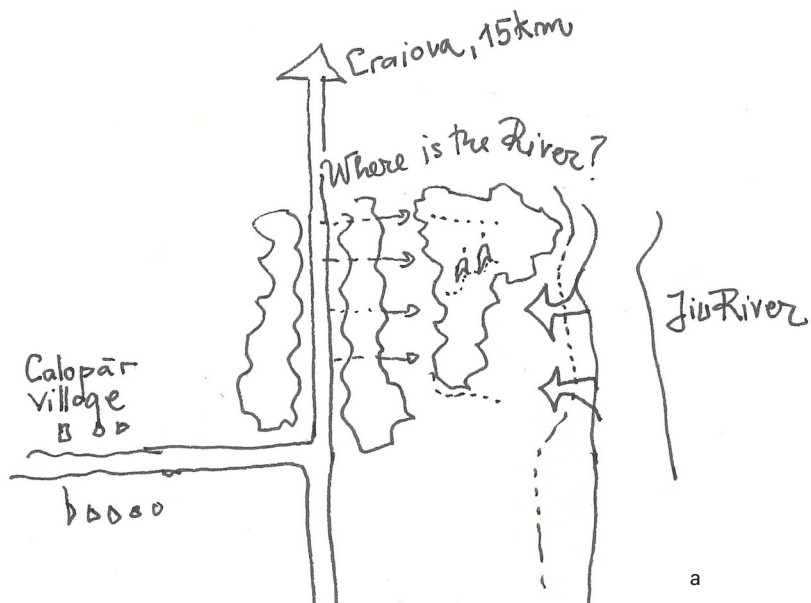
meeting with a young planner, educated at LCA, Florina Neagu is involved in government regional project and is founder for "Make3etv8" Bucharest, April, 2015

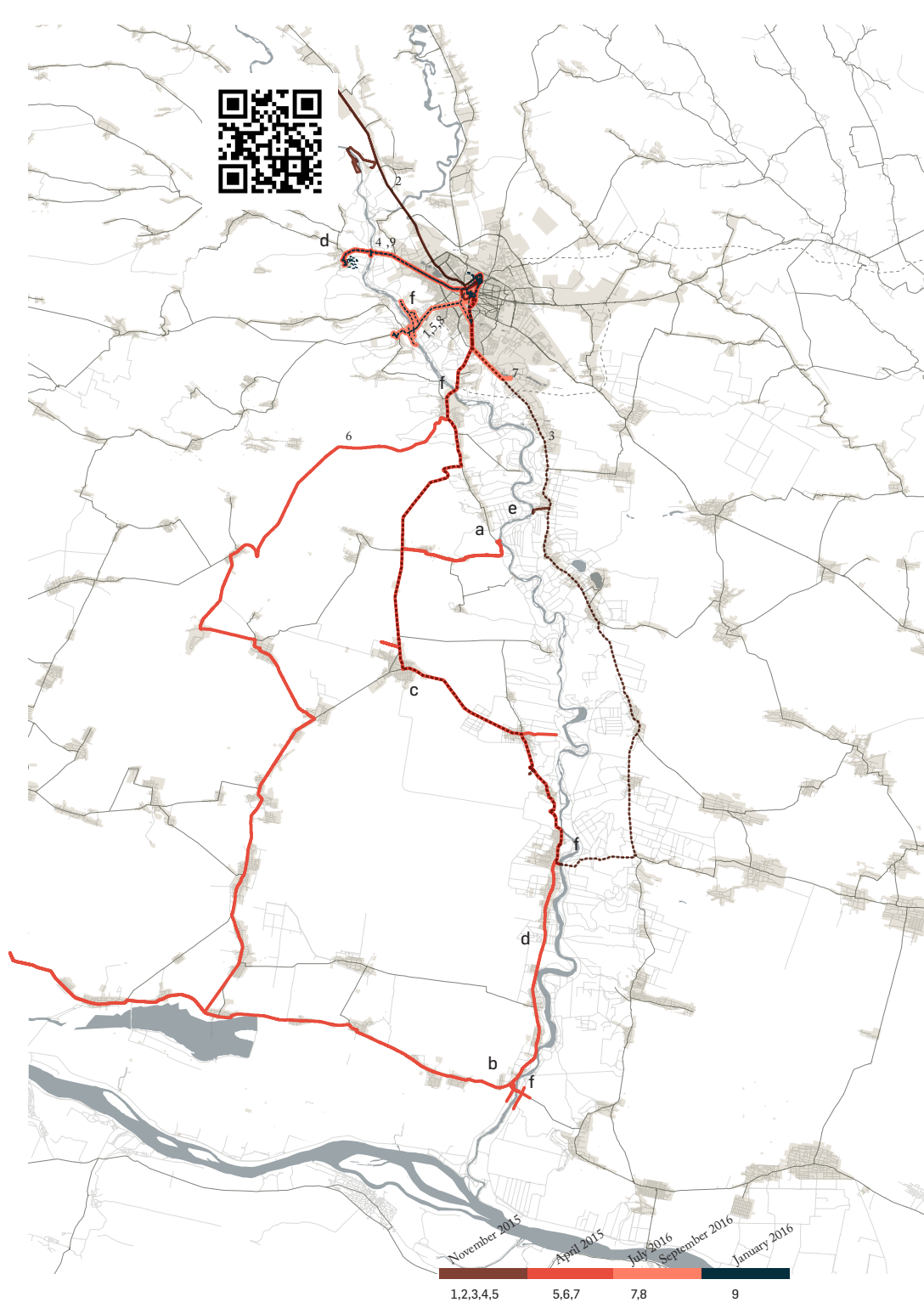
The Designer's Site Trips

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.





1,2,3,4,5

5,6,7

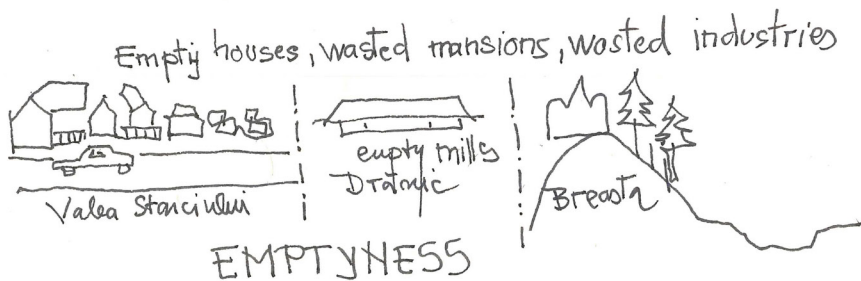
7,8

9

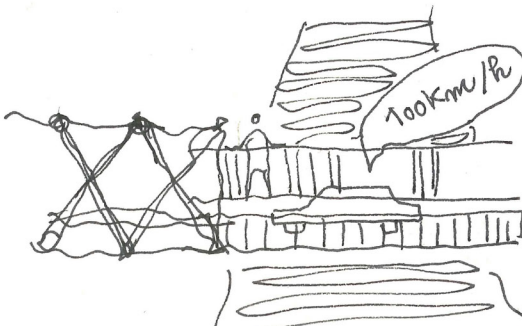


failed visit at the winery

c



d



the bridges as
balconies towards
the River; Oh....
fast bridges.....

f

✧ Connection to other stories

The motocyclist	Eta Motocicleta	37
The horse rider	Cristina	28
The Europe bike tourist		47
The bikers		

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 way 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 60 year old 😊

Today makes it that I have now cycled 2,622 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 on good roads with heavy traffic in only a few places, puzzlements today are:

- 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 swerve.
- Why does the character of the horse follow it's owner.
- Why don't shops (magazines) sell chocolate, nuts etc or small bakery items.
- Why do they go just outside the village limit to dump all their detrious especially plastic bottles.

