

Reflection

Track: Landscape Architecture

Graduation Studio: Flowscape

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The theme of landscape graduation studio is Flowscape – infrastructure as landscape, landscape as infrastructure. The studio explores infrastructure as a type of landscape and landscape as a type of infrastructure (cf, Strang, 1996). Through focusing on landscape architectonic design of transportation-, green-, and water infrastructures the studio aim to develop innovative spatial armatures that guide urban and rural development and represent their civic and cultural significance. It's very common to face the situation that people are losing their civic and cultural characteristics due to Modernism and Globalism. Among this trend, there is an interesting urban union proposal called Twin City Region, which is very common all over the world nowadays (Fig. 1).

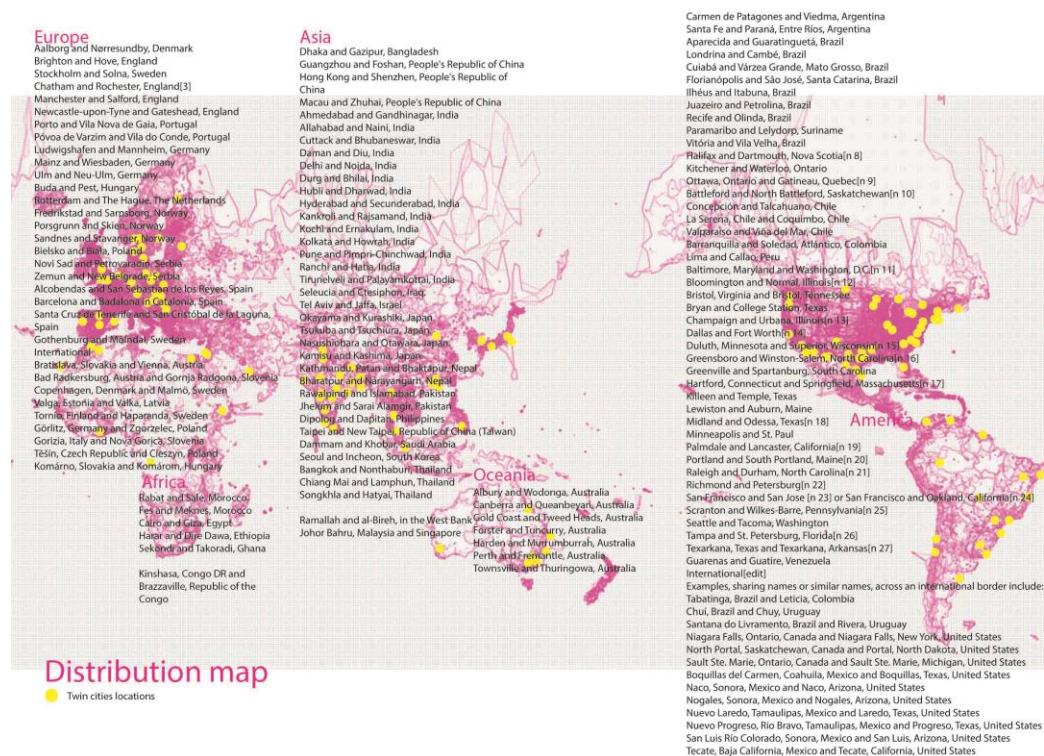


Fig.1 the mapping above presents the distribution of Twin City Regions (yellow spots) all over the worlds, from Europe, Asia, America and Africa, mapping by author.

Based on the original target of this kind of Twin City Region proposal, economic development would always be the first step to take and normally ends with it. For this reason, governors see logistic system at an essential position since it could bring economic communication and developments obviously. However, besides economic aspect, there are also other parts of contexts in or between two cities which linked as a union. Also, as the development and

communication between two cities become more and more compact, spatial context between these two cities will be changed. As a result, a simple plan on logistic system for Twin City Region which is very popular nowadays actually is far more than enough from a landscape aspect.

Based on the investigation, I settle down the research question of my graduation project on how to develop a landscape framework which creates a condition for economy, social space, and ecology development in Twin City Region mutual buffer zone by using transportation, water, green and recreational infrastructures. This research contains various aspects so that calling a real case study to test. Since the studio offer a condition on choosing project location along Rhine and Danube, I pick Vienna and Bratislava as a case study to test and answer my research question.

After doing comprehensive research on Vienna and Bratislava, I get the conclusion that this Twin City Region indeed takes the popular trend on planning comprehensive logistic system from Train, Road, Aviation and Marine, while also face several problems from Water, Green and Recreation aspects as a result. The methodical line of approach of the studio is to deal these problems by focusing on landscape architectonic design of transportation-, green-, and water infrastructures. In my opinion, there is one category missing here, recreation. In order to have a systematic plan for this region, I would like to take landscape framework as a guiding approach to handle this complicated design, which is one type of regional plan with the method applied in Flowscape studio.

By doing this research and have a deep examination on case study, my graduation project becomes a reference for the development of Twin City Regions all over the world. It testifies the possibility on applying landscape framework approach on regional plan and design for Twin City Regions. It would help different kinds of Twin City Regions formulate their own developing way, guiding urban and rural development and representing their civic and cultural significance with a spatial meaning.