

DESCRIPTION

THE BIG IDEA of the project: The idea comes from the theme of the **Lithuanian National Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2025** (the idea proposed by prof. Gintaras Balčytis Curator of the Lithuanian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2025)

STARTING POINTS of the idea of the Lithuanian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2025:

GENIUS LOCI: Latin term meaning "genius, spirit of place." Every place has its own unique characteristics, not only because of its physical makeup, but also because of how it is perceived, so it should be the responsibility of the architect or landscape designer to be sensitive to these unique characteristics, to enhance them, not to destroy them.

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS: beautiful, sustainable, together is a creative initiative of the European Commission, a platform where visions of the future lifestyle and quality of the living environment are created, combining art, culture, social inclusion, science and technology.

GREEN THINKING: to pursue knowledge and practices that can lead to environmentally friendly and greener decisions and lifestyles that can help preserve the environment and preserve its natural resources for current and future generations.

CLIMATE CHANGE: "Not only was this July warmer than any previous July, it was also the warmest month on record since 1880. The scientific evidence clearly shows that this is not normal. The alarming global warming is primarily caused by human emissions of greenhouse gases. Rising average temperatures are fueling the dangerous heat extremes people are experiencing here and around the world," Schmidt said in a NASA statement.

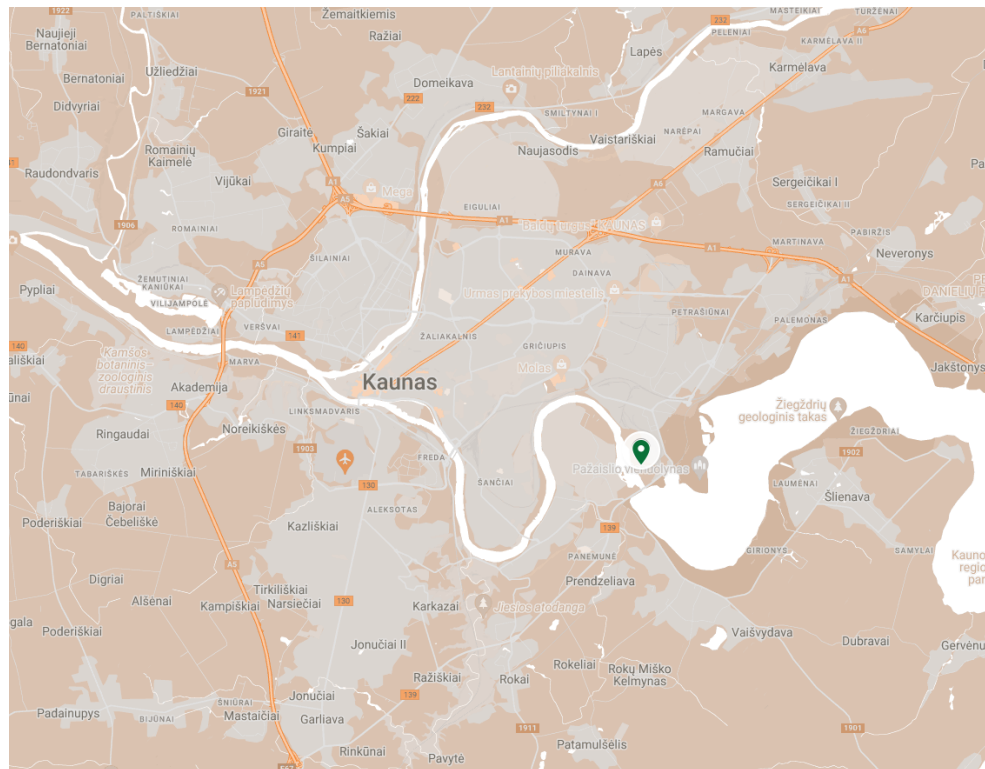
TOPIC: TREE AND ARCHITECTURE: futurizing

Proposed criteria for the selection of the planned territory:

1. A natural area bordering a water body located in an urbanized environment
2. There are cultural and/or natural protected objects in or near the territory
3. The area has good connections with other parts of the city
4. Construction can be developed in the territory

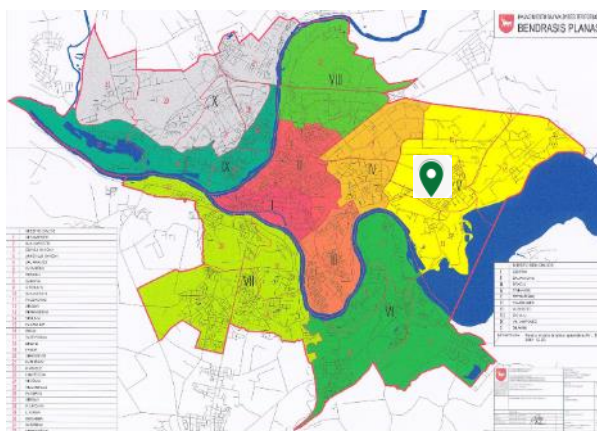
DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED TERRITORY IN KAUNAS

1. Location of the territory in the city of Kaunas



1 Fig. The city of Kaunas and the location of the selected territory 

<https://www.google.com/maps/@54.9052054,23.9690346,16157m/data=!3m1!1e3?entry=ttu>



2.Fig. Petrašiūnai eldership

https://lt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kauno_miesto_dalys#/media/Vaizdas:Kaunas_2001.jpg

The proposed site is located in Kaunas City Municipality (Fig. 1), Petrašiūnai eldership, Petrašiūnai micro-district. The Petrašiūnai eldership comprises four micro-districts - Petrašiūnai, Palemonas, Amaliai and Naujasodis (Fig. 2). It is the largest in terms of area of all Kaunas city elderships. It covers an area of 28.46 km². The population of the eldership is over 13 000 inhabitants. The proposed area (Fig. 3) is located in the heterogeneous Petrašiūnai micro-district, which is rich in natural and cultural heritage objects, has a unique landscape, a connection to the Kaunas Lagoon, engineering objects - the Kaunas hydroelectric power plant, many industrial objects and residential buildings.



3. Fig. Selected territory

<https://www.google.com/maps/@54.8826855,23.9916315,2409m/data=!3m1!1e3?entry=ttu>

2. Historical and urban development of Petrašiūnai

Until the 19th century, the territory of Petrašiūnai developed gradually, with the railway line between Amaliai and Petrašiūnai at the end of the 19th century and the construction of the Kaunas hydroelectric power station in 1954 providing a big boost to its development. Along with the railway, industrial areas began to grow in Petrašiūnai. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were many different factories: the glass factory "Stiklas", later "Elnias", the "Bitukas" brick factory, and a paper factory. In 1930, the Petrašiūnai thermal power plant was built. Residential buildings for workers were built next to the factories. This led to the development of the area during the

Soviet era, when Petrašiūnai was shaped as an industrial district with residential buildings next to the factories and plants.

More historical information about Petrašiūnai and the development of the district can be found in this publication:

- <https://www.laskaunas.lt/jaunuju-publikacijos/jaunuju-publikacijos/>;
- <https://www.laskaunas.lt/jaunuju-publikacijos/petrasiunai/>
- <https://kaunas.kasvyksta.lt/2019/07/27/kultura/neatrasti-petrasiunai-ten-kurstiebesi-valstybe-foto/>

3. Adjacencies and possibilities of the territory

The selected territory is bounded from the west by the largest river in Lithuania - Nemunas, in the southern part of the territory - a stream, in the eastern part of the territory - a former/existing industrial territory and a base for technical sports with an area of 600 m², in the north - an object of cultural heritage - a place of remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust. A little to the south of from the selected territory, the Nemunas River is dammed by the Kaunas Hydro Power Plant of the name of A. Brazauskas, built in 1959 which forms the Lagoon of Kaunas (Fig. 4).



4.Fig. Adjacencies of the site <https://maps.kaunas.lt/bp/>

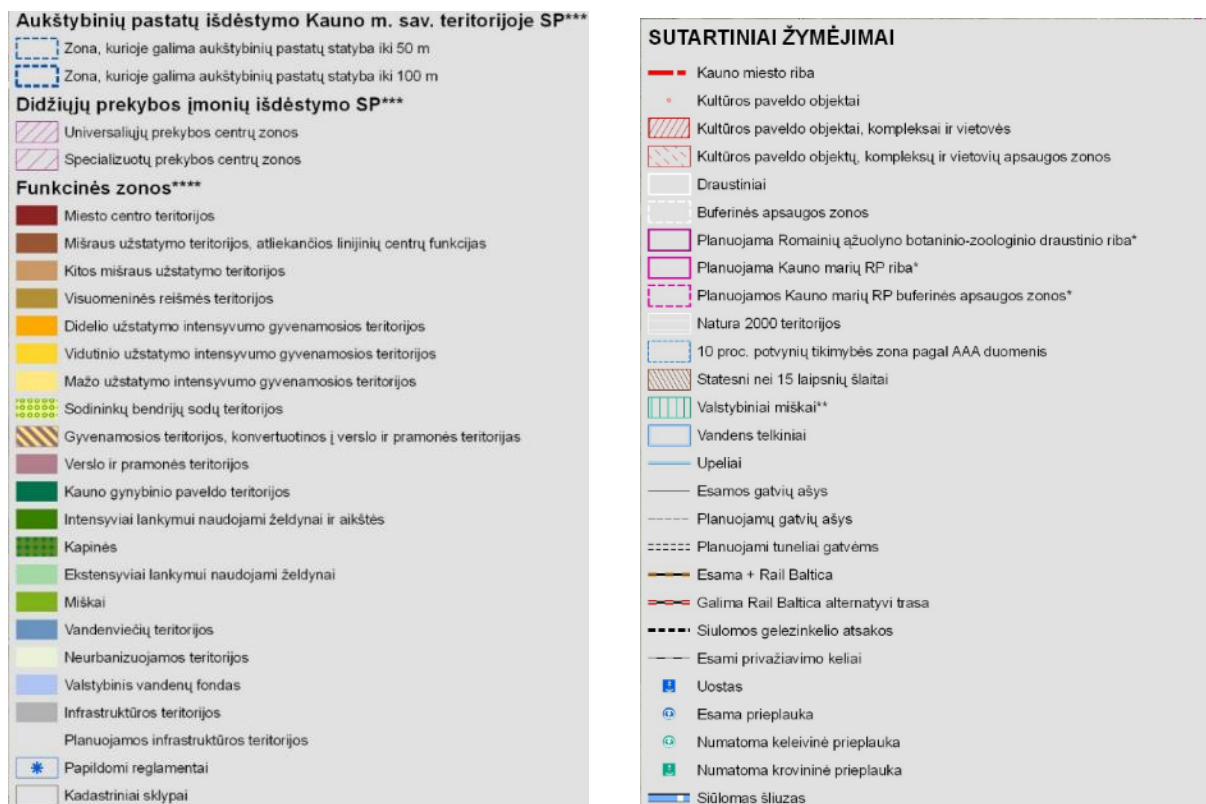
According to the Kaunas Master Plan, when developing the area below the Kaunas Hydroelectric Power Station (KHE), it is necessary to assess the potential danger threats in case of a dam accident; to provide recreational, dam-viewing areas below the dam in Petrašiūnai and on the other side of the Nemunas River - in Vičiūnai; and to

humanize the area by opening up the access to the Nemunas River. The Master Plan promotes the process of spontaneous conversion of former industrial sites and of existing mixed-use areas, especially in the river valleys. In the case of conversion of the proposed area, it is recommended that river accesses be provided for public use and that industrial buildings be converted into residential quarters. The Kaunas City Master Plan also provides for the possibility of building a new bridge below the dam and a lock on the right bank of the river connecting the Kaunas Lagoon with the Nemunas River (Fig. 5).



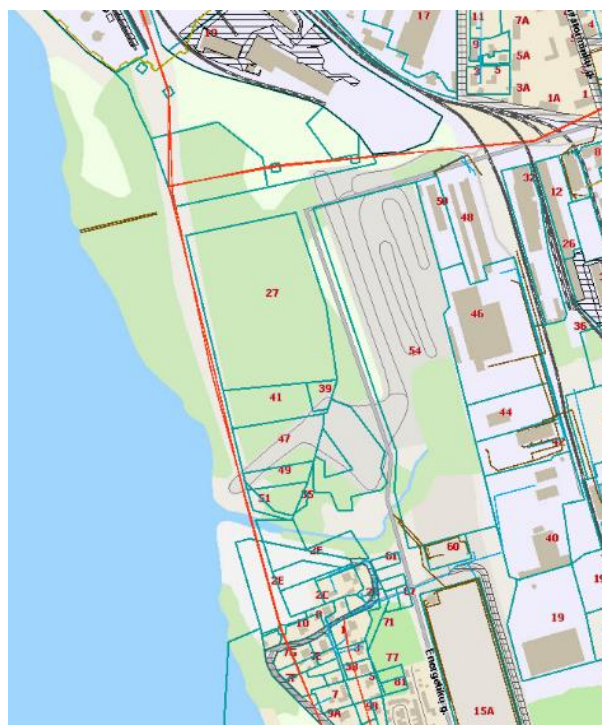
5 Fig. Opportunities in the area. A fragment of the Kaunas City Master Plan. <https://www.kaunas.lt/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2015/06/02pagrindinisvienaslapas10000-1.jpg>

Kitos mišraus užstatymo teritorijos		Mišnios gyvenamosios ir komercinės teritorijos	• Kitos paskirties: - o Gyvenamosios teritorijos - o Visuomeninės paskirties teritorijos - o Komercinės paskirties objektų teritorijos - o Pramonės ir sandėliavimo objektų teritorijos (tik esamuose šios paskirties sklypuose ir tuose sklypuose, kuriuose stovi pramoninės paskirties pastatai) - o Inžinerinės infrastruktūros teritorijos - o Bendro naudojimo teritorijos - o Atskirųjų želdynų teritorijos - o Rekreacinės teritorijos - o Teritorijos krašto apsaugos tikslams • Konservacinės paskirties	Už iki 1. Maksimalus aukštumas nustatytas Aukštybinių pastatų išdėstymo Kauno miesto savivaldybės teritorijoje specialiajame plane (patv. 2013-01-17 Nr. T-22).	Naujos pramonės ir sandėliavimo objektų teritorijos šiose teritorijose nenumatomos
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5 Fig. Opportunities in the area. A fragment of the Kaunas City Master Plan. <https://www.kaunas.lt/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2015/06/02pagrindinisvienaslapas10000-1.jpg>

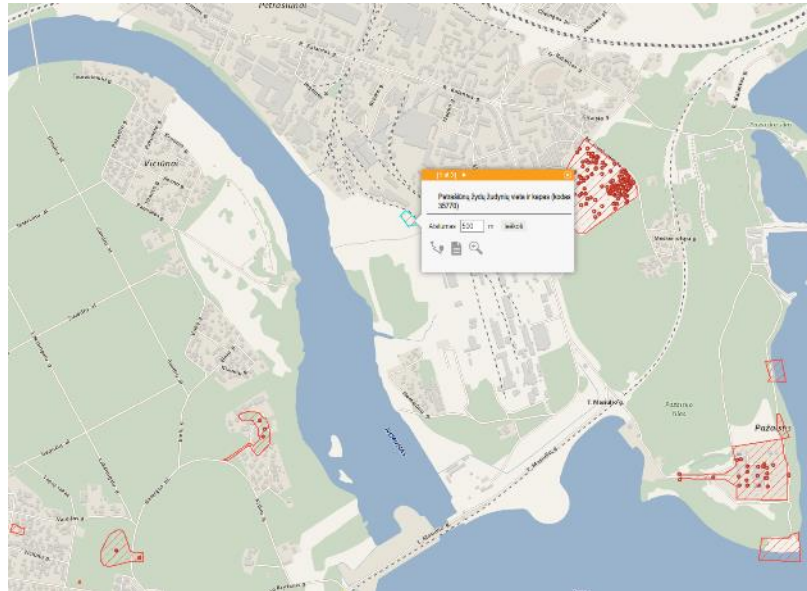
The selected territory is divided into several plots, crossed by a canalized stream and a high-voltage power line (Fig. 6).



6 Fig. Plots in the territory and engineering infrastructure. <https://regia.lt/map/regia2>

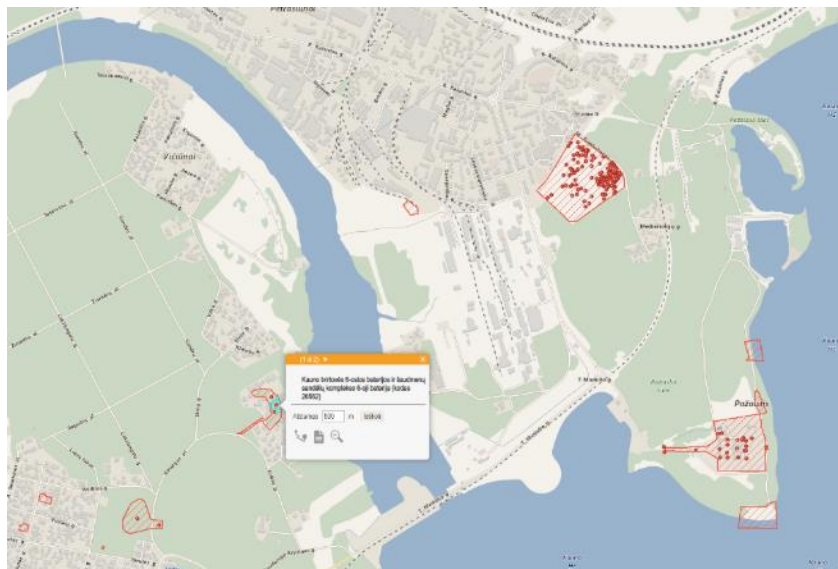
4. Cultural heritage objects

The closest to the proposed site is the Petrašiūnai Jewish Massacre Site and Grave (Fig. 7), an immovable object of cultural heritage with the Character of the property: Historic and Memorial.



7. Fig. Sites of cultural heritage sites, Petrašiūnai Jewish Massacre Site and Grave (code 35770). <https://kvr.kpd.lt/#/static-heritage-search>

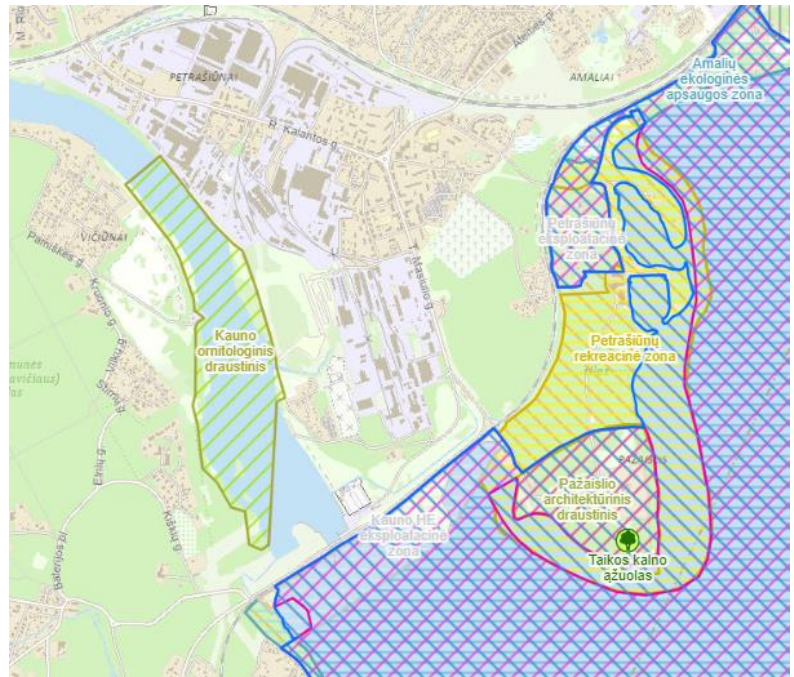
On the other side of the Nemunas River is the 6th battery and ammunition depot complex of Kaunas Fortress (Fig. 8), The nature of the valuable properties of this object of cultural heritage is: Engineering (typical in terms of significance) and Landscape.



8. Fig. Sites of cultural heritage sites. 6th battery and ammunition depot complex of Kaunas Fortress (code 26564). <https://kvr.kpd.lt/#/static-heritage-search>

5. Protected areas

The selected territory is adjacent to and partly within the boundaries of some protected area. Behind the Hydroelectric Power Station is the Kaunas Lagoon Regional Park (included in Natura 2000 sites), and the site itself falls within the Kaunas Ornithological Reserve (Fig. 9), which was established in 1988 and covers an area of 63 ha. The aim of the reserve is to preserve wintering waterbirds. The Reserve protects the wintering sites of waterbirds located in the lower reaches of the Kaunas Hydroelectric Power Station dam. In recent years, about 5000 waterbirds have wintered in the reserve. In this context, the site is of interest not only to naturalists and scientists, but also to visitors who like to observe wildlife and birds.



9 Fig. Protected areas

[https://stvk.lt/map/24.0198/54.8818/13.7/\[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52](https://stvk.lt/map/24.0198/54.8818/13.7/[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52)

6. Current state of the territory

The area is quite natural and undeveloped, dominated by mixed wetland riparian vegetation (willow, alder, maple, etc.). Pine, birch and ruderal communities and plant species are also found in the higher parts of the terrain. In terms of vegetation quality, the recreational potential of this green area at this moment is not high, but it is of great ecological importance as a stabilizing habitat at local level.

The territory is crossed by a channelized stream. The area is used by fishermen, who have built some temporary facilities: they have fenced-off fireplaces, set up resting and set up resting and sitting areas, and there are paths leading along and towards the Nemunas River.

Here you can find videos about the territory:

<https://cloud.ktu.edu/index.php/s/Y4MtgWlfBrMGnXy>

<https://cloud.ktu.edu/index.php/s/XdjCPzH7tMKmeoK>







