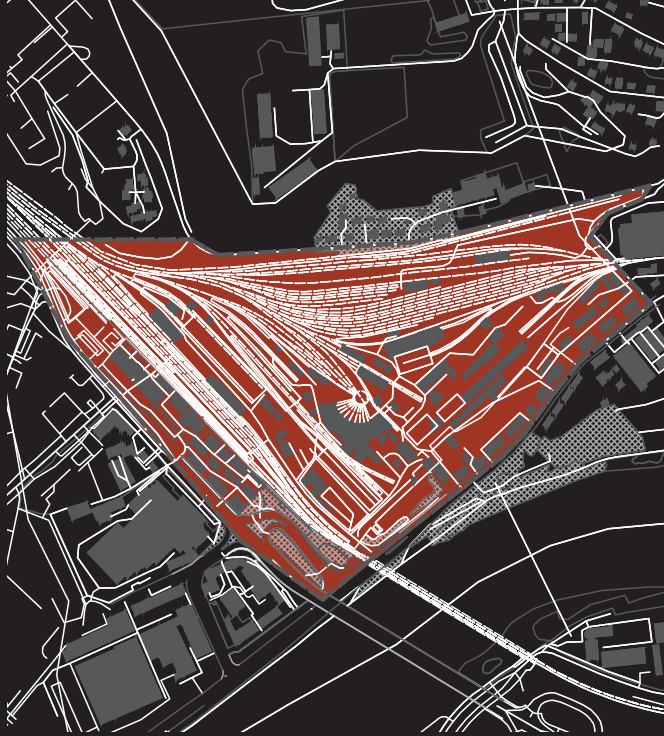




faculty of civil
engineering and
architecture

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS
LITUANIE

INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS



WORKSHOP OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS'23

star|arch

04 – 07 09 2023

VIBRANT RAILWAY STATION DISTRICT



Introduction to the workshop'23

The **Architecture students' creative workshop startTarch** - was held on the 4 - 7th of September 2023. It was organized together with architects from France and is the result of the second year of cooperation between the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Kaunas University of Technology, and the French Institute in Paris and the French Institute in Lithuania.

Since the opening of the Kaunas railway station in the early 19th century, the entire territory of the station became an object of attraction, an important center of economy, culture and social life. This territory is significant today because of the expanding "Rail Baltica" railway network, which will integrate the Baltic countries into the European railway network. The station quarter in Žemiejų Šančiai, bordered by A. Juozapavičiaus Avenue, L. Ivinskis and M. K. Čiurlionis streets, will become not only a strategic transport hub, but also an attractive Kaunas city center, expanding the physical limits of mobility.

The aim of the workshop was to create a concept of a new vibrant center in the railway station district of Žemiejų Šančiai neighbourhood, by establishing functional, spatial and communicative connections, which would connect the renewed station's quarter with the central part of Kaunas city and create an attractive and a functional architectural environment reflecting the spirit of the place (Genius loci), would form a friendly and comfortable infrastructure for all passengers and improve mobility opportunities for residents and guest of Kaunas and other Lithuanian cities.

Heritage Meets Contemporary Living by Barbie

Project name:

**HERITAGE MEETS
CONTEMPORARY
LIVING**

Team name:

BARBIE

4



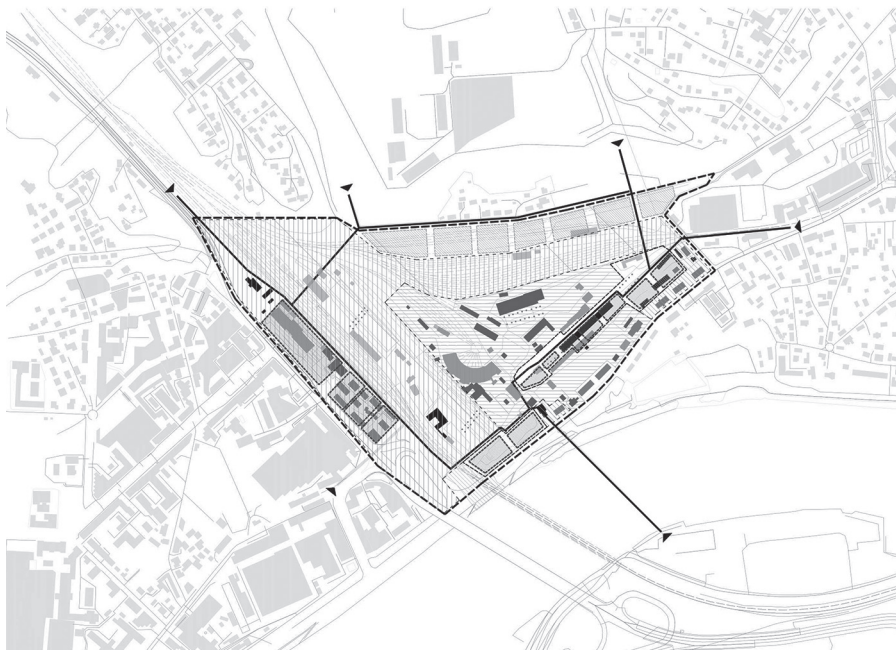
Team members:

Ogulcan Eryigit, Ugnė Bačinskaitė, Kamilė Lapaitytė, Martynas Stakvilevičius

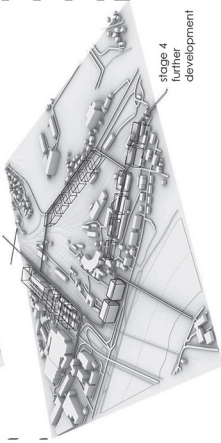
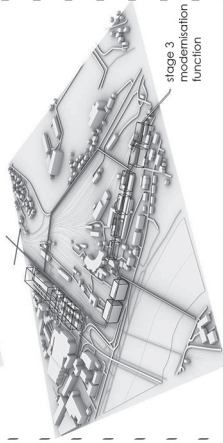
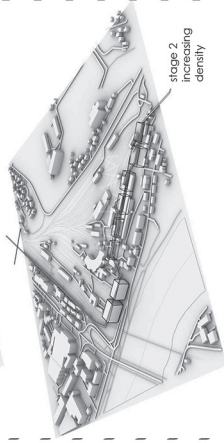


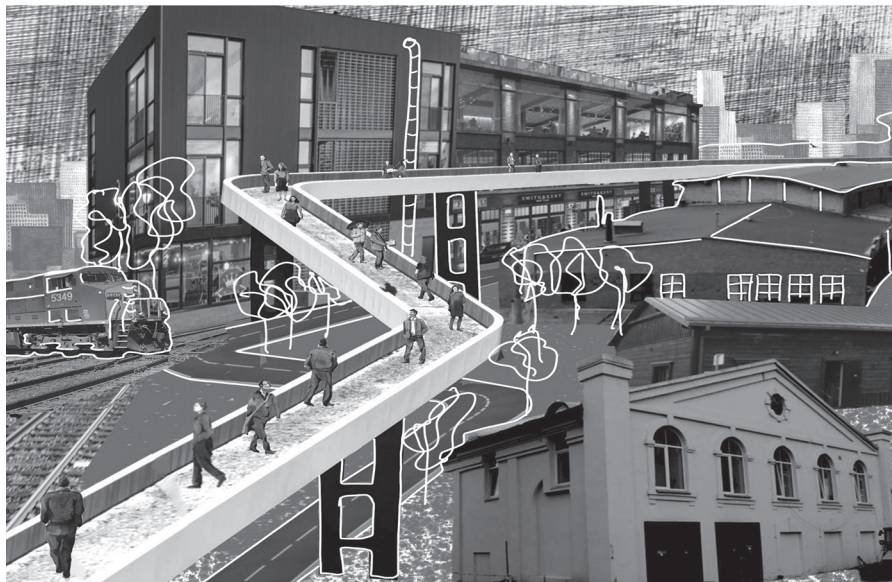
Heritage Meets Contemporary Living by Barbie

The new Kaunas Railway Station District is an ambitious and transformative urban development initiative, serving as a model for the harmonious coexistence of past and present. Nestled in the heart of Kaunas, Lithuania, this district seamlessly merges contemporary architecture with restored heritage buildings, thereby reshaping the urban fabric. The development's core principles prioritise accessibility, and community engagement, ensuring a forward-looking approach to city living.



Heritage Meets Contemporary Living by Barbie





Heritage Meets Contemporary Living by Barbie

Notes

Railway Park

by Black Haired

Project name:

**RAILWAY
PARK**

Team name:

**BLACK
HAired**

10



Team members:

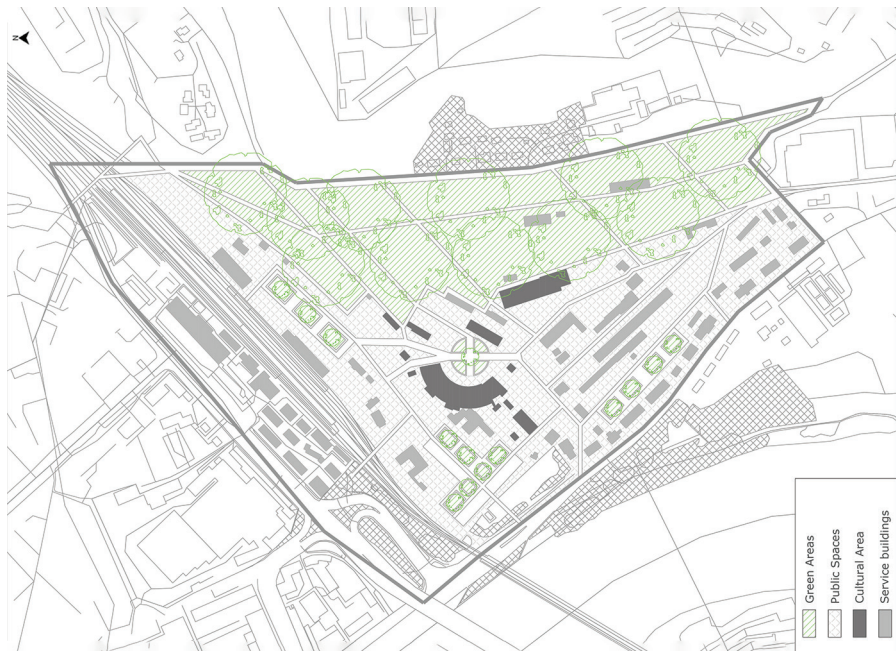
Ander Grando, Lukrecija Jankauskaitė, Austė Bernotaitė



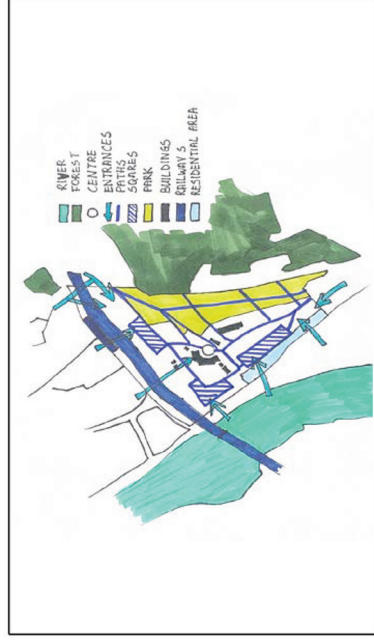
Currently, the Kaunas train station is just a passing place, so the vegetation that the park and the communal spaces will create are the perfect ways to make people want to stay and the train station will become an attraction place. The train station is located near the Kaunas centre and the river Nemunas to the west, so this place has a great location advantage. To the east is a green place so it's a perfect location to connect the new park and common places.

Railway Park

by Black Haired



Railway Park by Black Haired



Connection diagram



Zone diagram



Railway Park by Black Haired

Notes

Connecting Corridors

by Black Pearl

Project name:

**CONNECTING
CORRIDORS**

Team name:

**BLACK
PEARL**

16



Team members:

Džiugas Urbanas, Helena Jašičkova, Mylana Titovska, Mert Karincali



Connecting Corridors by Black Pearl

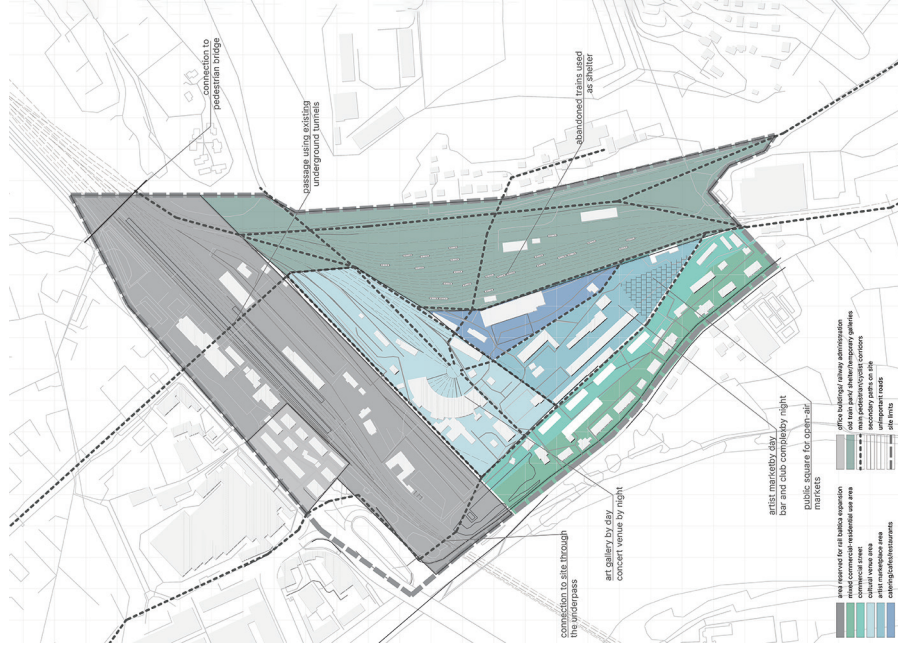
The aim of the project is to reinvigorate the currently underused area of Kaunas railway station and also to prepare it for the future RAIL BALTICA expansion. This is achieved by connecting the 3 territories at its' periphery: Naujamiestis, Žemieji Šančiai and Aukštieji Šančiai, and also by providing a multitude of facilities and spaces for activities on-site.

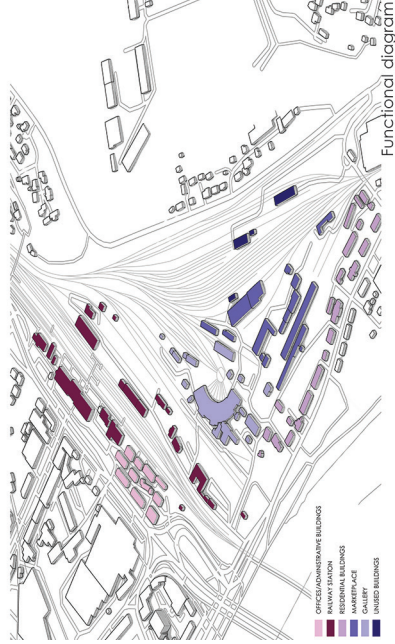
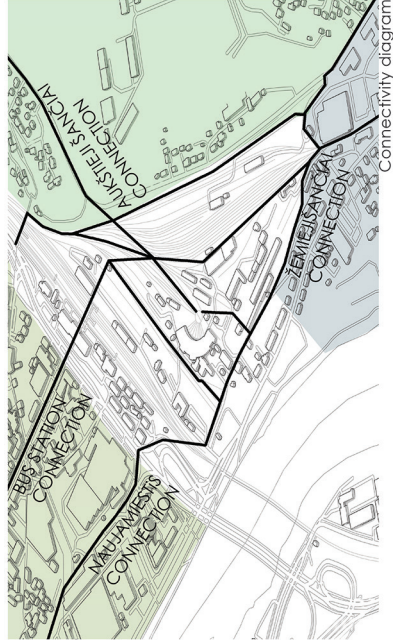
The connections take on the shape of pedestrian and bicycle-exclusive paths, providing a safer and more comfortable transit as compared to before.

The on-site facilities take on the functions of offices, commercial streets, markets, cultural facilities and venues.

The central train depot is converted into an art gallery by day, and at night turns into a cultural venue for concerts, using the hole for an orchestral pit. The peripheral buildings function as short-term rentable spaces-studios for artists.

The art market part of the site works during the daytime, in the evening it turns into a complex of bars and clubs. The unused trails are given a new function as a park, where old train wagons can reside, and be given new purposes either as shelter, or temporary galleries. Passage through working tracks is managed by using existing underpasses and tunnels.







Connecting Corridors by Black Pearl

A dark, abstract geometric pattern consisting of various lines and shapes, resembling a stylized map or architectural plan, located on the left side of the page.

Notes

Loop of Art by Catfish

Project name:

**LOOP
OF ART**

Team name:

CATFISH

22



Team members:

Kamila Kněbortová, Agnė Dudonytė, Ieva Dante, Toma Mockutė

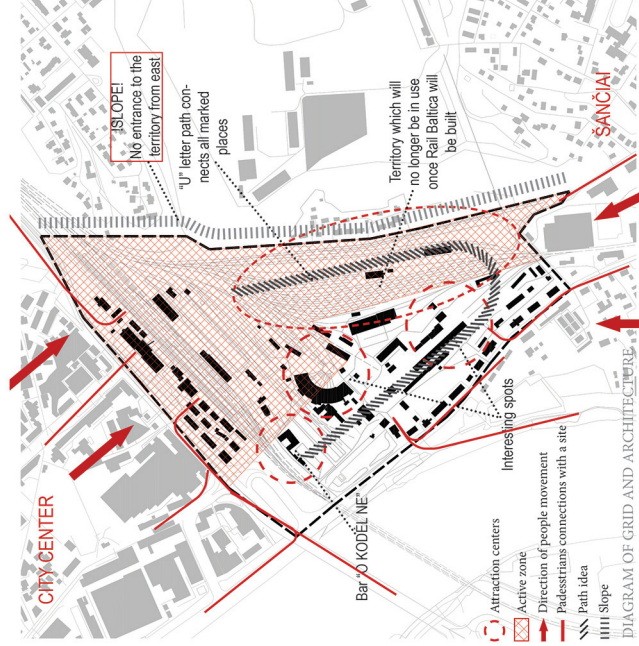
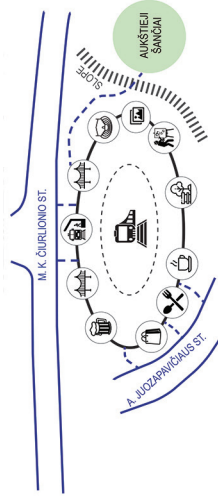


Loop of Art by Catfish

The project consists of a couple of elements that together with the train station create a circular path. The main object is a multifunctional art center with exhibitions and studios along with a park that has an amphitheater for concerts and other events. It is located on the railings, which will no longer be in use after the Rail Baltica will be built. The amphitheater park is connected with the train station through a pedestrian bridge which also openly invites people to enter the area from Aukštēji Šančiai side. Parallel to A. Juozapavičius Avenue there is an avenue with renovated old buildings as well as some small modern ones in which food places, cafes, shops, small businesses and small galleries are located. A small green zone with seating not only connects the alley to the art center but also isolates the area from the busy street and the movement which is happening outside of the site. While at the other end of it is an already existing bar "O kodėl ne?". In the middle of the site, the area will be left for the railway station's needs.

The entire site has its own boundaries, buildings in that zone will be left authentic. Boundaries will isolate the site from the city and create a mystery which invites people to come and have a journey of art. The Rail Baltica passengers will also be part of it: they will enter the site with a train and exactly at that moment they will become a part of the loop.









Notes

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Intersection

by Doremifasollasi

Project name:

INTERSECTION

Team name:

DOREMIFASOLLASI

28



Team members:

Ieva Stulpinaitė, Dmytro Oleksiienko, Meda Masaitytė

Šančiai is a very perspective area, but currently, there are almost no attractions. The Rail Baltica project is planned to be completed by 2030. This project will unite not only people and cities but also countries. We propose new train station concept- a new gathering place for people. This recreational zone connects the city center, A. Juozapavičius Avenue and the future recreation area in Šančiai.

COMMERCIAL ZONE. In this zone first level is for cafes and bars and higher levels are for offices and living quarters.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL PARK. People are offered a variety of entertainment: playgrounds for children, sports areas, relaxation areas and event venues. This space also acts as a connecting point of the city center, Šančiai and A. Juozapavičius Avenue.

MAIN STATION ZONE. This site welcomes tourists and downtown people.

Intersection by Doremifasollasi







Intersection by Doremifasollasi



Notes

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24/7

Project name:

24/7

Team name:

HILLY ROAD

34



Team members:

Aida Raižytė, Andrė Ožėchauskaitė, Ugnė Stonkutė

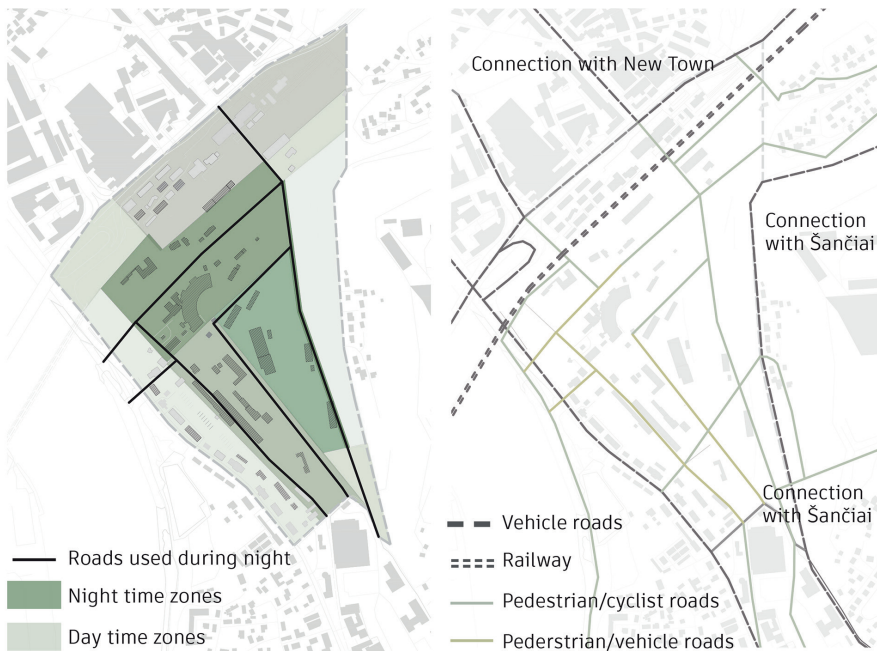
The main concept of the project is to create a new area that would open up opportunities for commerce. It would be a dynamic commercial zone where, for example, during the day, there would be local businesses such as shops and cafes, and during the evening, the whole area would transform into a nightlife hub. The area would become a place where during the day, one could rent spaces for commercial activities, including food trucks and event spaces. Unused industrial zones would be transformed into residential areas. Additionally, the railway zone would be renovated and expanded, with administrative facilities located nearby.

Access to this area and connections to the surrounding neighbourhoods would be available from all directions, as pedestrians could access it from the new town and the upper and lower šančiai. There would be one street in the commercial area designated for vehicles, but they would only be allowed to move based on necessity.

The essence of this idea is to attract people to create and expand their small businesses while also discovering a new favorite place to spend time productively with others. Both the districts and the new town would gain a new nightlife scene.



24/7 by Hilly Road





Notes

Project name:

CITY IN A CITY

Team name:

INKED ARCHITECTS

40

City in a City by Inked Architects



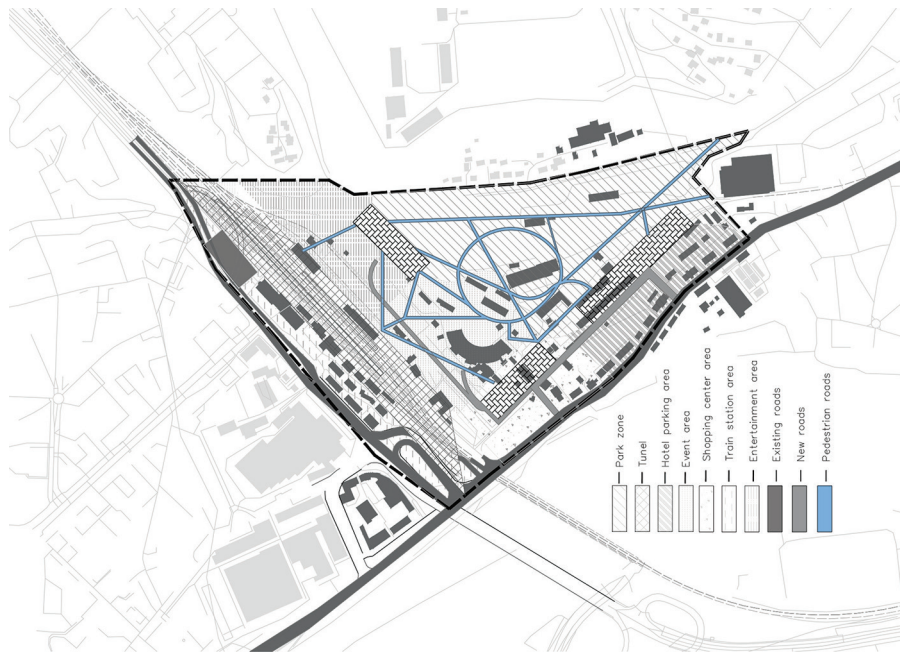
Team members:

Gabrielė Linaburgytė, Miglė Brazdžionytė, Juras Jurgelionis

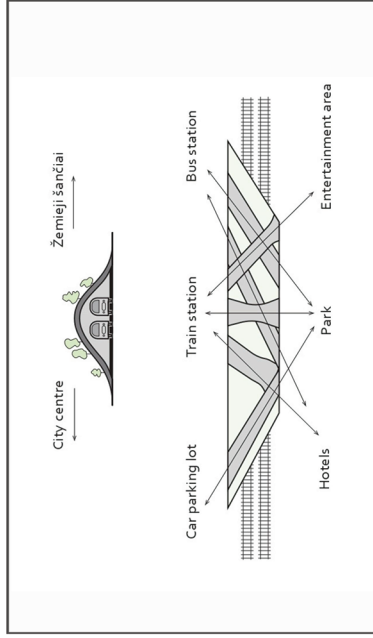
The concept of the project is to design a city in a city since the train station in Kaunas is going to be the main connection between Lithuania's cities and other countries.

The project's solutions not only connect the city centre and Žemiejų Šančiai but also give travelling people the opportunity to reach everything that they would need while staying here, in Kaunas (shops, info center, hotel, park, restaurants, pubs, entertainment areas).

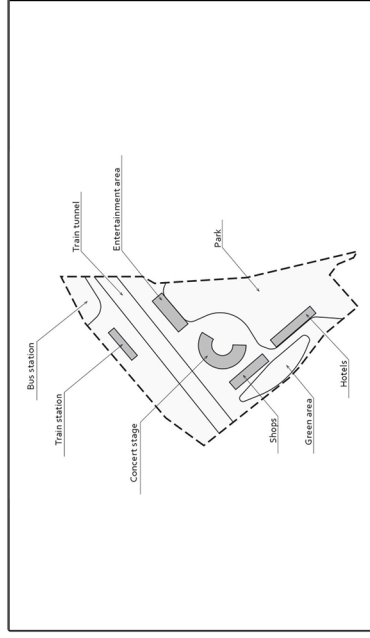
The tunnel over the train stop works as a shield from cars' noise and as a bridge from Žemiejų Šančiai to the city centre. It is connected to the current train station's building, bus terminal and car parking. Through different paths on the bridge people are directed to different functional zones in the plot.



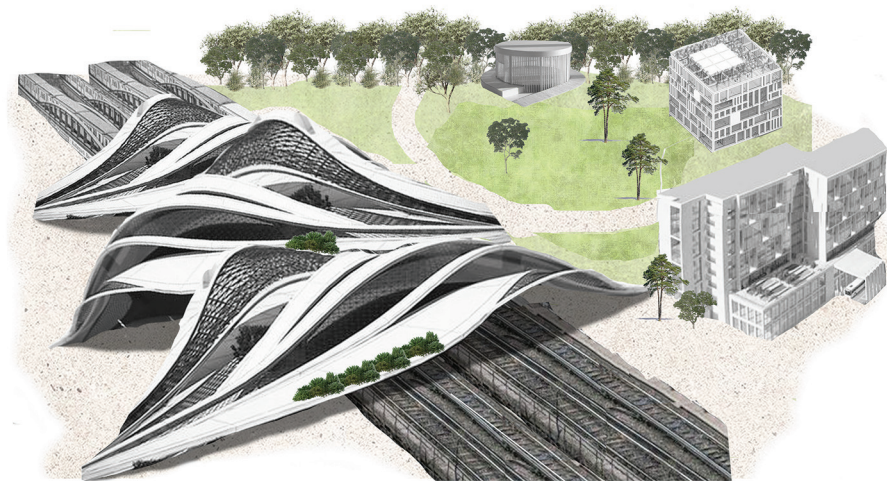
City in a City by Inked Architects



NEW TRAIN STATION TUNNEL'S DIAGRAM



FUNCTIONAL ZONES' DIAGRAM



City in a City by Inked Architects



Notes

Central Railway Hub

Project name:

**CENTRAL
RAILWAY HUB**

Team name:

PROTECTORS

46



Team members:

Faustas Rugys, Vaiva Baltuškaitė, Danilas Anglickis, Kāmer Damīrel

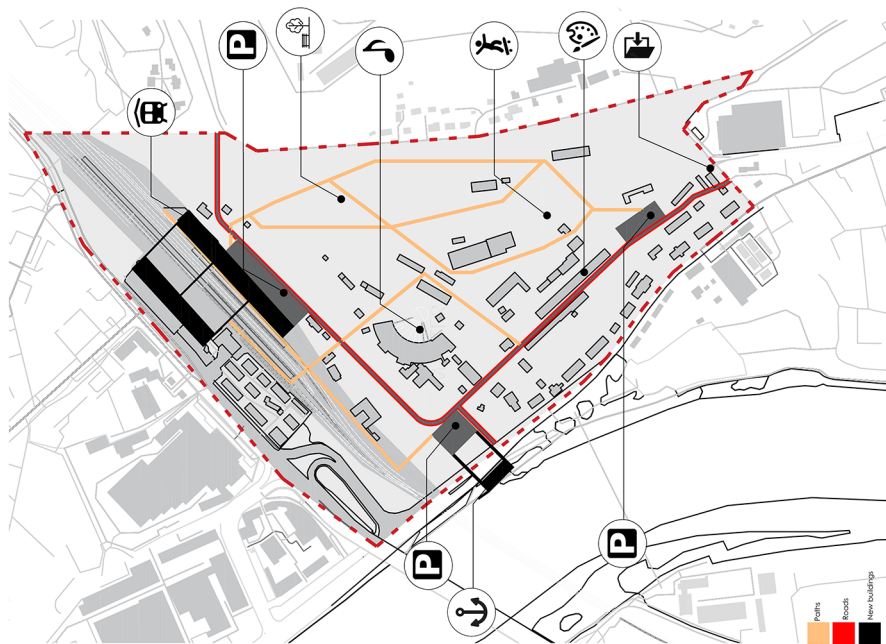


Central Railway Hub

by Protectors

In Kaunas, Šančiai is a historical place known for its old train station history. It was opened in 1862 and had a tremendous effect on Kaunas as it expanded and created new possibilities for expansion. To this day the train station is being used by thousands monthly. However, as time passed most of the buildings and railway tracks became deserted and are no longer functional thus creating huge spaces of void where the old spirit resides. However, it's a perfect time to raise it from the dead by reconstructing the train station more accessible to the public. Our project directly corresponds to Rail Baltica which provides an opportunity for Kaunas to embrace newcomers from all around Europe thus enriching its value for Lithuania. So, the question arises How are we going to fill this void?

The project focuses on two major themes. The first one is to create a systematic grid that would be open for public use and would replace an existing non-usable chaotic one. By doing that it will be easy and non-confusing for people to travel to their desired destination. At the same time, the heritage-protected buildings will be reconstructed and used for entertainment and commercial use. A new train station building would be built on top of historic buildings and would directly connect to the main train station thus creating an authentic feeling of old and new. Secondly, the boundaries that separate the train station from Kaunas city will be destroyed by the bridge that would go over the main road and connect to the Nemunas Lake as well as pedestrian and cyclist pathways. The bridge would serve as a sightseeing and recreational spot. Unused railways will become afforested and manifest into relaxation spaces with playgrounds and sports courts. This way the void that once resided within the station will be filled with the spontaneity and liveliness of human beings.



Central Railway Hub by Protectors

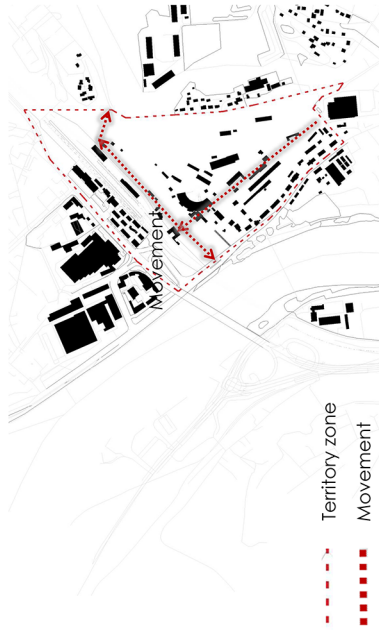


Diagram 1



Diagram 2



Central Railway Hub by Protectors

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Notes

Project name:

**CULTURE
LINK**

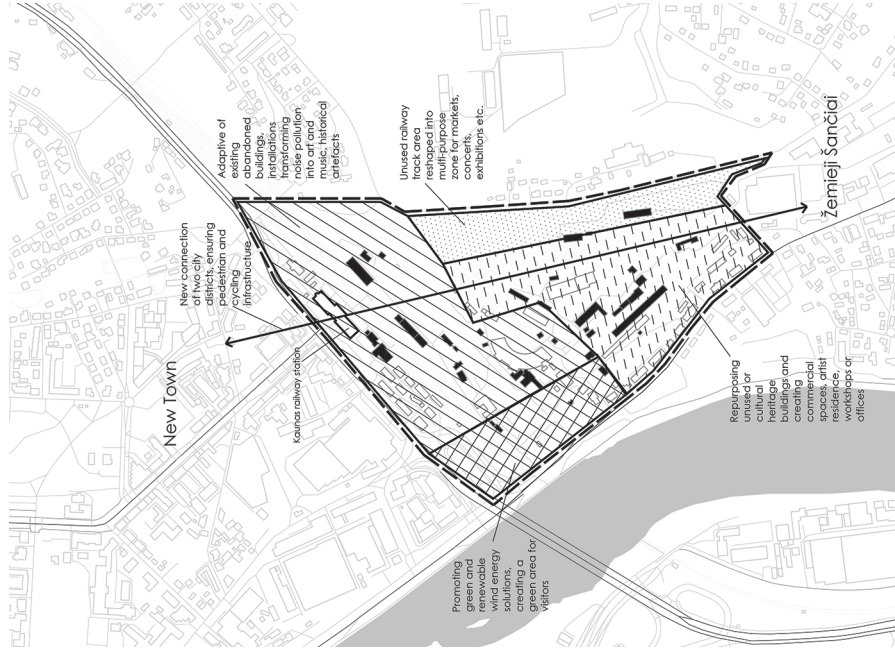
Team name:

**RISING
BLUES**

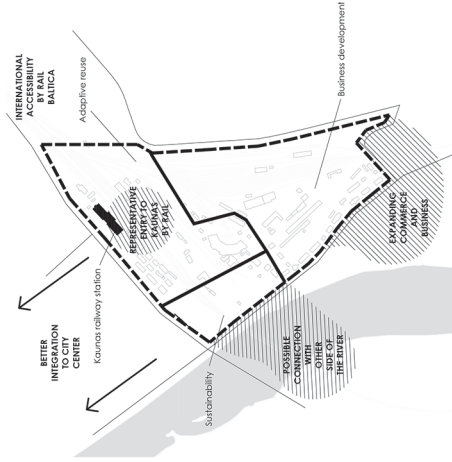


Team members: Lukrecija Ramanauskaitė, Ugnė Girkontaitė,
Eimantas Gelžinis, Emilija Karaseva

Taking the guidelines of 'limit' together with 'wind and noise', a concept of combining art, ecology and economy emerges. The 'limit' is addressed through the site's relationship and connections with the city, while 'wind and noise' help create a cause to raise awareness for sustainability and promote local artistry. Therefore, the limitations of the site are expanded with an improved and much-needed connection between New Town and Žemiejų (Lower) Šančiai with a newly formed alley through the railway station site - an artist residency, which alleviates the problem of the two city districts lacking a direct crossing to each other. The newly formed area ensures the infrastructure for both pedestrians and cyclists. The 'wind' aspect is reserved for the greenest, western area of the plot, where the unused grass field is turned into a small windmill farm, promoting sustainable and renewable energy for the territory. This also allows for the creation of a new green public space for both the planned site and the new residential houses built around it, while also integrating and enlivening the river bank. The 'noise' is associated with the noise pollution coming from the train station, however, this downside is turned into an advantage by implementing an open art gallery of installations that react to the sound, such as wind pipes or lights that turn on reacting to the noise. Each and every historical, cultural heritage or plain old building is preserved in the territory, but can be repurposed into anything from artist workshops to coffee houses, offices or commercial spaces. The main goal is to promote a growing economy, business expansion, support local artists, educate people about sustainable energy sources and create a representative territory for people coming to Kaunas, especially by rail, which will become even more relevant after the Rail Baltica project is finished and the 'limit' of the site will expand to the international level.



Culture Link by Rising Blues



Main features and goals

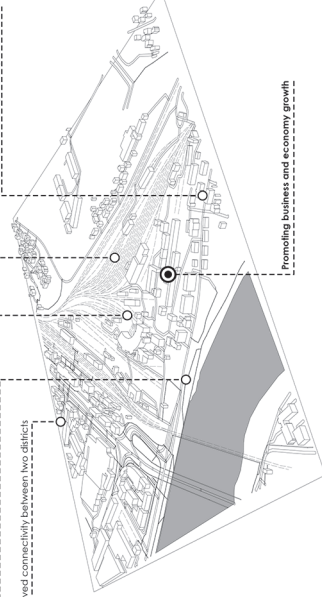
Cultural heritage is being preserved and accessible to visitors

Newly built residential houses acquire a green area

Improved connectivity between two districts

Universal public gathering area

Potentially expanding existing commerce



Promoting business and economy growth



Culture Link by Rising Blues



Notes

Project name:

**LIMITS OF
LIMITLESS**

Team name:

SOLAR

58



Team members:

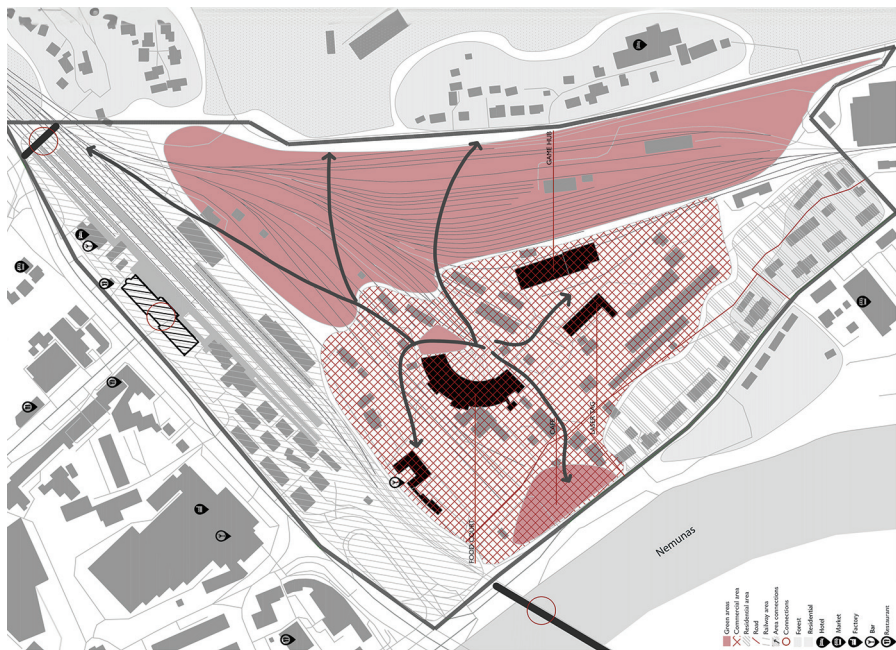
Aistė Simonavičiūtė, Emilija Čepinskaitė, Cristhian Gonzalez Alanís

The project is located in Kaunas, Lithuania, in the railway station territory. Because of the “Rail Baltica” project, there is a need for changes in the area.

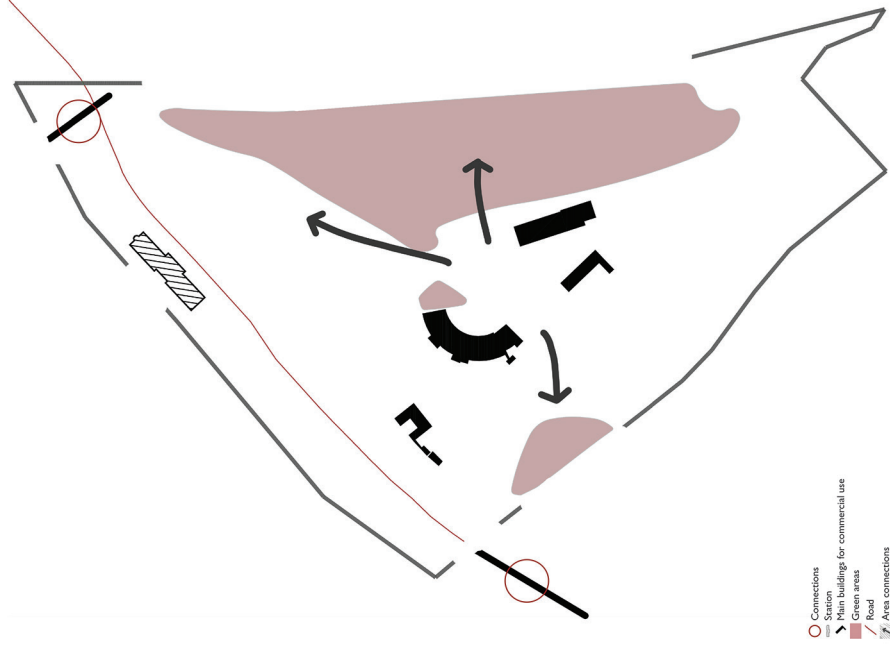
The plot is divided from the outside world with the surrounding areas like forest and residential areas, the river. These borders are broken by a few pathways (pedestrian bridge, railway bridge and the entrance through the station).

Our goal is to create spaces inside of the plot that would help break those borders and make the plot more visible to people. These spaces will be created by creating a commercial area that looks like a natural oasis, reusing the existing buildings and creating a park and a few pockets of nature. Next to it would be a residential area.

The activities that could be implemented into the buildings would be a food court and cafe so the people that come from other cities through the station could eat and relax, but it would also be accessible for the people from the surrounding areas. Other activities would be something exciting like a game hub or a laser tag, which is unique to the surrounding area.



Limits of Limitless by Solar





Limits of Limitless by Solar



Notes

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Project name:

LIVING TRACK

Team name:

THE DOME



Team members:

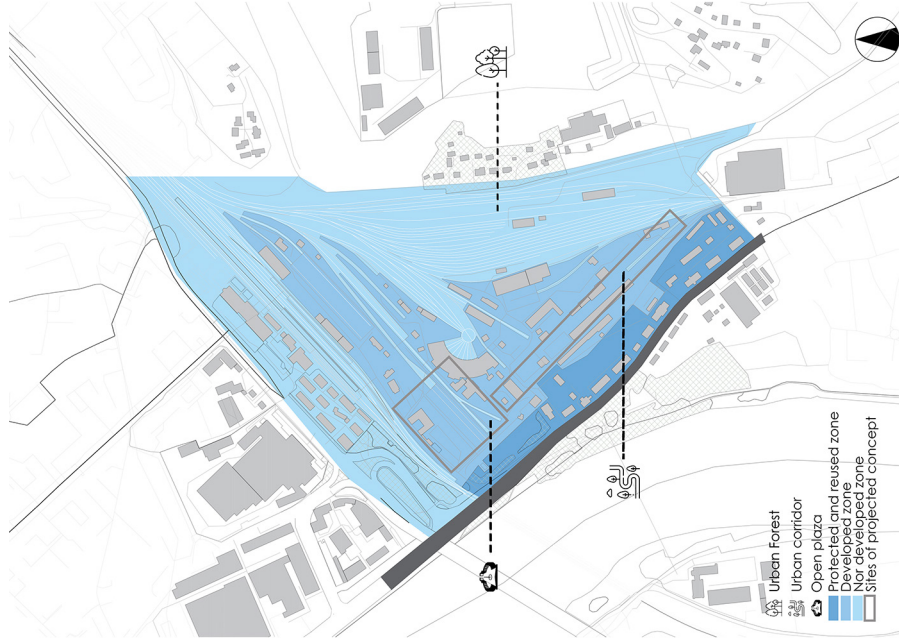
Meda Gelaziute, Alejandra Gutierrez, Akvile Deveikyte

With the regeneration of a zone in mind, this concept intends to rehabilitate the site through nature.

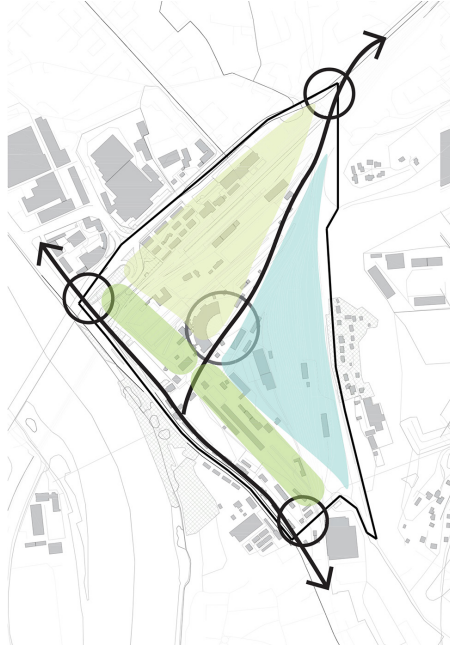
The idea is to not segregate areas but to unite them, allow that future designs find their way as time goes by. The objective is to develop a sort of green corridor and open plazas that allow the people to discover the function of the space and therefore making it their own.

Our concept plans to enhance sustainable urbanization by implementing urban forests, open plazas, urban vegetation that aids to the regeneration of the site through cleaning pollution.

Similarly, it is intended the use of a system to utilize and reuse in a cleaner way rainwater that might pollute the soil, in this manner allowing a recuperation of the soil.



Living Track by The Dome





Living Track by The Dome



Notes

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Industrial Buildings for Industry by Wet Bandits

Project name:

**INDUSTRIAL
BUILDINGS
FOR INDUSTRY**

Team name:

**WET
BANDITS**

70



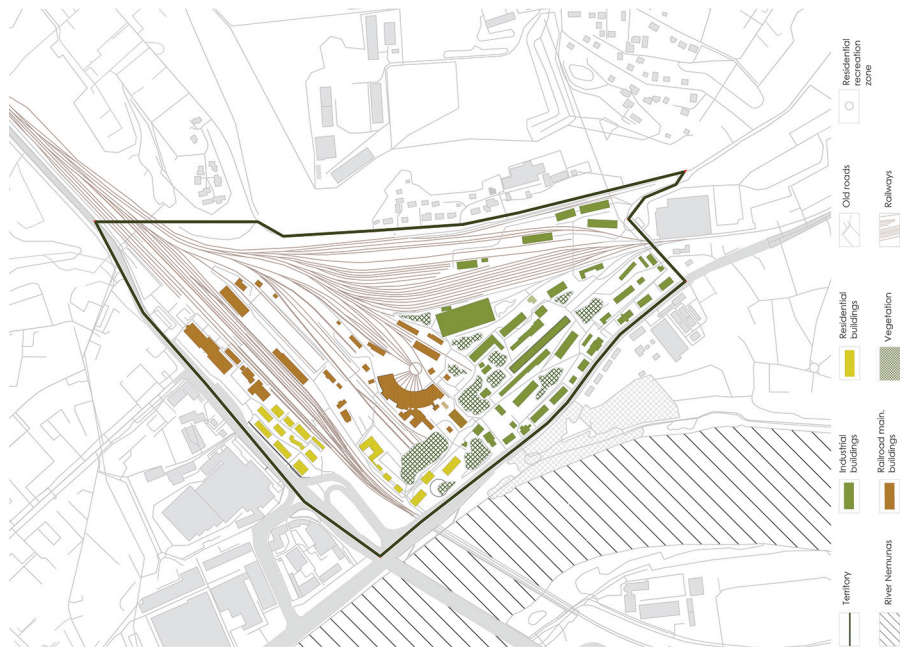
Team members:

Kamilė Ožalaitė, Greta Staškūnaitė, Danielius Lapajus, Emilija Vilkevičiūtė

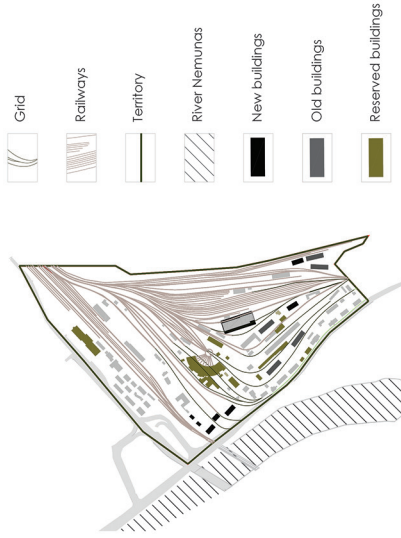


Industrial Buildings for Industry by Wet Bandits

Since 1861, till today, Kaunas Railway station served not only as a railroad territory. Historically, it also served as an industrial site. Some of the buildings still stand to this day and carry the history of Kaunas railway station site. Our project suggests renewing and expanding the industrial part of the site, renovating the maintenance territory of the railway and building new residential housing for workers and their families. In the reserved land, where buildings cannot be demolished, one of the existing buildings will undergo reconstruction to serve as a factory. Other existing buildings, such as the wood dryer, will be kept for industrial use. Additional structures will be available for new suppliers to rent. In the residential area, the plan foresees a designated leisure zone featuring a park and a children's play area. Our project suggestion combines the railway maintenance, industrial and residential areas, which expands the community and carries on the history of the Kaunas railway station territory.



Industrial Buildings for Industry by Wet Bandits



GRID DIAGRAM



FUNCTION DIAGRAM



Industrial Buildings for Industry by Wet Bandits



Notes

WORKSHOP MOMENTS





TUTORS





COLIN REYNIER,

a graduate of the Ecole Boulle Applied Arts program in 2003, architect DE + HMONP at ENSA Versailles, founder with Léonard Lassagne of DATA Architectes in 2010 and Teacher at ENSA Paris-Malaquais, received the Prix d'architecture de la revue d'A in 2022 for the Rue Abel Hovelacque building designed for the RATP. In 2018, he was awarded a special mention in the équerre d'argent prize for the Galeries Lafayette foundation, created in association with the OMA - Rem Koolhaas agency. He also curated the "immeuble pour automobile" exhibition for the Pavillon de l'Arsenal in 2018. His main projects include the refurbishment of Hangar Y in Meudon, the construction of 144 housing units in the new Chapelle International district in Paris in collaboration with Armand Nouvet, the "centre national des Arts plastiques " in collaboration with BRUTHER or the refurbishment of the Pavillon de l'Arsenal in Paris.



MIKE FRITSCHÉ

is a French-Luxembourgish architect and civil engineer who graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Marseille France. He is currently leading the architectural and territorial projects at l'AUC in Paris France.

Tutor at the RAVB Rotterdam and the ÉNSA Marseille where he teaches territorial and urban topics focusing on multiscale reuse and social interactions of the "dè-jà-là // already there".

He is the curator of the Bulgarian Pavilion at the current 2023 Venice Architecture Biennale where he studies the interaction between depopulation, degrowth, sustainability and their socio-territorial implications within the Bulgarian study case.



ORGANIZERS





LAURA JANKAUSKAITĖ-JUREVIČIENĖ

is an architect and lecturer at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture of the Kaunas University of Technology. Also, she has a Master of Social Sciences (Applied Sociology). She is not only teaching architectural design modules but also has extensive experience working on research and study projects and conducting various non-formal education programs for children and youth at the university. Her research fields of interest are the topics of cultural heritage protection, spatial justice, public participation in urban planning processes.



INGRIDA POVILAITIENĖ

is an urbanist and lecturer at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture of the Kaunas University of Technology. Her teaching and research interests primarily lie in understanding the relationships between people and their environment including quality and uniqueness of habited areas. The influence of sociocultural, psychological, physical and historical dimensions in defining holistic cityscape identity was analyzed in her doctoral thesis "Assessment and Modelling of the Cityscape Identity".



JURGA VITKUVIENĖ

is a lecturer at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture of the Kaunas University of Technology and a member and lecturer of the center for contemporary didactic competence development EDU_lab (KTU). She has extensive experience working in the fields of design thinking and challenge-based learning.





Special thanks to:

Pascal Sliwanski,
Loïc Salfati,
Monica Lebrao Sendra,
Jūratė Kamičaitytė,
Gintaras Balčytis,
Gintaras Prikockis,
Vidmantas Minkevičius,
Gintarė Kapočiūtė
Viktoras Jasaitis



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Design: Vytautas Kazla
Print: KTU Printing House Technologija