



Funded by
the European Union

Green!U
Cities



ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS WORKSHOP'25

startarch

NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

02-05-09 2025

INTRODUCTION

KTU students' creative workshop STARTARCH is an initiative, organized 4 years in a row, that brings together 2nd, 3rd, 4th year students of architecture for the analysis of environment and co-creation.

STARTARCH'25 took place from September 2–5, 2025. The four-day workshop structure integrated theory, field research, working in teams by using different analysis and creation methods and digital modeling.

The sustainable transformation of urban spaces requires human empathy to the environment, ecological sensitivity, community engagement, and adaptive nature-based interventions.

This year architecture students' workshop STARTARCH explored the topic how humans and non-humans can coexist and what *Nature-based solutions* (NbS) could be applied to the Birštonas Nemunas river embankment in Lithuania.



At the beginning of the workshop, students conducted a detailed analysis of the Birštonas riverbank. Particular attention was paid to documenting flora, fauna, and their habitat areas. This step was crucial for understanding the site's ecological value and determining how design solutions could integrate into, rather than disrupt, the existing ecosystem.

Based on the collected information, habitat visions were created for the harmonious coexistence of nature and people by using AI tools and then elaborated using SketchUP and finally the models were uploaded to the Birštonas Digital Twin to explore how the designs would look in the natural environment.



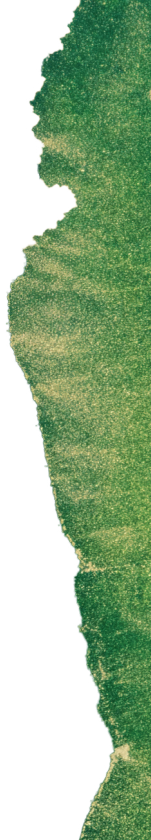
STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 2
TUESDAY

Kick-off, theory and analysis. The day was dedicated to team formation and theoretical lectures covering Nature-based solutions (NbS) (provided by Indrė Gražulevičiūtė-Vileniške), research methods (observation, empathy, flora fauna mapping) (provided by Laura Jankauskaitė-Jurevičienė), and Digital Twins (provided by Darius Pupeikis). This was followed by the Birštonas analysis.

SEPTEMBER 3
WEDNESDAY

Excursion and field research. This day students spent in Birštonas. The visit was organized with the assistance of Egidijus Dargis, a GreenInCities project team member from Birštonas Municipality. Students were welcomed by representative from the Birštonas Municipality. Rosita Dargienė, the administrator of The Nemunas Loops Regional Park Visitor Centre, presented a lecture providing insights into the park's natural environment and significance. Following the theoretical session, students applied the Biodiversity Co-Mapping methodology (tutors Laura Jankauskaitė-Jurevičienė, Jūratė Kamičaitytė, Eglė Januškienė) to conduct practical field work. This involved observing and analyzing the riverbank, documenting local flora and fauna, and mapping various habitats to create an element catalogue. The day concluded with a presentation where students shared and discussed the findings from their flora and fauna analysis conducted in Birštonas.



SEPTEMBER 4
THURSDAY

Solution development. During this day, the *Bio-Collaboration Workshop methodology* was used to analyze the users of the territory and to search for the solutions (tutors: Indrė Gražulevičiūtė-Vileniške and Laura Jankauskaitė-Jurevičiėnė). Students used hand sketching, AI tools and SketchUp modeling for their Nature-based solutions (NbS) development.

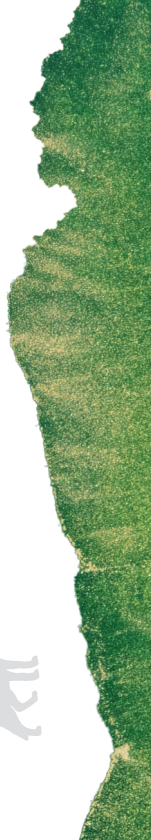
SEPTEMBER 5
FRIDAY

Final presentations. The final day was allocated to concluding Sketchup modeling, preparing the presentation poster, and uploading the 3D models to the *Birštonas Digital Twin* (tutor: Vytautas Bocullo). The workshop culminated with the final results presentation.



The final outcome of the workshop includes the completed natural environment analysis, and the generated visions of integrated human and non-human habitats on the bank of the Nemunas river, presented in SketchUp format, uploaded to the Birštonas Digital Twin.

The results achieved during the workshop will be used as inspiration for the architecture study modules during the Fall semester.









USED METHODOLOGY:

Biodiversity co-mapping



The Biodiversity Co-Mapping methodology, developed by FCUP (University of Porto) and IAAC (Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia) in the frame of GreenIn Cities project is a participatory tool that integrates citizens, experts, and students in the collaborative mapping of local biodiversity. Its main goal is to generate site-specific ecological data on the presence of fauna, flora, and habitats, while simultaneously raising awareness and strengthening connection of people with urban nature. The process typically unfolds in three phases: preparation, co-analysis, and follow-up. During preparation, participant groups and biodiversity components are defined, and materials such as study-area maps, species lists, and aerial photographs are prepared. In the co-analysis phase, participants conduct on-site walks: observing, photographing, and recording species using maps or digital tools (like iNaturalist mobile application) and then collectively discuss habitat conditions, ecological interdependencies, and challenges for biodiversity enhancement. The follow-up phase involves transferring collected data on maps or to GIS platforms and synthesizing results to inform Nature-based solution (NbS) design and post-implementation monitoring. The method requires basic ecological expertise and cartographic materials but is adaptable for different audiences, from citizens to students. Its outcomes include species catalogues, habitat maps, and prioritization lists that support local planning while fostering environmental literacy, co-ownership, and a culture of stewardship toward non-human life.





Bio-collaboration workshop

The Bio-Collaboration Workshop methodology, developed by Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) after initial collaboration with LAND Italia in the frame of GreenIn Cities project is a participatory co-design framework that promotes empathy toward non-human species in urban environments. Rooted in the principles of nature-based solutions and co-creation, it seeks to engage participants in re-imagining cities as multispecies habitats where human and non-human life can coexist. The workshop integrates empathy-driven exercises, role-playing, and collaborative design activities, supported by generative AI visualization tools and digital twin technologies. Participants begin by exploring the ecological and social context of a selected site and then assume the roles of various human and non-human stakeholders through character cards that describe each entity's needs and behaviors. Through empathy mapping and group discussions, participants identify potential conflicts, synergies, and spatial needs within the shared ecosystem. The following stages focus on co-designing habitats or spatial interventions, using hands-on techniques such as sketching, collages, and prompt writing for AI-generated visualizations. These visual outputs are subsequently developed into 3D models and integrated into the city's digital twin, allowing further analysis, refinement, and participatory evaluation. The process encourages both analogue and digital creativity, bridging emotional understanding with data-driven planning tools. As a result, the methodology generates inclusive, empathetic, and ecologically attuned design proposals, while cultivating awareness of the participants of biodiversity and the interdependence of life in urban systems.

Digital Twin

The data visualization toolkit serves as a digital twin of a pilot site. This methodology, developed by KTU (Kaunas University of Technology), will serve as a repository for proposed interventions and other Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Stakeholders, including urban planners, citizens, and decision-makers, will be able to utilize the digital twin (DT) throughout all stages of intervention implementation and post-implementation: co-analysis, co-design, and co-monitoring. The DT of the pilot site contains an accurate 3D model of both built and natural environments, developed using UAV photogrammetry, semantic data layers (such as GIS and IoT), and models of proposed interventions. DT allows users to observe the pilot site, thereby gaining a better understanding of its features. This enables urban planners, architects, and decision makers to observe the context and propose NbS; meanwhile, other stakeholders can evaluate proposed ideas and observe how the intervention is affecting the environment. In general, DT is communication between different groups of stakeholders to enhance co-creation and sustainability.

During the STARTARCH workshop, students have created interventions and other NbS for the Birštonas pilot site. The DT provided environmental context (landscape features, vegetation, built environment) for the students, and it was used as a repository for the proposed interventions where they can be compared and evaluated by experts, citizens, decision-makers and other stakeholders.



Notes



STUDENT
PROJECTS

RIVERSIDE HAVEN

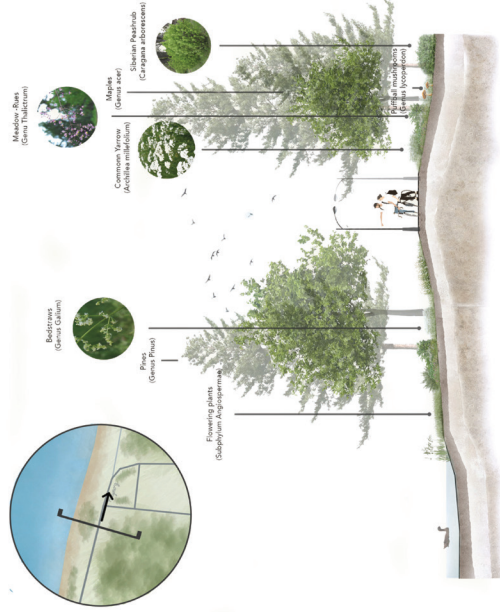
by amor

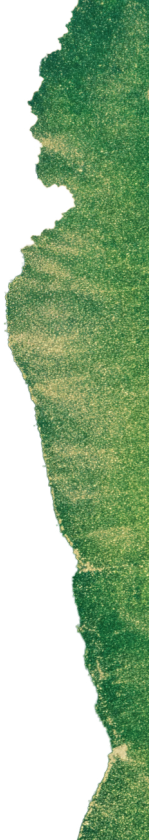
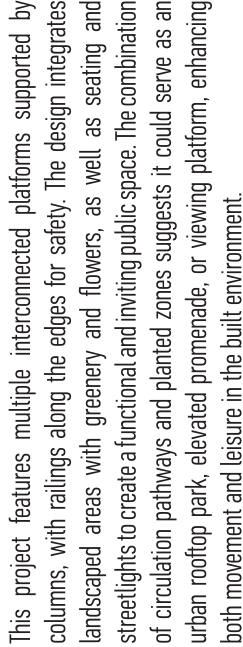
TEAM MEMBERS:

Diego Perez, Austė Bernotaitė, Ieva Dante, Gabija Karpavičiūtė, Emilija Karaseva



Birštonas is one of those places that instantly feels like a deep breath. In our given project area you can see Nemunas river and Žvėrinčius forest trail. Nemunas river is nestled in a green, forested area of Lithuania. There's something really special about a river running through the forest. It's quiet, peaceful – the kind of place that just makes you want to slow down and breathe a little deeper. When you're there, you can hear the soft sounds of the water flowing over rocks, birds singing somewhere up in the trees, and leaves rustling above you. It feels like nature is gently reminding you that everything doesn't need to happen all at once. The heart of the area is the Žvėrinčius forest trail – a quiet path winding through the woods where you can go for a walk.



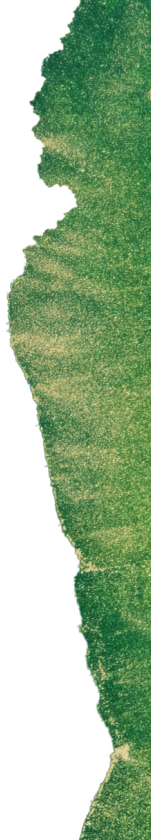
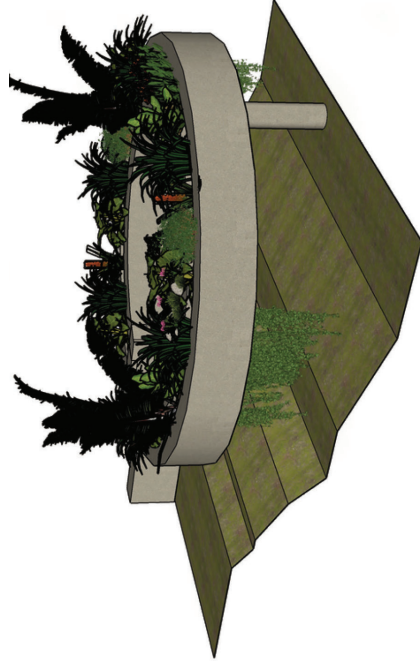


Constructed from local stone and wood, this element expands meadow and riverside habitats by creating shallow water pockets with reeds and sedges. It provides niches for insects, basking surfaces for reptiles, shelter for fish, and access points for otters, while subtly integrating human seating.

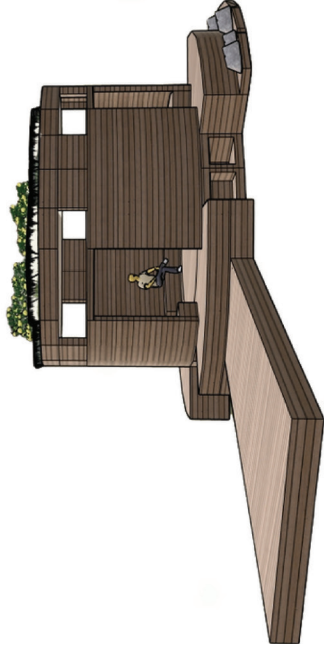


This project emerges from the harmonious coexistence between humans and native wildlife, including otters, grass snakes, butterflies, fish, and bats. The circular platform takes inspiration from the natural character of Birštonas and its relationship with architecture. Designed with two levels, the upper tier serves as a haven for pollinators, while the lower level provides shelter for otters, shade for fish, and refuge for reptiles. For people, the platform offers a unique benefit: a place to sit along the Nemunas river, immerse themselves in the landscape, and enjoy the tranquil harmony of the setting.

This project presents a circular elevated platform that blends architecture with nature. Surrounded by vegetation and water features, it creates a space where people and wildlife coexist. The structure promotes biodiversity by providing habitats for butterflies, otters, fish, and bats, while also functioning as a scenic viewpoint. It serves recreational, educational, and conservation purposes, showcasing the potential of sustainable design in harmony with the environment.



This project proposes a circular, two-level wooden platform designed for harmonious coexistence between humans and native species such as otters, grass snakes, butterflies, bats, and fish. The platform features a hollow lower level for otter shelter and fish shade, stone landscaping for basking reptiles, a green roof with wildflowers to attract pollinators, and built-in bat shelters within vertical elements. Curved wooden benches and an educational panel create a welcoming and informative space for visitors. The structure is designed to float partially over water.



RIVERSIDE HAVEN by amor



AI generated image





NATURE'S ARC

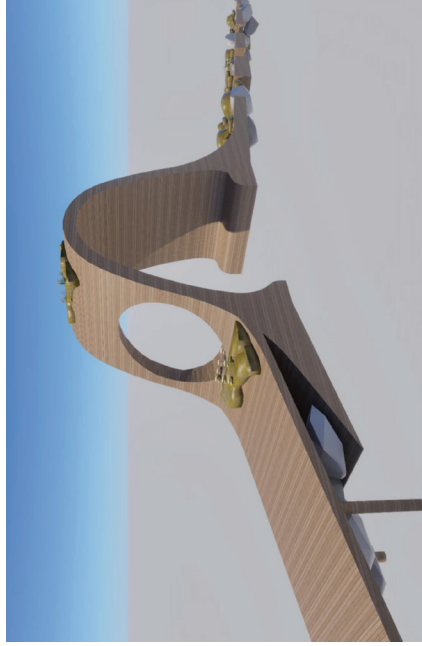
by blue magic

TEAM MEMBERS:

Evelina Junevičiūtė, Andrė Ožėchauskaitė, Kyaw Htet Soe, Rusnė Apolonskytė, Lukrecija Jankauskaitė



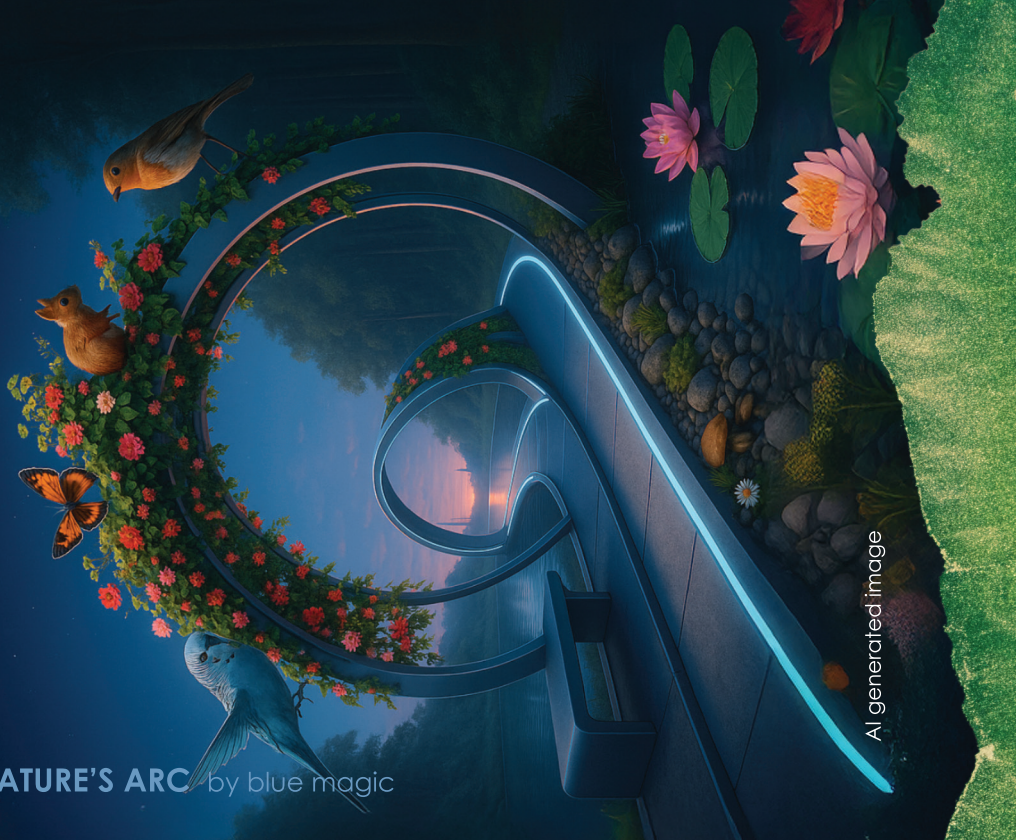
trees like scots pine (*pinus sylvestris*) and various deciduous species such as european birch (*betula pendula*) and common oak (*quercus robur*). The undergrowth is thick with ferns, mosses, and a wide range of wildflowers that bloom in spring and summer. You might see delicate yarrow (*achillea millefolium*) and other common meadow flowers. This area is also home to diverse wildlife. Larger animals tend to be shy, but the calls of native birds fill the air. You can often see waterfowl like ducks and swans gliding on the river, while smaller songbirds find refuge in the dense trees. It's common to spot small mammals like squirrels or even the occasional fox in quieter parts of the forest. The presence of these animals shows the health of the ecosystem.



The parabolic structure gracefully spans the walking path, adorned with a roof of flowers that beckons butterflies. Seating is arranged to face the river, complemented by an opening in the arc that provides an unobstructed view.



The design extends outward on both sides: one leads into the forest, featuring stones and bushes, while the other side opens up to the river, creating a thriving habitat for birds, insects, and various wildlife.



AI generated image

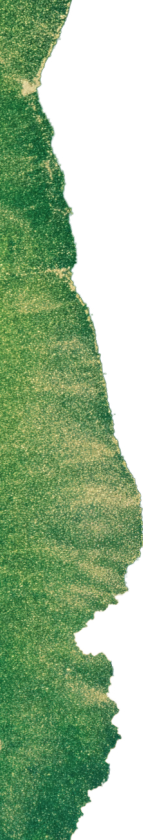


AI generated image



AI generated image

 **NATURE'S ARC** by blue magic



Notes



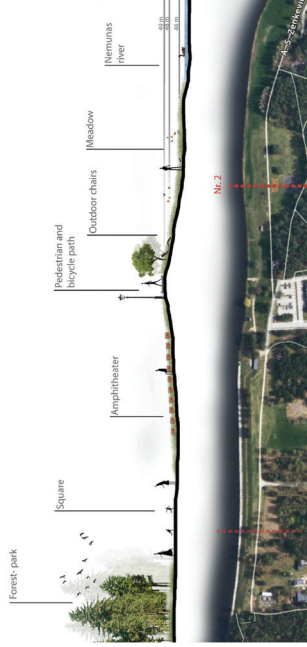
BIO HOTEL

by delta iešmas

TEAM MEMBERS:

Lidija Bagdonaitė, Gabija Kuzmickaitė, Meda Gelažiūtė, Vaiva Baltuškaitė, Kajus Barpšys

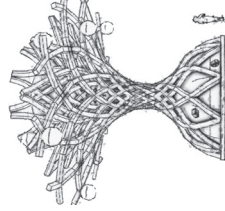
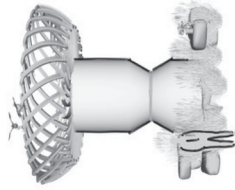


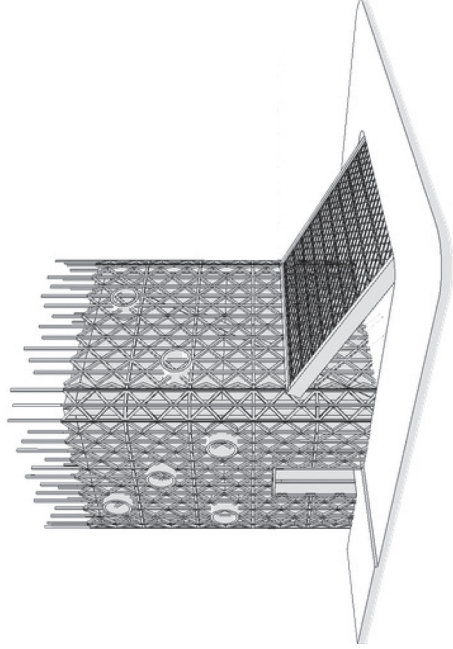


The area gently slopes down towards the Nemunas river, covered in grass and wildflowers that change with the seasons. Trees growing along the slope help keep the soil in place and protect it from erosion. At the top of the hill, there's a mixed forest with oaks, birches, and pines. These trees not only hold the land steady but also add to the calm, natural feel of the place.



With the forest above, a walking path, and the river below, the whole area feels peaceful and in balance. People often come here to relax on sunbeds, enjoy the view, and spend quiet moments in nature.





By the Nemunas river the structure is designed to support insects, birds, reptiles, small mammals and humans. The lower part provides shelter for insects like ants, beetles and reptiles while the upper part offers nesting spaces for birds and squirrels. Located near the Nemunas river in Birštonas, it helps promote local bio-diversity. At the same time, it serves as a small place where people can pause, observe, and enjoy nature, encouraging a closer connection between humans and the wildlife around them.



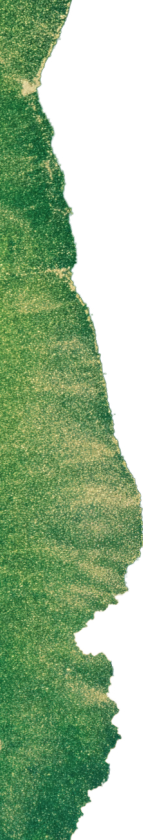
AI generated image



AI generated image



AI generated image



Notes



NATURES' SHELTER

by free fall

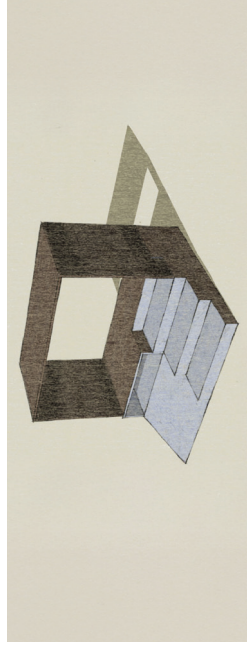
TEAM MEMBERS:

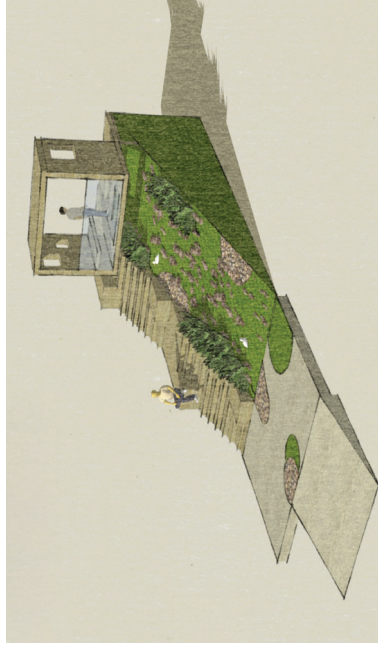
Lola, Orinta Aleknaite, Daniela Švelnyte, Goda Narkute, Neringa Mileviciute



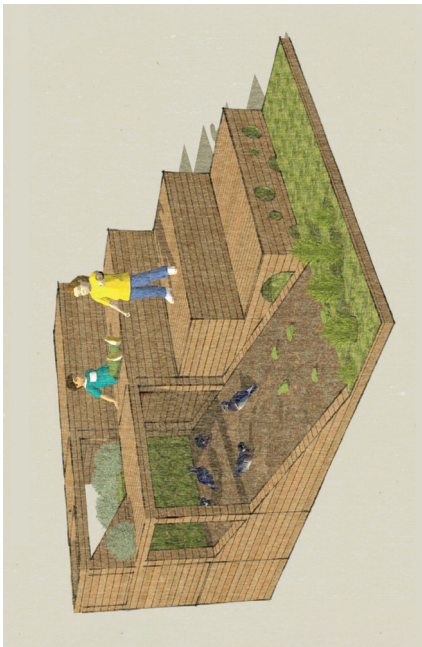


The northern edge of the territory is bordered by the Nemunas River, the banks are lush and overgrown with broadleaf cattails and other wetland grasses. To the west stretches a pine forest, filling the air with its fresh resinous scent. Most of the area is covered by open meadows dotted with occasional trees, creating a sense of spaciousness. A pedestrian path runs parallel to the water, though over time visitors have also carved out their own desire paths. Along the river, there are comfortable lounging areas where people can relax and enjoy the view. The site is a blend of meadow, forest, and riverside.





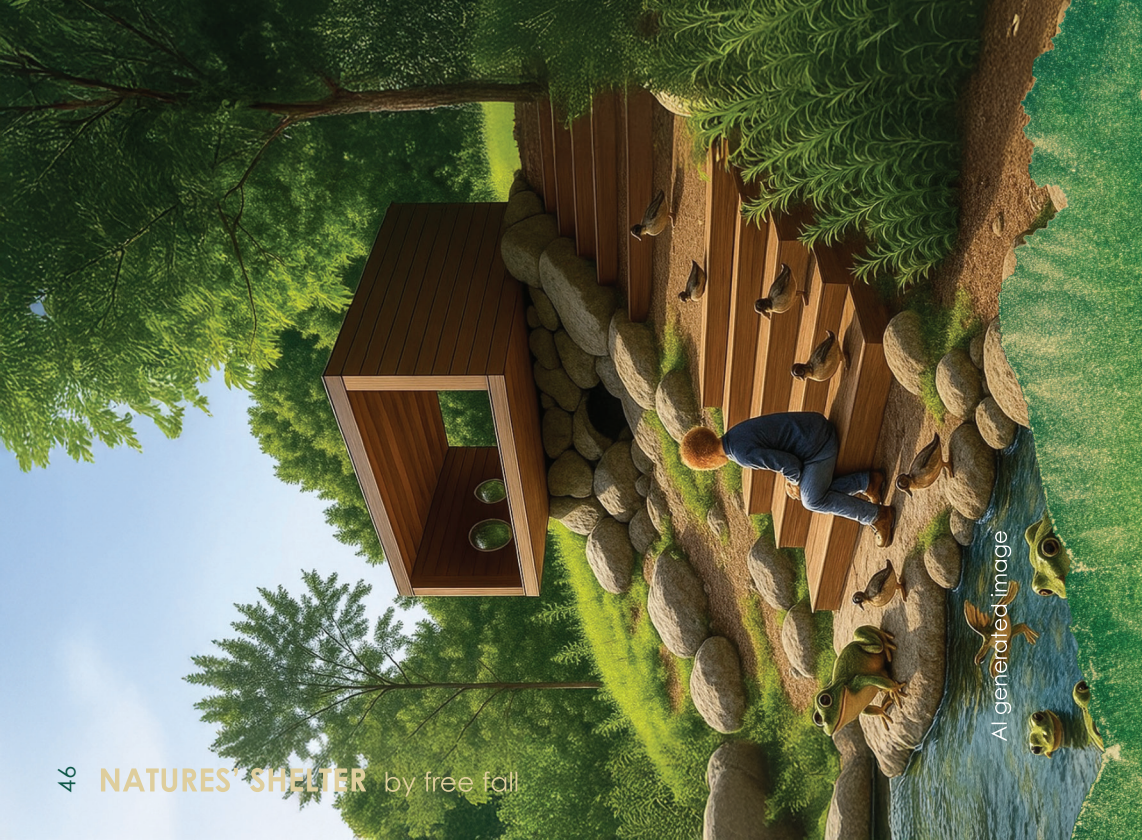
This multifunctional structure is designed as both a habitat for animals and a recreational and educational space for people. The central element is a gently sloping rocky surface that connects directly to the river, allowing frogs, ducks, and other wildlife easy access to the water. Integrated beneath the slope are tunnels that provide safe resting spaces for perches and other small animals. On one side of the slope, stepped seating is incorporated, offering visitors a comfortable place to sit, observe, and engage with the surrounding environment while maintaining harmony with the needs of the animals. Above the slope, a raised platform provides shade and shelter for animals climbing the slope and doubles as a vantage point for people to enjoy views of the river and observe wildlife activity. The project aims to merge ecological care with human experience, creating a shared space that supports biodiversity while fostering environmental awareness and appreciation.



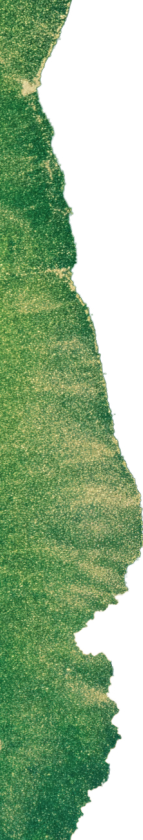


AI generated image





AI generated image



Notes



GROWING WITH NATURE

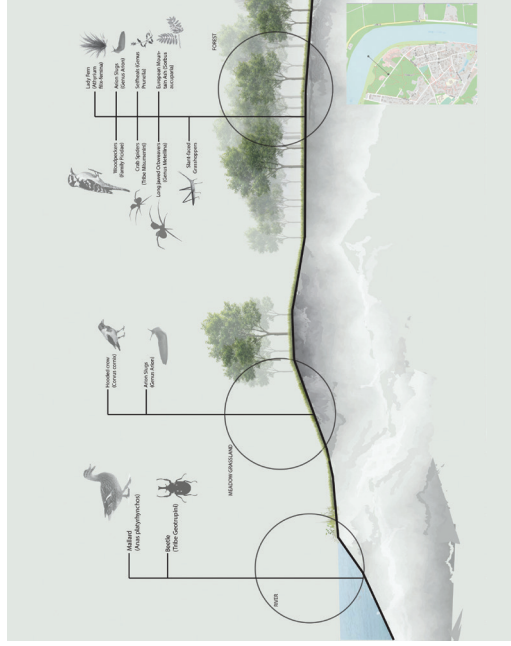
by growing with music

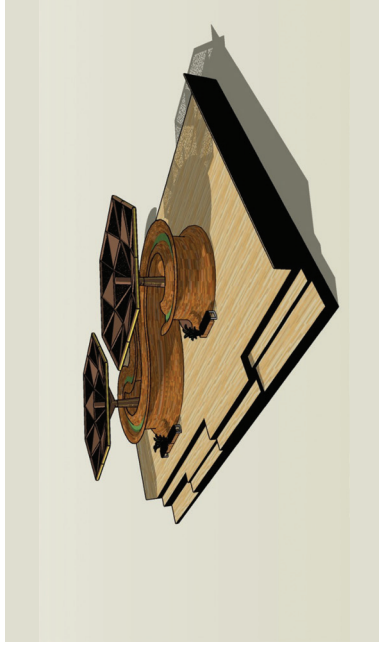
TEAM MEMBERS:

Supragya Pandey, Ogulcan Ervigit, Ainhoa Pacheco, Ernesta Gegžnaitė, Andrėja Rukšnaitytė

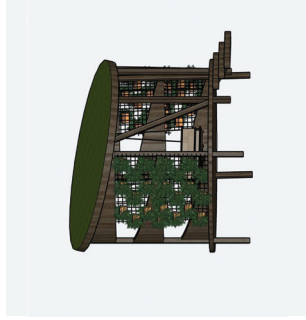
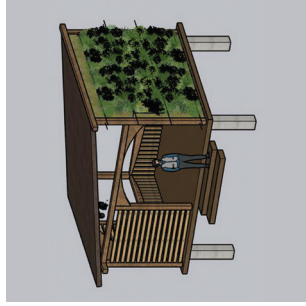


The territory has a 25 hectare gree space called Vytautas Jurgis Meška Park. Located in Birštonas, surrounded by a dense pine forest along the Nemunas River. It is characterized by being designed with full respect for the natural enviroment, preserving the existing vegetation intact and enhancing a healthy atmosphere that combines fresh air, tranquility, and scenic beaty. It combines nature, art, and health in a ideal setting for both relaxation and physical activity.





Accessible for all ages, families, and visitors, this park honors Dr. Vytautas Jurgis Meška, highlighting the harmony between nature, health, and well-being.





AI generated image

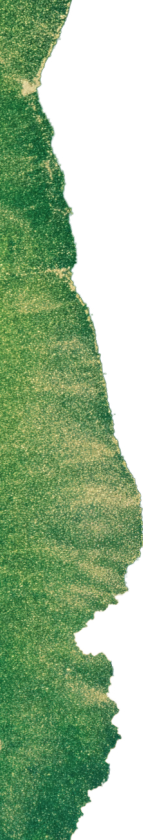


AI generated image



 **GROWING WITH NATURE** by growing with music

AI generated image



Notes

by kelias į žvaigždes

TEAM MEMBERS:

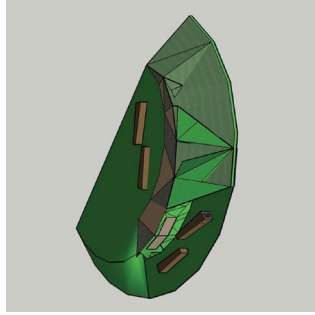
leġa Butkauskaitė, Miglė Brazdžionytė, Aleksandra Gaidamavičiūtė, Toma Mockutė, Ugnė Bačinskaitė



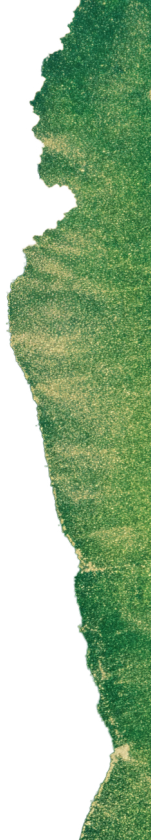


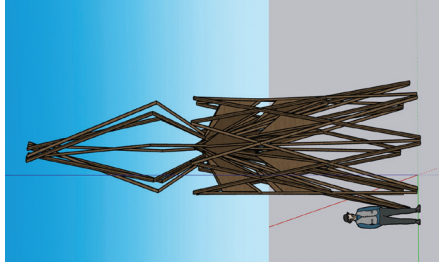
The Nemunas river side near Birštonas is a 2 km promenade along the river, linking Vytautas hill with Vytautas Jurgis Meška park. Originally built in the 1970s to prevent flooding, it now combines natural habitats, recreational spaces, and cultural landmarks. Visitors can walk, cycle, and relax along wooded areas, meadows, and river banks, with features like the “bench of dreams” and seasonal flowering trees enhancing the experience. Named after the town’s first mayor, Antanas Serafinas Zenkevičius, the promenade includes attractions such as Vytautas monument, Birutė villa, historic sanatoriums, St. Anthony church, and the Domus hotel. A small cable ferry and the Birštonas marina connect visitors to the opposite river bank and boat trips along the Nemunas. Ecologically, the riverside features diverse habitats — riverbanks, meadows, and forests — supporting plants, fungi, birds, and small mammals. Seasonal flooding sustains biodiversity, making the area an important ecological corridor. Overall, the Nemunas river side is a valued site for recreation, culture, and nature.



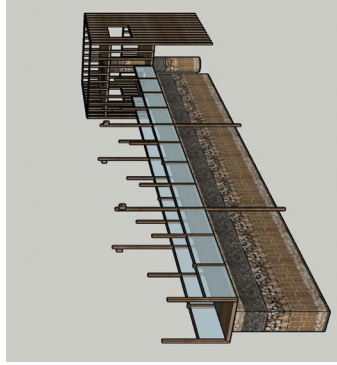


"This small-scale architecture does not obstruct the beauty of the Nemunas with tall structures; instead, it reveals it and encourages people to come closer. At the top, a bare footpath made of diverse natural materials invites visitors to walk and experience textures, while also offering small creatures places to rest. Natural materials, such as grass paving, blend the design into the existing landscape. Along the descent, rest benches are placed – they are hollow, allowing small animals to find shelter both near the water and further away. Wildlife can so take refuge in natural cavities, among flowers, and within diverse forms integrated into the environment." – leva

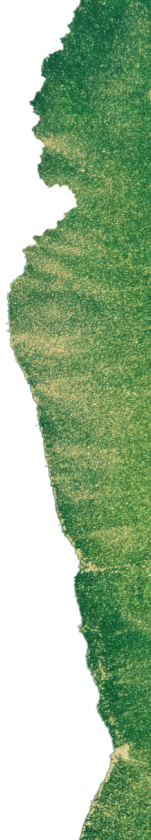


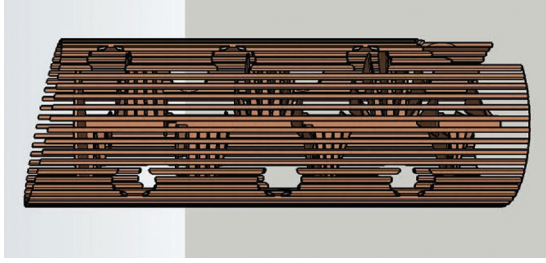


"This observation tower is designed as a place to watch and study birds, while also supporting their habitats. The surrounding vertical poles extend into the water, creating safe areas for fish to hide and spawn. Built as a pavilion-type tower, the structure blends into the landscape and provides visitors with a quiet place to pause and look out over the environment. Its form is modest, enhancing rather than competing with the natural scenery, and it becomes a shared space for people and wild life alike. Higher levels of construction serves as places for birds to make nests and hide from predators." - Aleksandra

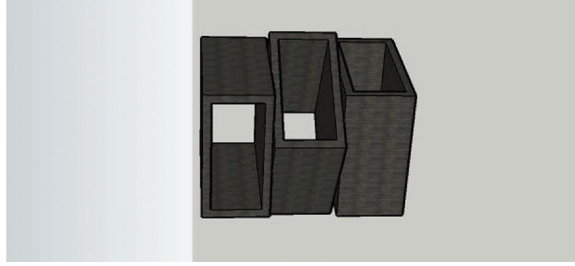


"After exploring the area, I noticed a lack of engaging activities beyond sitting on benches. To address this, I designed an observation platform extending the pathway towards the riverbank. It offers views of the Nemunas, wildlife observation, and shelter from rain. An elevated walkway leads to the platform, where visitors can either climb to a second level or descend towards the river. The structure serves both people and nature: insect habitats are created beneath the walkway with natural materials, while bird houses on the posts provide shelter for birds" – Toma

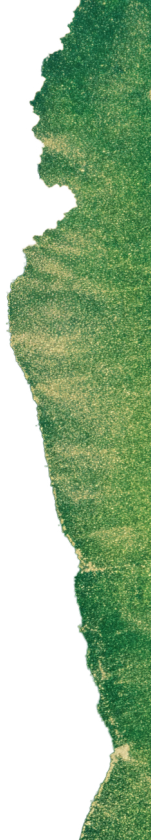




"The concept was created after noticing the lack of natural habitats for local wildlife at the Nemunas river bank in Birštonas and a small wooden structure was designed. Created as a bridge between human and animal habitats, it integrates ecological elements into its architecture like wood and straw. The simple shape was designed to blend into the natural environment as much as possible. The spiral staircase up the tower acts as a small observation deck for the local area. Openings within the tower accommodate birdhouses and moss terrariums, offering microhabitats for insects and birds while inviting people to observe and coexist with local wildlife." – Ugnė



"Both birds and people can enter this habitat. It is a shared space where nature and humans connect. Birds use it for shelter, food, and rest. People can also visit to enjoy the beauty of wildlife and the calm environment." – Miglė





AI generated image



LOOP WALK

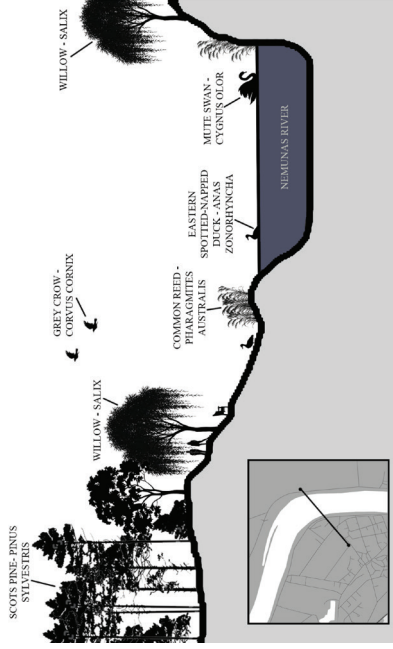
by little prince

TEAM MEMBERS:

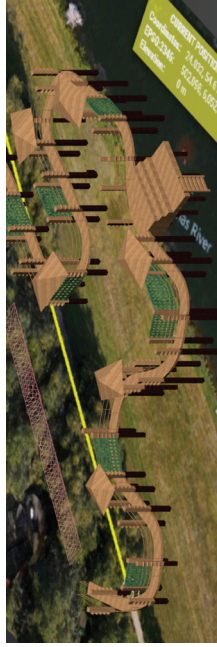
Meda Sinkutė, Danilas Anglickis, Rytis Sakalauskas, Meda Masaitytė,
Katerina Tereza Skoupa, Nedas Lynykas



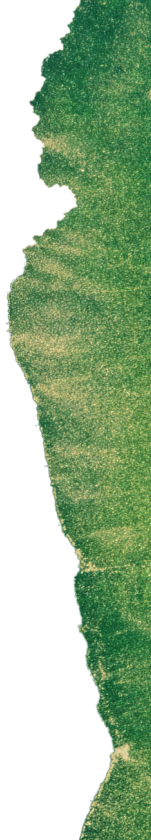
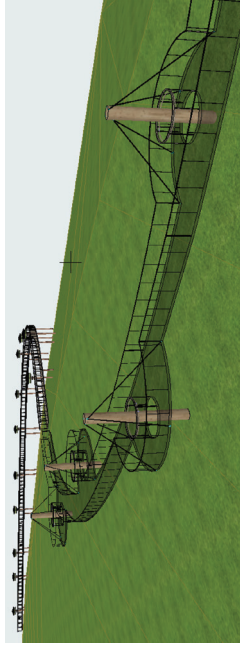
Traveling to the coast of Birštonas, you are greeted by its liberating greenery. Fresh air penetrates the respiratory tract, suppressing anxiety and at the same time bringing about a state of peace and relaxation. In the Vytautas Jurgis Meška park, the voices of birds merge with the rustling of trees, directing human attention to the hidden micro world. Spider webs glow in the gust of wind, beetles crawling on moss play with the proportions of the plant.



As you go deeper towards the coast, the fresh scent of pine trees penetrates, slowing down your hasty steps. When you reach the coast, you are greeted by a cultivated meadow, and the landscape opens up to the watery world of the Nemunas. On the shore, ducks warming themselves in the sun are surrounded by lavender, and swans and seagulls join the landscape.

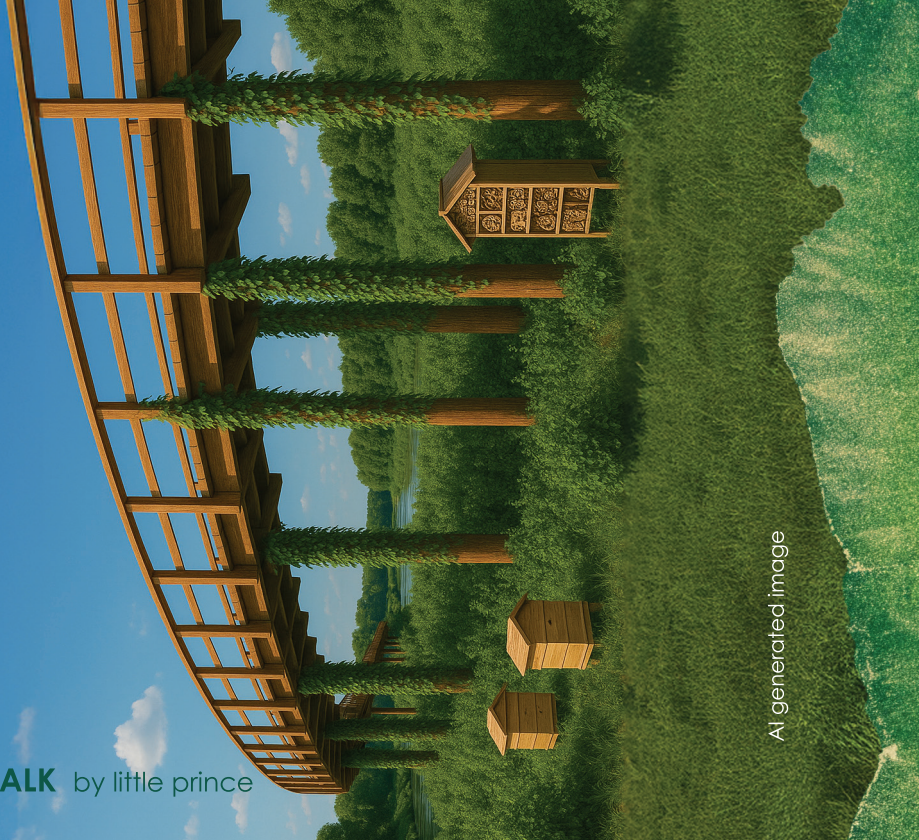


Traveling along the quiet coast, you are occasionally greeted by the fresh scent of mint and the glint of the Nemunas river gliding by. The nearby facades of modern houses hide a deeper history of Birštonas. The old traditional, colorful houses remind us of the simple and slow life of this region.





∞ **LOOP WALK** by little prince



AI generated image



AI generated image



OVERPASS TO THE WILD

by M.U.

TEAM MEMBERS:

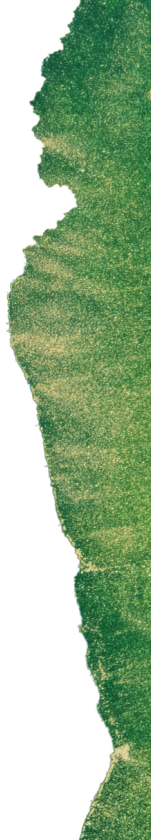
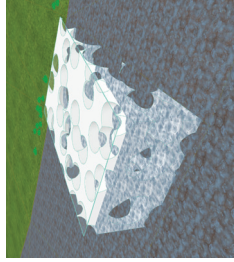
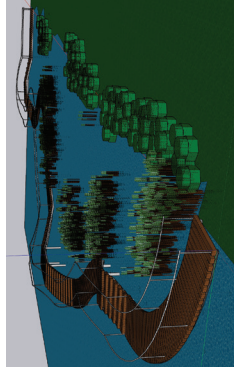
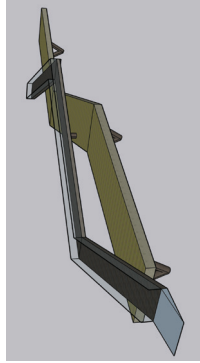
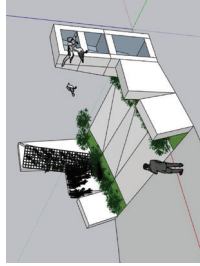
Roberta Rudminaitė, Evija Babilūtė, Kamilė Lapaitytė, Ignas Misevičius, Emilija Vilkevičiūtė



We explored the western riverside of Birštonas. The A. S. Zenkevičiaus embankment is a scenic path running along the river, making it one of the town's most popular spots. It connects the sanatorium zone in the north, a residential neighborhood in the south, and a park in the west. The entire area — especially the park — is home to a rich variety of plants and animals. We focused mainly on the eastern side of the territory, following the A. S. Zenkevičiaus embankment, where we documented the local flora and fauna by taking photos, identifying species, and recording their exact locations.



Our concept is to design a green bridge across the river, allowing both people and nature to expand into the opposite side. The bridge would be covered with greenery, providing shelter and new habitats for birds, insects and other small animals. At the same time, it would serve as an inviting public space, offering visitors a unique place to walk, observe nature and enjoy the landscape. In this way, the bridge would become a safe shared environment, where humans and wildlife could coexist and thrive together.







OVERPASS TO THE WILD by M.U.

AI generated image





AI generated image

NATURE SHELTER

by magic

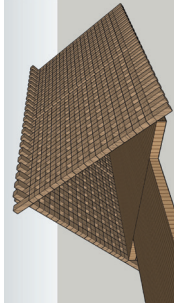
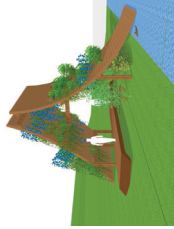
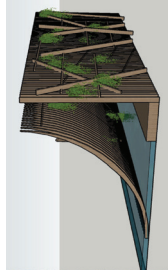
TEAM MEMBERS:

Alice Lombardi, Austėja Dilūtė, Ugnė Girkontaitė, Lijvia Balsytė, Fatma Koroğlu





Nature and humans can coexist in this wooden shelter that lays both on the Nemunas river and the ground. It's crisscross frame allows plants to grow and climb on it, which creates an environment for various insects and other small animals. Its shape creates shade both on water and land, giving shelter also to aquatic creatures. The elevated platform allows humans to walk and reach new areas while protecting lizards and other animals that live in the grass.







NATURE SHELTER by magic



AI generated image



AI generated image



SHORE STEP

by nature's puppets

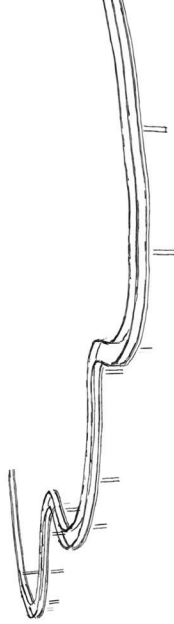
TEAM MEMBERS:

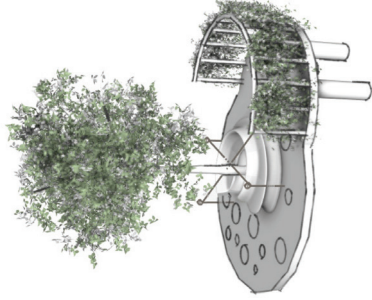
Tina Barta, Kamilė Daržinskytė, Aistė Simonavičiūtė, Augustina Lapinskaitė, Gintarė Keturakytė



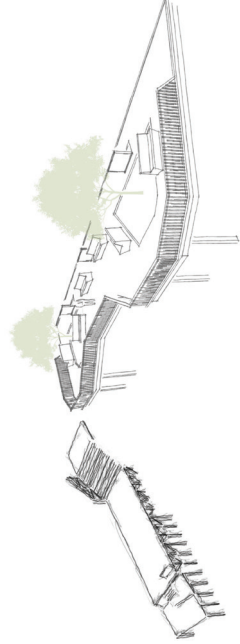


Walking along the Nemunas river in Birštonas, you are surrounded by calm waters, well-maintained sloping green riverbanks, and tidy walking paths that lead through open parks toward the historic Vytautas hill. Alongside the riverside, a lot of aquatic plants, like reeds and cattails can be spotted, growing freely and unmaintained. However, in the walking areas, well kept lawns and potted flowers, planted trees are very common. The landscape perfectly blends town and nature - with oak and maple trees, seasonal flowers, birdsong, and the gentle quacking of ducks - all coming together to create a peaceful riverside atmosphere.





Several problems were identified: too many boats were clustered near the water, people were observed walking directly onto the shore, and the grass was cut back, reducing the natural habitat. As a result, animals were left with less space to live, and the number of species was decreased. To restore balance, a raised wooden walkway was constructed. A bench was placed on the walkway, allowing the open view and sunlight to be enjoyed by visitors without the shore being disturbed.





AI generated image



AI generated image



AI generated image

COEXISTENCE

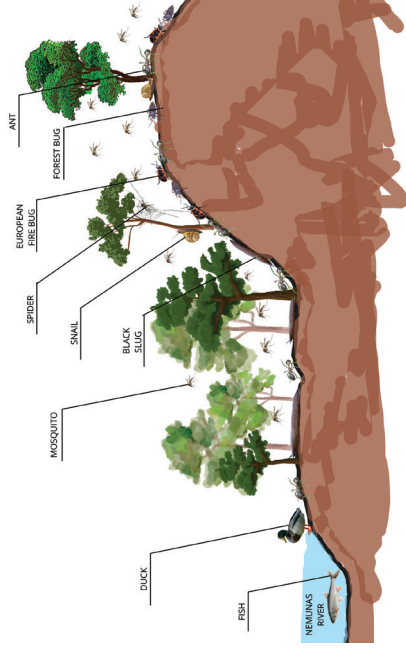
by the climbers

TEAM MEMBERS:

Sara Vives, Erikas Vážnevičius, Akvilė Deveikytė, Gerda Petraškaitė, Ema Baužaitė

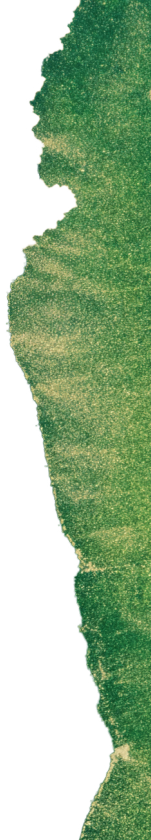
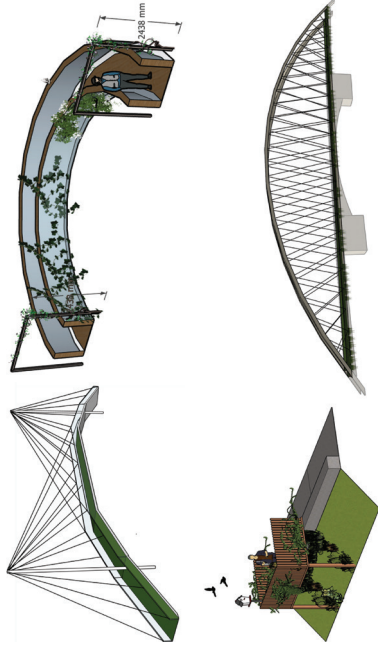


Main focus of the workshop – Birštonas and the flora and fauna surrounding it. The territory of interest during our team's research was around the Vytautas mound. A forest surrounds the mound, giving shade to many of its inhabitants, both fauna and flora. The forest is also partly a park, allowing for nature walks without disturbing any of the nature and wildlife.



Near the mound flows the Nemunas river. A large gap between the shore and the buildings exists in order to avoid flooding. The shores are often filled with ducks, since humans have a path to walk ways away from the shore and do not disturb the ducks. Many of them found home in abandoned boats by the shore.

Moving towards a project idea, the Climbers began designing and making concepts of possible projects that could make Birštonas a place for humans, fauna and flora to coexist together in harmony. Our team also tried to take into account what might be missing in Birštonas, and it was not just places for coexisting, but also a missing link between the two sides of Birštonas, divided by the Nemunas river. The concepts and models that our team created seek to connect the two sides of Birštonas – both the land, and its inhabitant.





AI generated image



AI generated image





NATURE'S GAZEBO

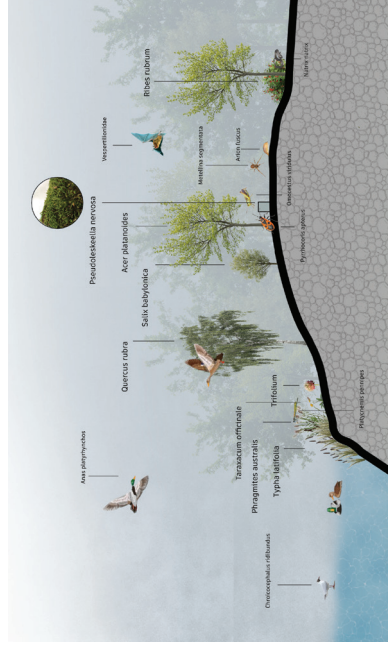
by way to home

TEAM MEMBERS:

Mylana Titovska, Ewa Wilk, Artūras Juozapas Purlys, Alina Zerr, Irūna Kačinskytė



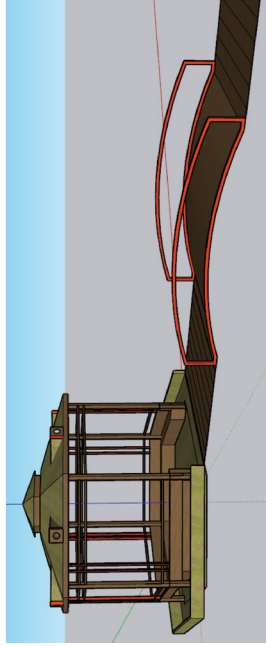
The site is in Birštonas, Lithuania, its coast covering about 600–700 meters. The path moves through several natural and semi-natural landscapes. It lies in the Nemunas river valley, shaped by glaciers and the river. The terrain is mostly flat with sandy soil. The nearby Nemunas river keeps some areas moist, which helps many types of plants grow. We observed trees such as willow, northern red oak, and norway maple.



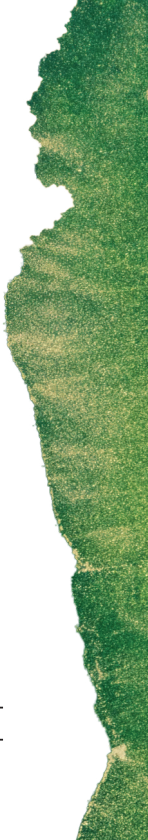
In open areas we found plants and wildflowers like clovers, dandelions, mouse-ear-hawkweed. The site also supports fauna: birds such as willow ducks and seagulls, and insects like spiders and common green grasshoppers. There are walking paths and clearings shaped by people, but overall the area stays semi-natural, balancing human use and conservation.

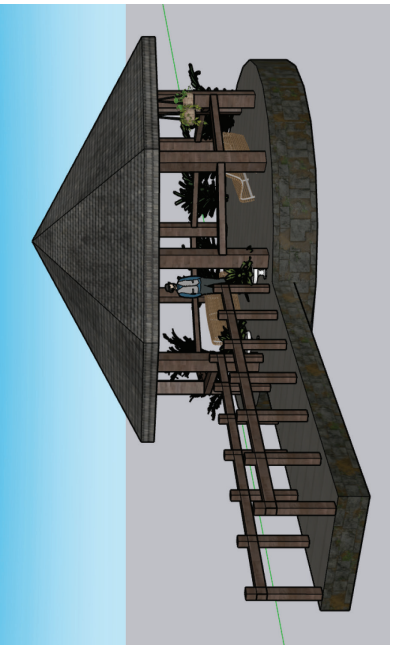


The main purpose of the project is to create a shared space for different kind of species (fish, butterflies, mice, and frogs) thus ensuring their needs are met. We also want people to have access to this place to interact with animals and their surroundings.



Our project is a floating garden gazebo connected to the land by bridge and combined with bird houses. Gazebo is surrounded by flowers to attract wildlife and it is connected to the land by bridge, so visitors can enjoy nature, relax, and interact with animals in a peaceful environment. Built from wood and topped with a green roof, it becomes not only a shelter for animals but also a beautiful symbol of harmony between people and nature in this area.







AI generated image



Notes



The background is a vibrant green marbled paper with intricate, swirling patterns. On the right side, there is a dark, almost black, irregular shape that resembles a torn edge or a shadow, adding depth and contrast to the composition.

TUTORS AND ORGANIZERS



Laura Jankauskaitė –
Jurevičienė

Architect, member of the GreenInCities project team, researcher – architectural design/ participatory planning/urban sociology



Indrė Gražulevičiūtė –
Vileniškė

Assoc. Professor, member of the GreenInCities project team, researcher – sustainable architecture / landscape architecture/



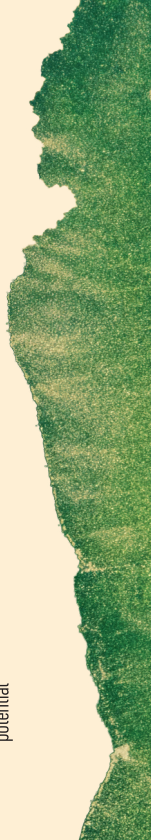
Jūratė
Kamičiaitė

Vice-Dean of Studies, Professor, member of the GreenInCities project team, researcher – visual quality/identity/sustainable architecture / landscape architecture/urban planning, potential



Eglė
Januškienė

PhD student, organizer of the Architecture Festival for Children





Vytautas Bocullo

Assoc. Professor, member of the GreenInCities project team, researcher – Digital Twin



Darius Pupeikis

Head of Centre for Smart Cities and Infrastructure, member of the GreenInCities project team, researcher – Digital Twin



Aušra Andriukaitienė

Head of Administration, member of the GreenInCities project team



Jurga Vitkuvienė

Architect, member of the GreenInCities project team, researcher – landscape architecture / sustainable urbanism / innovative didactic methods



Starfarch



GreenInCities



ktu.saf



ktu.architektura



Funded by
the European Union

GreenInCities project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101139730.

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.