

LE:NOTRE *Landscape Forum Bucharest 2015*

Working Group Urban growth and peri-urban sprawl

The Landscape of Peripheries

This workshop focuses on the north-west of Bucharest – around Străulești Lake – and aims to investigate the issue of the new landscapes that have emerged in the recent decades along with the peripheral expansion of the city.



View to Străulești Lake: north bank sprawl developments | *image: Angelica Stand*

Why is this case interesting?

The landscape of the north-west Bucharest periphery along Străulești Lake is of topical interest for the following reasons:

- **Urban Morphology:** This land is located between strong limits - the railroad, the lake, the belt and the national road Bucharest-Târgoviște. And yet, the urban tissue here is very unstructured. New forms of parceling arrive. Some resemble pre-existing models following neighborhoods nearby, while others look rather vernacular. Between forest and lake, the district Străulești (Redea Street, Aeroportului Street) is looking for a purpose and a form.
- **Recreation:** This place has a real potential for weekend recreation, for both neighborhood residents and the citizens of Bucharest. The patch of existing forest has potential to redevelop as a forest- park, since it subsists as an ecosystem, framed by strong anthropized territories. The area is quite difficult to access and during the economic boom in the last years, it has been the target of private real estate development projects for residential, indifferent to the recreational resource of this territory.

- **Ecology:** In recent years, since the weakening of real estate pressure on the lands adjacent to the lakes, the natural ecosystems enriched in terms of biodiversity. This aspect is related to the spatial ecosystems balance of the entire city. This balance is based on the existence of an overlapping zone between anthropogenic and natural characters within the entire peripheral area of Bucharest, favoring symbioses and increasing in complexity of ecosystem components.



General map of the area showing the belt-road of Bucharest, Străulești lake |source: world topographic map via ESRI

Aspects and questions this workshop is going to address:

- How could a landscape approach to Străulești Lake and the north-west periphery of Bucharest be initiated? Which process model could be envisioned?
- How to manage the limit between the very different morphology of the urban tissues in the vicinity of Străulești Lake and forest?

- What urban form can be conceived and foreseen for the northern shore of Străulești Lake?
- What is the most suitable recreational profile for this area between the lake and the forest? Which level needs to be addressed – local, district, city or metropolitan?
- Which governance model could be suggested for achieving sustainable objectives reconciling the natural characters of existing ecosystems with the recent urban development?

Working methods: literature review, field trips, stakeholder interviews, workshops during the landscape forum, moderated online meetings

Output: Joint report with reflections and best-practices from research, education and professional practice relating the Străulești /Colentina context to comparable European situations.

Stakeholders to be involved:

Local administrations – sector 1 of Bucharest

City Department of Parks, Laks and Gardens

NGOs promoting sustainable recreation and leisure activities

Cycling associations

References:

Lake and Forest (Ifov County, Romania), in: Romanian Journal of Biology, 57,1, 2012

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