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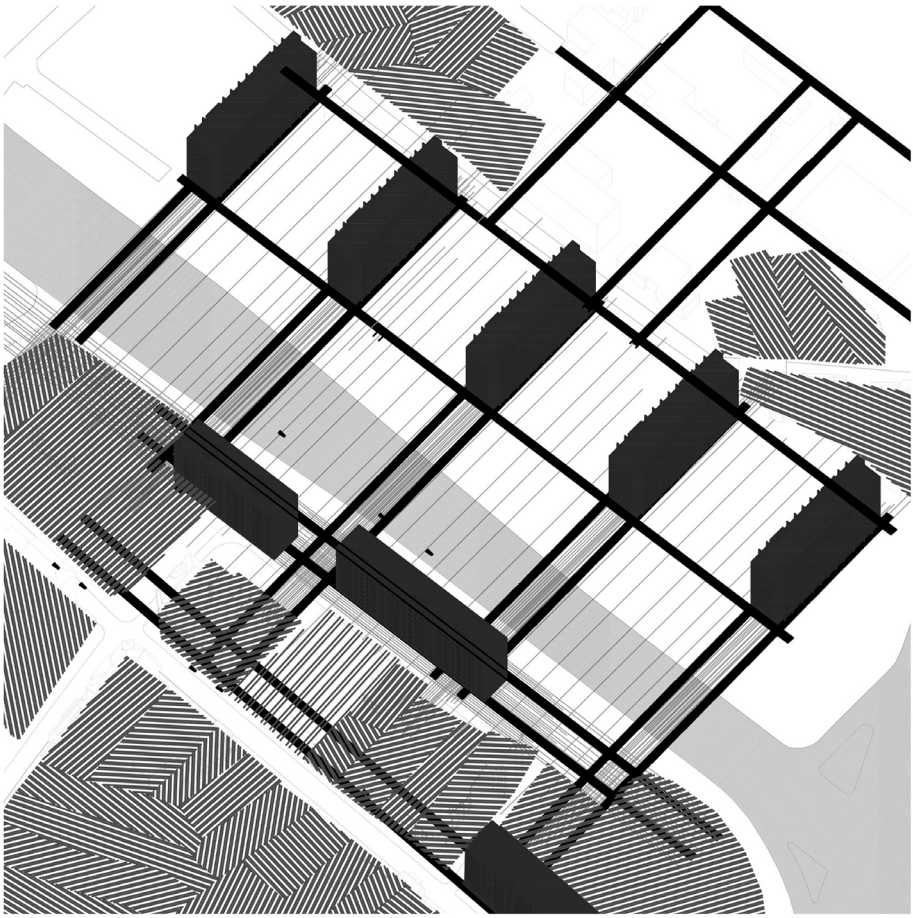
NEGOTIATING SPACES
Between Control and Use



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NEGOTIATING SPACES
Between Control and Use

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Design Position and Hypothesis

This research investigates public space within Bucharest's socialist housing estates, examining the tension between the rigid spatial frameworks of the socialist period and the informal, everyday practices that have emerged over time. These neighborhoods, housing a significant portion of the city's population, were conceived through standardized principles prioritizing efficiency, control, and functional zoning. While the built fabric remains structurally viable, the public spaces between buildings often appear fragmented, over-regulated, and dominated by vehicular infrastructure, yet they also reveal continuous processes of spatial negotiation, as residents appropriate and subtly transform shared spaces through small-scale interventions and everyday rituals that challenge the original planning logic.

The central hypothesis is that these neighborhoods do not require radical transformation, but rather a strategic re-negotiation of public space. By softening boundaries, redefining movement patterns, and reinforcing spatial continuity through pedestrian and green networks, public space can shift from a residual and regulated condition to a relational and inclusive system. In this process, the architect acts as mediator between inherited structures and contemporary forms of inhabitation.

The study deepens this understanding by examining the city's broader historical context alongside the sociological dimension of collective housing, attending to generational structure, behavioral patterns, and everyday rituals. Public space is treated not as an abstract category but as a lived environment shaped by memory and multigenerational coexistence. To reach an operative understanding of these conditions, the research focuses on sectional analysis and spatial networks, using the section as a key instrument for revealing relationships between built form, open space, light, and accessibility, while mapping circulation systems and nodal points where targeted interventions can most effectively reconfigure public space.

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Structure of the Thesis

1. General Introduction In this chapter, we establish the conceptual and academic framework of the research, defining the tension between the inherited spatial logic of socialist housing estates and the informal, everyday practices through which residents continuously renegotiate the public spaces around them.

2. Bucharest: Urban and Historical Transformation In this chapter, I will trace the historical and morphological evolution of the city Bucharest, examining how the processes of industrialization, planning, and post-socialist transitions have shaped the formation of collective housing bloks and defined the role of public space positioned within them.

3. Social Transformation and Everyday Life In this chapter, the human dimension of Bucharest's housing estates will be examined, exploring how the very abrupt transition from rural to collective living, combined with decades of informal adaptation and social negotiation, continues to shape the way residents perceive,experience, inhabit, and thus transform the spaces around them.

4. Titan: Spatial Condition and Urban Analysis In this chapter, we shift from historical and sociological observation toward the present spatial condition of the studied area, developing a morphological diagnosis of Titan through the analysis of its built typologies, public space evolution, circulation systems, and spatial hierarchies.

5. Typological and Spatial System In this chapter, we translate the analytical findings into an operative framework, systematizing the recurring spatial typologies and network conditions identified within the neighborhood and evaluating their distinct potential for intervention and transformation.

6. Case Studies In this chapter, we examine three reference projects that have informed the design strategy, each selected for a specific quality it demonstrates: programmatic diversity in a contested residential context, the reactivation of residual infrastructure as a social corridor, and the use of ephemeral and lightweight interventions to generate lasting spatial change.

7. Intervention Strategy In this chapter, we formulate the conceptual and operational framework of the project, defining three guiding themes: Community, Water, and Connectivity and developing a series of site-specific intervention strategies calibrated to the distinct spatial typologies identified within the neighborhood.

8. Conclusions In this chapter, we synthesize the spatial and social findings of the research, reflecting on the capacity of minimal and targeted interventions to re-negotiate inherited urban structures and proposing the broader applicability of this approach within post-socialist residential contexts.

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Problem

This section defines the central research problem as the tension between the highly regulated, standardized public spaces produced during the socialist period and their present-day condition, characterized by fragmentation, informal appropriation, and shifting patterns of use.

At the same time, the experience of these neighborhoods is not unique, but rather typical of many post-socialist environments across Eastern Europe. Both direct observation and secondary sources reveal a recurring spatial condition: an inherited landscape, often perceived as degraded, undefined, and restrictive, a condition extensively documented across the region by Stanilov. [1] These spaces, originally conceived as collective environments, have gradually become residual byproducts of the housing blocks rather than fully functioning public realms. In many cases, the open space between buildings has been overtaken by parking, whether formally organized or informally appropriated. Cars occupy and dominate the ground plane, overwhelming what was intended to function as a green, shared environment. As a result, the courtyard or "backyard" space initially envisioned as a healthy, accessible extension of living, in close proximity to nature has become disconnected from everyday habitation. Light and Young describe many of these environments as "left-over spaces" of state socialism, landscapes whose original functions have weakened over time yet which continue to structure everyday urban experience in Bucharest. [2]

Despite the presence of pedestrian paths, the spatial logic remains largely car-oriented. Movement on foot is often secondary, and the overall experience rarely offers comfort, coherence, or pleasure within the dense and overheated urban environment. While larger, formal public spaces such as parks are generally well-designed and proportioned to serve the population, the routes connecting them are fragmented and discontinuous, discouraging walking and limiting accessibility. In this context, access to nature, quietness, and biodiversity becomes less of a given and more of a privilege, a condition Wassenberg identifies as one of the defining spatial failures of large-scale housing estates across Europe. [3]

Even where potential exists, it is frequently obstructed by successive layers of fencing, improvised boundaries, and localized interventions that limit access and continuity. However, these same spaces reveal, through everyday practices, a persistent desire for appropriation and belonging.

Small, informal gestures, a bench placed under a tree, improvised planters protecting future flowers, birdhouses, or makeshift football goals, demonstrate an ongoing engagement with the environment.

These actions often appear almost rebellious, emerging in response to the rigidity of the spatial framework and the dominance of parking. Yet they also point toward an underlying need: the reactivation of these residual spaces as lived environments, capable of supporting social interaction, proximity to nature, and a sense of everyday comfort, a need that Hirt traces to the broader process of spatial privatization and informal re-appropriation characteristic of the post-socialist transition. [4]

image 1 - a back-yard between the blocks - source - made by author

1.2 Research Hypothesis

This thesis advances the hypothesis that socialist housing estates do not require radical or large-scale restructuring, but rather a strategic re-negotiation of public space through minimal and targeted interventions capable of restoring spatial continuity and supporting everyday social practices, positioning architecture not as an instrument of replacement, but as a mediator between inherited spatial structures and contemporary patterns of use.

These environments do not demand costly transformations or intensive processes of re-greening; on the contrary, modernist neighborhoods already represent one of the most efficient models of dense living in relation to the amount of green space they provide, meaning that the issue is not one of quantity, but of structure, accessibility, and the capacity of space to support meaningful use and interaction.

The hypothesis proposes that, by understanding both the spatial typologies of the built environment and the behavioral patterns of its inhabitants, a system of punctual interventions combined with linear connections can generate a coherent and well-functioning network within Bucharest's residential neighborhoods, where each intervention, once mapped and strategically positioned, contributes to improving the accessibility, attractiveness, and usability of public space while simultaneously acting as a node within a larger relational system. This approach aligns with Sim's argument that successful urban environments emerge through proximity, walkability, and the careful support of everyday life rather than through large-scale physical transformation. [5]

Through proximity and strategic placement, these nodes, together with primary routes of connection, have the potential to form a continuous green network, capable of coexisting with the existing built fabric and major circulation systems without disrupting everyday urban flows, operating therefore not through replacement, but through overlay, adaptation, and incremental transformation, an approach consistent with the landscape urbanism framework articulated by Waldheim [5] and the relational spatial logic developed by Allen. [6]

The process of re-negotiation takes place on multiple levels, involving both the municipality, particularly in relation to the management and redistribution of parking, and the residents themselves, especially in the context of informal appropriation and domestic privatization of public space, where everyday practices continuously reshape spatial boundaries.

This dynamic is extensively analyzed by Hirt in relation to the post-socialist city and its environment. [4]

By understanding the needs and behaviors that have led to enclosure, fencing, and spatial fragmentation, the project seeks not to eliminate these practices, but to reinterpret them, aiming to unlock and reconnect space through interventions that acknowledge and accommodate existing patterns of use, while providing a more legible, accessible, and inclusive public environment without negating the sense of control and belonging that residents seek.

1.3 Methodological Framework

This section presents the research methods employed throughout the study, including morphological analysis, historical mapping, sectional studies, photographic documentation, and sociological observation, outlining how each contributes to the development of the design strategy.

The research process is grounded, first and foremost, in direct, first-hand experience and observation of the studied sites. The initial phase consisted of extensive on-site exploration, documentation, and image collection, through which the spatial qualities, everyday practices, and latent conditions of these environments were recorded. Much of the understanding developed in this research comes from direct experience of the site itself.

Regular visits made it possible to observe how people move through the neighborhood, where they stop, which spaces remain unused, and how residents adapt their surroundings to everyday needs.

These observations were later compared with interviews and secondary sources in order to better understand the relationship between spatial organization and everyday behavior.

This sociological layer provides insight into the relationship between spatial configuration and social practices, revealing the underlying needs that shape informal interventions and spatial adaptations, following a methodology of social-spatial reading developed by Bratina Jurkovč. [7]

This emphasis on direct observation and the documentation of everyday activity follows the methodological approach proposed by Gehl and Svarre, who argue that understanding public life requires the systematic study of how people move, gather, pause, and interact within space. [8]

In order to situate these observations within a broader framework, the study incorporates historical and morphological analysis. Historical maps sourced from local and national archives, alongside academic literature, were used to trace the evolution of Bucharest's housing estates, with particular attention to development phases, planning principles, and the shifting role of public space, an approach informed by the analytical frameworks applied by Veselý and Vacek to post-socialist residential districts. [9] This temporal perspective allows for a clearer understanding of how current spatial conditions have emerged.

Morphological and architectural analysis focuses on how buildings, open spaces, and circulation systems are arranged within the neighborhood. By comparing recurring spatial configurations and typologies, the study highlights similarities and differences between various parts of Titan and identifies the conditions that shape everyday use of public space.

Sections are used to better understand the relationship between buildings and the ground. They reveal differences in density, access to sunlight, vegetation, and pedestrian movement that are less visible in plan drawings alone. Combined with the analysis of circulation routes and spatial hierarchies, these studies help identify fragmented areas, points of concentration, and locations where relatively small interventions could have a broader impact. [10]

By combining these approaches, the methodology establishes a multi-scalar and interdisciplinary framework, through which spatial, social, and historical dimensions are integrated into a coherent design strategy. The aim is not only to understand the existing condition, but to translate this understanding into an operative basis for targeted and context-sensitive interventions.

2. BUCHAREST: URBAN AND HISTORICAL TRANSFORMATION

This chapter situates the research within the broader historical and morphological evolution of Bucharest, examining the socio-political context and the spatial processes that shaped the development of socialist housing estates and their public space structure.

The chapter traces the transformation of the city from a pre-modern and socially embedded urban fabric to a system of large-scale modernist developments, while analyzing the relationship between

2.1 Bucharest Before Socialist Modernization

Bucharest developed from a pre-modern settlement characterized by a semi-rural fabric, where public and private life overlapped within a continuous and accessible spatial system. Streets, thresholds, courtyards, and open grounds functioned as everyday social environments, supporting direct interaction and fostering a strong sense of belonging.

The street held a central social role: it functioned as the epicenter of everyday interaction, where neighbors, relatives, and different generations constantly intersected. The bench in front of the house, the threshold, and the immediate surrounding space formed together a social landscape of exchange, observation, and informal coexistence. Social life was not concentrated in specialized public spaces, but unfolded naturally through the ordinary environments of everyday life.

Before large-scale urbanization, this condition was further reinforced by direct access to land and a strong sense of ownership, a relationship to place that was not only practical, but deeply connected to identity, belonging, and social stability. Similar observations were later articulated by Jacobs, who identified the traditional street as a fundamental framework for social interaction, informal surveillance, and the production of urban vitality. [11]

With the onset of modernization and, later, socialist planning, this condition was progressively overwritten.

Public space shifted from a lived and socially embedded environment to a planned and generalized system, defined at an abstract scale that responded more to planning logics and infrastructural requirements than to the human scale, a spatial condition documented in Bucharest's pre-modern urban fabric by Calotă, who traces the gradual erosion of this layered domestic threshold as modernization advanced . The gradual disappearance of the traditional street as a socially legible environment marked not only a spatial transformation, but a profound change in the way everyday life was organized and experienced within the city. [12]

2.2 Industrialization and Socialist Urban Expansion

Beginning in the 1960s, Bucharest underwent a period of accelerated urban expansion driven by industrialization and large-scale rural-to-urban migration. The development of major industrial platforms in the eastern and southern parts of the city, including 23 August (later Faur), Republica, and Industriilor, generated a significant demand for labor, which in turn required the rapid construction of extensive residential districts.

Within this context, housing was conceived as a direct extension of industrial production, forming what are commonly referred to as dormitory neighborhoods: districts not conceived as autonomous urban entities, but as support systems for the workforce, spatially and functionally linked to nearby production sites. As Szelenyi argues, the spatial organization of socialist cities was fundamentally shaped by the subordination of residential life to the logic of industrial production . [13]

This process can be understood through two complementary perspectives. At the macro-urban scale, residential areas were systematically developed in relation to industrial platforms, producing a network of working-class districts distributed across the city.

At the same time, this development unfolded through successive phases of construction, each defined by specific technological capacities, degrees of prefabrication, and approaches to spatial organization. As industrial development intensified during the 1970s and 1980s, residential districts became more compact, more standardized, and increasingly detached from the traditional urban fabric.

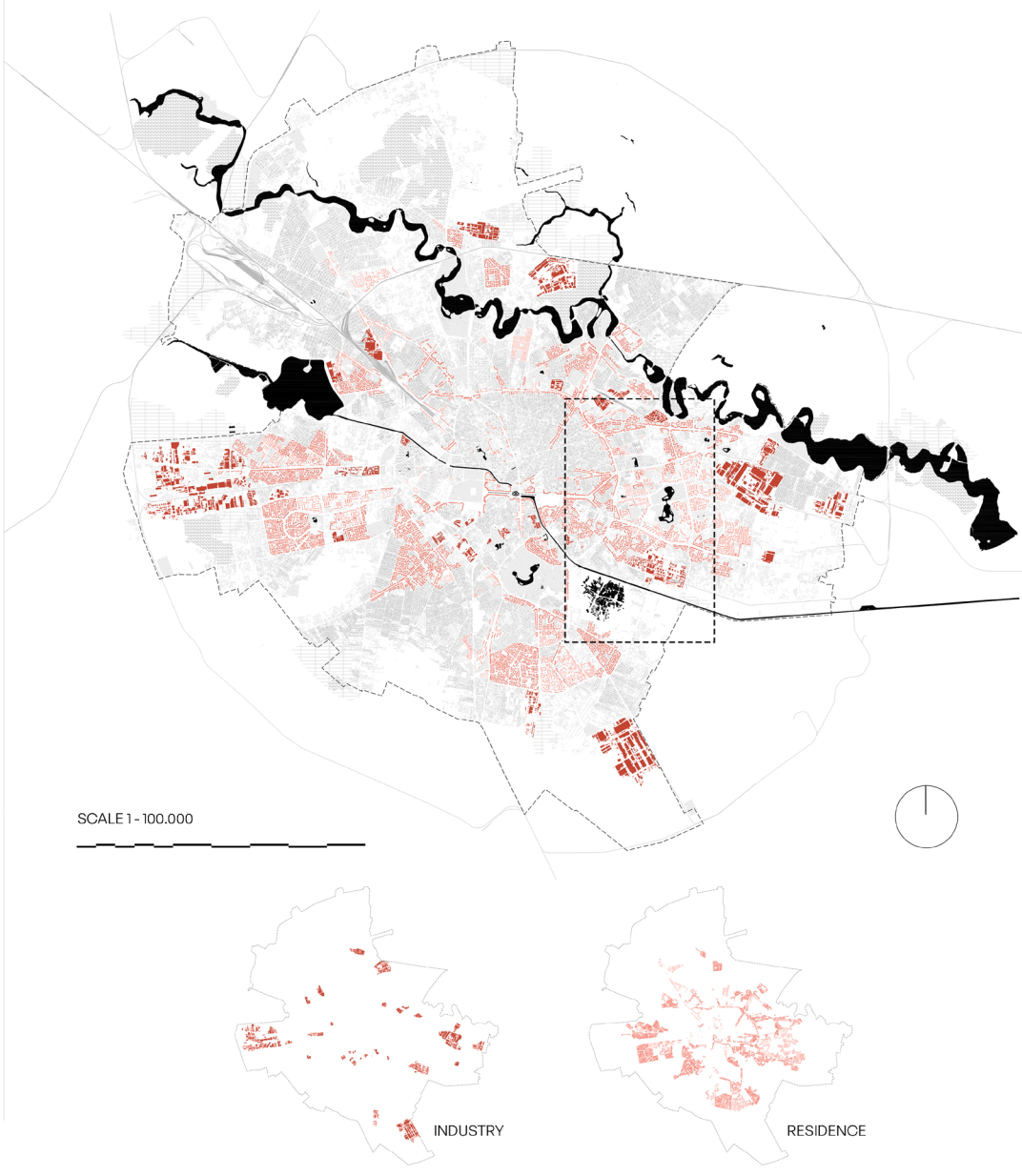


image 2 - map of industry development - source - drawing made by author

2.3 Political and Ideological Framework of Socialist Housing

The development of socialist housing in Bucharest cannot be understood solely as a response to industrialization or demographic growth, but must also be situated within a broader political and ideological framework. Housing production during this period was centrally planned and controlled by the state, functioning as an instrument for organizing both labor and everyday life. Rather than responding to individual needs or market dynamics, residential development followed a top-down logic in which efficiency, standardization, and rapid construction were prioritized.

Within this framework, public space was conceived as a collective domain intended to serve all residents equally. In practice, however, this often resulted in a generalized and abstract spatial condition, defined by quantitative planning norms rather than qualitative social considerations that reduced spatial diversity and limited opportunities for individual appropriation, identity, and attachment to place. In Lefebvre's terms, this represents a shift from lived space, shaped through everyday practice and social experience, toward conceived space, produced and controlled by planners and the state. [14]

At the same time, the transformation of the city involved a significant rupture with the existing urban fabric: traditional streets, low-density neighborhoods, and pre-existing patterns of habitation were frequently demolished or overwritten, a process Ioan describes as a systematic spatial rupture that reconfigured not only the built form of Bucharest but the social structures embedded within it . [15]

The result was a public space no longer shaped through gradual adaptation and everyday use, but imposed as part of a predefined urban model. While this system succeeded in producing large quantities of housing, it consistently failed to generate spaces capable of supporting the complexity, spontaneity, and diversity of social life, a condition whose consequences are still visible today.

2.4 Phases of Socialist Housing Development

The evolution of socialist housing in Bucharest can be understood through a series of distinct phases, each reflecting a specific relationship between construction technology, spatial configuration, and the role of public space.

Phase I (1950 - 1960)

The first phase is characterized by low-rise buildings of two to four stories, constructed using load-bearing masonry or simple structural systems, with generous apartment clear heights of 2.80 to 3.00 meters. Urban regulations imposed distances of approximately 30 meters between buildings, producing open and breathable layouts. Exterior space was organized as perimeter-block courtyards functioning as semi-protected communal gardens, large lawns, mature vegetation, and slow circulation paths that established a clear spatial hierarchy between the public street and the interior collective domain.

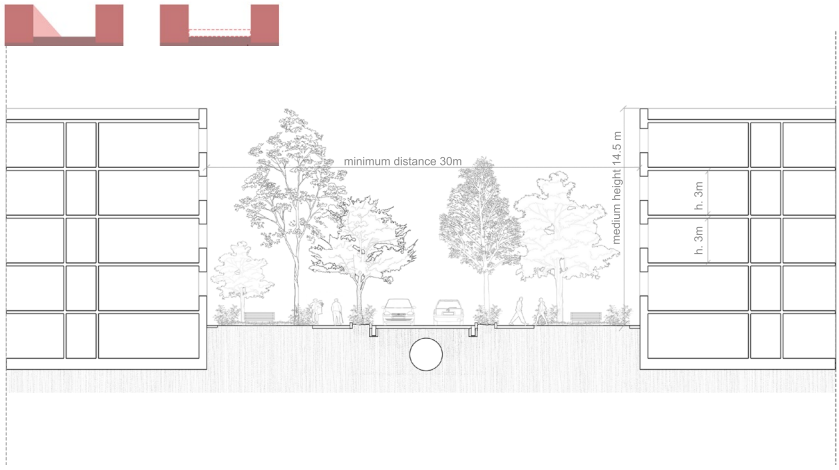


image 3 - section period 1 - source - drawing made by author

Phase II (1960 - 1968)

The second phase introduced a higher degree of standardization through early prefabricated panel systems. Buildings reached four to eight stories, while the microdistrict became the dominant urban unit, integrating housing with schools, kindergartens, commercial nodes, and green areas within walking distance. Public space was predominantly pedestrian-oriented and conceived as a continuous landscape: curved pathways, extensive green surfaces, and building separations of 25 to 30 meters produced an overall spatial character resembling a lived-in park.

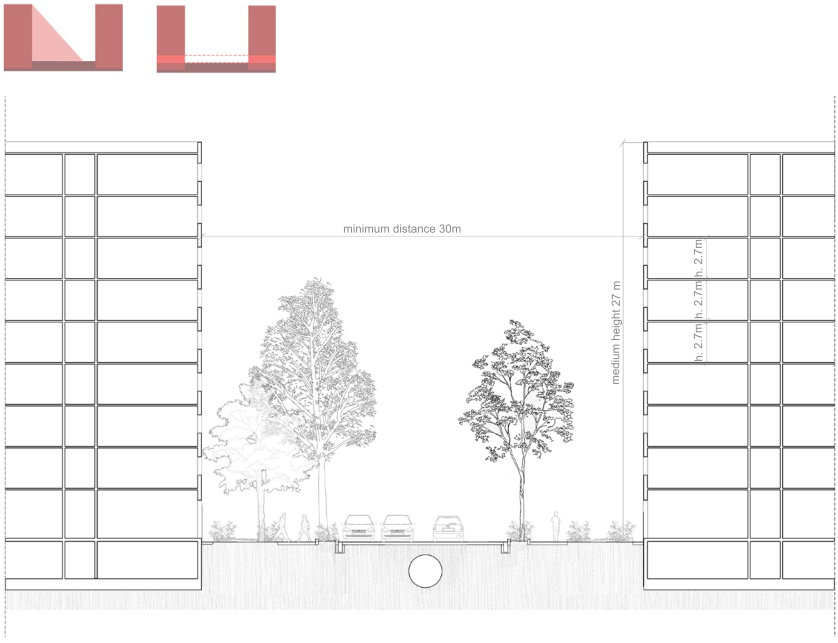
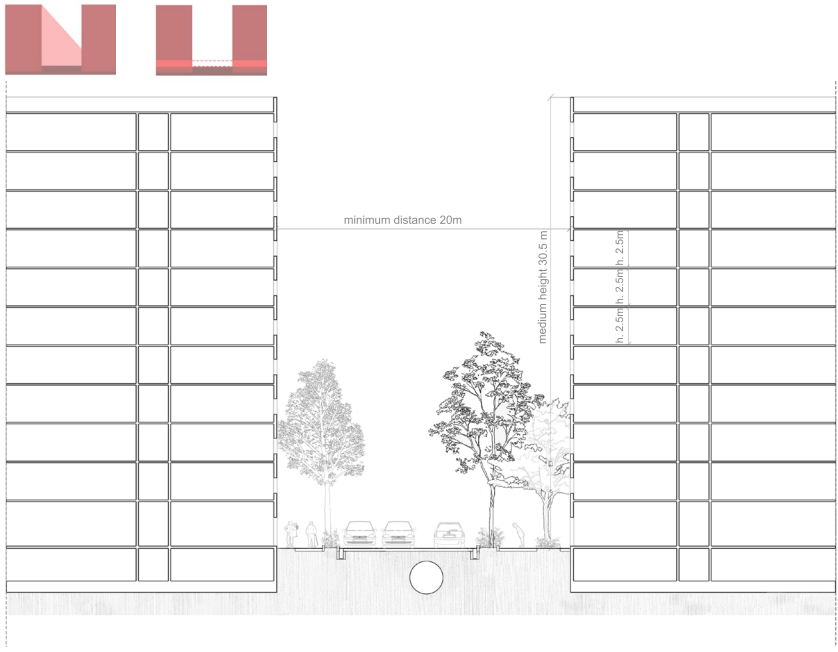


image 4 - section period 2 - source - drawing made by author

Phase III (1978 - 1989)

The third phase corresponds to the full industrialization of construction. Large-scale prefabricated systems enabled the rapid production of high-rise buildings of 10 to 17 stories, with clear heights reduced to approximately 2.50 meters. Distances between buildings were compressed to 18 - 20 meters, particularly along major boulevards. Exterior space became increasingly infrastructural and fragmented: green areas were reduced to residual patches, ground level became dominated by circulation, parking, and service functions, while large-scale compositions emphasized axiality and monumentality over everyday usability.

This transformation marks a critical shift from a socially embedded and spatially coherent public realm to an abstract and under-articulated condition, laying the foundation for many of the spatial ambiguities and fragmentations that continue to characterize these neighborhoods today.



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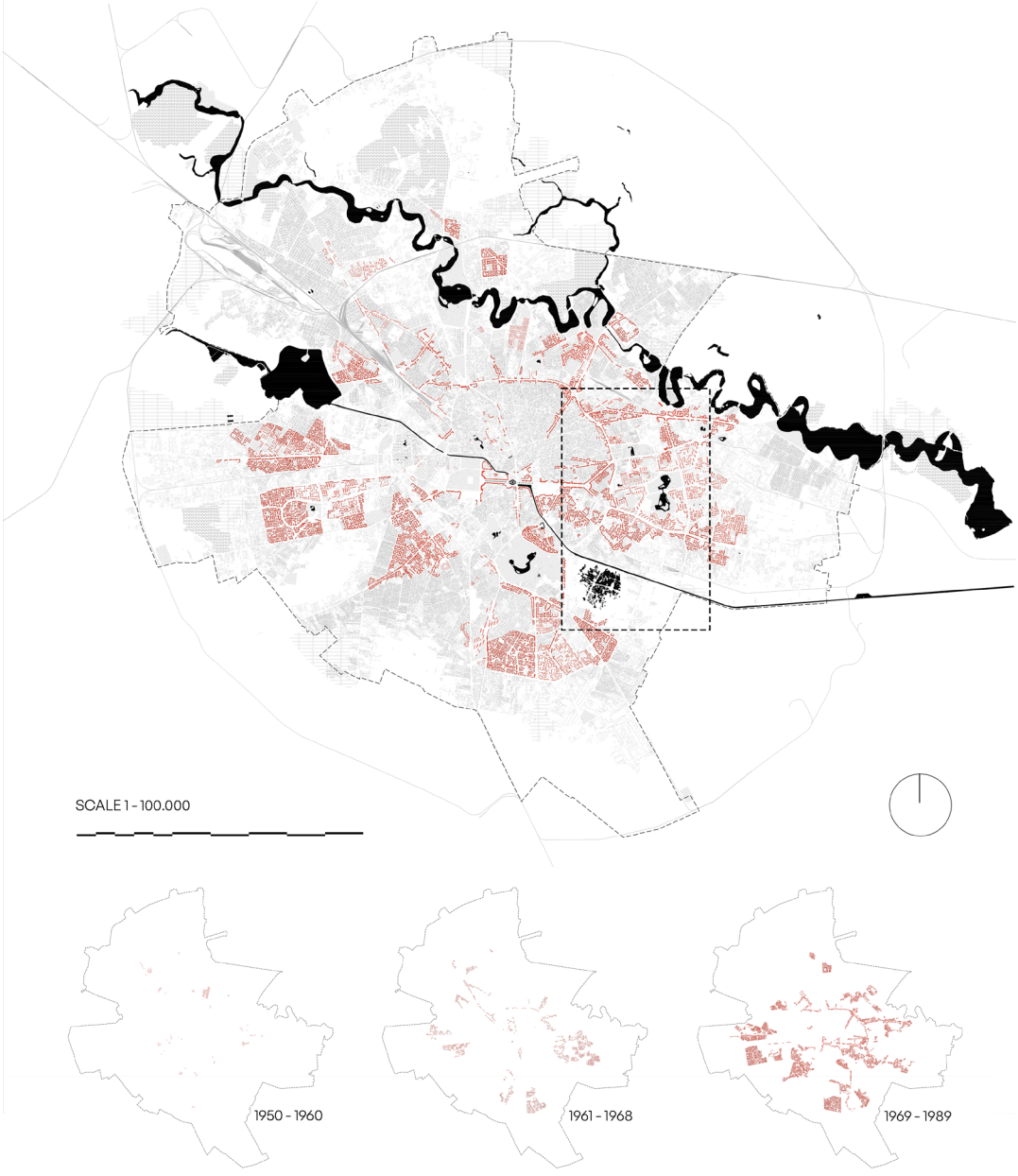


image 6 - map of construction periods - source - drawing made by author

2.5 Post-Socialist Transition

Following the decline of industry after 1990, many production sites were abandoned or restructured, breaking the functional relationship between housing and labor and leaving behind a fragmented urban condition in which residential districts continued to function without the systems that originally justified their existence.

The fall of the socialist regime brought with it the privatization of apartments, the formation of residents' associations responsible for internal building management, and a broader transition toward a market-oriented society. As Hirt demonstrates, the privatization of space, both residential and public, became one of the defining spatial processes of the transition period, producing a fundamental reorganization of how collective environments were owned, maintained, and experienced . [4]

Spaces originally conceived as collective environments gradually shifted toward ambiguous conditions situated between public ownership and informal appropriation, becoming increasingly disconnected from everyday life and lacking both programmatic clarity and spatial continuity. The result is a complex urban landscape in which ownership, responsibility, and use are often negotiated rather than clearly defined, a condition that continues to shape the way public space is perceived, maintained, and appropriated within contemporary housing estates.

2.6 Titan Within the Urban Structure

Titan developed into one of the largest residential districts in Bucharest, reaching an estimated population of over 200,000 inhabitants, with its growth directly linked to the major industrial platforms of the city's eastern sector. From a planning perspective, it was conceived not merely as a housing district but as a structured urban ensemble in which public space played a central role in organizing spatial relationships and everyday life. Titan differs from the traditional urban model in which streets organize both movement and public life. Instead, the neighborhood is composed of large open spaces between buildings, connected by pedestrian routes, local streets, and larger infrastructural corridors.

This arrangement creates generous distances between buildings and allows for significant amounts of greenery. However, it also produces spaces that are often difficult to read and navigate. While open and accessible, many areas lack clear boundaries or a strong sense of place.

In contrast, IOR Park functions as the most recognizable public space within the district. It provides a clear destination, supports a variety of everyday activities, and offers a stronger spatial identity than the dispersed spaces found throughout the residential fabric.

. Titan is also situated within a broader network of natural and infrastructural systems, including the Colentina lake chain and the Dâmbovița canal, yet these elements remain largely disconnected at the scale of everyday urban experience, resulting in a series of isolated spatial fragments rather than an integrated public-space system.

Thus, although Titan is characterized by a considerable quantity of open and green space, its spatial organization produces a condition of fragmentation, what Cuc describes as the “in-between space” of Romanian mass housing: a collective domain present in quantitative terms yet absent as a lived and socially meaningful environment . Public spaces function as islands, locally activated but lacking continuity at the scale of the neighborhood and the city. [16]

The problem of these neighborhoods is not the absence of public space, but the absence of structure: space exists, yet it often fails to operate as an integrated and meaningful component of everyday urban life. This condition establishes the need for a rethinking of public space not through expansion, but through reorganization, articulation, and reinterpretation.

3. SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND EVERYDAY LIFE

This chapter focuses on the people who inhabit Bucharest's socialist housing estates and on the ways they use, perceive, and adapt the spaces around them. While the previous chapters explored the historical and spatial development of these neighborhoods, the following sections examine everyday life, social relationships, and the lasting effects of the transition from rural to collective living. Beyond their physical form, these housing estates are understood as lived environments shaped by memory, adaptation, displacement, and changing social dynamics.

3.1 From Rural Life to Collective Living

The present-day structure of Bucharest is the result of several major periods of development. Elements of the former mahala still coexist with traces of nineteenth-century modernization, socialist planning, and contemporary urban growth. As Ilovan notes, socialist policies presented this transformation as a sign of progress, encouraging the idea that relocation and modernization were necessary steps in the development of society. [17]

One of the most significant changes brought by this process was the transition from a semi-rural way of living to a dense urban environment organized around collective housing. Titan is one of the clearest examples of this transformation, having been developed on a large scale to accommodate workers arriving from rural areas. Before relocation, everyday life was closely connected to the land, proximity between neighbors, and a strong sense of ownership. The relationship to place was not only practical but also deeply connected to identity, belonging, and social stability.

In this context, the street was more than a circulation space. It was the place where everyday life unfolded. Neighbors met regularly, children played outside, and conversations often happened in front of the house or at the gate. The bench, the threshold, and the street itself formed a familiar setting for daily interaction. Social life was embedded within ordinary spaces rather than concentrated in specialized public facilities.

. Dwellings were often multigenerational and connected to wider networks of relatives and neighbors, creating a strong sense of familiarity and mutual support. Similar observations were later made by Jacobs, who described the traditional street as an important framework for social life and informal surveillance. [11]

Industrialization and rapid urban growth changed this way of life considerably. Moving into collective housing meant more than a change of dwelling type. Daily routines, relationships with neighbors, and the experience of space were all transformed. The apartment replaced the house, shared circulation spaces replaced the private threshold, and the open areas between blocks took over many functions previously associated with the street. For many residents, this transition involved not only the loss of property, but also the loss of familiarity, control, and established social networks. The new environment introduced a greater degree of standardization and repetition while offering fewer opportunities for individual appropriation and personal expression.

image 7- collage of transition- source - made by author

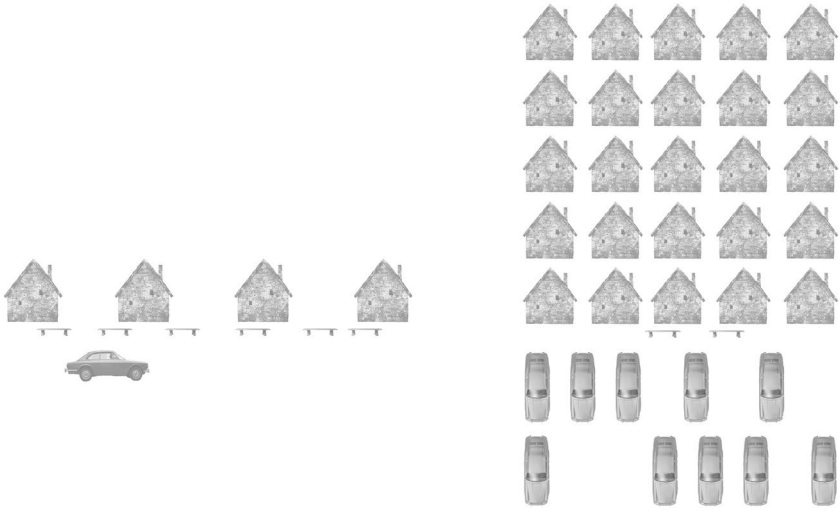


image 8- from house to block- source - made by author

3.2 Loss of Property, Control, and Trust

Modernism provided a clear and structured spatial framework, yet often one based on a homogenized image of the "modern individual." Within the socialist context, this framework was further shaped by distinct political and ideological intentions, promoting values of uniformity, exposure, and collective belonging to the state.

In the socialist housing estate, space became collective in legal and spatial terms, but often abstract in social terms. Residents were brought together physically, yet without the social codes and spatial frameworks that had previously supported everyday interaction. As Crowley and Reid observe, high-density collective living generated proximity without necessarily producing social cohesion, a condition in which shared space became a site of ambiguity rather than community . [18]

This condition was further intensified by the presence of state surveillance mechanisms, most notably the Securitate. Beyond its institutional role, surveillance permeated everyday life: individuals were often encouraged or coerced into informing on one another, and ordinary social interactions were frequently marked by caution and self-restraint. The security, stability, and access to resources provided by the state often came at the cost of reduced trust within the community. At the same time, conditions of scarcity fostered forms of everyday mutual support.

Neighbors relied on one another for resources, services, and small acts of care. The result was a social paradox well captured by Zhelnina: residents simultaneously depended on one another for informal support while navigating an environment of suspicion and controlled exposure, producing a fragile and ambiguous sense of community structured as much by mutual aid as by latent distrust . [19]

image 9 - site pictures collage - made by author

3.3 Adaptation and Informal Appropriation

The loss of direct control over space, the disappearance of familiar social structures, and the standardization of living conditions generated a rupture between inherited patterns of inhabitation and the new urban reality, one that was not only physical, but deeply behavioral, affecting how individuals related to space, to others, and to themselves.

In response, residents gradually adapted the spaces around them to better reflect their everyday needs. Garages, small gardens, seating areas, workshops, and various self-built additions appeared throughout the housing estates as ways of creating a stronger sense of ownership and familiarity. In many cases, garages became more than places for storing cars, serving instead as spaces for work, storage, or informal social activities. Gardens cultivated between blocks reintroduced a direct connection to the ground, while benches and improvised seating areas created opportunities for everyday interaction close to home.

Over time, many of these spaces began to function differently from what planners had originally intended. Through small and often informal interventions, residents modified how public space was used, introducing new boundaries, activities, and patterns of occupation. Areas that were initially left undefined gradually acquired specific functions and meanings through everyday use. These practices suggest that older ways of living did not disappear entirely after the move to collective housing. Instead, many habits associated with rural life and traditional neighborhoods continued to reappear in adapted forms.

Gardening, outdoor socializing, and the personalization of shared space all reflect an ongoing effort to make the large-scale housing estate feel more familiar and responsive to everyday life. These adaptations also expose the limitations of the original planning model. The emergence of informal practices indicates a mismatch between designed space and lived reality.

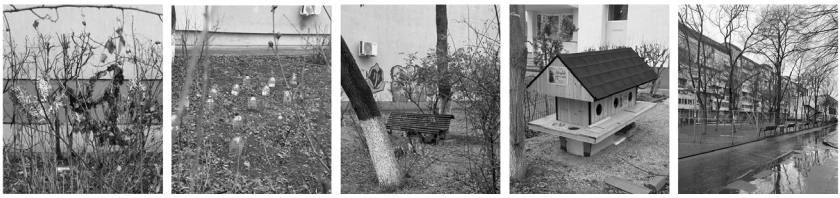


image 10 - site pictures collage - made by

3.4.Contemporary Inhabitants and Everyday Practices

Today, Bucharest's housing estates accommodate a diverse and layered social structure shaped by generational differences, economic transitions, and changing patterns of inhabitation. In neighborhoods such as Titan, the original population has aged while new generations have gradually reoccupied the same spatial framework, producing a partially multigenerational structure less cohesive than the pre-modern forms of living it replaced.

The population of Bucharest's housing estates is diverse and includes elderly residents, families, younger generations, and socially vulnerable groups. These categories often use and perceive public space differently. Older residents tend to spend more time in the immediate surroundings of their buildings, maintaining daily routines and strong connections to familiar places, while younger inhabitants often use these spaces more occasionally and for specific purposes.

After 1990, apartments were privatized, while most public spaces remained under municipal administration. Over time, this situation contributed to various forms of informal appropriation. Fences, barriers, planted areas, and small resident-led interventions gradually appeared throughout the neighborhood, reflecting a desire for greater control over the immediate environment. As a result, spaces that are legally public often function as semi-private areas in everyday use.

Movement through the neighborhood is frequently affected by parking areas, fences, and other informal boundaries that divide the open space between buildings. At the same time, everyday observation shows that residents continue to make active use of these environments. Informal shortcuts, improvised seating areas, and small gardens demonstrate that the spaces between blocks remain part of daily life, even when they are fragmented or poorly connected.

The persistence of this everyday activity suggests the presence of significant latent social potential. These small-scale activities demonstrate that the quality of public space depends not only on its physical configuration, but also on its capacity to support everyday social encounters and optional activities, a relationship extensively documented by Gehl in his studies of public life and pedestrian environments. [20]

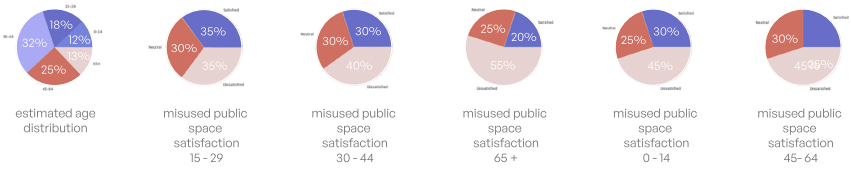


image 11 - pie charts - made by author

3.5 Lived Experiences (Interviews)

The lived experiences presented in this section reflect broader patterns observable within Romanian urban contexts, particularly among individuals and families who have directly or indirectly experienced the transition from rural to collective housing. The interviews, conducted as part of the project Bucharest Housing Stories, provide insight into the diverse ways in which public space is experienced and inhabited.

Doru

Doru, who describes himself not as a homeless person but as a “free man,” embodies a complex yet familiar trajectory within the socio-political context of Bucharest. Originally from the village of Ghergani, he moved to the city at a young age, carrying with him a strong attachment to nature and the rhythms of rural life. After losing his job as a gravestone sculptor during the post-socialist economic transition and being unable to acquire an apartment, he became a person of the street.

Despite this condition, Doru describes his life as simple and fulfilling. He maintains a continuous relationship with public space, experiencing the city in a way that many residents no longer do. For him, the park represents a place of refuge, offering proximity to nature and distance from the density and noise of the housing estate. His experience reveals a direct and constant engagement with the public realm, structured around movement, routine, and everyday interaction.

Alex

Alex represents a younger generation inhabiting the inherited structure of collective housing. Living with his father in the family apartment, he describes life in the housing estate as fundamentally dual: the apartment provides calm and protection, while the exterior environment is characterized by traffic, noise, and spatial disorganization.

He expresses both appreciation and frustration toward the collective organization of the building and the residents' association, highlighting the difficulties of shared decision-making and the gradual privatization of common spaces. While the park remains an essential element of urban life, access to it often requires moving through congested and car-dominated environments. His account concludes with an image of neighbors gathered around an improvised table in the garden of the block, a quiet illustration of the persistence of informal social life despite fragmented spatial conditions.

Ronita

Ronita presents a more detached and critical perspective. Living in a small studio apartment, she describes her current situation as temporary, having moved to Bucharest with the intention of eventually leaving. She perceives both the building and its surrounding spaces as restrictive environments that segregate rather than connect. Poor living conditions and the lack of natural light contribute to feelings of enclosure and disconnection. Unlike the previous narratives, her relationship to place is not rooted in memory or adaptation, but characterized by distance and absence of attachment.

Conclusion of Interviews

Together, these narratives highlight the coexistence of multiple relationships to public space within the same urban framework. Memory, adaptation, detachment, and necessity overlap, revealing a complex and often contradictory social landscape. Public space within Bucharest's housing estates cannot be understood as a homogeneous condition, but as a layered environment shaped by different temporalities, social positions, and lived experiences.

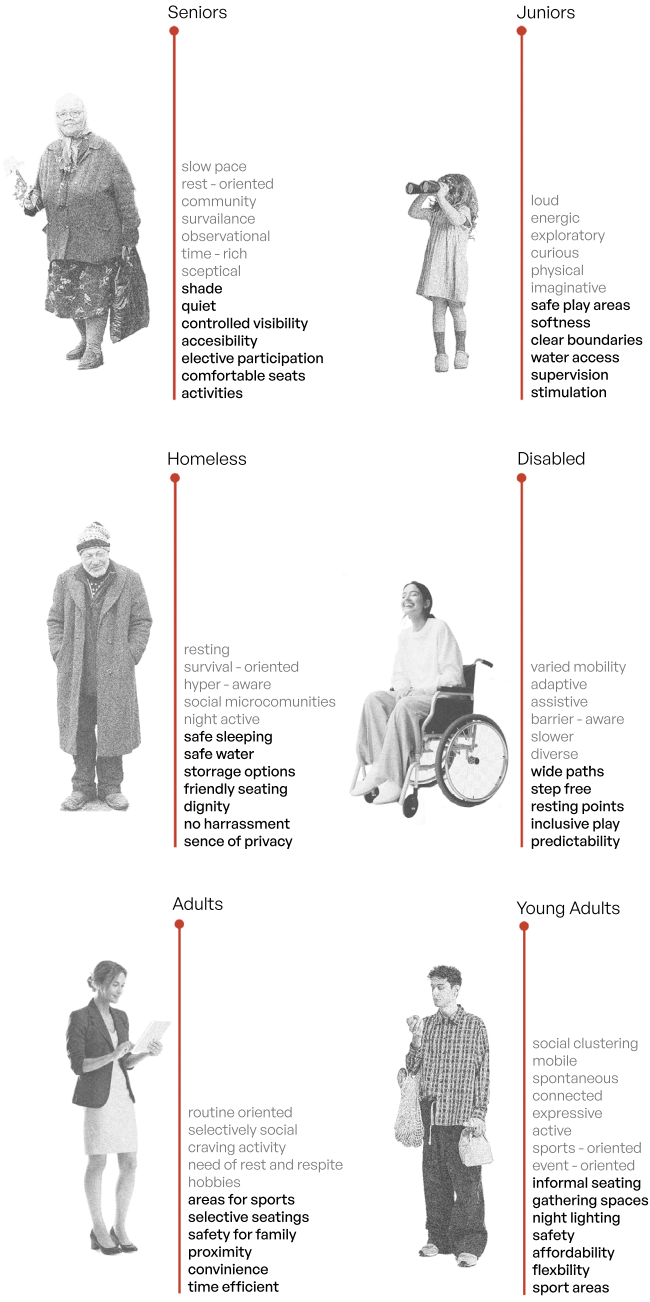


image 12 - involved actors, needs and characteristics - made by author

3.6 Social Implications for Design

The sociological analysis reveals that public space in Bucharest's housing estates must be approached not as a neutral or purely formal condition, but as a lived and continuously negotiated environment shaped by memory, adaptation, and diverse patterns of inhabitation. As Bratina Jurkovč demonstrates through her social-spatial methodology, understanding how residents actually perceive and use exterior space is a prerequisite for any meaningful intervention . [21]

The primary users of these environments form a multigenerational and socially diverse population in which elderly residents, younger inhabitants, families, and vulnerable groups coexist with different needs and expectations.

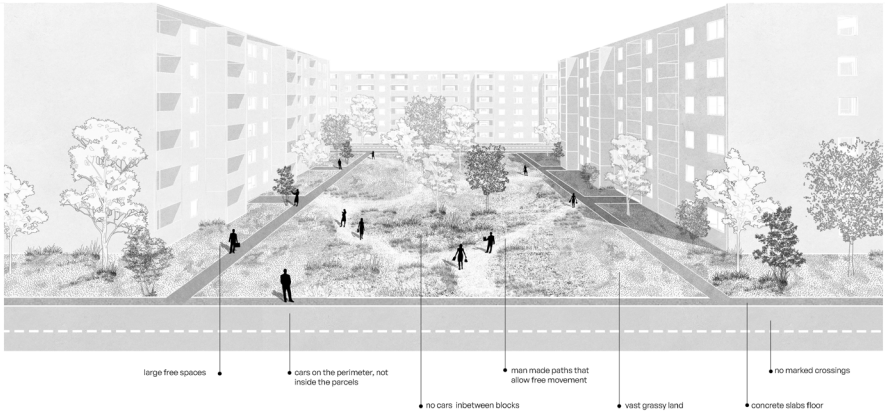
Design should therefore not prioritize a single user type, but support multiple forms of inhabitation, balancing active and passive use, social interaction and retreat, continuity and flexibility.

The analysis reveals persistent feelings of insecurity, lack of ownership, and social distance, rooted both in the historical experience of collective living and in the current ambiguity of public space. Rather than eliminating boundaries altogether, future interventions should introduce subtle and legible transitions that provide orientation, comfort, and belonging without restricting accessibility.

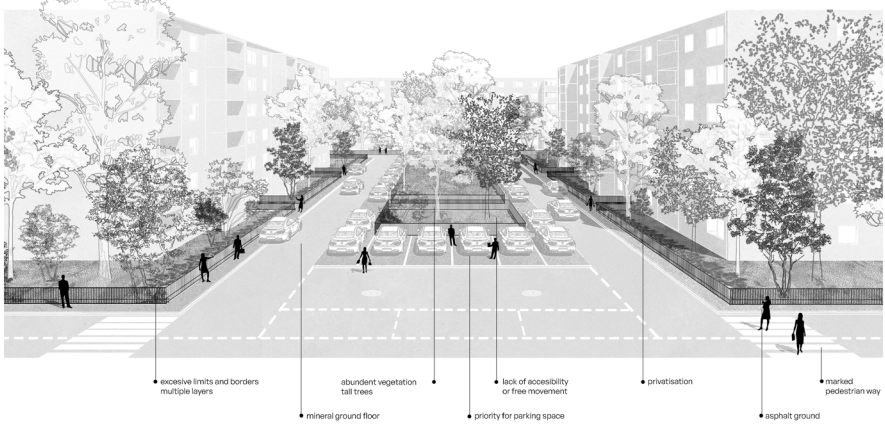
The widespread presence of informal practices indicates that residents actively seek to appropriate space according to their needs. Design should therefore support and reinterpret these behaviors rather than replace them. Spaces for sitting, gardening, meeting, and small-scale activities should emerge from observed patterns of use and remain adaptable over time.

In this context, architecture becomes a mediator between inherited spatial structures and contemporary forms of inhabitation, enabling gradual transformation rather than imposing a new order, and creating a framework that supports appropriation, interaction, and long-term social cohesion. This principle echoes Whyte's observations that successful public spaces are rarely imposed through formal design alone, but emerge from a close understanding of how people naturally occupy and appropriate space. [22]

PUBLIC SPACE FORM IN IT'S INITIAL SHAPE



PUBLIC SPACE FORM AFTER 1990' (FORM IN IT,S CURENT STATE)



PUBLIC SPACE FORM IN PROPOSED INCLUSIVE DESIGN/ DIRECTIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

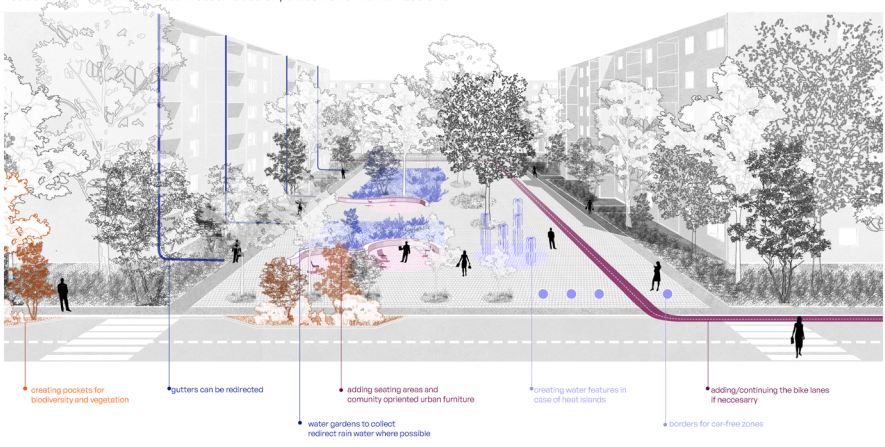


image 13 - sections, behaviour over time - source- made by author

4. TITAN: SPATIAL CONDITION AND URBAN ANALYSIS

This chapter presents the spatial and urban analysis of Titan, examining its morphological structure, public space evolution, circulation systems, and spatial hierarchies. Building on the historical and sociological context established in the preceding chapters, the analysis identifies the specific conditions, typologies, and latent potentials that inform the subsequent design framework.

4.1 Titan Within Bucharest

Located in the eastern part of Bucharest, Titan is one of the largest socialist housing districts developed during the second half of the twentieth century, reaching an estimated population of over 200,000 inhabitants. Its growth was directly tied to the major industrial platforms of the city's eastern sector, functioning primarily as a dormitory district within a broader multifunctional logic that included services, education, and everyday infrastructure.

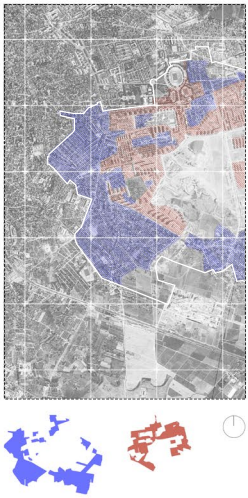
From a planning perspective, Titan was conceived as a structured urban ensemble in which public space played a central role in organizing spatial relationships and everyday life. The neighborhood is defined by a system of large open areas between buildings that replace the traditional street as the primary spatial connector, with circulation organized through a hierarchy of pedestrian paths, secondary routes, and larger infrastructural axes.

A central element within this structure is Alexandru Ioan Cuza Park (IOR Park), which functions as the primary coherent public space of the district, offering legibility, accessibility, and a recognizable spatial identity in contrast to the dispersed and often ambiguous spaces between residential buildings.

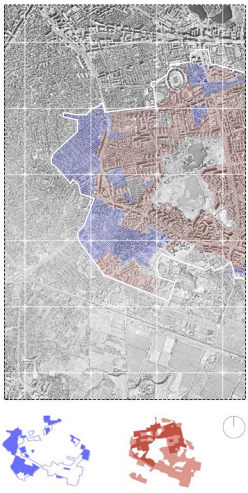
Despite a broader network of natural and infrastructural systems, including the Colentina lake chain and Văcăreşti Natural Park, these elements remain largely disconnected at the scale of everyday urban experience, producing a condition of spatial fragmentation that this chapter proceeds to analyze in detail.

image 14 - ssample maps of urban analysis - source- made by author

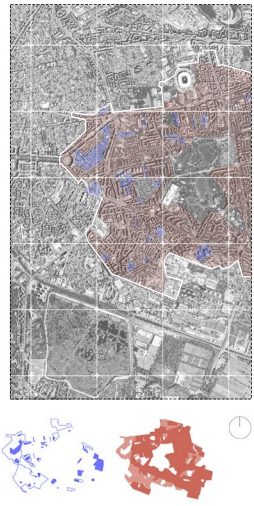
MAP BUCHAREST - TITAN - 1960 (beginning of development)



MAP BUCHAREST - TITAN - 1985 (final stage of development)



MAP BUCHAREST - TITAN -2025 (present form)



BUILDINGS ON AREA

industry

1950-1960

1960

STREETS AND PUBLIC

tram line

busses

GREEN SPACES AND W

green spaces

water bodies

OF INTERVENTION

1968 1969-1989

TRANSPORTATION

ATER BODIES

NETWORK STRATEGY AND INTERVENTIONS

district limits | green corridors | green nodes | proposed intervention | pilot project

CIRCULATION AND PRIORITY IN INTERVENTION

district limits | axes | priority intervention | green intervention | continuity of space | dissolving fencing

PLOTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE/LOGISTIC BORDERS

district limits | cvartal | nucleus | important fabric

4.2 Urban Morphology and Typologies

The socialist housing estates of Titan were built on modernist planning principles, producing a repetitive and highly rational urban fabric composed of a limited number of identifiable spatial configurations. Despite their initial clarity and functional intent, these structures have over time generated a landscape of residual spaces, often inaccessible due to informal enclosures and heavily occupied by parking. As Nedučin et al. observe, this trajectory is consistent across post-socialist housing estates in Central and Eastern Europe, where the deterioration of public space is less a consequence of design failure than of the structural absence of maintenance and governance frameworks . [23]

The urban block, one of the most common typologies in Bucharest's residential landscape, is defined by an enclosed or semi-enclosed configuration formed by buildings of four to ten stories framing interior courtyards. These spaces are generally smaller and more enclosed than other areas of the neighborhood.

The slab block typology consists of parallel residential buildings that create long open spaces between them. Depending on their location, these spaces may form part of larger pedestrian routes crossing the neighborhood or serve mainly the residents of the adjacent buildings. Their linear form can help connect different areas, although it may also create repetitive and poorly differentiated environments.

Tower blocks are surrounded by larger and more open areas. These spaces usually allow for greater visibility and freedom of movement, but they often lack clear organization. As a result, circulation routes can become fragmented, while fences, parking, and other informal interventions further divide the open space.

Axial configurations appear mainly along major boulevards and circulation corridors. Defined by taller buildings and intense traffic flows, these spaces are more infrastructural in character than the interior areas of the neighborhood.

Despite these constraints, relatively small interventions could improve pedestrian comfort, accessibility, and the overall quality of the public environment.Within the selected study area of Titan–Balta Albă, smaller urban pockets emerge as particularly promising sites for intervention. Each typology presents distinct spatial conditions and different degrees of enclosure, use, and accessibility, distinctions that directly inform the typological framework developed in Chapter 5.

image 15 - map of intervention and sites of interest - made by author

4.2 Urban Morphology and Typologies

The public spaces of Titan were originally conceived as collective environments integrated within a coherent modernist spatial system, intended to provide light, air, greenery, and opportunities for social interaction, forming the connective tissue of the neighborhood. During the earlier phases of socialist development, generous distances between buildings, large green areas, and pedestrian-oriented circulation created open and breathable environments where movement and everyday life unfolded within a continuous public landscape. Over time, however, increasing densification, infrastructural pressures, and the post-socialist transition transformed many of these collective environments into fragmented and ambiguous spaces. Formal and informal parking progressively occupied the spaces between buildings, while fences, barriers, garages, and informal appropriation subdivided public space into localized micro-territories, blurring boundaries between public, semi-public, and private environments. Veselý and Vacek identify this process as one of the central challenges in the revitalization of Eastern Bloc housing estates, where the gradual enclosure of originally open landscapes has produced conditions of inaccessibility that are difficult to reverse without structural intervention . [9]

Despite these transformations, traces of the original spatial structure remain visible. Mature vegetation, generous open areas, and significant distances between buildings continue to provide environmental qualities rarely found in more recent developments, a latent potential that forms the basis for the intervention strategy outlined in later chapters.

4.4 Circulation Networks and Nodes

Movement within Titan takes place through a combination of pedestrian paths, streets, public transport connections, and informal routes created by residents over time. Although the neighborhood benefits from metro stations and direct connections to major boulevards, moving on foot is not always straightforward. Many pedestrian routes are interrupted by parking areas, fences, or poorly connected pathways, forcing people to take detours or create their own shortcuts. The growing number of private vehicles has reinforced the dominance of car-oriented infrastructure throughout the district. Parking occupies large portions of the open space between buildings, while traffic and physical barriers often make walking less comfortable.

Nevertheless, everyday observation reveals a network of informal paths that residents use regularly. These routes often indicate more direct and convenient connections than those originally provided by the planning layout. Particular attention is given to locations where different routes meet or where people naturally stop during their daily movements.

These points are often found near shops, public transport stations, playgrounds, intersections, or transitions between different parts of the neighborhood. While many of them currently lack a clear spatial definition, they already function as local points of activity and interaction. Strengthening these locations could improve connections between different areas of the neighborhood and help create a more coherent pedestrian network.

4.5 Spatial Hierarchies and Gradients

One of the defining characteristics of Titan's public space structure is the ambiguity of its spatial hierarchies. The transitions between public, semi-public, and private environments are often weakly articulated, producing conditions in which accessibility, ownership, and spatial control become difficult to interpret. Unlike the traditional city, where streets, courtyards, and building fronts establish relatively clear hierarchies, the modernist open-space model generates continuous and often undefined exterior environments, a condition Carmona et al. describe as the erosion of the spatial gradient essential to legible and inhabitable public space . [12]

Over time, residents have attempted to compensate for this ambiguity through localized forms of enclosure and appropriation. Fences, planted edges, improvised gardens, and territorial markings introduce new spatial gradients within the open landscape, redefining relationships between collective and domestic space. These interventions reflect a desire for control and belonging within otherwise abstract environments, producing spaces that operate neither as fully public nor fully private, but as negotiated intermediate conditions shaped through everyday use. As Madanipour argues, the quality of urban public space is often defined by the clarity and negotiation of boundaries between public and private realms, rather than by the absolute separation of the two. [24] At the same time, larger public landscapes such as IOR Park, the Colentina lake system, and Văcăreşti Natural Park introduce another level of spatial hierarchy within the city. However, the lack of continuity between these larger systems and the smaller-scale spaces of everyday life reinforces the fragmented structure of the neighborhood.

5. TYPOLOGICAL AND SPATIAL SYSTEM

This chapter translates the previous urban and spatial analysis into an operative framework for intervention. Through the identification of recurring typologies, spatial relationships, and circulation patterns, the research establishes a system capable of guiding future interventions within the neighborhood. Rather than treating Titan as a homogeneous modernist environment, the chapter reveals a layered structure composed of distinct spatial conditions, each characterized by different forms of openness, accessibility, density, and potential for transformation.

5.1 Urban Typologies

The urban structure of Titan is composed of a series of recurring spatial and architectural configurations generated through different phases of socialist development. Although developed through standardized principles, these systems produce distinct relationships between buildings, circulation, vegetation, and public space.

Linear Block Systems

Linear block systems constitute one of the most recognizable configurations within the neighborhood. Formed through elongated slab buildings positioned along major axes or secondary pedestrian routes, these typologies generate strong linear relationships between circulation and open space.

The spaces between buildings often function as elongated green corridors, allowing visual continuity and pedestrian permeability across large portions of the neighborhood. At the same time, the excessive linearity of these systems frequently produces weak transversal connections and poorly articulated public space conditions.

Due to their accessibility and continuity, these spaces have gradually become heavily occupied by circulation and parking infrastructure, reducing their environmental and social qualities. Nevertheless, their spatial continuity and repetitive structure provide significant potential for large-scale pedestrian and ecological reconnection.

Parallel Slab Configurations

Parallel slab configurations are generated through repetitive systems of residential bars positioned at relatively regular distances from one another. This arrangement produces large open areas between buildings, often lacking clear hierarchy or spatial definition.

Originally conceived according to modernist principles emphasizing light, air, and openness, principles formalized within the CIAM framework as analyzed by Mumford [25], these configurations create generous environmental conditions and visual permeability. However, the absence of clear thresholds and differentiated spatial articulation frequently results in ambiguous collective environments.

The open ground between slabs tends to become fragmented through parking occupation, improvised circulation paths, and localized appropriations. Despite this fragmentation, the regularity of the spatial system offers flexibility and adaptability, allowing for the integration of new pedestrian routes, public programs, and landscape interventions.

Cvartal Configurations

Unlike the open and dispersed logic of slab systems, cvartal configurations generate more enclosed and spatially legible environments. Residential buildings partially frame interior courtyards, producing semi-protected collective spaces situated between the public street and the domestic environment.

These spaces often support stronger forms of collective identity and localized social interaction due to their smaller scale and clearer spatial boundaries. Vegetation, seating areas, and informal activities tend to become concentrated within these interior courtyards, reinforcing their semi-public character.

At the same time, the controlled accessibility of these spaces can also produce forms of exclusion and enclosure, particularly when combined with fencing or informal privatization. Nevertheless, the cvartal typology reveals significant potential for shared collective environments capable of supporting everyday social life.

Tower Configurations

Tower configurations generate large and visually open landscapes in which buildings are positioned as isolated vertical objects within extensive green space. Compared to slab systems, these configurations produce greater visual openness and permeability, yet often lack spatial hierarchy and clearly defined circulation systems.

The scale and dispersion of open space surrounding towers frequently generate underused or weakly articulated environments, particularly at ground level. Public space within these systems tends to become residual and fragmented, shaped more by distance and infrastructure than by everyday activity.

However, the reduced building footprint and extensive open ground provide considerable environmental potential, particularly in relation to vegetation, ecological continuity, and the introduction of new public programs.

Boulevard Front Typologies

Boulevard front typologies emerge primarily along major infrastructural axes, where residential buildings define large-scale urban fronts facing intense circulation corridors. These areas operate at the intersection between neighborhood scale and city scale, functioning both as residential environments and as infrastructural landscapes.

Although these spaces retain significant vegetation and open surfaces, their spatial character is often dominated by traffic, parking, and large circulation systems. Pedestrian comfort and continuity become secondary to vehicular movement, generating environments that are difficult to inhabit despite their strategic position within the city.

Hybrid and Transitional Conditions

Beyond clearly identifiable typologies, Titan also contains numerous hybrid and transitional conditions generated through overlapping planning phases, informal transformations, and localized adaptations over time.

These spaces frequently combine characteristics belonging to multiple systems, producing atypical configurations and residual conditions difficult to classify within a singular typological category. While often fragmented and spatially ambiguous, these environments reveal significant adaptability and latent potential precisely because of their incomplete and transitional character.

5.2 Public Space Typologies

Beyond the architectural organization of buildings, the neighborhood contains a wide variety of public space conditions, each defined by different relationships between accessibility, use, enclosure, and social activity. As Bratina Jurkovič demonstrates through her social-spatial analysis of residential areas, these conditions are shaped as much by patterns of everyday use as by formal design intentions [7].

Residual Spaces

Residual spaces emerge as byproducts of modernist planning logic, often occupying undefined areas between buildings, circulation systems, or infrastructural edges. Although frequently underused or dominated by parking, these spaces reveal significant potential due to their flexibility and proximity to everyday life.

Peripheral Green Areas

Peripheral green areas are generally located at the edges of residential systems or in proximity to major infrastructural corridors. These spaces often retain substantial vegetation and environmental qualities, yet remain weakly integrated into everyday pedestrian networks.

Interior Courtyards

Interior courtyards operate as semi-protected collective environments situated between residential buildings. Depending on scale and accessibility, these spaces can support informal social interaction, localized gathering, and small-scale appropriation.

Linear Pedestrian Corridors

Linear pedestrian corridors constitute one of the primary movement systems within the neighborhood. Originally conceived as continuous pedestrian landscapes, many of these routes remain spatially fragmented despite their strategic role in connecting housing, services, schools, and green areas.

Infrastructural Voids

Infrastructural voids emerge near major boulevards, parking systems, transport corridors, or oversized circulation areas. Although frequently dominated by vehicles and difficult to appropriate socially, these spaces often occupy strategic positions within the larger urban structure.

Semi-Private Gardens

Semi-private gardens result from informal acts of appropriation performed by residents in proximity to ground-floor apartments or building entrances. Through vegetation, fences, and small interventions, inhabitants redefine fragments of public space according to domestic and collective needs.

Transitional Spaces

Transitional spaces operate as intermediate conditions between public and private environments. Entrances, thresholds, paths, and shared exterior areas generate gradients of accessibility and control that structure everyday interaction.

5.3 Network Conditions

At the neighborhood scale, Titan functions through multiple overlapping networks composed of pedestrian routes, green systems, infrastructural corridors, and localized social spaces. However, these systems rarely operate as a coherent whole.

Fragmented Networks

Many pedestrian and public-space systems remain interrupted by parking, fences, infrastructural barriers, or abrupt spatial transitions. As a result, continuity is frequently weakened both physically and visually.

Continuous Green Systems

Despite fragmentation at ground level, the district retains large quantities of vegetation and open space capable of functioning as continuous ecological systems. Mature trees, green corridors, and landscape voids create latent environmental continuity across the neighborhood.

Interrupted Pedestrian Routes

Although pedestrian movement remains fundamental to everyday life within the district, many routes unfold through improvised shortcuts and discontinuous pathways lacking hierarchy and legibility.

Ecological Corridors

At a larger scale, Titan exists within a broader landscape structure connected to IOR Park, the Colentina lake system, and Văcărești Natural Park. However, these systems remain weakly connected at the scale of everyday pedestrian experience.

Nodal Conditions

Nodes emerge at intersections between movement, activity, infrastructure, and social use. Commercial areas, playgrounds, transport stations, and intersections between circulation systems frequently generate localized intensities within the urban fabric.

Areas of Spatial Intensity

Certain spaces accumulate activity due to accessibility, visibility, or proximity to services. These areas often function as informal centers within otherwise fragmented systems.

Potential Connectors

Residual spaces, secondary paths, and underused landscape corridors reveal the possibility of reconnecting fragmented systems through targeted and incremental interventions.

5.3 Network Conditions

The previous typological and network analysis reveals that Titan should not be understood as a singular or homogeneous urban condition, but rather as a layered system composed of multiple Each typology presents different challenges and requires a specific approach.

Conditions vary according to scale, building layout, circulation patterns, and the way people currently use the space. For this reason, the project does not propose a single solution for the entire neighborhood, but adapts its interventions to the characteristics of each situation.

Some areas are better suited to small-scale interventions such as seating, planting, gathering spaces, or community-oriented activities that support everyday use. Other locations require a broader approach focused on improving connections between pedestrian routes, green corridors, and key points of activity throughout the neighborhood.

The link between spatial typologies and intervention strategies is therefore an important part of the project. Open slab systems may help strengthen pedestrian connections across larger areas, while cvartal configurations can support more localized forms of collective use. Residual and infrastructural spaces, despite their fragmented character, often occupy strategic positions within the neighborhood and can help reconnect areas that are currently isolated from one another.

This approach builds on Allen's understanding of urban systems as networks of relationships rather than isolated objects [7] and is consistent with Waldheim's landscape urbanism framework, which emphasizes the role of infrastructure and open space in shaping the city [6].

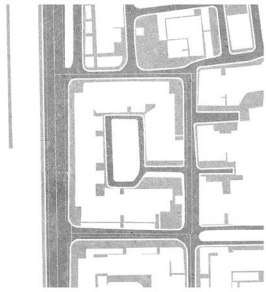
Rather than replacing the existing urban structure, the project seeks to work with it. The proposed interventions focus on improving connections, supporting everyday activities, and making better use of the qualities already present within the neighborhood.

URBAN FABRIC ANALYSIS

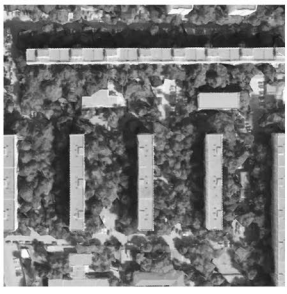
URBAN BLOCK

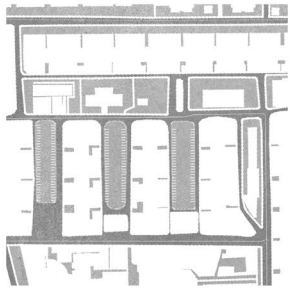
PUBLIC SPACE
MINERAL SPACE/STREET

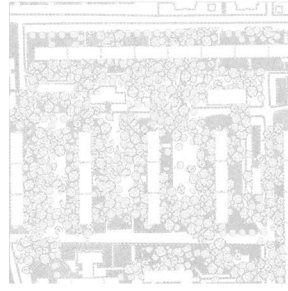
PUBLIC SPACE
GREEN AREAS



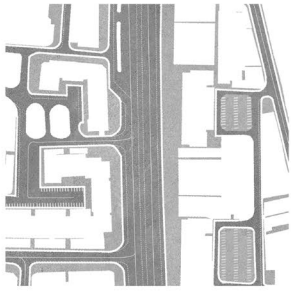
SLAB BLOCK



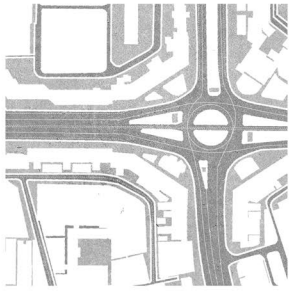




URBAN POCKET



AXIAL COMPOSITION



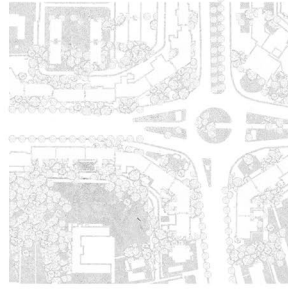
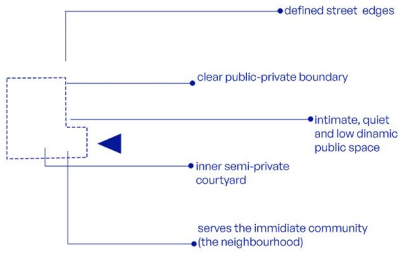
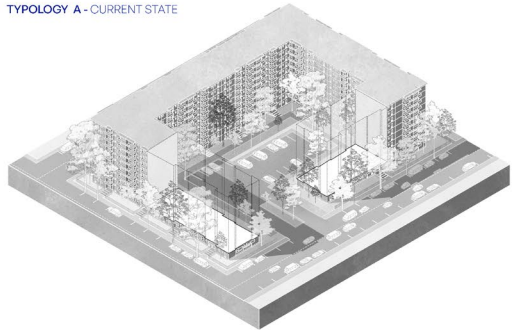


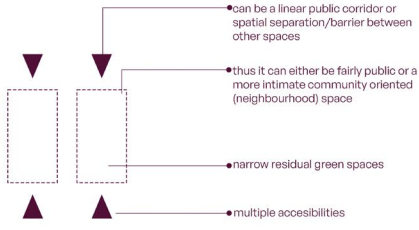
image 16 - samples of typologica

PUBLIC SPACE
INTERVENTION AREA DEFINED

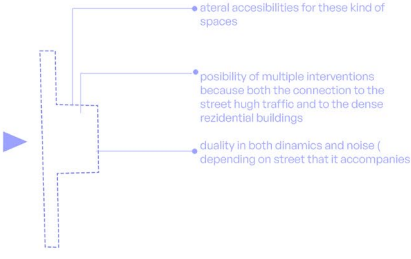


TYPOLOGY A - CURRENT STATE

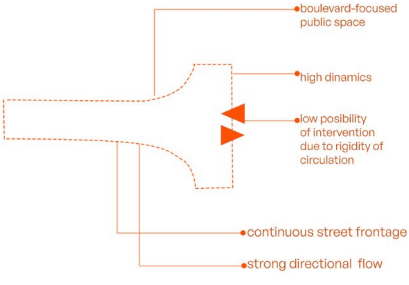




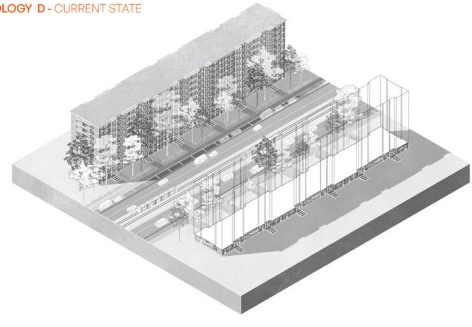
TYPOLOGY C - CURRENT STATE



TYPOLOGY B - CURRENT STATE



TYPOLOGY D - CURRENT STATE



l public spaces - made by author

5.5 Conclusions

The typological and spatial analysis reveals that Titan operates through a complex system of overlapping relationships between buildings, landscape, infrastructure, and everyday life. Although developed through standardized modernist principles, the neighborhood contains multiple differentiated spatial conditions, each characterized by distinct forms of accessibility, appropriation, and social use.

Rather than functioning as a homogeneous urban environment, Titan emerges as a layered and fragmented spatial system shaped both by planned structures and decades of informal transformation. The coexistence of open landscapes, enclosed collective spaces, infrastructural corridors, residual voids, and localized appropriations generates a heterogeneous urban condition requiring differentiated and adaptive forms of intervention.

Understanding these typologies and network conditions therefore becomes essential not only for analysis, but also for the development of an operative project strategy capable of reconnecting fragmented public space while preserving the environmental and social qualities already embedded within the existing urban fabric. This approach resonates with the principle articulated by Alexander et al. that livable environments are built from the accumulation of small-scale patterns that support human activity at every scale [26].

6. CASE STUDIES

The following case studies have been selected not as direct models for replication, but as operative references that illuminate specific dimensions of the proposed intervention strategy. Each project demonstrates, within its own context, a principle relevant to the present research: the transformation of residual and contested urban space through programmatic diversity and community engagement; the reactivation of disused infrastructure as a continuous pedestrian and social corridor; and the use of lightweight, ephemeral interventions that generate spatial potential without altering the existing urban structure.

6.1 Superkilen - Copenhagen, Denmark (2012)

BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group

Superkilen is a one-kilometre linear public space inserted through one of the most ethnically diverse and socially challenged neighborhoods in Copenhagen, Nørrebro. As described in Topos Magazine, the project emerged in response to a context marked by social fragmentation and a lack of usable public space within a dense residential environment, transforming a narrow residual strip of urban land into a sequence of three differentiated zones: the Red Square, the Black Market, and the Green Park [27]. Each zone is programmed for distinct forms of collective use, from sport and recreation to informal gathering and everyday circulation.

The project's central approach consisted of extreme public participation: residents from over sixty nationalities were invited to propose objects and elements from their countries of origin, subsequently integrated into the design as a collage of appropriated cultural artifacts. According to the on-site review commissioned by the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, this strategy resulted in a space simultaneously abstract and deeply personal, capable of accommodating multiple forms of use within a single continuous surface [28].

What Superkilen demonstrates most powerfully in relation to the present research is its capacity to program public space for simultaneity and diversity, spaces conceived for specific activities have been continuously reinterpreted and appropriated by residents in ways that exceed the original program.

At the same time, as noted by Sandström, the project raises critical questions regarding long-term maintenance and the durability of its highly specific material and cultural objects [29]. This limitation reinforces a key argument of the present research: that public space must be conceived not only for activation, but for resilience and everyday adaptability.

6.2 Parcul Liniei - Bucharest, Romania (2022–ongoing)

Sector 6 City Hall, initiated by PressOne civic initiative

Parcul Liniei is a linear park developed along a disused railway corridor traversing the western residential districts of Bucharest, in Sector 6, a densely populated area composed primarily of socialist housing estates similar in character to Titan. As documented by Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa, the project was initiated through a civic campaign led by the independent newspaper PressOne and subsequently adopted by the local administration, transforming approximately six kilometers of abandoned rail infrastructure into a continuous green corridor connecting multiple neighborhoods [30].

Prior to its development, the corridor functioned as a barrier, a degraded and inaccessible residual space that separated rather than connected the surrounding residential areas. Through its transformation into a pedestrian and cycling route, the project established a new axis of movement and social interaction within a context that previously offered no such continuity. As noted in the local press, specialists regard Parcul Liniei as a replicable model for the recovery of forgotten urban corridors within Bucharest's residential fabric [31].

The design strategy is deliberately simple and incremental, introducing a sequence of differentiated zones, areas for rest, play, sport, gardening, and informal gathering, embedded within a continuous green infrastructure. What Parcul Liniei contributes most directly to the present research is its demonstration that residual urban infrastructure, even within a highly constrained and car-dominated environment, carries the potential for transformation into a meaningful public network, and that such transformation can be catalyzed through civic initiative rather than top-down institutional planning alone.

6.3 raumlaborberlin - Ephemeral Urban Interventions (1999–ongoing)

raumlaborberlin collective, Berlin, Germany

raumlaborberlin is a Berlin-based collective of urban practitioners working at the intersection of architecture, urbanism, and public art. As described in Spatial Agency: Other Ways of Doing Architecture, the collective has since 1999 developed a body of work characterized by site-specific, participatory, and largely ephemeral interventions in urban space, introducing lightweight structures, pneumatic installations, scaffolding, temporary pavilions, and recycled material constructions, that test and activate the latent potential of underused or transitional environments [17].

Rather than proposing permanent transformations, their projects create conditions for appropriation, experimentation, and collective use. The resulting spaces are never fully authored, they are co-produced through use. Several projects have been developed within or adjacent to large-scale housing environments and industrial sites in transformation, including their ongoing engagement with Tempelhof Field and the Haus der Statistik in Berlin. According to the Curry Stone Foundation's practice profile, raumlaborberlin's work is grounded in the conviction that architecture's role is not to resolve spatial problems through fixed objects, but to highlight conditions and create frameworks within which communities can act [32].

What their practice contributes to the present research is a conceptual framework for thinking about intervention as process rather than product, demonstrating that public space does not require significant investment or permanent construction, but rather a careful reading of existing conditions and a design attitude calibrated to incremental, reversible, and adaptive transformation.

7. INTERVENTION STRATEGY

7.1 Design Framework

Following the historical, social, and morphological analysis developed throughout this research, Titan can be understood as a strategic component of Bucharest's urban structure. Beyond its considerable scale and residential density, the neighborhood occupies a key position within the city, being connected through major circulation arteries and situated between several large public and landscape systems that play an essential role in the everyday lives of its inhabitants. The analysis suggests that Titan does not suffer from a lack of public space in quantitative terms. Large parks, extensive green areas, and significant landscape infrastructures already exist within and around the neighborhood. The primary issue lies instead in the discontinuity and fragmented character of the public spaces embedded within the dense residential fabric.

As a result, the proposed intervention strategy responds not to the absence of public space, but to the problems of accessibility, continuity, and spatial quality between and within these larger systems. Particular attention is given to the everyday spaces located between residential buildings, where the effects of fragmentation are most strongly perceived. The project also addresses the lack of community-oriented spaces that place social interaction and collective life at the center of the public realm.

The relationship between the major landscape systems surrounding Titan further reveals the presence of three significant bodies of water. Although artificial in their current form, these systems are naturally supplied by groundwater and remain connected to the broader hydrological structure of the territory. It is also important to note that much of the neighborhood still functions through a mixed drainage system, where rainwater largely follows the natural topography before entering conventional infrastructure. This existing condition provides an opportunity to reconsider water not only as a technical necessity, but also as a spatial and environmental resource capable of shaping public space.

These observations establish the foundation of the intervention strategy and lead to the definition of three principal themes: Community, Water, and Connectivity.

7.2 Intervention Themes

Community

The first theme focuses on community and the creation of spaces capable of supporting everyday social life. The proposed interventions aim to encourage interaction, gathering, and collective activity while providing environments that respond to the needs of different generations and user groups. Public space is therefore understood not only as a circulation system, but also as a social framework that supports neighborhood life.

Water

The second theme addresses water and its reintegration into the natural cycle. Particular emphasis is placed on increasing permeability and reducing the dependence on conventional drainage infrastructure. This is achieved through strategies such as redirecting downspouts toward landscaped green areas, introducing rain gardens, and reducing sealed surfaces through the fragmentation and demineralization of the ground plane. Water therefore becomes both an environmental and spatial catalyst within the project.

Connectivity

The third theme focuses on connectivity. Beyond movement alone, connectivity refers to the relationship between public spaces, landscape systems, and communities. The interventions aim to strengthen pedestrian continuity and improve access between major public spaces while reinforcing the everyday connections that structure neighborhood life.

Although all three themes can coexist within a single intervention, each project may emphasize one of them more strongly. Throughout the overall strategy, particular importance is given to water and its reintroduction into the natural cycle as a tool capable of generating environmental, social, and spatial benefits simultaneously.

7.3 Strategic Axis

At the scale of the urban fabric, the analysis identifies a series of recurring spatial typologies that form the basis of the intervention strategy. These typologies represent the primary environments through which public life unfolds and therefore become the framework for architectural intervention.

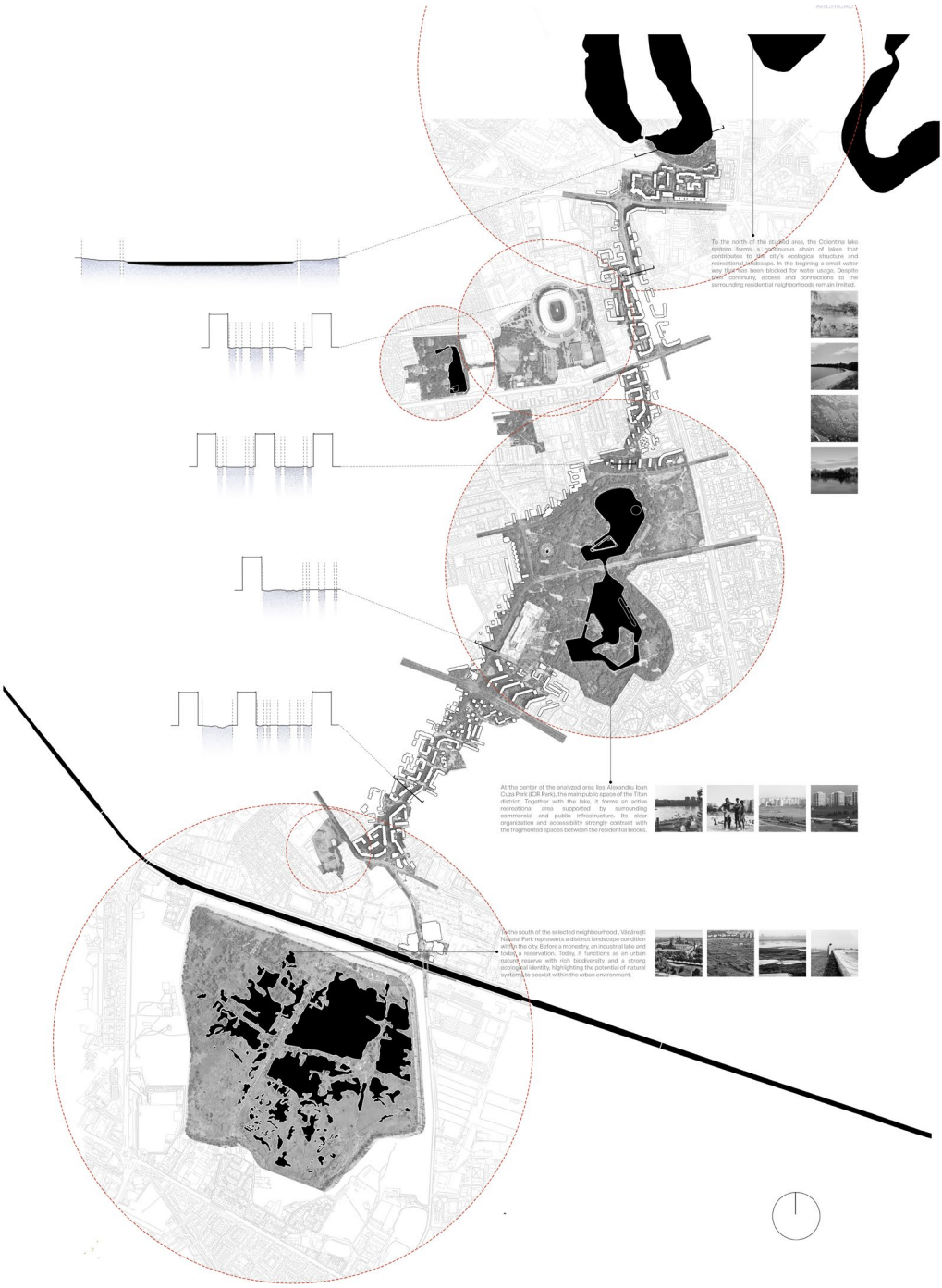
The first typology is the cvartal, a spatial condition whose configuration generates a semi-protected collective environment capable of accommodating multiple forms of intervention. The second is the urban pocket, characterized by a high intensity of movement combined with opportunities for pause and social interaction. The third is the lamellar system which, although more restrictive in its spatial organization, still presents opportunities for interventions within the public realm. Finally, the street represents the most constrained condition, where the dominance of circulation infrastructure limits the range of possible interventions.

It is important to note that the proposed strategy does not seek to modify the existing street network, nor does it propose major changes to circulation patterns or urban flows. Instead, the project focuses on the location where the fragmentation of community is most strongly expressed: the space behind the residential block, the back yard that has gradually become occupied, restricted, and disconnected from collective life.

Consequently, the interventions rely primarily on landscape design, urban furniture, topographical modifications, and the gradual relocation of vehicles toward the edges of residential areas. In this regard, the strategy partially revisits the pedestrian-oriented principles that characterized the early phases of neighborhood development during the 1960s.

Regardless of typology, all proposed interventions seek to address the three guiding themes established throughout this chapter: Connectivity, Community, and Water.

image 17 - plan of strategy and interventions - source- made by author



7.4 Typological Intervention Strategies

Based on the identified spatial typologies, a series of site-specific interventions have been developed. Each intervention responds to the particular characteristics of its respective typology while remaining connected to the broader objectives of the project. Together, these proposals demonstrate how localized architectural and landscape actions can contribute to a more connected, community-oriented, and environmentally responsive public realm.

7.4.1 Cvartal Typology

Existing Spatial Characteristics

The selected cvartal, presented throughout the previous analytical diagrams, functions as a representative blueprint for this typology. It is characterized by defined street edges, clear building boundaries, and a legible distinction between public and private space. Compared to other spatial conditions identified within the neighborhood, it is generally quieter, more intimate, and serves primarily the immediate residential community.

Due to its generous dimensions and protected character, this type of public space allows for multiple forms of intervention. Three strategies have therefore been developed, each responding to the themes of Community, Water, and Connectivity. Although illustrated through a single example, the interventions are conceived as adaptable prototypes that can be applied throughout the neighborhood, requiring only minor adjustments to accommodate site-specific geometries.

Strategy 01 – The Back Yard

The Back Yard represents the most common intervention within this typology. The proposal removes parking spaces and the repetitive fencing systems that currently characterize and fragment the space. Green areas are no longer confined to isolated patches but become continuous and accessible. The intervention introduces gentle topographical modifications, suspended pathways, and rain gardens that collect water redirected from the existing downspouts. While the current drainage system remains in place as an emergency overflow network, rainwater is primarily directed toward retention ponds and infiltration areas integrated into the landscape.

Beyond their technical role, these elements create interest, support native vegetation, increase local humidity, and help counteract the heat-island effect generated by paved surfaces and parked vehicles.

The intervention promotes a quieter and more natural environment, encouraging both exploration and social interaction. Seating areas are distributed throughout the space and accompany the circulation routes rather than being limited to building entrances, creating a more active and welcoming public realm.

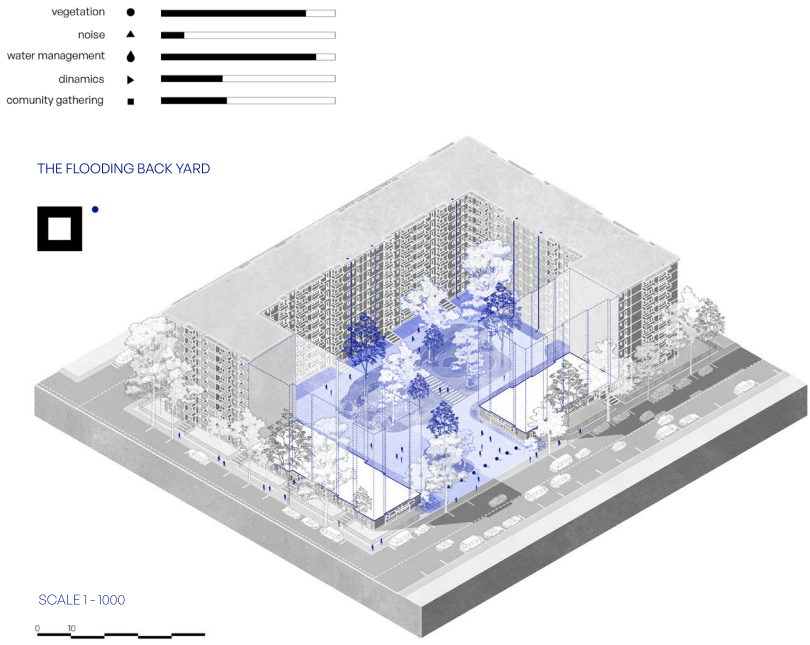


image 18 - axonometry 1 typology A - source- made by author

Strategy 02 - The Urban Garden

The Urban Garden operates within the same morphological framework and responds to similar spatial conditions. Water management follows the same principles described previously, although in a more controlled and localized manner. This intervention takes advantage of the semi-private character of the cvartal and its close relationship to the surrounding residential buildings. The project creates a productive landscape capable of serving the immediate community while offering opportunities for participation and collective activity.

Particular emphasis is placed on intergenerational interaction. The curiosity and involvement of younger generations are combined with the knowledge and experience of older residents, who are once again given the opportunity to work the land. Through small-scale cultivation and gardening, the intervention reconnects residents with practices deeply rooted in their cultural identity, yet gradually lost during the transition to collective housing.

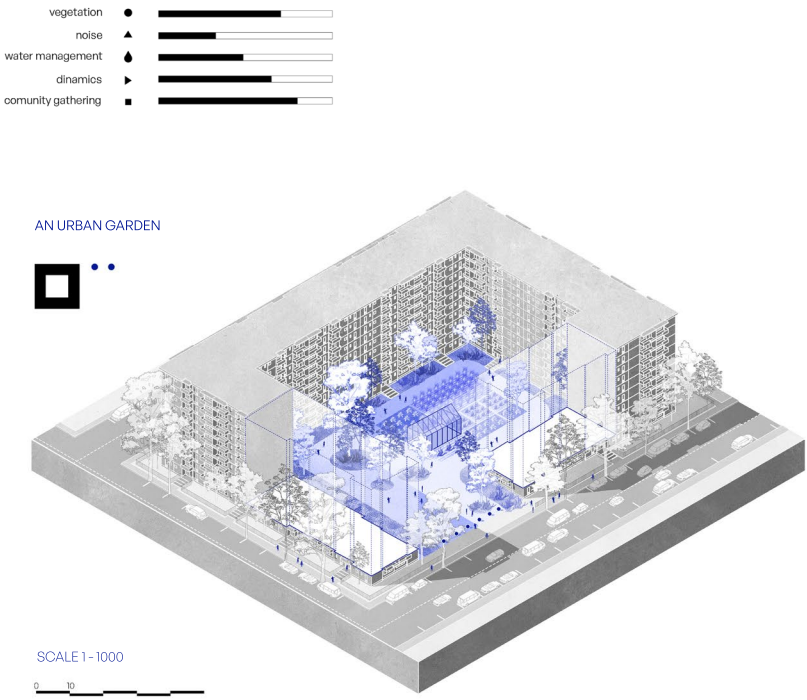


image 19 - axonometry 2 typology A - source- made by author

Strategy 03 - The Multifunctional Zone

he Multifunctional Zone explores a more active interpretation of the cvartal typology. While operating within the same spatial characteristics and constraints, this intervention imagines the back yard as a gathering space capable of accommodating a wider range of activities and behaviors. Through playful changes in texture and materiality, existing concrete surfaces are complemented by softer finishes and recycled gravel generated through the intervention process. The result is a more sensory and dynamic environment that encourages movement, exploration, and social interaction.

Additional furniture and flexible spatial arrangements allow the space to accommodate both small and large groups. Play elements for children, chess tables, and informal gathering areas support a variety of activities throughout the day. While the intervention is more active and oriented toward younger generations, quieter and denser green areas remain close to residential buildings, preserving different levels of intimacy and providing comfortable spaces for observation and rest.

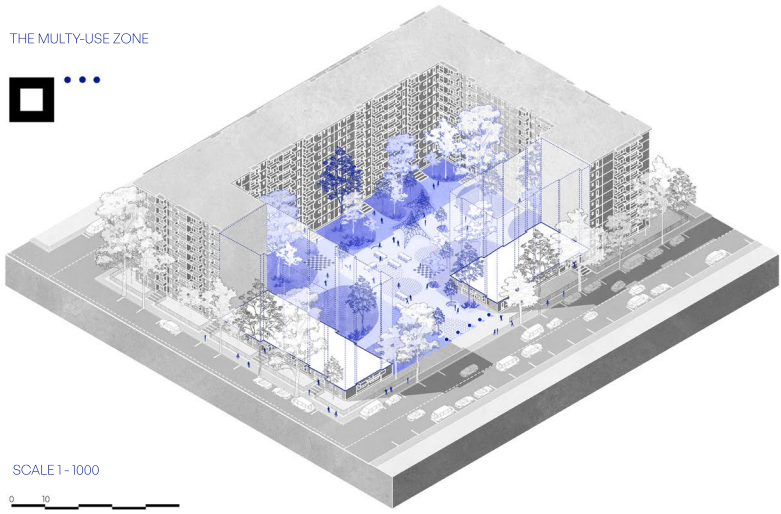


image 20 - axonometry 3 typology A - source- made by author

7.4.2 Urban Pocket Typology

Existing Spatial Characteristics

The second typology selected for intervention is the Urban Pocket. These spaces are created through building setbacks along major circulation corridors, most commonly adjacent to primary streets or areas with high levels of traffic. They are characterized by high accessibility and the possibility of accommodating multiple forms of intervention due to their dual relationship with both the active street environment and the surrounding residential fabric.

Although presented through a representative example, this condition can be found throughout the neighborhood. Compared to the cvartal, these spaces are generally more public, more dynamic, and exposed to higher levels of movement and activity. Ground floors are often more active, while pedestrian flows and everyday interactions occur at a much greater intensity.

Strategy 01 - The Lounging Slope

The Lounging Slope is the most dramatic intervention proposed within this typology. Defined by a 10-degree slope, the project functions both as a water-collection system and as a space for sitting, resting, and observing. The slope overlooks a dense vegetated area at its base, where water is collected and retained.

This dynamic section addresses localized stormwater management through a linear green intervention while simultaneously creating a quieter and more intimate environment. The descent into the vegetated landscape, whether through stairs or along the slope itself, creates a distinct spatial experience. Protected from the noise of the adjacent streets, the lowered green area benefits from the existing building setbacks and the dense vegetation, which together create a natural buffer for residents without restricting access to the space.

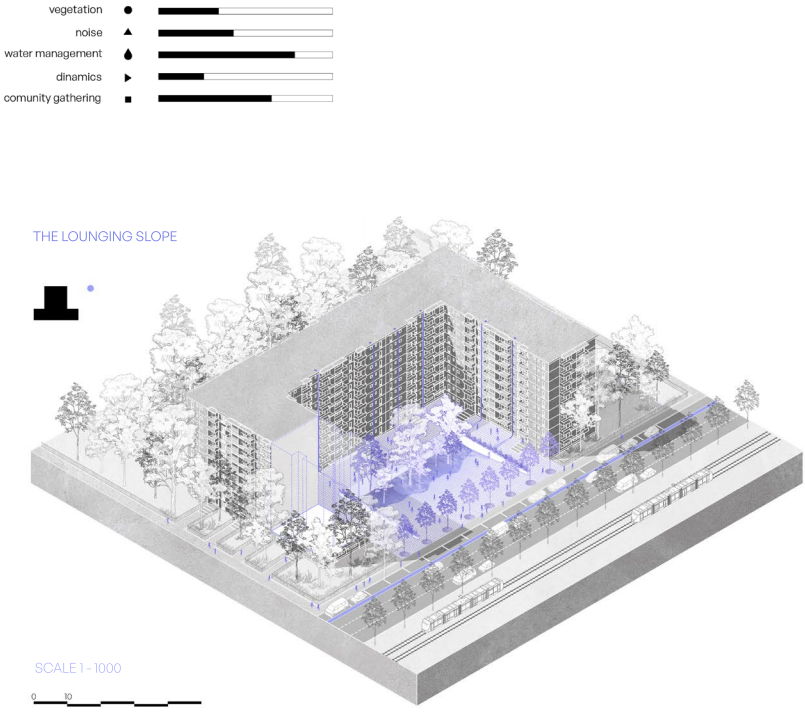


image 21 - axonometry 1 typology B - source- made by author

Strategy 02 - The Small Oasis

The Small Oasis largely preserves the existing balance between green and mineral surfaces while introducing additional opportunities for occupation and social use. A continuous platform surrounding the green area provides both easier access and increased permeability, while also protecting small ecological pockets that are intentionally left unmanaged. The intervention creates an oasis not only for people, but also for animals and the micro-ecosystems that can develop within these shaded and humid green environments. Water remains a central component of the project, this time through fountains that function as visual and social attractors. Beyond their aesthetic role, they contribute to cooling paved surfaces, provide a source of water for urban wildlife, and create playful interactions for children.

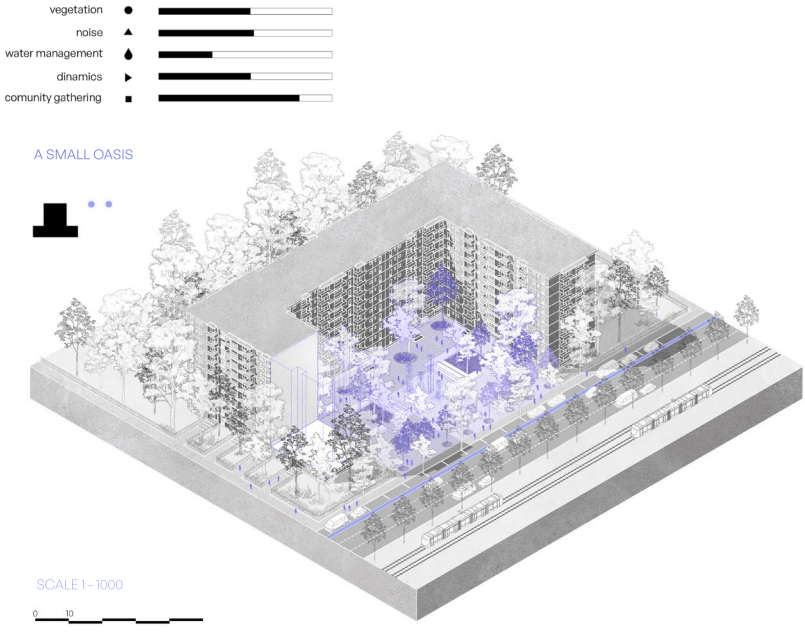


image 22 - axonometry 2 typology B - source- made by author

Strategy 03 - The Urban Community Market

The Urban Community Market takes advantage of the flexibility, visibility, and high pedestrian activity characteristic of this typology. Located within a highly frequented and dynamic environment, the intervention creates opportunities for the exchange of locally and peri-locally produced goods while strengthening community interaction.

The market can operate periodically, supporting local economies and reducing waste through reuse and circulation. Products grown within the Urban Gardens can be sold here, while local artisans, artists, and small-scale services can occupy lightweight modular structures functioning as temporary pop-up spaces. A neighborhood bicycle repair workshop, for example, gains both visibility and economic opportunity while providing a useful service to the community.

Second-hand markets, exchanges of children's goods, clothing, furniture, or school supplies can also occupy these spaces. Through their simplicity and flexibility, Urban Pockets become capable of accommodating a wide variety of temporary events and community-driven activities.

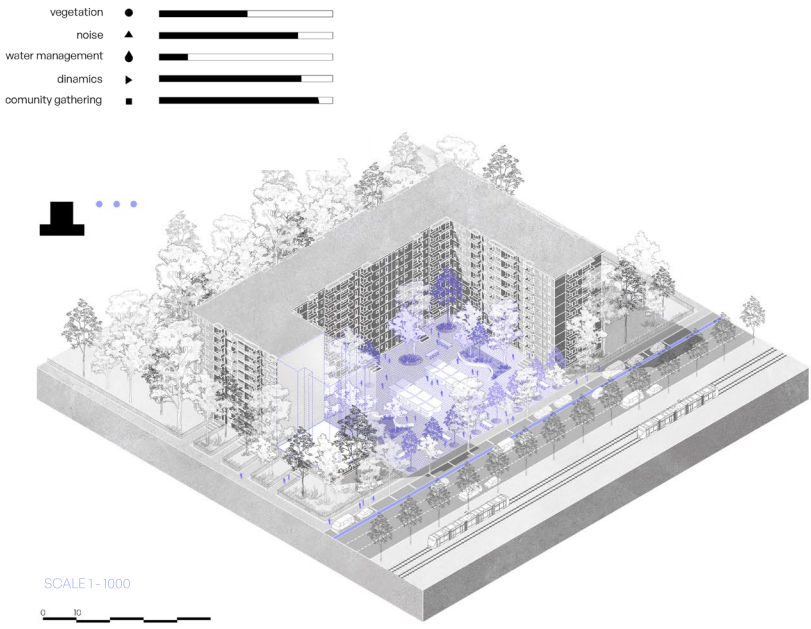


image 23 - axonometry 3 typology B - source- made by author

7.4.3 Lamellar Typology

Existing Spatial Characteristics

The third morphological typology selected for intervention is represented by lamellar or parallel residential buildings. As with the previous examples, the selected sites function as representative samples of a broader condition found throughout the neighborhood, allowing the proposed interventions to be adapted and replicated in multiple locations.

These spaces are characterized by narrow residual green areas and multiple access points. Depending on their position within the urban fabric, they can function either as linear public corridors connecting larger areas of the neighborhood or as spatial buffers separating different public and residential environments. As a result, they may operate as highly public routes or as more intimate, community-oriented spaces serving the immediate residential context.

From a strategic perspective, these spaces can be understood in two ways: as continuous lamellar systems that create larger routes at the neighborhood scale, or as isolated segments bordered by other buildings or major circulation corridors.

Strategy 01 - Green Path in the Back

Green Path in the Back addresses situations where the lamellar system continues over a longer distance and forms a larger route through the neighborhood. The intervention reimagines the space as a predominantly pedestrian and bicycle-oriented corridor with a more mineral character, functioning almost as a green boulevard.

The project encourages alternative routes for walking and cycling through quieter and greener environments where traffic is no longer a concern. Access for vehicles is completely restricted, while the remaining boundaries become significantly softer and less intrusive. Low bollards prevent vehicle access while maintaining full pedestrian permeability, and the repetitive fencing systems currently present throughout the neighborhood are removed. Boundaries are instead defined through landscaping and low, medium, or tall vegetation, creating a gradual transition between the residential areas and the public corridor.

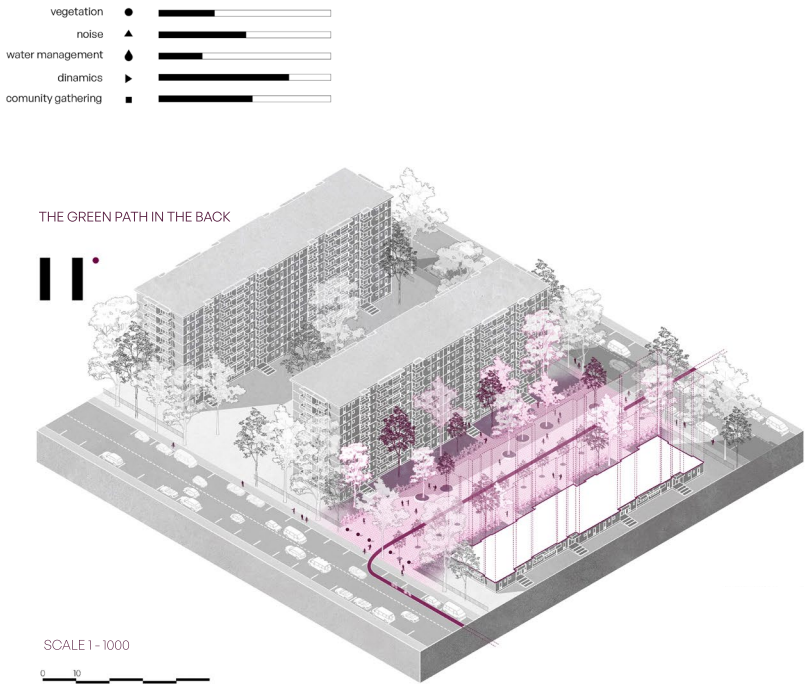


image 24 - axonometry 1 typology C - source- made by author

Strategy 02 - A Segment of Green

A Segment of Green responds to situations where lamellar buildings are bordered by other residential blocks or major circulation routes, creating a more enclosed and intimate spatial condition. In this case, the public space shifts inward, forming a small accessible plaza that serves the immediate residential community.

The intervention establishes a gradient from the more active outer edges toward a quieter and more protected interior. The mineral surface functions as a small neighborhood square, while the surrounding green areas become more topographical in character.

The walking surface is redesigned using materials recovered through the intervention itself, increasing permeability and reducing the extent of sealed surfaces.

The central area is slightly lowered and integrated into the site's water-management strategy. Rainwater from redirected downspouts is guided toward this space, while the existing drainage infrastructure remains active only during overflow events, preventing flooding while allowing water to be retained and absorbed within the landscape.

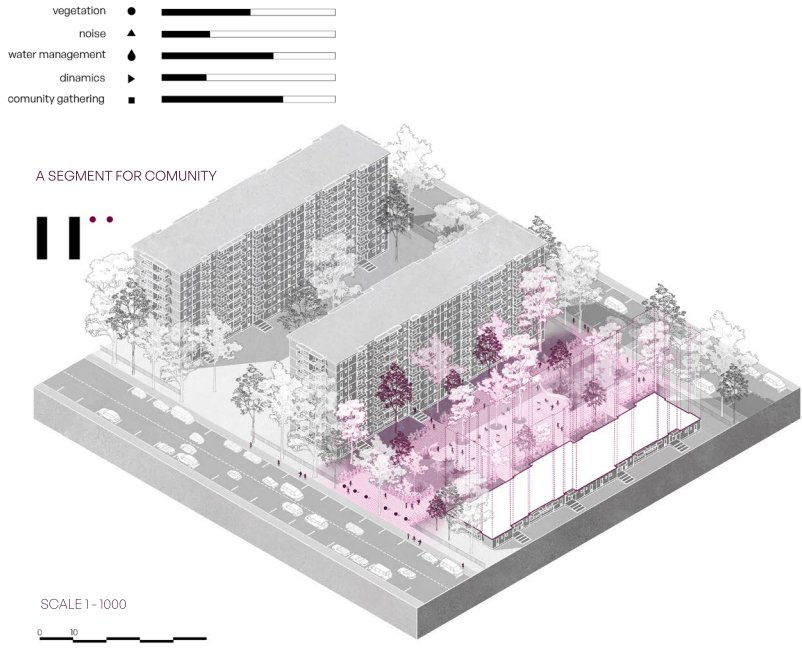


image 25 - axonometry 2 typology C - source- made by author

7.4.4 Street Typology

Existing Spatial Characteristics

The fourth and final typology is the street itself. These spaces are characterized by boulevard-focused public environments, high levels of activity, and limited opportunities for intervention due to the rigidity of circulation infrastructure. As essential components of the city's mobility network, they play a crucial role in the functioning of the neighborhood.

Because the proposed strategy avoids major modifications to circulation systems and instead focuses on the residual and underused spaces within residential areas, the range of possible interventions along these streets remains relatively limited.

Strategy 01 - The Pocket of Green

The Pocket of Green is a minimal intervention with the potential to significantly improve the pedestrian experience along these heavily trafficked corridors. The proposal consists of introducing dense planted areas composed of native, low-maintenance vegetation in place of approximately three parking spaces at regular intervals along the street.

These interventions are positioned primarily near building entrances, creating small buffers and moments of respite from traffic, noise, and the intensity of the surrounding urban environment. Seating areas are integrated into these spaces through slightly recessed and sheltered arrangements, allowing users to become immersed within these small green oases. The densification of vegetation within the existing central green strips of major circulation corridors is also prioritized. This contributes to improved air quality, increased biodiversity, and the reduction of surface temperatures generated by large asphalted areas. Where appropriate, the addition of bicycle infrastructure can further strengthen alternative modes of mobility.

Although modest in scale, this intervention has the potential to produce a significant cumulative effect when applied consistently throughout the urban fabric, improving both the pedestrian experience and the overall atmosphere of these transitional public spaces.

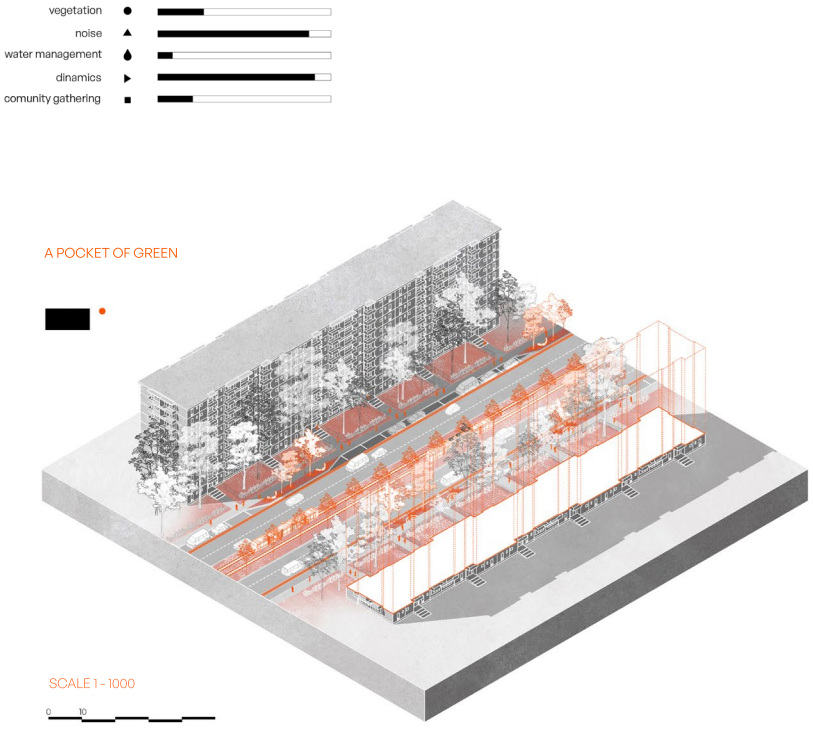


image 26 - axonometry 1 typology D - source- made by author

7.5 Sections

The following sections illustrate the spatial principles that define the proposed interventions and highlight the relationship between topography, water management, vegetation, and public space.

Section A - The Flooding Back Yard

The first section corresponds to the Flooding Back Yard intervention. It illustrates the topographical relationship established between the vegetated and mineral surfaces, as well as the suspended pathways that traverse the landscape. The primary theme of this intervention is water management, with the section demonstrating the collection, retention, and infiltration of rainwater within the redesigned public space.

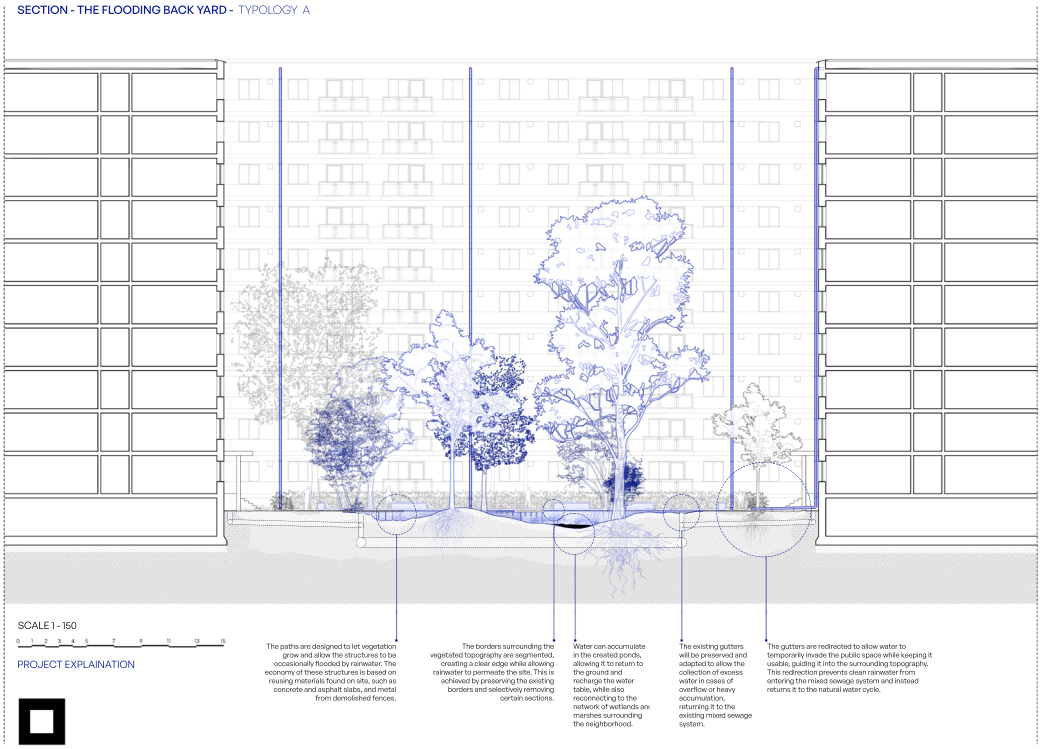


image 27- section typology A - source- made by author

Section B - The Lounging Slope

The second section represents The Lounging Slope intervention. It highlights the relationship between the street and the sunken landscape, emphasizing the sense of intimacy created through changes in level and vegetation. The section also illustrates the natural transition between the public realm and the more private areas located near the residential buildings. Water once again plays a crucial role, forming an integral component of both the spatial and environmental strategy.

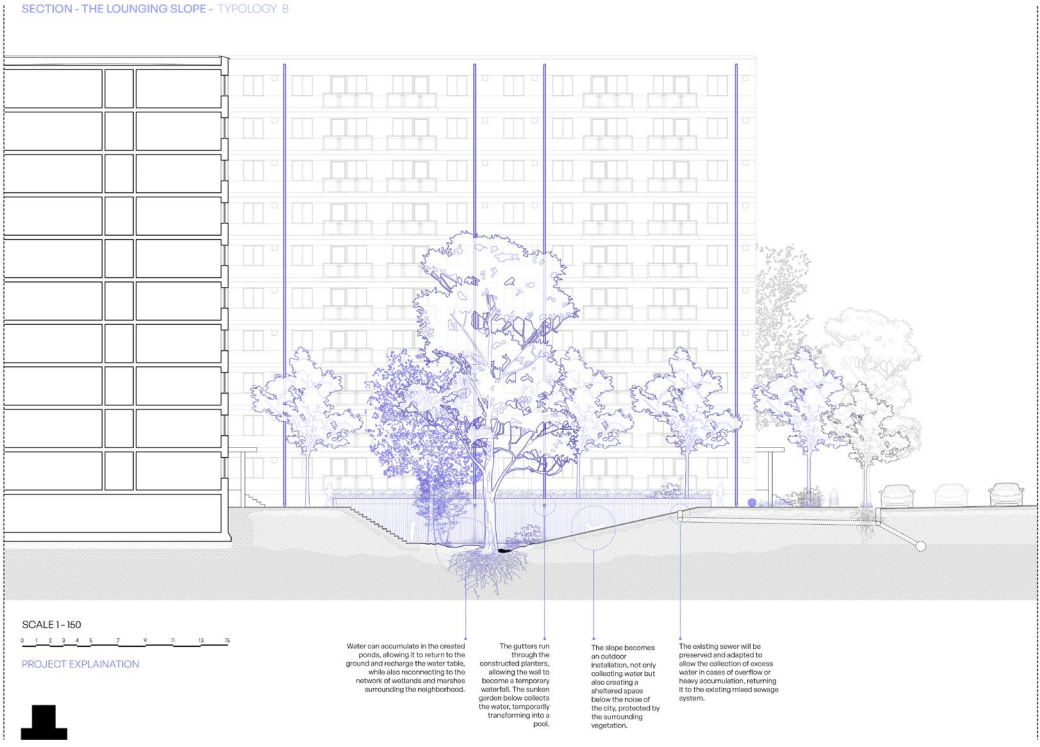


image 28- section typology B - source- made by author

Section C - A Segment of Green

The third section corresponds to A Segment of Green. It illustrates the change in level within the mineral public space and the vegetated landscape that frames it. The section emphasizes the relationship between the semi-private plaza and the surrounding residential environment, showing how vegetation acts as a buffer from the adjacent street while creating a more protected setting for social interaction and community use.

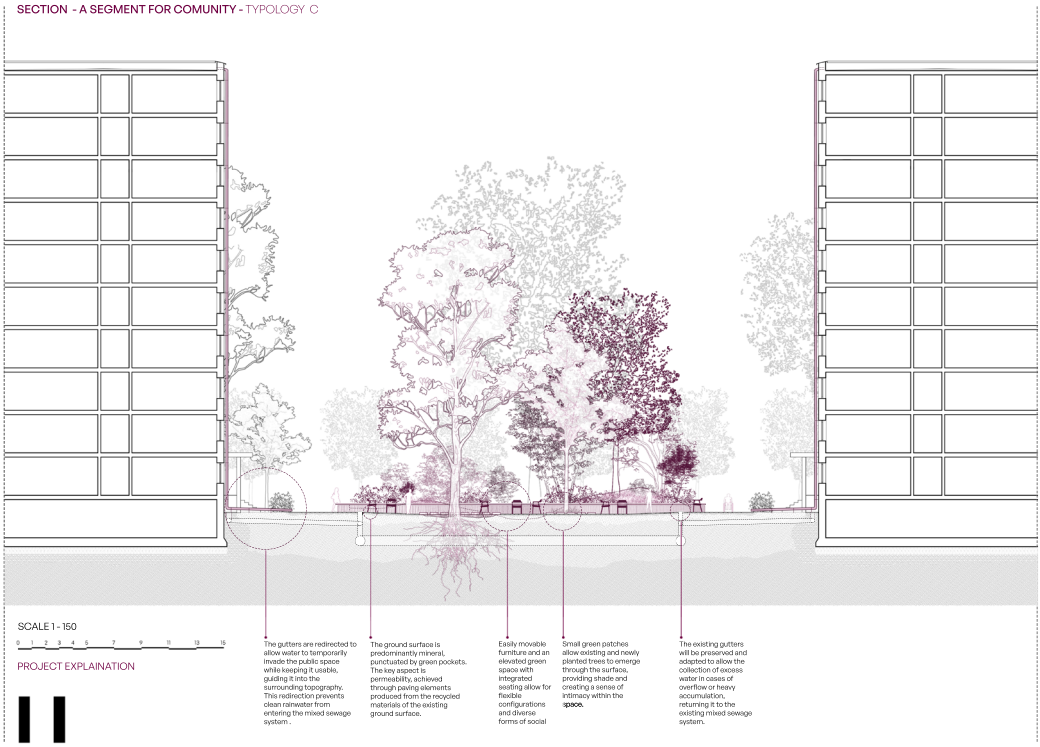


image 29- section typology C - source- made by author

Section D - The Pocket of Green

The final section represents The Pocket of Green intervention. It demonstrates the limited yet strategic possibilities for intervention within the street typology while highlighting the relationship between the proposed green pockets and the entrances of residential buildings. These interventions provide both a visual and psychological buffer from traffic while creating small spaces for rest, interaction, and everyday social activity.

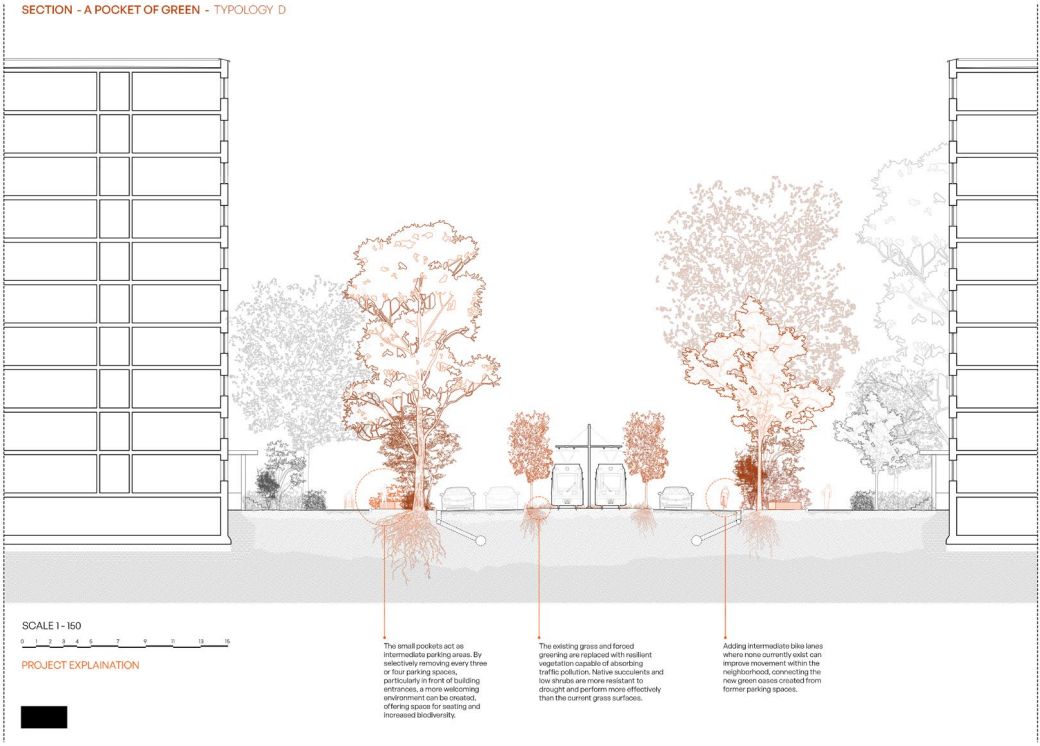


image 30- section typology D - source- made by author

7.6 Conclusions

The proposed intervention strategy responds to the fragmented character of public space within Titan through a series of localized yet interconnected interventions. Rather than altering the existing urban structure, the project focuses on reclaiming residual and underused spaces where the relationship between community, landscape, and everyday life has gradually weakened.

Although each intervention responds to a specific spatial condition, all proposals are guided by three common themes: Community, Water, and Connectivity. Through the reintroduction of water into the natural cycle, the strengthening of pedestrian continuity, and the creation of spaces that support social interaction, the project seeks to improve the quality of everyday public life within the neighborhood.

Together, these interventions form a flexible and replicable framework capable of adapting to different conditions across the urban fabric while reinforcing the identity and continuity of Titan's public spaces.

8.CONCLUSIONS

This research began with a straightforward observation: that the public spaces of Bucharest's socialist housing estates are not absent, but broken. The open ground between residential buildings exists in abundance, generous in scale, rich in vegetation, and often structurally intact. What is missing is not space itself, but the capacity of that space to function as a coherent, accessible, and meaningful part of everyday urban life.

The research began with a simple question: do Bucharest's socialist housing estates require large-scale transformation, or can existing spaces be improved through smaller and more targeted interventions? The analyses carried out throughout this study suggest that the second approach is both possible and appropriate.

The historical chapters showed how successive phases of socialist development gradually changed the relationship between buildings and public space. As densities increased and construction became more standardized, many of the qualities present in earlier housing estates were reduced. The result can still be observed today in the fragmented spaces between buildings, where circulation, parking, and infrastructure often dominate everyday experience.

The social analysis highlighted another important aspect of this condition. The transition from rural life to collective housing involved more than a change in dwelling type. It also transformed everyday habits, relationships between neighbors, and the ways people relate to shared space. Many of the informal interventions visible today, from gardens and fences to improvised seating areas, can be understood as attempts to regain a sense of familiarity, control, and belonging within a highly standardized environment.

The spatial analysis demonstrated that Titan is far from homogeneous. Behind the apparent repetition of the housing estate lies a wide variety of spatial situations, each with its own characteristics and challenges. Some areas are better suited to local interventions that support everyday use, while others offer opportunities to improve connections between larger pedestrian and ecological systems.

Based on these observations, the proposed strategy does not seek to replace the existing urban structure. Instead, it works with what is already present. Through a series of targeted interventions linked to community, water, and connectivity, the project aims to strengthen relationships between people, public space, and the wider landscape. The role of the architect is therefore not to impose a new order, but to identify opportunities for improvement and translate them into practical and context-sensitive interventions.

The case studies support this approach. Superkilen showed how participation and programmatic diversity can activate underused spaces. Parcul Liniei demonstrated the value of incremental transformation and the re-use of existing infrastructure. The work of raumlaborberlin illustrated how temporary and lightweight interventions can have a lasting impact on the way people use and perceive public space.

Taken together, these examples suggest that improving public space in post-socialist neighborhoods is not primarily a question of scale or investment. In many cases, meaningful change can emerge from a careful understanding of existing conditions and from interventions that respond directly to the needs of local communities.

At the same time, architecture alone cannot resolve every issue identified in this research. The fragmentation of public space is also connected to questions of governance, ownership, maintenance, and public policy. Long-term improvements will therefore depend not only on design interventions, but also on cooperation between municipalities, residents' associations, and local communities. The future of these spaces will ultimately be shaped through an ongoing process of negotiation involving both physical space and the people responsible for its management.

This is, perhaps, the most important conclusion of this study: that the re-negotiation of public space is not a one-time act, but an ongoing process. The interventions proposed here are not final solutions, but starting points, nodes within a larger system that can grow, adapt, and

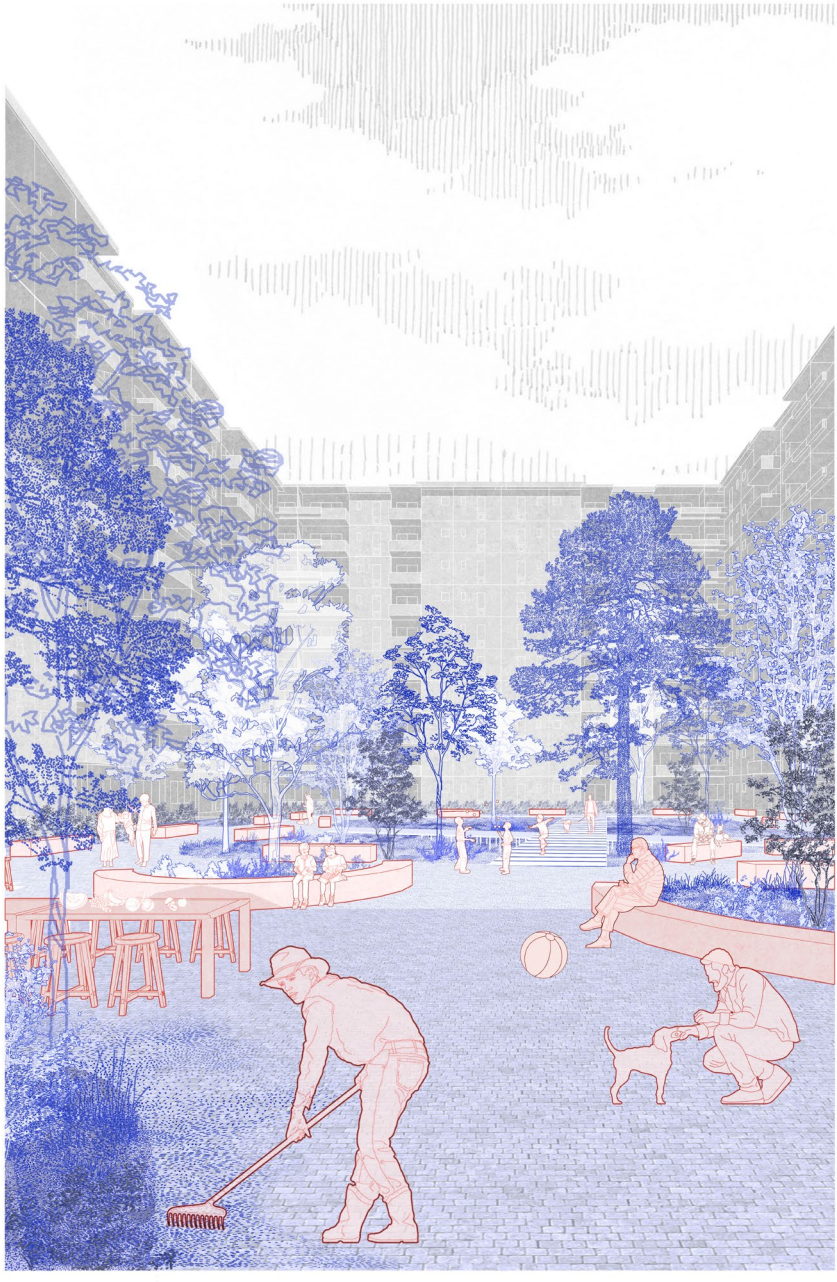


image 31- immersive perspective - source- made by author

9.ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

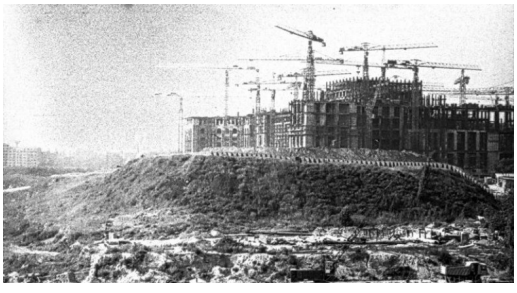
National Archives of Romania, Photographic Collection, Aerial view of the Titan district, Bucharest, c. 1966, black-and-white photograph.

ANNEX 2

Demolition of existing housing, Titan - Private photographic archive, The Titan neighbourhood during demolitions and new construction, Bucharest, c. 1965–1968, black-and-white photograph.

ANNEX 3

Agerpres Photo, Construction of the Palace of the People (Casa Poporului), Dealul Arsenalului, Bucharest, c. 1984–1988, black-and-white photograph. National News Agency Agerpres, Bucharest. Accessed via: https://foto.agerpres.ro



ANNEX 4

Agerpres Photo, Aerial view of collective housing neighbourhood, Titan district, Bucharest, [date unknown], black-and-white photograph. National News Agency Agerpres, Bucharest. Accessed via: https://foto.agerpres.ro

ANNEX 5

Agerpres Photo, Collective housing blocks under construction, Titan district, Bucharest, c. 1965–1970, black-and-white photograph. National News Agency Agerpres, Bucharest. Accessed via: https://foto.agerpres.ro

ANNEX 6

Agerpres Photo, Large-scale construction works in the Titan district, Bucharest, c. 1980–1985, black-and-white photograph. National News Agency Agerpres, Bucharest. Accessed via: https://foto.agerpres.ro

ANNEX 7

Agerpres Photo, Aerial view of Titan neighbourhood with IOR Park, Bucharest, c. 1972, black-and-white photograph. National News Agency Agerpres, Bucharest. Accessed via: https://foto.agerpres.ro

ANNEX 8 Google Earth satelite immage capture,

10. AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Note on the use of artificial intelligence: Parts of the support text and bibliography were summarized with the assistance of ChatGPT and Claude. All content remains the sole intellectual responsibility of the author. Artificial intelligence tools were used exclusively for linguistic proofreading, grammar correction and occasional translations. All research, analysis, interpretations, arguments, conclusions, and original content presented in this work were conceived and produced solely by the author. Following a search engine verification and plagiarism analysis, the diagnostic indicates less than 1% similarity with other external documents, thus presenting no risk of intellectual theft.

It is worth mentioning that the diagnostic reveals a 30% rate of AI-generated language, however this is predominantly found in the project and intervention description section, in the interviews section which were personally noted by the author following viewings, as well as in the conclusions section, drawn subjectively and pragmatically by the author with regard to the proposed intervention. Therefore, any similarity can be attributed exclusively to the mirroring of academic language conventions, as these texts are original and specific to the diploma thesis.

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Miturile comunismului: Schimbarea la faţă a Bucureştiului https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3ek8uQ6uoM

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