

This place exists only  
while we are here



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Tentative manual for the interaction of youngsters and their urban environment - based on experiences from the *Public City* project in the neighborhoods of Šiška, Bežigrad and Zalog in Ljubljana during November 2009 – March 2011.

Jointly produced produced by STEALTH.unlimited and KUD C3.

# ABOUT: This place exists only while we are here

The cities we live in have an important influence on our lives and our attitudes – the way we relate to our direct environment, how we are ‘shaped’ by the space and culture we find ourselves in, and equally important – the way we imagine our future. This latter is never a static concept – cities they are living organisms in a state of constant change, much like the realities and expectations of the people that inhabit them.

In recent years we are experiencing seeds of change in the role of citizens in their urban environment and their more direct relationship towards it. THIS PLACE EXISTS ONLY WHILE WE ARE HERE starts from this potential as explored in the *Public City* project, and encourages the emergence of new and diverse forms of engagement of young urban dwellers in the life of their city and their direct built environment - through building up the experience for what is to become a manual of sorts to embrace and further this interaction. On this occasion, we would like to make clear why we state the status of this manual with such care and carefulness. For one, there is little experience with architects, urban planners and other ‘urban professionals’ in dealing with the topic of relations between urban youth in the rapidly changing cities of post-Yugoslavia and Albania. And not of lesser importance, we have found ourselves in front of a formidable cultural gap or divide while trying to interact with youngsters from this context, which has made it a considerable challenge to find common ground with this group of young citizens when discussing issues of their urban environment. Hence, we take this task not lightly and present our results - which we believe can be used as a manual of sorts - with the necessary care.

THIS PLACE EXISTS ONLY WHILE WE ARE HERE builds up as a series of five actions, directly related to experiences acquired through the *Public*

*City* project in three neighborhoods of Ljubljana: Šiška, Bežigrad and Zalog, and is made in collaboration with ČMCs (Neighbourhood Youth Centers). Transgressing from simple to more complex interactions with urban youth from these neighborhoods - and mainly from Zalog - THIS PLACE EXISTS ONLY WHILE WE ARE HERE brings forth the problems of Ljubljana's youth and their perception of public space. Since their birth (15-20 years ago) the society they are part of underwent dramatic changes that also brought about the physical transformation of city structure. Ljubljana is characterized by a relatively large population of second generation immigrants, descendants of newcomers from other cultures.

The new relationships in contemporary Ljubljana and the potentials of the young generations in the city represent reality in which THIS PLACE EXISTS ONLY WHILE WE ARE HERE finds itself. We hope it will be of help and inspiration to those who want to work with youngsters on their relation to the city.

Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen (STEALTH.unlimited)  
Boštjan Bugarič (KUD C3)

**ACTION 1: Life  
(drawn) on the map**



# ACTION 1: Life (drawn) on the map

Youngsters perceive the space around them in a different way than we are used to; something that makes it necessary when observe the city to shift from the perception of an adult to the reality and imagination of someone who's growing up.

Places that are 'commonplace' for adults get a surprisingly different reference for youngsters. A notion like the 'centre' of town for many may not at all be relevant (nothing to do their - too remote from their personal experience), and what we reference to as a the post office for them may be a mere site for recreation (lottery, that is).

With this action made at the ČMC in Šiška, Life (drawn) on the map explores how youngsters re-create their environment as a map of relevant places; a so-called mental map of the spaces that are relevant in their day-to-day life. It starts from the simple question to draw a map with the most important places someone (a new friend to the neighbourhood) needs to know to understand where to go in Šiška, and gives us an insight in the spatial experience of youngsters - while we can also discuss issues like distance (far / close), centre (what is your centre), what is changing in the surrounding or what is the edge of the neighbourhood.

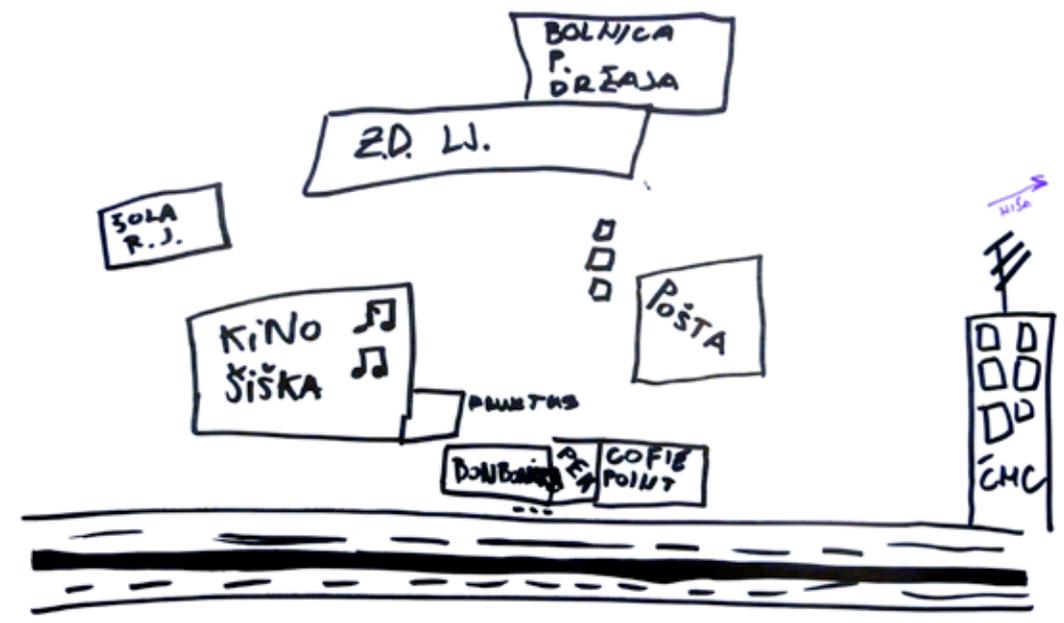
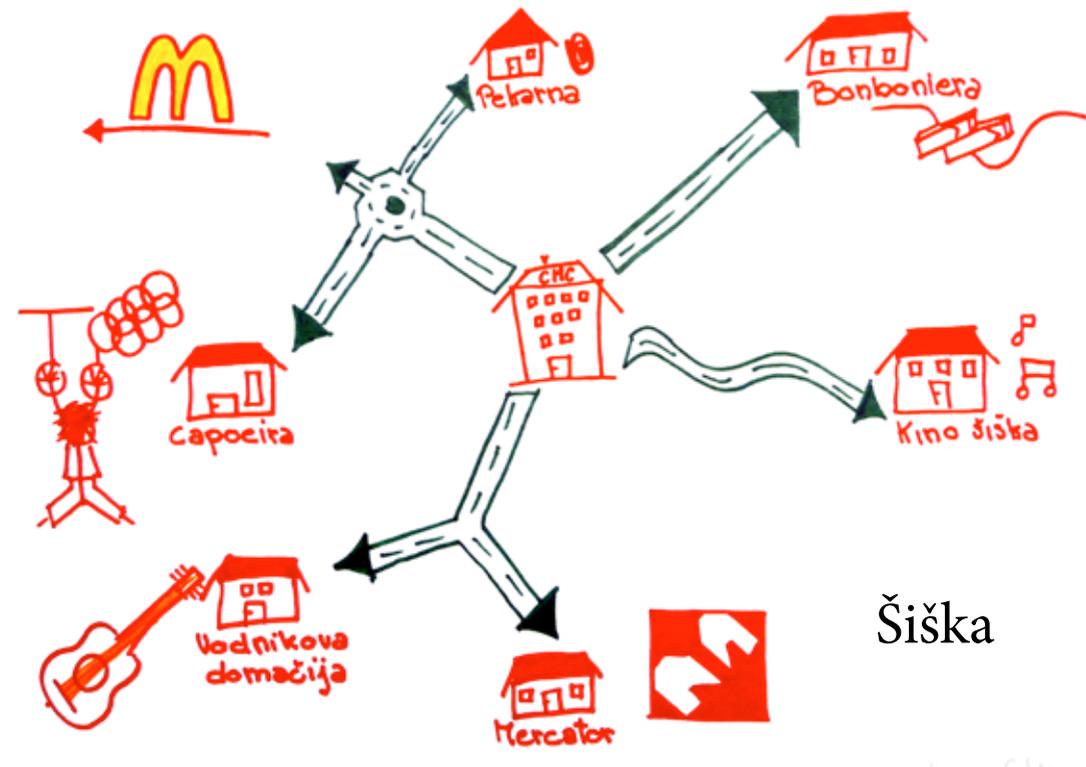
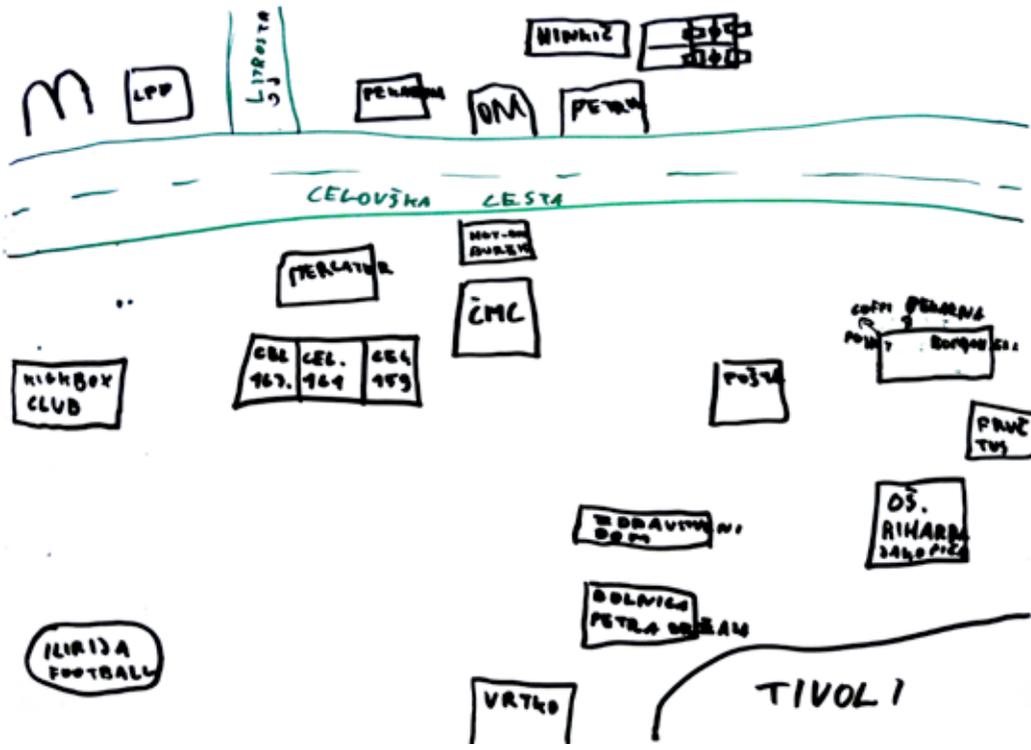
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This action is the first one that took place at one of Ljubljana's Neighbourhood Youth Centers (ČMC); spaces that function in-between a living room and an activity centre for youngsters in what has been classified by the city as more demanding (read problematic) neighbourhoods. The participants in this action are some of the daily users of these spaces - ranging in age from early teens to early twenties.



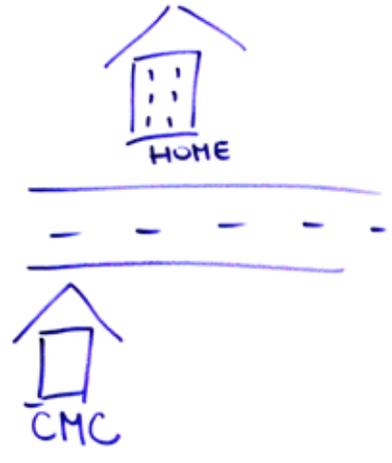
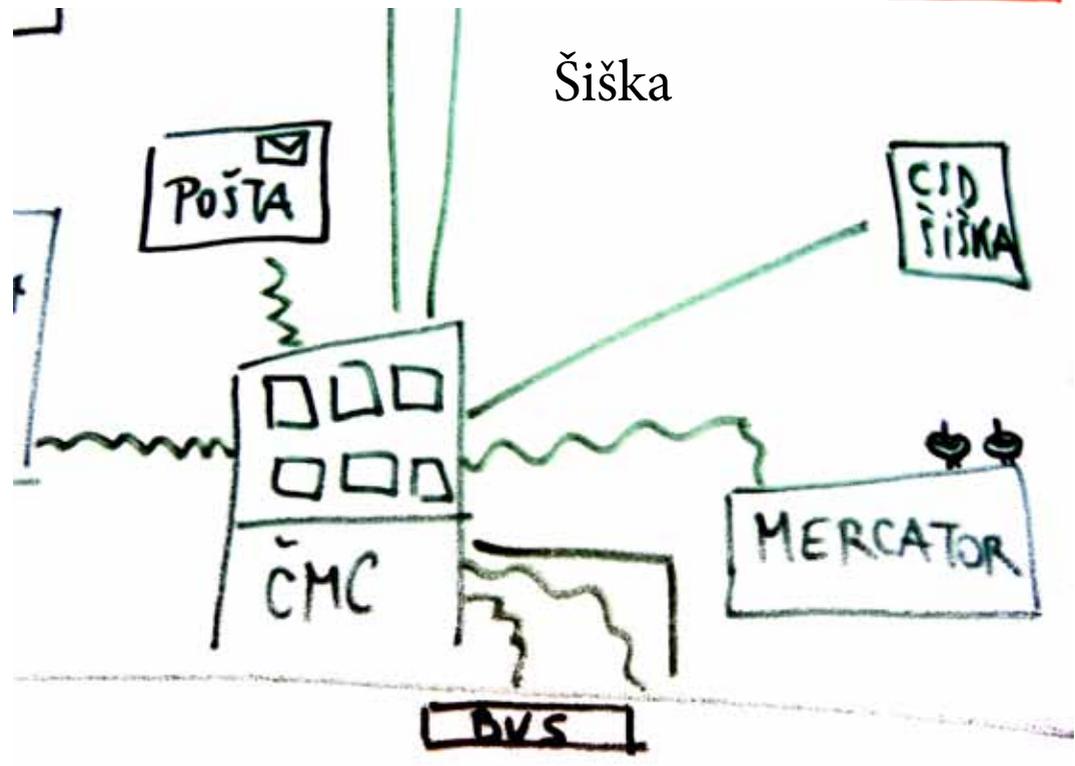
team: Boštjan Bugarič (C3, Ljubljana), Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen (STEALTH. unlimited) in collaboration with Manja Brinovšek (ČMC Šiška). Photos: Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen.

location: ČMC Šiška / 01. 12. 2009

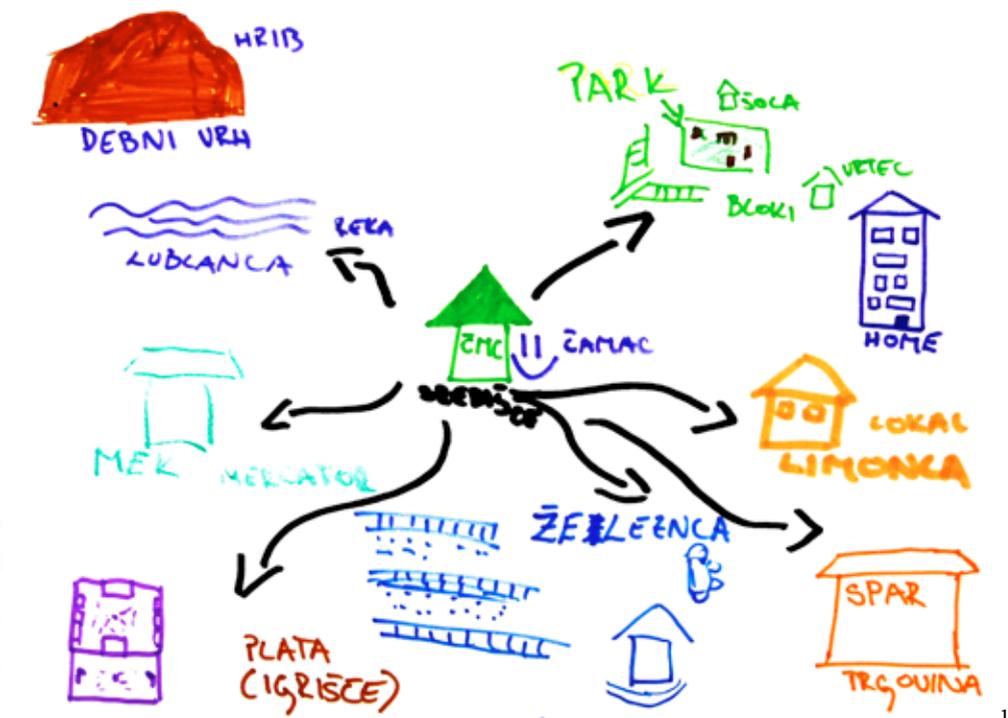




Šiška



Zalog



Urška Jordan

ACTION 2: So,  
where do we meet?

# PUBLIC CITY

→ KAM ZAHAJAŠ, KJE SE DRUŽIŠ,  
KATERI SO NAJBOLJ KUL SPOTI  
V ZALOGU ???

V SREDO OB 14.00

# ACTION 2: So, where do we meet?

City space is used by youngsters in an intense way. Not in the last place because they appropriate it in their very own way while spending time exploring it, alone or with their friends.

For this second action participants lead the 'guest' around on a photo-shoot along their hangouts and meeting places in the Ljubljana's neighbourhoods of Šiška, Zalog and Bežigrad. It is a two-way meeting, where one gets to know what areas, youngsters pick up functions and meeting points - but equally it is a possibility to open the conversation on what makes a neighborhood specific.

Maybe the most important aspect of this action therefore takes place 'along the way' - or should be read between the lines of the conversations that spin around certain spots. In the experience from this action, it seems significant to spend enough time to get acquainted with the youngsters before being allowed into the universe that they span in parallel on top of the neighbourhood - a parallel of spots often also signified with transition into the circles of certain groups (inner circles) in the neighbourhood.



team: Boštjan Bugarič (C3, Ljubljana), Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen (STEALTH. unlimited) - with Dubravka Sekulić and in collaboration with Manja Brinovšek and Mateja Maver (ČMC Šiška), Erika Dolenc and Tomaž Stritar (ČMC Zalog) and Aleš Susman and Katja Žugman (ČMC Bežigrad). Photos: Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen.

location: Šiška / 01. 12. 2009, Zalog / 02. 12. 2009 and Bežigrad / 04. 12. 2009



## Šiška

with:

Borče Murdžoski (14, 9th grade) and  
Avni Thaqi (13, 8th grade)

ČMC - is the most important place  
Bombonjera - here we gather  
Post office - here we do sport betting  
Kino Šiška - renovated since recently,  
it looks cool  
School - Jakopič (painter, "made  
paintings with birch trees", slike sa  
brezama)  
Health centre - here we go dentist and  
when we are ill  
The house into which I will move in  
one month time  
Vrtko - here we buy firecrackers  
sometimes  
Spotclub Ilirija - this is where we play  
football  
Hill/sports-field - this is where I first  
got drunk  
Mc Donald's  
LPP - Ljubljana's public transport  
Remise - they told us it is forbidden  
to make photos here - we can have  
problems



# Zalog

with: Filip Šomodjvarac, Jasmin and Žiga Udvarc

Railway station  
Graffiti wall  
Filip's self-made rugby field...







# Bežigrad

with: Tin Vidnjevič, Špela Juvančič,  
Nina K.S., Lina Bajec, Vit and Martin

Skating spots and paths (schoolyard,  
backyards, POT)  
Passages  
High-rise staircase - smoking spot



# ACTION 3: Zalograd album



# ACTION 3: Zalograd album

Some cities you know from stories, or you have heard about them in songs or have seen them in video clips. In Zalog, being second generation immigrants from 'the south', many of the kids relate to Belgrade through the turbo-folk songs they listen in a remarkable cultural overlap with much older generations like parents and uncles, who often consume the same music. The kids therefore have an impression of Belgrade as a cultural context - but how does this compare to real life events when they would be set in Belgrade and Zalog?

ZALOGRAD - a town that is partly there and partly is missing (it is a 'imagination' of sorts = "metropolis in a suburb"). It is constructed through the overlay of activities and how they would be situated in both Belgrade and Zalog: meeting/sastanak, event/desavanje, going out/izlasci, spending/trosak, status symbol/statusni simbol, food/hrana, music/muzika, hobby/hobi, creativity/kreativnost, difference/razlicitost, possibilities/mogucnosti, connecting/povezivanje, improvisation/improvizacija, recycling/reciklaza, neighbourhood/komsiluk, initiative/inicijativa, escape/bekstvo, picnic/piknik, encounter/susret, view point/pogled, connections/veze, humaneness/humanost, sanctuary/utociste.

The words featured in ZALOGRAD reveal what relations and things are important for a city, what places related to these words exist in Zalog and what maybe not (white frames = lacking places) or could be (still) created. The pages of the album are not linked, but are cards that can be printed separately, so they can be put on the wall to show to their friends.



team: Ružica Jovanović and Milica Tasić (architecture students, Belgrade), Boštjan Bugarič (C3, Ljubljana), Ana Džokić (STEALTH.unlimited), Katarina Žakelj (anthropologist, Ljubljana). Photos: Ružica Jovanović and Milica Tasić.

location: ČMC Zalog / 19. 07 -12. 08. 2010

# ZALOGRAD

## metropolis in a suburb

- 01\_ meeting
- 02\_ event
- 03\_ going out
- 04\_ expense
- 05\_ status symbol
- 06\_ food
- 07\_ music
- 08\_ hobby
- 09\_ creativity
- 10\_ diversity
- 11\_ opportunities
- 12\_ connecting
- 13\_ improvisation
- 14\_ recycling
- 15\_ neighborhood
- 16\_ initiative
- 17\_ escape
- 18\_ picknick
- 19\_ encounters
- 20\_ view
- 21\_ connections
- 22\_ humaneness
- 23\_ sanctuary

### album za sličice zalograd

potrebno je album popuniti do kraja  
sličicama iz zaloga

zadatak: pronaći prostor u  
zalogu koji odgovara opisu  
prostora iz beograda.

ukoliko takvo mesto ili  
običaj ne postoji a vi ga  
želite, možda se može  
nešto promeniti.

sličica kojom se popunjava album:  
skica, fotografija, stih, pesma, kolaž,  
slika... može se do crtavati, dopisi-  
vati, precrtavati, prepravljati, maštati.

sve je dozvoljeno.

ružica jovanović\_milica tasić  
katarina zakej\_boštjan bugarić\_  
ana džukić\_2010.

*“With the kids in Zalog we made Zalograd, an album in which we overlaid places in Zalog which coincide with places in Belgrade (as we see them) related to specific activities.*

*Their reactions were interesting ... they were glad when we told them we did something for them ... and they all flipped through and looked at Zalograd, they didn't go too deep into it, but from them this is enough, and we are very satisfied!”*

(report Ružica Jovanović August 12, 2010)

**meeting.**

place everyone knows.  
meeting point.



at the horse

**an event.**

it is there for part of the year.  
the center of attention in that period.



skating rink



beer fest

**go in out.**

friends gather.  
we go to a cafe nearby.  
we drink.  
we go to the center.  
we get to know some chicks...  
we drink.  
and we return home.



blue



povetarac

**spending.**

shopping.  
everything you need in one place.



spar



ušće shopping mall

**status symbol.**



**food.**

well known place.  
beautiful meal when you're out.  
at any time.



Vevška bakery



bakery Toma

**hobby.**

absolute silence.  
concentration.  
commitment to the one you love.  
not everyone will come.



fishing



kinoteka

**creativity.**

inspiration.  
imagination.  
idea.  
creation.  
work.



underground passage



graffiti wall

**diversity.**

mix of music, books, movies, comics,  
photographs, animations, metal, hard  
rock, pop, fiction, everyday, unique ...



skc

**possibilities.**

people gladly use it.  
gives possibilities for different uses.  
it is lively while the users are there.



football terrain



KST

**connecting.**

different generations in one place. young  
people with different attitudes,  
music, favorite movies.  
all children have passed through it.



elementary school Zalog



knez mihallova street

## improvisation.

created on personal initiative.  
unusual for the area in which it appeared.  
creative.



Filipov's meadow



BIGZ

## recycling.

reviving an abandoned space.  
completely new way of use.  
all is allowed.



silos - project mikser

## neighbourhood.

local stories.  
intimate space only of those who live  
there.



park in front of the building



New Belgrade blocks

## initiative.

working together.  
realization of desire.  
dedication.  
maintaining.



benches at the football field



peti parkić

## escape.

from the crowd.  
from problems.  
from the everyday life.



eda cigantija

## picknick.

silence.  
nature.  
friends  
view of ...



the hill above zalog



kalemegdan

## meetings.

exchange of smiles,  
adventures,  
experiences ...  
pictures.



exchange of pictures in front  
of hotel moskva

## view.

of ...



kalemegdan

## connections.

connection with the world.



railway station zalog



airport nikola tesla

## humaneness.

for all ages.  
cheerful and colorful.  
dialogue.  
exchange.



open heart street

## sanctuary.

place of understanding and safety.  
always accessible.



čmc



dom omladine

# ACTION 4: Where is Zalograd?



# ACTION 4: Where is Zalograd?

In recent years, a new generation has been growing up in Ljubljana's district Zalog. Remote from other parts of Ljubljana and inhabited by youngsters that have their roots in a very diverse mix of cultural backgrounds from all around former-Yugoslavia, this group has developed its own urban identity, found its own urban hotspots and its own urban (non-)perspective.

The movie ZALOGRAD explores the urban space of Zalog through the lens of its youngsters. How do they relate to their 'city', what matters to them in terms of city space, where do they find a future in Zalog? Not in the last place, ZALOGRAD also is about building up a communication and crossing the uneasy prejudice between different generations of citizen: who are they – who are we?

For this action, a set of questions to open up this conversation and a selection of statements by the youngsters are included here.

The final act of the movie pivots around initiating new urban spaces (particularly a football ground) in which the youngsters for the first time can take the initiative to construct part of their own city - ZALOGRAD.



team: Boštjan Bugarič (C3, Ljubljana), Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen (STEALTH. unlimited), Ognjen Radivojević (anthropologist, Novi Sad/Ljubljana), Katarina Žakelj (anthropologist, Ljubljana), youngsters of Zalog, video by Luka Bogovčič (filmmaker, Ljubljana). Photos: Domen Grögel (photographer, Ljubljana).

location: ČMC Zalog / November - December 2010 / public presentation: 20. 12. 2010 at Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana.

# PITANJA / QUESTIONS

A set of questions prepared by Ognjen Radivojević (anthropologist, Novi Sad/Ljubljana) to open the discussion with youngsters about their life, expectations and their relation to the urban environment.

- *Koja lokacija (ili lokacije, više njih) po vama najbolje oslikava Zalog? (tipična za Zalog, nešto što po vašem mišljenju možda ne postoji nigde drugo). / What location (or locations, several of them) do you think best reflect Zalog? (typical of Zalog, something that you think may not exist anywhere else.)*

- *Da li postoji neka opšta karakteristika ljudi iz Zaloga; po čemu se razlikuju od ostalih Ljubljančana? Kakvi su Založani? Da li postoji čovek koji je "legenda Zaloga"? / Are there some common characteristics of people from Zalog; how are they different from other people from Ljubljana? How are people from Zalog? Is there a person who is a "Zalog's legend"?*

- *Da li postoji prisnost među komšijama u Zalogu? (Da li se redovno posećuju, piju kafe, pivo, organizuju zajednička druženja, radne akcije.) Da li i koliko su vam važne komšije? / Is there familiarity among neighbors in Zalog? (Whether they regularly visit each other, drink coffee, beer, organise gatherings, work activities.) Are the*

neighbors, important to you - and how much?

- *Da li imate razvijen lokal-patriotizam? Da li osećate posebnu bliskost sa ljudima iz Zaloga? / Do you have developed local patriotism? Do you feel a special closeness with the people from Zalog?*

- *Da li je Zalog opasan kraj? Šta znači grafit «Pažnja Zalog – ulazite na sopstvenu odgovornost»? Da li bi neko ili neka grupa ljudi iz drugog dela grada, ukoliko bi se našli u večernjem izlasku u Zalogu bili bezbedni, ili bi rizikovali neprijatnosti? / Is Zalog a dangerous neighbourhood? What does the graffiti "Attention: Zalog – you are entering at your own risk" mean? Would someone, or some group of people from other parts of the city, if they would have an evening out in to Zalog be safe, or would they be at risk?*

- *Kada bi imali moć i novac da od Zaloga napravite šta god želite, kako bi taj vaš Zalog izgledao? Šta biste promenili? / If you would have power and money to make Zalog into whatever you want, how would your Zalog look like? What would you change?*

- *Šta je po vašem mišljenju ono najbolje u Zalogu? Šta vam se najmanje sviđa u Zalogu? / What do you think is the best in Zalog? What do you most dislike in Zalog?*

- *Ispričajte nam najsmešniju ili najneverovatniju anegdotu, kojoj ste prisustvovali, ili o kojoj vam je neko pričao, a koja se desila u Zalogu, ili je na neki način vezana za Zalog! / Tell us the wittiest or the most unbelievable*

anecdote that you witnessed, or someone told you about, that happened in Zalog, or is in some way related to Zalog!

- *Da li uopšte volite Zalog? Da li biste se selili u neki drugi deo Ljubljane? Koji? / Do you like Zalog at all? Would you move to another part of Ljubljana? Where?*

- *Kako provodite slobodno vreme? Gde najviše volite da ga provodite? / How do you spend your free time? Where do you prefer to spend it?*

- *Gde izlazite uveče? Kakvi su klubovi, kafići, diskoteke u Zalogu? Kakva je zabava tamo? Kakvu muziku slušate? Kako po vama izgleda idealan provod? / Where to go out in the evening? How are the clubs, bars and discos in Zalog? How is the nightlife? What kind of music do you listen? What is your ideal pastime?*

- *Kakve su devojke u Zalogu? Šta, uopšte, cenite kod devojaka? Da li imate devojkicu? Gde ste je upoznali? Da li ste zaljubljeni? Da li ste u dugim vezama ili ste više nestabilni po tom pitanju? Da li ste romantični, ili mislite da je romantika u današnje vreme malo deplasirana? Da li mislite da tipovi sa brzim, skupim autima lakše dolaze do devojaka? / How are the girls in Zalog? What do you, in general, value from girls? Do you have a girlfriend? Where did you meet her? Are you in love? Are you in long-term relationship or are you unstable in these terms? Are you a romantic type, or you think that romance is nowadays a bit out of place? Do you think that guys with fast, expensive cars easier get girls?*

- *Koliko vam je novac bitan u životu? Na šta ga najviše trošite? Kada kupujete npr. garderobu, da li vam je bitno da bude firmirana? Koje marke volite? Da li vam je bitno da budete u trendu (frizura, odevanje,...)? / How much is money important in life? What do you use it the most for? When you are shopping, for example for clothes, is it important that it is branded? Which brands do you prefer? Do you considerate important to be trendy (hairstyle, clothing ,...)?*

- *Ko su vam najbolji prijatelji? Zašto baš oni? (dugo se znate, slični ste (volite iste stvari), u nekim momentima kada vam je bilo teško pokazali su se kao pravi drugari. Gde najčešće provodite vreme kada ste zajedno? / Who are your best friends? Why them exactly? (You know each other for a long time, you are similar (you like the same things), in some hard moments they turned out to be real friends. Where do you spend most of the time together?*

- *Da li imate hobi? / Do you have any hobbies?*

- *Koliko vam je važno obrazovanje? Kako vam se čini škola u koju idete? Šta biste promenili? Šta mislite da li uopšte može da postoji škola u koju ljudi vole da idu? Kako bi ona izgledala? / How important is education for you? What do you think about the school you are attending? What would you change? Do you think there could be a school that people like to go? How would it look like?*

- *Gde sebe vidite za 20 godina? Ko ste vi? Da li sanjate da imate*

uspešnu karijeru? Kakvu? Da li biste želeli da imate veliku porodicu? Mnogo dece? / Where do you see yourself in 20 years? Who are you? Do you dream to have a successful career? Which one? Would you like to have a big family? Many children?

- Da li postoji neko izletišta u okolini Zaloga? Da li volite prirodu i provodite vreme u njoj ili ste više «urbani tip»? Kako najčešće provodite vreme u prirodi (u šetnji ili pečete roštilj i sl.)? / Is there a resort near Zalog? Do you like nature and do you spend time in it, or are you more an “urban type”? How do you mostly spend time in nature (walking or barbequing, etc.)?

- Da li živite u kući ili stanu? Šta mislite da je prednost života u jednom, a šta u drugom? / Do you live in a house or an apartment? What do you think are the advantages of living in the first one, and what in the second one?

- Da li mislite da je danas mladim ljudima teže nego, na primer, kada su vaši roditelji bili vaših godina? Da li stariji danas razumeju potrebe, ciljeve, sistem vrednosti mlađih generacija? Da li u traženju svog samostalnog puta dobijate više podršku od starijih, ili više prekoravanja i sputavanja? / Do you think that young people today have a more difficult life then for example your parents at your age? Do older people today understand the needs, goals, and value systems of younger generations? Do you in search of your independent way you get more support from older people, or are they more lecturing and restraint?

- Da li misliš da je važno imati

obaveze? Zbog čega? Da li bi voleo da možeš živeti da ne radiš ništa i bez ikakvih obaveza? Kako bi izgledao tada tvoj život? Šta bi radio? / Do you think it's important to have obligations? Why? Would you like to live without doing anything and without any obligations? How would your life look like then? What would you do?

- Šta najviše mrziš, i šta te najviše nervira (izuzev ljudi koji ti postavljaju glupa pitanja)? / What do you dislike the most, and what annoys you the most (except for those asking you stupid questions)?

- Da li misliš da su ljudi po svojoj prirodi dobri? Da li misliš da u životu bolje prolaze ljudi koji gledaju samo sebe? Da li osećaš potrebu da uradiš nešto humano, da pomogneš nekome kome je potrebna tvoja pomoć? / Do you think that people are by nature good? Do you think that people who only care about themselves do better? Do you feel the need to do something humane, to help someone who needs your help?

- Kada si bio najviše ponosan na sebe? / When were you the most proud of yourself?

- Da li misliš da je dobro i korisno pokazivati emocije, ili je bolje držati ih u sebi, a prema spoljašnjosti glumiti «jakog momka»? / Do you think it is good and useful to show emotions, or is it better to keep them for yourself, and towards the outside play “a strong guy”?

- Da li si tolerantan prema ljudima koji razmišljaju drugačije, izgledaju drugačije ili vole različite

stvari od tebe? / Are you tolerant to people who think differently, look different and like different things than you?

- Gde se najbolje jede u Zalogu? Gde najčešće jedete kada jedete napolju? Šta najčešće jedete? / What are the best places to eat in Zalog? Where do you eat most often when you eat out? What do you eat most often?

- Da li imate svest o neophodnosti recikliranja otpada, ili mislite da su priče oko toga gluposti, i baš vas briga za to? / Do you have an awareness of the need for recycling, or you think that the stories about that are nonsense, and you really do not care?

- Da li imate poznanike i prijatelje u inostranstvu? Koliko ste upoznati sa tim kako mladi ljudi žive u ostalim državama? / Do you have acquaintances and friends abroad? How familiar are you with how young people living in other countries?

- Da li volite da putujete? Šta vam se najviše svidelo od onoga što ste videli? Gde biste najviše voleli da živite? Zašto baš tamo? / Do you like to travel? What did you like the most of what you saw? Where would you like to live the most? Why there?

- Da li postoji mesto u Zalogu gde volite da idete kada ste posebno tužni ili neraspoloženi? Šta vas smiruje ili oraspoložuje u tim momentima? / Is there a place in Zalog where you prefer to go when you are sad or moody? What calms you or cheers you up in those moments?

- Da li se kladiš u kladionicama? Da li misliš da se tako mogu zaraditi pare, ili su najbolji kladioničari «na nuli»? / Are you betting in betting parlours? Do you think that money can be earned that way, or are the best gamblers “on zero”?

- Šta misliš da je prioritet u rekonstrukciji terena za fudbal? Šta je najvažnije da se napravi? / What do you think is the priority of the reconstruction of the football field? What is the most important to be made there?

- Šta vam predstavlja u životu teren za fudbal? Koliko vremena provodite na njemu? Da li se skuplja mnogo ljudi, koji igraju ili samo gledaju? / What does the football pitch mean to you? How much time do you spend there? Do there gather a lot of people who play or just watch?

- Da li se organizuju utakmice između ekipe iz Zaloga i ekipe iz nekog drugog dele Ljubljane? / Are there matches between teams from Zalog and teams from other parts of Ljubljana?

- Da li postoji neki fudbaler koji je krenuo iz Zaloga i napravio ozbiljniju fudbalsku karijeru? Ko je uopšte od poznatih ličnosti, iz bilo kog domena, rodom iz Zaloga, ili je živio u Zalogu? / Is there a player who started in Zalog and made a serious football career? Is there a celebrity, from any domain, born in Zalog, or who lived in Zalog?



UDRI GLAVOM  
NIJE ZA FAKULTET  
/ KICK IT WITH  
YOUR HEAD;  
YOU'LL NOT  
STUDY WITH IT

A selection of statements from an interview with youngsters Zalog by Ognjen Radivojević (anthropologist, Novi Sad/Ljubljana) and Luka Bogovčič (filmmaker, Ljubljana) on the occasion of the recording of the Zalograd movie; translation Emil Jurcan, recorded at ČMC Zalog.

TUKAJ SMO, BREZ IZOBRAZBE, BREZ SLUŽBE, VEMO, DA NE BOMO PRIŠLI DALEČ. / Here we are, with no education, with no job, we know we won't get far.



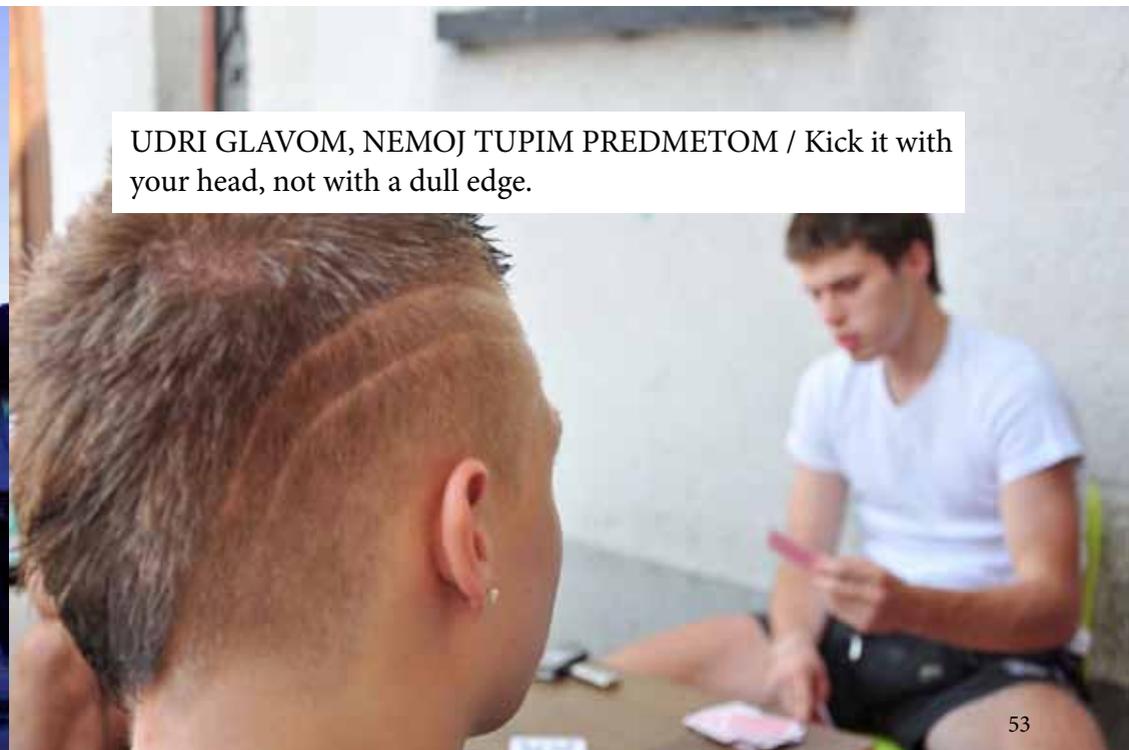
TUKAJ JE VELIK FOLKA, KI ŠE OSNOVNE NISO KONČAL. OSTAL SO V 7. RAZREDU, POL SE JIM NC NE DA PA SE ZADEVAJO. / Here are a lot of folks, that didn't finish elementary school. They ended up in the 7th grade, half of them don't want to do anything so they're stoned on drugs.



KAJ BI DELAL? BIL BI PODJETNIK, SAM DA JE DNAR, DNAR JE NAJBOLJ POMEMBEN. / What would I do? I would be a businessman, as long as there's money. Money is the most important.



UDRI GLAVOM, NEMOJ TUPIM PREDMETOM / Kick it with your head, not with a dull edge.





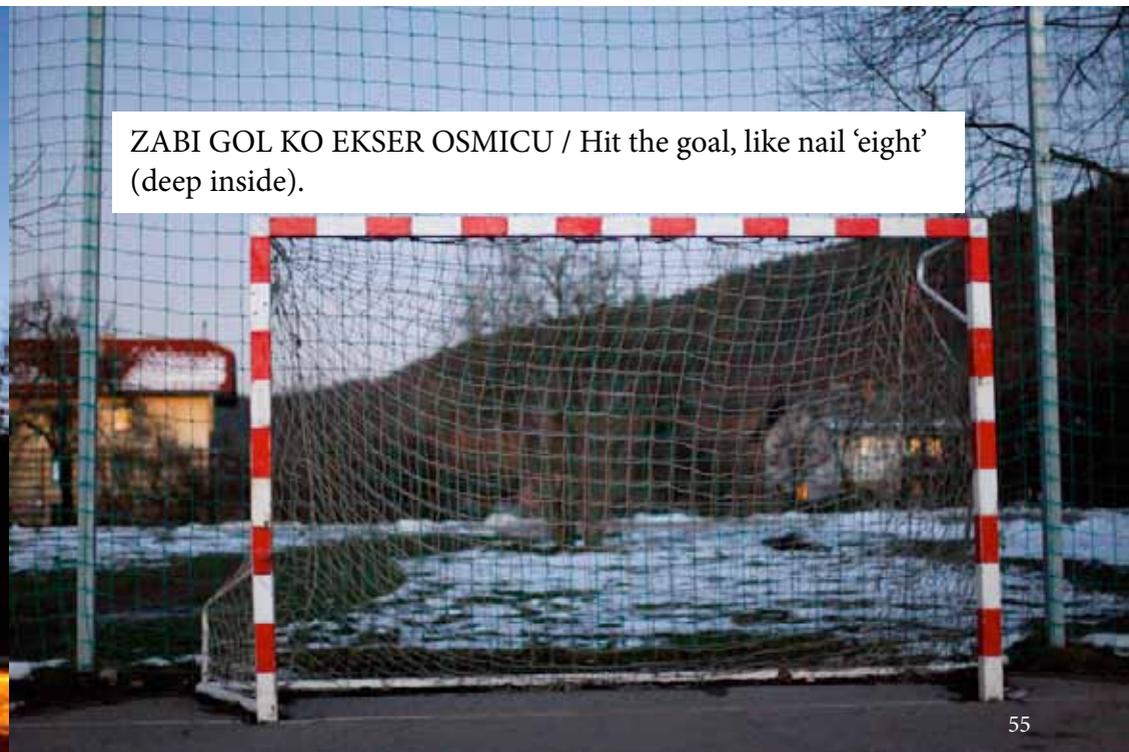
PA ME JE LASTNIK NAUČIL KAKO SE DELA KAPUČIN IN SEM POL ZNALA POSTREČ STRANKAM. NA KONCU DNEVA PA MI JE ZA DELO DAL SLADOLED, ENKRAT PA MI JE KUPU CELO ZAPESTNICO. / So the owner taught me how to make capucino and I learned to serve customers. At the end of the day, for work, he would give me an icecream, and once he even bought me a bracelet.



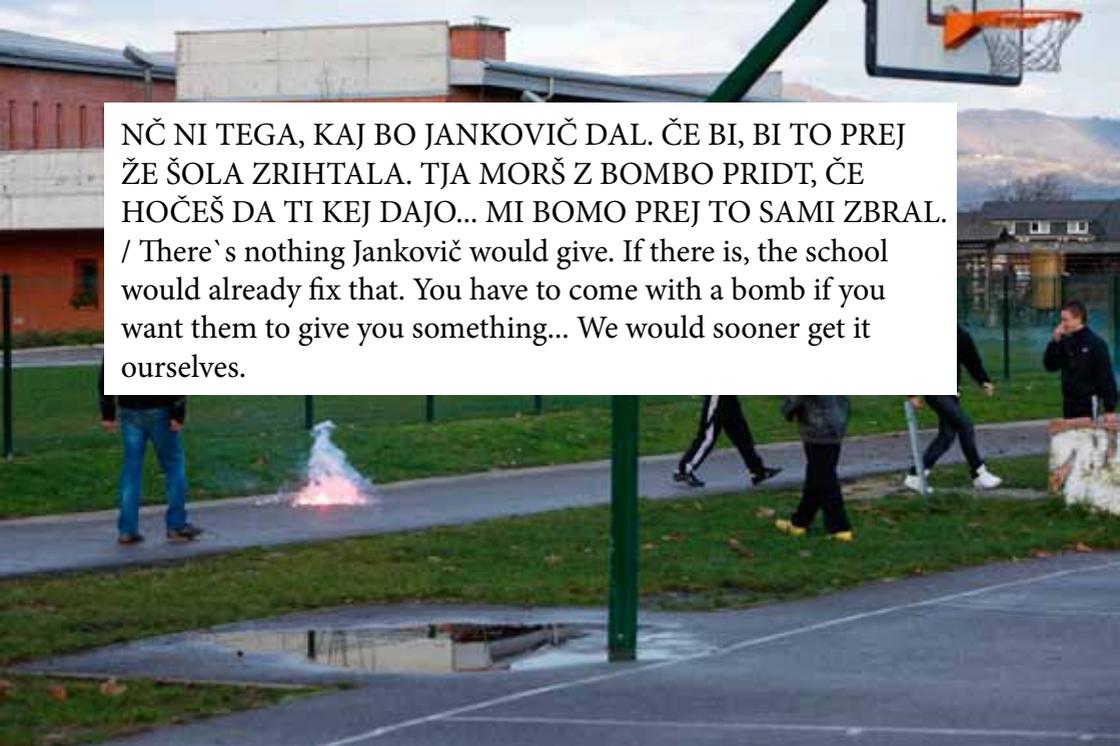
KVA ME BODO NAUČIL, ČE ME NISO DO ZDEJ, ME NE BODO NITI ZDEJ. / What could they teach me, if they haven't already, they won't even now.



PETOM – NA PLATO / With the heel – on the field.



ZABI GOL KO EKSER OSMICU / Hit the goal, like nail 'eight' (deep inside).



NČ NI TEGA, KAJ BO JANKOVIČ DAL. ČE BI, BI TO PREJ  
ŽE ŠOLA ZRIHTALA. TJA MORŠ Z BOMBO PRIDT, ČE  
HOČEŠ DA TI KEJ DAJO... MI BOMO PREJ TO SAMI ZBRAL.  
/ There`s nothing Jankovič would give. If there is, the school  
would already fix that. You have to come with a bomb if you  
want them to give you something... We would sooner get it  
ourselves.



ČE BI BLO POD CERKVIJO, BI TO CERKEV TAKOJ  
ZRIHTALA. / If it would be church sports-field, they would fix it  
right away.



PRIDEJO TAMALI PA ZAČNEJO ZAŽIGAT PA RAZBIJAT. /  
When these youngsters come and start to burn and destroy.



SAM DA NAU IZ ŽELEZA AL PA IZ BAKRA, TO BODO VSE  
POKRADL. / It should just not be from iron or copper, then it's  
all gonna get stolen.

# ACTION 5: Heels on the field



# ACTION 5: Heels on the field

With Public City, we get introduced to the needs of young people in relation to their direct surrounding. The purpose is to animate them to actively participate in shaping the environment according to their needs. Not an easy task to our experience: youngsters often have a passive critical attitude and don't take enough advantage of their creative potential. With Public City, we also want to draw attention how some things could be changed on their own initiative, without large financial investments, without sitting and waiting for an abstract city government or municipality to do something for us. The idea of reconstructing the old sports-field in Zalog is exactly this – the indicator of the possibility of common, self-initiated reconstruction of the environment.

From this, also the development of a more responsible attitude towards the surrounding by the young people arises. The sports-field is not just ruined because of its age. It is also ruined as a consequence of carelessness and destructive behaviour of its users. One of the goals of a common construction is that through direct involvement in all segments of building, the youngsters develop a sense that this sports-field is something “theirs”, and therefore something to take care about in their life.

The old sports-field is a favourite meeting place for young people from Zalog. It has a long-standing problem with weathered or destroyed benches, a lack of drinking water and no adequate lighting for playing in the evening at summertime. Our intention is to use waste material (glass, iron, wood) to construct stands on the sports-field. We started a waste collection campaign to support the construction of these stands, which will be made together with young people from Zalog. Recycled waste material is used for this purpose. Through reuse of materials the project stimulates a larger sense of accessibility and responsibility towards the environment. As such it shifts focus from the consumer society towards a society marked by higher awareness of spatial, ethical and ecological aspects of our environment. For the execution we have valuable support from the Elementary School (located near the sports-field) and from the ČMC in Zalog.



team: Boštjan Bugarič, Tina Cotič and Tamara Rijavec (architects, C3, Ljubljana), Ognjen Radivojević (anthropologist, Novi Sad/Ljubljana), Erika Dolenc and Marko Taljan (ČMC Zalog), Domen Grögel (photographer, Ljubljana), Luka Bogovčič (mosaic artists and filmmaker, Ljubljana) and youth from Zalog. Photos: Domen Grögel and Boštjan Bugarič.

location: sports-field next to the Elementary School in Zalog / preparations: February – April 2011; implementation: on-going

Zalog: preparation meetings



# Zalog: drawings for the sports-field

**1 NADSTREŠEK ZA DVA SKLOPA TRIBUN**

Plano nadstreška

brvična stranica št. stolov: 1800

stranska stranica št. stolov: 3000

1 NADSTREŠEK ZA DVA SKLOPA TRIBUN

mrežni preplet različnih razstav vpet v okvir

fasadna plošča z zveržnimi lokacijami

NAČIN ZLAGANJA

mreža + gumpasti travniki

2 odvoji in različna mreža

varjen stik steklenica-pločevina/ plastika

okvir mreže z zvarjenimi robovi

NADSTREŠEK ZA VODO

NOSILNA KONSTRUKCIJA

STEKLENIC DO SEDAJ:

ZA PLATO S ČAMCEM NAPREJ!

gradilj javno - ZALOGRAD / julij 2011 / m 1:50 / načrt opreme

**NADSTREŠEK - VODA** kom. 1

opis: konstrukcija: Skatlasti jekleni profil 50/50mm; profili varjeni med seboj, brušeni, prekrivno barvani; streha: pločevinasti pokrovčki/ strešniki, REUSE, fi 82mm; sekundarne prečne letve, 10/ 50mm; hidroizolacija, bled plata...

dimenzija: 280 x 941 x 200 cm

shema:

**PREREZ 1-1 M 1: 50**

**DETALJ 1**

naklon 15%

pločevinasti pokrovčki/ strešniki REUSE, fi 82mm

sekundarne prečne letve, 10/ 50mm

hidroizolacija

bled- obroč, 3cm

prečno jekleno palčiče - podkonstrukcija, 30/20mm

**DETALJ 2**

jeklena konstrukcija

-skatlasti jek. profil 50/50mm;

-profil varjeni med seboj;

-brušeni, prekrivno barvani

nasuje

podložni beton

gradilj javno - ZALOGRAD / julij 2011 / m 1:50 / načrt opreme

**NADSTREŠEK - VODA**

opis: konstrukcija: Skatlasti jekleni profil 50/50mm; profili varjeni med seboj, brušeni, prekrivno barvani; streha: pločevinasti pokrovčki/ strešniki, REUSE, fi 82mm; sekundarne prečne letve, 10/ 50mm; hidroizolacija, bled plata...

dimenzija: 645 x 508 cm

shema:

**POGLLED M 1: 50**

**TLORIS M 1: 50**

PLATA ZALOG

Zalog: hands-on work with the youngsters



## 23. 04. 2011 – Ognjen's report on progress in working with the kids

Here is a short report on the activities last week in Zalog. (Actual names of youngsters are replaced by 'X' and 'Q' for privacy reasons.)

Generally speaking the whole action was successful. We painted the goals, cleaned the soil and grass directly next to the sports-field, and collected the garbage that was for years laying around the 'Plata', painted the benches. We could have done more but objectively the circumstances prevented us. For example, for digging the water everything was arranged, but the priest, or some other guy who should have unlocked the door didn't appear. We agreed to thicken the white lines on the sports-field, however, it remained for Erika to check the budget for the Plata and get money for the paint. (This paint is a bit more expensive, not much, some 20 to 30 euro. Erika also agrees that it is dull if we finance these things out of our pockets or the account of C3. Kids of course a couple of time said that they would gather the money, but when the time came to collect it, no-one gave a

single euro).

When we speak about engaging the kids in the whole action, I can say that it varied per day, but in general it was not so bad. Generally speaking, they understood the benefit, and seriousness of our intention to reconstruct the Plata. I think that it is very good for a common trust that we moved out of ČMC to concrete actions on the terrain itself. I think that we have, even from the most problematic ones, at least silent support and finally sympathy (this is nothing epochal or dramatic, but I think that things are moving in a good direction.) As an illustration of this, yesterday X very pleasantly surprised me. You remember that X who wants to throw a bomb at the Moderna galerija and demolish our tribunes when he is drunk? Yesterday, when we went from the Plata he stopped me and said that they themselves want to paint gloss varnish over the benches. (We actually painted them over with Sadolin, in order to protect the wood from decay. It doesn't even look that bad, but if they would get glazing, they would look like new). I explained to him that we support his initiative strongly, but that we have a problem with money designated for reconstruction, and that for the moment Erika or we are financing it. To which X replied that he would personally try to make the kids provide the means, not just for the glazing, but for the other stages of reconstruction. Lets see that miracle! Although, I do not very much count

on it, it is very nice to see such a change in their attitude.

Yesterday was great. At least 10 kids participated in the works. On Wednesday we had an unpleasant experience, not with the kids in ČMC, but with some older guys, by years closer to us, that literally prevented us to paint the goals, because they wanted to play football on the field. But well, its no big deal. That's how it goes I guess.

On Thursday Luka held a very nice presentation on mosaics. It was agreed that immediately after the holidays we start to work. Q got very active. In addition to making a deal with a few bars and already collecting bottles, he might be able to provide us beautiful stones for the mosaic. So we do not have to make it from tile but from stones, or to combine both. Luka and me agreed that it would be great. It remained to speak with Q on May 3rd, and to see if he managed to secure the stones. If not, then immediately we will begin making the mosaic from tiles.

There is only a doubt about the motive on the mosaic. These young kids would like to write Zalog and the postcode, Plata. Q is for a mosaic with no inscriptions or symbols of Zalog, only to make a beautiful mosaic with some motive. Maybe that's not a bad idea? He is afraid that if we write something on the mosaic, for the kids this will be an inspiration to

spray additionally some more things. We can make a compromise. On one side of the wall is neutral mosaic, and inscription on the other? We'll see!

It would be nice to finish the mosaic before the tournament on 29 of May, fix the water, thicken the lines on the sports-field. Tina, Erika and I talked further; on the Plata there is another pressing issue. There are no rubbish bins; that's why the garbage is scattered everywhere. If we could make two large trash bins out of waste before the tournament! Now we have certainly some 500 glass bottles, perhaps we could use some of them for that? Q has brought a lot of small bottles; those beautiful blue ones, I think, from Frukta's juices. Maybe we can use them? I think that setting up bins would be a big hit, both as a necessary and useful thing and as the best promotion for the kids, what we want to create and the idea of building with waste materials. But well, we will see all this and agree...

# ORIGINS OF THE PROJECT

The project *Public City* started in 2009, when on initiative of Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen (STEALTH.unlimited) – and in collaboration with Bojana Piškur and Adela Železnik (Moderna galerija) and Boštjan Bugarič - on the occasion of the (then upcoming) conference Radical Education the outline of a project related to youngsters and their environment emerges. With the Radical Education conference, in December 2009 the start of the project was made in a workshop bringing together experts from different disciplines related to the urban environment. During the workshop (actions 1 and 2), the project made a fruitful cross-over with the Neighbourhood Youth Centres - ČMC in Ljubljana (Šiška, Bežigrad and Zalog). This defined the basic starting point for the various workshops and prepared the ground for the works that have been going on from the spring 2010. In collaboration with STEALTH.unlimited, the Cultural Association C3 (KUD C3) - as a coordinator - has assembled a team of the experts and authors to take on the continuation of the project and its actual implementation in Ljubljana, which proceeded throughout 2010 and up to today.

Recognising the difficult urban and social situation of youngsters in Ljubljana's neighbourhood Zalog during the first actions (December 2009 in Šiška, Bežigrad and Zalog), the project found its main target in this area of the city. Together, a team of teenagers, architects, artists and researchers analysed the teens' relationship with the city, the level of accessibility and the use of space in Zalog. As part of a gradually emerging commitment from the team to work on a long-time engagement in Zalog, among others a summer workshop (action 3) that involved architecture students Ružica Jovanović and Milica Tasić (from the Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade) and anthropologist Katarina Žakelj was held from 19 July to 12 August 2010 on location in ČMC Šiška, Bežigrad and Zalog. Following this workshop, a scenario was drawn up for the production of a film (action 4) made with filmmaker Luka Bogovčič, photographer Domen Grögel and anthropologist Ognjen Radivojević in Zalog. The movie explores the relations of adolescents to public space, while at the same time establishing relations to the organization and self-organization

of open (public) spaces in Zalog – especially the local sports-field, which became a focal site for further action. The film was presented in December 2010 at the Moderna galerija in Ljubljana to invite the public to cooperate – especially with the on-going works in Zalog on re-constructing this sports-field and its sitting area.

The work on the sports-field (action 5) centres around renovating the field, sitting area (including a tribune) and related facilities like fixing the water connection for the tap at the field, tiling space around it, bringing lightning for late summer evenings, making garbage bins and renovating dilapidated walls by mosaics. And although starting as a part of *Public City*, project's scope has quickly extended into a long-term engagement, far beyond what was originally imagined. The re-construction is set up as a co-operation between the youngsters and selected experts, who help them in building and selecting materials. The project uses recycled waste material, thus stimulating a larger sense of responsibility to the environment. Re-constructing the sports-field builds the communication between various users of space and overcomes preconceptions of different generations - who they are and who we are - and at the same time encourages the teens to find possibilities to participate in creating their space; that what we consider the main aim of *Public City*.

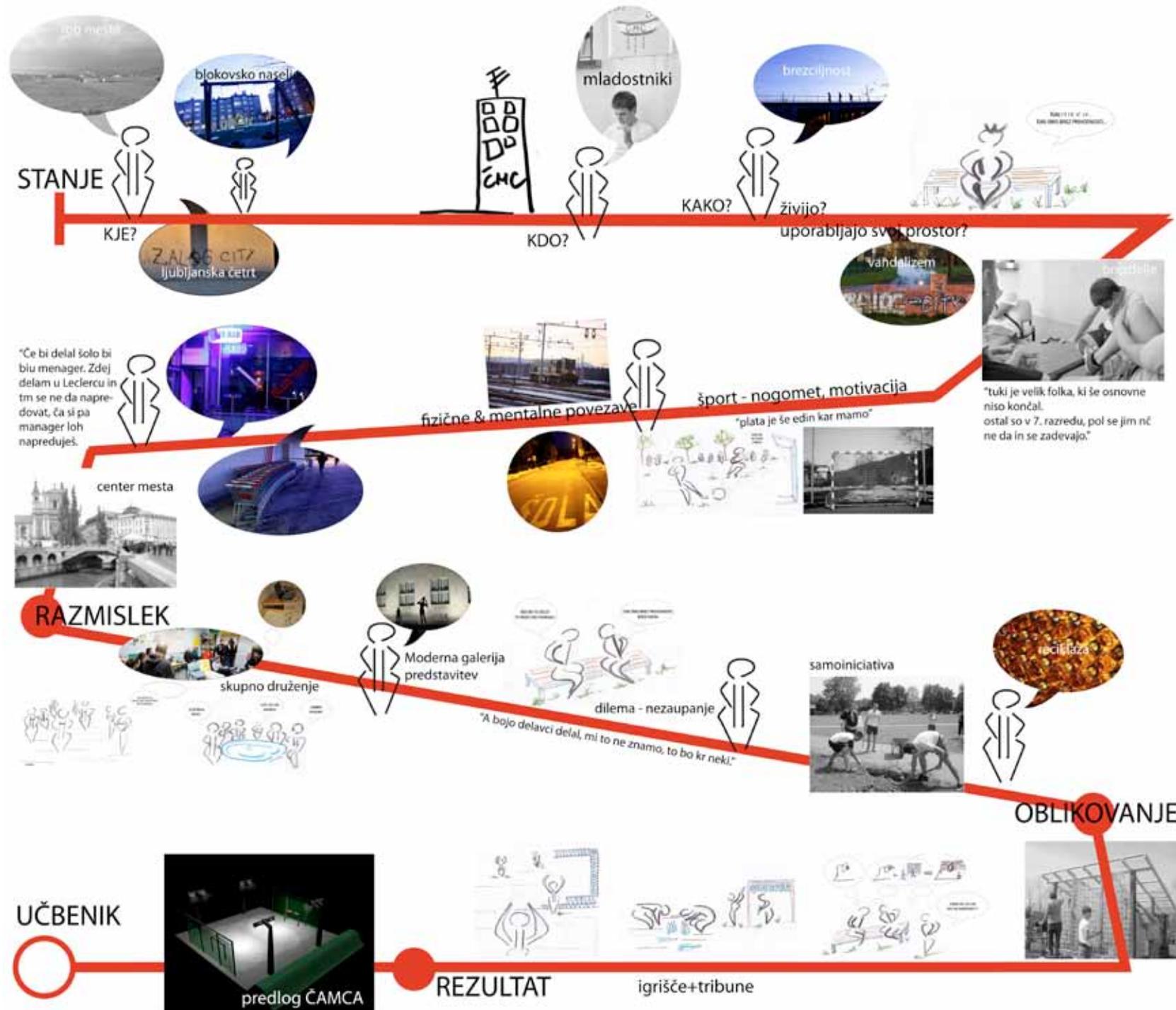
The re-construction therefore has become an on-going collaboration between KUD C3 (artists, architects and researchers), Neighbourhood Youth Centre Zalog (ČMC) and STEALTH.unlimited (Ana Džokić, Marc Neelen).

The experiences of the team have now resulted in a tentative manual in which the actions developed in the *Public City* project have been summed up – explicitly thought as a draft for what in time can become a more matured manual for working with youngsters in their relation to urban space.

This tutorial of sorts makes a link between the fields of architecture, urban planning, sociology, history and anthropology. Ultimately therefore, the experience and knowledge from the project and the reflection on the city's workings and possibilities will during the upcoming time get published in a textbook available to educational institutions and general public.

Meanwhile, the works on the ground in Zalog continues with the follow-up project BUILDING PUBLIC(NESS) – in what is becoming a breakthrough engagement with youngsters, and with their relation to the city.

# TIMELINE of PUBLIC CITY



# TIMELINE of *PUBLIC CITY*

## 2009

27 - 29 November 2009:

The **starting workshop of the Public City project at Moderna galerija**, with architect Boštjan Bugarič (Cultural Association C3), anthropologist Sonja Leboš (Association for Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Research, Zagreb, CRO) and architect Dubravka Sekulić (NL / SRB), Bojana Piškur (curator Moderna galerija) and Adela Železnik (educator Moderna galerija). The workshop finished with a contribution of STEALTH.unlimited to the conference Radical Education at Moderna galerija.

01 - 04 December 2009:

**Action 1 and 2** at ČMC's in Šiška, Zalog and Bežigrad.



## 2010

28 May 2010:

Lecture *Cities Destroyed for Cash* by Damon Rich (founding member of Center for Urban Pedagogy, New York). location: Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana.



19 July to 12 August 2010:

**Action 3:** three weeks of work in Šiška, Zalog and Bežigrad – a collection of interviews, interviews with teenagers, behavioural maps leading to the Zalograd album.



August - October 2010:

Preparation the recording, screenplay, shooting locations and a selection of photographic material for the film Zalograd.



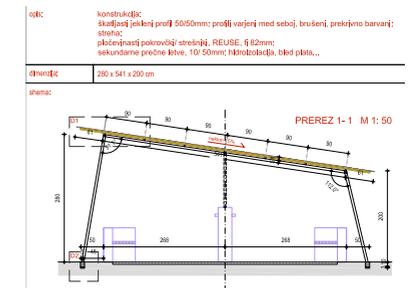
November - December 2010:

**Action 4:** The actual movie recordings for Zalograd take place in and around ČMC Zalog.



November - December 2010:

Preparation of **prototypes and models** for the structures of the sports-field in Zalog.



20 December 2010:

**Presentation of Public City at Moderna galerija;** with Erika Dolenc

(social worker, ČMC (Četverni mesni centar) Zalog), Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen (STEALTH.unlimited, Rotterdam/Belgrade), Ružica Jovanović and Milica Tasić (students of architecture, Belgrade), Ognjen Radivojević (anthropologist, Novi Sad/Ljubljana), Boštjan Bugarič, Tina Cotič and Tamara Rijavec (C3, Ljubljana), youngsters of Zalog and video by Domen Grögel (photographer, Ljubljana), Luka Bogovčič (filmmaker, Ljubljana), Katarina Žakelj (anthropologist, Ljubljana).



## 2011

### January 2011:

Arrangements with the primary school for installation of water and electricity on the pitch.

### February - March - (April) 2011:

**Action 5:** Working with teenagers in Zalog - preparing the ground, in implementing the survey, collecting bottles for construction of the playground shelter, recording and documentary photography for the reconstruction of the sports-field (activities continuing up to today).



### 15 March 2011:

Awarding of the **Golden Cube (Zlatna kocka) 2010 - the Slovenian national award for programs for Architecture and Children** - for educational projects to the *Public City* project and especially to the works with youngsters in Zalog.



### 27 May 2011:

**Presentation of *Public City* at The Night of Youth (Noč mladih), ŠKUC gallery.**



<< end of *Public City* project >>

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES - *BUILDING PUBLIC(NESS):*

### May 2011:

Collective making of mosaic in Zalog, connecting water.

### 30 May 2011:

Football tournament.

### 8-14 August 2011:

Collective **construction activities with youngsters on the sports-field in Zalog** (waste bins, mosaic, fixing the water regime on the pitch and works on a protective roof).



### October-November 2011:

International workshops and symposium.

THIS PLACE EXISTS ONLY WHILE WE ARE HERE is an outcome of the project *Public City*, initiated by STEALTH.unlimited (Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen) and KUD C3 (Boštjan Bugarič), made in collaboration with Moderna galerija in Ljubljana and supported by Ministry of Culture of Slovenia, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Embassy of the United States of America in Slovenia.

August 2011



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in collaboration with: network of Ljubljana Neighbourhood Youth Centers (ČMC) – Zalog: Erika Dolenc, Marko Taljan; Šiška: Manja Brinovšek, Mateja Maver; Bežigrad: Katja Žugman, Aleš Susman; Moderna galerija: Bojana Piškur and Adela Železnik.

external experts: Damon Rich (artist, founder of the Center for Urban Pedagogy, New York, USA); Sonja Leboš (anthropologist, Association for Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Research, Zagreb) and Dubravka Sekulić (architect, Maastricht/Belgrade);

with: youngsters from Šiška, Bežigrad and especially Zalog.

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