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IMPLEMENTATION OF TEMPORARY URBANISM FOR REVITALIZATION OF RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR SPACES

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ABSTRACT

In some European cities the outdoor environment of residential housing neighbourhoods is considered to be of poor quality and lacking recreation opportunities. Contrary to masterplanning, temporary urban projects, as developed by Raumlabor Berlin, Atelier d'architecture autogeree or Stalker, appear to play a crucial role in giving a new impuls for inefficiently used, even neglected outdoor spaces in the time of rapid urban growth and changing economical and ecological situation. Temporary urbanism involves variety of actors, also artists, civil society groups, community organizations and charities into the planning and decision making process, and so helps to find alternative solutions to regeneration and development of the outdoor environment. This article demonstrates research on introduction of temporary projects in residential areas of other European countries, showing correlation between different actors and their role in the project. Chosen projects are characterized with different types of interventions, scale, participants' motivation and participatory models, being all realized in the residential areas. Basing on the chosen case studies specific guidelines for temporary urbanism in terms of regeneration of the large scale housing neighbourhoods are proposed.

INTRODUCTION

This paper looks at the temporary initiatives, both bottom-up and top-down initiated in order to collect information on variety of actors and motivations, which force people to take part and support temporary projects. For many years there has been a discussion on what is a good place, good community, how can we define the quality of life and good life (Healey 2010; Montgomery 2013). It has been already concluded that there is a gap between planning processes and the real needs and wishes of the society (Simcox 2015). That is why communication and collaboration are crucial in development of the urban environment. In many cases official participation in planning processes does not aim collaboration in planning, but is more related to legal formality which requests public involvement. Introduction of temporary uses gives an opportunity to test the idea and get the feedback from space users. It also helps to bring together local authorities, land owners, non-governmental organisations and local communities and ensure the dialogue between these actors. According to Ali Madanipour, temporary urbanism is not only the response to ecological and economic crises, but it also has certain level of criticism at traditional planning approaches and broadens the ways of urban development (Madanipour, 2017). Temporary urbanism works as a test for future urban developments, appearing as a real-scale laboratory and also can work as an advocate for certain ideas. Regardless of the growing interest in temporary uses, this approach is not new and present lots of strategies. Temporary urban interventions as a tool to foster urban development, have been discussed already in the 1990's. But different temporary uses, such as pop-up markets have been present in the urban environment for many hundred years. Nowadays, the term of temporary urbanism is often used together with such terms as "pop-up", "tactical", "guerilla" or "DIY culture" (Simcox 2015; Glick 2012). Also the type, function, scale, budget and management models are different and usually correspond to the local challenges. Temporary urbanism can appear in the form of an event, like street market, open-air cinema, park(ing) Day, concert or neighbourhood festival, or a more long term (still temporary) activity as urban gardens or space with amenities for education, recreation or sport activities. Introduction of temporary uses in public spaces has become very popular in many European cities. Architecture practices and various associations are using temporary projects as a tool to promote participatory urban planning and design, support collaboration between local authorities, inhabitants, land owners and practitioners, test different ideas, regenerate vacant lots and promote better quality of the urban environment. As temporary projects act as an answer to various problems, it is reasonable that they often appear on vacant plots or inefficiently used territories. So for example the vacant plot in Saint-Etienne (France) has been transformed into

the public space by the Collectif Etc. and active participation of local inhabitants (Fig. 1). The main idea of the project was to give neighbourhood's inhabitants an idea of the future dwelling development on that plot and its influence on the neighbourhood environment (www.placeauchangement.fr). The other



Figure 1: Place au Changement, Saint-Etienne, France (<http://www.archdaily.com/179874/place-au-changement-public-plaza-collectif-etc>).



Figure 2: Prinzessingarten, Moritzplatz, Berlin (<http://www.freundenvonfreunden.com/journal/fvf-explores-berlins-new-face-with-werner-aisslinger/>).

example is Prinzessingarten project initiated by Nomadic Green in 2009 as a pilot project to regenerate the wasteland and transform it into a green space with organic vegetable plots (Fig. 2). The project also is characterized with active local inhabitants participation. As a result, instead of existence of vacant plots inside the city, territories were transformed into places, which improve the quality of the neighbourhood's environment, promote social cohesion and offer free time activities.

But vacant plots are not the only territories, which influence negatively neighbourhood environment and do not support creation of qualitative spaces. Also unplanned and so inefficiently used parks, squares and courtyards can cause people's dissatisfaction with the environment where they live. On the other hand well-designed places can work as a tool to promote social cohesion, integration, environmental education, physical activity and also general revitalisation of the outdoor environment. In many European countries courtyards in residential neighbourhoods are often characterized with large scale, monofunctionality and lack of amenities. As a result courtyards are described as inefficiently used spaces (Fig. 3, 4).

As well as in case of vacant plots, temporary urbanism can be used as a tool to regenerate these courtyards, to test different development ideas and to find the uses, which would meet requirements of local communities. That is why the aim of this paper is through analysis of several case studies, collect information on characteristics of temporary projects inside residential courtyards, trying to define the opportunities and limits of them.

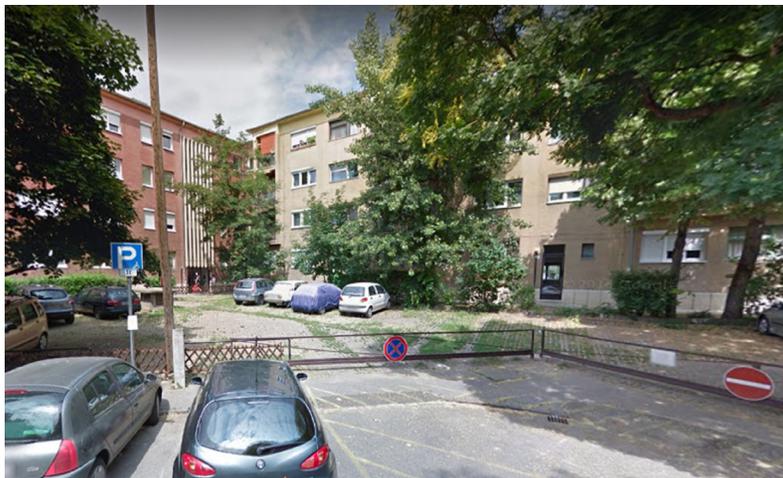


Figure 3: Courtyard inside residential neighbourhood, Budapest, Hungary (From google street view).

Figure 4: Courtyard inside residential neighbourhood, Riga, Latvia (Photo by the author).



METHODOLOGY

Selected case studies are used for generalisation from the case, using facts from case studies to develop theory (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Johansson 2003). The goal of the case study analysis is to define possible actors and their involvement in the temporary projects within residential housing courtyards. Attempting to identify and possibly estimate all causes of the outcome (a causes-of-effects style of analysis). In order to consider different scenarios, the diverse cases approach has been chosen. Analyses of different temporary projects resulted selection of the following variables for case study selection: Initiator of the project (diverse), Type of temporary project (diverse), Type of community involvement (diverse). When analysing the case studies also further variables have been studied: motivation to be involved in the project, collaboration of different actors, budget, scale, location.

CASE STUDIES

Alternatively to long-term urban planning projects, development of master plans and city development strategies, temporary projects can be initiated by different actors and can support collaboration and participation of different scale and type between the actors, who are usually not involved in the plan-

ning process (Simcox, 2015). Taking into account possible diversity of initiators it was decided to take three case studies from different countries initiated by different actors to find correlation between initiating actor, involved parties and the motivation of both to take part in the temporary project. As can be seen from the table below, initiators of the temporary project in the residential area can be both architectural practices, associations and NGO's (Table 1). All of them being motivated to enable effective use of space and promote collaboration and participation of local inhabitants, architectural practice was focused also on research and the proof to the idea that the public space does not have to result with physical construction, but rather has to be a continuous process of social interaction (Spatial Agency, Atelier d'Architecture Autogeree). The goal of the association was to provide necessary amenities and functions in the courtyards, taking into account wishes and needs of local community (Collectif Etc.). And the introduction of community garden by the NGO is aimed to stimulate bottom-up initiatives, which will work as a tool to promote social cohesion and integration, education, and effective use of courtyard space in the whole city (Urban Divercities). Different models of participation are leading to different types of community involvement and so lead to different results. However, all the analyzed projects being characterized as successful (in terms of local inhabitants involvement and use of space after the introduction of temporary uses), differ in the physical outcome of the project. Workshops being used as a community involvement tools help to develop design according to local community wishes and support the sense of ownership of created objects/amenities. Collecting information through surveys and placement of prefabricated objects can simplify construction process, however, it excludes participation of local inhabitants in the design process, so possibly decreasing the sense of ownership. As show the comparison of case studies, budget in all three cases was characterized as low, advocating the idea of temporary urbanism being a low-cost solution.

Cases	Variables					
	Type of temporary project	Initiator of the project	Community involvement	Budget	Collaboration	Motivation
Cavaillon France	Events/activities/workshops Gardens/amenities	Le Collectif Etc. An association (permanent architects and employees)	Workshops with creation of objects; Surveys before the project, Collecting feedback on the realised part of the project (door-to-door); surveys on future developments	low	Local inhabitants	Supporting participatory design and collaboration, Creation of the outdoor environment according to inhabitants' wishes and needs
Passage 56, Paris, France	Productive garden that minimises its ecological footprint through recycling, composting and use of solar panels	Architectural practice	Architectural practise curates the project, but lives enogh room for local inhabitants to take the responsibility and come with own ideas	minimal cost	collaboration with a local organisation running youth training programmes in eco-construction. Partly commissioned by local government. Local inhabitants.	Supporting participatory planning and collaboration, research on collaborative approaches, testing ideas.
The Leonardo community garden in Budapest, Hungary	Community garden, community events (e.g. open-air cinema, concerts), additional services (e.g. gardening guidance, supervision, trainings), and educational activities (e.g. knowledge development for children, lessons with a hands-on approach for school pupils, workshops for students).	NGO called Foundation of Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre (KÉK). Several volunteers are involved in the implementation of different activities.	regular community meetings and daily communications.	very limited human as well as financial resources. The land owner provided technical support for creating the basic infrastructure at the beginning of the project. Some income from civic project applications co-financed by Ministries or private enterprises	urban developer called FUTUREAL. Local inhabitants	Promotion of bottom-up initiatives in the city, with an aim to support social cohesion.

Table 1: Case studies. By the author.

ACTORS

Summary of the analysed case studies gives a possibility to understand relations between different actors and their role in the project. Initiator of the project place the crucial role as he supports the idea from the beginning, is in charge of management, acts as contacting link between other actors and works with local communities. But the role of the local community and their interest in participation and collaboration plays a crucial role when insuring durability of the project. Even in case of temporary projects there is a need to have social capital, space users and sometimes local managers to undertake the responsibilities of the initiator. Land owners appear to have less influence on the temporary activities than initiators and local inhabitants, however, they can provide essential help in the process of creation/development of the project.

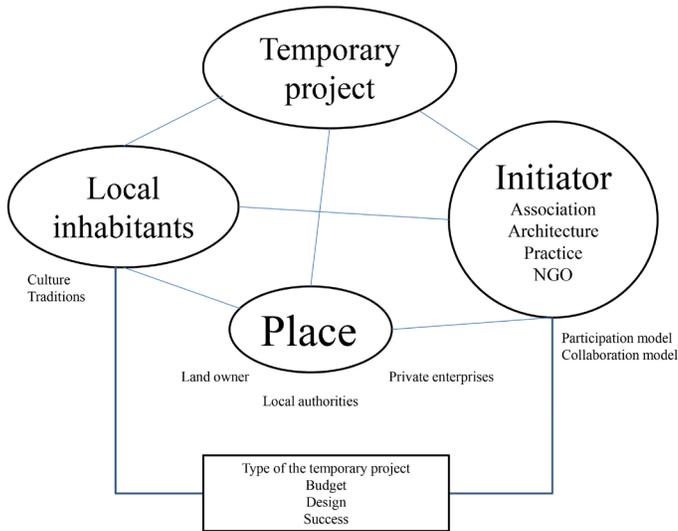


Figure 5: Actors in temporary projects. By the author.

CONCLUSION

Analysis of the temporary projects initiated by diverse actors showed that regardless the initiator, temporary projects in residential areas are highly influenced by local inhabitants. Opportunity to participate and collaborate motivates people to be involved in the project and later gives the sense of ownership of the place, so that they start to be advocates of that idea. Case studies showed that the budget doesn't play an important role, as all the pro-

ject being defined by the minimal budget were by the same time successful. However, to develop the framework of opportunities and limits of temporary urbanism in the residential courtyards the quantity of the case studies should be increased.

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