

#01 **urban**
magazine
summer
2015

*War ain't over if you want it
but life ain't over either*

*The shrinking city fights
back and will grow again*

*New perspectives on
the city's economic structure*

*Urban acupuncture small
changes can start now*

Mariposa!





picture: Justin Tyler Tate

preface

What is it like when war is at only ten kilometres away from your house? What if the shelling has already hit your apartment building or the one next to you?

What is live like when people are moving for other cities to be safe? And to see other people coming who used to living even closer to the frontline or in the separated area?

What do people dream of? How do they look at the future? What is needed most?

Checking Email, checking Facebook, checking War-website

Nobody saw this war coming. Nobody was prepared for it. But even then you can get used to it. To see soldiers in the street all the time. To hear talking about military strategies and diplomats. And to read about the fights, on internet. Many people watch <http://liveuamap.com/>. Here they have a continuous update of military or international political developments. So today every few hours you check email, facebook, and your favourite war-website...

Izolyatsia

Cultural platform Izolyatsia used to be based in Donetsk, but moved to Kiev because of the war. In the second half of 2015 Izolyatsia will be opening a second base in Mariupol at the Azov Sea.

This summer Izolyatsia invited 15 architects, artists and urban designers from many different countries to have a look at Mariupol. To look at the city differently. To give perspective. To feed with ideas.

The architects visited Mariupol for a few weeks this summer. To understand the city and the people's needs. At least the Mariupol people must dream of peace and safety. The front line is so close. In January the shelling reached the first apartment blocks of the city. Civilians were killed.

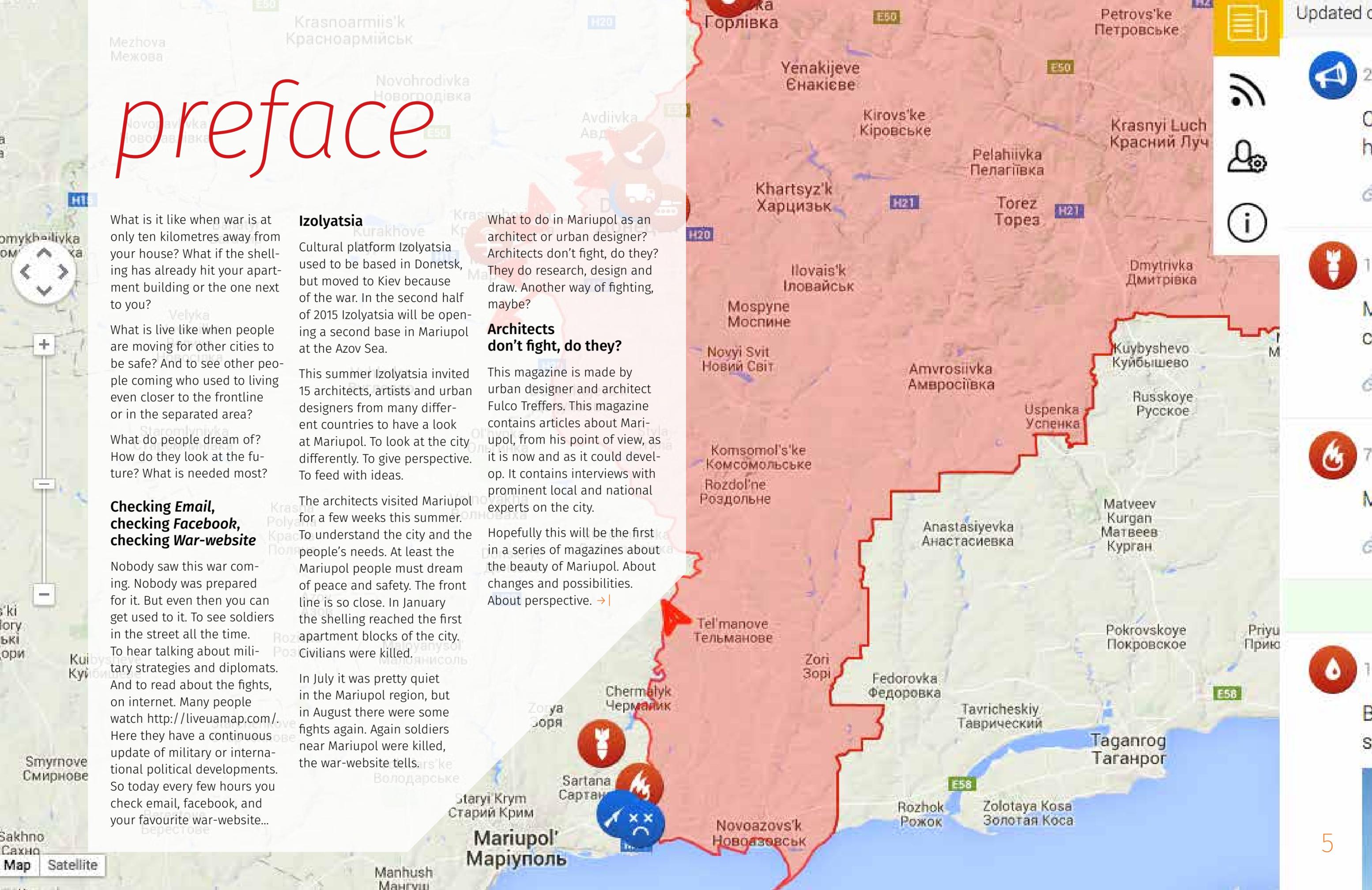
In July it was pretty quiet in the Mariupol region, but in August there were some fights again. Again soldiers near Mariupol were killed, the war-website tells.

What to do in Mariupol as an architect or urban designer? Architects don't fight, do they? They do research, design and draw. Another way of fighting, maybe?

Architects don't fight, do they?

This magazine is made by urban designer and architect Fulco Treffers. This magazine contains articles about Mariupol, from his point of view, as it is now and as it could develop. It contains interviews with prominent local and national experts on the city.

Hopefully this will be the first in a series of magazines about the beauty of Mariupol. About changes and possibilities. About perspective. →|



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Who's he?

Architecture

is an enormous diverse subject. On university I learned about form, shape, concept, theory, history, materials, technology, so many different ways to look at architecture. Some years later, my main focus on architecture has become about people. People don't live in a design or a concept. People live in a house. A good architectural concept can help to make good architecture, but it should never be more important than the people and their use of it.

I worked as an architect for only two years after graduating. After that, in 2003, I switched to an office for urban design. In 2009 I bought an old small factory building in the centre of Eindhoven. For this empty space I designed my own place. Only since then I think I am an architect again.

Urban designing

is both very abstract and really visible. The city is all around us. And we all use it. It's a like a theatre in which we live. But it is a combination of infrastructure, activi-

ties, laws, people, buildings, parks, dynamics, temperatures, geography, time, and so on. I love trying to understand a city. The research, the walking around, the talking to people, searching archives online and offline.

After working in an office in Utrecht for two years I started my own office '12N' for urban planning and design: www.12n.nl.

Who live in the city? What makes a city grow? What makes the people dance or sing? Where is the energy? Who are formal and informal stakeholders? What is the city afraid of? And I am learning every day trying to understand.

Home

means a lot of different things. First of all I live in two cities, in two houses, already for a few years. I have a house in Eindhoven and one in Amsterdam. I divide my time, depending on work, friends and parties. My house in Amsterdam I share with two very good friends. My house in Eindhoven is also my office, my workshop and a place for

many activities. For example, every week my home becomes a sports hall. Together with friends and friends of friends we play ping-pong on a couple of tables. And we drink beer and wine.

The Netherlands is part of my feeling of this thing called 'home'. But working abroad sharpens my thoughts of my own country, my own work there. It helps me to refresh and focus again. I would love to have more projects in other countries, and get inspired every few weeks during a work trip.

Ukraine

could definitely be one of those countries I would like to work. I met a few very good architects, urban designers and artists I would like to work with. This country is full of energy, mostly very positive. Ukraine faces a huge challenge, in politics, military, economics. And the people's energy to build this country is even bigger.



*Five words for Fulco Treffers,
this magazine's chief editor*





The vibe is here and now, in social, cultural and economical ways. I have seen so many great initiatives about city life development. I hope I can be part of this.

Mariupol

stole my heart. The city is covered under a lot of dust, literally, just like a box you are keeping at the attic. This box contains a lot of beauty. You know, you can see it, you can almost open it. It does not have an easy lock. There is a lot of problems you have to solve first. Problems of economy, ecology, politics, and identity.

And there is a war.

The frontline of the war is only fifteen kilometres from Mariupol. I never was so close to a war. I never saw so many soldiers in my life. And even when there is a war, there is a box. And how to protect the box? Or how to open it? These questions fascinate me.

This project made me see how life goes on, even during war. Life goes on, but it does change. Sometimes it changes physically, by a bomb on a building. But the real big changes you cannot see. Those are socially and psychologically.

And I asked myself: how can an urban planner help during war. Because life changes as much as it goes on. As it has to go on.

Fulco Treffers





The new police



Mariupol is facing a big pile of problems. As a start, the conflict area is very close. Secondly, the pollution is huge. Then come the unemployment, the brain drain, cultural differences, corruption, bureaucracy and so on. And many of these problems are somehow connected. How to unwind?

The Ukrainian police used to have a lot of problems with quality, corruption, identity and status. The problems were too big to change and most of all they were all interconnected. It was not possible to just simply adjust some parts of the organisation. It was not possible to change a little. That would not have helped.

So they just started over again. Radically.

The former police department has totally been put aside.

And they created a new police force. New policemen, new uniforms, new organisation, new salaries, new cars.

The police force now is young, fit, friendly, and is about 40% women, and both men and women are beautiful, without exception. And the most important: they broke with the corruption and they really take action on criminality. The police gained a new look, but also a new status, and a new identity.

Maybe Mariupol needs a makeover like that as well. Radically and totally. Not just a small change and adjustment in the city. Mariupol has to take a big amount of steps, some of which can be painful. Mariupol must reinvent the identity of the town. Because somewhere underneath all problems, there is a real beauty hidden, we are overlooking right now.

→|



Shrinking city, growing city

Shrinking Mariupol

Mariupol is a shrinking industrial city.

The population in 1987 was 529.000. In 2015 it estimated around 350.000—400.000. The jobs in the steel factories were about 60.000 in 2004. Today they count around 25.000 steel-employees. It is not necessary to explain what this will do for salaries.

Prices of houses dropped. You can buy a nice apartment for 10.000 dollar. And in the outskirts of town it is even around 6.000 to 7.000. To rent a furnished house it costs around 120—150 dollar per month.

How to relate to this? People here tend to compare Mariupol with Detroit, where 40—50 years ago the social conflicts arose, the car industry collapsed and many people left. In big parts of town the houses had a value close to nothing. Many of them never really got sold, but just were taken down.

And there are some similarities between the two cities. Like the many empty buildings just around the

centre of town. Like the combination of a social conflict (racial or cultural) and economic major decline. Like the water of the Azov sea (39.000 km²) and the water of the Great Lake Erie (26.000 km²). And like the small grass root initiatives trying to make public space a little friendlier.

But Mariupol is a lot smaller than Detroit. Let's take a look at Eindhoven, the city of Philips. Or better...the city that used to be Philips. Just like Mariupol with Metinvest (the company that owns the different steel factories) the city of Eindhoven owes a lot of history and progress to Philips. And the company was everywhere. Philips used to take care of your house, your health care, summer holiday, cultural places and sport activities. Just like Metinvest does in Mariupol.



Respondents at interviews:

"The worst thing in Mariupol is the pollution. We must get rid of the steel plants."

"But I work in this factory. And so does your husband. It is our job, our money."



In the nineties Philips left Eindhoven and the city had to reinvent itself. Now, twenty years later, the city of Eindhoven is alive as never before, with many big and small technical companies, with design and art, with sport and health, and with a lot of different sized companies and initiating people in town.

Like Eindhoven reinvented itself, Mariupol can as well. At this moment it is hard to imagine. The people in Mariupol somehow got stuck in arguments when thinking of the future of the steel industry. How to imagine a life without the plants? Without Metinvest?

It is getting closer day by day. The production is getting less for years now, and the machinery is out-dated. And even though the Ukrainian wages are not high, the Chinese plants make a huge competition.

And growing Mariupol

To reduce the pollution might be painful for the already devaluating economy. But it is necessary to help the city grow as well. Not the growth of economy or population. But the growth of health, of welfare, of ecology, of nature.

All this growth will have a direct effect on the quality of life of the people in Mariupol. And this will help the growth of new economic possibilities again. In ecology, health care or tourism.

Konstantin Batoszky:

“For example, the big Azovmash factory stopped a year ago. Over ten thousand workers without work. They were not fired, but they do not get paid either. The plant just stopped working. The workers do not want to quit the jobs themselves, to get a small fee on social help. They believe to be part of the factory is better, even when you are not paid any more.”

The new economy in Mariupol should not be depending on one economic area only. That is far too vulnerable. More and different industries are necessary to keep this city alive in time. The world keeps on changing. So in some decades one industry might drop, The rest will keep the city alive. In another decade it will be the other way around.

So the old argument was: ‘Will it be any good for the steel industry?’

And the new argument is going to be: ‘Will it be any good for diversification of economy?’



Respondent at interviews:

“The steel factories are pretty much the reason this town exists. Now that the factories are doing worse and worse, what does it mean for the existence of Mariupol?”



There are no excuses any more. The steel plants must make an enormous jump into clean technology and filters. No more dumping all waste into air, water or soil.

We must not be afraid to look at the existing steel factories and the influence of the plants for other potential industries. Shrinking can make a difference.

This is not a message to close all plants. But real changes must be made. Changes in waste control. In filters. In safety. And in new and clean technology and machinery. →|

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And the new argument is going to be: 'Will it be any good for diversification of economy?'

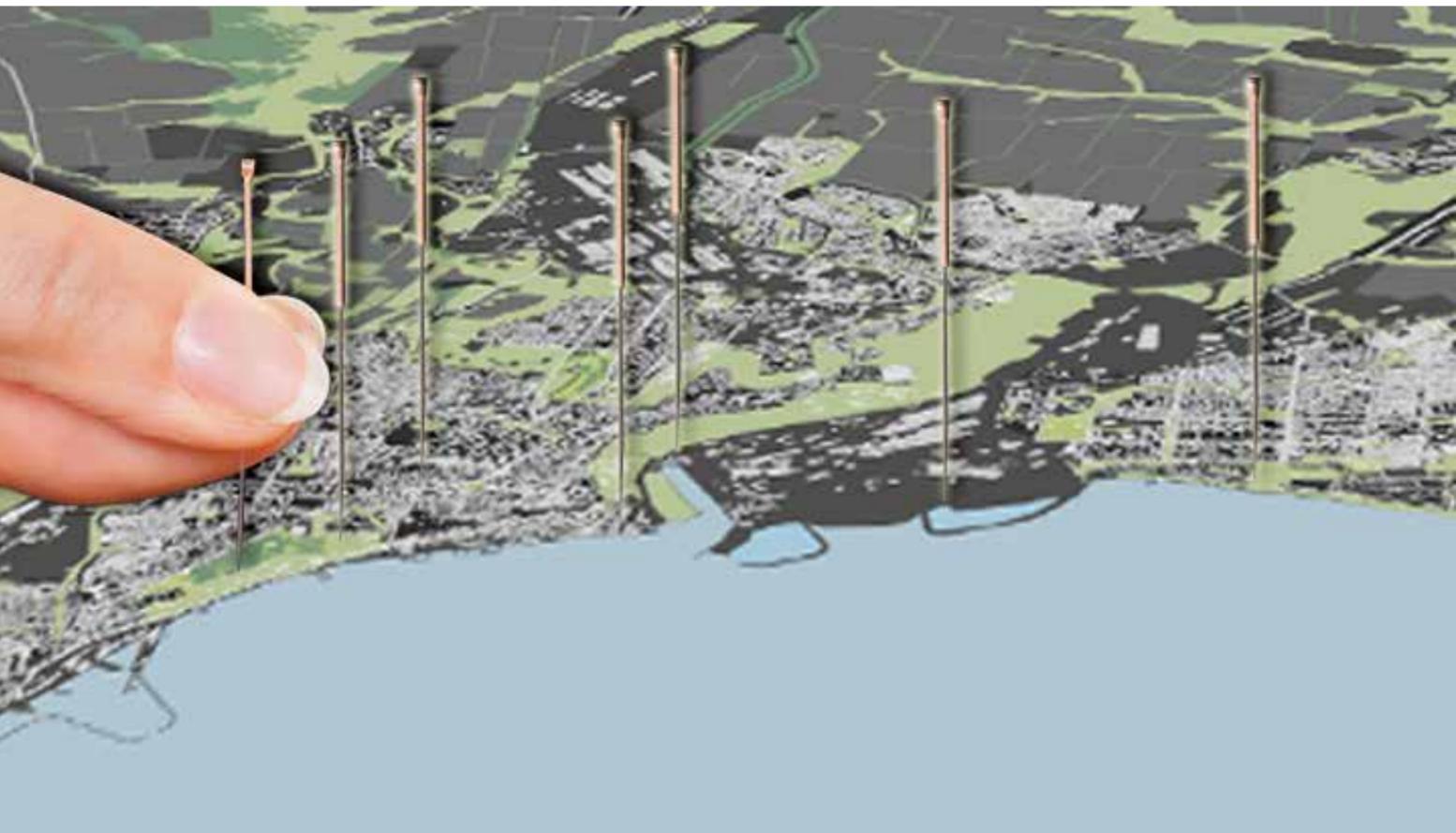


Oleg Drozdov, architect born in Mariupol:

"All history is based on construction sites and plants. For this kind of cities the urban structure is based upon product manufacturing, not the interaction between individuals and groups of people."



Urban acupuncture



The ambition is to do small interventions that will improve the quality of life during the conflict period, but which also connected to the future strategy for this city, after the conflict has ended.

Interview with Fulco Treffers

Can you explain what urban acupuncture is?

“When you put a small needle on the right spot in a nerve of a human body, a bigger part of the body will get healed or relaxed. In very short, this is called acupuncture.

You can also use this technique in a city. When you make a small intervention in town, you can influence a bigger area. Find the right nerve and right spot.”

Can you give us an example?

“Once I made two small interventions in a neighbourhood in the Netherlands.

One intervention was to make a small community house on the most negative spot in the neighbourhood, which also was the entrance of the area. Everybody disliked this place before. It was dirty, dark and creepy and many women did not want to go there alone at night. Since the community house was built the place was lively, light and a hotspot in the area.

The other intervention was a very small square with parking

places, driveways, playground and some trees. Everything was there but it did not fit. I took away one small part of the driveways. The playground became almost twice as big and became greener as well. And extra was the fact that even the driving speed slowed down. The place was more beautiful, and the area around was a lot safer.”

Does that work on the scale of a city as well?

“Well...maybe you will need to have more needles. But yes, I think you can change the city with small interventions, at the right place and time.”

Time?

“Yes, I think time is very important in urban acupuncture. There are two ways of looking at the effect of an intervention. One way is to look at the effect on the spot, and the space around it. How does it improve? Where is development? The other way is to look at the changes in time. What can be the effect of the intervention in time? Some interventions will sort out a big effect only years later.”

Is this what you are suggesting for Mariupol?

“It is the main strategy for urban planning in this conflict period: small interventions with big effects. It is no use of thinking at this moment in big interventions, like infrastructural or architectural statements. The investments are too high, and there would be a reasonable risk of not being able to finish or use it. But putting small needles in the body of the city is a lot cheaper, and will sort effect now and hopefully in the future too.

The ambition is to do small interventions that will improve the quality of life during the conflict period, but which also connected to the future strategy for this city, after the conflict has ended.”

And how do these needles look like?

“They appear in different forms and actions. One needle can be like art in public space. One needle can be a program of lectures. One can be a special reconstruction of a damaged building.

↘



I talked to many people in Mariupol. I heard dreams about the far future. But I heard comments on the existing look and feel of the city as well. I think it is possible to make some interventions, objects and programs that will improve live now, but that can also make

an easier jump to the future. For example, there are many refugees in Mariupol right now. Together with some (ex-) soldiers there are quite a few traumas. When you can start a program with a specialised team of psychologists it will help the life of many people now. But in the long turn Mariupol can grow into a good place for longer psychological help. A town like this can develop into a very nice place for sanatoriums or other health centres."

And where do you think the interventions in Mariupol should take place?

At first I thought the interventions should take place along the main streets in the city centre, like Lenin Avenue. But the better I got to know the city I saw people using other areas in a much different and more interesting way.

I think the most interesting area to look at is the area along the coast and the green areas around the river.

The coast has a lot of potential. Already the beach is the informal 'long stretched city centre'. And the green areas could develop to be beautiful places for peace and rest, in the geographical centre of town, close to all residential areas.

Along the coast and in near the river there are no formal political signs in architecture, monuments or statues, like on Lenin Av. It is the quality of land combined with the quality of life. I think these are the most natural places to look at interventions.



Symbolic Violence

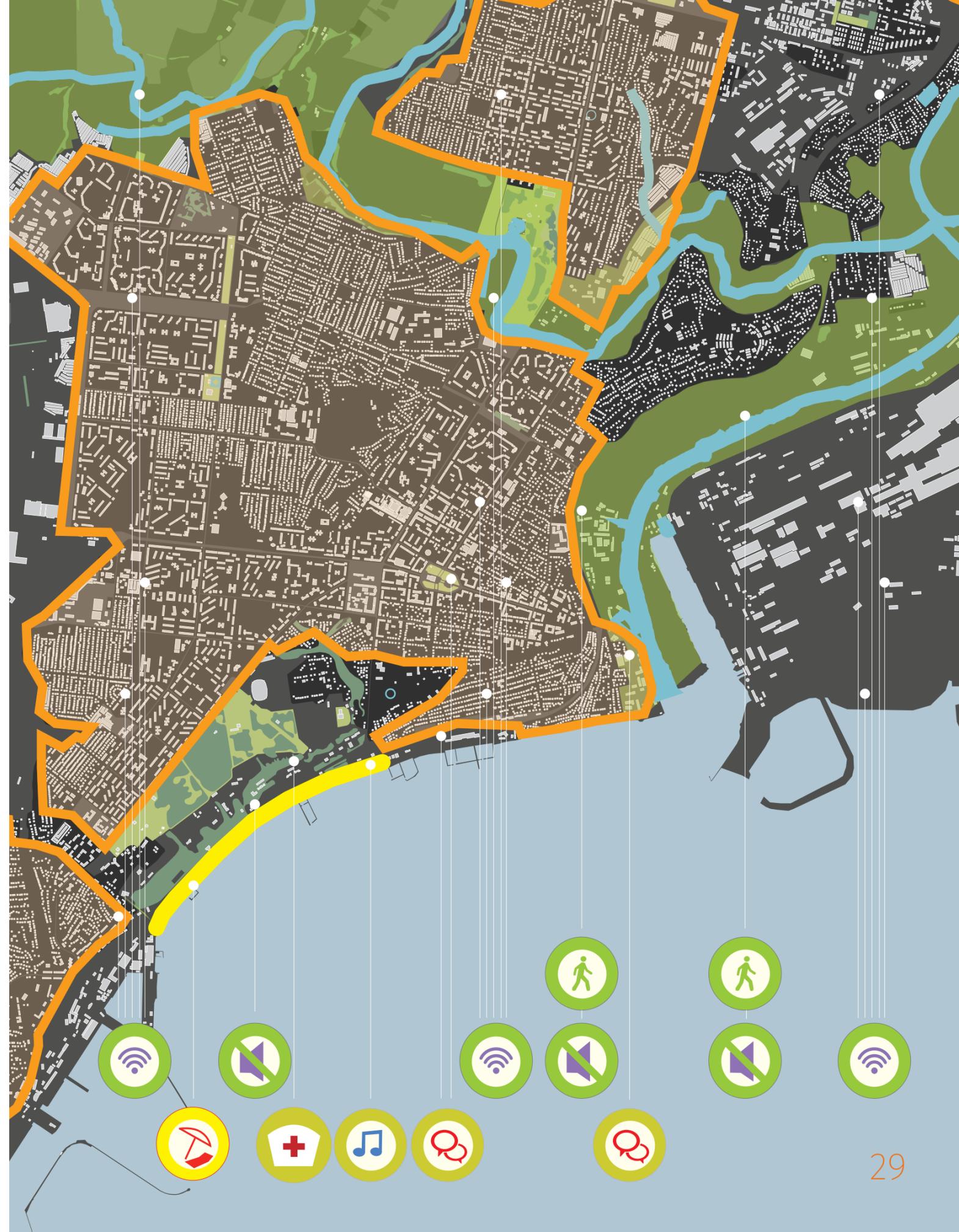
Brigitte Piquard, professor at Oxford Brookes University, worked in several conflict zones such as in Colombia and the Palestinian city Hebron. She is researcher and lecturer on the topic of Symbolic Violence.

Symbolic violence is defined as a "soft, insensible, form of violence, exercised mainly by purely symbolic channels of communication and knowledge" (Pierre Bourdieu).

When there are acts of symbolic violence it is justifying the existence of injustice, marginalisation, exclusion, domination and discrimination through a process of normalization.

Her research made clear that it is possible to reducing the impact of symbolic violence. The nine main ingredients for this are: education, home attachment, activism, livelihoods, environment, community cohesion, connection, art & communication, and moments of exception.

Read more about this on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre_Bourdieu



Spaces of silence

Acupuncture 1



There are weeks and months you can hear the sound of war every day and night. This will get under your skin. People need places to hear nothing but silence. To experience peace. To withdraw. To rest.

The areas around the river are a perfect place to just withdraw a little. All residential areas are close to it, and it is big enough to really be alone.

Around here, and around the sea, two or three broken down buildings can be renovated as places of real silence.

Imagine this restaurant where no sound is heard. Where no one speaks. No music. No sound from outside. Just silence and service.

Long term spin-off:

- Renovating of abandoned buildings.
- Infrastructure waking paths in nature area near the river.





Sustainable city

The future of the future

We are living now. Here. Today. But we can see today is coming to an end. And today will become yesterday. And it will become tomorrow. Next month. Next year.

It is not easy, but how can we make tomorrow better than today?

The urban strategy for Mariupol is, according to the Dutch company 12N, the strategy of designing the future of the future. Which is by no means futuristic. It is future-driven.

Following the theory of Cradle to Cradle. 12N developed a future driven way of thinking for the city of Mariupol.

Sustainable Mariupol

... has an economy that is based on a diversity of businesses.

... and is therefor not dependent on one industry, attracting for different groups, for technical and social oriented youngsters, without a monopoly on space and budget.

The future main Mariupol businesses:

- **clean tech**
i.e. IT, civil engineering, clean steel production
- **tourism**
pioneer tourism to eco and beach tourism (>5-10y)
- **trade**
regional agricultural goods and steel
- **education**
in these subjects

Wikipedia:

Cradle to Cradle design (also referred to as Cradle to Cradle, C2C, cradle 2 cradle, or regenerative design) is a biomimetic approach to the design of products and systems. It models human industry on nature's processes viewing materials as nutrients circulating in healthy, safe metabolisms. It suggests that industry must protect and enrich ecosystems and nature's biological metabolism while also maintaining a safe, productive technical metabolism for the high-quality use and circulation of organic and technical nutrients.

Put simply, it is a holistic economic, industrial and social framework that seeks to create systems that are not only efficient but also essentially waste free.

The model in its broadest sense is not limited to industrial design and manufacturing; it can be applied to many aspects of human civilization such as urban environments, buildings, economics and social systems.

Sustainable Mariupol

... has industry and lifestyle that do not pollute air, water and soil.

... and therefor will increase bio-diversity, decrease health problems and diseases, and change the identity of the city

Sustainable Mariupol

... has an involved and active civil society

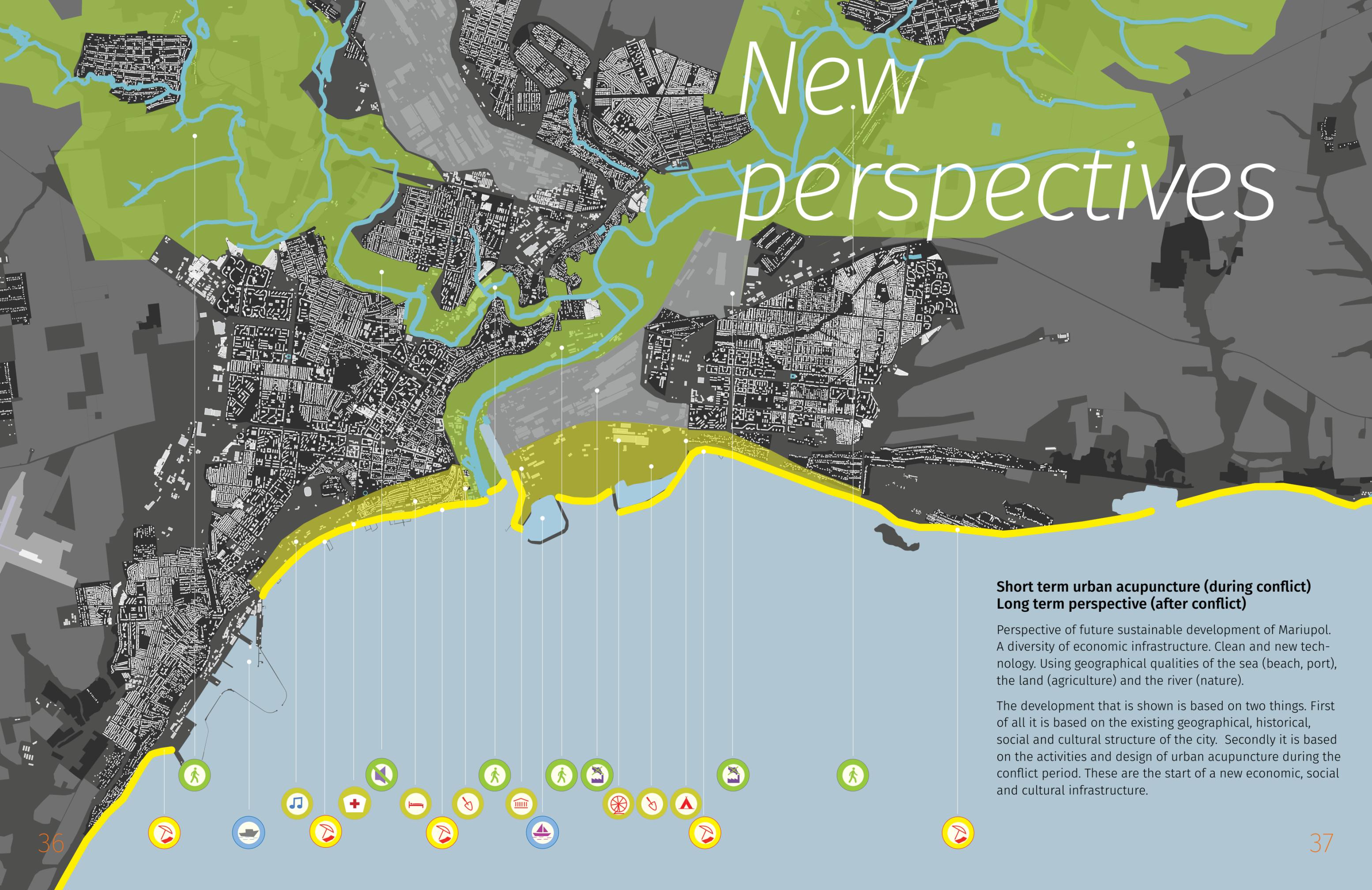
... working together with a governmental system of participation and transparency, promoting dialogue, embracing grass root initiatives and

Sustainable Mariupol

... is connected to the specific culture, history and the (end-less) sources in the region

... and is therefor rooted in the region with social and economical activities, connecting water and land, and east and west.

New perspectives



Short term urban acupuncture (during conflict) Long term perspective (after conflict)

Perspective of future sustainable development of Mariupol. A diversity of economic infrastructure. Clean and new technology. Using geographical qualities of the sea (beach, port), the land (agriculture) and the river (nature).

The development that is shown is based on two things. First of all it is based on the existing geographical, historical, social and cultural structure of the city. Secondly it is based on the activities and design of urban acupuncture during the conflict period. These are the start of a new economic, social and cultural infrastructure.





pictures: Anna Balázs



street
interviews

Atlas of abundance



During his second stay in Mariupol Fulco Treffers had small interviews with 51 different people he met on the street. The participants were asked about what they like the best about Mariupol and what they like the worst.

First of all, most of the people really wanted to join the survey, to help with the research. Only eighteen respondents said not to be willing to talk, because they were busy doing other things, or they just did not want to. The response rate was $51/69 = 74\%$. Some of them explicitly told they were positively surprised we were asking people in the street what they wanted.

People were shown a piece of paper with a 22 different pictures and names of the picture. This was called the atlas of abundance. This atlas showed many different aspects of the abundance of Mariupol.

To join the survey was easy. Everybody got three red and three green stickers. The red ones had to be placed on the most negative aspects: what should Mariupol be without in five years? And the green

stickers marked the most positive ones: what should be kept and improved for the future?

About the negative aspects people thought pretty much equally. "Pollution" was right at the top (chosen by 88% of the respondents), closely followed by "broken down buildings" (66%). Those two were by far the most important. People prefer rebuilding the old buildings properly rather than making new ones.





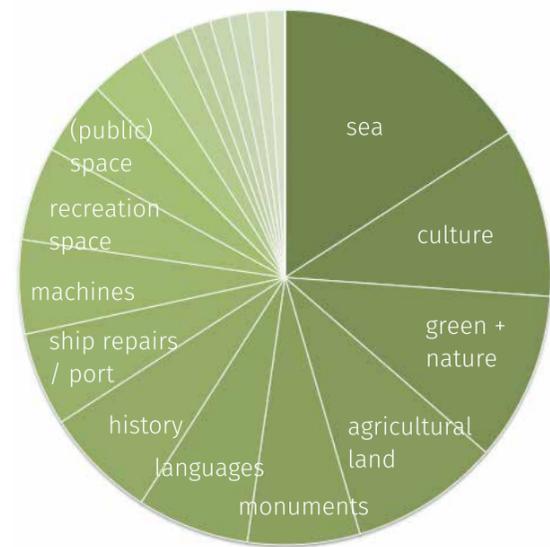
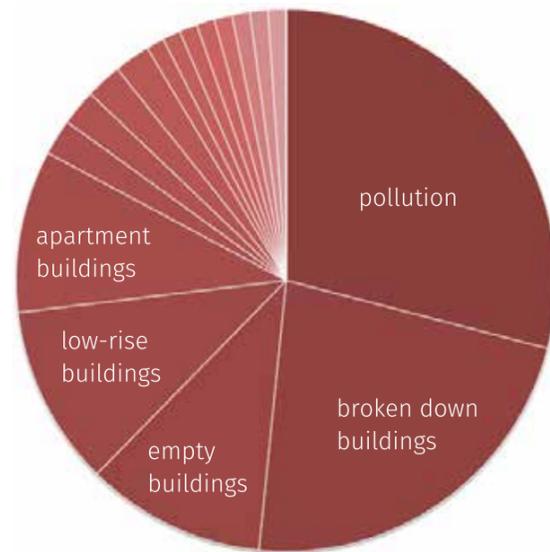
The sub top was formed by “empty buildings” (31%), “low-rise buildings” (31%) and “apartment buildings”. All the other aspects were not marked very important, with only 6% or less.

So looking at the negative aspects it is pretty clear what people want to be changed. The positive aspects were much more diverse. That can be explained as ‘not agreeing on it’, but it can also be explained as ‘a lot of different positive solutions’.

The “sea” (44%) was the winner, followed by “culture” (28%), “education” (28%) and “green+nature” (25%). Another group followed with different economical and cultural aspects.

“Craftsmanship”, “civil engineering” and “engineers” were scoring the lowest categories (0-5%). This technical knowledge is not something people can relate positive to the future, although the “steel industry” (9%) and “ship repairing” (13%) scored a little better.

Some people really started discussing among each other about the town and their future. Some of course just responded to the question we had. This cannot be taken as an scientifically proved quantitative survey. But all in all these interviews gave a nice impression of the people’s choices. →|



“We should do everything to keep the youth here, in this town. We must provide them sports, culture and bars.”

“I work at the steel plants. These are very important.”

“The sea is so beautiful. But also so very dirty...”

“The collapsed and broken down buildings show me how bad things are right now, every day again.”





People mix party mix

Acupuncture 2



Soldiers. Refugees. Widows. Broken families. Separated friends. Not an easy to live in. So once every now and then you must deflate. Relax. Party.

Not by drinking a lot of beer at your doorstep. But by having a festival or concert with a special program. In the research field of symbolic violence it is called 'moments of exception'.

Imagine this yearly festival. A festival with the best DJ's from the country and abroad. We will use the train track along the beach. Trains with music, dancing and art. The wagons go up and down. You can walk along with your favourite DJ, or wait for the next one to come.

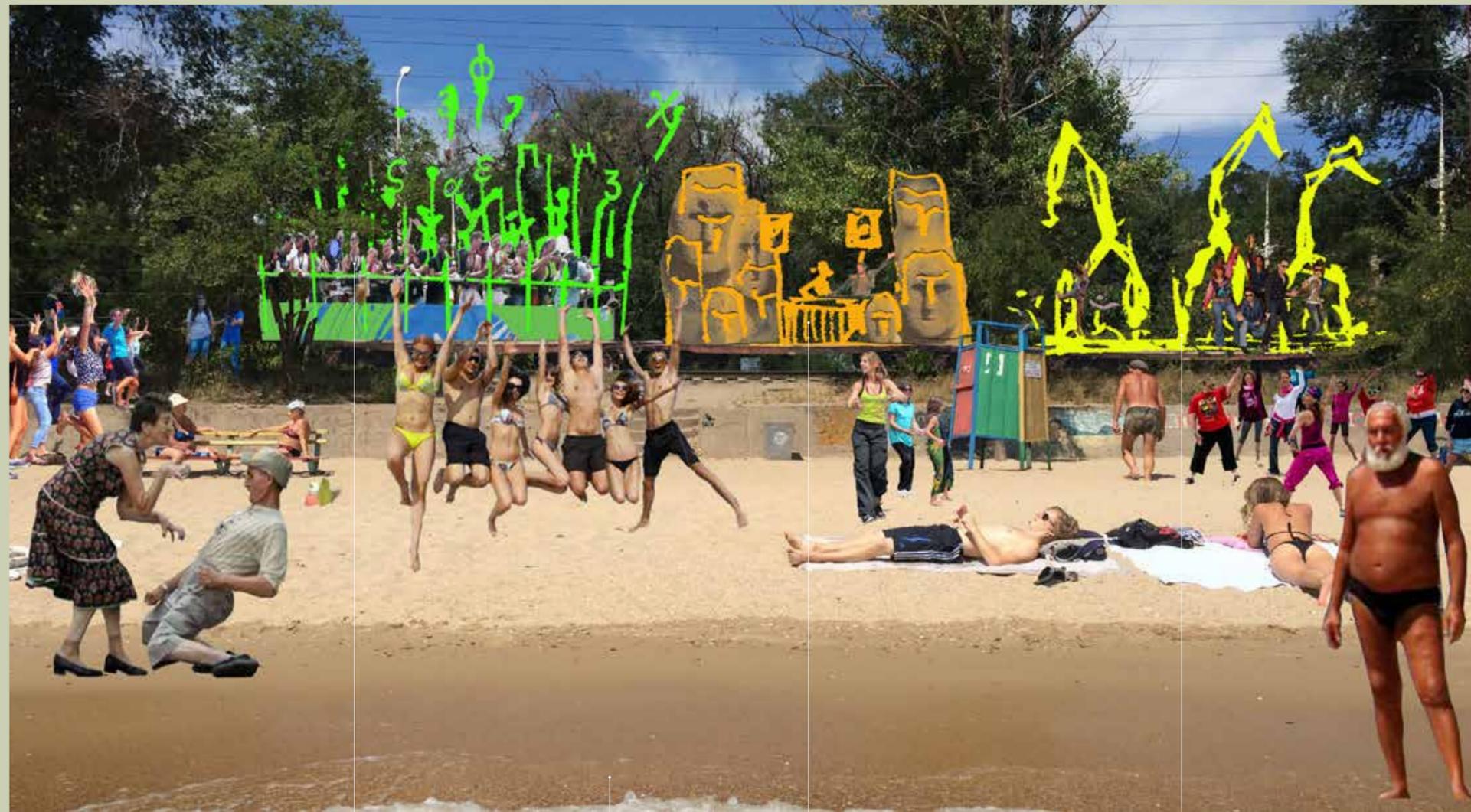
The moving festival wagons symbolize the often-forced movements of people. When people move they take their background, their heritage, their culture with them. Regional elements make the stages, to symbolise the move: 2D steel cut cranes, language

scripts, sun flowers, babushka's and plants are placed upon the wagons.

This is the day to be especially proud of the Mariupol. Today is the day to celebrate this diversity of the region. And meanwhile take a swim in the sea, without missing anything!

Long term spin-off:

- Start of a dialogue about diversification of people, i.e. refugees, IDP's, backgrounds.
- Tradition of culture and music.
- Specified area of informal city life.



dancers between art work representing the different cultural backgrounds, cultures and languages

Azov Sea

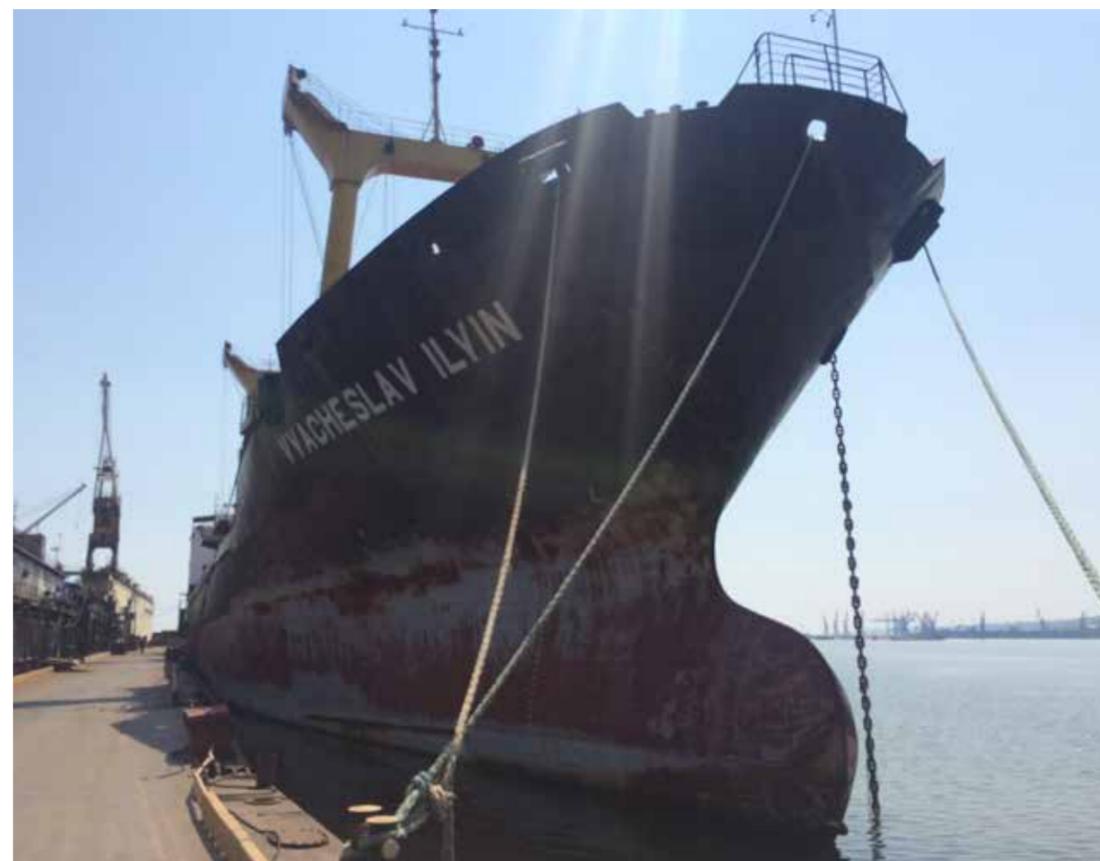
The DJ between art work representing the ancient history of the region

dancers between art work representing the industry, the port and the trade



People mix party mix





Pioneer tourism

Mariupol has all it takes. A long white sand beach. The shallow sea. A port. Nature and village life around. And a very rich old history.

But it is all covered. Covered with war. Covered with dust, literally. Covered with shame maybe? Covered with low self-esteem?

Imagine this.

No, not imagine yet. First of all there must be a plan to free the city of the cover of dust and dirt. This is necessary for the Mariupol inhabitants, but also to seduce the investors and pioneer entrepreneurs in tourism.

But don't wait for the clean air! Imagine. Because this period of times other tourists will come. Imagine the freedom of exploring!

Let's name it. Let's frame it. Mariupol Pioneer Tourism.

Pioneer tourism is adventure tourism in both industrial and natural areas.

You can bungee jump from a high chimney <http://vk.com/club86150879> and go cross cycling around the coast. Bring the existing pioneers together and make a strategy. And just start. You can do the best parcours you can imagine. New youtube videos will go viral and attract more youngsters. There are big empty left alone industrial areas to explore for photographers who don't want to catch a lion or a bear, but want to catch a first sunlight on the steel.

Eventually archaeologist camps can be developed to find more relicts of 5000 (!) years ago. This can be exhibited which gains interest of all countries around the Azov Sea and Black Sea.



Respondent at interviews:

"I do not understand why we don't develop tourism any better?"

Ruhrgebiet

The pain they feel in Mariupol is the pain of the shrinking and polluting industry we have seen in many European cities. For example in Germany in the Ruhrgebiet. The area of eleven industrial cities with 5 million inhabitants used to be the dirtiest part of Western Europe. Many of the mines closed. And a great deal of the factories closed its doors.

After decades a new strategy of the area was developed, and new investing started. In years these places changed into major leisure districts, cultural institutes, festival grounds, museums, and outdoor sports facilities and parks.

Ever thought of diving in a former gas tank filled with water? Want to go climbing in the former cooling baths? Like to go cycling around for 19th century industrial buildings? Visit <http://www.ruhr-tourismus.de/en/> and get inspired.



And every year a few more people will start a new hostel, bed and breakfast, or a camping site. Step by step the lower area around the railway station will develop. Step by step the tourist activities can take over.

And there will be a point when industry has become cleaner (and maybe smaller in size), and when nature has really gained back territory. This is the moment that people will really see the potential of beach tourism again. And the next generation might even come to Mariupol for its health. →|



playground

street
dance

sky
dive

bmx
race

rooftop
restaurant

3d
labyrinth

bungee
jump

open air
cinema

free
climb

hotel

fair

street
dance

parcours





Segmented city

Mariupol was founded in the 18th century. It was granted city rights in 1778. It was a small settlement near the river Kalmious and the sea. In the beginning of the 20th century Mariupol was approximately as big as the now existing city centre. Since 1931 the city started to make rapid changes into a large industrial city. The residential districts were designed to house the enormous amount of workers that had been asked or forced to come to work in the steel factories. Each district functioned like a small city of its own, together with the neighbouring plants.

The development of both the 'old' city and the residential areas was programmed by very specific (socialistic) design principles. The city lacks organic growth. The most spontaneous developments take

place in the areas with low rise building, where small changes are made at individual sites.

Therefore the main segments the city has been built on are still visible in the city landscape. In some parts of the city the districts may have grown together a little bit, but most of the districts still have very clear structure as it was designed. The river, the slopes and the sea are the natural boundaries. These natural boundaries were not designed. They do not have a political meaning. They are neutral.

Inside these clear residential areas the city can develop. Outside these areas nature can develop. The shrinking (population) and growing (health, welfare, ecology) city as a logical combination.



Door to dialogue

Acupuncture 3



How difficult it is to talk.
How much harder it is to listen.
The conversation has been reduced to a minimum.

The 'Door to dialogue' is both a design concept as an organisation. The design is a long table that can be placed almost everywhere inside or outside. The table consists of modular elements that makes winding path in space. In between the tables there is place for small platforms or podiums. These will be used for one of the many cultural programs: talks, movies, debates, etcetera.

The organisation must be formed yet. Maybe existing local humanitarian organisation (both professional and voluntary) can be part of it. Let's learn from other cities in the east, like Kramatorsk and Slovyansk. They just opened freshly new platforms, with help from volunteers from all around Ukraine.

Long term spin-off:

- Start of a dialogue about diversification of people, i.e. refugees, IDP's, backgrounds.
- Better understanding of position and background.
- A social cultural organisation as part of the cultural infrastructure in town.



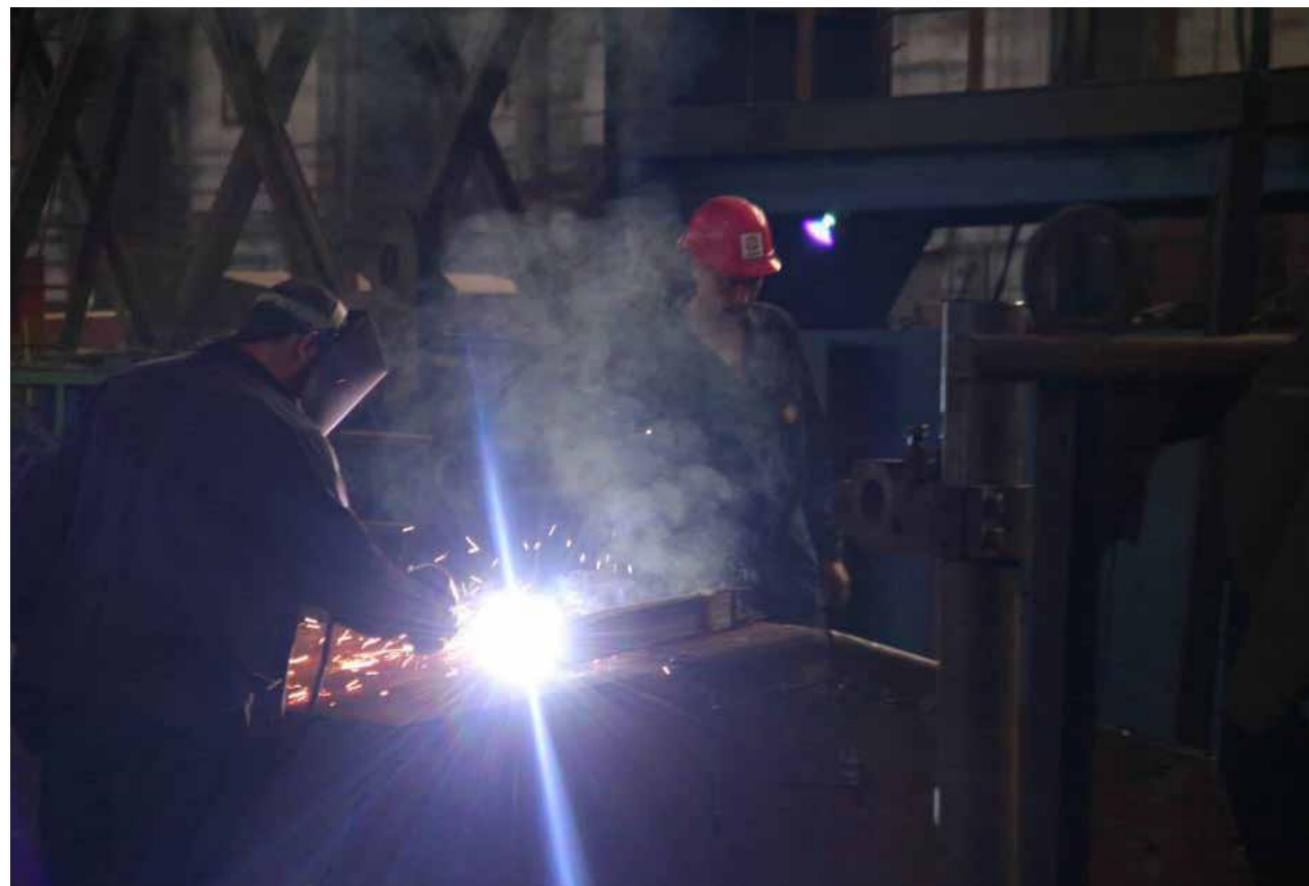
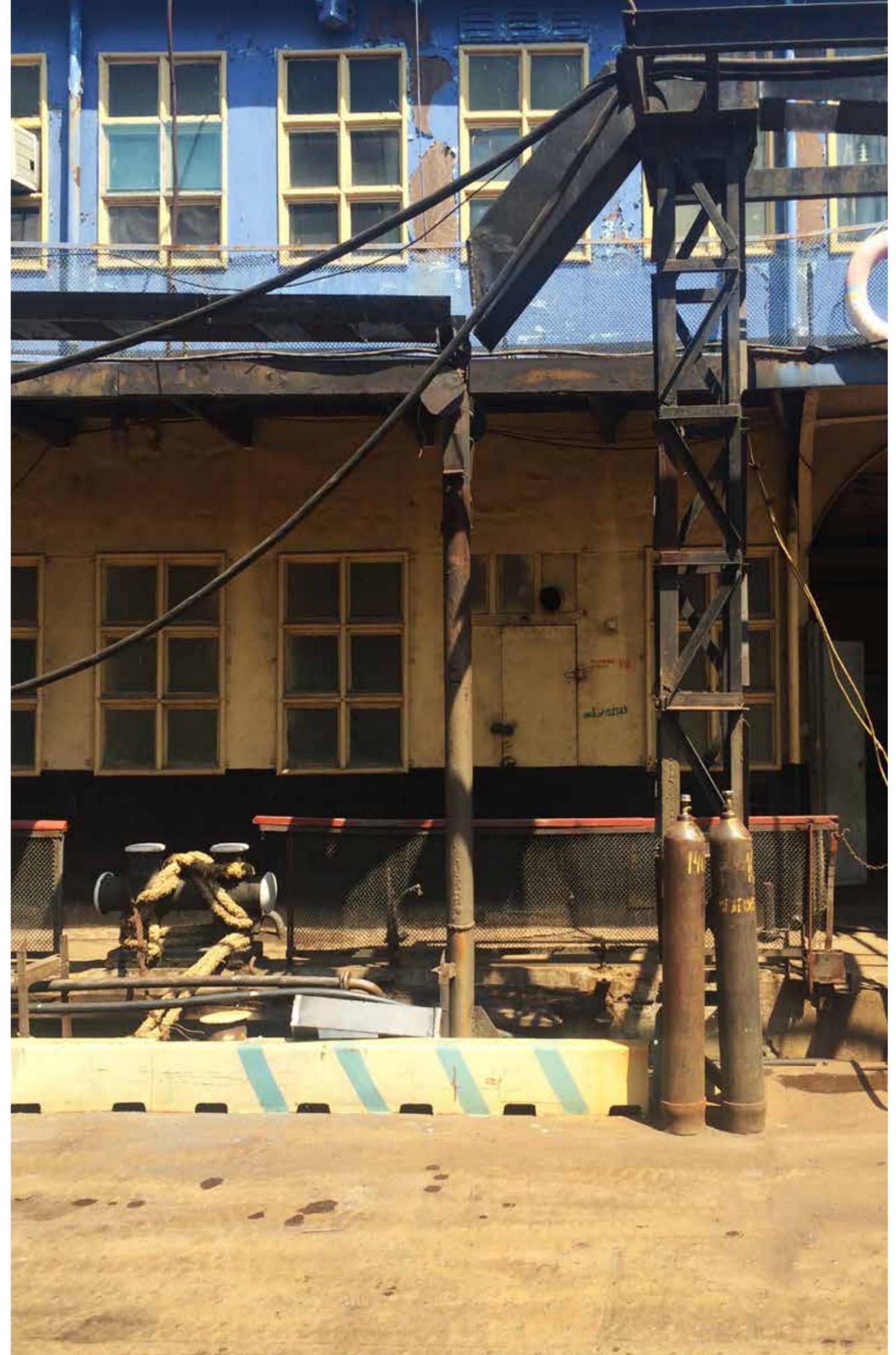
A story as many others about the influence of propaganda on normal life conversation:

"My parents are overwhelmed by Russian propaganda, who is in charge of all the television channels in Donetsk. For us this is a really big issue. They are academically educated and so are their friends. And still they believe

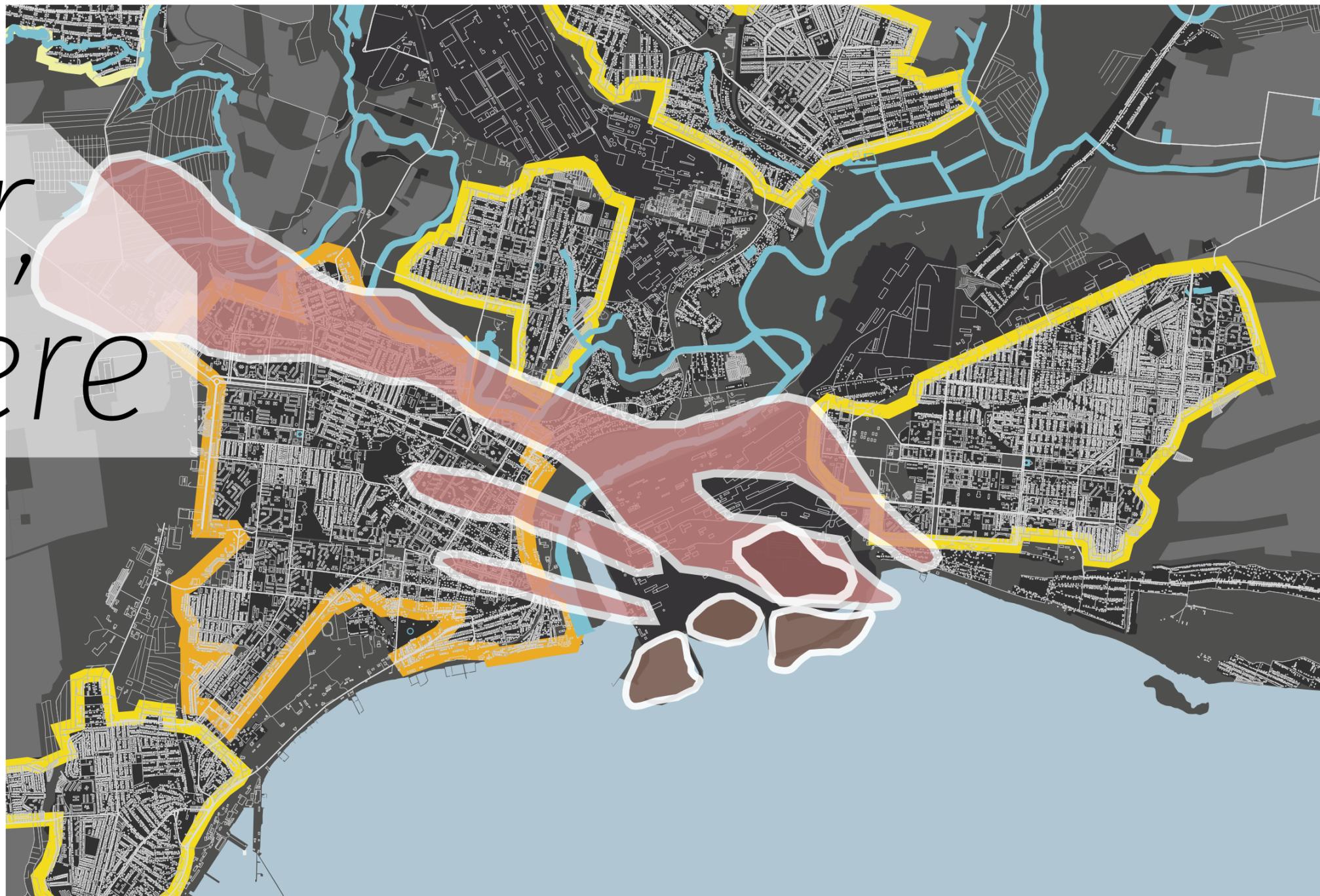
the propaganda that says that for example Kiev is the poorest city in the world, under pressure of the government. There are no medicines in the pharmacies. The stores are empty. As they say. Therefore I sent them pictures of Kiev, of the quality of life, of the opportunities. A major city that functions fully.

They do not believe the pictures I sent them. They believe the television better than their own son. We really were arguing a lot about that. It is now a forbidden topic. I cannot talk about the conflict with my parents any more..."





It's in the air...
...the soil,
the water,
everywhere



The air pollution in Mariupol is measured as high and has a negatively influence on the people's health. Dust, nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde and Benzopyrene, exceeded the limits the most.

The soil and water measurements have not been done properly (scientifically) but first measurement in part of town have given similar negative results.

Masterplan Clean Air for Mariupol –
15.01.2015

Dr. O. Bens, GFZ Potsdam and Dr. T. Fischer,
BTU Cottbus - Senftenberg



This is probably the most polluted terrace ever. I can see the green between the railway tracks, and the red factory buildings of Azov Steel. The terrace is full of special types that yell at each other from table to table. There are stray dogs and plastic cans of beer.

A boy runs around with a big toy gun. An old man with a beard wears a captain's head. Fake.

Inside the bar it's empty. A tap and a counter for gum, ice creams and glorix cleaner.

The air is thick and filthy.

Column





'Most of all we need new ideas and awareness'

Of all the people we meet in Mariupol, Konstantin Batoszky is probably the most specific about his political view. As a political advisor he is right in the centre of the pro-Ukrainian / pro-European team. He is mostly interested in the results of the Izolyatsia project on Mariupol, and meets us more than once.

"This summer residency is a good example of new governance. International qualified specialists reflect

on our city. We get new ideas and inspiration. This maybe marks a new beginning. No introvert city planning by the government administration. No top-down planning any more. More field and street research. More public debate. More public involvement. And transparency in choices and consequences."

Konstantin Batoszky sees opportunities for Mariupol all around. About industry, agriculture, government, name it.

"There is a lack of dreams in this town. People do not have vision according their own life. Except for drinking beer and watching television of course.

But the people in Mariupol are raised with the fact they were not asked, or even wanted, to think themselves about the future. The system, the party, would know what was the best. The people only needed to do it. In the western part of Ukraine there are much more SME's. In Mariupol and

interview Konstantin Batoszky

other parts of the east almost everything was initiated, organised and controlled by the state. And now the new era asks for self-awareness, and thinking. You cannot blame them this does not come easily."

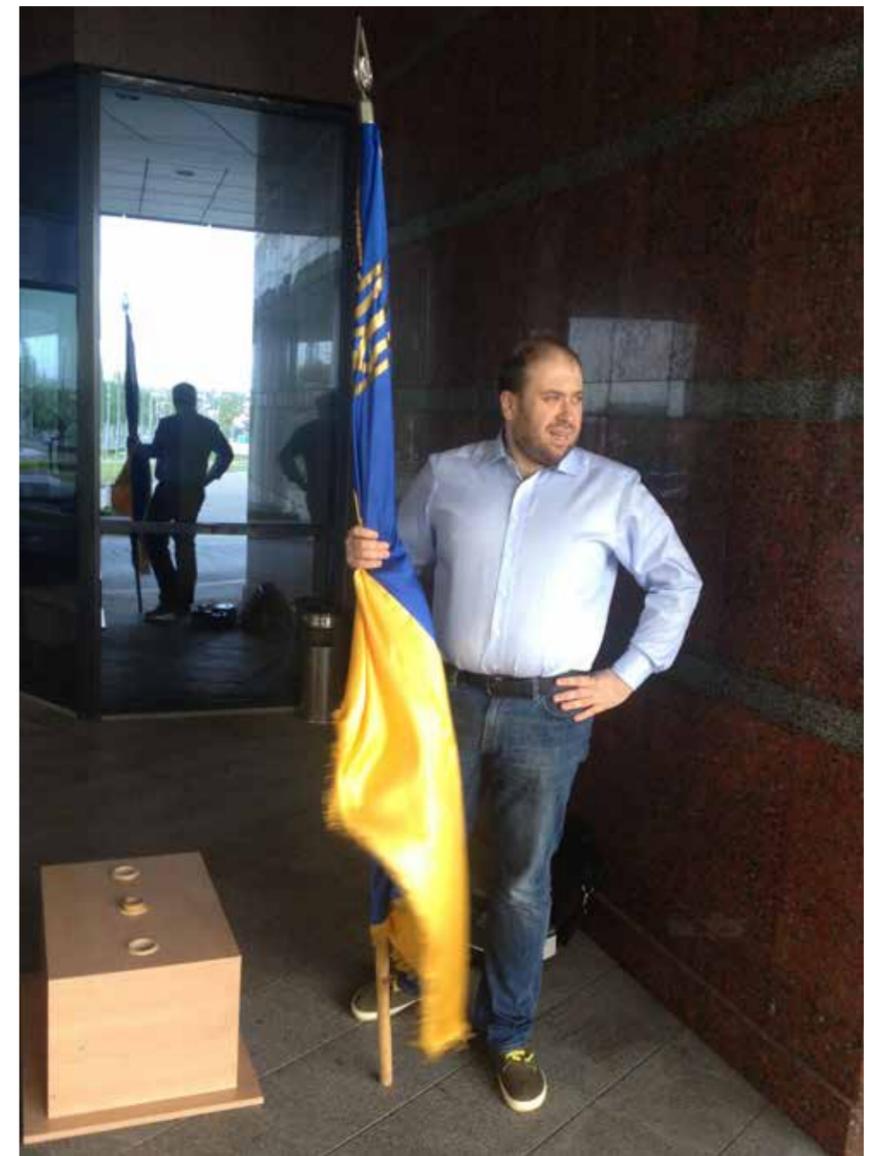
You would think Konstantin Batoszky is a pessimist. But he is not, he says.

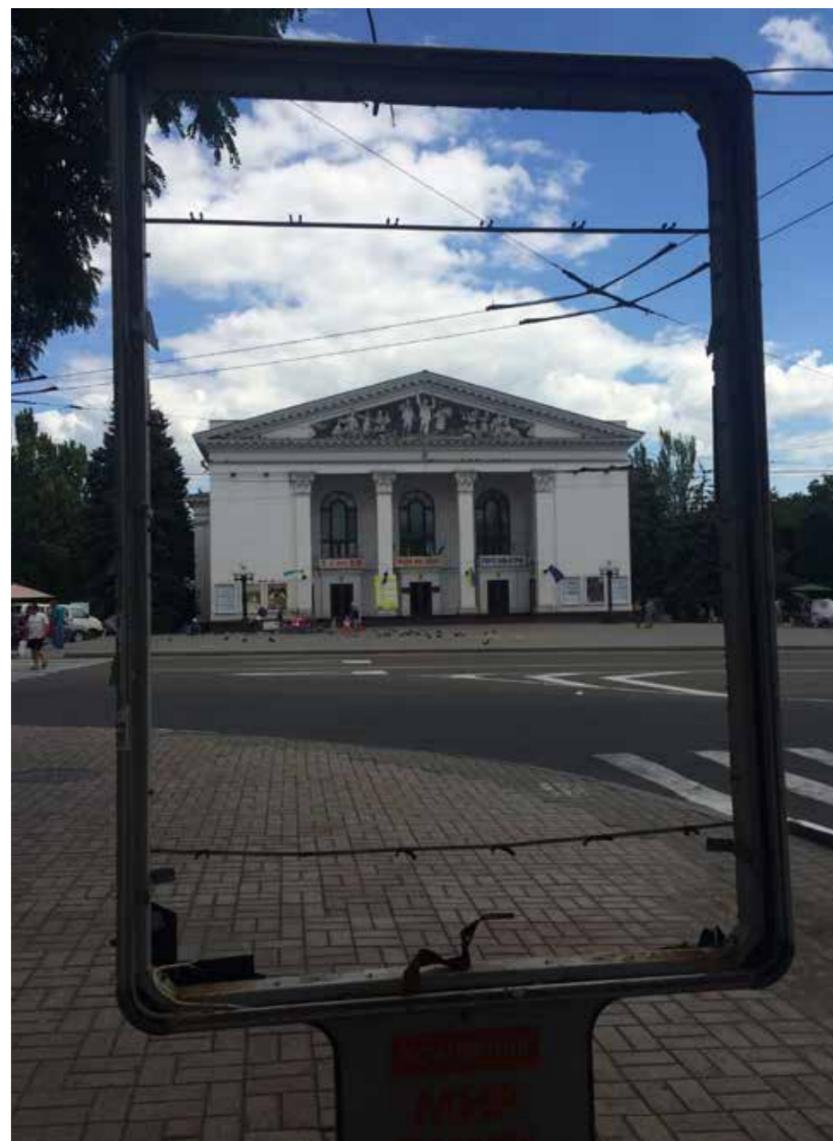
"Maybe this sounds really depressed. But I am not pessimistic. There is also a group of people with a lot of potential. People who love Mariupol, who will not leave, who have their own ideas. I think the civil society as I see for example in several volunteering groups is organised much better than politics. We can find new energy and quality there!"

About the chances of changing Mariupol, and role of the oligarchs in this changes he is hopeful as well.

"Mariupol definitely will change. The oligarchs are having real problems now, because they are really dependent on Ukraine as a country and less of Russia and other

countries. Since Ukraine is not getting out of its depression they see their income shrinking. So they must do something. They must invest. They must change policy. They must work together, also with the government. And I really think they will."





Trauma team

Acupuncture 4

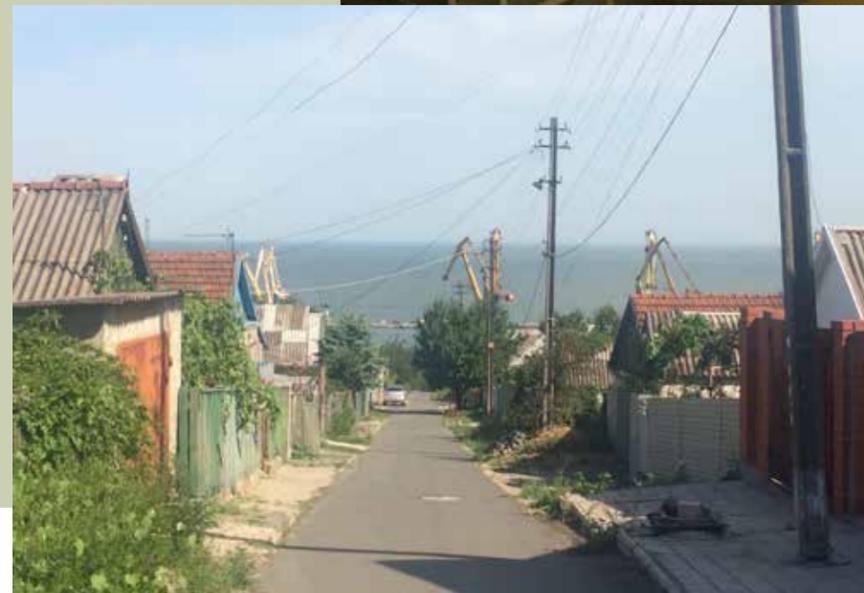


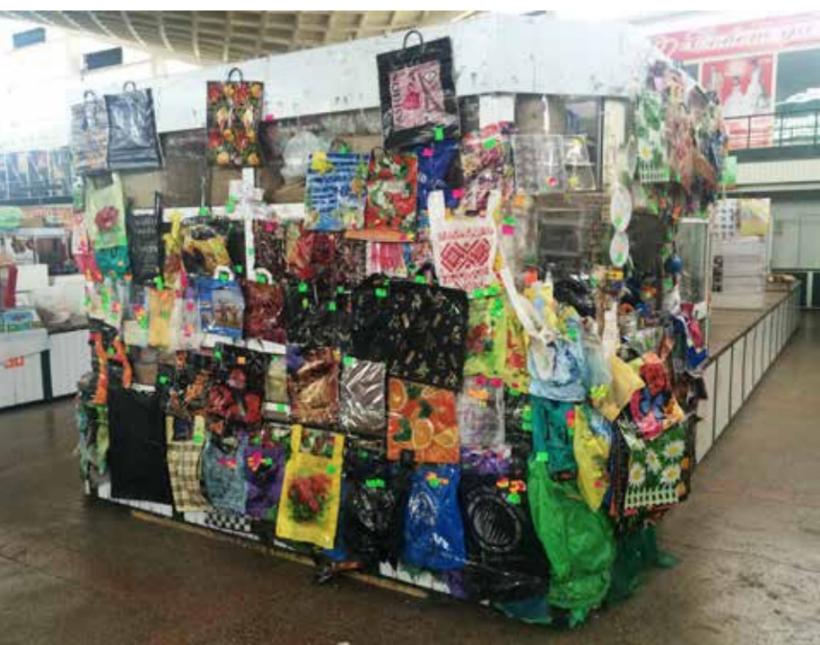
A lot of psychological help is needed. The refugees, soldiers, ex-soldiers, widows, children, they all are in need of help. Specialized in war-trauma. There is not much to design. Just to organize, and finance... A former sanatorium can be reopened again.

This is typically a project that can be organised on national level, by the government in Kiev.

Long term spin-off:

- Psychological help as one of the new 'businesses' in Mariupol and region
- Reuse of some abandoned buildings, for example closed hospitals or sanatoriums





Borderland

Ukraine literally means borderland. Land at the border.

For ages the Ukrainian area was in the middle of all conflicts of the major Eastern European clashes: Poland-Lithuania, Russia, Hapsburg Empire and Ottoman Empire. Not to forget about the period of WWII and the USSR.

And the thing you know about borders all around the world: they always tend to move a little during time. So when the name of the country means 'borderland' you can probably guess this land has probably been part of both sides of the line. And therefor there will be different truths from those different sides.

But knowing that does not make it any easier to deal with it. Because knowing this is your history, what does that tell you about your future?

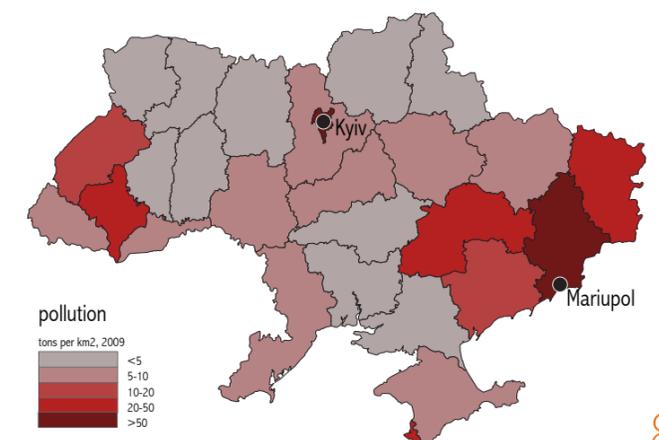
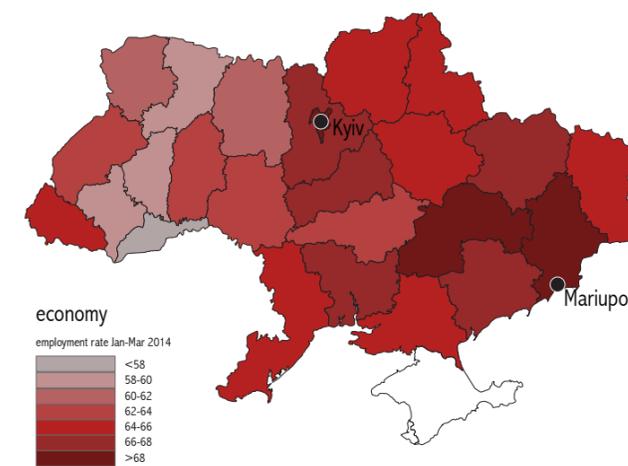
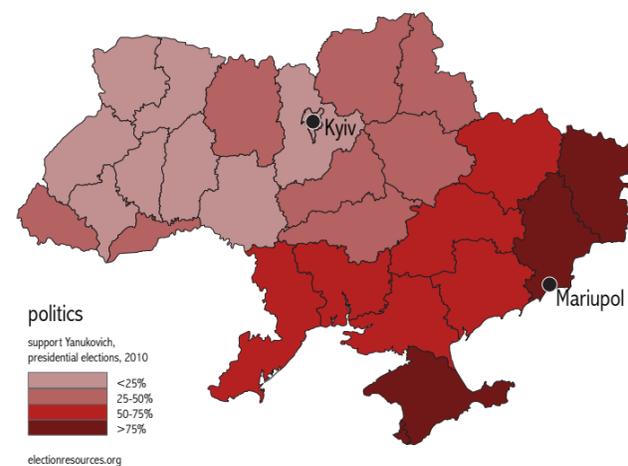
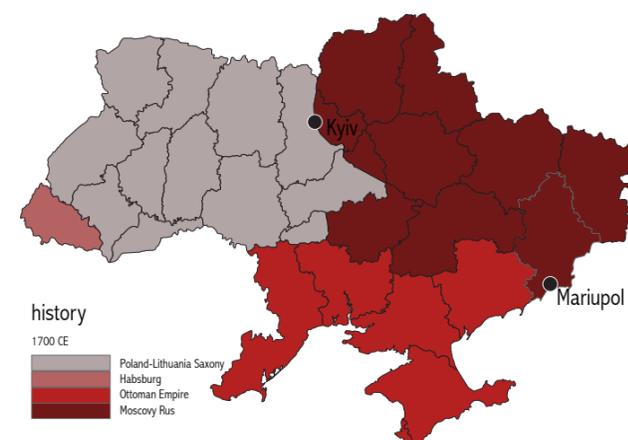
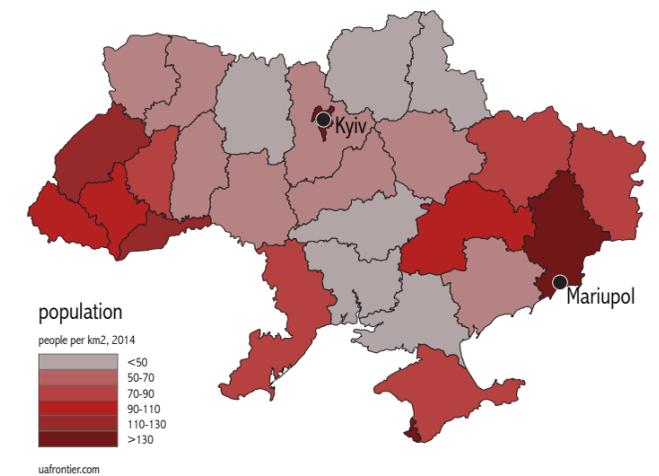
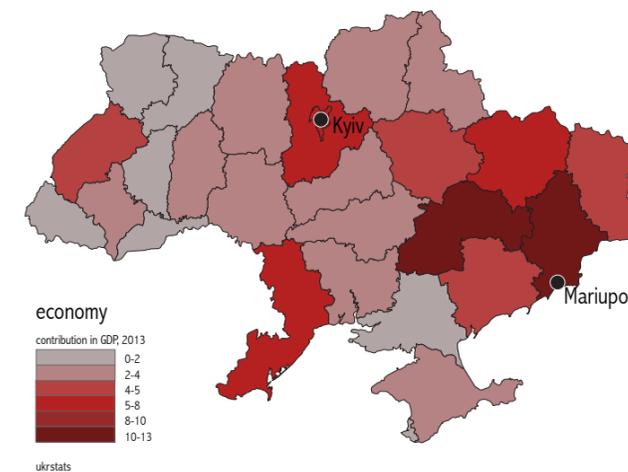
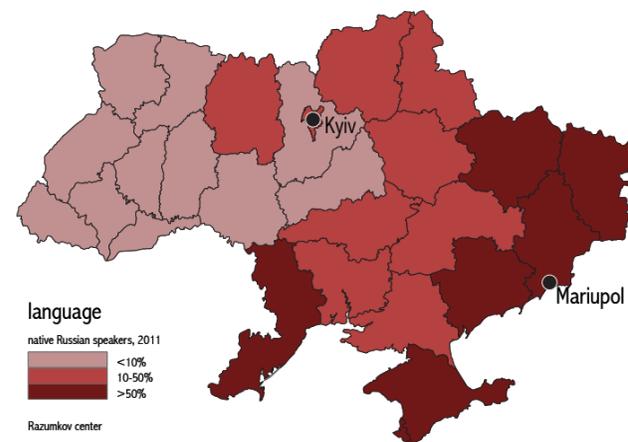
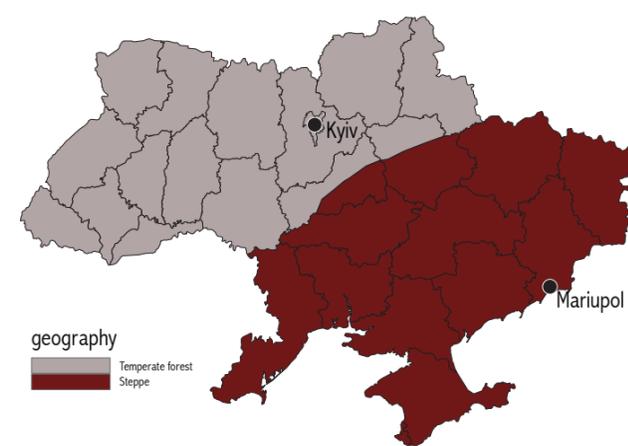
Column: You must choose

"I was never really interested in it, but now I have to choose between Europe and Russia."

Not a single conversation in Ukraine is not about politics, the war, the future. But it's different for all how to choose which side they are.

Some know precisely where they stand. Others have the feeling they have to follow suit in all conversations. They have to make a point all the time. Nuances are not appreciated.

Most of the people around the Izolyatsia project do know it: pro-Ukrainian, which means pro-European. But some people do not want to choose because they see major disadvantages at both sides. And there is a small group of people that do see chances in both directions. Pragmatic or cowardice? Or realism?



Moving cities

What is a city? Buildings and streets? Piled bricks? Asphalt? Trees? Or the people who live there? And their activities? Or maybe history?

Since the separatists have taken over a part of Ukraine a massive movement of people has happened. Donetsk for example was a real university city with several big old universities. Since the occupation they simply went away, to among others Vinnytsia and Krasnoarmiysk. Hospitals have been evacuated, both patient and personnel. Soccer teams have been replaced to the other side of the country. And almost all art institutes have moved to Kiev, forced and unforced.

When you live in a place for maybe three or six months you are a visitor. You won't take or even unpack everything, because you will go back. But when time is passing by, you will make new roots, and new connections or relationships. And that is what is happening now with all this social and cultural organisations as well. And it is questionable if they will ever return, even if the war would be over in a few months.

Moving people

Ukraine has a history of moving people. In many cities the population changed so fast, and with it the social and cultural habits. Many families have been split up. Very often the kids do not grow up in the same region as their grandparents did. Moving people, moving roots.

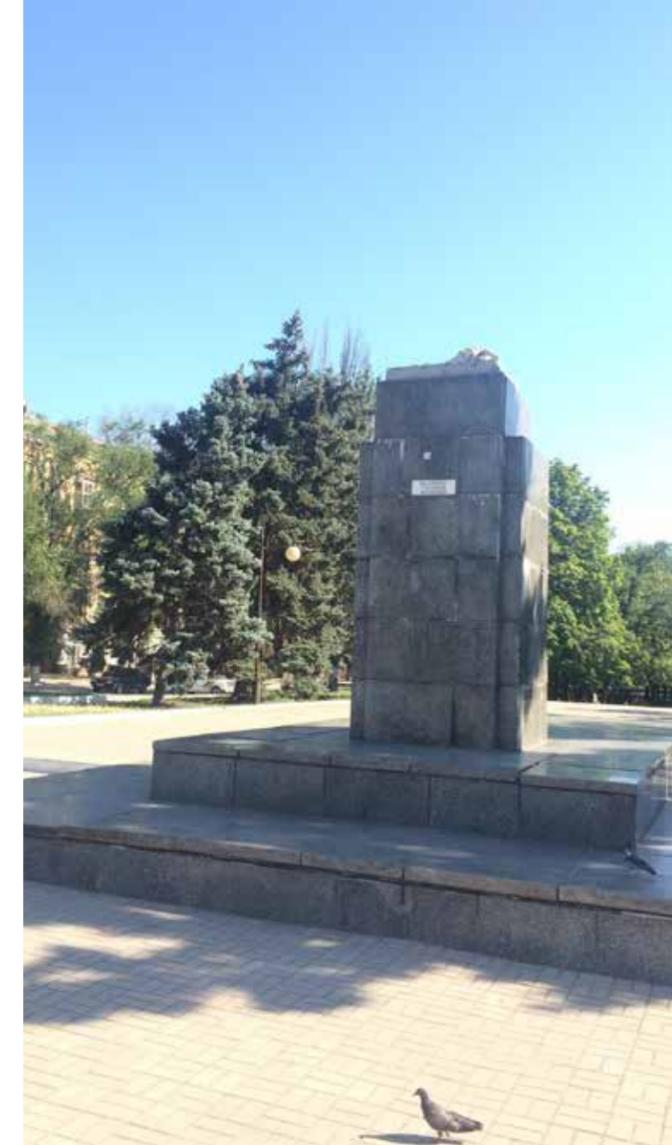
Also during the existing conflict period we see a lot of forced emigration (refugees), or forced internal displaced people (IDP's), mostly from the east, some from Crimea. The estimations: at least 1.4 million IDPs in Ukraine as of July 2015.

Just a grab of some figures:

- 1945 — 1948** 800.000 Polish were forced to leave Ukrainian territory
- 500.000 Ukrainians left Poland to go live in Soviet-Ukrainian
- 1947** 150.000 Ukrainians were forced to move from to parts of Germany
- 1998-2008** 2,5 — 3 million people left Ukraine to find a job elsewhere.
- 2015** 1,4 million IDP's

Cultural platform Izolyatsia has been banned by the separatists of 'Donetsk People Republic' from their beautiful factory complex in Donetsk. Interesting detail: in the beginning when they were chased away to Kiev, Izolyatsia said they were 'in exile'.

About one year later they changed their position to 'being nomadic'. And Izolyatsia is not the only organisation who reacts like that. The cities are moving a few hundred kilometres. The organisations move. Some people move with it. And so the city moves.





'Don't stop now. Keep on moving!'

I met Sasha Protyah a couple of times in Mariupol. Sasha is a filmmaker, who also earns money teaching English. He showed me around the district he lives. Close to his place the major shelling took place in January 2015. Some of his friends lived in the buildings that were hit. He came to help just after the bombing, with food, clothes, whatever. Sasha has seen some of the effects of the war.

By pure coincidence, we were in the same train and even the same wagon on our way from Mariupol to Kiev. On that trip I ask him about the influence of the fighting for the development of Mariupol.

SP: Of course there is a major influence in the city. Houses got hit. People got killed. Many moved to other cities and others came to Mariupol. The social structures have changed, but Mariupol life still goes on. And it is not only about the war.

But will anybody invest in infrastructure or economic development here now? This is one of the most unstable cities in the world.

SP: I think we are figuring out now what the conflict really is like. If it is going to stay. How it is going to stay. What position we take in it. That takes some time. But in the mean time, please do not stop thinking about our future and possibilities.

How?

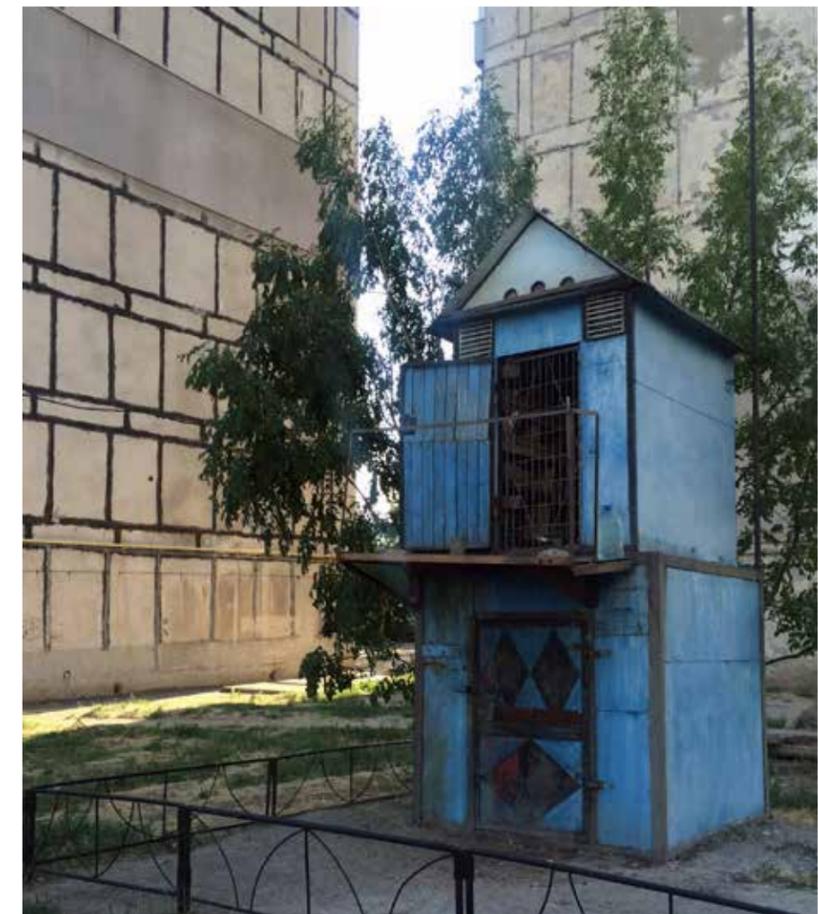
SP: I think there are still a lot of possibilities. Just look at some major conflict areas in the world. I recently had an evening of brainstorming with a friend about this. We could easily name ten areas that have bigger and at least longer conflicts than we do now, but have positive economic developments anyway. For example Cyprus, where the political issues were simply frozen and the country has been split for decades, but it didn't stop the southern part of the island from becoming a financial hub and a popular tourist destination. Or Lebanon. Although the country doesn't seem to be prosperous and completely secure, its economy and infrastructure anyway don't look

Interview with Sasha Protyah about a conflict zone in development

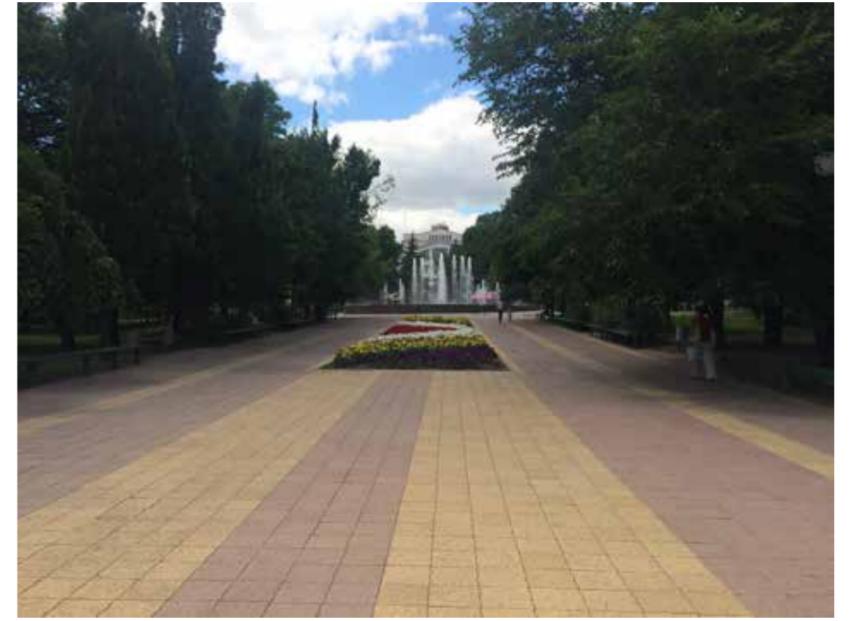
abandoned. Or Georgia, in which the president Saakashvili and his supporters managed to bring the country out of stagnation and corruption despite the fact that a quarter of Georgia is occupied and there is a high chance that the war conflict will resume. Not to mention Colombia, with huge areas under guerrillas' control for decades and Basque country, which has always been one of the most developed region in Spain despite frequent terrorist attacks in the past. By the way, Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao was built in 1997, and the permanent ceasefire was declared by ETA only in 2006. All these examples are not exact patterns for the future of Mariupol and Ukraine. They just help to think more clearly and, I would say, more imaginatively. Mariupol has been living under threat for more than a year and probably will for another year or even longer but it doesn't mean collapse for the city. Maybe Mariupol will become a new West Berlin on the border between two worlds, who knows.

You talk about it as if you say: 'okay guys, we know we have some problems, but move on!'

SP: Yes, more or less. We will have to. The military and humanitarian strategies are very important. But that should not be all. Therefore I am very happy that Izolyatsia is making this cultural project in Mariupol. And I hope we will keep investing into this city. It is so much worth it.



From formal to informal spaces

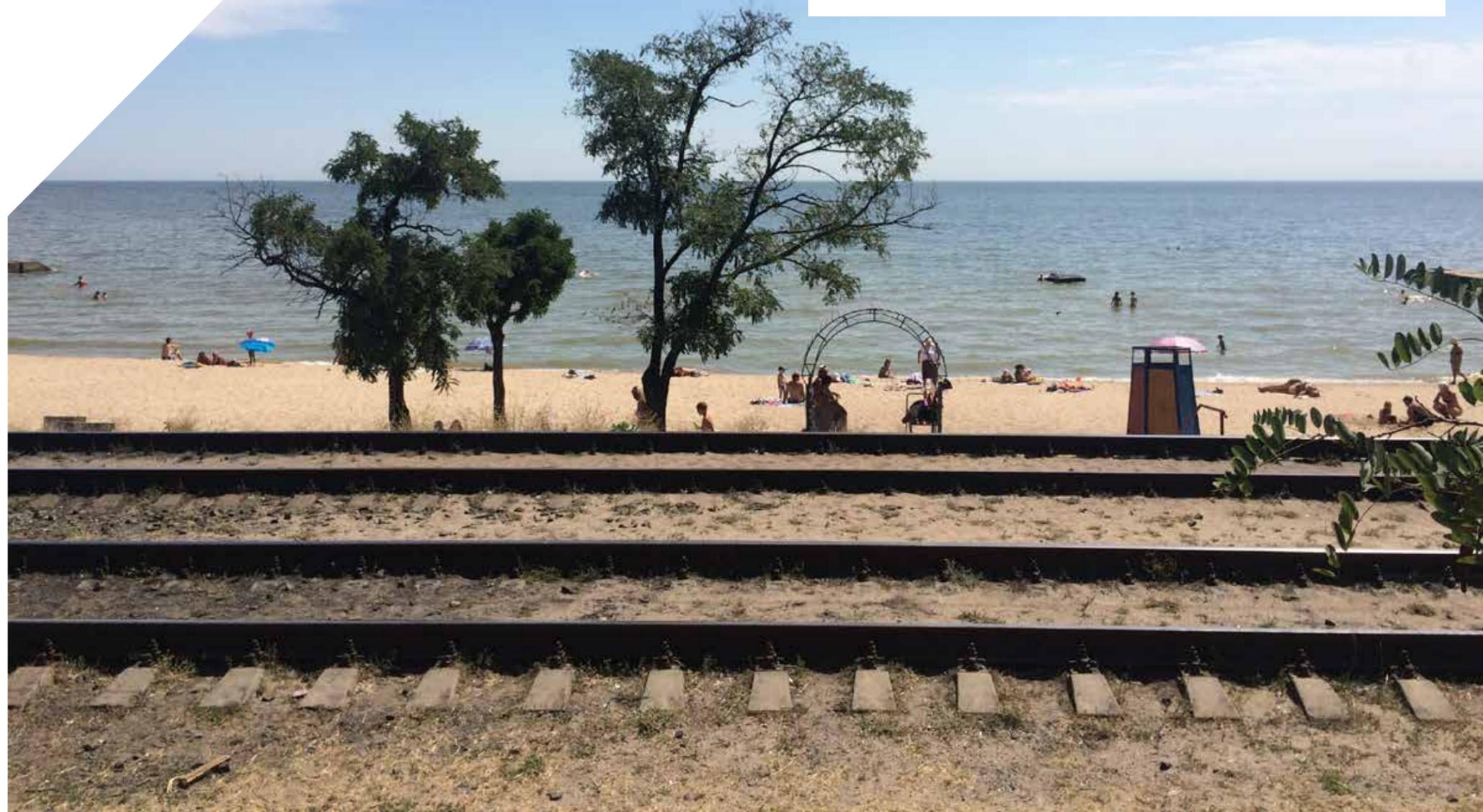


Everything is design. For example public space. In Soviet times every square, every garden, every street was designed with a political meaning. A symbol of power. Or a socialist theory. Or the name of the street or the town. Everything was politics. And therefore very formal.

Maybe it would be good to change public space into a more informal area. Just to be. To see. To meet. Among people. Not among higher theories and political statement.

The 'not designed areas' are the ones that are geographically defined. The slopes, the river, the sea. Informal places.

From	To
<i>Political</i>	<i>Personal</i>
<i>To impress</i>	<i>To embrace</i>
<i>Orthogonally</i>	<i>Organically</i>
<i>In the middle</i>	<i>Around</i>
<i>Serious</i>	<i>Humour</i>
<i>For the people</i>	<i>With the people</i>
<i>XXL scale</i>	<i>Human scale</i>



IT and New Media



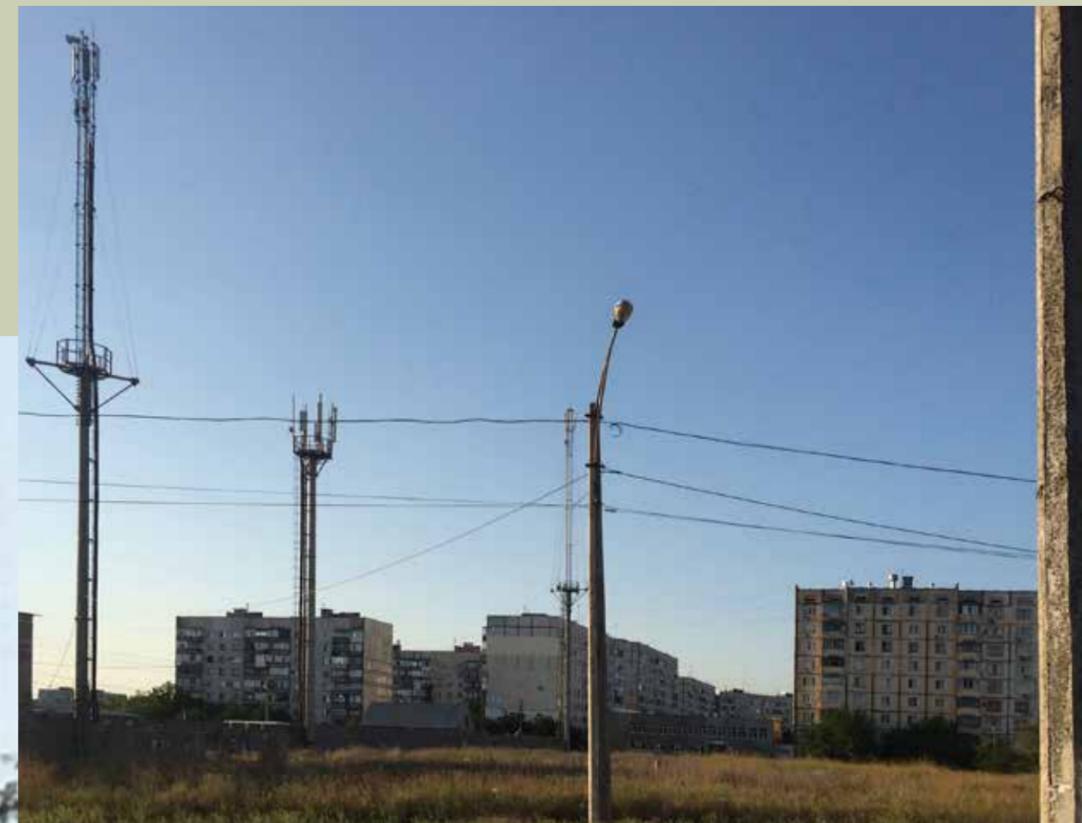
Since the conflict started the distance between Mariupol and Kiev grew. The road to Donetsk is cut off by the new borders. For example the direct train from and to Mariupol takes over 20 hours now. And Moscow and Crimea are even a bigger problem to reach.

The way to stay in touch with the world is via internet. New technologies can make Mariupol be closer to Kiev as well. So investing should be made, as acupuncture during the conflict, in Wifi, in IT technology and in trainings for computer use.

The good thing about IT development is the possibility for new media and bottom-up journalism. High quality and fast wifi all around town as a big move forward for the city, and as new identity.

Long term spin-off:

- IT is clean technology, in which technical orientated workers in the existing industries can eventually go working.
- IT Training for a wide group of people can employ young educated people, and can help elderly residents in Mariupol
- New journalism can make a difference in showing the identity of Mariupol
- New media and new job possibilities



Live streaming

During the protests at Maidan the actual and fast news became very important. Internet was much faster than television. Several websites showed online informa-

tion and live streaming of the protests. Two of these sites became a huge success. Also a lot of the Ukrainians that live abroad (ao Europa, Russia, United States) were constantly updated that way.

After the protest the demand for these independent bottom-up media kept on growing. Private investing made it happen that both of the websites now have their own tv-channel.

'Any great undertaking starts with some small actions'

You live and work in Kharkov. What is your relationship with Mariupol?

"It's part of my family history. There was this young engineer from St. Petersburg who was commissioned to support the industrial development of Mariupol in early 1930s. At the same time, my future Ukrain-

ian grandmother became a victim of the dispossessions of the kulaks, who were relatively well-off peasants. After her father's arrest, she was sent, like a slave, to do backbreaking work on one of the building sites of Mariupol. One day, my grandfather, under whose command she was working, saw her slave's toil and decided to help her. He initiated

a fake marriage, because her health and life were under threat. By this procedure, she got her freedom and, in time, asked my grandfather to become her real husband."

Are you optimistic about the city?

"Mariupol is a city of prisoners, engineers and mobilized proletariat from other places.

Interview with Kharkov Architect Oleg Drozdov

All history is based on construction sites and plants, whose building was motivated by the state for its own reasons.

For this kind of cities the urban structure is based upon product manufacturing, not the interaction between individuals and groups of people, let alone business initiatives."

"So no, I am not optimistic. I am beyond optimism, which is not pessimistic."

Do you see any developments?

"It is too early to speak about the "sprouts" of new qualitative movements, as they require two interdependent processes: bottom-up (the emergence of civil society) and top-down (new methods of managing the city, the region, and the entire country). I can see these kinds of small changes in Kharkov, but Mariupol this is in the very very beginning maybe only."

It is necessary to understand that education is an essential element of the economy. It is time to stage an old play in a new setting, where education would be main axial pivot, while the city would be once again conceived as a place of exchanging ideas, goods and technologies."

"But of course: any great undertaking starts with some small actions: small projects, research, etcetera. Any well thought-out intervention, however small it might be, can trigger big changes and move everything from the dead point."

How did you advise the residents to look at Mariupol?

"First of all with an open mind. Without limits. Just look and see.

But I hope, no I think it is time to see the city as it really is. I see the official city and how it was designed in the soviet period still being 'holy'. But there is another city that has not been designed. It is really there, like it is in Kharkov and many other Ukrainian cities. This is the real city that is alive much more. So please bring the official city and the real city together, connecting the "forgotten" territories to the showy "media" city."

What are the most important things to take care of in Mariupol?

"Education is the pivotal point of sustainable development. However, the intellectual potential of the city is running low with every day coming. So far, Mariupol, alongside with the entire country, lives off the recourses, accumulated in the past. However, these resources are not limitless. It is high time to realize that no serious transformation is possible without changing the system of education, which has lately chosen quantity to the detriment of quality despite the dramatic demographic decline in the country."





Underground History

Mariupol goes back to 3000 Before Christ. An old cemetery map is exhibited in the Historical Museum in Mariupol. During this ancient period in time there seems to have been a settlement. Back then it was a strategic location as well, right at the see, with fruitful ground, and a stop between east and west.

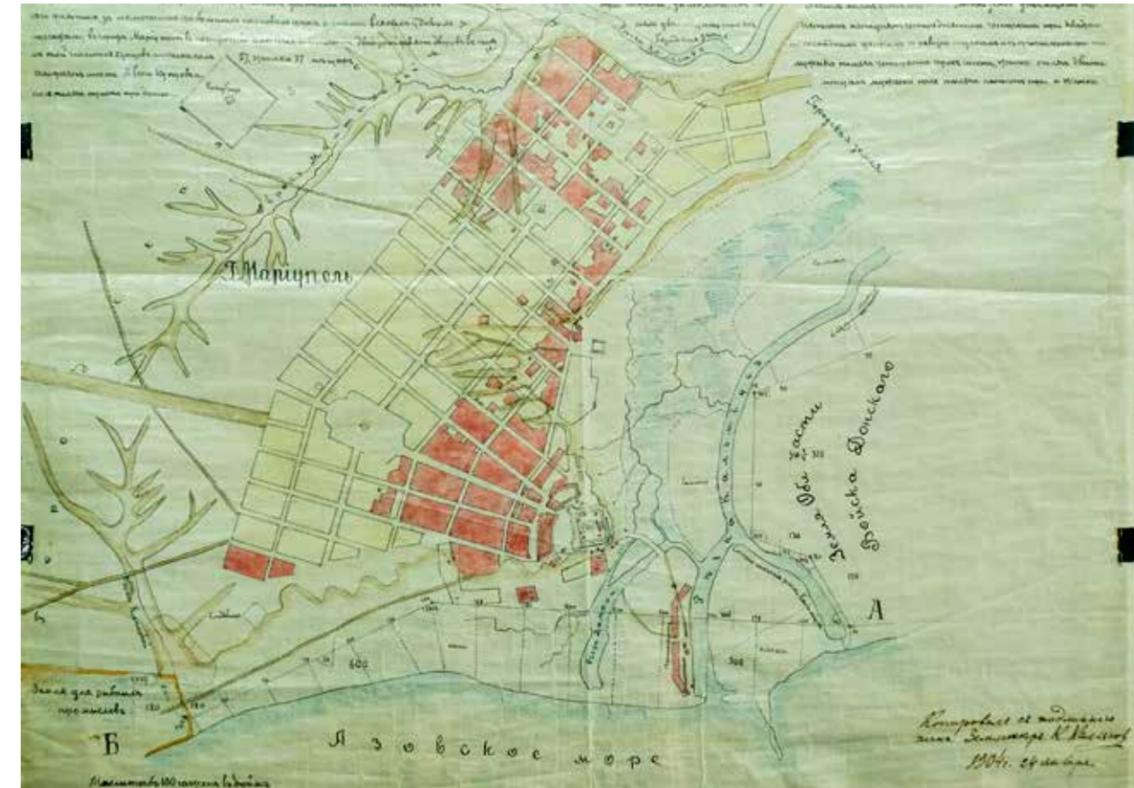
According to the guide of the museum we don't know much about this era. The excavations are a showpiece

of the museum. They were found in 1931 when the first major factories were built here. In three weeks time the researchers had to do their work, because that was the maximum amount of time the building could be postponed. Since then there has been no further investigations. Neither on the factory surroundings, nor outside of it. An uncultivated space for archaeologists.

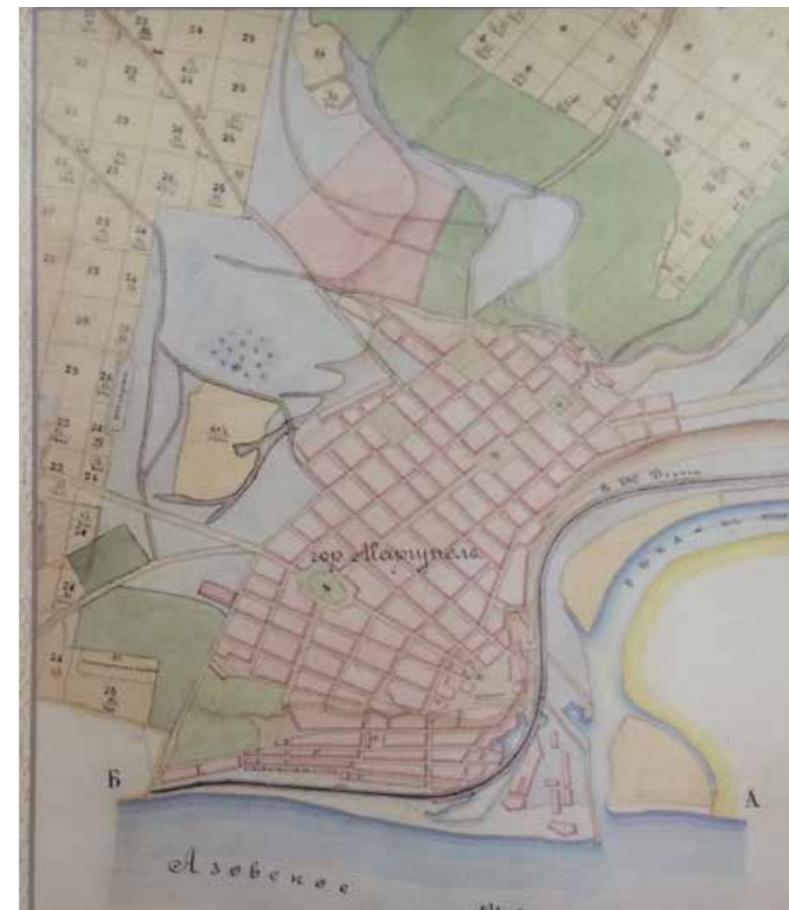
history — 3000 BC



history — 1904



history — 1908



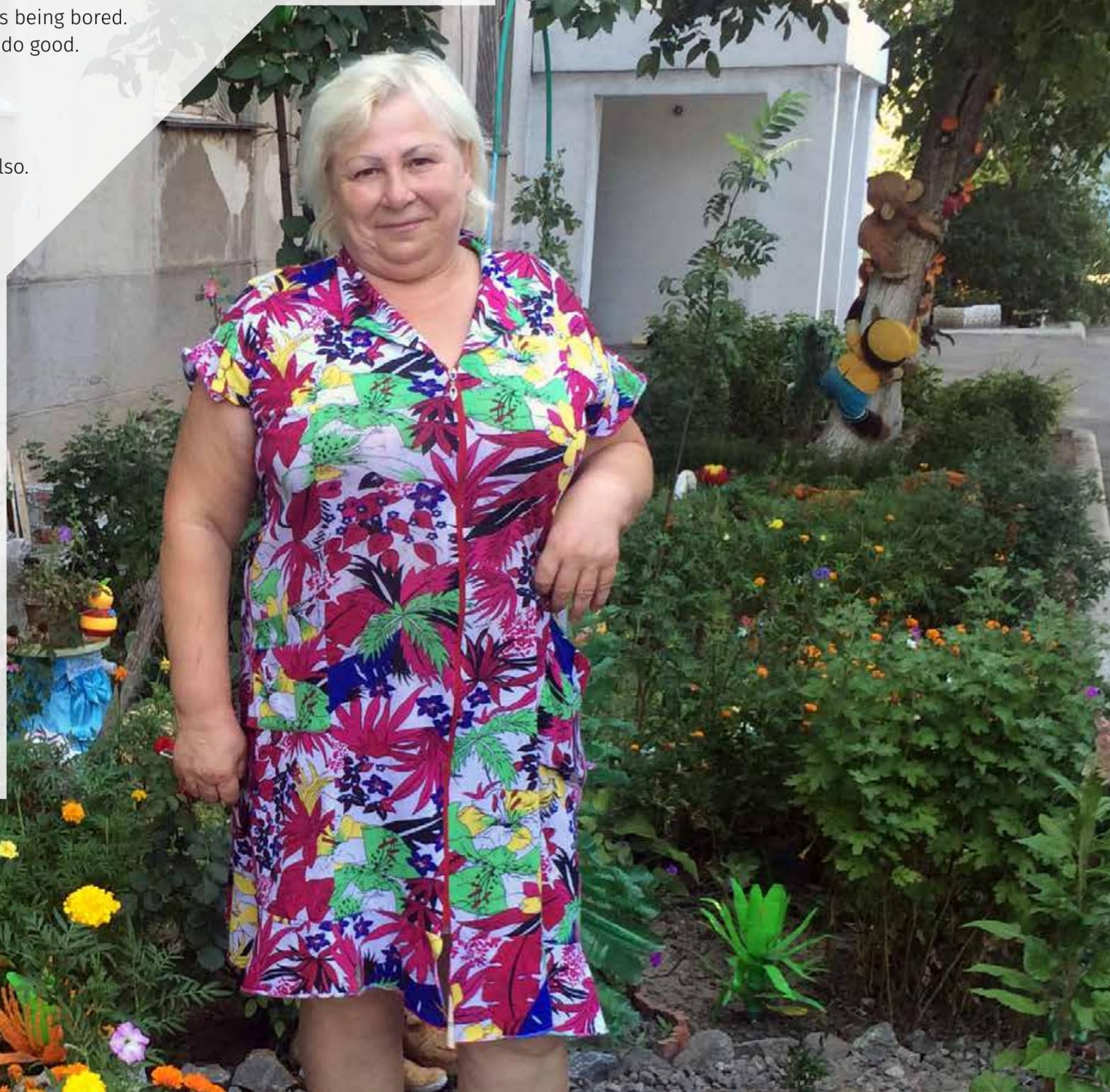
Girl power!

Not an artist. Not some teenagers being bored.
Not a social designer wanting to do good.

Just a group of women living in the apartments made a place to remember. They really made my day. They made their own days also. Every day. With laughter, energy, talking and some cognac.

Step by step they are changing this courtyard from an anonymous non-place into a lively funny playground for grown-ups.

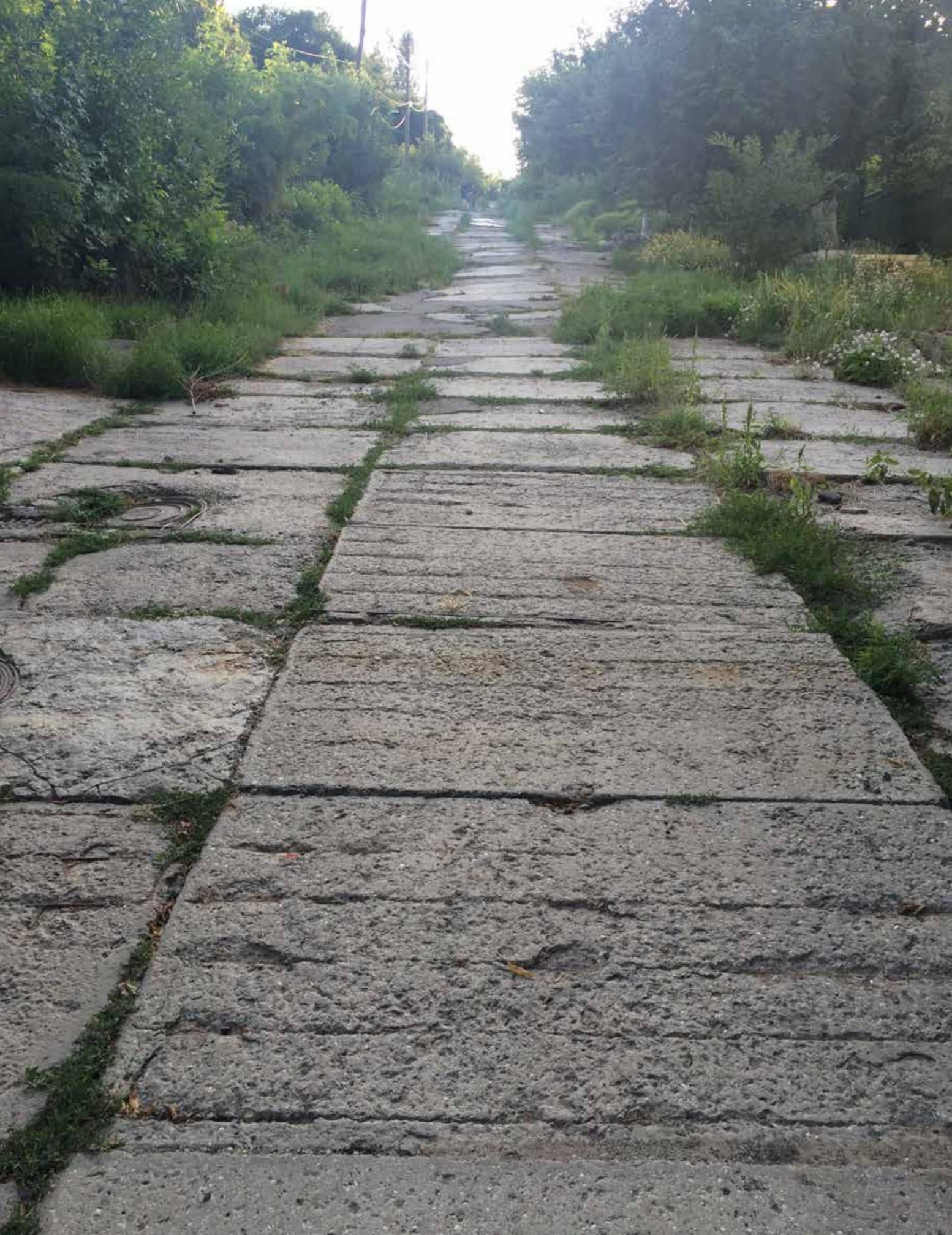
Call it recycling, or maybe upcycling, I don't care. The most important thing is that they actually are doing it, themselves. The group consists of only women, between 40 and 65 years old. Not that they don't ask the others to join. They do. But the men and the younger generation just don't find the 'energy' for voluntary work. But these 'girls' do. And how. Grass roots Mariupol style.



picture: Anna Balázs







Thanks

Summer 2015 was a summer of discovery. Discovering Ukraine and Mariupol, and in that context discovering myself. I am very grateful I could be part of this summer residency Izolyatsia organized.

I knew I was going to a country in war. I got used to all the soldiers. But I am definitely not going to miss them. But I will miss the Ukrainian philosophers, dreamers, researchers and artist, and their hospitality and determination.

Mariupol needs a great deal of determination and patience to develop into a safe and peaceful city with perspective. The amount of actions and measures to be taken are huge, and it will be a path of trial and error.

This enquires time, communication and courage. And someone, or a group, who will keep the strategy alive.

This summer residency project is only a starting point. The first step in a long line of actions. I hope I can part of that, somehow. To see the beautiful city Mariupol uncover itself and discover itself.

Thanks for all assistance by Izolyatsia. And so many others who helped me out. This was incredible. My amount of facebook friends exploded!

And an extra big hug for Sergey, Masha, Vitya, Michael, Oleg, Anna and Vlad, my new friends.



Colophon

Project

Urban acupuncture
starting new perspectives
for Mariupol

By Fulco Treffers

Eindhoven/Amsterdam, The Netherlands
www.12n.nl

For Izolyatsia

Architecture Ukraine
Mariupol/Kiev, Ukraine
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