Urban Incubator stands for an independent, non-governmental and non-profit association oriented to urban development and improvement of contemporary cities, as well as creating learning, research and idea exchange in the realm of architecture, urbanism, design, culture and art. 

It was founded as a sustainable continuation of the Goethe-Institut 2013 project of excellence: Urban Incubator: Belgrade.

The Association is supported and funded by the Goethe-Institut Belgrad.
URBAN INCUBATOR REPORT 2014

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Urban Incubator Association

SPIN-OFF: URBAN INCUBATOR ASSOCIATION

Association was founded in April 2014 as the self-sustainable continuation of established platform with ten international and local projects and as a result of the Urban Incubator: Belgrade (UIB) conference weekend in November 2013. Outcome of the conference debate was clear: several international project-teams wanted to continue their work and other local initiatives showed great interest in participating in future development of the association.

Goethe-Institut Belgrad, represented by Dr. Matthias Müller-Wieferig, secured the initial budged for the core functioning of the association in 2014 and provided project spaces, including ruin of the Spanish House, based on contract with the Savski Venac municipality and Cultural center: Dom Omladine.

The NGO is the legal body for all further developments, including curatorship, management, fundraising and possible developments in other countries. In addition the name “Urban Incubator” has been protected.
In the last two years, since the Urban Incubator is based in Savamala, we have witnessed both positive and negative social and spatial changes in the neighborhood, which were caused by investments in entertainment, tourism and restaurant industry. The establishment of Mixer House as a commercial and cultural entrepreneur, a mash of club-galleries such as Štab under the Branko’s bridge, or Zavod across the Geozvod building, and rock to turbo-folk music clubs such as Peron, Belriner, Tranzit in Brace Kršmanovica street next to the KC Grad, fast and slow food restaurants, dozens of new hostels and few high category hotels (some of which under construction) are all turning the neighborhood into a vast party and tourist zone.

In the heart of this zone is a Belgrade Waterfront project, sitting in the beautiful Geozvod building that looks as a shining UFO to the neglected surrounding buildings, dirty streets and heavy traffic pollution caused by transport trucks. With hundreds of “Eagle Hills” masts the UFO is stretching through the streets of quarter and on waterfront.

The mixture of small local shops and entertaining clubs isn’t really making Savamala a “place where creativity emerges” nor is it shaped by people working in creative industries; it is more a place where a fine political connections open the door for very profitable investment in the entertainment industry. Savamala is becoming a new Skadarlija, but with the spirit of industrial design, smell of diesel petrol, fast food, animal feces and cheap perfumes especially on weekend nights, having trendy youths, mafia looking teens and elders and foreign tourists for consumers.

The gentrification process which can be obviously seen if we just compare images of the neighborhood from two years ago, according to the real estate market isn’t really affecting the residents, by causing them to leave their homes in pursuit of cheaper ones in Obrenovac, Železnik, Kaluderica or any other suburb of Belgrade. On the other hand, there is only a few spare apartments for rent or on sale at a still relatively cheaper price compared to the other neighborhoods surrounding the city center. After the gentrification process is
completed the residents will only benefit from the higher prices for which they can sell their real estates.

Although the neighborhood micro economy is slowly progressing by establishment of small businesses such as beauty salons, tool and various repair shops, we still find a fair number of empty spaces and abandoned shady window shops in the buildings.

The social content of Savamala hasn’t really been improved. Only residents attempt to gather and organize regular meetings and activities with aim to preserve the “old spirit” of the neighborhood within Savamala society (društvo Savamala), which was founded two years ago, but was abolished when the new ruling political party (SNS) took over their space and turned it into a cozy party offices. The Savamala society was not provided with any substitution space.

Since its first public promotion in June 2014, the Belgrade Waterfront project is cleaning the quarter from its industrial and cultural heritage “junk” faster than any cleaning company. The Geozavod building was reconstructed, and as a reward the building has been given to the private company under the same name (Belgrade Waterfront) which is according to Prime Minister Vučić running the national priority project with partner from United Emirates’ Eagle Hills Company.
Slavimo Beograd! Celebrate Belgrade! is a repellent political campaign behind large-scale investment from United Emirates. For the sake of its realization the city planning and regulation law has been drastically changed, making the former protected “cultural areas” fertile ground for high rise commercial centers, shopping malls and residential apartment aerials, affordable for presidents of oil companies, war profiteers and maybe Serbian government.

Without any architectural national or international open call being organized, with public discussions about the changes in city regulation plans and law and project itself held in the manner of Russian circus, without providing reasonable answers to the complains from city architect association, Serbian Academy of Science and Art and the various citizen initiatives the Belgrade Waterfront project, seen from the public and citizens perspective is a mockery of citizen rights and state laws, and a demonstration of political domination.

Because of the promotion of the start of the project, a whole wing of the Railway station, which represents one of the few nice buildings in Belgrade built at the beginning of the 20th century, has been put in shade by Celebrate Belgrade! Billboard with the picture of an imaginary city from the 21st century, looking alike to modern quarters of Seoul or Shanghai.

The people living in the area are being resettled extraordinarily fast, and the four decades old shipyard and dozens of old ships, some of which cultural heritage - like steamboats Župa and Krajina from the beginning of the 20th century, have been removed from the area. The new Belgrade Waterfront project presentation gallery, with the permit of Savski Venac municipality has been built in just couple of months on the grass surface next to Sava promenade.

Savamala is rapidly changing and becoming a multi-ethnic, multi-traditional and multi-cultural vibrant city quarter. Now that the new nationalities from the Arabian Peninsula are moving in, it seems as we are definitely going to experience more intercultural and integration projects and processes for the well-being of Savamala and its residents.

Nikola Marković
Representative of the Urban Incubator Association
URBAN INCUBATOR ASSOCIATION

Urban Incubator stands for an independent, non-governmental and non-profit association oriented to urban development and improvement of contemporary cities, as well as creating learning, research and idea exchange in the realm of architecture, urbanism, design, culture and art.

It represents a platform for projects that are being active in the field of alternative urban development and improvement, citizen’s participation, creative actions and experimenting with culture toward social innovations.

PARTAKING PROJECTS

Selected projects are investigating Savamala (the urban, architectural, historic, visual, acoustic, social and other specific phenomena of the area), are active for at least three months and visible to the public. The projects allow for knowledge transfer among international and local experts and/or between experts and inhabitants and are designed for long-term impact in the area.

In 2014, partaking projects made an impact in fields of civic engagement through citizen's participation and socially responsible activities, in practical education through workshops and in cultural innovations by producing exhibitions, and being active in publishing and media.

- Camenzind Magazine - Kamenzind goes Belgrade (Zurich, Switzerland)
- City-Guerila (Belgrade, Serbia)
- NextSavamala (Hamburg, Germany)
- New Collection, Third Belgrade (Belgrade, Serbia)
- Photo LAB (Belgrade, Serbia)
- School of Urban Practice (Belgrade, Serbia)
- Streets for Bicycles, NGO (Belgrade, Serbia)
- Župa Župa (Belgrade and Kassel, Germany)
PARTICIPANTS

Around 50 young professionals from the fields of architecture, urbanism, culture, arts, design, music, were involved in project creation; activating in total around 200 people of different professional backgrounds in project realization.

Projects have reach an audience number of around 10 000 people, including local community, activists and different cultural and social initiatives.

PROJECT SPACES IN SAVAMALA

Throught the 2014 activities projects made an contribution to the space development and improvement by enriching the social and cultural fabrics of the Savamala quarter, especially in the ruin of Spanish House, small window shops in Crnogorska 5, Svetozara Radića 3, Gavrila Principa 2, the production and exhibition space KM8 at Kraljevića Marka 8 and a heritage protected steam boat, Župa, moored at Sava River.

Institutional partners:

- Dom Omladine - Youth cultural centre Belgrade;
- Faculty of Architecture Belgrade
- Municipality Savski Venac;
The magazine is therefore written by both architects and laymen, with the idea that anyone who inhabits the built environment has the right to an opinion. Trying to draw public attention to the issues of architecture and urbanism is becoming increasingly important so this issue of Kamenzind offers a thorough discussion of the recently announced development plans for Belgrade’s waterfront. It is hard to talk about the project outcome since Kamenzind cannot be viewed as a temporary project with short term goals. In addition to that, since the beginning of the UI project in March 2013, up until now, Savamala, which has been the focus of the entire project, also became the focus of politicians and investors and it is starting to develop in a direction that was presented in Kamenzind issue No2 as a possible distant future. The goal this project is trying to reach is also being modified and adjusted with these fast changes.

Events

- Launch of the Kamenzind No5, Gallery ŠTAB, Crnogorska 10, Saturday 4th October

Further information about the project in internet and media: www.camenzingoebelgrade.com
AXEL HUMPERT board member of Camenzind and partner at BHSF architects. Besides his practical work, he regularly teaches or acts as a guest critic.

LEILA PEACOCK’S work spans several mediums and disciplines. A practicing visual artist with a master in literature. To date, her work has manifested itself in essays, performance, lectures, drawing, video and book making.

ANA DJORDJEVIC-PETROVIC is a Belgrade-based graphic designer and activist, with Masters in Interior Design. During her 15 years of working as a freelancer she has worked on a wide-range of design concepts for a diverse spectrum of clients.

The basic goal, the creation of a platform for discussion and publication that is anchored locally and at the same time internationally linked, has been achieved. The magazine succeeded in presenting different points of view and raising various important questions, such as the absence of architectural criticism, loss of faith in architecture, corruption and transparency, gentrification, the need to speak-up, and what it is to be an architect in Serbia today, what role can architects play in Serbian society particularly as important intermediaries between the government, the developers, and the public.

From 5th issue on, Kamenzind became commercial which is one major step towards the sustainability of the project, but also in building up an interested readership, which is now crucial with the arrival of the Belgrade Waterfront development, going ahead at rapid speed. A change in people’s attitude to their environment, should follow accordingly.

JEANETTE BECK is board member of Camenzind and worked as a scientific assistant at the Bern University of Applied Science, where she focused on transdisciplinarity, virtual collaboration and architecture mediation. Recently she started working for the City of Berne.

BENEDIKT BOUCSEIN is a board member of Camenzind, partner at BHSF Architects and assistant at the chair of architecture and urban design at the ETH Zurich.

TIM SEIDEL is board member of Camenzind and partner at BHSF Architects. From 2005 to 2009, he worked as project architect and project leader for Meili, Peter Architects in Zurich.

LJUBICA SLAVKOVIC, holds a Master of Architecture Degree from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture. Besides her architectural practice, her main interest is in independent research in the fields of contemporary architecture, urbanism, architectural and urban planning theory and history.
After years of improving the project methodology and establishing the idea of uniting young creative minds in “fighting” against indifference, negligence, ignorance and alienation, the Guerilla has come to a point when it already gathers a significant number of individuals, former and current members, who are more than willing to devote their time and energy in making the Guerilla Project even more open to new people and possibilities. During 2014, Goethe-Guerilla has been transformed into City-Guerilla, a formal NGO.

Under the Urban Incubator platform City-Guerilla has realized several projects.

Audio Walk Savamala – After thorough research, the author recorded the story that will guide visitors through Savamala’s rich history in a most unusual way.

Events

- City Guerilla – Participation and Presentation at International MitOst Festival, Novi Sad, Oct 4th 2014
- Audio Walk Savamala B_Tour_Festival: Sep 27th 2014, Savamala
- Savamala Mobile Libraries Workshop Products Presentation - Oct 11th 2014, Spanish House
- Savamala Map Jewelry Workshop and Presentation, July 26th 2014, Spanish House
- Final exhibition: Nov 16th and 23rd 2014, Crnogorska 5, Savamala

Workshop participants:

- Audio Walk Savamala - 50
- Mobile Libraries Workshop - 10
- Savamala Map Jewelry - 13
- A Few Minutes of Architecture interviewees - 20
IN TOTAL - 93
Visitors - 50-100 / event
A Few Minutes of Architecture (ParMinuta) - Over 10 interviewed architects, a database of high-quality video-interviews, website platform for distributing the material (along with other written material gathered during the project) and a valuable network of communication.

Mobile Libraries Workshop – A successful workshop where seven small mobile libraries were made, along with a printed manual: Toolkit with design details available online. The participants had an insight in product-design, the idea of free book exchange expanded significantly and the whole idea was presented at the Belgrade Book Fair.

Savamala Map Jewelry – Unique souvenir-jewelry peace's made of memories have been presented at the annual City-Guerilla exhibition. A workshop, which become a valuable inspirational point for the author, with insights of Savamala residents remembering the spirit and places of their old city quarter.
Project outcome

In February 2014 event in which local artist collective Karkatag re-installed chimney and made lifting system functional again marked new efforts and collaborations ready to turn the boat Zupa into a cultural hub.

From May till September 2014 members of the Ngo Urbane Experimente (Kassel) were present in Belgrade and responsible for organizing excursions and visit trips for the Faculty professors, artists, students and Ngo members. With everyday presence on the boat, they made it publicly accessible and turned it into an open platform for participation of local community, international and local artists, cultural activists, students and other initiatives.

Events

8. February 2014 – New Beginning
May – September 2014, Župa boat, around 25 events – workshops, exhibitions, food cooking, concerts, jam session, film screenings, etc
120 days of everyday presence on the boat Around 25 events - around 50 guests per event

Further information:
Fb: zupazupa
www.zupazupa.de

Project partners:
Cultural Centre Parobrod; Museum for Science and Technology Belgrade; Ngo Urbane Experimente e.V. (Kassel); Faculty of Architecture (Kassel);
These activities, first interrupted by massive floods that have hit Serbia, continued over almost four consecutive months. They have resulted in workshops that contributed to more space functionality and furniture production, series of social gatherings, film screenings and other events such as food cooking, music jam session, photo exhibitions etc. Due to the Belgrade Waterfront project, at the beginning of August under the guidance of PIM (owning company) Zupa was moved 400 meters downstream. During this action, part of the ship was damaged and almost all of the installations, furniture, tools, installed in previous months were stolen. This action destroyed a several month work and efforts putted into making a Zupa cultural hub. Today, Zupa is located on the ground of previous ship graveyard with access that is constantly under water.
Project outcome

The project gathered around 120 students of Art and History of Art around the following issue: what are the consequences of the situation in which some of the most referential institutions for contemporary art, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade, operate in limited capacity and their collections are entirely unavailable to public for over a number of years now. Students got to partake in lectures, and then 37 of them embarked upon conceiving and producing around 30 artwork with the help of mentors, artists and professors: Žolt Kovač, Miloš Tomić, Ljubomir Vučinić, Olivera Parisić, Anica Vučetić and Radoš Antonijević. Common tread of these newly produced works is that they directly question and critically address artistic production and education in Serbia, and have organically found their places as part of one of the six exhibition concepts within New Collection. Exhibitions are conceptualized by a group of Art History students, supported by their mentor – independent curator, Maja Ćirić.

Events

6 exhibitions, October 4-31: U10 Gallery (Kosovke devojke 3), KM8, Crnogorska 5 and Inex Gallery (Višnjička 76).

During this period we had 2 performances at the KM8 and a number of guided tours.

Visitors: around 1000

Further information about the project in internet and media: FB: Novakolekcija

NEW COLLECTION PROJECT

New Collection, educational and production project, targeted students of Art and History of Art from Belgrade and Novi Sad. It has developed through several phases over the course of the on-going year.
Concepts and artwork made during the New Collection project do not pertain to become a part of collections within any institution, yet serve as document in time showing thoughts, positions and conclusions of a whole new generation of artists and curators. Apart from the unique experience of artistic production real conditions, curating and exhibiting, one of the most relevant aspects of the New Collection is networking among students, future of the local art scene.

Achieved goals:
- 6 well produced exhibitions
- Networking and collaboration between students of Art, History of Art and cultural workers through series of 5 workshops and exhibitions' curation and production
- Visibility for participants through guided tours and (social) media
- Experience of students involved in all phases of the projects

New Collection is organised by IAA Third Belgrade (NUA Treci Beograd) and supported by U10, Inex Gallery and Ministry of Culture and Information.
Project outcome

ZDRAVAMALA The program in 2014 aimed at building stronger communities through gardening and social events. The project brought together young designers, artists, architects, gardeners, and Savamala residents, exploring possibilities of innovative use of urban space, developing a social network and facilitating knowledge exchange.

- We created a physical space (garden) and also a place of social interaction
- Promotion of the idea of urban gardening and sustainability in the society
- We experimented with eco-design and also created objects of found and recycling materials for planting
- Cooperation with initiatives and art groups
- Organization of events and workshops

Events

- April 21: Workshop (Spanish House opens its doors)
- May 5: Transporting the plants from Opovo to Savamala
- In May: Workshops (manufacturing boxes and other containers, collecting materials)
- May 28: Corbaluk with UZB, Uljc za bicikliste (organized by Corbaluk)
- May 31: Sveze – Fresh meets & beats (first party)
- June 5-8: Zdravamala at Mikser Festival
- June 11: Corbaluk Zdravamala
- June 20: Workshop (making pesto sauce from our basil)
- June 27: Stop. Look. Listen. (second party)
- July 12: Zelena promenada (kids’ workshop, organized by BFC, Belgrade Flower Festival)
- July 19/20: Post Festum (organized by Belgrade University of Arts)
- July 23: Corbaluk with Daniel Kovac (organized by Corbaluk)
- August 17: Exhibition (organized by Karkatag Collective)
- September 20: Spanish House art market

Visitors: An estimated 2500-4000
KOKICA In each session, we have screened various work of a different filmmaker in the intimate setting of the KM8 Studio Space, with guided commentary and additional dialogue provided by the filmmaker. The dialogue and structure of the event is tailored to the taste of the filmmaker, who guides the audience, for example, through their personal development as a filmmaker, or explores a particular theme, topic or narrative through a sequence of films.

Events were attended by a generational mix of people, from ages 18-75.

8 screenings: Nikola Zecevic (KM8, April 9); Luka Popadic (Spanish House, April 23) Nebojsa Nenadic (KM8, May 7); Serbi-arte Showcase (KM8, May 19); Kosta Ristic (Zupa, June 4); Stefan Malesevic (KM8, June 18); Tea Lukac (Spanish House, July 2); Between 20 and 75 people per event, total: 400 people

Faculty of Aplied Art Hamburg, Class of Proff. Marjetica Potrč, Studio for living design; Mikser Festival; BoaMistura collective; Vreva Festival; Baštalište; Belgrade Flower Festival;
ULICE ZA BICIKLISTE
(STREETS FOR CYCLISTS)

Ulice za bicikliste is cycling NGO which operates in Belgrade. Our mission is promoting of bicycle as the mean of transport. Our vision is city center designed and planned for pedestrians and cyclists, with more green surfaces, pedestrian zones and bicycle paths and tracks.

Project outcome

We organize monthly and daily bicycle rides, bike polo matches and we do lobbying for cycling infrastructure and better traffic safety for cyclist in Belgrade and Savamala.

So far we have been organizing Critical Mass rides every last Saturday in month, and did the lobbying for maintenance of Branko Bridge and parking for cyclists in public garage.

We have been working on increasing the number of cyclists in Belgrade and Savamala. Our office at Svetozara Radica 3 we have used as space to organize meetings for Critical Mass rides which sometimes numbers up to 600 cyclists.

Events

- 10 Critical Mass rides, Republic Square, every last Saturday in month.
- More than 5000 visitors

Further information about the project in internet and media: www.uzb.rs
Through this frame of monthly bicycle rides, we managed to push the decision makers to start repairing Brankov Bridge. We raised the question of parking places in city center and space for other groups of commuters.

We have beautified the wall in front of our office in Svetozara Radica street no. 3. by painting the cyclist mural. City authorities also started to make new parking racks for cyclists, according to our model and allowed parking of bicycles in public garages.

We also managed to change working hours of elevator for cyclists, which previously worked only till 5 PM to 8 PM.

First Bike polo team was made in this office.
The aim of Nextsavamala was to experiment with an alternative approach to citizens’ participation, which is not bound by any political, religious or other agenda.

Through gathering citizens’ ideas online and working with residents directly in Savamala, a neutral platform for discussion and experimentation was given to people to raise their voices about future of Savamala and contributing with their ideas, wishes and needs.

The outcome is a Citizens’ Vision of Savamala 2030, containing five different scenarios crystallized from the citizens’ ideas.

During 2014, Nextsavamala created a consistent citizens’ vision out of the citizen’s ideas. Altogether 5 scenarios were created among which “Made in Savamala”, “Old Pride Savamala”, “Student Savamala”, “Experimental Savamala” and “Peaceful Savamala”.

These scenarios were discussed on several workshops and meetings with community: soup meetings of Savamala Community in spring 2014, during the Mixer Festival in June 2014, as well as a meeting with a Critical Mass Belgrade movement. Moreover, a temporary exhibition of citizens’ scenarios was held in C5 to present scenarios to the residents and gather their feedback.

These activities allowed not only to create the citizens’ scenarios for Savamala but to discuss them with the residents - the actual owners of the scenarios.
Currently, the final version of the Citizens’ Vision - integrating the citizens’ comments - is being prepared in three languages (Serbian, English and German) in a form of a Travel Guide to the Future of Savamala.

Soup meetings of Savamala Community: February 2014. At the KM8, one of the soup meetings Chorbaluk, was organized by the Nextsavamala. Around 50 neighbors and members of the Savamala Community passed by to share their visions of Savamala and catch up with the new agenda for the year.

Meeting with a Critical Mass Belgrade: April 2014. A role-play workshop, in which participants took roles representing the groups (based on age, for example). The idea was to forecast the possible outcomes of the realization of certain scenarios. The comments were included in the final version of the scenarios, afterwards.

Mikser Festival, exhibition at C5: June 2014. The citizens’ scenarios 4-day exhibition was held at the Crnogorska street space, C5. Around 50 people have visited, 30 of which left their comments. They were included in the further development of the citizens scenarios.
December 10, 2014
RISHA PROJECT showcase @Urban Incubator, KM8 gallery, Savamala, Belgrade
Friday, December 12 at 7:00pm
Risha Project is about publishing comics and narratives from around and about Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

Online comics magazine RISHA PROJECT is celebrating two years of its’ existence! Two years of fun and joy, connecting the worlds through exploring personal universes of artists worldwide :) Join us at KM8 gallery in Savamala to see on display all the materials from the website in printed form - in case you like some of them, you are free to take them home with you, free of charge :)

aaand, don’t forget to congratulate to our dear contributors:
BORIS STANIĆ /Serbia/
ALEKSANDAR ZOGRAF /Serbia/
VUK PALIBRK /Serbia/
AGNIESZKA PIKSA /Poland/
FOUAD MEZHER /Lebanon/
SOFIANE BELASKRI /Algeria/
TWINS CARTOON /Egypt/
BUBBLE GUM ART /Egypt/

BETTINA EGGER /France/
SORINA VASILESCU /Romania/
OZGUR ERMAN /Turkey/
ALEKSANDAR TODOROVIĆ /Serbia/
MILOŠ RAJKOVIĆ /Serbia/
MIKE V. DERDERIAN /Jordan/
HELENA KLAKOČAR /Holland/
ZINEB BENJELLOUN /Morrocco/
RYM MOKHTARI /Algeria/
NINA BUNJEVAC /Canada/
OMAR AL FIL /Lebanon/
PAT MORIARITY /USA/
NAZIR TANBOULI /Egypt-UK/
SADDAM ALJUMAILY /Iraq/
SHADI ABOSADA /Syria/
THE FREAKS COLLECTIVE /Lebanon/
BAYSAN YUKSEL /Turkey/
ARIANNA VAIRO /Italy/
GIANLUCA COSTANTINI /Italy/
VLADAN NIKOLIĆ /Serbia/
ISSAM KHIMIR /Tunisia/
MAGDY EL SHAFFEE /Egypt/
AKRAM WILLIAM /Egypt/
LUTFI ZAYED /Jordan/

www.rishaproject.org

Wednesday, October 15, 2014
PULS OF SAVAMALA AND MITOST FESTIVAL IN NOVI SAD - THE CITY PULSE WORKSHOP
Every city has quite a unique set of sounds - a kind of sonic postcard.

“Pulse”, therefore, is an audio-visual project which aims at describing and illustrating a specific urban environment by presenting the characteristic mixture of soundscape
and visualization. It has a synesthetic role, i.e. it enhances the sensory and expressive experience of a city. Moreover, by building a collection of urban soundscapes, it can help to recreate our experience of a city and its specific areas. Goethe-Guerilla has been exploring these numerous sounds trying to make a unique postcard of Belgrade, and more specifically Savamala, which is one of the oldest and most interesting urban neighbourhoods of Belgrade, and which has also been the focus of City-Guerilla, alumni of former Goethe-Guerilla generations since 2010, and the 2014 Goethe-Guerilla cultural activists for several years now.

The Savamala city neighbourhood, located on the Old Town riverbank of the Sava, is perhaps the most paradoxical part of Belgrade where opposites and contradictions co-exist. It is a place where old meets new, where you can see beauty and ugliness next to each other, where nature meets technology. One of its numerous paradoxes regarding sound is that within just a few meters you can hear the river quietly flowing and the deafening sounds of heavy traffic passing by.

When Goethe-Guerilla set out to create a specific soundscape of Savamala, they combined two types of microphones (contact and stereo) and walked about Savamala covering every aspect of the audible environment. DIY contact microphones were used to collect micro sounds based on vibrations. One of these sounds is, for example, the barely audible minute noise Branko bridge makes. The stereo recorder, at the same time, was used to collect the overall sound atmosphere, one of which for example is the sound of the river, definitively one of the most typical sounds of Savamala to the very attentive ear.

Goethe Guerilla have recorded over 40 hours of different audio material, including sounds of traffic noise, inner courtyards, the river and the riverbank, bridges and many more. These sound samples are available online now, on soundcloud and tumblr pages.

During the process, Goethe-Guerilla have thoroughly explored technical requirements, produced DIY microphones and used software which transforms sounds samples into compositions using a keyboard in various ways. As every object in Savamala has its own objective sound, by playing the samples on the keyboard the Goethe Guerilla members also express their subjective feeling. Through 88 keys of the keyboard, you can play for example, the bridge, the river, the tram, the traffic in Savamala, invent melodies, compose songs, or improvise individually and artistically on the motives objective sounds of various Savamala objects and places provide and make them even more specific.

At the MitOst festival in Novi Sad, Goethe Guerilla for the first time tried to feel and express the "pulse" of Novi Sad. A two-day workshop was organized, where the most basic ideas from their Savamala experience were presented. The main objective of the workshop was to briefly introduce the methodology, starting from preparation, recording, processing, evaluation and contextualization of distinctive sounds, as well as introducing basic methods for creating visualizations based on the resulting soundscapes.

In this workshop, special emphasis was put on building DIY contact microphones for collecting microsounds, and on producing so-called Lightbooms, a mini patent of Goethe-Guerilla, as powerful tool when it comes to soundscape visualization.

Lightbooms are basically analog DIY projectors, built from second hand parts. They are small and easy to carry around.
These small devices, developed along with the idea of the “Pulse” project, enables light projection without the need of electricity. Like a torch, they run on batteries and small light bulbs, and like a slide projector, they convey the image of a photo negative or a transparent paper using additional mirrors and magnifying lenses.

The lightboom is furthermore connected to Arduino, a sort of a mini-computer which allows for more efficient control of the emanating lightbooms.

In November, City Guerilla and Goethe-Guerilla will present the “Pulse” project results in the Spanish House in Belgrade. The Spanish house is a uniquely located investor’s ruin in Savamala which has been used by Goethe Institut project of Urban incubator: Belgrade and by Goethe and City guerilla for various projects and exhibitions.

The site-specific project “Pulse” is going to be the last project presentation and activity in this ruined, but heritage protected building before it will be returned to another investor’s attempt at developing a modern hotel or something similar, which is yet another paradox of Savamala.

However, the Pulse of Savamala is a long-term project with many other small scale sub-projects which will continue to develop in the future.

Thursday, September 11, 2014
B_TOUR FESTIVAL in BELGRADE
26-28 SEPTEMBER 2014

Pre-opening event for artists and friends: 25 September 2014, 20h, Gallery KM8, |Urban Incubator, Savamala

B_Tour is a Berlin based organization which revolves around guided-tours-as-an-artistic-strategy.

B_Tour is a platform for organizations, artists and citizens to network, collaborate, cooperate and exchange ideas about the cities we live in. This platform allows underrepresented narratives to surface and infiltrate the hegemonic discours that shape cities.

“B_Tours” explore the politics of the public space, psychogeography, touring as an artistic strategy, gentrification, citizen’s social responsibility and more.

The characteristics of B_Tours

B because it is not A; because it’s the alternative to the narrative of conventional tours.

B because it is a personal Biography of the community.

B because it is breaking the boundaries between public and private space.

B_Tour | Belgrade

The main activity of 80|10 organization from Belgrade is based on international cooperation projects in the field of performing and visual arts, music and design. 80|10 is primarily engaged in cultural projects with the aim to show and support creativity, innovation, local specificity, international relevance and courage through art projects.

These characteristics were some of the main foundations for this year’s co-partnership with B_Tour Festival from Berlin in order to jointly create a satellite edition of B_Tours in Belgrade (followed after B_Tour Festival in Berlin) which promote and at the same time question the specificities of Belgrade (and Serbia) as well as local art scene. Together with international artists, it is an opportunity to bring closer international art initiatives with local audiences.
through a unique artistic visions of the urban environment. B_Tour Belgrade edition is dealing with socio-political, cultural, historic and economic aspects which constitute the city. The festival’s program promises: Seeing the city with new eyes.

With the lack of governmental or any other support due to the global crisis common to many European cities, young people in Serbia working in the field of culture and creative industries are developing new, innovative projects trying to revive the socio-cultural scene by resourcefulness and creative strategies as the only way to be proactive in society.

Why Belgrade?

Having a situation where the options for cultural engagements in urban environments are narrowed, one of the choices is to use accessible space - public space more creatively and to find new ways to imagine the future of the city. We are trying to improve the city through art and education by changing its dynamics toward new connectivity, with citizen participation at the root of urban change. Belgrade edition of B_Tour aims to serve as a showcase for these initiatives and perhaps a way to generate more connections between artists and the audience through an idea to create alternative forms of participation and present new ways of seeing the city.

Furthermore, through previous experiences, people who live in Belgrade have openness to the active use of public space and hence the idea of the festival coincides with Belgrade spirit and biography.

B_Tour owes a special thank you to Bitef Festival for given support and space in this year's side program.

We also owe gratitude to the Cultural Centre of Belgrade (KCB), Cultural Center REX, UK Parobrod, Nova Iskra design incubator and Scene design studies (Department of Architecture and Urbanism) at the Faculty of Technical Sciences at Novi Sad University. We are grateful for the significant help from the Goethe-Institute Belgrade together with the Urban Incubator Association and District 6 Association and especially thanks to all the artists for their contribution to the program. These partnerships are creating strong local connections by making a sustainable network and an interesting program which will be of equal importance for partners, artists and the audience.

Monday, August 18, 2014

NEW COLLECTION PROJECT: Concept of the final exhibition gradually emerging

New Collection project, organized by Third Belgrade and a group of mentors, artist and curators, aims at empowering students of art and history of art to take charge of their education and future through a simulation of the artistic production process. The emphasis is on the strong (critical) sense of the context in which one finds oneself and produces.
During the summer, after having undergone peer-to-peer education workshops and mentored work on authentic artwork concepts, students of art have started the production process, whilst about 10 history of art students, led by Maja Ćirić, independent curator, have embarked on defining the shape of the New Collection’s final exhibition. The exhibition, which will take place on multiple locations in Belgrade, is planned for October this year. Some of the crucial locations for the overall concept, such as Gallery Osmica and the adapted space in Crnogorska 5, are part of the spaces that were used by the Urban Incubator: Belgrade project, and now remain used by Urban Incubator Association, which was formed on the ground of the aforementioned project from 2013.

In this phase, the exhibition is gradually getting a very exciting shape. During September, teams will conduct final preparations for the exhibition, which is by far the largest and most significant event focused around the future of art scene; young artists and curators.

To simply donate a real bike to each citizen of Belgrade, they, nevertheless, made a solid contribution to reducing car traffic in the city: now, they are actually sharing bicycle paintings on the walls surrounding their office with Savamala citizens. The neighbours love it.

Now, at least the street of Svetozara Radica looks less polluted.

**Ulice za bicikliste** is an independent organization committed to improving biking conditions and increasing the visibility of cyclists in highly-trafficked areas of Belgrade. We hope to see cycling and walking culture overtaking the car culture which is outdated and in many ways threatens the citizens’ well-being. **Ulice za bicikliste** was created on the basis of monthly Critical Mass events. We are proud to be an example of grassroots activism in Belgrade. Our activities take place locally, based on the interests and engagement of the community. Our local office will be at Svetozara Radića 3, in order to conduct our activities in the area of Savamala. We plan to organize workshops with kids and locals on basics of bike maintenance and building bike stands that we want to place in Savamala. The Critical Mass events, that take places each last Saturday of the month, will from now finish in the area of Savamala bringing 300 to 500 cyclists each time and less car pollution in general.

**Address:** Svetozara Radića 3

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**Thursday, August 14, 2014**

**BICYCLES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**

Over the last week, “ulicezabicikliste” made some efforts to beautify their neighbourhood. Not really in the position to simply donate a real bike to each citizen of Belgrade, they, nevertheless, made a solid contribution to reducing car traffic in the city: now, they are actually sharing bicycle paintings on the walls surrounding their office with Savamala citizens. The neighbours love it.

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**Friday, June 6. 2014**

**ESPAÑOLES IN THE SPANISH HOUSE**

**Boa Mistura** will in the upcoming days paint an artwork, which will both give new visual identity to the Spanish House, and provide more light for the plants of the Zdravamala project. The artwork will be presented during MIKSER Festival from 5th till 8th of June.

“Boa Mistura” is an urban art group formed at the end of 2001 in Madrid, Spain. The term “Boa Mistura”, Portuguese for “good mixture”, refers to the diversity of
perspectives of each member, i.e. visions which complement each other, and combine to create something unique and coherent. The collective’s members are architect Javier Serrano “Pahg”, civil engineer Rubén Martín “rDick”, Pablo Purón “Purone”, graduated in Advertising and Public Relations, and two Fine Art graduates: Pablo Ferreiro “Arkoh” and Juan Jaume “Derko”. The group works mainly in the public space, and has developed projects for example in South Africa, Norway, Berlin, Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro.

Sunday, August 10. 2014
ALL TOGETHER NOW

It was early Friday evening when hauler boat “Toplica” slowly approached “Zupa”, the historical steam boat moored on the banks of River Sava. Sailors wrapped and fastened Zupa’s rear with iron cables, a crane lifted the gangway and set her free. No doubt, “Zupa” was about to make her first voyage in the last twenty or thirty years!

Zupa, now hundred and one year old, needed some extra pushing and holding from the side in order to sail again. It looks like PIM Company found a person responsible for what had been always declared a dangerous action because of the ship’s instability and some 30 m3 of machine oil spilling all over its lower decks.

At 18:15h exactly, Zupa stood tall on the river and was clear to sail off again. This is exactly what she was made for, back in 1913.

A few minutes later, on the Sava riverbank, a commemorative walk escorted Zupa, towards her new destination next to the train bridge, on what might be her last voyage before being sunk, cut into pieces or left to rot.

In twilight, at 19.20h, Zupa found a new peaceful place, among other ships, at the very heart of the Belgrade ship graveyard.

Within an hour, the action of moving Zupa was completed, with high professionalism and cold precision. No celebration, and no speech was held.

As to Zupa’s future destiny, PIM – the proprietor company, when asked, only stated that the graveyard will be moved latest by February 2015 due to the Belgrade Waterfront project. Where Zupa will be moved then is yet uncertain. For decades the ships were rotting here, the PIM – is under the restitution process and suddenly jobs are done quickly and with great interest. It seems that certain amount of Arabian camels with domestic camel shepherd can make things move quickly around river banks.
The next day Zupa was again made approachable, after PIM workers installed the entrance platform. As we set foot on the boat, we could see the great results of high professionalism and cold preciseness, as most of the infrastructure built in last three months by the “Urbane Experimente” from Kassel, electricity cables, water cables, lamps, several grills, the list is actually very long, was stolen. Nobody thought that pirates exist in Serbia, but now we are assured, and their mother ship is probably Toplica, named after the river and region in southeast Serbia.

We see an urge for the government who is keen in realizing the project Belgrade Waterfront, to come up with regulation plan and solutions not only for river floods but also for possible sand storms caused by stampede of camels and river pirates!

We will also demanded for camel stable to be built on the banks of the river, for animal’s sake and public health and security.

Opening of WEIRD GOES BELGRADE on 2nd July and saw the façade facelift.

The exhibition will be open until July 8th, and the works are for sale!

Opening hours: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The German-Austrian street art collective THE WEIRD has been active since 2011, and consists of 10 artists in total. Through their street art and illustration works, The Weird are combining influences from popular urban culture, XX. century avantgarde visual styles, SF and B-horror movies, with an unavoidable touch of humor and irony, which are so characteristic for the graffiti art. High quality and skills manifested in their works have attracted a very broad spectrum of audiences, conquering non-formal scenes and official galleries all over the world, uniting these two contexts: non-formal street art scene and the other, more formally structured, scene of contemporary visual arts. Besides street art, members of The Weird are active as illustrators, designers, lecturers, and electronic music producers.

Thank you, The Weird, for making the gallery facade so rad!

Around three hundred people visited the exhibition opening of WEIRD GOES BELGRADE on 2nd July and saw the façade facelift.

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Kropfelder, an interdisciplinary work field, which emulates twice a year a four days lasting Fest in Graz, Austria, showing a colorful program of music, performance, lecture and dance. It is called SchauSchall Fest. With parts of the program of the SchauSchall Fest, nAyeAh goes now for two weeks on the Balkan tour, including a pop-sound-punk performance of mad&mod, a little music theatre by the Irish composer Adam McCartney, a concert of contemporary music of the Quki Ensemble (Matej Bunderla, Sax./Ivan Trenov, Akk./Yulan Yu, Pn./Julian Rogge, E-Guitar) and a small pocket exhibition of the Austrian artist Bine Maier and elfriede as well as Astro T, showing a lecture of the sun by the astrophysicist Klaus Huber, in a small Tv-display.


On June 29th, Eagle Hills publicly presented their architectural model of a huge 3.1 Billion investment for Savamala in the Geozavod-building. While many questions still remain open, one message seems clear: there is no one to stop this investors’ dreams of Belgrade’s Sava waterfront, including a “Belgrade tower” near Gazela bridge, shopping mall, residential and office building on a scale which comes close to Tito’s vision of New Belgrade in the sixties of the last century.

Good news seems to be that the cultural parts of the traditional Savamala, including Spanish House and adjoining KC Grad/Krug building near Brankov Bridge will not be affected directly. Kraljevića Marka, Crnagorska street and the immediate neighbourhood will not be destroyed, Geozavod and Hotel Bristol along Karađorđeva street, the historical building of the Main Station are to be preserved – while the railway and bus infrastructure are covering a vast empty area are planned to be re-located. When Eagle Hills, officially and for the media, invited politicians and private guests to Geozavod on Friday 27th at noon, around 300 not invited guests had to stay outside.

For more citizens’ participation, as much as for more transparent planning processes and consequences, there seems to be room to move.

City administration already inspected “Župa”, the 1913 Austrian cannonboat and now a Parobrod cultural center initiative for a museum ship moored at River Sava close to Brankov Bridge. Together with other, rusty ships (and the community living on them right now), they are supposed to be cleared away or re-located within the next months.

Wednesday, June 18, 2014
PERFECT EXHIBITION // Sandra Stojanović
June 23-27, Kraljevića Marka 8
Mon-Fri from 3 to 8pm
Perfect exhibition takes place only in the minds of those that get across the catalogue and raises issues around
After Gazing into Freedom: Taiwan Contemporary Art Exhibition was held in Serbia in 2013, MSUV organizes Subdued Existence: Serbian Contemporary Art Scene, which is held in NTMoFA, to showcase the unique textures and creative perspectives of Serbian contemporary art.

Serbia went through a series of wars and political turmoil at the end of the 20th century. For many artists, covert activities, the subdued existence, were the only possible solution. Considerations of the relationships between local and global, regional and universal, intimate and public, personal and political are present within the contemporary art scene of Serbia since the beginning of 1990s transition process. The concept of Subdued Existence continues to apply to contemporary art and it also includes a variety of artistic approaches that explore the relationships of contemporary artistic practice with the scientific, technological, natural, social and personal environment.

The exhibition features 15 representative Serbian contemporary artists/ artistic groups, exhibiting 24 works of diverse creative media, such as videos, installations, photographs, paintings, and animations. Some of the participating artists strive to overcome the burden of conservatism of a closed community. Some are active internationally, collaborating and sharing knowledge and experiences with foreign counterparts through multimedia projects, festivals, workshops, seminars and residencies.

Sandra Stojanović was born in 1988. In 2012, graduated from the MFA course in Painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. In 2013, completed MA2 UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Management course at the Lumiere 2, Lyon, France and University of Arts, Belgrade, Serbia. Exhibited at over 20 group and 1 solo exhibition. Active member of the artistic group called Third Belgrade, since early 2013.

Exhibition will officially be opened on June 23, at 19h, Kraljevića Marka 8.

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Wednesday, June 11, 2014

“A LINE FOR SAVAMALA” – DRAWING/PERFORMANCE SELMAN TRTOVAC
2014.5.31-8.3

Gallery 202, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts

“Cargo East” is a collaborative project between National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art (NTMoFA) and Serbia’s Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodina (MSUV).
Some examine social transitions, environment, issues of identity, and the existence of social stereotypes. Some explore the relationship between individual and common history through documents and artifacts, presenting the weight of history. Some criticize society, economy, laws, war policies, nationalism, discrimination, and the current consumerism by using objects, materials and equipment found in everyday life via diverse creative methods. They also analyze the connections between man and nature, nature and technology, exploring different lifestyles and personal habits, and attempt to overcome the many social problems accumulated over time by using humorous, sarcastic and absurd methods as their basic elements.

The significance of international art exchange is that regions with different cultural backgrounds can learn about one another through art, turning cooperative effort into the catalyst that facilitates dialogues and mutual understanding. This exhibition will bring Taiwanese audience across geographic and cultural distances to learn the different dimensions of the Serbian culture through the sharp observations and dialectical creative expressions by the artists.

Curators
Sanja Kojić Mladenov
Svetlana Mladenov

Participating Artists
1. Igor Antić
2. Breda Beban
3. Goran Despotovski
4. diStruktura (Urban Incubator 2013 participant)
5. Dragan Ilić
6. Jelena Jureša
7. Stevan Kojić (Urban Incubator 2013 participant)
8. MP_art
9. Museum of Childhood
10. Andrea Palašti
11. Vessna Perunovich
12. Nataša Teofilović
13. Zoran Todorović
14. Miloš Tomić
15. Selman Trtovac (Urban Incubator 2013 participant)

Born 14 August 1970, in Zadar, Yugoslavia. From 1990 until 1993 he studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Belgrade. In 1993 he moved to Kunstakademie Dusseldorf, in the art class of Professor Klaus Rinke, where he was declared a Master of Art in 1997. In 2003 he became a member of IKG (International Arts Committee). He is the initiator and cofounder of Independent Artistic Association Third Belgrade (www.trecibeograd.com). In 1993 he was declared a Doctor of Fine Arts at the Academy of Arts in Belgrade. Lives and works in Belgrade.

The art of drawing is the basis of every other visual thinking, in any other visual medium and not only that, the art of drawing is part of the evolution of the human species in general! Drawing, then, represents the means of primary thinking that reflects the development of an idea. Free art cooperative Treći Beograd (Third Belgrade) travelled in the frame of Goethe-Institut Belgrad project Urban Incubator to Zagreb in May 2013 for the exhibition of Josip Vaništa. In a metaphorical sense, this became the drawing of a line between Belgrade (Savamala) and Zagreb, an artistic act of the whole group. The motivation for this particular journey was the will of the 3BGD group of artists to “view” Vaništa’s line. This event left a powerful impression on all artists who were in Zagreb at the time. Linija za Savamalu (The Line for Savamala) is the title of the drawing of the artist Selman Trtovac and represents an part of artistic dialogue between two artists - Veljko Pavlović and Selman Trtovac, which can be understood as one of the reflections on the encounter with Vaništa’s line and the emptiness that he mentions in the letter to Selman Trtovac.
Urban Incubator Blog

Tuesday, June 10. 2014

URBAN COOKS

The Urban Cooks project as conceived by the School of Urban Practices started on Monday in Crnogorska 5.

The presentation of work and joint cooking event (fish soup made by locals) will take place in the Spanish House on Thursday from 12 o’clock.

The Urban Cooks Platform

is a project that seeks to integrate the knowledge and the experience of professionals from various European countries, together with local communities from Belgrade, Madrid and Skopje, to design a common and exportable toolkit to support citizen initiatives in public space. Urban Cooks Belgrade will be operated by the School of Urban Practices in Crnogorska 5.

SCHOOL OF URBAN PRACTICES

How can the future of a city be designed when there are no financial means for investment, when legal issues remain unclarified, and when institutional procedures are slow? The project “School for Urban Practices” researches and tests new forms of city quarter development, using Savamala as their laboratory.

Friday, May 16. 2014

THE NEW LIFE OF A CONTEMPORARY OF THE TITANIC

THE SUMMER PROGRAMME ON HISTORICAL STEAM BOAT ŽUPA IN BELGRADE

On the right-hand banks of River Sava, between Branko-Bridge and the so-called “Tramway Bridge” (Trmvasjki most), the old steamboat Župa has been moored for some time now, a contemporary of the Titanic. Although she was sunk not only once, but even twice in her long and varied history, she – contrary to her contemporary Titanic, being the most famous ship in the world but sunk forever – she has always somehow managed to re-surface.

Today, Župa is one hundred years old and rather rusty, but nevertheless – or rather exactly therefore- her mysterious past raises the curiosity of all passers-by on the river bank promenade of River Sava. Thanks to Belgrade Cultural Center UK Parobrod, the Museum of Science and Technology and the Urban Incubator Belgrade, a Goethe-Institut project, the old steam boat has been re-vitalized. Although she might never “set sail” again, she now is being re-designed as a miniature cultural center on the water. On Friday, may 9th 2014, the summer programme on board of this new “culture ship” will be officially launched with a students’ research programme under the “European Capital of Culture” project umbrella.
It has been two years now that the old steam boat was first cleaned, fixed, and opened for cultural programmes.

In order to prevent further decay, in February 2014 a new renovation programme was initiated. In this second phase, Župa will be reclaimed as an attractive exhibition space of great cultural and historical interest which might attract tourists as well as locals. Film screenings on board will be one of the highlights of the Belgrade Filmstreet-Festival, a summer festival set to re-enact the tradition of travelling cinemas screenings, in different squares, parks and otherwise, will be open exclusively.

In addition, the Museum for Science and Technology Belgrade currently develops a permanent exhibition of the Serbian Shipping History on board of the Župa. This historical interest is due to the fact that in its long past, Belgrade has always been one of the most beleagured cities in this part of the world. Almost all events of highest significance for the city’s destiny have taken place on Belgrade’s two rivers, Sava and Danube, or on their banks.

Therefore, the stories about the ships, moored in Belgrade, or once grounded here, belong to the most interesting chapters of the city’s history. This is why, in Serbia, altogether nine ships - Župa being one of them – have been declared cultural monuments enjoying heritage protection regulations. A good decision, no doubt, because today, the Župa belongs to the landmarks of Old Belgrade which can be otherwise only studied on historical postcards.

Thursday, May 15, 2014

“ZDRAVAMALA”–SAVAMALA

URBAN GARDENING PROJECT STARTED

Welcome to a green and healthy little Savamala – that is what the Serbian composite of “zdrava” and “Savamala” implies as the first urban gardening project started last weekend with the arrival of some 500 herbs from the village of Opovo, in the plains of Vojvodina, to the Spanish House. By creating a new atmosphere, “Zdравамала” will enrich the quality of life in the area. Inside of the Spanish House, Savamala will get a new infrastructure for gatherings, and have a new dynamic of engaged neighborhood participation. The project brings together young designers, gardeners, and Savamala residents and will explore possibilities of innovative use of urban space. By developing a social network and facilitating knowledge exchange, we will grow food and beautify the neighborhood.

Our aim is to combine urban gardening with an educational program that brings to light issues of urban ecology and public health.

Inspiring others to take independent actions, through collaboration with neighborhood stakeholders, this project will act as pilot project for further urban ecology initiatives in Savamala.

The “Zdравамала” project is being realized by KM8, a collective that has been selected to take part in the Urban Incubator Association platform 2014 in co-operation with the Goethe-Institut Belgrad. KM8, based at Kraljevica Marka 8, is an informal organization established by young activists, teachers, artists, designers and architects from Serbia, Switzerland, USA and other countries based in Belgrade and united by running community projects, participatory design, and urban gardening projects.
Tuesday, May 13. 2014

„KOKICA“

Župa comes close to an Urban Incubator vision of “Belgrade on the water” – literally, everyone watches an artist’s film, enjoys the community spirit on deck, and thus transforms a spectacular historical shipwreck lying abandoned at the Sava river into a new public space.

Last evening, we indeed enjoyed the movies of young serbian director Nebojša Nenadić, who showed 5 of his short movies. Nebojša is currently a master student at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade.

Now, a series of films is going to follow bi-weekly. In each session, we will screen a body of work of a different author in the intimate setting of the KM8 Studio Space, with guided commentary and additional dialogue provided by the filmmaker. Thus, we will support emerging filmmakers and encourage the scene in general, while building connections between the film-making and film-watching community.

It will provide a platform for filmmakers to present their work in a cozy and semi-formal setting through interacting with the public while showing, explaining and discussing the background of their work.

“Kokica” will be a useful opportunity for filmmakers to come into closer contact with the public, expand their audience, gain exposure and connect to future clients, partners or collaborators, as we will support the professionalization of the next generation of Serbian film.

Whenever the weather is nice, we will use the opportunity to organize “Kokica” on the “Župa” steamboat. Entrance is free of charge, for more information about each event, please visit our Facebook homepage.

Friday, May 9. 2014

URBAN INCUBATOR PRESENTATION: FLUID FESTIVAL CETINJE/MNE

“Many of our guests and participants were very impressed by what you did in Belgrade”, said Ana Matić after the Urban Incubator: Belgrade presentation in Cetinje.

In a workshop and panel discussion, Ivan Kucina, professor at Belgrade University, and Matthias Müller-Wieferig, director of Goethe-Institut Belgrad, presented cultural, social and artistic interventions in Belgrade’s Savamala city-quarter. Around 60 Architects and designers, artists, lecturers and students were present in Montenegro’s cultural capital of Cetinje for the three days’ festival.

Wednesday, May 7. 2014

WELTSTADT – WHO CREATES THE CITY?
EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE

May 2nd and 3rd: WELTSTADT – Who creates the city?” – Exhibition and Conference
Deutsches Architektur Zentrum (DAZ) Berlin (German Architecture Center)

“There’s heart was into it” – this comment from Naresh Narsimhan from Bangalore summed up a lively Berlin weekend, when WELTSTADT projects from 14 countries, partners of their national Goethe-Institutes, were presented and debated. From Belgrade, the Urban Incubator project
and participants Ivan Kucina and Maja Popovic connected with urban projects between Ulan Bator and Tallinn, Sao Paolo and Bangalore.

The Spanish House, cultural and communication center of the Urban Incubator: Belgrade, featured in an article of national newspaper taz. On TV, a short teaser of cultural programme 3SAT Kulturzeit was dedicated to the international approaches how to connect cultural projects, ideas and interventions with urban development and the growing need for participation and active engagement of artists and citizens in the shaping of their “city of the future”.

Monday, April 7. 2014
“FRONT” VISITS SAVAMALA

In cooperation with Urban Incubator and the Goethe Guerilla, Savamala gave a warm welcome to the “Front” festival of classical music.

The festival was held from March 31st to April 6th and its aim was to allow people to enjoy classical music in unorthodox locations, such as galleries, cafes and more. The start date of the festival also marked birthdays of two great musicians- Johan Sebastian Bach and Joseph Haydn, thus much of the program was focused on their work. The performers themselves were professionals from the Music Academy of Belgrade. Two concerts were held in Savamala, each carrying a unique atmosphere. Other locations included two churches, “Leila” record shop, jazz club “Čekaonica”. The Opština club, Culture exchange (Novi Sad), and The Belgrade Student Cultural Center.

“A concert under the candlelight” was located in KM8, and with the help of the GG#05 team, the scenography and an additional program was set up. The performers-two flutes and two cellos, were illuminated by soft candle light and surrounded by baroque-like scenography. During the performance three GG#05 members decided to give the concert a special touch by creating works of art while the concert was being held and forming a type of instant exhibition.

“The tea party concert” held on the deck of the old steamboat “Župa” was by far the most atypical concert yet. With boats floating by and people stopping in wonder on the quay to take pictures, it held an almost organic atmosphere. With wind in their hair, two pianists, two sopranos and one mezzo soprano, entertained a diverse and colorful audience, young and old, from Savamala locals to little children who stared and listened in amazement.

Wednesday, April 2. 2014
COME ONE, COME ALL, TO OUR LITTLE TERRACE WALL! - THE FIRST PARKING TERRACE OF SAVAMALA

![Image of a concert under candlelight](image-url)

![Image of a tea party concert](image-url)
The first in a series of flash-mob actions of GG#05 took place on Saturday, 29th of March. In the search for ways to turn Savamala into a more pleasant quarter for socialization, the team of GG#05 set up their own terrace - on the streets of Savamala!

Since real built in balconies never existed in Savamala, GG#05 decided to take matters into their own hands. A table, two plastic red chairs, along with other typical household items are all it took to transform a parking space into a quaint resting spot to catch your breath, maybe even play a game of chess along the way.

After a very successful start, GG#05 cannot wait for more flash mob actions to commence, and hopefully, in due time, the citizens of Savamala will not only stand and watch in confusion, but join in and experience the many potentials this historic Belgrade quarter has to offer.

Tuesday, March 25. 2014

“WE ARE HAPPY, WE ARE PROUD - AND WE ARE HERE IN SAVAMALA FOR SOMETHING, NOT AGAINST...”

“We are happy, we are proud - and we are here in Savamala for something, not against...” - Axel Humpert, speaker of the supervisory committee of the newly founded Urban Incubator Association and curator of the programme year 2014, expressed what many felt: the first General Assembly was the continuation of a success story which started exactly one year ago when, on March 23, the Urban Incubator programme year 2013 was officially opened.

Along with Ivan Kucina, Maja Popovic, Boba Stanic, Axel is now, among others, member of the Supervisory Board of an independent NGO, registered in Serbia. Young team members and activists from former Urban Incubator projects took on the most active roles in the steering committee elected for the first time. Nikola Markovic, former Urban Incubator project manager and now, following official requirement, president of the Association, presented the supervisory board which from April 15th will continue or start new activities in Savamala - using the spaces like Kraljevica Marka 8, Cnagorska 5, Gavrilo Princip 2 and, of course, the Spanish House.

Among them NextSavamala working on their webbased “Crowdsourcing a City’s vision” project; KAMENZIND with another two issues planned; the “New collection” project of art students un-locking the now - due to the closure of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade - inaccessible past of Serbian Art History, and various “City Guerilla” initiatives - a project initiative continued by previous generations’ “Goethe-Guerillas”. And, in “Urban Incubator hosting...“ programme line, the Urban Incubator Association will present a concert on March 31rst.

“We would like to see Savamala as alive possible, the light in the Urban Incubator spaces on as often as possible”, that was one of the comments of new Urban Incubator members - and clearly the direction of the first “Concept 2014”.

Sunday, March 23. 2014

THE FIRST OFFICIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION URBAN INCUBATOR

The Association “Urban Incubator” has been founded as an independent, non-governmental and non-profit association...
oriented to urban development and improvement of contemporary cities as well as creating learning, research and idea exchange in the realm of architecture, urbanism, design, culture and art.

The first official Assembly Meeting of the Association Urban Incubator will be held on Monday, 24th of March 2014, at 12:00 o’clock in Kraljevića Marka 8.

The Assembly will confirm the election of members of the Steering Committee and of the Supervisory Board as well as suggest a cultural and organizational program for the year 2014.

Saturday, March 22. 2014
LAUNCH OF
CAMENZIND GOES BELGRADE #4

Today, March 22nd, we will launch the issue number 4 of Kamenzind, on the lovely terrace of the Basta cafe. In this issue we present: discussion of the proposed ‘Belgrade on the Water’ project; an interview with up-and-coming architecture practice Autori who discuss their unique project ‘House of Ideas’; the piece ‘Zenit Rising’ which addresses why Zenit has made such a comeback in recent years; two articles by artists, one from the past inspired by architecture as a ‘constructive-collective act’, the other on the contemporary possibilities for creating a ‘mental and physical space’ for art; another article about frustration at the unchecked abuses of the city’s skyline; a sequel to the article from Kamenzind No.2, which addresses the social space of the BIGZ building; finally, we end it with the charming tale of famous Orient express route which went through Savamala.

Friday, March 21. 2014
THE GUERILLA IS BACK-NEW RECRUITS ARE IN!

The 5th generation of the Goethe Guerilla - GG14, have successfully been formed and are meeting up every weekend at KM8, Savamala. The new members will quickly find their ways in Savamala and its locals through mini tours and guided walks around the quarter.

GG14 are the third generation to be active in the historical, although much neglected, Belgrade city-quarter . With the help of previous Goethe Guerilla generations, information is being gathered and, with joined forces, new ideas are already taking shape.

The team-building phase has been completed, and the Guerilla are prepared for a new season. A balcony that is not quite where it should be, some familiar Savamala sounds, self-portraits and recepies - these are just glimpses into what is yet to be introduced in Savamala this year.
The Pavilion in the Spanish House - the Urban Incubator enters into a new phase: The pavilion is to be dismantled, while the Association Urban Incubator is founded. According to plan, exactly one year after its temporary structure was erected, the very much contemporary architecture of the pavilion will leave the Spanish House - and the Association will continue the ideas, initiatives, projects and activities of local and international artists, architects, and urbanists, and the many young people engaging for Savamala in a new form.

Four new spaces - the Spanish House, the KM 8 gallery (Kraljevica Marka 8), and workshop spaces were reclaimed over the last year - and ruins and vacant rooms re-activated to become new hubs for the cultural re-vitalization of a city quarter.

The Urban Incubator Association will continue to use the spaces for old and new cultural initiatives, fostering the engagement and participation of locals and residents, research into models of cultural and sustainable "cities of the future", and educational projects for generations of urbanists, architects, artists, of experts, politicians or simply - citizens aware of their urban environment’s potentials and responsibilities.

KAMENZIND, NextSavamala, A Model for Savamala - all these initiatives link with their long-term engagement which they started last year. Projects of Belgrade students of architecture and of art will deal with the urban and the artistic legacy of contemporary Serbia, with the potential and future perspectives of the Spanish House and of the historical cannon boat "Zupa", whose 100th anniversary was celebrated only last year sharing meals, music, and community activities on deck of the former Sava steamboat.

The Urban Incubator has been recognized in Thessaloniki, Budapest, Athens, Skopje, in Montenegro and in many other European countries. Project authors and Goethe-Guerilla have, of course, become part of this years Belgrade Architecture biennial focussing on "public space". Contributing to the WELTSTADT - project of the Goethe-Institut central office, Urban Incubator activists will, this year, be expert guests in Berlin.

ČORBALUK GOES INTO THE NEXT ROUND

Cooking and eating together, talking about Savamala and future projects - around 40 guests gathered in Studio KM8 two weeks ago for the first Čorbaluk. After this huge success of the first soup kitchen in Kraljevića Marka 8 two weeks ago, Čorbaluk is going into the next round...

On Wednesday, February 19th, Studio KM8 opens its doors from 7:30 pm for residents, artists and everyone else again.
This time, Ilija Lazarević, local scout of Nextsavamala, a crowdsourcing project of the Urban Incubator: Belgrade, welcomes the guests with a self-made soup to share their experiences about the neighbourhood.

Čorbaluk will take place every second Wednesday, organized by Jan Kohler, who each time invites a new host to cook and welcome the guests.

Monday, February 17. 2014
A MODEL FOR SAVAMALA – PRESENTATION AT THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE BELGRADE

After the Model’s exhibition in MIKSER House, where the architects have successfully gained a broader audience as well as new information on Savamala from residents and experts of various, the Model now moves on to the Faculty of Architecture for February, 18th and 19th.

The “Model for Savamala” aims to create a transparent area through physical 3D models, as well as to display information related to the historical, sociological, economic and political realities of the Belgrade city-quarter. The Model displays a portrait of Savamala’s area, outlining the historical and current situation, potential issues and future development. The area has been broken down into several layers, representing the existing urban morphology and typology, indicating the intensity of economic activities and the living space of Savamala’s residents. These data have never been placed next to each other, and thus compared, before. The opening of the exhibition is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18th, at 7 pm.

Follow the event on facebook: A Model for Savamala at the Faculty of Architecture

After its visit to the Belgrade Faculty of Architecture, the Model for Savamala will continue its “nomadic life” at the Museum of Contemporary Art Novi Sad/Vojvodina.

Monday, February 17. 2014
“ŽUPA” – A NEW BEGINNING

Re-installing the chimney was, on Saturday, February 8th, the symbolic act of breathing new life into the steamboat “Župa”. Numerous invited guests, including the German ambassador Heinz Wilhelm, media representatives, and many people and residents were intrigued by the event, organized by KC Parabrod in cooperation with Urban Incubator: Belgrade and the Museum of Science and Technology.

The re-installation of the chimney marked a turning point in the now 100 year’s history of the ship. Beginning in late 2013 when community events, workshops and film screenings were organized by students of Academy of Fine Arts Hamburg as part of the Urban Incubator: Belgrade, more activities will now follow: the old steamboat is being re-activated and transformed into a public, cultural space. Once the vessel has been stabilized and secured for visitors’ access, she might be available for exhibitions and cultural events of all kind.

However, the ship will not be restored and rebuilt at the moment as some media reports of the event already claimed. Although the ship in her present shape is a historic monument reflecting her colourful past there are, until today, no proper funds available for a full restoration.

POLITIKA ARTICLE IN ENGLISH
Belgrade
N. Belić, 05.02.2014
PARABROD’S
“ŽUPA” RETURNS FROM RETIREMENT
On board the scrapped ship, which celebrated one century of existence last year, her admirer will gather and present plans of turning the vessel into a cultural and exhibition space. Derelit and rusty - steamboat “Župa”, a cultural heritage monument moored on the right bank of the Sava River between the “tram” and Branko’s Bridge, will, on Saturday, host the festivities which should help this boat to “sail” from oblivion. The ship will host her admirers, gathered in the citizen’s initiative “Community Župa”. The start of the restoration of this old vessel, which only last year turned one hundred will be marked by symbolic re-erection of the chimney. On this occasion, a reconstruction project will be presented for the steamboat to become a new cultural and exhibition space for the capital. The idea is to turn the “Župa” into a gathering place for artists, as well as all lovers of history, the Sava and Danube, Belgrade...

From the moment the art collective „Karkatag” raised the chimney on Saturday, a new stage of the ship’s revival begins. At the moment, local associations active in Savamala will be included in programming events on this boat like the Mikser Festival, Kulturni Centar “Grad”, “Nova Iskra”... Technical work will follow, such as the removal of heavy fuel oil from the water below deck, which is derived from the waste fuel of the boiler. Then a concrete trough will be installed in order to stabilize the hull, since a complete reconstruction, which would enable to move the vessel again, would be too expensive – says Zlatko Crnogorac, executive producer of the cultural institution “Parabrod”.

In the final stage of work, the infrastructure of “Župa” will be secured to the end and the wiring will be laid to avoid any danger for visitors. - This ship, that took part in the First World War, should be saved in a year when the century marked the beginning of this historic event. This steam tug will remain formally owned by the company „Ivan Miliutinovic”, but given the fact that the reconstruction had no purpose, we obtained permission to re-engineer the ship. This is mediated by the Museum of Science and Technology as the competent institution under whose protection the nine ships, including the “Župa”, stand. This institution will oversee the project of revitalization – explains Crnogorac. Hamburg and Belgrade united by the treasure from Savamala Zlatko Crnogorac states that the “Community Župa” project was initiated by representatives of the “Urban Incubator” project, launched by the “Goethe-Institut” in order to reactivate Savamala, and project assistance was provided by the Ministry of Culture, as well as the “Telenor Foundation”. The initiative for the reconstruction of “Parabrod” was initiated in 2012 as the “Mikser Festival” in Savamala organized part of its program on the “Župa” and around it in order to draw attention to the ship. At the end of October 2013, students of the Faculty of Applied Arts in Hamburg, the class of Marjetica Potrč in cooperation with the “Urban Incubator”, started a new stage in the life of this ship – says Crnogorac. Century of glory and doom The steamboat “Župa” was built in Budapest and was first “baptized” as – “Una”. The cargo carrying capacity of the ship was 127 tons, and the ship was armed with “Škodina” guns, 66 mm and three machine guns. She participated in the military attack on Belgrade in 1915. She first sank in 1919 after being caught in fire. She was restored in 1920 and sold to a Romanian company that owned her in the inter-war period under the name “Cozio”. Soviet troops seized her in 1944 and used her as a minesweeper. At the end of the year, she sank for the second time – she was “killed” on a mission, striking a mine at the Old Slankamen. The ship was recovered from the Danube in 1945, followed by restoration and transfer to the fleet of the Yugoslav River Shipping where it got the name “Župa”, under which she retired.

Monday, February 3. 2014
“About the Past and Future of Savamala” - Media report on
A MODEL FOR SAVAMALA

“About the Past and Future of Savamala” – the DANAS headline once more testifies to the public interest in Savamala since the “Belgrade on the Water” plans for a Danube/Sava re-development are back on the political agenda.

While still many wait for concrete plans and models for the UAE investment scheme, the MODEL FOR SAVAMALA, part of the URBAN INCUBATOR: BELGRADE project in 2013, opens unusual insight into Savamala and fosters public debate about this until today very much neglected city-quarter: how it actually is, how it was, and how people connect to their own urban environment.

Throughout the exhibition, expert guidance and talks, Belgrade will be able, in Mikser House (46 Karadjordjeva st), to express their views on the changes achieved in Savamala, as well as its future development and the announced project “Belgrade on the water.”

Until February 2nd, the „Model for Savamala“ will be presented. Authors Maja Popović Vračar and Boba Stanić, co-authors Ana Ugrinić, Daša Spasojević, Predrag Milić and Miloš Kašul Nikolić.

As the daily newspaper Danas frequently reported, Savamala, a city district renowned for its de-crepitude and neglect, over the year 2013 became the home of many enthusiastic creative people, artists and designers who wanted, with their work in this part of the city, to bring something new, while preserving its authenticity. All this happened during the “Urban Incubator: Belgrade” project, which was founded by the Goethe-Institute Belgrade, and among the participants there were Maja Popović Vračar and Boba Stanić. An announcement, only recently issued about the river bank situation of the city and the project “Belgrade on the Water”, the first phase of which is supposed to start as early as September, has set Savamala at the core of much discussion since its future looks uncertain. Commenting on the “Belgrade on the Water” scheme, Mr. Matthias Mueller-Wieferig, director of the Goethe-Institut Belgrad, points out for the Danas daily that there are more ways in which one city could be developed, and that last year’s activities of the Goethe-Institute suggested a creative approach. Thanks to that, according to him, a debate has been launched among Belgrade citizens in which direction the revitalization of a neglected quarter needs to go.

“What has been launched in Savamala by the Goethe-Institute, by the cultural partners and their projects themselves is actually a creative improvement of the neighborhood. Various projects have established a variety of activities and approaches, both local and international, that show how the new cultural and artistic life can contribute to improving Savamala”, Mueller-Wieferig says.
Axel Humpert, architect and one of the “Urban Incubator” conceptual leaders, could not quantify what the project “Belgrade on the Water” could mean for the capital and, in particular, Savamala, because it is still at an early stage and “without any clear plans and any other material one could further comment on.”

Anyway, “A Model for Savamala” offers concrete considerations about the future of this part of the city, and all interested parties can participate in it. It is a kind of a portrait of the area, and, for the organizers, the model exposes its historical and current status, issues and considerations for the future development. While it doesn’t offer any conceptual solutions, this 3D model through several layers represents the existing urban morphology and typology, indicates the material structure, the intensity of economic activities, and shows where residents of Savamala live and what their aspirations are.

“In the light of the future planning of Savamala, we believe it is crucial that we make the area more transparent. For the future planning we have to have clear ideas about what is actually the area of Savamala, what it consists of, who are its people, who are its activities, etc.”, the authors note in the press release.

Mr. Mali: Presentation of the „Belgrade on the Water“ scheme in March

The chairman of the Interim City Governing body, Mr. Sinisa Mali, yesterday told that the conceptual design of the project “Belgrade on the Water” project will be completed in February and presented to the public in March. “That will, in some way, be the beginning of the project. In the meantime, the company needs to be set up under the name of ‘Belgrade on the Water’, said Mali. Being a guest on the Serbian National Television-RTS he said, that a large number of investors are waiting finalization of the capital city’s elections in order to invest, but that’s not the case with the aforementioned project for which the interested investor is from the United Arab Emirates.

Timing

The „Model for Savamala“ in total will be presented today at 7PM, and tomorrow and on Friday there will be expert guidance through the model available, starting at 6PM, while on February 1rst, the “guided tour” will begin at 2PM. The exhibition runs until the 2nd February in Mikser House. During the exhibition, there will be talks and collections of Savamala stories – and the authors invite all citizens to join and share their observations.

Thursday, January 23. 2014

„NEW COLLECTION“– KM8 will be production center for student’s big scale project 2014

Urban Incubator: Belgrade’s project room Studio KM8 in Kraljevića Marka 8 will be the centre of activities this year for the long-term arts project “NEW COLLECTION”: the Museum of Contemporary art is closed, but using the city-quarter of Savamala, students of the Faculty of Art will open up the invisible museum’s collection their own way. KM8 has been handed over to the new project leaders.

The student’s project NEW COLLECTION takes the limited access to modern and contemporary artwork for Serbian students as their starting point: As the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade has been closed for years now, they feel that they are lacking an indispensable
ressource of young Serbian artist education. Together with the experts and curators of the Museum of Contemporary art and their Faculty of Art teachers, the students’ project team will hold a series of structured lectures and workshops on the Museum’s collection. In the second step of the project, in October 2014, the art students will interpret and respond to the collection’s artwork in their own way and exhibit their work in public spaces, galleries and shop windows all over Savamala. Each of the exhibition places – shop-windows, cafés, institutions, and private and public spaces in the area will present one piece of the NEW COLLECTION puzzle for one entire month. NEW COLLECTION is a radical gesture of students who are taking the matter into their own hands, and will get their hands on what is paradoxically out of their reach.

The studio in Kraljevića Marka 8 is fully equipped with the MediaLab-technology of the Urban Incubator-project of Third Belgrade. Third Belgrade, an initiative group of artists, has been active with their project “We also love the Art of Others” in the Urban Incubator: Belgrade programme year 2013.

Friday, December 20, 2013

URBAN INCUBATOR: BELGRADE - New video and Vol. 2 - Résumé: Findings and Perspectives

After a busy and fruitful programme year 2013, it’s time to sum up the Urban Incubator: Belgrade experience and to tell the whole story.

Follow the Savamala people and highlights of the local and international projects: how they developed their ideas and activities, what went on during the programme year 2013, and how it all peaked over a Savamala weekend in November 2013:

When the Urban Incubator: Belgrade project idea was conceived, Savamala was a derelict city quarter, cut off from the city life and awareness. Today, local residents, cultural initiatives, and citizens of the capital are more optimistic about the potential and the future perspectives for a cultural re-vitalization of Savamala.

A critical evaluation and debate of the programme year 2013, both internal and external, during the conference “Conclusion of Programme Year 2013” presents a “résumé”, the findings and perspectives for the Urban Incubator idea and projects. The Urban Incubator will continue - as an already established trademark, the Urban Incubator 2014 will be keeping to the goals and framework of artistic and cultural development and contributions to a city quarter development in Savamala. New, appropriate ways will be explored how to establish sustainable partnerships, both old and new, and how to find new, sustainable financial perspectives.

Alongside established cultural initiatives in Savamala, the Urban Incubator: Belgrade will, thus, continue – in a transformed shape and constitution in order to keep on playing an important role in the urban transformation of Savamala.


Now the second volume, “Urban Incubator: Belgrade – Résumé: Findings and Perspectives” presents a timeline of the project’s development since its beginning in 2010 and summarizes the conference findings and perspectives. It also documents the focus group results, a project evaluation on a comparable basis, and the conclusions drawn from the final internal debate on what to learn from the Urban Incubator experience. Monitoring the media coverage on results and conclusions of the conference, the second volume, once more, underlines the achievements as well as the shortcomings - and the visibility the Urban Incubator project gained, and future steps to be taken. The “Vol. 2 – Résumé: Findings and Perspectives” is now available on our Urban Incubator: Belgrade website and the project page on the Goethe-Institut website.
UI MINI CONFERENCE: EMPTY CITY SPACES AND THEIR POTENTIAL

In the middle of 2012, a platform named the Urban Incubator has been initiated by the Goethe-Institut in Belgrade. During its two years of existence, it has gathered over fifteen local and international projects which have actively participated in creating new cultural initiatives, and in revitalizing the urban spaces of Savamala through creating cultural and artistic content.

In 2014, the platform has transformed into a citizen association of the same name (Urban Incubator), with the aim of setting the project to the local context and increasing its sustainability. The association aimed to participate in the social and cultural enhancement of the contemporary cities. Urban Incubator association creates opportunities for the realization of the socially engaged activities, with the active participation of youth, as well as the opportunities for learning, researching, fluctuation of ideas and know-how in the fields of architecture, culture and arts. In the urban core of Belgrade, as well as in other cities in Serbia and the region, there are unused, dysfunctional industrial and other objects, which represent the inherited state, military, social and other owned properties, which under the rigid City and state politics stay unused or its ownership gets transferred to the political parties or the parties that support investors’ urbanism, rather than being given to the citizens, cultural and other institutions and initiatives to use.
The mini-conference which took place during the weekend of the November 15–16th at the KM8 (street Kraljevića Marka 8), has gathered, connected and empowered the existing initiatives, for a better future utilization of empty and public spaces in Belgrade. The conference outcome is the starting point for the association's 2015 objective to support local and international initiatives, in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut, as well as to create condition for the successful communication with the local government and the local and foreign investors. The outcome of such collaboration through the realization of socially engaged projects and the practice of sociocultural and artistic tendencies, will be a better use of the neglected empty and public spaces.

The presentation and discussion of the projects which have for their goal activation, transformation and a more plausible use of the empty and public spaces, from Serbia and Kassel (Germany) created by the activists and young professionals, such as Urbane Experimente e.V. and City-Guerilla, took place on Sunday, from 6–8 p.m. at the Kraljevića Marka 8.

The participants of the discussion were: City-Guerilla, Few Minutes of Architecture, Open Library project, School of Urban Practices, Streets for Cyclists, Urbane Experimente (Kassel), Župa (Kassel, Belgrade).

Accompanying programm of the conference included annual Goethe-Guerilla exhibition in KM8 Gallery space, live street performances, audio-walk of Savamala and interactive exhibition in the Spanish House made by City-Guerilla.
Since its first programme year, the Urban Incubator project has thus contributed to a new local and international branding of Savamala as a cultural urban quarter. Cultural initiatives and local as well as international approaches have led to a wider recognition and awareness about this rather neglected urban quarter – and to a new cultural vision for Savamala “which is more important than ever”, as the Swiss Neue Zürcher Zeitung correspondent, Andreas Ernst, pointed out. His report, in October 2014, reflected upon the Savamala urban mega-project “Belgrade Waterfront”. The NZZ headline “To Bring the City to the River . . .” was subtitled: “Belgrade’s risky mega-project at Sava river bank”. And the resumée was: “[. . .] many Belgrade citizens are very much concerned that, with this large-scale project, they will experience a rude awakening.”

As opposed to investor’s driven, solely economic projects, the Urban Incubator project looked into smaller buildings and structures which had stood vacant for many years, and how to find new ways of re-using and re-developing them: for example Kraljevica Marka 8 – now selected one of the ten most vibrant gallery spaces in Belgrade – and the “Spanish House”, below Brankov Bridge, were re-claimed for the invited cultural projects, and by their own initiatives, re-constructed. Provided by Savski Venac Municipality or City of Belgrade/Dom Omladine, altogether five Urban Incubator project spaces have been newly created in Savamala. For these new creative hubs, the Goethe-Institut will try to secure availability and the best possible temporary use for cultural purposes and activities – hopefully surviving the grand scale of mega projects looming large, and may be even beyond 2015.

In that case, the Urban Incubator projects of the year(s) to come will bring even more positive vibes and energies to Savamala, more experienced and young project participants, more locals and citizens of Belgrade, more national and international participation, exchange, and more audiences from far and afield. In 2011, when this vision originated, these perspectives of today would have been unimaginable. Due to the commitment of all project participants until
today, due to all their initiatives and activities the Urban Incubator has indeed brought “New Life to an Old City Quarter” (Blic, September 2012).

The Urban Incubator, in partnership between Urban Incubator Association since early 2014 and the Goethe-Institut Belgrad, have succeeded in establishing a broad public awareness about focus topics such as “Culture and Urbanism” and “New Forms of Participation”. Together with other local and international partners, they have been fostering new ideas and approaches for the City of the Future and who creates it. Through their activities and experience, they now have access to a large network of artists, activists, and institutions, to national and international platforms of debate, knowledge transfer, and exchange. For example, BINA (Belgrade International Week of Architecture), open for co-operation in 2014 and again, in 2015 will be hosting an expert conference on “Citizens and the Making of Cities”. The “WELTSTADT” exhibition, also scheduled for BINA 2015, presents urban projects in 16 different global cities.

The Goethe-Guerilla project continues, too. After their initial five years, mostly spent in Savamala streets and niches, the now experienced young cultural activists will transform their group. The now “City Guerilla” are currently founding a new independent NGO, the “City Guerilla”, ready to enter into a future partnership with the Goethe-Institut, the next generation “Goethe-Guerilla”, and the Urban Incubator Association.

Just one more intriguing perspective: ACTOPOLIS, a new regional project of the Goethe-Institut network in South-Eastern Europe 2015-2017, will focus on urban initiatives as a “transnational laboratory”. Informed by the Belgrade Urban Incubator and other global experience in the field of urbanism and culture, more cities in the region SEE will come together and discuss strategies and projects how to combine artistic and urbanistic ideas and develop cross-border initiatives. This will connect closely with the Belgrade Urban Incubator plans and the already firmly established networks. ACTOPOLIS is designed to develop strong links with capital cities in the region and the Ruhr area in Germany and the Cultural Capital of Europe 2010, Mülheim/Essen.

Matthias Müller-Wieferig, Director Goethe-Institut Belgrad
Prestigious Swiss Daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung today reports on Savamala development plans: Belgrade’s risky Mega-Project on the Banks of Sava River “To Take the City to the Water” Andreas Ernst Building a superstructure over Sava-Amphitheater, an Arab investment scheme wants to fulfill an old dream for the City of Belgrade: to connect the Center with the water. But many Belgrade citizens anticipate a rude awakening.

UI Blog, Wednesday, October 15. 2014

Prestigious Swiss Daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung today reports on Savamala development plans: Belgrade’s risky Mega-Project on the Banks of Sava River “To Take the City to the Water” Andreas Ernst Building a superstructure over Sava-Amphitheater, an Arab investment scheme wants to fulfill an old dream for the City of Belgrade: to connect the Center with the water. But many Belgrade citizens anticipate a rude awakening.

Urban Incubator association continued using the website www.goethe.de/urbanincubator and established new fb page: urbanincubator reaching by December 2014, more than 600 FB likes

Major Serbian media and newspapers professional magazines and online portals such as RTS, B92, Politika, 24 Časa, and SEE CULT, Designed.rs, Supervizuelna, Superprostor, Manek Magazine (magazine of the independent cultural scene), reported about different activities and projects under the Urban Incubator platform.

Internationally Urban Incubator was presented in Robert Bosch Cultural managers Network (RB Foundation), Cultural Innovators Network (Goethe-Institut), Weltstadt – who creates the city project, BINA – (Belgrade International Architecture week)

17.11.2014 Politika about the Urban incubator Conference and City-Guerrilla exhibition: Destiny of empty spaces

06.07.2014 RTS Cultural news: Wierd Collective
17.4.2014 UI Blogg: TV Arte reports on Urban Incubator
in – TV ARTE (17.4.2014) spots “Cultural Warriors” –
Young Europeans from the North engage in Savamala
“Cultural Warriors” – this is an appropriate name for
Savamala activists Ralph van der Znijden and Jan Kohler:
ARTE TV, the French-German TV station covering most
of the EU-countries, looked into the lives and motivation
of two young people whose energy and commitment is
really something to talk about.

Both of them are connected to Urban Incubator initiative
– Jan, from Switzerland, participated in last year’s Urban
Incubator project activities and started the KM8 Čorbaluk
meeting and cooking. Ralph, pro-active in the Dutch-
Serbian cultural exchange, has been the “possibly biggest
optimist in Belgrade” promoting his “ibikebelgrade”
initiative and entrepreneurship in the city quarter. He
joined the Urban Incubator Association as a member of the
Curatorial Board this year.

On 8.02.2014 several national major newspapers
Politika/RTS/B92/24sata reported about joint plans of
Parobrod Culutral Centre, Belgrade Museum of Technic
and Science, Urban Incubator Association and Goethe-
Institut Belgrad to activate 101 years old Zupa steamboat.
URBAN INCUBATOR ASSOCIATION
Curatorial board 2014: DR. MATHIASS MÜLLER-WIEFERIG, AXEL HUMPERT, RALF VAAN DE ZIJDEN, MILAN BOSNIĆ, MAJA POPOVIć-VRAĆAR, ARCHITECT, BOBA STANKOVIć, SELMAN TRTOVAC, MILENA BERIć
Steering Committee: ANA ĐORĐEVIć, ANITA KNEŽIć, ZORICA MILISAVLJEVIć
UI Representative and Project manager: NIKOLA MARKOVIć

GOETHE-INSTITUT TEAM:
DR. MATHIASS MÜLLER-WIEFERIG, director
LALIĆ MILICA, cultural programme
ŠIDO SUNČICA, cultural programme
ZORICA MILISAVLJEVIć, cultural programme

PARTTAKING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES 2014
CAMENZIND MAGAZINE - KAMENZIND GOES BELGRADE (ZURICH, SWITZERLAND):
AXEL HUMPERT, LEILA PEACOCK, ANA DJORDJEVIć-PETROVIć
JEANETTE BECK, BENEDIKT BOUCESEIN, TIM SEIDEL, LJUBICA SLAVKOVIć
CITY-GUERILA (BELGRADE, SERBIA):
ZORICA MILISAVLJEVIć - PROJECT COORDINATOR, SIMON MARIć, NINA VUJASIN, ANITA KNEZIć, MIRJANA JEREMIć, MIRJANA UTVIć, MILICA NIKOLIć
NEXTSAVAMALA (HAMBURG, GERMANY)
STEPHAN LANDAU, METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, ELENA MOZGOVAYA, PROJECT COORDINATOR, ILIJA LAZAREVIć, LOCAL ORGANISER, KATARINA ANTANASKOVIć, LOCAL ORGANISER
NEW COLLECTION, THIRD BELGRADE (BELGRADE, SERBIA)
Organisers: SANDRA STOJANOVIć, VALENTINA BRKOVIć, SLAVICA OBRADOVIć
Mentors: MAJA ĆIRIć, ŽOLT KOVAć, MILOŠ TOMIć, LJUBOMIR VUČINIć, OLIVERA PARLIć, ANICA VUČETIć AND RADOŠ ANTONIJEVIć
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