

Life starts in water and spreads around it, inspired my the meandering flow of a river, we envision Irpin as a dynamic process of adaptation. Just as a rivers course is shaped by the contours of the land, Irpin will be shaped by the collective aspirations and actions of its citizens. To spark this process we merely want to offer the strong community of Irpin tools to (re)construct their reality. This democratic and decentralized process will not only accommodate the changing needs of the individuals and the community but will make the city more resilient towards external stresses such as flooding, changes in capacity or even future attacks, which could change the structure of the city yet again. The devastating destruction of the city

after the attacks in spring 2022, has thrown us back to what has always been there and, rather unimpressed by the destruction, is already thriving again: The rich nature surrounding Irpin. We imagine the nature to be the starting point of the process, with the urban fabric carefully streaming into nature. In nature, rivers have a balancing effect and can connect different ecosystems. The stream of people will be an important part of the process we would like to start. We envision a paradigm shift towards shared- and public mobility that should interfere least possible with the public space and grow as flexible as the city does.

Resilient Urban Evolution

What is your definition of the city of the future?
The city of the future is a dynamic process of constant adaptation, to fluctuations in capacity, to extreme weather conditions or wars – to the changing needs of its citizens. Flexibility in housing, public space design, and transportation thus need to become an integral part of planning. City dwellers need to feel their impact on the city, not only through their spatial practices but through the changes they make to the built environment based on their visions.

What will be the most important problems and challenges that cities will face in the near future?
Since cities are expected to grow more, cities will face the problem of overpopulation. This rising number of city dwellers needs resources such as energy, space, functioning infrastructure, and most importantly livable spaces that provide a minimum of dignity. The increasing use of technology in cities presents new challenges to privacy, inclusion, and governance. Furthermore, the consequences of climate change will resolve in cities being flooded or exposed to extreme weather events. This will increase the aforementioned stresses even more.

What essential objectives must be met considering the great urban failures of the current cities in the world?
As our cities continue to grow, they will face numerous challenges that include overcrowding, uneven allocation of housing and traffic spaces, and the trend of turning urban areas into commodities that can disconnect people from their cities. Furthermore, the cities of the future will need to address issues related to climate change such as heatwaves and flooding, and provide sanctuary for the growing number of refugees who are fleeing from war or extreme weather conditions.

Urban Well-being

What is your definition of the place for living and fulfilling life?
A fulfilling place inspires and challenges us on different levels. It allows us to move, grow, try out, and fail safely. It gives us the space to breathe and to take breaks, to reflect, to doubt to be weak. It connects us to nature, to people with whom we do not agree, it is giving us the right mixture of novelty and continuity.

How can a happy, satisfied and secure city be created?
Open and accessible spaces, not only increase the well-being of people but also increase the feeling of security during the day and nighttime. We envision the stream to offer mixed functions to avoid monofunctional zoning that triggers the appearance of "non-places". The collective space creation will increase mutual awareness and respect among the citizens.

What are the spatial, urban and structural elements that must be implemented in the city of Irpin to achieve a happy, satisfied and secure city in a post-war context?
The advantage of the modular system that we propose is that it can be specifically adapted to different parts of the city and be set up rapidly. We make a virtue out of necessity in these uncertain times and presuppose the constant change of the city. Furthermore the modular system can be seen as a "temporary/longterm solution" for the many internally displaced people in need for shelter.

Eco-Urbanity

How to incorporate and ensure health and dignity in the city?
A city that values well-being recognizes that we are social beings who require community and a sense of belonging while accepting that we get easily overwhelmed by excessive stimuli. A healthy city provides space for physical activity and rest and incorporates both built and natural environments. A healthy city is freed from noise and pollution from traffic, allowing us to look into the distance. A city that incorporates dignity acknowledges and celebrates our diversity, gives everyone the feeling to be looked after.

What are the spatial and urban structures that must be implemented in the City of Irpin, together and in harmony with its pre-existing elements, so that it can develop as an environmentally friendly city?
We propose a modular system, with flexible housing and improved mobility that can substitute missing structures and enrich and connect to existing elements in the city, linking the different parts of Irpin more. We want to achieve sustainability through the change in mobility, and the modular system that promotes adaptation through transformation of the structure rather than its demolition.

Self-Sustaining Communities

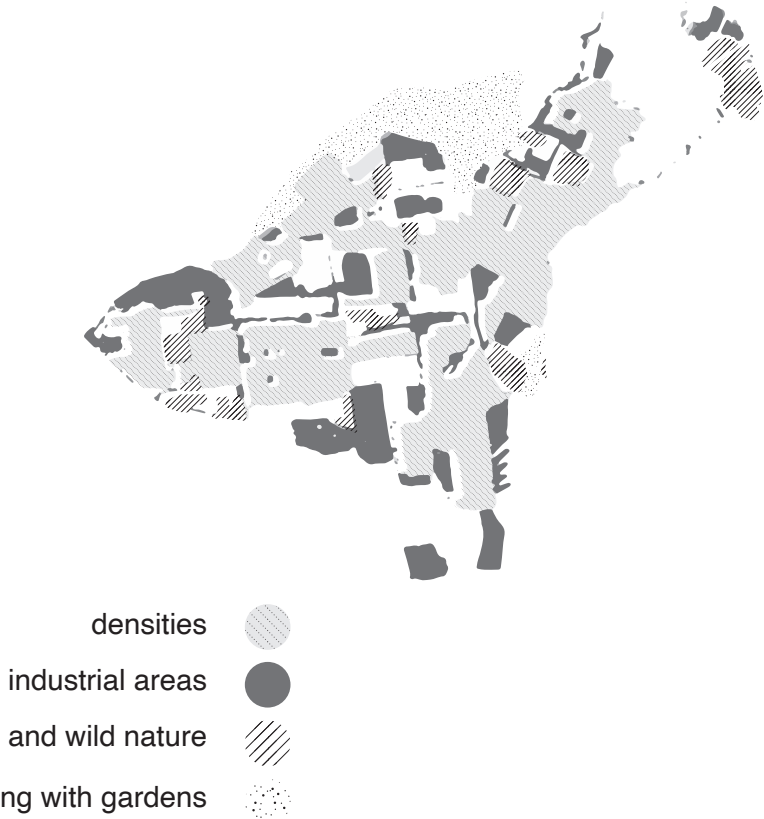
What new development tools do you propose to successfully meet these objectives?
We propose a dynamic and decentralized concept that invites residents to shape the urban space together, viewing the city as an ever-evolving process. This approach fosters resilience by inviting the unknown, letting the city "heal" easily after disruptions like natural disasters or war. Our vision prioritizes people's movement, aiming to enhance accessibility and reduce the negative impact of mobility on urban life and the environment. To achieve this, we advocate for active mobility, and propose shared ownership, to reduce its' space consumption in the city.

What is the role of Irpin within the Kyiv region, being an intermediate point between the international airport and the large capital city?
We aim to turn the city into a destination rather than just a stopover between the airport and Kyiv. We hope to showcase how communities can function and serve as a model for creating a flexible city that can be adapted to different contexts.

What should be the relationship between Irpin, as a satellite city, with Kyiv?
Currently, a significant number of individuals commute to Kyiv for work but choose to reside in Irpin because of its proximity to nature. In the future Irpin will develop into a more autonomous city with job opportunities, diverse centers and spaces for recreation that will make Irpin feel less like a suburb and more like an independent city.

analysis

When analyzing the city structure before the attacks, we found that apart from the main center the city is characterized by traditional single-family housing with private gardens and fenced-off views. In those zones, little islands of density can be made out, which are reminiscent of the sovietic micro-districts (KK City Park), with a rather sparse service network. The green areas are partly the main parks (Nezayka - Pravyk's - Pokrovsky - Park) and partly green plots without a clearly readable structure and reduced access such as the "M. Steinhilber Recreation Park".



Synthesis

How might we enrich those islands of density with roles beyond dwelling, and make them interesting for people within and outside of Irpin? How can we ensure fast and simple connections between the centers, and how can those connections be transformed from cutting and dangerous borders to new public spaces that provoke life and interaction? How can we shift the paradigm of ownership in areas of single-family houses with private gardens – spark the collective creation of space and increase access for everyone?



Emotions

To understand the emotional impact of the war and see the current situation in Irpin, we interviewed an employee from the Red Cross on sight and a person that worked in Irpin before the war. While we were astonished by the determination with which people rebuild the city, both interviewees stressed the collective trauma and the fact that the war is not over, that Irpin is one of many destroyed cities in Ukraine.



Concept

With our idea "stream" we answer both the current issues of Irpin as a post-war city and the potentials found in the research of the pre-war Irpin. Considering the uncertainty induced by war and the ideology of a flexible and ever-changing city, we got inspired by the flow of water, and the idea that small drops can form strong streams that spark life, connect ecosystems, and react sensibly to their surroundings.

