

PUBLIC LEARNING #2
SPACES IN BETWEEN LINEAR CITY KHARKIV

EXCURSION/WORKSHOP 7/2017



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18.07. - 19.07.	Kyiv
20.07. - 23.07.	Kharkiv
24.07.	Slavutych

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INTRODUCTION

The 2017 excursion/workshop was the second of the Institute for Art and Design 1 in collaboration with the Lviv Polytechnic National University. The first workshop took place in Lviv in May 2016. There we worked on – literally and figuratively – the Stepana-Bandery-Street in front of the university.

Both workshops ran under the overall theme of “public learning”. The underlying question is what the university can learn from the public and vice versa in dealing with public space. Thus one of the main tasks for the students was to get in contact with users, in-

habitants, passers-by of each place. They had to develop interventions which directly took place at the very place of investigation. The projects are in this sense several undertakings in one: artistic interventions, tools for participation, instruments for sensitisation, educational exercises.

In 2017 we had an additional partner: the O.M. Beketov University in Kharkiv. Together we worked on the site of the XTC-city, an example of the linear-city-model of the 1930s in the Soviet Union. The results of this workshop are documented in this booklet, beside

some impressions of our excursion exploring the architecture and urban fabric of Kyiv, Kharkiv and Slavutych.

With this little documentation we would like to thank Svitlana Linda for initiating and organising the contact with Lyudmila Shvets and all the others in Kharkiv.

Lyudmila Shvets and Denis Gura for their generous hospitality and commitment.

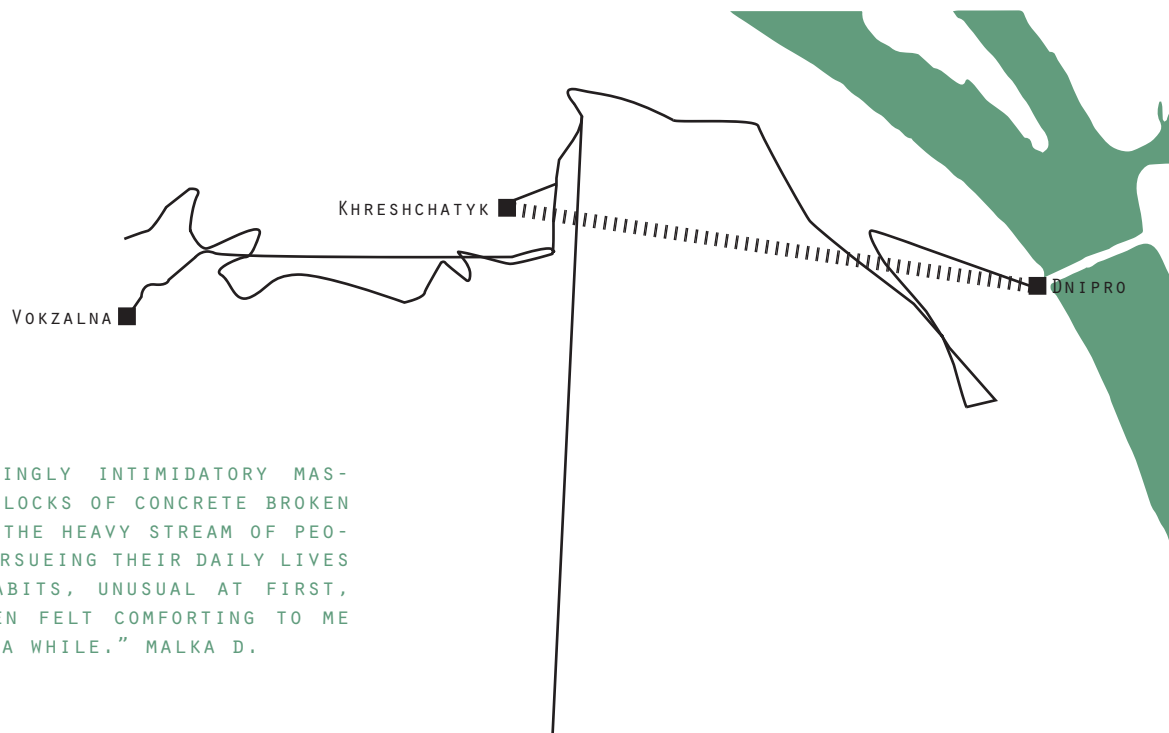
Andreas Hofer and Bohdan Tscherkes for letting us be part of the cooperation between Vienna and Lviv.

EXCURSION

KYIV KHARKIV SLAVUTYCH

18TH JULY, 2017

KYIV



"STRIKINGLY INTIMIDATORY MASSIVE BLOCKS OF CONCRETE BROKEN UP BY THE HEAVY STREAM OF PEOPLE PURSUEING THEIR DAILY LIVES AND HABITS, UNUSUAL AT FIRST, IT EVEN FELT COMFORTING TO ME AFTER A WHILE." MALKA D.

EXCURSION TO THE CITY CENTER OF KYIV
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MYSTETSKYI ARSENAL)

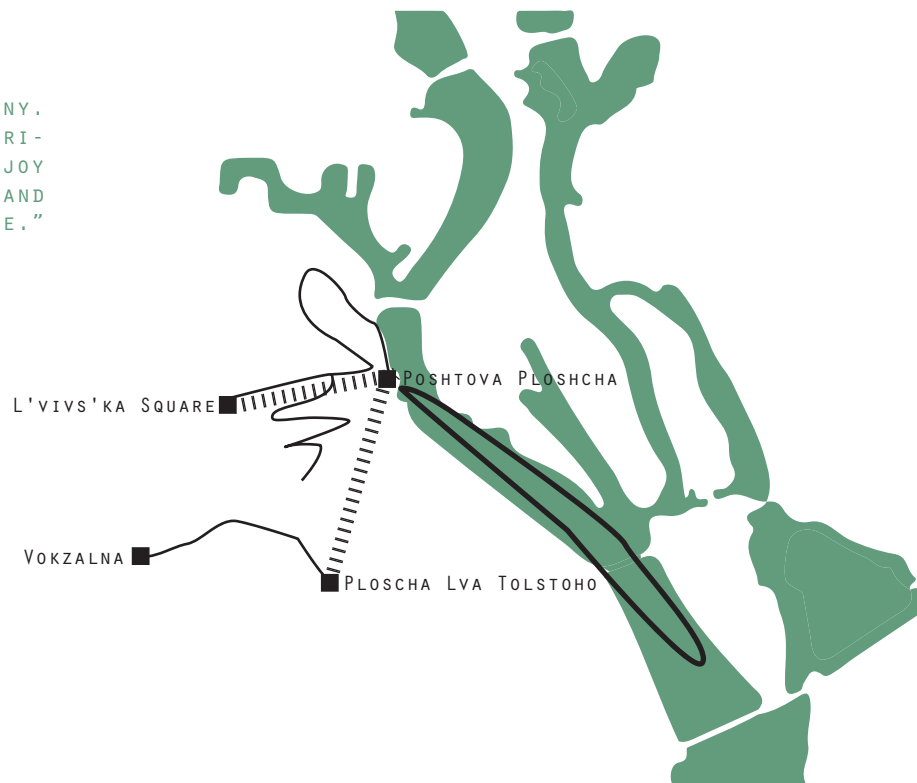




19TH JULY, 2017

KYIV

"UKRAINE WAS AN EPIPHANY.
I HAD A BLAST AND EXPERI-
ENCED SO MANY MOMENTS OF JOY
DISCOVERING THE COUNTRY AND
CONNECTING WITH THE PEOPLE."
ADMIR D.



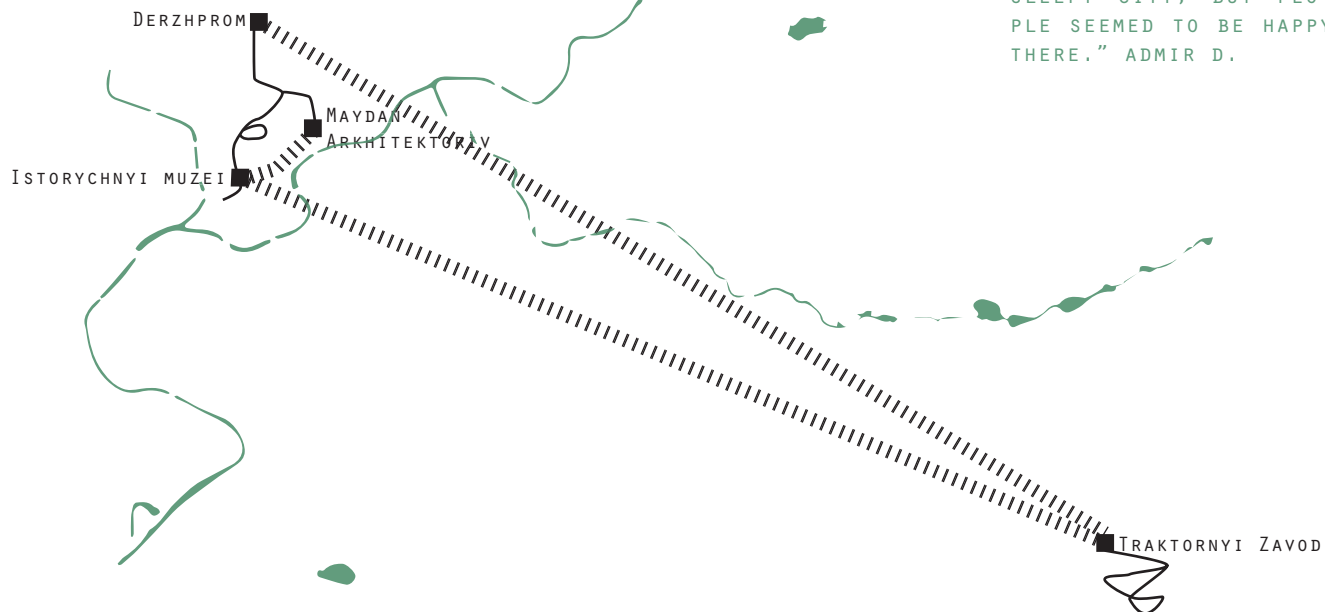
TRIP TO ANDRIIVSKYY DESCENT AND PODIL DISTRICT
FERRY LINE TRIP ON DNIPRO RIVER
VISITS TO CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: TEATR NA PODOLI,
YA GALLERY, SHCHERBENKO ART CENTRE, DYMCHUK GALLERY





20TH JULY, 2017

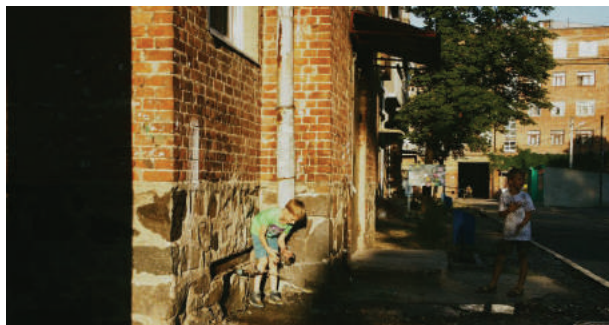
KHARKIV



"KHARKIV, IN GENERAL,
LEFT AN IMAGE AS A MORE
SLEEPY CITY, BUT PEOP-
LE SEEMED TO BE HAPPY
THERE." ADMIR D.

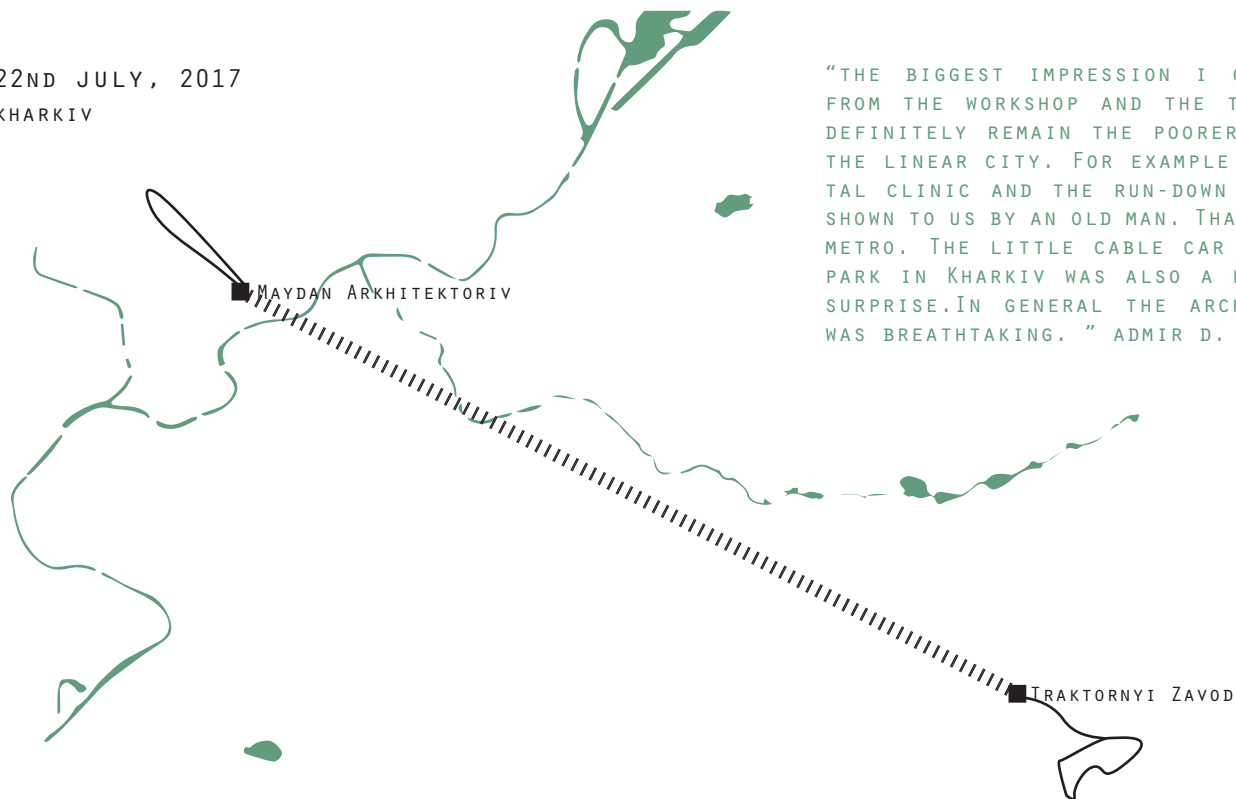
TOUR THROUGH THE HISTORICAL CENTER OF KHARKIV (D.VITCHENKO, A.KHAKHALINA)
TRIP TO THE LINEAR CITY
INDIVIDUAL STUDY OF THE AREA (DRAWING, PHOTOGRAPHING, MAPPING...)





22ND JULY, 2017

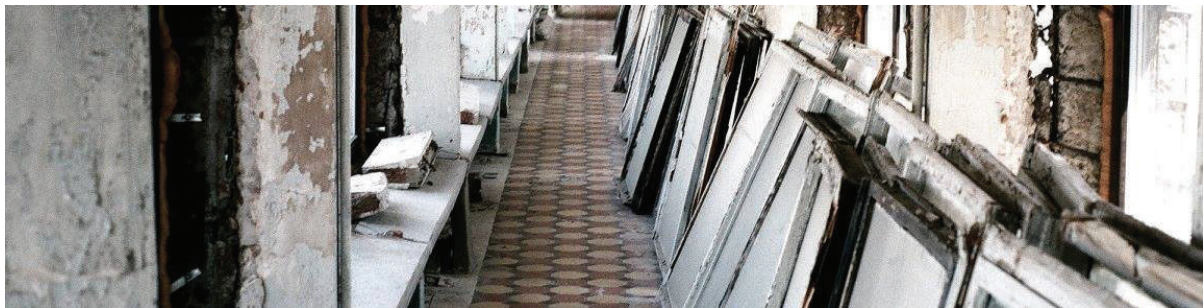
KHARKIV



"THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION I COLLECTED FROM THE WORKSHOP AND THE TRIP WILL DEFINITELY REMAIN THE POORER PART OF THE LINEAR CITY. FOR EXAMPLE THE DENTAL CLINIC AND THE RUN-DOWN BUILDING SHOWN TO US BY AN OLD MAN. THAT AND THE METRO. THE LITTLE CABLE CAR AT GORKY PARK IN KHARKIV WAS ALSO A HILARIOUS SURPRISE. IN GENERAL THE ARCHITECTURE WAS BREATHTAKING. " ADMIR D.

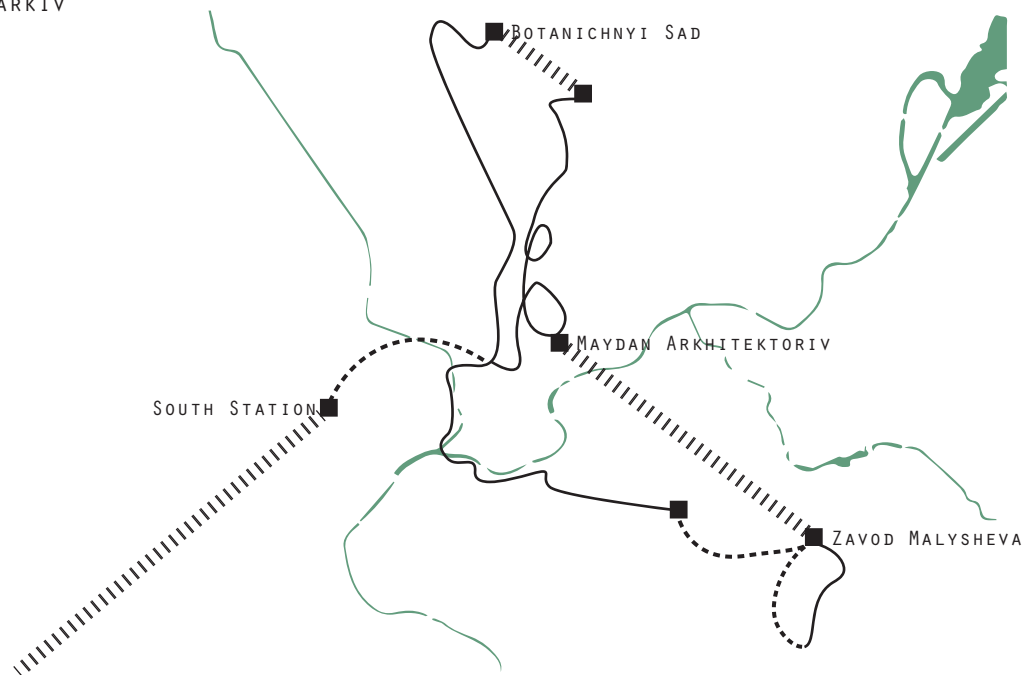
EXCURSION TO GASPROM COMPLEX
REALIZATION OF INTERVENTIONS
BARBECUE IN THE LINEAR CITY





23RD JULY, 2017

KHARKIV



"IT WAS LIKE A TIME-TRAVEL-MACHINE TO THE SOVIET TIMES, THAT I HAD HEARD A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT FROM MY PARENTS." PAVLO K.

CITY TOUR
FOOD FESTIVAL (ZAVOD MEHANIKA)
KHARKIV ART MUSEUM
GORKY PARK
NIGHT TRAIN TO KYIV





24TH JULY, 2017

SLAVUTYCH



"ALL IN ALL IT WAS A GREAT
EXCURSION, HELPING US TO
DIVE INTO DIFFERENT TOPICS
ON SITE AND EXPERIENCE A DI-
VERSE SPECTRUM OF NOT ONLY
UKRAINE'S HISTORY BUT ALSO
POSSIBLE FUTURE COURSES THE
COUNTRY MIGHT TAKE."
MALKA D.

ARRIVAL IN KYIV
BUS TO SLAVUTYCH
MUSEUM AND TOUR THROUGH SLAVUTYCH
EXPO CENTER OF UKRAINE



"Slavutych is the last *atomograd* (atomic town) to have been built in the Soviet Union. The last ideal city. The last manifestation of friendship between Soviet peoples. Slavutych was the replacement for tragic Prypyat, which was devastated by the catastrophe at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Station on 26 April 1986."

Year of foundation: 1986

Population: 25.000 (2014)

Location: 186 km north of Kiev

Distance to the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant: 50 km

(Quelle: Gubkina, 2016)



INTRODUCTION

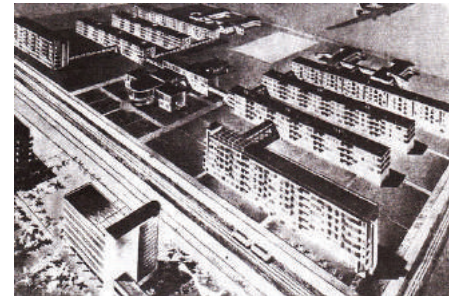
Public Learning 2

Spaces in Between Linear City Kharkiv

The workshop, a cooperation between students and teachers from Kharkiv, Lviv and Vienna, took place in the Linear City or XTC-City (after the tractor factory) in Kharkiv. It was built in 1935-38, when the Soviet Union was still quite young. “Sozgorod - New Kharkiv” is regarded as an outstanding example of the soviet linear city model, developed by Milutin and others. The main goal of the planning was a collectivisation of private life to free up a larger number of workers for the industrialisation programme.

Against this background we concentrated the workshop on the (public) open space. The students were given the task to investigating how much is left of the formerly revolutionary ideas and realisations, especially in terms of design. How has it - officially or informally - changed or been appropriated?

In the context of this small research project the student groups were asked to take up their observations and transfer these into interventions in public space.



WORKSHOP

LINEAR CITY KHARKIV



INTERVENTIONS: 1 BOTTLE 2 BUNDLE 3 BENCH 4 FRAMING 5 ZEBRA 6 PIKNIK

BOTTLES









While walking in the surroundings of the linear city we discovered a lot of empty bottles thrown away in the bushes. We were slightly irritated by that. With our installation we wanted to focus on this drinking behavior, without criticizing anyone. We tried to comment on it, with a new and maybe ironic perspective. After collecting about 100 bottles we arranged them in a grid of 8x8 in front of the cultural center close to the main footpath. Closeby we bought flowers from a local seller and put one in each bottle. After everything was done, we sat in a close distance to observe the reactions of the people. Everybody was curious, asking about the mean-

ing of it. Some made jokes about it. Is it the cemetery of alcoholics, they asked laughing. There were even two business men, having an intellectual discussion for half an hour. Later, kids arrived with their bikes and we encouraged them to show us some tricks in the middle of the installation.



BUNDLE





Bundle Performance aims to recall lively memories of the Traktornyi Palace of Culture.

Choreography is designed to get attention of the residents and later the throwing game invites bystanders to join in.

Interaction with the residents starts with the thread of wool, which leads people from the tractor statue to the game arena. When the game is finished, a spontaneous shape is formed.

00 everyone stands in a row; heads (and eyes) are pointed to the floor

01 first person walks to the second pillar with the ball of wool

02 second person walks to the fourth pil-

lar and takes the ball from the first person; third and fourth person do the same
03 fifth person walks till the rope ends

04 all put the rope to the ground

05 first person (has another ball) walks to the fifth person and gives the ball

06 fifth person ties the ropes together and walks on to the middle of the platform

07 all others start walking at the same time and stand again in a row

08 first person in the row throws the ball in the middle of the square

09 everyone takes position on the square

10 fifth person throws the ball and game starts







BENCH





Create your own comfort.

Our cultural intervention in this old ideal linear city, which was supposed to be utopia at one time, drove people to converse with us. My group's project was based on the real story of an old man. Such an interaction gives cultural projects more meaning and sense.

The main idea of this project has born was conceived when the group of students in non-typical tourist district of Kharkiv won an old man's attention. He was so surprised that we were just walking and taking pictures in his neighborhood that he started conversing with us. After that he showed us his apartment and explained that everything in his apartment he did by himself. His story isn't something extraordinary for the inhabitants of old tractor factory houses.

So our idea was to create an object which isn't ideal and must be updated by people of this district to make it more usable.

We have decided to put a bench with a large 2m high transparent backrest in front of old Factory event hall. It was an empty square with no shade. Just like the apartments our bench was useless before people started upgrading it and glue stickers to the transparent back. At the same time they were creating a shade with stickers. So finally, when the work was complete, sun rays do not create any discomfort for sitting people.

With our furniture installation we wanted to show how important it is for people to interact with architecture.







FRAMING +/-







The project seeks to ask the residents of the XTC-City about what they see positive or negative about living here. Looking through the framed view they can articulate their personal + and - via positioning the corresponding figures.









ZEBRA

ПАРК ИМЕНИ МАЯКОВСКОГО



To develop the project, a group of students from Kharkiv, Lviv and Vienna had the idea of showing the zebra crossing with a character that would represent a zebra: a two pieces costume that emulates the animal. In a playful way we tried to make people notice that there is a space for them to exercise their rights as citizens and to walk safely through the streets.

The initial idea started during the visit to the linear city, when we realised there was a great need for zebra crossings, especially in the areas that were isolated from the center.

This policy of focusing on people's needs and improving the citizen's behavior, helped to see more clearly the phenomenon that was taking place on the streets. Citizens and drivers did not understand the project of students dressed as zebras and sometimes reacted strange, either nagging about not having enough time to take part in the project, or honking if they were driving.

The project in the end got an educational sense as well because it offered a real alternative of citizen education based on respect for the other and understand the difference between public and common space.









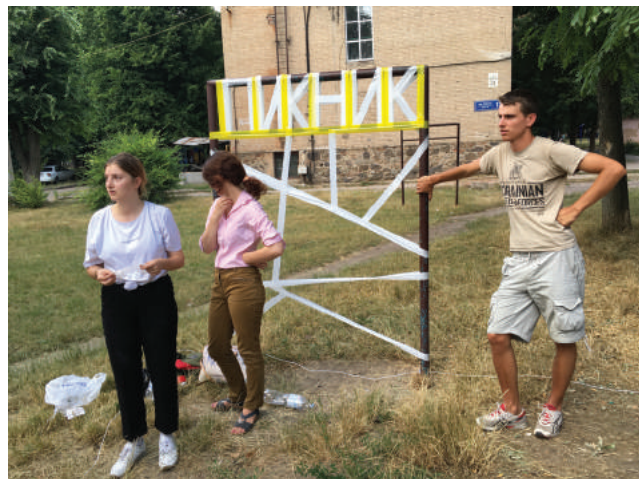
PIKNIK







On first glance the landscape design of the linear city gives the impression of a huge forested camping site. Cars are kept out between the houses and no bushes or other things block the view. The atmosphere is relaxed, nearly like in a real camping site where everyone is on holiday. People use this free space to have barbecue or to just play or sit there. We used this relaxed atmosphere to create a meeting point between us and the inhabitants by providing a picnic. As you can see: it worked out very well.







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Photos:

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Bildnachweis:

Falls zu einzelnen Abbildungen trotz eingehender Recherche der korrekte Bildnachweis nicht erbracht werden konnte, ersuchen wir in diesen Fällen um Verständnis und bitten um Hinweis für künftige Nennungen.

KHARKIV

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DOCUMENTATION - PROJECT PUBLIC ART (EXCURSION/WORKSHOP) "SPACES IN BETWEEN LINEAR CITY KHARKIV"

18.-25. July 2017 in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Slavutych

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IMPRESSUM

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