

Mémoires of an antique future



a contemporary archeology workshop

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Ever
Never

School

Košice (SK)

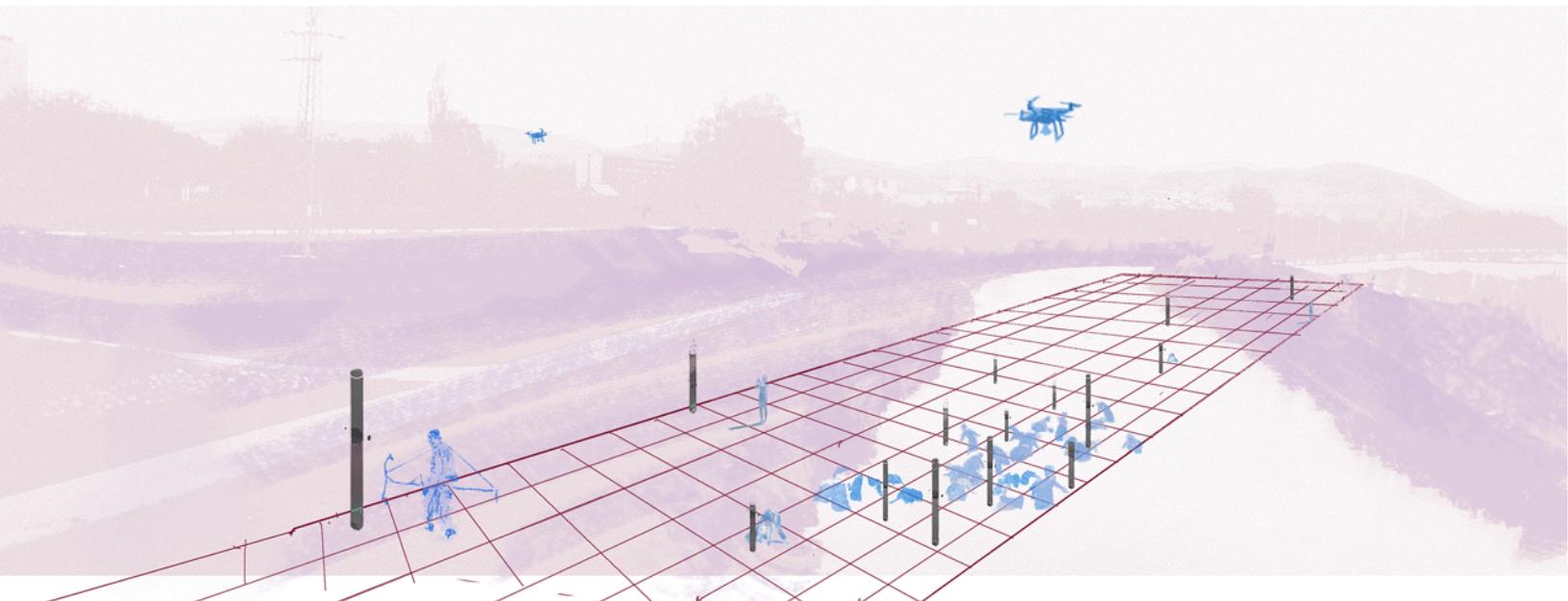


[Intro](#) [TLDR](#)

PROLOGUE

The Lost-and-found office pursues to infer past ways of living from material remains on our 'abandoned' riverside by experimenting with the means of contemporary archeology.

People from different backgrounds - sociology, urban planning, fine art, space theory, architecture - joined the LFO to learn how to listen to stories and gossip of the objects of their interest. We worked around the archeological notion of *time-depth* by making all kinds of assumptions of the ways of living of the temporary inhabitants. The existing methodology contains field walking and survey, mapping features and sites of significance, photography, stratigraphic excavation, interpretation and analyses of objects. But what stops us from inventing our own customs?



METHODOLOGY

1

- MAP THE GAP

The Lost-and-Found Office (LFO) was browsing through the map for a spot were the typologies are intertwined: natural - industrial - formal - informal - temporary territories of inhabiting. On the fieldwork we bumped into jungle-inhabitants as they referred to themselves. Obviously we wanted to respect the liquid boundaries of homeless Peter, David and Anna, but what we couldn't research physically they provided us through oral storytelling. Despite the language-barrier we felt at ease swapping stories with them, for example about fishing giant catfishes from the Hornad and so on. We decided to move further from the appropriated garden, and found a bumpy spot which we found rather welcoming and resourceful in material remains.



2

- FIND YOUR GRID

Drawing up in space a $1 \times 1\text{m}$ grid, a rectangle of $7 \times 12\text{ m}$ could be mapped. Our work was completely determined by the space we choose.



It was rather difficult to stay close to the ground while finding the right spot of the vertex, set on top of tiny hills, or wiring under the bushes. Noone should say that a contemporary archeologist has an easy time out there! Intense radiation of the sunlight, sweat, insistent raspberry thorns, finding your own tools like a hammer-substitute for fixing the nails into the ground. Even here, on top of the ruins of a home, nature is the boss.



3

- GARBAGE-POACHERS

Fuelled by stories of the neighbours we continued our examination of their lives by focusing on the objects. The LFO analyzed the findings by means of speculative design, taking it as a fantasy exercise to substitute or complete the physical ‘facts’. The position of wisdoming objects were also sketched up in the grid cooordinate system.



1, Explorer's Map

Description: used to be a map for discovering the jungle, but could not get any further because of the jungle was very deep. Estimated age: 50 years. Lost for: 40 year



2, Tile

Description: Bathroom or kitchen, private quarters. Estimated age: 3 years. Lost for: 2 years.



3, *Hector*

Description: electrical, mechanical part of an engine, industrial use. Estimated age: 30 years Lost for: 20 years.

4, *Joe* (see exhibition view at the Epilogue)

Description: shoes of Peter, the lazy olympic cham. Estimated age: 6 years. Lost for: 1 years



5, Plug

Description: renovation remain. Estimated age: 30 years. Lost for: 5 years

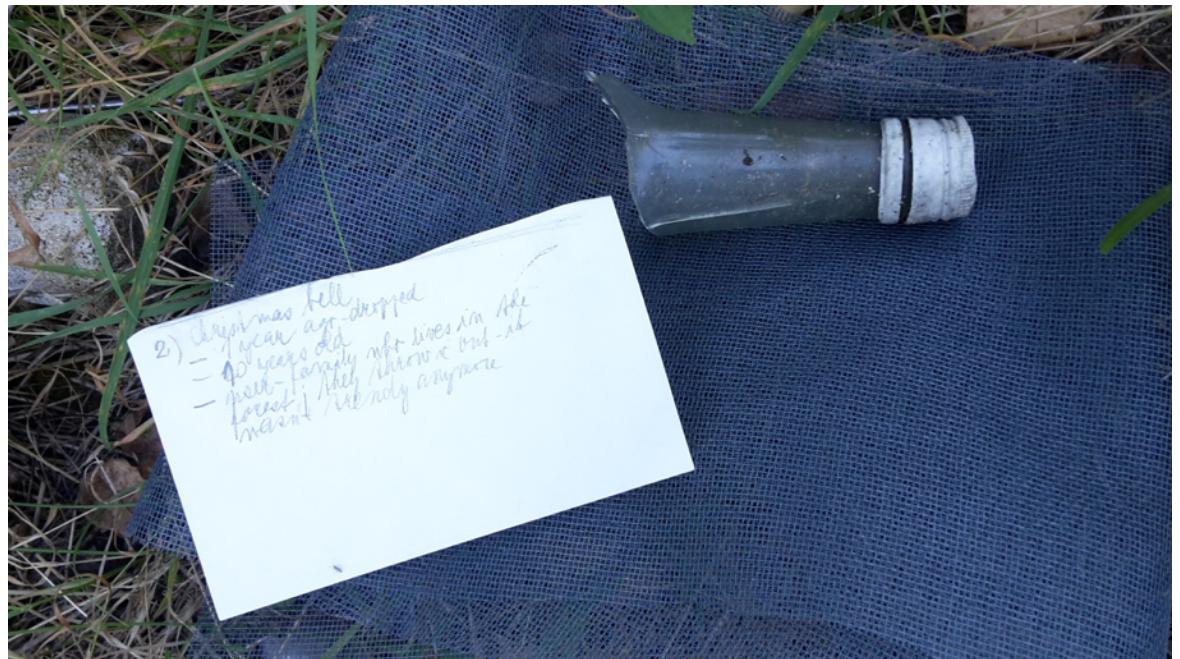


6, Plastic Foil

Description: shopping remain. Estimated age: 20 years. Lost for: 20 years

7, Open Air Kitchen

Description: bonfire remain. Estimated age: 10 years. Burnt 42 hours ago.



8, *Christmas bell*

Description: a family who lives in a forest threw it out because it wasn't trendy anymore.

Estimated age: 10 years. Lost for: a year



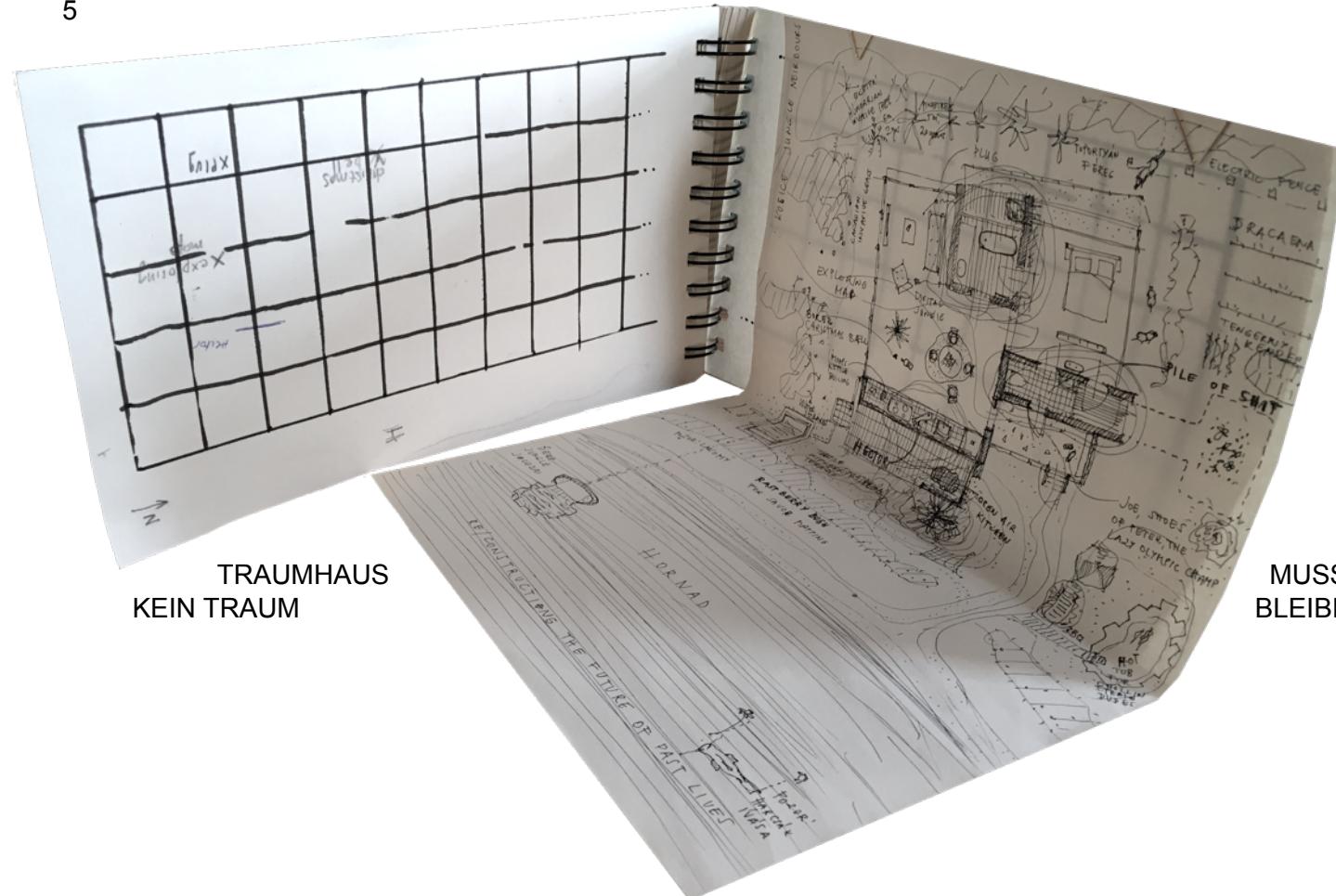
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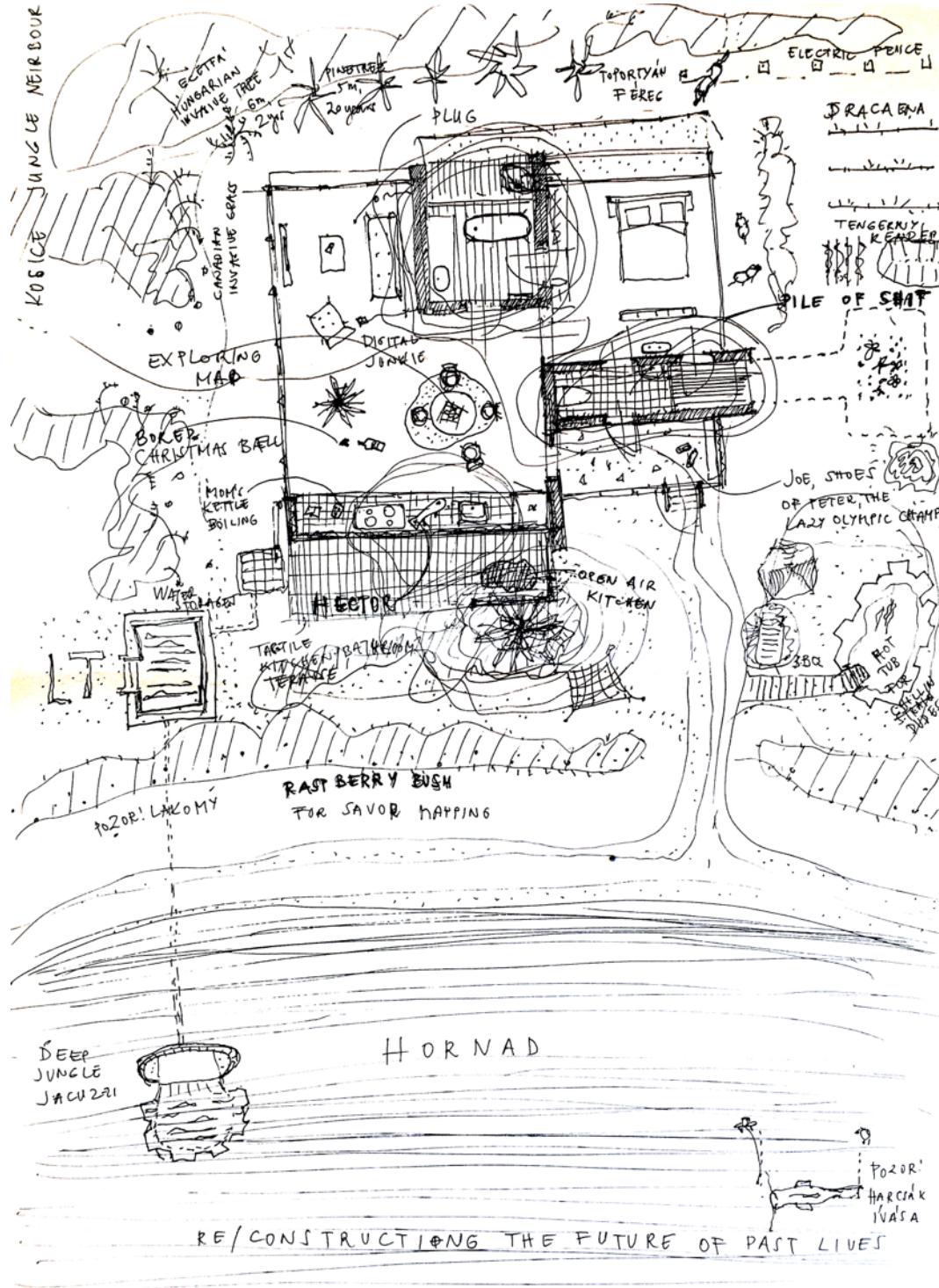
- SCANNING THE TIME-DEPTH

For visualizing the age-speculations we took bamboo sticks of different heights and placed them next to the object. The moment of NOW was marked with a metal ring, representing the proportions of the age of the item and the duration of being lost. Arranging a levitating shimmering metal sheet to connect the points we created a 3d diagram, making a roof over our archeological site.









The way I live, that's who I am.

The inhabited set of spaces, the past lives were whispering to us, all I had to do was to make them secure by drawing up some walls. The hunch of examining ruins of an actual house was confirmed by David during the fieldwork as he was carefully passing our workspace. People should be left the way they feel good to live and not chased away or forcefully changing their lifestyle.

EPILOGUE

Advocacy planning - an organic support

The idea is resonating with the concept of the Wild Living of the dutch ex-architect Carel Weeber, a movement against modernist social housing unification, allowing them to grow as it pleases the gardeners and other marginal groups, skipping the coule-de-sac of centralised utopias. A little dream house can be extended easily with - if you wish so, social policy maker - prefab glazed modules to create a micro-dream house. Hence the organic leisure-time character of the Hornad-side should be sustained, also indicating the development to bike lanes serving the public and thus increase the permeability of the rather isolated oasis in the focal point of the growing city embracing. The present typology, which supports the individual value production of a few summer houses can be continued, scalloping the Hornad behind the dam, mirroring the opposite panel blocks in a horizontal sense. The urban gardeners as a functioning model of self-organisation would be locally subsidised where they can actively spend time whereas they were doomed to passive consumption in the in-prisoning concrete jungles.

In the half-peripheral reality of East-Europe where massive social housing projects were rather likely to be used for social engineering, forced industrialisation took place in Kosice in the 70ies as well. Shortly after implementing the giant metalworking plant the building of new family houses was banned in order to fill up the projects and providing labour force by the immigrartion from the countryside. After the political change the dominating standard housing led to a re-migration of the ex-workers, a reasonable way of escapism for the people who were devoted to the agricultural way of living of their youth, yet were tied to the city locally. So called self-built neighbourhoods are emancipating and sufficient exceptions that are evidence of the new micro-individualism taking place in post-socialist vacuum of ownership.



REFLECTION

Serendipities and conflicts are also encoded in the process where trust and energy has been put into an unstable initiative. I can be only grateful to witness the caring work of the volunteers of the Lost-and-Found Office, [Tabi Latocha](#) [Orsolya Bajusz](#) [Markéta Burkotová](#) [Johannes Hollenhorst](#), their care for the bodily and even more, for your playful mental investments.¹ Poppy Isley was a gentle observer and documented the last bits of the process with a sensitive aesthetic of her. The Trojan Horse team [Karolina Anna Michalik Adéla Kolářová](#) [Klára Peloušková](#) [Lizzy Short](#) turned out to be a supportive team as well as in their ideas as in the last touches of installation, where I have to mention also [Martin Kiman](#). Thank you.

¹ visuals by the author and Poppy Isley (page 1, 9, 12, 13, 17)