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LANDSCAPE REGENERATION OF THE POST-INDUSTRIAL AREA OF 1 MAI SQUARE, CLUJ-NAPOCA

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Abstract

The transformation of unused lands as productive ones is becoming more and more important in fastest-growing cities, due to a continuous influx of new companies and population. Meanwhile, because of the relocation of industries on the outskirts areas or even outside the cities, post-industrial sites are being seen as very valuable land resources and potential landscapes. The integration of these spaces into the current urban landscape and their transformation into community areas becomes an element of reconnection with the place as a collective memory.

The studied site is located in the north of Cluj-Napoca, in Mărăști neighborhood, in an industrial area, the overall landscape is fragmented in eight plots which incorporates hardscape and softscape surfaces with undefined functions. Weaknesses were identified during the site analyses, including: poor lighting, poor maintenance of vegetation, air pollution, lack of sitting areas and absence of safe and clearly demarcated routes for people using the space.

Introduction

Industrialization has always been the promoter of significant changes in the urban and peri-urban landscape: large densities of constructions and a rising number of populations along with the defective anthropization of the natural and rural environment. The city has received a new, industrial, face and another development strategy. This new landscape has been defined by the concentration of industries and of the needs of a growing population, often times of young working-class young people in a new society, which were asking for new public services and infrastructure, contributing to the image of the typical 20th century settlement.

Material and method

A detailed analysis has been made of the site by walking, observing and understanding the key locations that compose it: streets, green areas, places where you can relax, booths, shops, buildings in good and bad conditions. Following this analysis, it can be concluded that: The studied site is composed of mineral surfaces, buildings, green spaces, ruderal vegetation and private gardens belonging to the neighboring households. 1 Mai Square has opening to bus stations, parking spaces for the people living in the neighborhood and for visitors as well and many pathways within the green spaces.

The connectivity of the site with the neighboring areas is well drawn, the traffic is organized and distributed to a good street network that directs a good amount of the vehicles and divides it equally over the city. This network is also used by pedestrians and guides them to a "center" with different facilities, like: refreshments, benches, trees that provide shade and the bus station.

Results and discussions

The landscape concept design has the role of raising the quality of life of 1 Mai Square through solving numerous problems encountered on the site, starting with noise and atmospheric pollution, waste, the lack of open spaces, of places to relax, of street illumination. These shortcomings could be solved with the help of a concept design that unifies the analyzed areas, giving up on visually unpleasant urban elements and by incorporating the local history.

Conclusions

The regeneration of the post-industrial site 1 Mai Square, Cluj-Napoca does not limit itself just to the design of a space for transit and short break. In this particular situation, some people living in this area started to ask themselves why do they dislike it? what makes it an unsafe space? and how could it be transformed into a more benefic area for the community?

References

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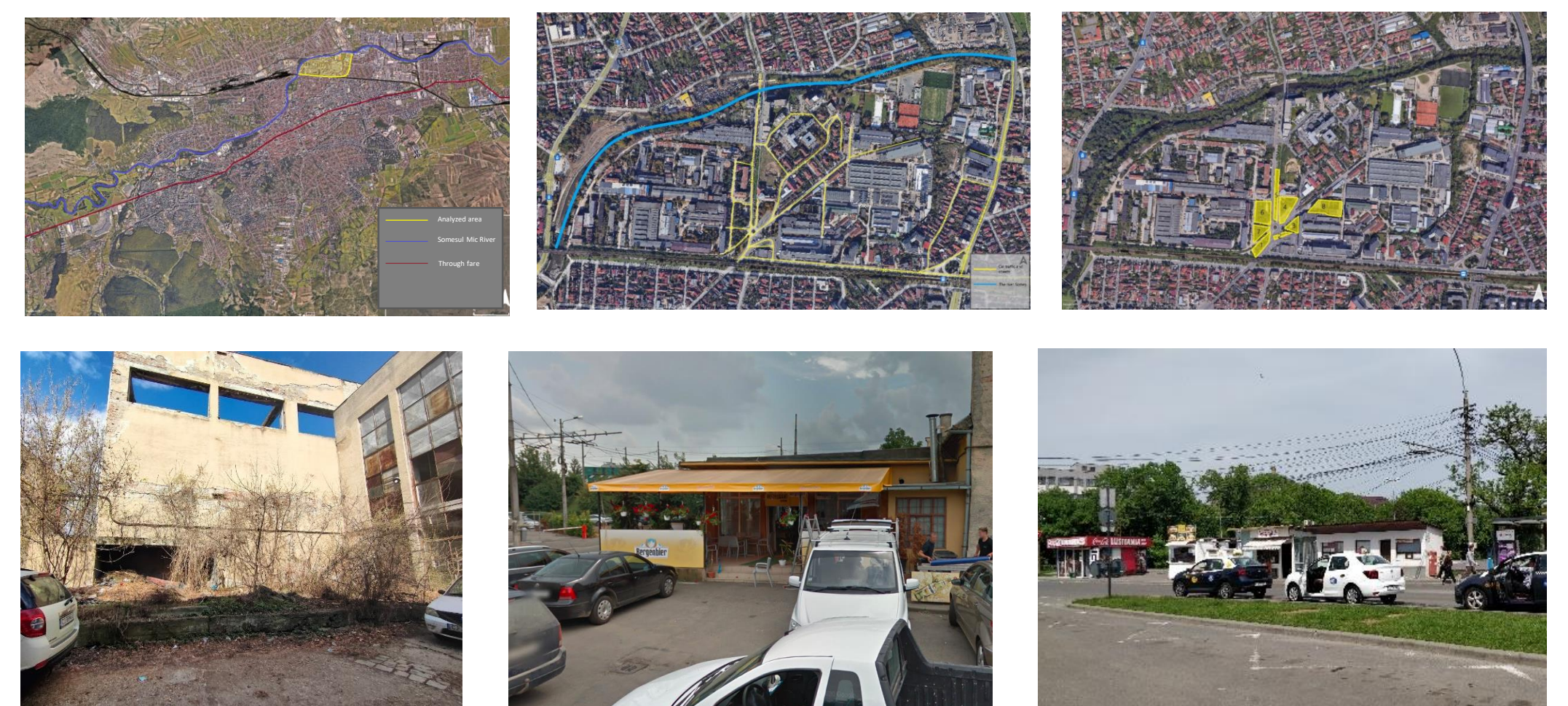


Figure 1. Site analysis of 1 Mai Square

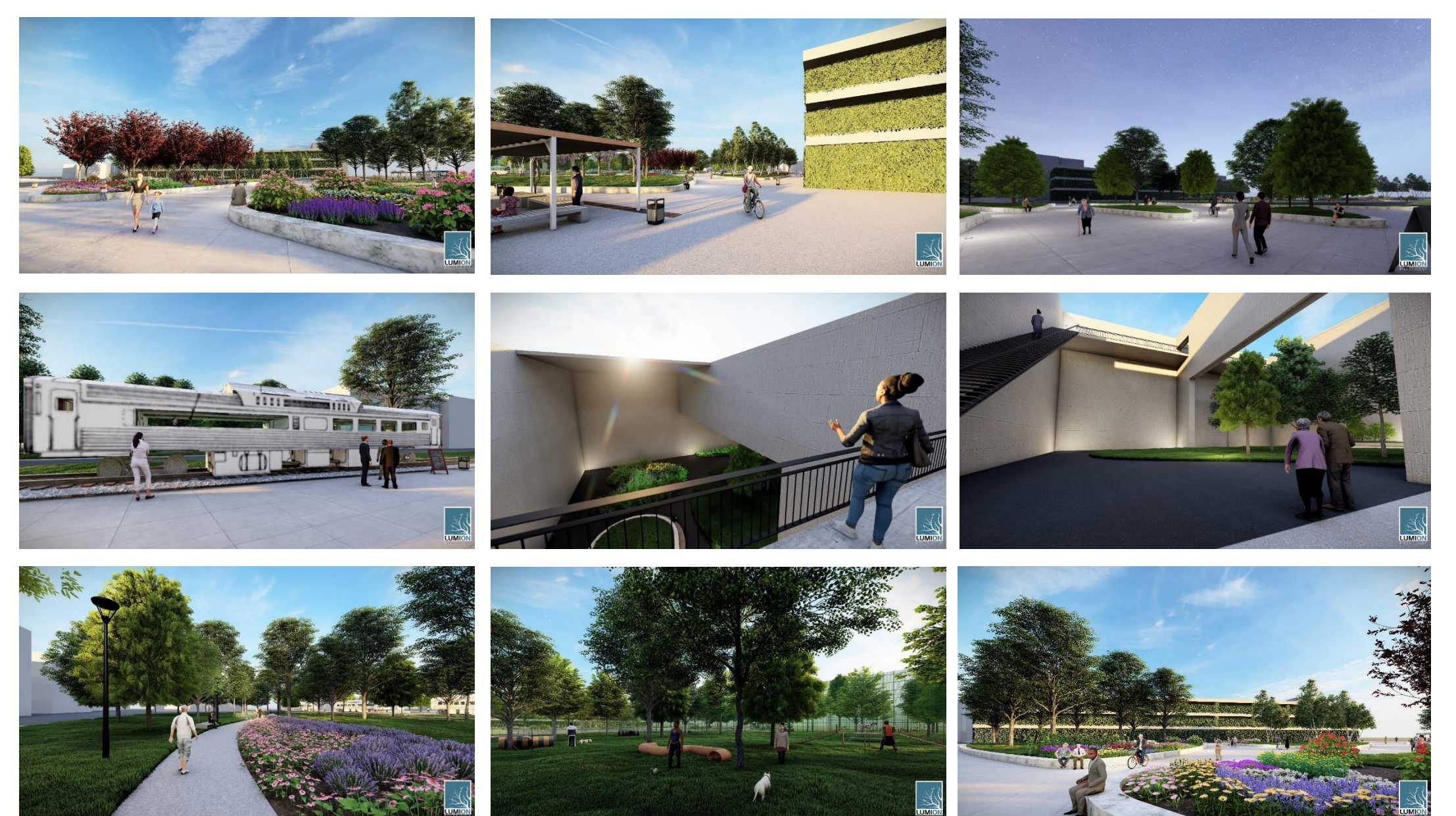


Figure 2. Design concept for 1 Mai Square

In this way, a process of searching and analyzing the problems of the site and their solutions had begun: through methods of conserving the vegetation, trying to create as many open spaces as possible, creating resting areas, new shade places and reconvertng abandoned or old buildings into comfort areas.

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