

Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura e Società
Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Pianificazione Urbana e Politiche Territoriali
Master of Science in Urban Planning and Policy Design
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Urban Design Studio

Laboratorio di Progettazione Urbanistica

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METHOD NOTES

ON RECOMPOSITION PROJECTS

Friday May the 28th 2010

TIRANA METROPOLIS

Projects excerpts from:

Berlage Institute Core Research

Tirana: a Modern European Capital

under the guidance of E. Zenghelis and P. V. Aureli

Tirana Summer Academy park projects



Tirana in the 1980s: official pictures



1986/1990: New Regulatory Plan

The city as an Archipelago:

The design actions deal with the **constitutive materials** of the city – the Fascist centre from the Italian occupation, the emblematic monuments of the Communist period, until the uncontrolled sprawl explosion – as found in reality, as **relatively autonomous entities**, but also as the components of a potential «**intelligible figure** of what the city needs in order to be recognized as such by its inhabitants», a recognizable whole which is pursued in a strategy of transformation and re-combination of the fragments.



Tirana as an archipelago

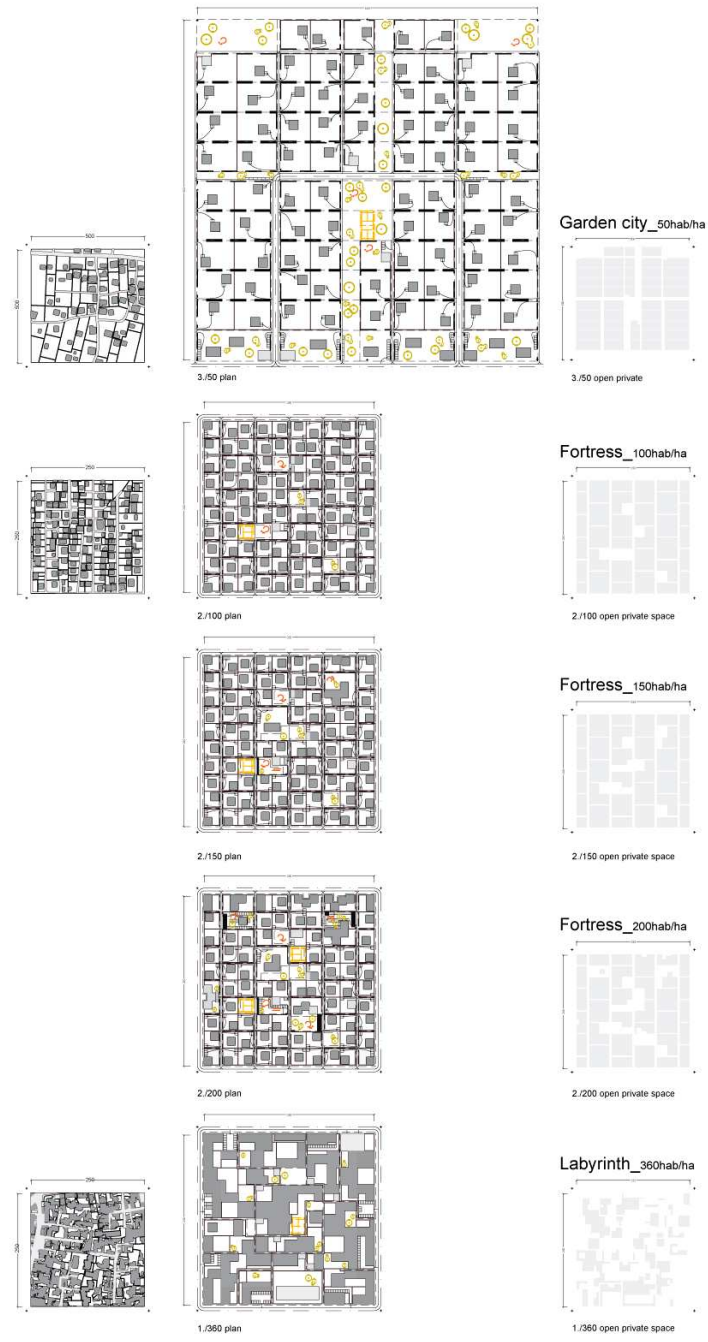


Action 1: fine tuning

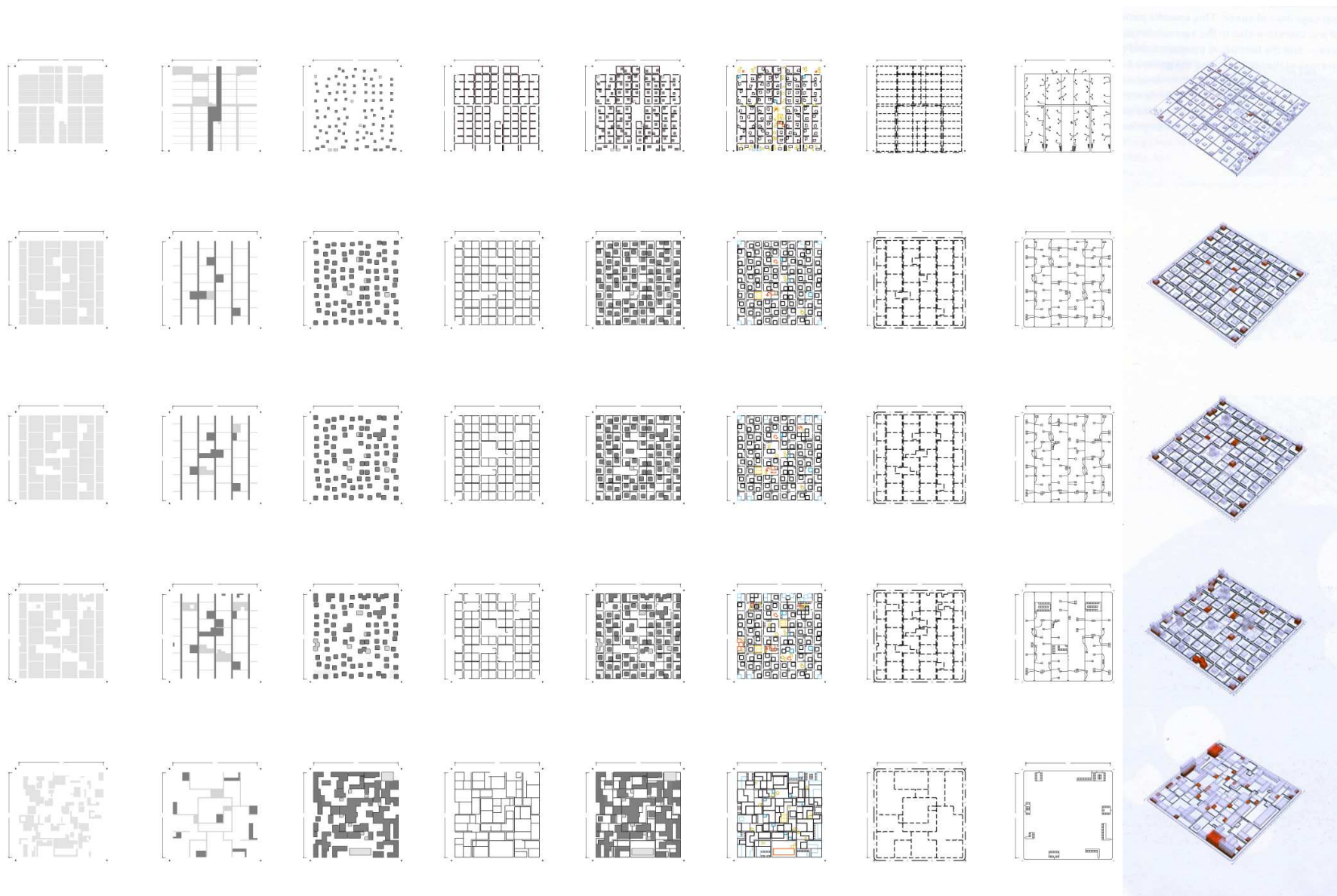


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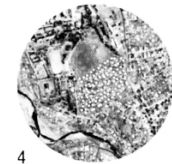
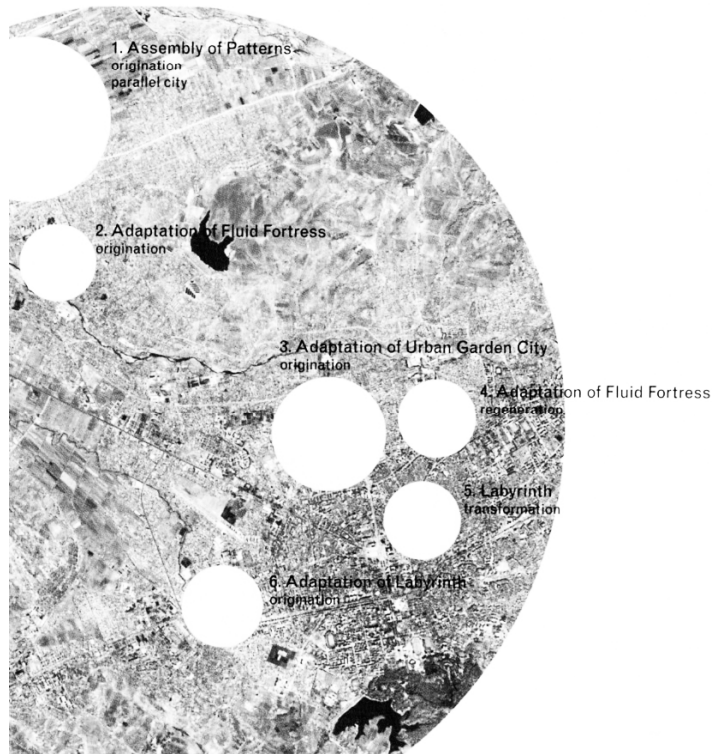
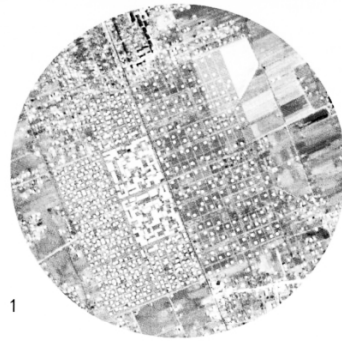


Neighbourhood: ideal abstraction. Garden city, labyrinth, fortress

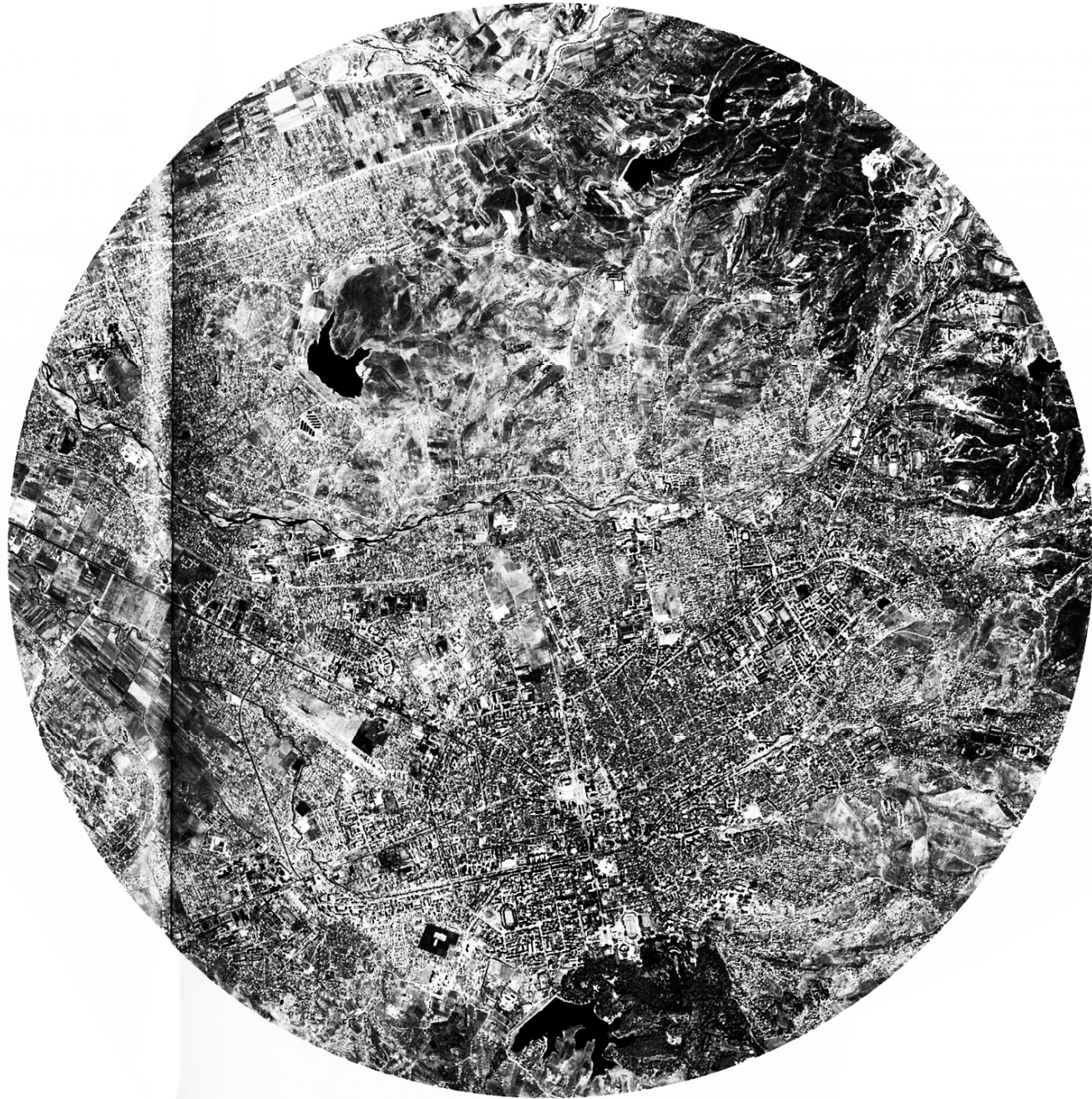


Distilling patterns: adaptation modes
 the garden city > the urban garden city; the fortress > the fluid fortress;
 the labyrinth > the porous labyrinth

Adaptation of abstract models into pre-existing urban fabric; modes of implementation.



Adaptation of abstract models into pre-existing urban fabrics



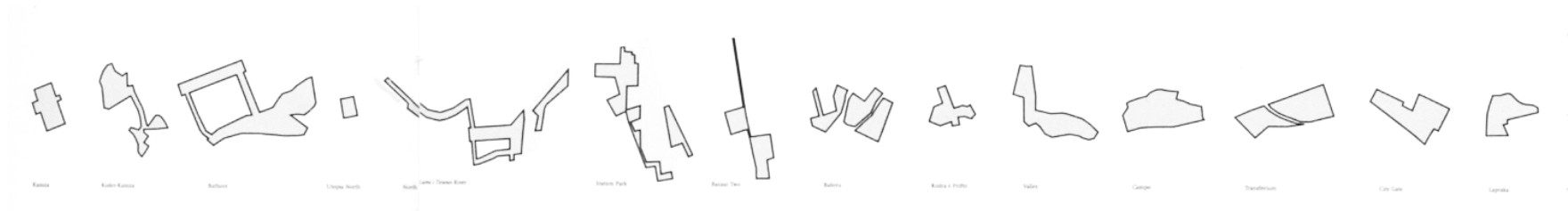
Action 3: structuring





Reinforcing and Interconnecting Centralities. The strategy for the metropolis "in formation" is to cultivate a collection of intelligible urban units that are interconnected and interrelated and bound toward a public trajectory that fuses the city as a collection of parts.

Reinforcing and interconnecting realities:
necklace of parks and 3 rivers corridor, reinforced and interconnected centralities, civic axis



The New Metropolitan Concentration
A sequential organization of the New Forms of Concentration

Koder-Kamza.

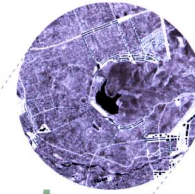
A precise intervention in the core of Koder-Kamza aims to restructure this congested corridor, integrating new road and public transit infrastructure and expanding a more clearly articulated public realm. With the insertion of a series of public 'platforms' on the east side of the main corridor, higher density residential blocks can be structured above, while ground floor uses maintain a high degree of publicness and orientation towards the street. This new built form typology reinforces

the concentration of public life in this zone by re-organizing the existing urban fabric to create a double-sided main street condition which allows for car traffic and a dedicated lane for public transit to be balanced with improved lateral pedestrian connections. The main spine is structured by two public spaces at either end, a renewed riverfront park with its associated new development sites and the agricultural institute with a more public frontage and civic function including community gardens.



Albanian Arcadia.

After over a decade of unrestricted building in Tirana that has resulted in the piece-meal consumption of the open landscape, the still-remaining natural void of the 'Green Bowl' takes on an even more powerful role, becoming the central park of the metropolitan park system. The 'bowl' offers Bathore, Koder-Kamza and the concentration north of the Lumi i Tiranes a strong source upon which it can structure its further development. The park edge becomes the point of gravity to which built form is attracted, structured to create a well-defined public edge overlooking the park.



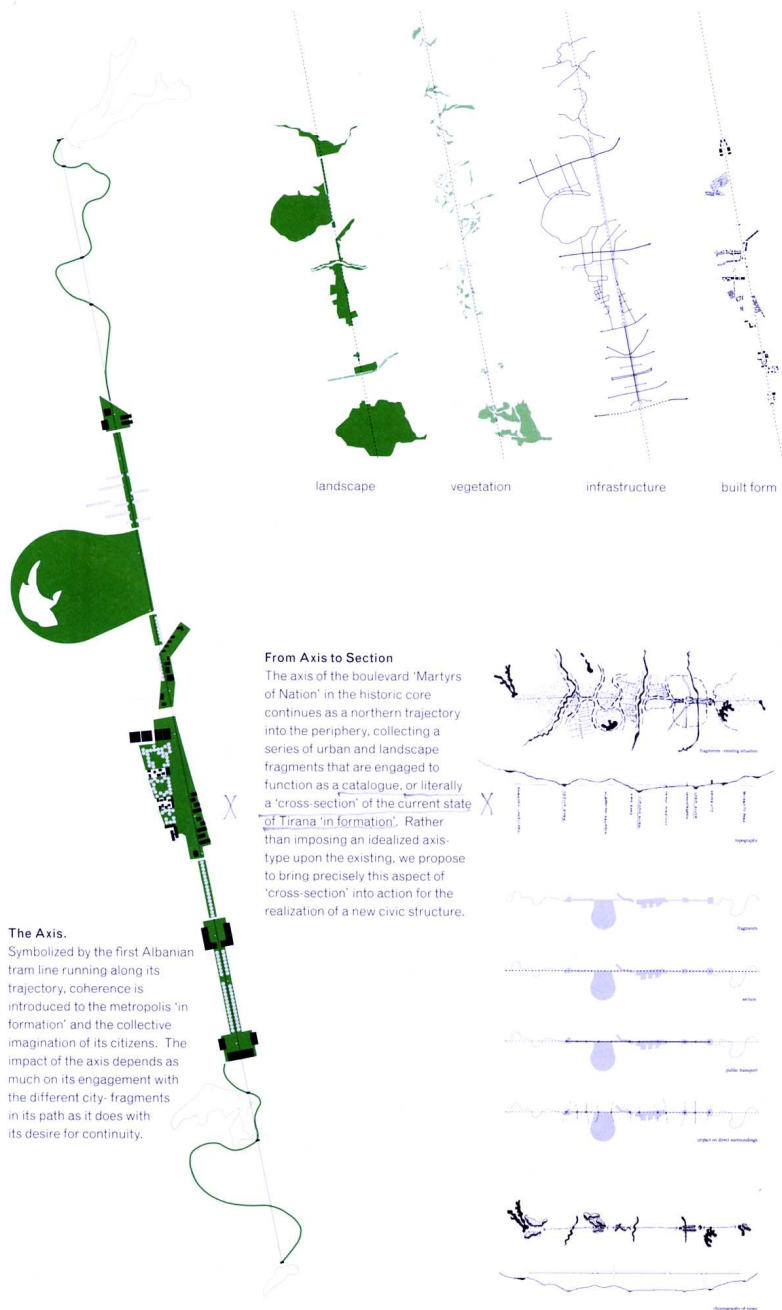
Station Park & North Lumi i Tirane River Centralities.

These two emerging centralities focus their orientation and growth towards a revitalized riverfront, station park and second ring road. Simultaneously operating as city-wide amenities and district structuring devices, they serve as the backbone for the broader territorial scale structuring; the station park forms a major public space along the north-south axis which connects the historic core

to the Lumi i Tirane River, while the river corridor itself forms an important natural transverse axis. The second ring provides the necessary infrastructure to invigorate growth and connectivity and accommodates a new bus line. The variegated park edge weaves drifts of built form into the park with public buildings occupying prominent sites facing the interior park zone.

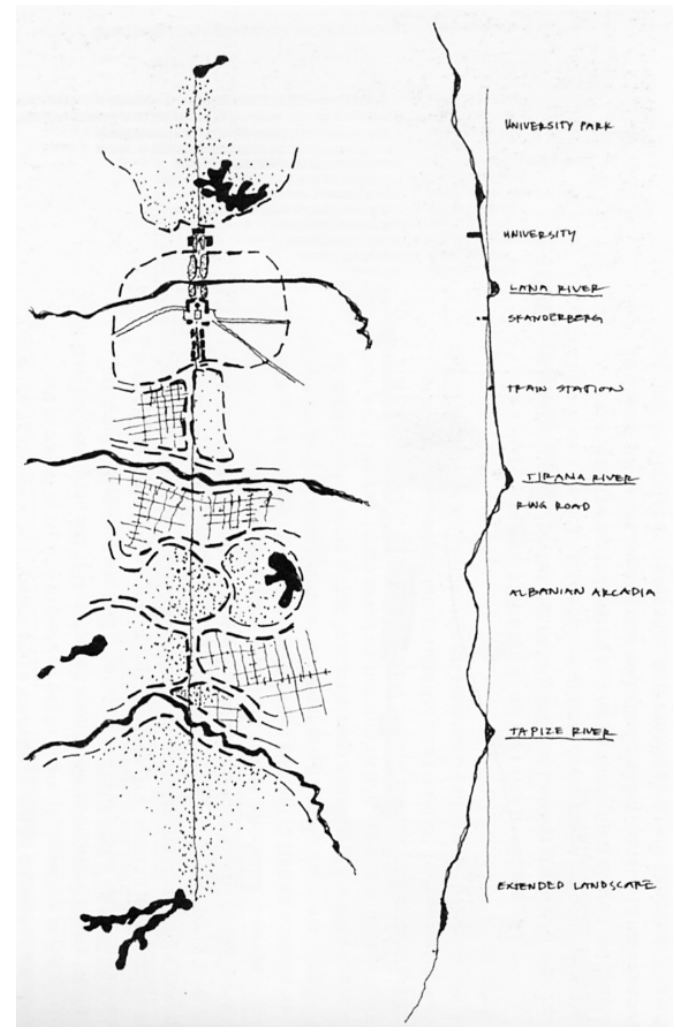


pilot projects



The Axis.
 Symbolized by the first Albanian tram line running along its trajectory, coherence is introduced to the metropolis 'in formation' and the collective imagination of its citizens. The impact of the axis depends as much on its engagement with the different city-fragments in its path as it does with its desire for continuity.

From Axis to Section
 The axis of the boulevard 'Martyrs of Nation' in the historic core continues as a northern trajectory into the periphery, collecting a series of urban and landscape fragments that are engaged to function as a catalogue, or literally a 'cross-section' of the current state of Tirana 'in formation'. Rather than imposing an idealized axis-type upon the existing, we propose to bring precisely this aspect of 'cross-section' into action for the realization of a new civic structure.

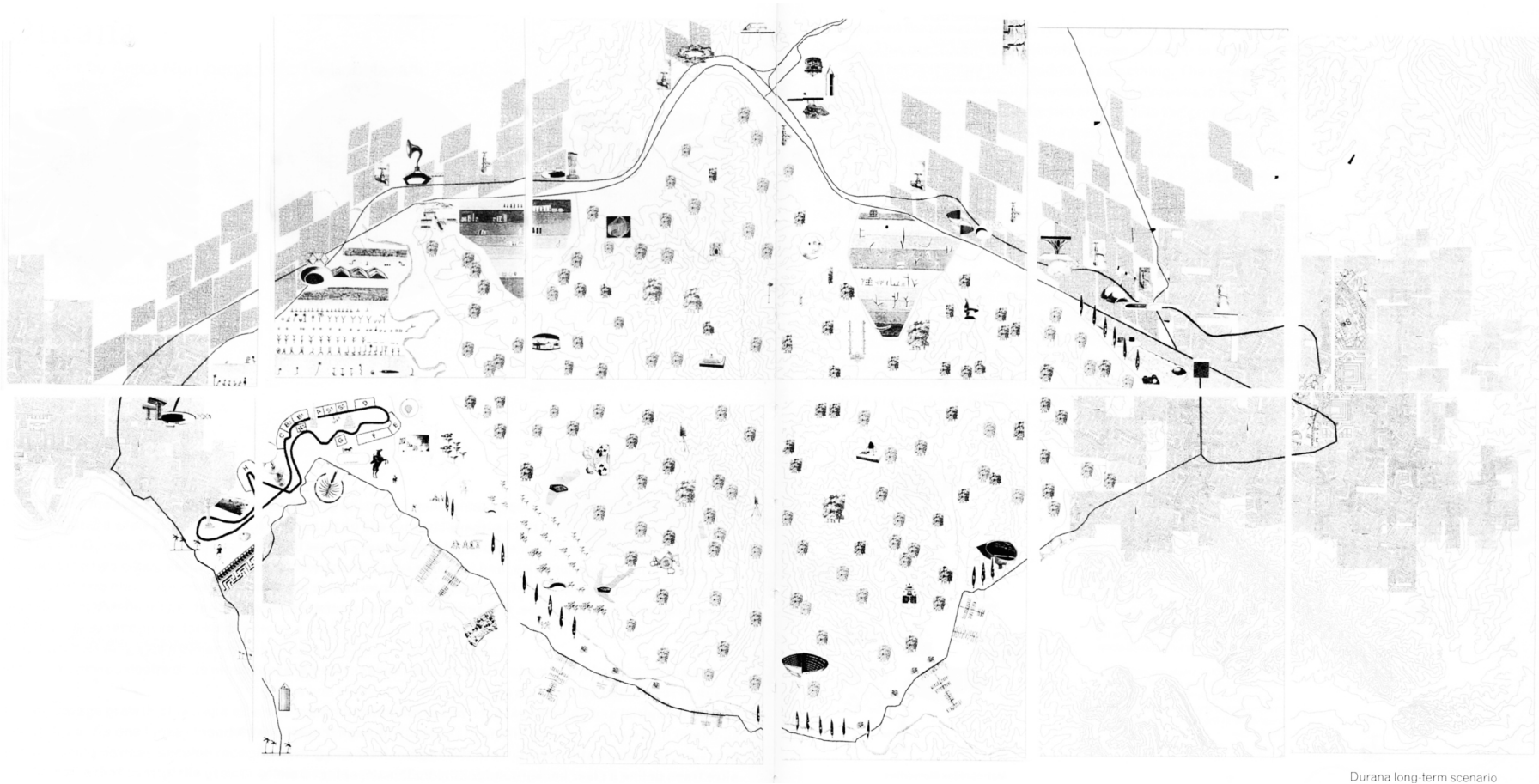


from Axis to Section



Action 5: complementing





Durana long-term scenario

Long-term masterplan: Tirana, Durrës, Northern and Southern corridors, green heart



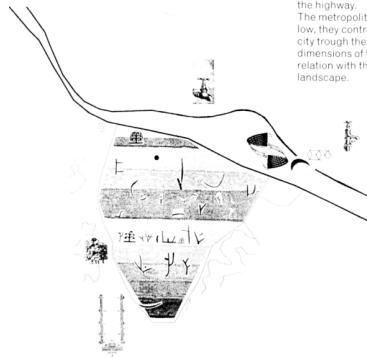
Residential Basin
 The southern corridor is a low-density residential basin.
 Along the main road of this region housing clusters alternate with car-served facilities, as movie theatres, gyms, restaurants, sport fields. Sometimes these buildings are connected with the park on the hills, sometimes they are coupled together to form unpredictable objects with many faces.
 The southern corridor will host the main Durana recreational program.
 F1 race track.



Metropolitan Seeds
 The metropolitan seeds are made of the coupling of a big urban program (Olympic swimming pool, public library, discotheque, convention center et cetera) with neighbourhood facilities and smaller commercial and office spaces, arranged around a large public space. All the metropolitan seeds contain a metro station and are connected by the new metro line.
 The metropolitan seeds could bloom wherever needed, either completing or anticipating the growth of the city. The metropolitan seeds have metropolitan program and metropolitan dimensions. They are tools to transform settlements into city.
 The metropolitan seeds are recognizable because of the closed form of the public space and because of their dimensions, definitely different from the ones of the surrounding urban tissue. The metropolitan seeds mediate among the small, spread housing units and the big scale commercial activity placed along the highway.
 The metropolitan seeds are large and low, they control the rhythm of the future city through the definition of void. The dimensions of these voids will secure the relation with the surrounding Durana landscape.



hippodrome, stadium, casinos, golf courses will grow up further to the beaches south of Durres, producing the new pleasure island of post-communist Albania.



Agricultural University
 As part of the green core, the agriculture university occupies the flat fields, that lie north-west of Tirana and south of the highway. This region is dedicated to agricultural experimentation and it is populated with green houses and other agricultural facilities. The university pavilions are in the first range of the

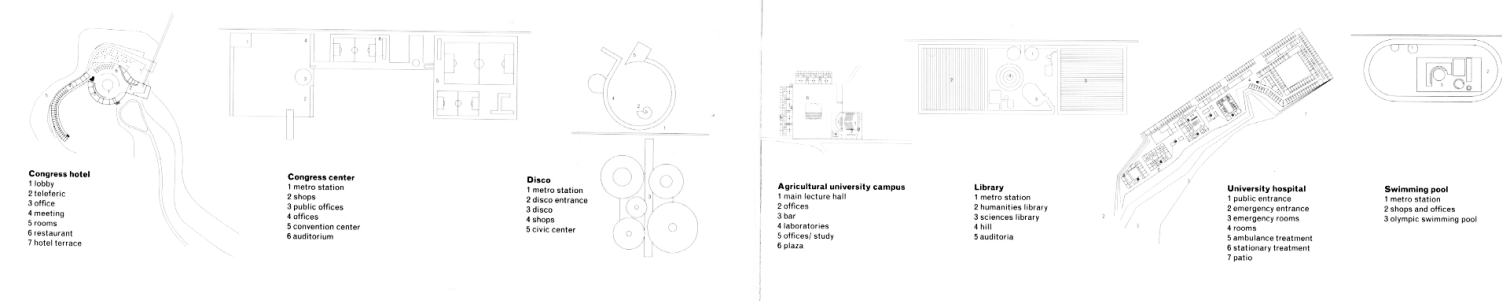
surrounding hillside. They are grouped to form discrete, recognizable ensembles. Their parts are related to each other as well as they are related to the surrounding landscape, reacting both to the hills and to the existing villages. While clarifying the existing, a new landscape for the region is defined.

Metropolitan Meteorites
 Metropolitan meteorites invade the central green core of Durana and, at the same time, they protect and define it. These interventions not only build a new landscape to look at from the city, but they offer new points wherefrom to look at the city. They produce new observation devices, they construct new frames for the view, they provide the possibility for a new, critical understanding of Durana.
 The program we can imagine to slowly insert in the green core is composed of public building that do not involve frequent use (hospitals, research centers, sport facilities, spas, restaurants). This low-frequented public buildings are placed in order to define a common structure for a natural/artificial field: different landscapes are cultivated through different architectural interventions: small facilities are carefully placed as a clarifying commentary to the existing landscape, bigger systems organize new artificial surfaces.



Schedule The diagram shows a realistic schedule for actions to be taken in order to materialize the almost utopian long-term scenario described above. The X-axis represents [generic] time, the Y-axis represents [generic] money. Proposed projects range from the very modest first interventions to a dreamlike happy end.

Project clusters: Residential Basin, Metropolitan seeds, Metropolitan Meteorites and Agricultural University



Pilot projects along Northern Corridor