RECONSTRUCTION OF WATERFRONTS IN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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In Ukraine, there is a problem of developing the banks of water bodies. Not only the quality of execution is unsatisfactory, but also the overall scale of reconstruction of the embankments. To improve the situation, it is necessary to more actively study the experience of other countries, especially the countries of Eastern Europe due to the similarity of previous design solutions.

Work in Vilnius on the right embankment of the Neris was completed last fall [1]. During the reconstruction, pedestrian paths, terraces, green spaces were created on the embankment, more than 2,000 trees and even more shrubs and other plants were planted, an active recreation area was renovated, and space was created for seasonal street cafes. The embankment also has the only skate park of its kind in the Baltic countries and professional beach volleyball courts.

The cruise terminal is located on the North-West Seawall (Loodemuul) of the Tallinn Old City Harbour, extending from Logi street to the end of the seawall. It is a combination of a promenade and hall construction, where the cruise terminal functions as the driving element in creating the 850 m long seaside urban park. The initial task to design a terminal building was developed further by the architects, additionally creating the surrounding urban public space to provide an important element for the process of realization of the beach promenade in Tallinn. In the future, at the end of the promenade, a public transportation stop should be built for ferries, taking passengers to Kadriorg every couple of minutes. The space for the seaside promenade was created by designing the parking area and access roads to the harbor to be more compact than previously envisioned (image 1).

Functionally, the complex is divided into two – the lower level accommodates areas intended for cruise tourists and on the upper level there is a promenade open to the public. The entrance to and the exit from the terminal runs along with the street level through a sloped park with vegetation characteristic to the northern coast of Estonia. Along the gently inclining planes, the street takes the citizens above the terminal. The roof of the building includes a light traffic promenade for walking and exercising, lined with a restaurant, terraces with sea view, a playground and
Pedestrian paths leading to the terminal

Seating offering cover from wind from various directions, and small squares. On the lower level, the promenade and the green areas merge, offering possibilities for various pop-ups. The space under the elevated promenade forms an open-air terminal for the third cruise dock to be designed in the future and as well as an umbrella for the tourists walking around the terminal.

Eight months a year, the waiting areas can be transformed to host exhibitions, fairs, or concerts. The interior space has a slated roof to grant access and visibility from the promenade as well. To increase the sustainability of the building, solar panels, seawater heating, and cooling are used, and even more importantly, the public space, open to locals and acting as a portal to the country also adds value to the space. On the North-West Seawall stands a historic renovated wall, the surface of which is used as a promenade. The entire historical wall is publicly exhibited. An inclined plane is placed at the end of the wall, connecting the promenade to the harbor level, facilitating the possibility to extend the public space to the embankment and to the shoreline. The vegetation of the promenade is local, inspired by the plant life of the northern coast, and open to invasive species, while also maintaining the already established plant communities.

Vistula Boulevard [2] is located in one of the attractive areas of central Warsaw, surrounded by historical and new urban areas.

The main goal of the project was to bring the city back to the river by creating a unique and publicly accessible public space that creates continuity for the city by
improving walkability and offers recreational and social uses that connect local residents and visitors year-round. The site design provides for seasonal flooding.

The boulevard consists of three main parts. The area opposite the Old Town emphasizes its historical location and follows classical planning. It includes a walkway with a pier, a green area and a relaxation area with cafes floating on the surface of the river. Another chapter concentrates catering services along a sequence of floating pavilions. The third section is intended for entertainment and educational purposes and has become the heart of the entire site. It consists of a park with podiums, a beach with gazebos, lawns for relaxation, an educational area and exhibition stands. There are other fun features such as trampolines, water features and "splashing" fish sculptures found at the Vistula.

The adoption of modern urban solutions, in particular in the field of embankments, in the design of urban spaces is a relevant and promising approach that helps improve the efficiency of managing the urban environment, helps to avoid incorrect design decisions and is more rational.

References: