



Revival of City Squares in Balkan Cities

CO-PLAN
COALITION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
EXPEDITIO

Workshop: **Suburban Exchange** | Tirana, 18-25 July 2011

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This workshop will explore potentials for creating public spaces along the highway Tirana-Durres, linear suburban conglomeration whose rapid growth during the last decade has been determined by infrastructure development and exclusive privatization. Design interventions that will be produced during the workshop will elaborate strategies of converting disintegrated private spaces into places for positive social exchange. Suburban disintegration could be considered a result of the imperatives of the speculative urban development which is orientated toward maximizing individual profit abandoning common interest. As a consequence, suburban space becomes a collection of fragmented, non-related, self-determined constructions that appear everywhere along the infrastructure corridors, at any levels, shapes and scales, encompassing the major territories of contemporary city.

Taking heterotopias of suburban space along the highway Tirana-Durres as starting point, this workshop will propose a provisional design for establishing public space in front of and on the back of the building of Polis University. Having in mind the importance of social, cultural and educational role of Polis University that established itself on the awareness of responsibility toward community, this proposal would serve as an activating model for inspiring others to do the same with their properties. Though the time this would result with creating continual public space along the highway.

In the beginning of the workshop, the selected case will be scanned and mapped in order to expose the relations between social actors, their behaviors and their close environment. Using a series of diagrams from programmatic to spatial, participants will then conceptualize an intervention that can act to convert private property into public alternatives. Participants will create a comprehensive variety of outcomes at a diverse scale of strategic intent. From portable devices and installations to public building and the formation of new types of public space, this workshop will provide an intense bubble for experimentation and debate. At the end, selected proposals will overlap and layout as 1:1 scale drawing around the building.



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