

yulia kudrewitsch + alexandr rodin andras kreft + susanne lachmaye

// europe quay

the city st. petersburg was built in the area of the mouth of river newa. with the influence of water this marshland was continual changing its shape. our site is one of the former islands in the heart of st. Petersburg which changed its shape in the last decades several times and got finally connected to the bigger petrovskaya island.

our concept for this area is based on the idea to restore different islands in the river. these islands shall create a continuous belt which will culminate in the peter and paul fortresss as an endpoint. the fortress is also the starting point for a green corridor which is extracting from the city centre towards the see. we want to complete the belt of islands which is now interrupted and create a continuous green recreation area.

our site is located in the heart of st. petersburg, central and historical important. we see the river newa as the main square of the city. this place is occupied by water and not as most city squares used to walk on. to strengthen this very special situation of the city centre we would make this area more perseivable for pedestrians. therefore we are planning to close the bridges in the centre to car traffic (only public transportation will be

europe quay- urban transformation on the waterfront of little neva

allowed) and create a pedestrian area. so people can experience the spatial extension by circling the "main square" by foot.

this main square is surrounded by some of the most important buildings of the city from different time periods and architectural styles .among them are the peter and paul fortress (1703), the admiralty (1806–1823), the winter palace (herimitage) (1722 –1852), the stock exchange (1805 –1810) and the rostral columns (1811). we want to add a contemporary building to this inner circle. it should be visible as a representative of present times, but should not work as a new icon, rather than integrate itself as part of the structure with forms the main city square.

to continue and enrich st. petersburg as a major european cultural center we plan a new museum of modern art on this area.

in contrast to the constant changing natural islands, formed over decades by the water, We think about creating artificial islands, as conscious interventions in the water system. They shall have different readable themes.

animated to deal with the access and relationship between water, green, buildings and functions we propose 4 different islands.

1. on our sports and recreation island we keep the existing sports arena and surround it by a natural curving shape of green area. On one side will be a beach and a bathing boat (swimming island) in the river nea. the access to the water is a slightly sloped bank.

2. the compact island is reusing an existing old warehouse as workshops and showrooms for artists. The building should have a sharp edge directly into the water in contrast to a continual, constant slope of a big stair going down into the water on the other part of the island.

3.the completely new and artificial island should be the main building of the modern art museum. Inspired by peter and paul fortress it will be kind of a new interpretation of the defendend building. This expression is also Underlined by the access. You will enter the building through a tunnel, which also has the effect of diving into a different sphere. The world of modern art.

But The function of the building walls changed completely. They will accommodate the exhibition rooms and frame an introverted, closed green courtyard which has only some orientated openings with special views.

4.this island will only be one public building with a restaurant, bar, cinema, library, and some functions of the museum. The roof will create a park, a landscape with different levels to walk on. The highlight will be the roof terrace with a wonderful view over the newa and the city center.

historical background





map of 1700

the area of st. petersburg is still marshland.

due to its direct acces to the baltic sea and the inner part of russia, the tzar decided to build a new city in this area.

map of 1703



the first building of st. petersburg became the fortress st. peter and paul buildt on an island at the shore of neva river.

map of 1752



st. petersburg grew very fast. its growth of popultion by far surpassed moscow. the urban planning of st. petersburg can be seen as completion and further development of urban ideas of the 18th century.







map of 1861

the structures of islands in st. petersburg changed in every decade. naturally formed islands had been amended and covered with buildings.

map of 1880

the area of our project once has been planned to become a belt of green islands. st. peter an paul should be the beginning and ending of this belt.

map of 1930

however this plan has never been realized. the little islands grew together with petrovsakaya island. the plan was never fulfilled.

spatial description



islands as strongest motive of st. petersburg



parks and green sites



significant buildings - relation of views



traffic system - new pedestrian area (yellow) to strenghten and supplement the historical city center



different relation between island and water

1. theme - sports island green, natural shape

excisting sports arena beach bathing boat





2. theme - compact island stairs

limited form excisting but reused building with workshops and showrooms for artists





3. theme - new interpretation of castle garden part of the museum of modern art



orientated views



4. theme - building as island different levels, viewing point on top

public building restaurant + bar + cinema + library



concrete landscape

