

## Notes on possible future uses of the shipyard

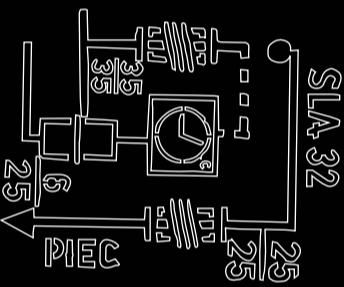
Three weeks of discussions in Gdansk

In May and July 2011, the collective *microsilicons* compiled ideas and comments about possible future uses of the Gdansk shipyard, doing workshops and talking with different people in the city. This poster is the result of that process and wishes to show the complexity of the situation and the numerous perspectives that can be imagined for this historical industrial place. From the proposals that were gathered, an alternative project to the one of the developers could be outlined, a kind of do-it-yourself town, entirely planned, built and used by the citizens of Gdansk.

The discussions were held with (in chronological order) :

Mateusz Gajewski, Adrianna Halman, Dominika Karo, Karolina Kossakowska, Dominika Latusa, Marianna Marszałkowska, Anna Szczozczar, Bożena Wydrowska (from Nicolas Copernicus High School in Gdansk, European Club)  
Anastasia Veksina (student of philology)  
Barbara Piotrowska (student of architecture)  
Aleksandra Tatarczuk (Wyspa Institute of the Art)  
Aneta Szylak (director of Wyspa Institute of Art)  
Aleksandra Grzonkowska (Wyspa Institute of the Art)  
The Subjective Bus Line tour guides and translator  
Grzegorz Kłaman (president of the Wyspa Progress Foundation)  
Danuta Kobzdej (president of the Center Solidarnosc Foundation)  
Ania Perz (city guide)  
Bogna Burska (artist)  
Wojtek Pastuszak, Michał Czajka, Marek Gruzcka (Freedom Skatepark Gdansk)

Project realized in the frame of a Pro Helvetia artist-in-residence program at the Wyspa Institute of Art



"Gdansk was called 'Diamond in the crown' of Kingdom of Poland.

"The water is completely missing in Gdansk. It's invisible."

**"Bring the underground canals to life and make a vaporetto network."**

"Build an express way in the shipyard is really not a good idea!"

**"Open a big cultural-sport center where young people can dance, learn, watch a movie, go to concerts and do sport."**

"Can we revisit the term 'Hansa' to imagine a community of interest between cities that wouldn't be build only on economic exchange?"

"The town is the correlate to the road. The town exists only as a function of circulation, and of circuits; it is a remarkable point on the circuits that create it, and which it creates. It is defined by entries and exits; something must enter it and exit from it. It imposes a frequency. It effects a polarization of matter, inert or human; it causes the phylum, the flow to pass through specific places, along horizontal lines. It is a phenomenon of transconsistency, a network, because it is fundamentally in contact with other towns."

Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, "A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia II".

"Colin Ward (in "The do-it-yourself New Town") argued for a new concept of building communities, in which the residents themselves would be involved directly in planning, designing and building their own homes and neighbourhoods."

E. Howard, "To-Morrow. A Peaceful Path to real reform".

"Our parents and grandparents always talk about the past. We also need to think about the future."

"The Subjective Bus Line opens a space for dialog – and sometimes conflictual discussions – to talk about the strikes and all the events that happened in the shipyard."

**"Do projects where the workers can be active subjects and not outside observers."**

"The place shouldn't become a museum but allow a mix between workers and artists, like in the Buffet bar at the Wyspa Institute of Art."

"Many foreign tourists, especially American ones, are coming to Gdansk for the Solidarnosc history. I have the feeling that it's not the case for Polish ones."

*Past / Present / Future / Museification of the living / Fascination for the worker / Strikes*

"Gdansk has a tradition of openness that is linked to the place and not to the people, who changed a lot throughout the centuries."

**"Make a place without taboo, open for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals."**

"Nobody is really feeling to be 'from Gdansk'."

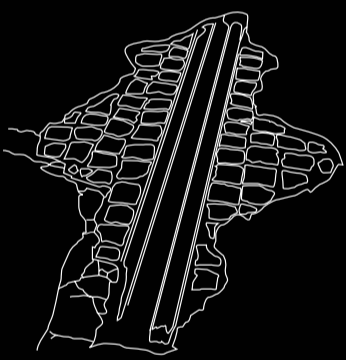
"In 'City of Freedom', the term 'free' has always been a tricky one. And business was always a key element..."

**"Propose activities for the 17-20 years old, like a hip-hop center."**

"For 50 years, it has been forbidden to sit on the grass in parks. It's not an habit here!"

**"Open a skateboarding school."**

**"Create a real campus."**



"Our position in this project, as outsiders artists inevitably leads us to somehow stay on the surface of things."

*Layers / Superposition / Erasure / (Beautiful) scars*



"Our philosophy was to fight, but not by using force. Our weapons were the books and magazines that we distributed illegally."

Bogdan Olszewski, "Gdansk, Pologne: dissidence et clandestinité"

"While today we tend to live in a dematerialized digital world, there is also a new fascination for these concrete places (industrial heritage) which is sometimes made sustainable through contemporary activities."

Jean-Yves Andrieux, "Les plus beaux lieux du Patrimoine Industriel" (Michelin's touristic guidebook).

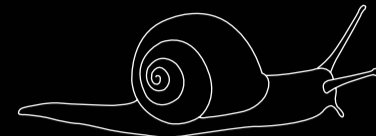


"Since Gdansk was a place whose priorities lay in trading and other worldly pursuits, it was a very tolerant city and Scotsmen, Jews, and great enclaves of other peoples made their homes on its shores."

www.gdansk-life.com

"If the name and the identity of something like the city still has a meaning, could it, when dealing with the related questions of hospitality and refuge, elevate itself above nation-states or at least free itself from them, in order to become, to coin a phrase in a new and novel way, a free city?"

Jacques Derrida, "On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness".



"The young city project could be for any other city. It might be because of this lack of specificity more than because of the crisis that this project exists since 15 years but was never realized."

"I'm using a step by step strategy to save what can be saved from the shipyard."

**"Create a garden where it's possible to walk on the grass..."**

"The shipyard is a place where it is still possible to explore when skipping school."

**"Build a gigantic playground adventure playground for kids."**

*In-Between | Nature | Fallow | Wasteland | Mutualism | Ecosystem | Cat Colony | Sustainability | Decreasing*



The land of the shipyard, since it's not owned by the state anymore, has been divided into different private properties.

"From the outside, the Young City plans seems just too big, out of proportion!"

**"We can manage a space for us here, in the Young City."**

"What means can we use to resist the 'revitalization'?"

**"The place shouldn't be cleaned!"**

"Even being against neo-liberal projects, the city has to develop."

**"The Young City project might just not be realized."**

In 1980, during the strikes, in the hall where the talks took place, Lenin's bust was turned to the wall by the workers. Lenin then resemble the two-faces Roman god Janus, who is looking in the future and in the past.

"We need to keep history alive but always to connect it to the present and future."

**"Open a local fast food where the customers could eat traditional food and experience queuing like in the old days."**

"What does the new Solidarnosc building have to do with the ideas and history of the syndicate?"

*History | Traditions | Nostalgia | Janus*

"The Third-Landscape, undecided fragment of the planetary garden – means the sum of the areas where the humans leaves the evolution of the landscape to nature alone. Consideration of the Third Landscape as a biological necessity conditioning the future of living beings modifies the reading of the territory and enhances places that are usually considered negligible. It is the role of the policy to organize the partition of land so as to provide in its influence's area spaces of indecision, which amounts to sparing the future."

Gilles Clément, "Third-Landscape Manifesto".

"While there are dominant and subordinate individuals in a cat colony, unlike dogs, cats don't maintain a clearly defined hierarchy wherein each individual is ranked above or below each other individual."

Jennifer Copley, "Social Structure of Feral Cat Colonies, Behaviour and Interactions Among Groups of Homeless Felines".

**"The cranes could be the 'signature building' of the city. We don't need another one."**

"It's easy to let the building collapse and then to say- it's better to build something new here."

"It's not only about the architecture of the buildings, but about their functions: multifunction buildings allow a better, healthier city."

**"We need one good modern architecture in Gdansk."**

"The first artists invited to work in the shipyard where called 'artist's colony' and the name stayed until today."

"We (the artists and art institutions) are like a PR company: we are producing value for that space!"

"As a non-for profit activity, art is a more neutral actor and can address to the city more delicate questions than the promoters. It can also bring media visibility."

"Some inhabitants are unhappy with the noisy art event. But some are documenting them from their windows and are giving the pictures to Wyspa."

"Art shouldn't be everywhere neither!"

"Why couldn't middle and lower class people live in the center anymore?"

"Some touristic guides are mentioning that it is impossible to enter into the shipyard."

"The walls are separating but also protecting."

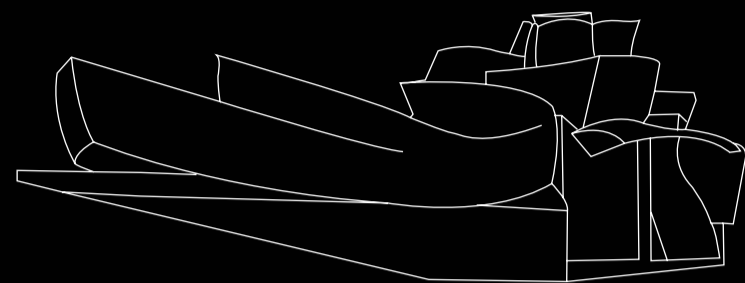
"Not so many people in Gdansk know that they can enter the shipyard."

"It was a paradise because it was a closed space, a space of freedom."

"The pass of Wyspa workers is only 'for shortest way to work'."

"The place is not ideal for activities with kids, as the parents, because of the gate, cannot bring their children inside by car."

**"Will there be gated communities using the existing shipyard wall in the future?"**

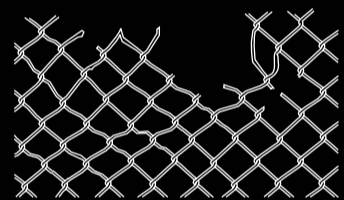


"With urban generation from the turn of the twentieth century picking up, economists forecast that globalization and the powers of multi-national corporations would shift the balance of power away from nation states towards individual cities, which would then compete with neighbouring cities and cities elsewhere for the most lucrative modern industries, and which increasingly in major Western Europe and US cities did not include manufacturing. Thus cities set about 'reinventing themselves', giving precedence to the value given by culture."

"Starhitect", Wikipedia.

"With the popular and critical success of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, by Frank Gehry, in which a rundown area of a city in economic decline brought in huge financial growth and prestige, the media started to talk about the so-called 'Bilbao factor', a star architect designing a blue-chip, prestige building was thought to make all the difference in producing a landmark for the city."

"Starhitect", Wikipedia.



"One of Gdansk's greatest attractions – the shipyard – is inaccessible and surrounded by a wall. The Subjective Bus Line opens it up and transforms it into public space."

www.en.gdansk.gda.pl

"Along with the division of cities into tourist and non-tourist zones, another question commonly directed at a tourism economy is whether it contributes to the social polarization of the city.

Lily M. Hoffman and Jiri Musil, "Prague, Tourism and the Post-industrial City".

"The truth is that 50% of the fall of the Wall belongs to John Paul II, 30% to Solidarity and Lech Walesa and only 20% to the rest of the world. That was the truth then and is the truth now."

Lech Walesa

*Walls | Barriers | Gates | Private security guards | Lech Walesa leaping over the wall | Beginning of the Berlin Wall's fall | Shipyard's separation from the city | Economical and social exclusion*