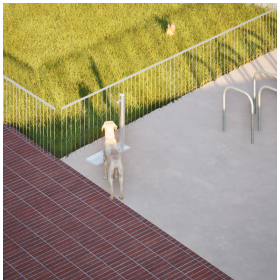


Zagreb (HR)

Wednesday afternoon, April 22nd, 2037



Oscar reached for water, but turned to fog at the sight of a chicken.



Finally, somewhere to lock a bike.



Did you know this bench is made from rubble that used to be right here?

Klara is often seen as an unplanned, substandard, and fragmented fringe of the city. Marked by informal structures, fenced-off homes, and scattered agricultural plots, it appears to lack both order and civic presence. Infrastructure is limited, public facilities are sparse, and traffic clogs the narrow streets, especially in the early hours. The only truly public element is the thin ribbon of road that winds its way through, somehow stitching the neighbourhood together. Klara feels improvised: car repair shops, hair salons, and other businesses pop up in ground floors whenever possible. Public and private investments appear sporadically, without coherence or plan. It would be fair to say that Klara is chaotic – but that's only the surface.



Zagreb's greenery can slip gently into Klara, threading through gardens, paths, and wild edges.

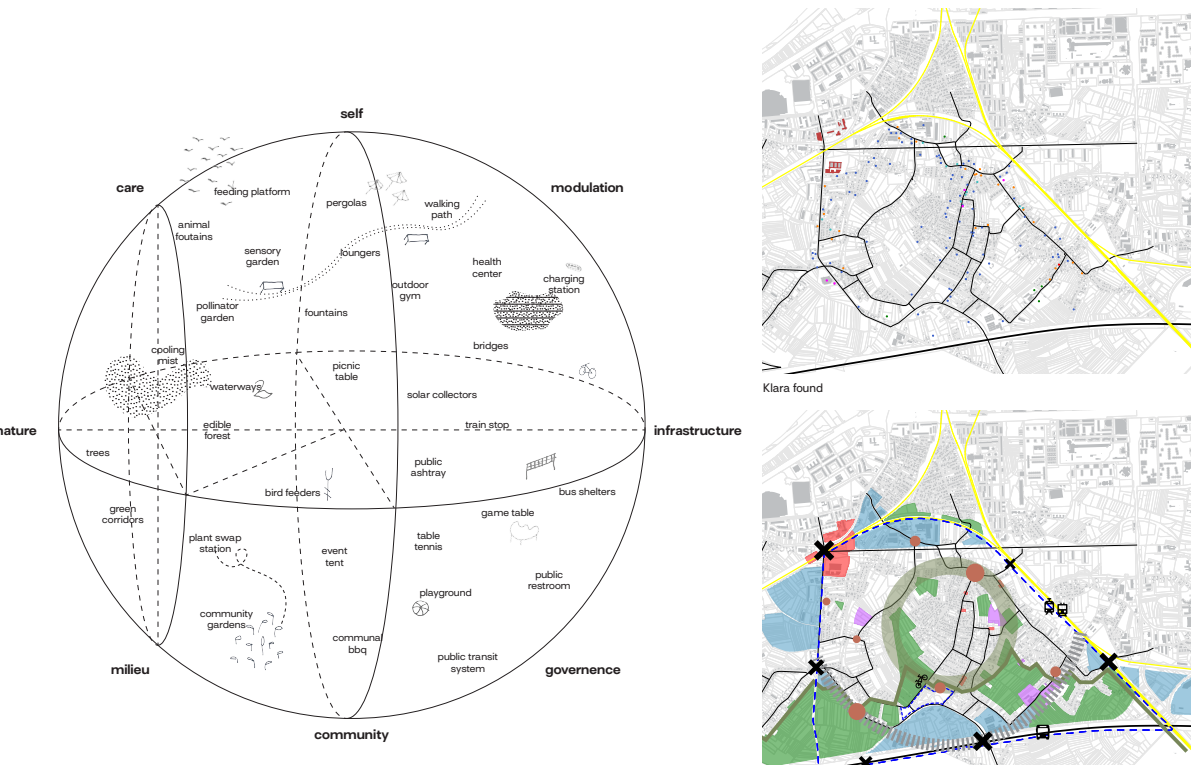
Our project proposes a different model of living – one that listens before it draws. Instead of projecting a new identity onto Klara, we begin by reading the existing conditions. Sveta Klara as a place of thresholds: between urban and rural, improvisation and absence, not fully Zagreb nor truly separate from it. It lies in the in-between. Its organic, often informal development has left it fragmented, without civic infrastructure, without public spaces, without the symbolic architecture of common life. And yet, life persists. It spills across fences and thresholds in the form of gardens, sheds, animals, car repairs, meals under porches. What appears chaotic is in fact a lived intelligence...

In response, we propose layers of publicness that work across domains of collective, self, nature, and infrastructure. Rather than a fixed plan, we introduce a multiscale and adaptive spatial ecology. It is made of systems, networks, surfaces, lines, and points. Like any ecology, it allows for change, coexistence, and uneven rhythms. Publicness is not added as a program, but as a possibility, unfolding through small gestures (a bench, a bus shelter, a game table), as well as larger interventions (healthcare center, bike paths, green corridors). We draw from Pier Vittorio Aureli's reminder that urban form is never neutral. Architecture here becomes a political act – resisting atomization, reclaiming space as a site for the polis, for coexistence, for everyday dignity.

Our proposal is not a masterplan but a toolbox (seed bank). It introduces essential civic functions, offers a strong yet open spatial framework, and leaves room for life to take hold. We recognize that long-term change in places like Sveta Klara cannot be imposed; it must be grown. With time. With patience. And with care. The design supports gradual transformation: enabling public life without prescribing it, embracing what already works, and enhancing it with infrastructure, generosity, and architectural attention. We aim not to overwrite Klara, but to reflect it, more clearly, more collectively, and with a belief that even the most modest spaces can become stages for a shared future.



Games, cheers, and barefoot races – St. Joseph's Day in the Klara sports turnip



This spine as a stage for daily life.

Learning from Klara Ecology of publicness 01

Zagreb (HR)

Saturday morning, June 5th, 2032



Vedran's turning forty – tent's up, rakija's out, and the playlist is ready.

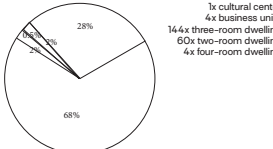


Coffee tastes best when stirred with a little gossip.



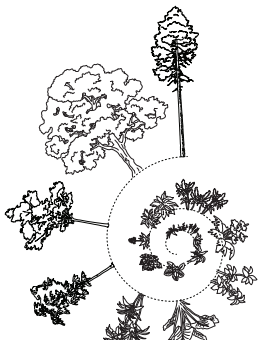
The lake glimmers, the Public Spine stretches, and someone's waving.

This diagram illustrates the interwoven rituals and celebrations centered around Sveta Klara in Zagreb, highlighting connections between nature, community, and personal milestones. Events range from seasonal and religious festivals to sports and cultural gatherings, as well as intimate moments like birthdays and christenings. Nature serves as a unifying backdrop: parks, gardens, and open spaces hosting both formal and informal gatherings that reflect the area's spiritual, social, and cultural life. The diagram reveals how Klara's identity is shaped by these layered, recurring events across time and place.

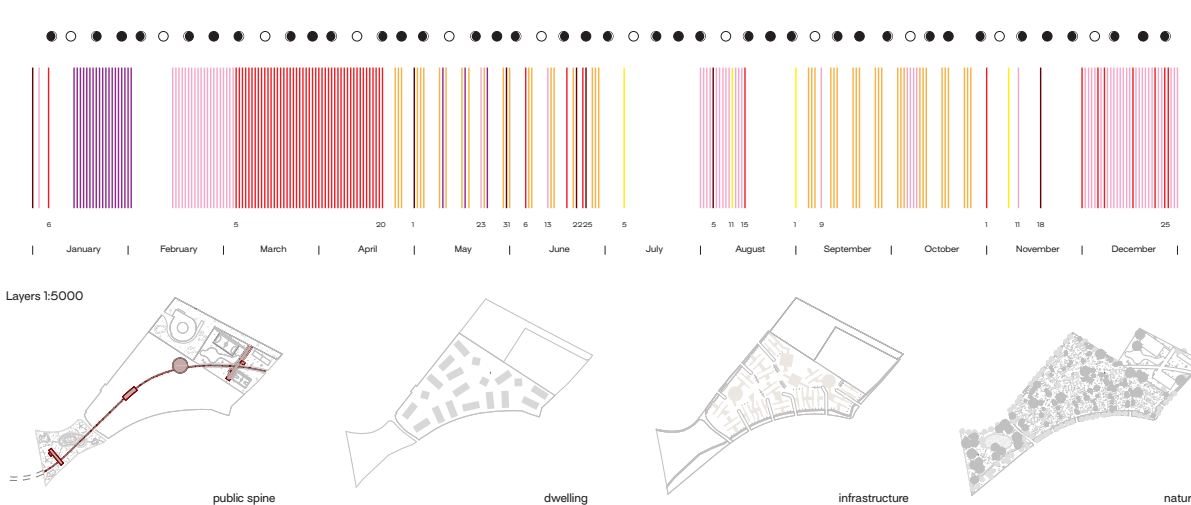


This is just one option for the dwelling, as the CLT system allows for flexibility and constant adaptation to the current users' needs.

Klara Nova reimagines suburban living through a soft yet intentional choreography of public and private life. At its heart lies a central public spine – a gently winding path that links a future public park on the west side with a recreational sports area on the east, weaving through residential clusters along the way. This spine is more than circulation; it is a stage for daily life. Whenever it touches a housing cluster, its edges are activated with public programs in the ground floors: small shops, bakeries, doctors' offices, cafes, floral studio, or spaces for community use. Along the path, there are pavilions and shelters that offer spaces for resting, celebrating, or gathering. These structures reflect the ritualistic character of neighborhoods like Klara, where moments of togetherness often spill outdoors and blur the line between private and collective space.



Site plan 1:1000



You'll smell spring before you see it, each garden trying to out-bloom the next.

Learning from Klara Spaces for Many 02

Thursday noon, September 24th, 2028



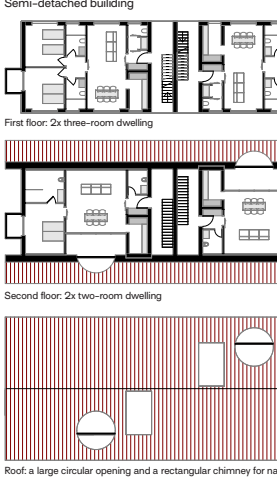
CLT rising fast – walls today, windows tomorrow.



It's not unfinished – it's exposed brick!



That son of yours, always lost in games under the stairs.

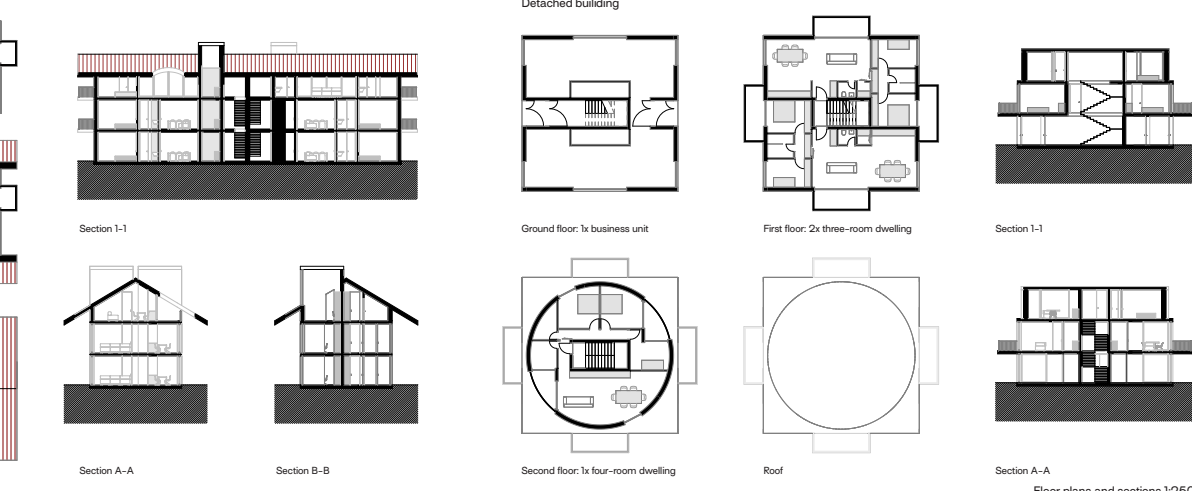


We work with two components: the house and the non-house. One provides shelter; the other invites interaction. The residential areas are organized as clusters of three to five buildings, offering a spatial rhythm that avoids repetition while encouraging small-scale community. Two building types: freestanding and semi-detached, allow for flexibility in density and orientation. Each cluster is connected by a modest access road, but their heart lies in shared outdoor life where children laugh on the playground, neighbours gather around a long communal table, games unfold beneath the trees, and stories rise with the smoke from the open fire pit. Private fruits and vegetable gardens at ground level, balconies filled with flowers above, and peripheral shared sheds for tools and gardening support both autonomy and gentle cooperation. What it was once overlooked as cheap or incomplete – sheds, added staircases, brick walls, semi-outdoor porches – we now recognize as spatial intelligence. These aren't design errors; they are systems of survival, care, and domestic joy. They generate flexibility, allow for multiple lives in one home, and anchor family rituals.

The apartments are designed as modular systems, adaptable in layout, expandable over time, and rooted in a structural logic that prioritizes flexibility. Built from cross-laminated timber (CLT), they offer a sustainable, low-carbon alternative to conventional construction. With the added warmth and tactility of wood. Each unit is anchored by a compact core with the kitchen, bathroom, and utilities around which living spaces unfold with freedom and clarity. This core remains constant, while the rest of the apartment can grow, shrink, or shift in response to changing needs. Units range in size from studios to four-room homes, making room for diverse ways of living: from single households to multigenerational families, from young couples to older residents who may garden, keep animals, or simply sit in the sun. Pets, chickens, shared meals, hanging laundry, or a shaded bench outside the door. In Klara Nova, these rituals are not afterthoughts, but starting points. We take them seriously as spatial cues that reveal how people truly live and adapt. In response, we embrace vernacular forms and material logic of simple finishes, additive construction, outdoor extensions, and reflect them back in a more legible, durable, and dignified way.



Site plan 1:250 illustrating the cluster logic – gradients of privacy and community, from small patios, private gardens, and lake rakes to shared paths, playgrounds, access roads, and parking plots.



A cluster of homes, tied together by laughter on the playground.

Learning from Klara Architecture for Every Day 03