

TOPIC

The project works on two levels: first, it has to manage the conflict of connecting across the railway line by dealing with the topic of a bridge (economically and programmatically) and the conversion of areas along railway tracks. Second, and architecturally, it has to solve the transition between a recently built housing complex and the noisy railway line. How can urban ambitions transgress the usual type-solutions and interpret anew the existing values of the area?

CONURBATION

The EU-expansion makes Wien the centre of a conurbation between Bratislava, Budapest and Brno. Wien's social housing which achieved mythical status in the "Red Wien"/1920s is saturated in the city expansion zones. In the southern area a fragmented mix of infrastructure, housing complexes, industrial areas and agricultural green has to be reevaluated. Development issues are to revitalize deindustrialized sites and to deal with fragments that suffer from their contaminated location. By improving the connections to the local nodes such as park & ride areas and local subcenters the city wants to raise the urban quality on a local level.

SITE

Being squeezed between the railway and a new subsidized housing complex the site communicates with its local neighbour as well as with its federal one - the train.

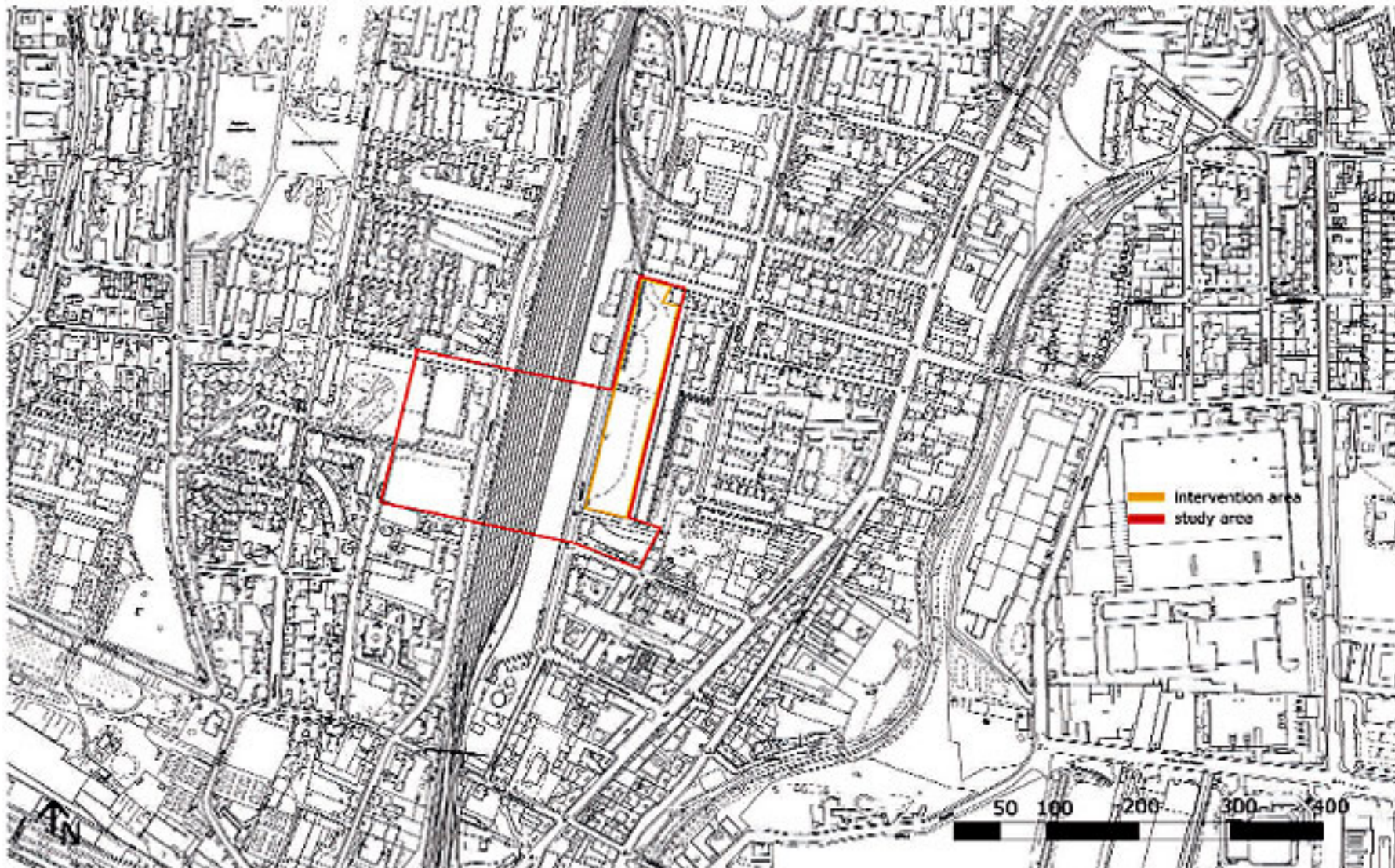
The local neighbourhood conditions are diverse: a social service amenity waits for expansion, single family houses resist any change, commercial uses demonstrate modesty, a housing complex shows Wien's social commitment, a container firm networks globally.

Its connection to the district's center, with important amenities, is blocked by the railway so that the site marks a dead end for the local traffic. The bridge-project should not only overcome the barrier but provide a new basis for the future development of all local and federal actors.

Population: 1.600.000

Study area: undecided

Project area: 1ha



PROGRAMME

- the site suffers from its disconnection of the fast public transport system (only bus stop available). Therefore, the housing project should specific qualities which supplement the disadvantages (advanced types which allow living/working models, diverse flat-sharing communities) and related facilities/amenities on ground floor (commercial, non-profit uses...)

- a bridge as infrastructural element which also could provide a public surface (the pathway as a place to stay) and building programs (strategy of evaluating the investment and overcome the considerable height barrier

- on the other side of the railway line, an abandoned commercial enterprise and an unbuilt lot shall be converted to mixed use areas with a considerable amount of housing; urban design guidelines for their development shall be provided in the competition;

ISSUES

Social / functional

The intervention has to strengthen the local mobility, especially for pedestrians and bicycles. Diverse models of apartments/housing should avoid social segregation. The bridge could be seen as social condenser, which provides a range of qualities beyond connecting from A to B.

Sensitive

The ambiguity between the contamination and quality of the railway line has to be addressed. Also, the site's role as a place to live and a place to be crossed should be considered. How to reinterpret the space of an industrial area in stage of conversion and disappearance ?

Sustainability

Beside a sustainable improvement of local accessibility the future bridge also relates to a network of existing green areas by connecting a patchwork of green fragments and strips: the riverside of the "Liesing", playgrounds of housing complexes/schools and a park.



