

RIGA

Urban Transformation of the Kīpsala Waterfront

**NEW UNIVERSITY-ORIENTED URBAN
HUB**

EXISTING CONDITION ANALYSIS

The project site is located in Riga, along the waterfront of Ķīpsala, directly opposite the university campus. Despite its strategic location and strong spatial relationship with the river, the area currently remains underused and lacks a clear urban identity. Although the site benefits from proximity to the city center, student density, and valuable waterfront access, it does not fully exploit its potential in terms of public life, recreation, or social interaction. The absence of strong pedestrian connections and active public programs results in a fragmented and passive urban edge.

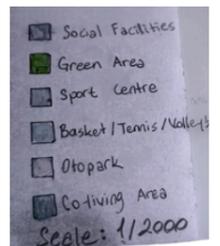


- BLOCK BUILDINGS
- ATTACHED/DETACHED BUILDINGS
- COURTYARD BUILDINGS
- GREEN AREA
- WATER

SCALE:1/2500



SCALE:1/2000



PROJECT VISION

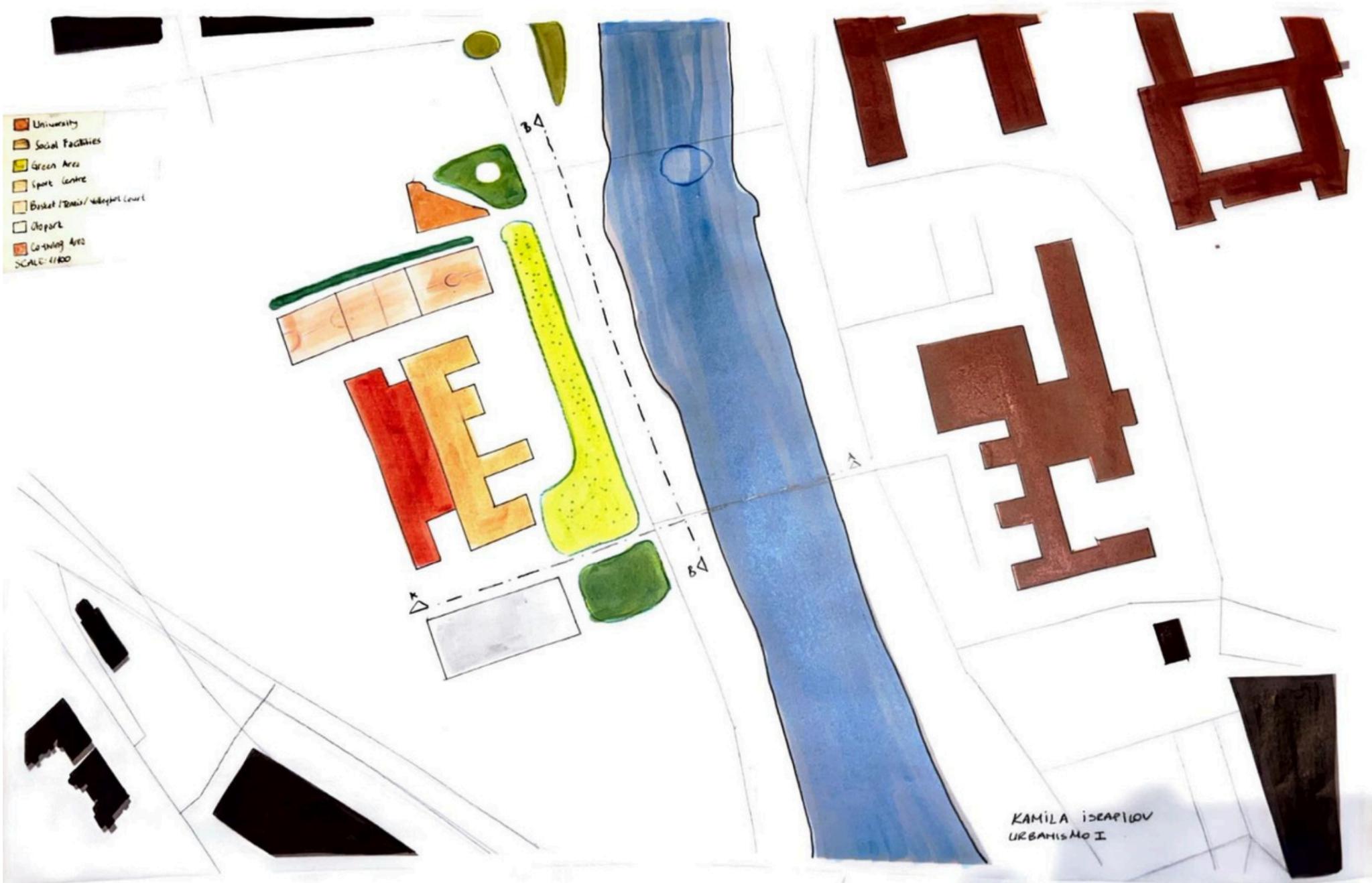
WATERFRONT AS A SOCIAL CATALYST

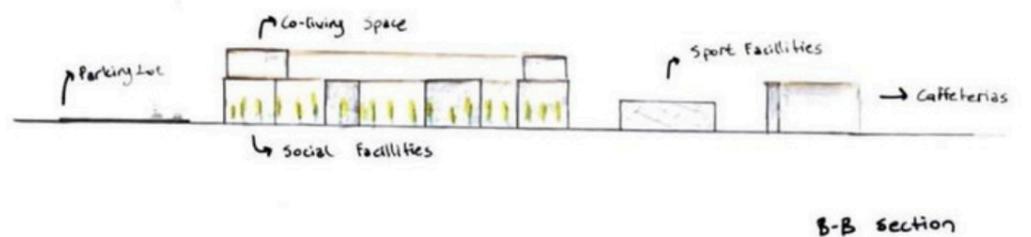
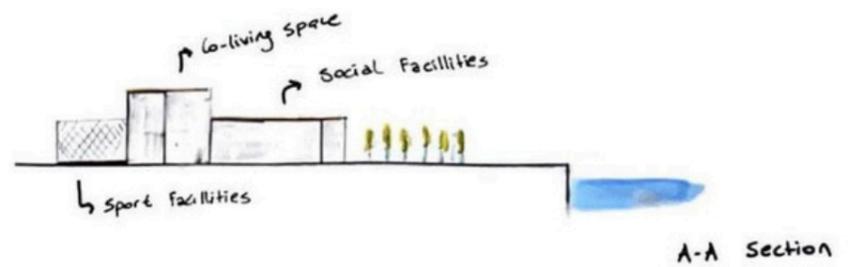
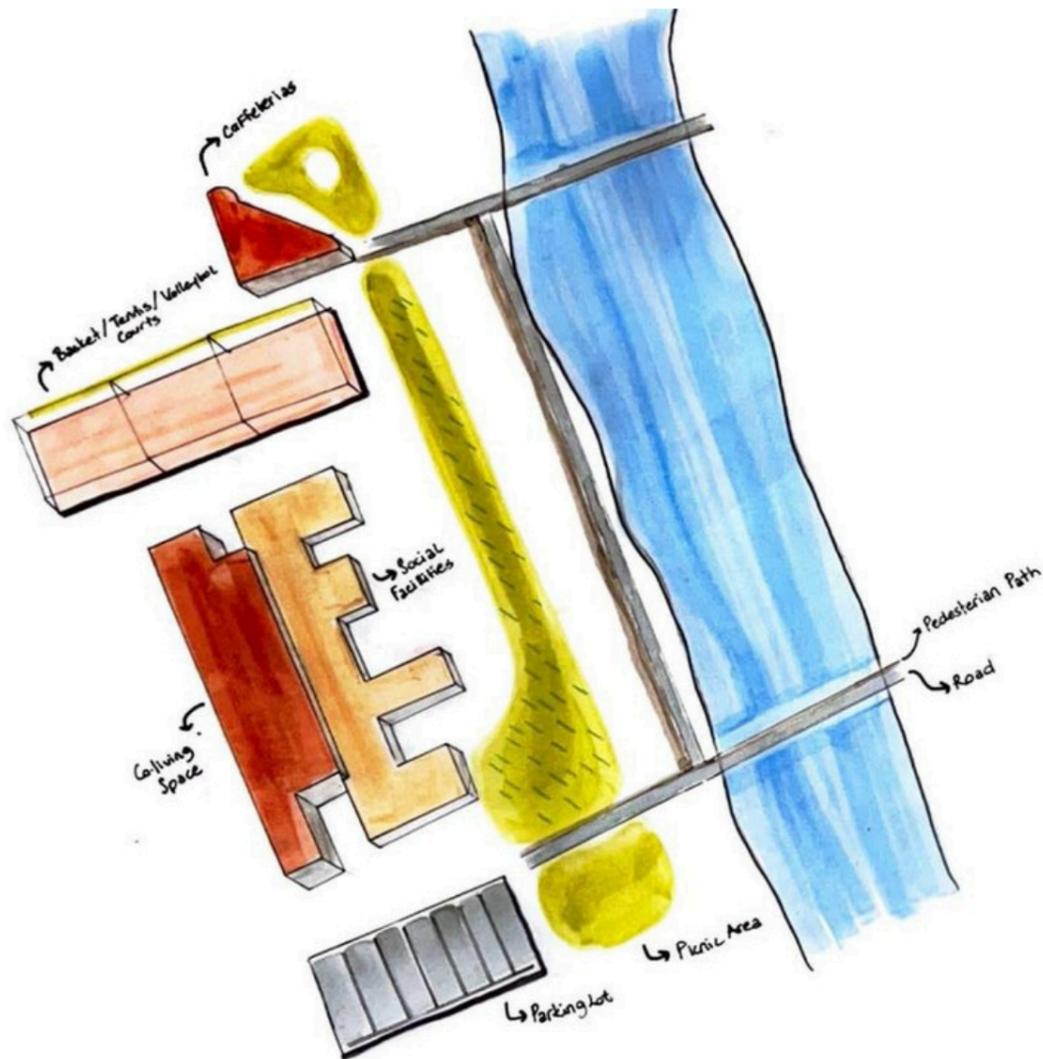
The proposal aims to transform the inactive waterfront into a vibrant public hub that strengthens the relationship between the university and the surrounding urban fabric.

By introducing a mix of park areas, sports facilities, co-living spaces, and social programs, the project establishes a multi-layered urban environment that supports both everyday life and collective activities. The intervention acts not only as a physical development but also as a social connector that integrates students and local residents.

URBAN STRATEGY

At the heart of the proposal lies a large public park that acts as the primary organizing element of the site, structuring the spatial hierarchy and defining the identity of the new waterfront district in Riga. This green public core creates an open and accessible gathering space for both students and city residents, strengthening the visual and physical relationship with the river while encouraging outdoor recreation and informal social interaction. Seamlessly integrated with adjacent basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts, the park transforms sport into an extension of the public realm rather than an isolated function. Together, the open green areas and sports facilities generate a dynamic and inclusive environment that activates the waterfront throughout the day, promotes healthy lifestyles, and provides a generous breathing space within the urban fabric, balancing the built mass with landscape.





KAMILA ISRAPILOV
URBANISMO I

Complementing this open structure, the co-living building introduces a contemporary and flexible housing model primarily oriented toward students and young professionals, promoting collective living while maintaining individual privacy. Its ground floor operates as an active and permeable social base, incorporating a cafeteria, communal kitchen, shared study and co-working spaces, multipurpose lounges, and indoor sports facilities. By activating the building's base with public-oriented programs, the project ensures continuous daily use and reinforces the relationship between architecture and open space. Vehicular circulation is carefully controlled to minimize its impact on pedestrian areas, while priority is given to walking and cycling. Two newly proposed bridges across the river function not only as infrastructural connections but also as experiential public spaces—establishing a direct link to the university campus, extending the public realm across the water, and offering panoramic views along the crossing—ultimately transforming the site into a natural extension of academic and urban life.

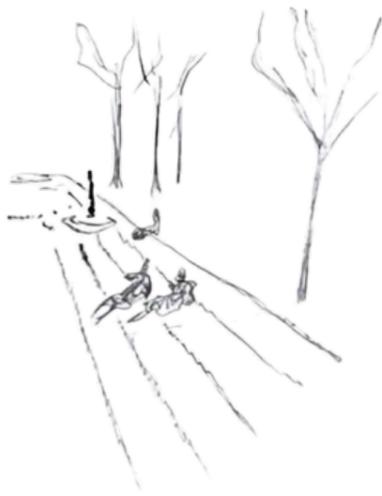
GREEN PUBLIC CORE:

At the heart of the project lies a large public park that functions as main organizing element of the site

This green core:

- creates open gathering point for students and residents.
- Enhances visual and physical connection to the river
- Encourages outdoor recreation and informal interaction
- Integrates seamlessly with sport facilities

The park balances built environments by providing a generous breathing spot within the urban structure, reinforcing the identity of the waterfront as a public landscape



MOBILITY AND ACCESS STRATEGY:

vehicular access is carefully organized to minimize its impact on pedestrian paths. The parking area is positioned in controlled zones ensuring that car circulation doesn't dominate the public realm.

Priority is given to the pedestrian and bikes, reinforcing sustainable mobility principles.



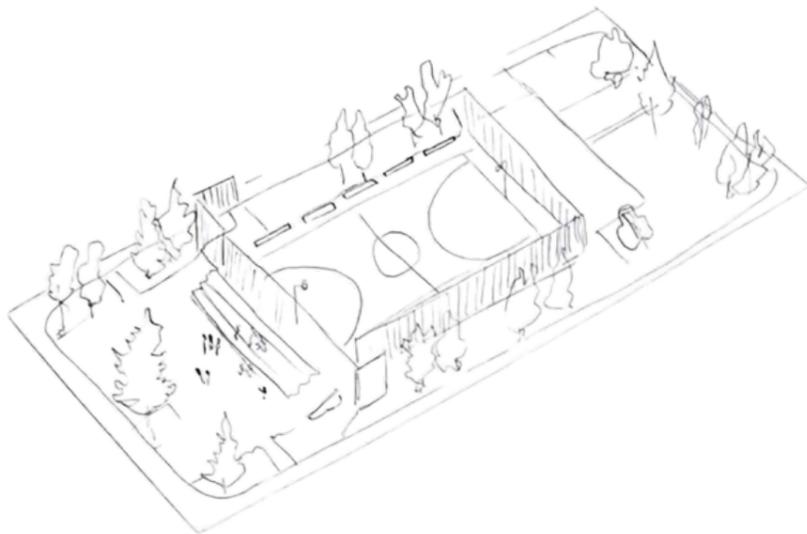
BRIDGES AS URBAN CONNECTORS:

Two proposed bridges function not only as infrastructural elements but also as experiential public spaces.

They:

- Establish direct connection between University and new developed area
- Prioritize bike and pedestrian path
- Extend the public realm across the river
- Offer panoramic views and moments of pause along the crossing

Through these bridges, the project site becomes a natural extension of the university, integrating academic life with urban and recreational spaces.



CO-LIVING STRUCTURE / SOCIAL BASE:

The co-living building introduces contemporary flexible housing model primarily oriented toward students and young professionals. It promotes collective living while maintaining individual privacy.

The ground floor designed as an active social platform, incorporating functions such as:

- Canteen and communal kitchen
- Shared study and co-working spaces
- Multi-purpose social lounges

By activating base of the building with public oriented functions, the project ensures continuous daily activity and strengthens the relationship between architecture and public space.

SPORT AS URBAN ACTIVATOR:

The basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts are conceived as integral components of the public realm rather than isolated sports infrastructure.

These facilities:

- Attract young users and activate the waterfront throughout the day
- Encourage healthy life style among young students
- Contribute to the dynamic character of the park

Together with the open green areas, sport zones creates an energetic and inclusive public environment.



