



STUTT GART AM NECKAR

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 Stuttgart am Neckar 2017

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Behind every great idea

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Water and the city

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Strategic City

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Hello from Stuttgart!

We are an independent initiative called *Stuttgart am Neckar* born in the M.Sc. of Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design (IUSD) of the University of Stuttgart. We are 22 students from around the globe committed to bring the river Neckar back where it belongs, in every Stuttgarter heart. Join us in our journey and let yourself be part of this initiative filled with passion, creativity and knowledge.

HERE!

MOTIVATION

Let's do a small exercise. Search on your Images section in Google: "Paris". What do you see in the first images? Now, do the same with the following: "London", then "Budapest" and finally, "Prague". Do you see something in common? Even if you do not go that far and search again but this time for: "Berlin", "Cologne", "Dresden", "Heidelberg", "Koblenz". Do you see any similarity between all of them? I bet there is. Probably, what you will find are pictures of the river Seine with a romantic background of the Eiffel tower in Paris. Or maybe you will be amazed by the views of the magnificent Parliament and the Citadel separated by the Danube river in Budapest. Coming closer, you might feel the amazing contrasts in how the history and its river, the Spree, has shaped the city of Berlin. Most probably, your small research will also delight your eyes with images of beautiful promenades along the Thames river in London, the historic bridges crossing the Vltava river in Prague, the Rhine in Cologne with the

historical cathedral as background, the green areas around the Elbe in Dresden or the Neckar in Heidelberg and the magnificent connection of the rivers Mosel and Rhine in Koblenz.

But the exercise is not over, there is one more step to reach the end. Let's type "Stuttgart" this time. At this point, you might be expecting a similar picture of a city with its emblematic buildings and a beautiful river finding its way across. However, what you found is not like that, right? Well, that is because the river in Stuttgart is not part of its identity, not at least in the minds of most of the inhabitants of the city. The truth is, Stuttgart does have a river and it is called Neckar.

What happened then? Why having a river Stuttgart is not recognized as a "river city" like the ones mentioned above? Why nobody has done anything about it? And more important, how a river like the Neckar, neglected by citizens and decision-

makers for decades, could be revitalized? The idea of reviving the riverbanks in Stuttgart is not new. Almost every summer season, the theme of bathing in the Neckar comes to discussion in the city with unsatisfactory results. Apparently, the water is too dirty and the fact of being a national waterway makes the direct interaction between citizens and the river almost impossible. But this is not the one and only problem, the Neckar riverbanks are the least of the things why the city should feel proud of. Lack of proper infrastructure, very narrow bike and pedestrian paths, long distances without facilities, almost non-existent pulling attractions, very few access points, fences along the river, low maintenance and a sense of non-belonging are just some of the features that the few users of the river experience every day. As a response to all those problems, many initiatives have aroused with the years, claiming the right to enjoy the river and demanding more and better solutions from the city

towards a better environment around the river. Even though the efforts have not been prominently successful, they have started to build the ground to keep pushing for integrated solutions and calling the attention of citizens and officials.

Should we lose any hope, then?

These and more questions will be addressed in this publication along with the efforts made during the summer season of 2017 by Stuttgart am Neckar, an independent initiative born in the Master of Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design (IUSD) of the University of Stuttgart as part of the Integrated Research and Design studio, with the aim to find effective solutions and realistic strategies to revitalize the Neckar river and bring it back to the city.



Promenades along the Seine river, Paris.
Photo Courtesy: Sally Ejeilat



Activity along the Rhine, Cologne.
Photo Courtesy: Sally Ejeilat

Moorland of Schwenninger Moos



THE NECKAR HISTORY AT A GLANCE

What makes up a river city? A river flowing through a city has a huge and manifold impact on that city, usually a beneficial one. Over the centuries, the inhabitants of those cities worked with and on their river often turning it and its banks into a vital urban arteria. Amsterdam, Cologne, London, Paris or Porto are but a few well-known examples. Such cities had been founded on a river because of strategic commercial, geographical and political reasons. Their rivers grew into a normal part of the historic urban fabric, like a huge linear park. This is also due to the Gestalt, the shape and design of the river banks: the urban fabric often comes close to the river, sometimes it waves back, thus creating urban spaces. Such parks, promenades, squares make the river accessible for the public.

What about Stuttgart? It's not a river city yet, albeit its river, the Neckar. The reason for this is twofold. First, the Neckar flows right between the main historic urban

cores of Greater Stuttgart: the Stuttgart city center located in the Nesenbach valley (an affluent of the Neckar), and Bad Cannstatt; eventually the Neckar only touches the north-eastern fringes of Stuttgart's urban fabric in the valley. Second, the Neckar in the Stuttgart region grew into an industrial river since the late 19th century. The Neckar, its port along with all the energy and traffic infrastructure, logistics and factories, large and small, famous and less known, are vital factors of prosperity. That's why the Stuttgart "cheeks" of the Neckar are hardly accessible and attractive for urban leisure and cultural activities.

Initially, the Neckar was marked by typical river bank vegetation and fauna in the water and on the banks. Its very name, of Celtic origin, signifies "wild water". This showed in heavy floods (e.g. in 1524, 1734, 1817, 1824) which also changed the river course, especially in the wide valley

between Hedelfingen/Untertürkheim and Stuttgart-Berg/Cannstatt and Stuttgart. Coping with this wilderness has a long tradition. People canalized particularly dangerous river segments, and built embankments, bridges and weirs. The latter were often accompanied by various mills - Stuttgart-Berg, for instance, had nine mills in 1753. The industrial and infrastructural use of the Neckar included rafting and the so-called Treidel shipping, with ships being pulled by men or horses along the banks. With the railway system, the technical progress first challenged the relevance of the Neckar as a traffic route in the 19th century, but due to motor shipping and the political changes after World War I the Neckar was turned into a federal waterway up to Plochingen just south-east of Stuttgart. The Neckar got canalized and tamed by 27 locks, most of them built in the 1920s and 1930s to sensible designs of Paul Bonatz (who also designed the Stuttgart main railway station). This allowed for energy and traffic infrastructure, industry

and settlements to be laid out in the secured valley plain. The Stuttgart port opened in 1958, the Plochingen port ten years later, both on the right Neckar bank, and they are still playing an important commercial and industrial role. But the landscape design of the banks from the 1950s to the 1980s is, if you can call it like that at all, austere and appalling. It matches the large and busy motorways B10 and B14 which push hard on the left Neckar bank. This are but two of the legacies from the 1950s-1980s period which are being challenged since the early 1990s.

Since then, river awareness is constantly rising among the Stuttgart society. There is still much to be done, but the prospect of turning the Neckar into an urban river is promising indeed, with the City of Stuttgart working hard on its complex Neckar Masterplan.



Confluence of Neckar (left) and Rhine at Mannheim.



I find that the Neckar is not that river that gives you inspiration, I cannot enjoy the river.

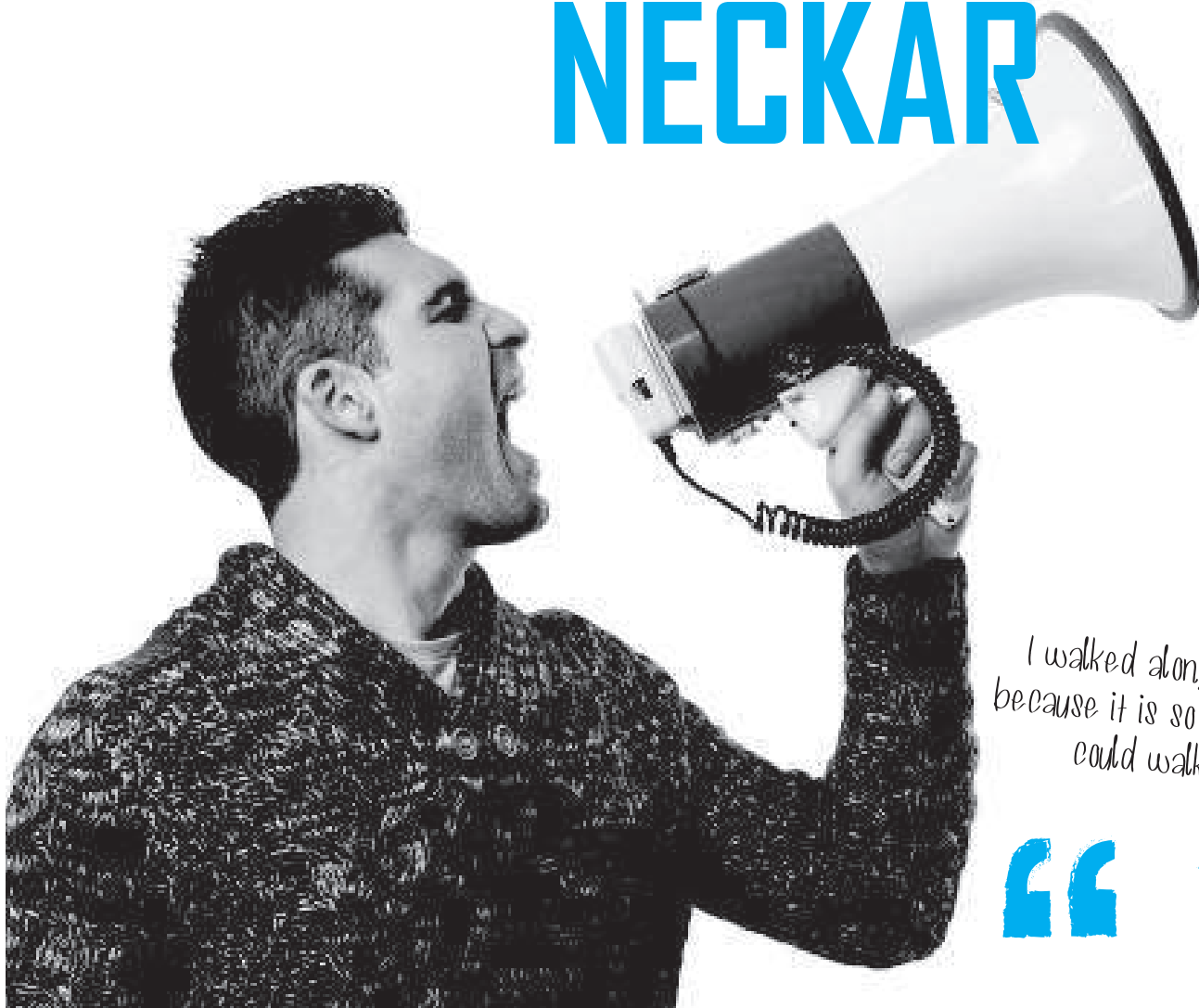


You cannot swim in it, it is more an industrial river, I have nothing much to say about it.



VOICES FROM THE

NECKAR



I walked along the Königstrasse and because it is so hot, it would be great if I could walk along a nice river.





I would like to have more interaction possibilities with water for my kids!



There should be more mineral fountains in the city centre!



We could use the water to irrigate plants around the city!



WHAT PEOPLE SAY?



There should be more advertisement from the city to promote mineral water!



MY PARENTS USED TO TAKE ME TO BASEL (...) WE WOULD SWIM THE WHOLE AFTERNOON AT THE RHINE, WHEN WE HAD A RIVER RIGHT AT OUR CITY.



BEHIND EVERY GREAT IDEA...



Stuttgart am Neckar started earlier this year as a student project, carried out by the international Master program IUSD - Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design from the University of Stuttgart, its main driver was the revitalization of the Neckar river. The project, managed by 22 students, was strongly supported by the university and often invited representatives of established organizations and institutes, creating partnerships and opening dialogues with different actors of the region.

A common session was arranged with some of the ones who boosted and accompanied this project throughout the realization of it. Dr. Prof. Astrid Ley, head of the department of International Urbanism of the University of Stuttgart, Mr. Johannes Rentsch, representative of Stuttgart's department of City Planning and Urban Renewal, and Dipl.-Ing. MSc. Lenka Vojtová, lecturer of the Integrated Research & Design studio (IRD) of the IUSD master program, accepted our invitation and were happy to answer all our questions and to share their knowledge and experience with us.

Born in the University of Stuttgart six years ago by the efforts of Prof. Antje Stokman and Prof. Philip Misselwitz to create an interdisciplinary and reality-based

teaching program, the IUSD international Master program is one of a kind in Germany. "The IUSD is unique with bringing together different disciplinary backgrounds and the extend of its focus on community engagement" as Prof. Astrid Ley explains. It is mainly composed of international students with different professional backgrounds, "this year for example, we have professionals from the fields of architecture, engineering, urban planning and even communications & media, all coming from more than 15 countries" Prof. Ley adds.

This was the group of young researchers selected to join WECHSEL, "a collaborative research project released in 2017 between the City of Stuttgart, the Stadtwerke Stuttgart and the University of Stuttgart represented by the Urban Planning Institute (SI), the Institute for Energy Econom-

ics and Efficiency (IER) and the Center for Interdisciplinary Risk and Innovation Research (ZIRIUS). This BMBF financed interdisciplinary research project looks, among others, into the upcoming energy transformation, a realistic estimation of the energy potentials at the Neckar river and scenarios for the potential urban and landscape development along the river", as Lenka Vojtová explains.

This sounds like big business, doesn't it? Then, what is the role of the students in all of this?

"Well, the IRD Studio with the topic 'Integrated Urbanism_Neckar Re...loaded!' used the obvious synergies - the analytical and strategical students' work could enrich the starting phase of the research project, and the project partners would be

an irreplaceable resource, contact and valuable critics during the semester.", Lenka explains. "Since the research project was still at its infancy stage, we hoped that the IRD could bring about greater insights, brainstorm innovative ideas and create first links to stakeholders." Prof Ley adds.

One might think that depositing such a responsibility to a group of students is a mistake. However, Mr. Rentsch uses his academic and professional background to refute this paradigm. "From my time as an Urban Design student in Berlin, I know the creative potential of working groups formed by young people from different disciplines. In long, busy nights, with a lot of fun, playfully different perspectives on the topics of city and landscape were thrown, discussed and planning concepts

developed. Just as in the Stuttgart am Neckar initiative, the results were usually unconventional approaches to how the city can be rethought and further developed. As an administration of a large city, we are often confronted with regulations such as laws, finances, property relations, etc. Under those conditions, it is not always easy to keep the great vision of urban development and landscape development in the focus. As an addition to this official level, it is valuable and important that the IUSD students worked in a more open form with the Neckar and the surrounding urban space.", he states.

Over the past century, the Neckar river in Stuttgart has been mainly surrounded by all kind of businesses and industries which in fact, are the engine of the economic prosperity of the region. It has been also declared a National Waterway to facilitate freight transport and channelled for flooding control. Then, why just now? Why the idea of "reviving" an industrial river?

Taking the floor, Mr Johannes Rentsch explains that "the idea of giving the Neckar in Stuttgart a new appearance, has been pursued for a long time at the City Planning Department. Already in the 1980s and beginning 90s, initial concepts were developed and smaller ecological projects implemented. But true momentum has come into the subject in the last couple of years. Meanwhile the desire of the people in Stuttgart to experience the river for leisure and recreation purposes is so strong, that politics has also recognized the importance of the topic. For the first time, it is possible to really think about a process of transforming the Neckar valley from an almost pure area for industry and infrastructure, into a multi-coded urban landscape and even to realize it."

So, how the group of researchers addressed this challenging task of reviving one of the most industrialized rivers in Germany? Until this point, we knew that Stuttgart am Neckar works as one initiative created by the IUSD students. However, this name was not even in the panorama at the beginning. "Topics were predefined only for the very first analytical phase to get a broad view and well-grounded knowledge of the overall themes and the site. All other decisions were taken by a group consent. After an evaluation of the analysis in a common workshop, the students identified the highest potentials and important challenges to be tackled and decided for four topics determining the remaining semester activities, each team working on one of these topics.", as Lenka explains the approach of the seminar.

Awareness, Connectivity, Hidden Waters and Life around the River. Those were the four main topics selected as the most relevant and which defined the outcome of what it is today Stuttgart am Neckar.

Starting with the design of an overall strategy (which in all cases had to be redesigned with the more input the teams were gaining throughout the process and the more interaction with stakeholders found on the way), each team defined the path for the following months. Just one thing was clear from the beginning, the "battle" was not inside the classroom, it was in the streets, with the citizens, with the ones in favour and against, with the actors involved in the complex dynamics the Neckar river involves. But due to the time and man-power limitation and the scale of the project, this battle could not be fought separate. This was the real reason for the group to join efforts and make the project look like just one. The decision? Stuttgart am Neckar as a collective title, easy to remember and attractive for public

ity, under which they all could act and appear as one initiative.

For covering a wide range of topics in an also wide scale, not just the man-power and the goodwill of students and lecturers, but the economic support must be

tent. They still actively (and successfully) looked for partners and sponsors as well as recyclable materials from the streets, but what you start with, definitely makes a difference." Lenka explains.

During a time-frame of three months, the four groups had more than 20 main activities, reaching from urban experiments (which was the focus), interim presentations to meetings with relevant stakeholders. Some more risky than others, some more serious than others, some based on observation, some others on interaction; all of them equally relevant and creative.

But, what was the outcome of those activities? Were the results successful? What was the highlight of the whole process? To those questions, Lenka felt the necessity to clarify that "in general, experiments in public space should not be rated as successful or unsuccessful. An experiment is a tool for understanding and testing certain situation and if properly evaluated, it allows for further adaptation of strategies or the choice of a different approach". Mr. Johannes agrees and complements the idea saying that equally or even more important than the results of the experiments, was "the strategic ap

proach that was chosen as a principle for the concepts. It was consistently tried to identify actors and existing networks regarding the Neckar, and to integrate them into the planning process. In this way, a form of urban planning can succeed, that thinks and links new and existing structures together". Being an active participant during many of the activities held by the group, Prof. Astrid felt confident to be more specific and say that for her and her family "the nicest event was to discover with the initiative the Neckar river at the

canoe club and share food and ideas at the same time. The kids had great fun and we were amazed how much collaboration became visible and the degree of professionalism to present ideas (see page n.30 for further details). However, all other events also were characterized by a great degree of creativity and enthusiasm."

Using Mr. Johannes words, the students approached the project with an incredible amount of passion and that passion is also visible in the results, which the reader will find in this publication. "I was fascinated by how the concepts were presented in a complex and professional way. It is also interesting to note, that despite the same task, the groups have come to completely different approaches to the question how the Neckar in Stuttgart could be activated for urban life. In the end the range covered ecological, economic, social as well as spatial approaches".

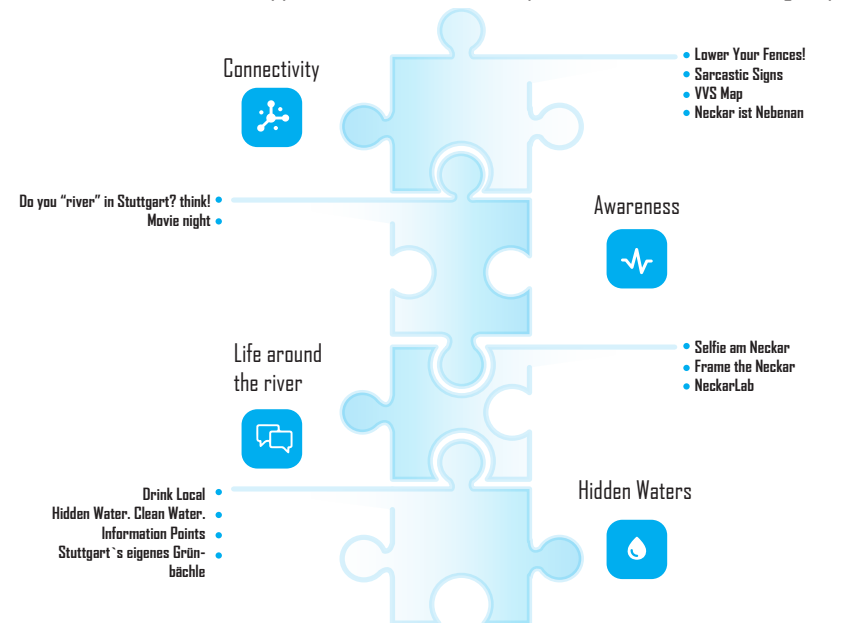
What all participants agree in, is that the group of researchers realized a project beyond expectations. "It is just not comparable with an usual studio situation as you can feel the degree of ownership and responsibility that goes along with it" as Prof. Ley express. That is the level of engagement and ownership that our three participants encourage all the citizens to have with their city, with their river, "it belongs to them!", Mr. Johannes exclaims. As Lenka concludes, "When we look at Berlin, Paris, Prague, the citizens feeling a certain kind of belonging won't let the river be taken away from them. In Stuttgart, this seems to be different and so must be the approach of reviving the riversides. Any new design planned and implemented along the river is likely to fail without the acceptance of the current dynamics, without the activation of citizens and awakening their interest in discovering the hidden places, what the river has to offer. The riverside needs people first."

This was the reason why the decision of making this publication was a necessity to keep spreading the word and keep pushing for a better Neckar in Stuttgart. What the reader will find in this publication, is the work developed by this group of students during the summer semester of 2017 all along with their strategies, urban experiments and some extra material.

Are you ready?

"For the first time, it is possible to really think about a process of transforming the Neckar valley"

"When we look at Berlin, Paris, Prague, the citizens feeling a certain kind of belonging won't let the river be taken away from them. In Stuttgart, this seems to be different"



critical for the materialization of what was embodied in the strategies. The group however was lucky to get this, at least partial, support. "Straight at the beginning of the semester, we applied for co-funding through Stuttgarter Change Labs, even though it was not yet clear, where the journey would take us. We were very lucky to become one of the ten supported initiatives. This already secured backbone of financial support released the students from a lot of frustration and stress and allowed them to concentrate on the con-

cept that was chosen as a principle for the concepts. It was consistently tried to identify actors and existing networks regarding the Neckar, and to integrate them into the planning process. In this way, a form of urban planning can succeed, that thinks and links new and existing structures together". Being an active participant during many of the activities held by the group, Prof. Astrid felt confident to be more specific and say that for her and her family "the nicest event was to discover with the initiative the Neckar river at the

2017 STUTT GART AM NECKAR

Initiation of the project
See p. 6

11/04

INITIAL PHASE



20/04

First symposium



24/04



Bicycle trip around the river. Acquaintance with the river from Gaisburg to Max-Eyth-See

02/05

Analysis Phase
Presentation

STRATEGIC PHASE



Connectivity
See p. 12



Life around the river
See p. 18



Hidden Waters
See p. 16



Awareness
See p. 14

Presenting initial strategies of the groups

30/05



Media & Communication



Coordination



Public Relations

06/06

Formulating different committees



Inception of *Stuttgart am Neckar* and Logo and Image design

10/06

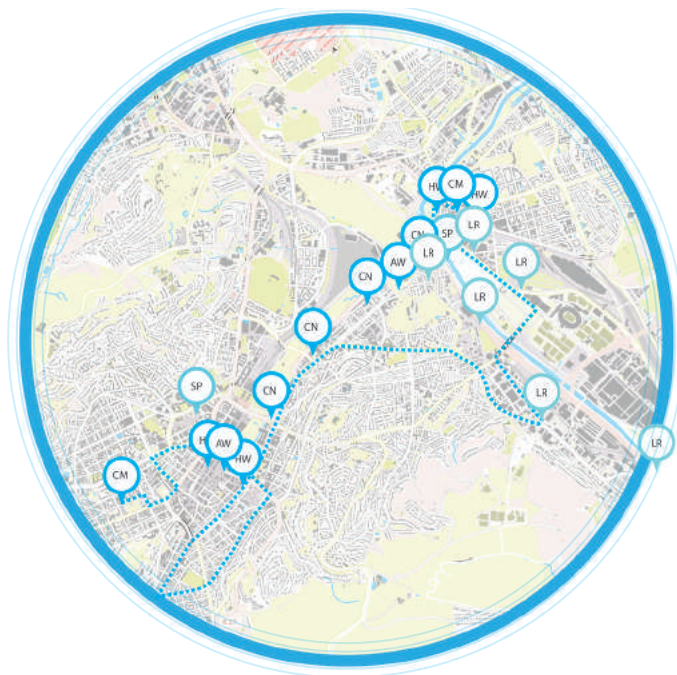


Facebook
Stuttgart am Neckar
2017



Instagram
Stuttgart am Neckar

EXPERIMENTAL PHASE



- Critical Mass Event**
- Symposium**
- Life around the river**
- Connectivity**
- Hidden Waters**
- Awareness**



Symposium at Mercedesstrasse
Open air symposium at Mercedesstrasse
See p. 42



Critical mass
Neckar movie on the After-mass
See p. 36

EXPERIMENTAL PHASE



Lower Your Fences 2.0 Stairs Experiment and Sarcastic Signs
Along the riverbank
See p. 22-24



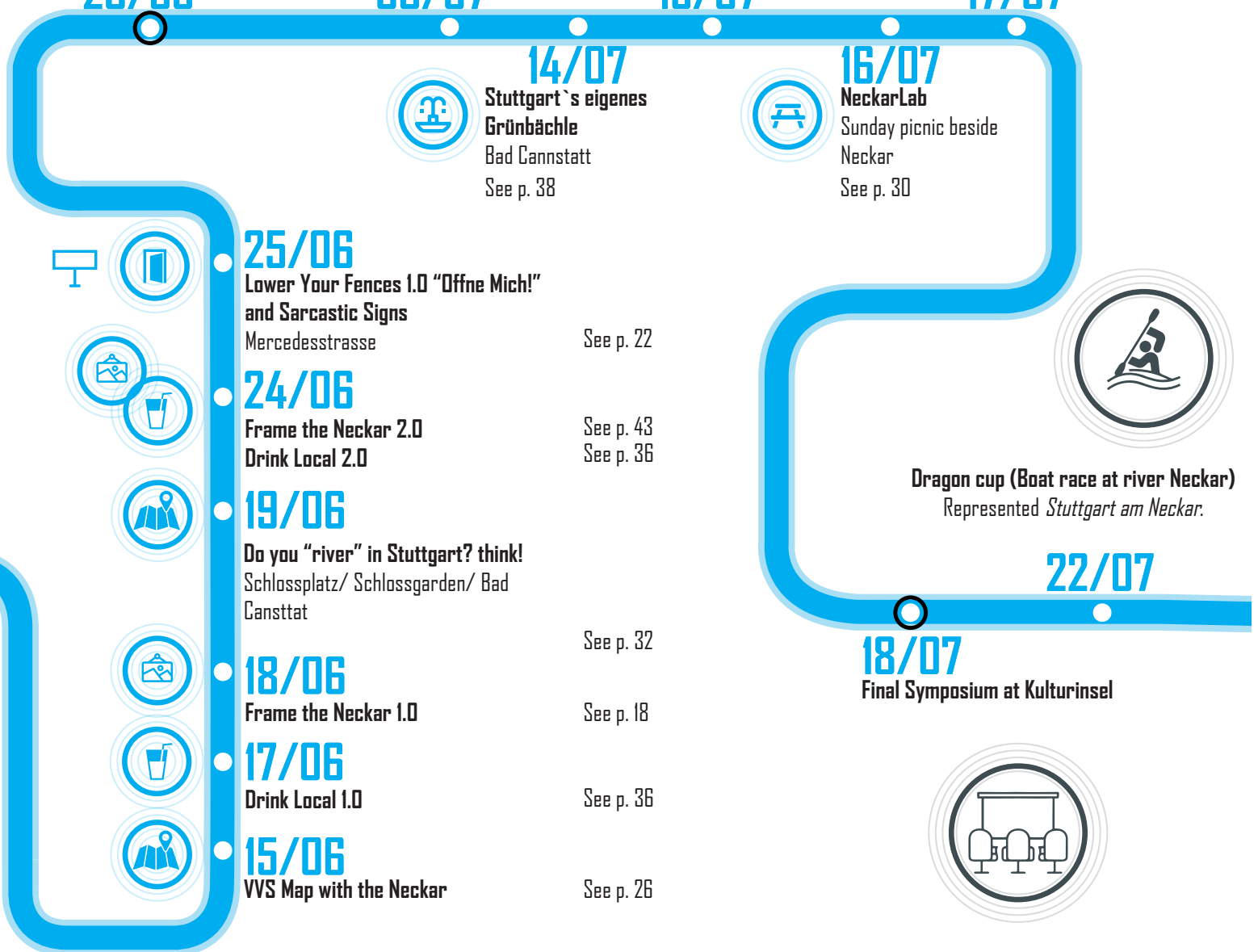
"Neckar ist Nebenan" Posters in U-Bahn Stations
See p. 29

28/06

08/07

15/07

17/07



25/06
Lower Your Fences 1.0 "Offne Mich!" and Sarcastic Signs
Mercedesstrasse
See p. 22



24/06
Frame the Neckar 2.0
Drink Local 2.0
See p. 43
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19/06
Do you "river" in Stuttgart? think!
Schlossplatz/ Schlossgarten/ Bad Canstatt
See p. 32



18/06
Frame the Neckar 1.0
See p. 18



17/06
Drink Local 1.0
See p. 36



15/06
VVS Map with the Neckar
See p. 26



14/07
Stuttgart`s eigenes Grünbächle
Bad Cannstatt
See p. 38



16/07
NeckarLab
Sunday picnic beside Neckar
See p. 30



Dragon cup (Boat race at river Neckar)
Represented *Stuttgart am Neckar*.

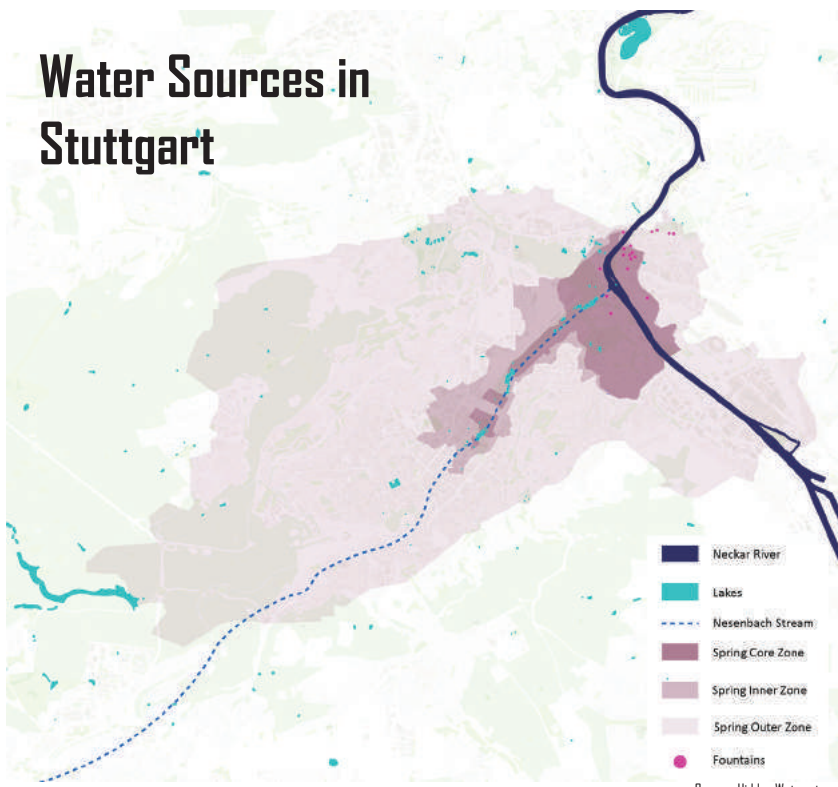
22/07

18/07
Final Symposium at Kulturinsel



WATER & THE CITY

Water Sources in Stuttgart



Source: Hidden Waters team

Centuries ago, Stuttgart settled at the Nesenbach stream, which since decades is running underground due to the heavy infrastructure of the city centre laying on top of it. Nowadays, Stuttgart also lies at the Neckar river, which is flowing freely without being captured under the tunnels, hidden in the identity of the city and the perception of people. This is influenced by the lack of interaction opportunities with the river water and the industries located at the riverbanks. Also, the local mineral water springs that form the second largest source in Europe after the city of Budapest, are barely known to the majority of Stuttgart's citizens, let alone valued as part of its identity in the larger context of the region of Stuttgart.

Stuttgart is the 2nd largest mineral water source in Europe

Half of the daily needs of drinking water is

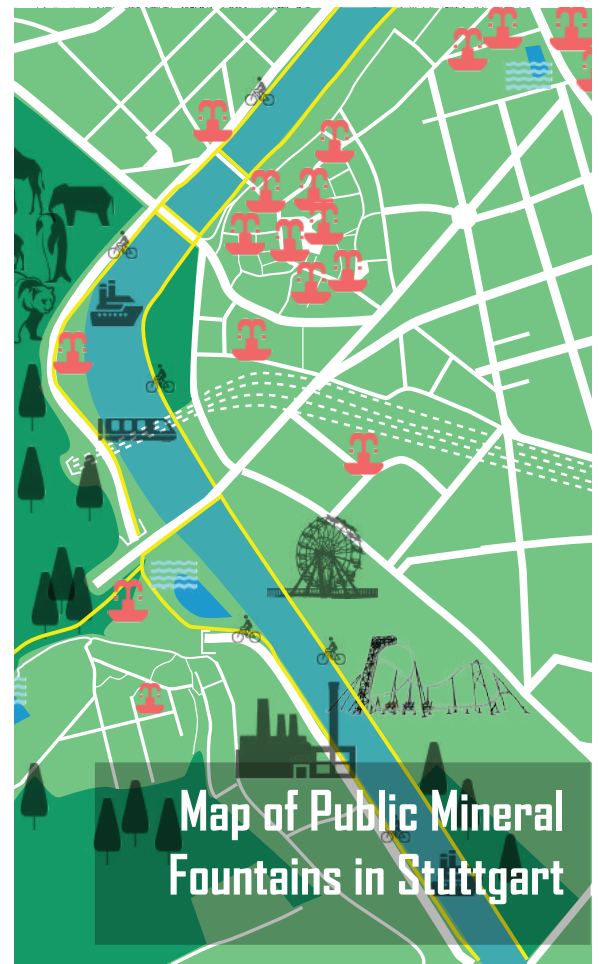
being provided from the regional sources such as spring water, groundwater and river water. Along with that, the other half is being provided from Bodensee which requires great amount of energy to reach Stuttgart. Besides, 30 percent of the water that goes to sewage system is clean rain and mineral water which then mix with gray water to be cleaned again in the treatment plant without being used for irrigation, drinking or any other purpose.

As if it was an iceberg, the situation of the water cycle in Stuttgart is barely visible on the surface (see image below), therefore it can be said it is a hidden process. The issue starts with the rain water and the mineral water from fountains which are having the same cleaning process without needing it. One consequence of this is the overload of the city's pipe system as it is receiving water from many sources at the same time. This can lead to saturation or flooding due to the limited capacity. Another consequence

is the energy spent during the cleaning process, inferring that the bigger the amount of water to clean, the bigger the amount of energy spent in such process. It is necessary to create new water cycles within the city. It is about integrating this resource in the urban landscape and in the everyday life of the citizens.

There are more than 250 wells located in the urban area of Stuttgart and 19 public mineral water fountains located either in the old city of Bad Cannstatt or in Stuttgart near by the Neckar River. Namely, these are Mühlenbrunnen, Leuzebrunnen, Veielbrunnen, Schiffmannbrunnen, Strohmbrunnen, Erbsenbrunnen, Jakobsbrunnen, Polizeibrunnen, Klösterlebrunnen, Kellerbrünnele, Schreinerbrunnen, Lautenschlägerbrunnen and Auquellbrunnen. The taste differs in every fountain depending on the relative amount of minerals they contain. The mineral water mainly consist of Magnesium, Calcium, Potassium, Chlorine, Iron and Sodium which help cells to regenerate, boost bones and muscles, prevent dehydration, protect heart and nervous system, as well as to fasten the production of red blood cells.

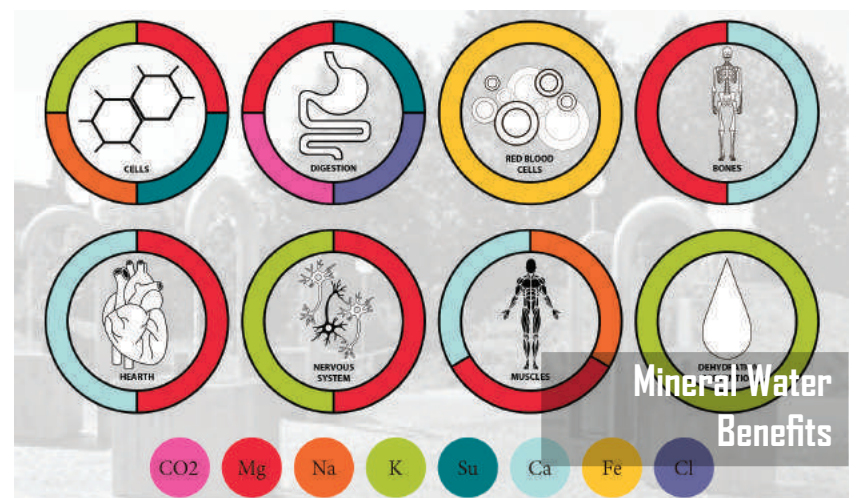
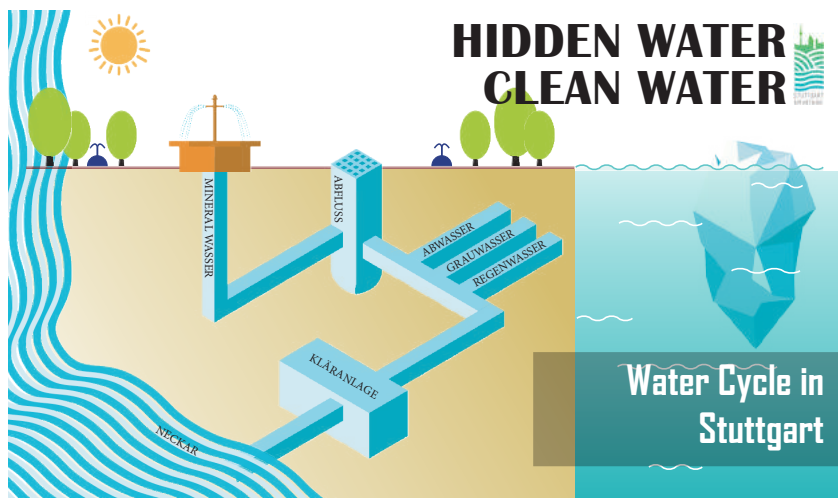
The nutritional information of the mineral water of Stuttgart was found at the City Hall website, which raise a question about the promotion of such information. Why is



Map of Public Mineral Fountains in Stuttgart

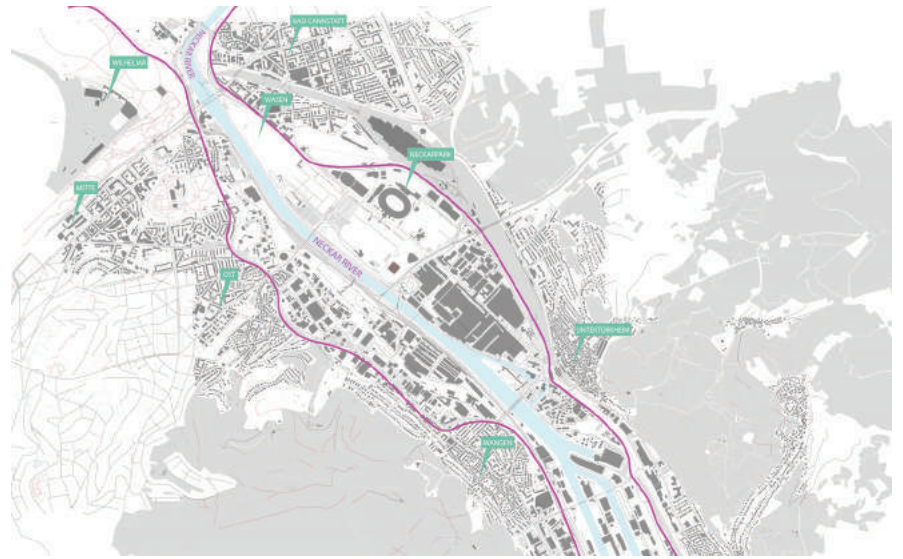
More than 250 wells and 19 public mineral water fountains are located in Stuttgart!

this resource not being promoted if the information is already available? The city might be spending money, time and energy in the maintenance of the fountains, but what is the purpose if the main information is not being spread? As it can be seen in the graphic below, this resource offers to the inhabitants several benefits for their health. Unfortunately, the source of this water is far from the city center of Stuttgart, which is one of the most crowded places of the city and therefore a proper place for promoting it. We see the mineral water as a mean to take people back to the river, as it is surrounded by most of the fountains.



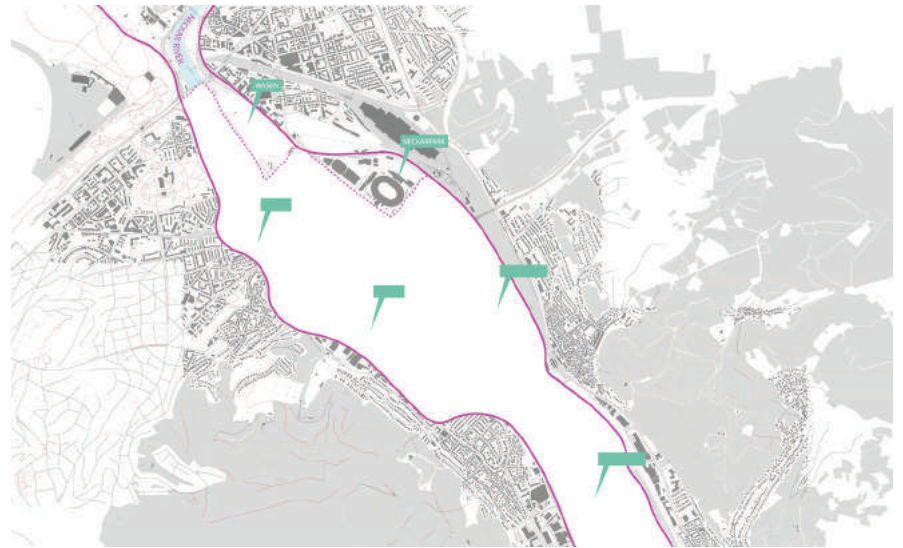
BORDERS

The limits highlighted in pink show a contrast in the urban fabric of the area. Outside the limits, there are known districts of Stuttgart, with higher density and smaller lots than the area found inside the limits. The proximities of the river are mainly of industrial and logistic activities and are comprised in larger patches of land and their limits are marked by highways, fences and railways.



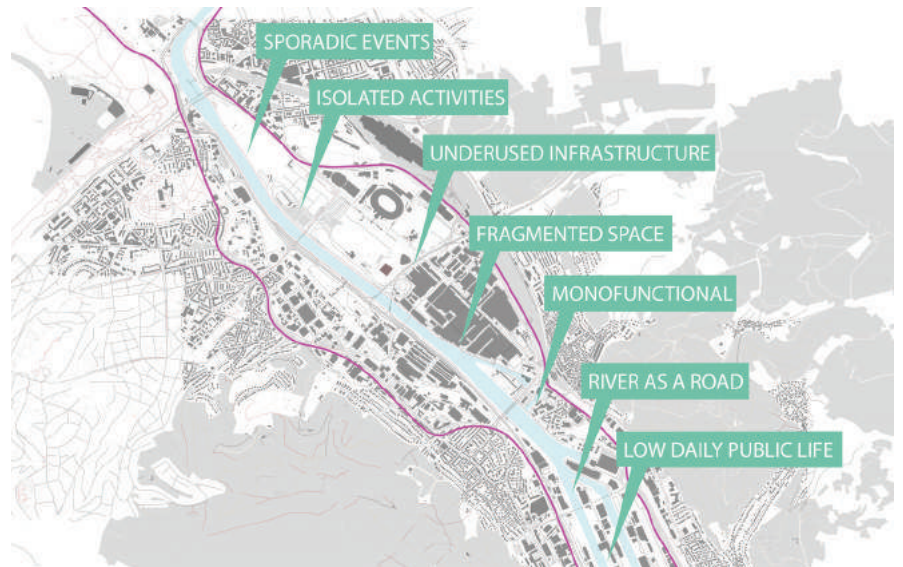
PERCEPTION

The limits showed above not only segregate the river physically, but also on the overall image of the city. The perception of the common citizen is affected, turning the area into a blank space in the image of the city.



PRIMARY FINDINGS

After a first investigation of the site, the initial findings set the path for the research and intervention approach. Those were mainly about the fragmentation of the area and the isolation of the activities, but also the use of open spaces for sporadic events, with constant low public life. Another fact worth mention is the use of the river mainly as a waterway, preventing the public access to the water.



LIFE AROUND THE NECKAR

Life is restricted: The monofunctional sites and the lack of integration among the neighbors, restricts the area to have specific activities during specific time frames. The fragmentation of the space is mirrored on the time efficiency of the area. Many activities only function during specific time frames, leaving the spaces inactive on the remaining time.



STRATEGIC CITY

CITY-RIVER LINKAGES

Students evaluated Stuttgart city's connectivity to the Neckar River.

Continue reading [below](#)

IS THERE A RIVER IN STUTTGART?

The first step to tackle an issue is to admit that there is a problem. What hinders the Neckar from crossing into people's daily lifes?

Continue reading on [page 14](#)

HIDDEN WATERS IN STUTTGART

Stuttgart, a city that turns its back to its water sources; the Neckar, the stream of the Nesenbach and the mineral water springs.

Continue reading on [page 16](#)

HOW TO BRING LIFE TO THE NECKAR ?

The Story behind the NeckarLab

Continue reading on [page 18](#)

CITY-RIVER LINKAGES: A WHOLE SYSTEM OF DISCONNECTIONS



Students from the Städtebau-Institut (SI) at the University of Stuttgart evaluate Stuttgart city's connectivity to the Neckar River. Where is the disconnection? - Everywhere!

Stuttgart city takes pride in the slogan "City between forests and vineyards". The planning approach of the city values nature highly; 7 nature conservation areas (6.6% of the total city area) and 27 landscape conservation areas (32.4%) have been defined since the 2007 masterplan.

Yet, despite the slogans and the regulations, a major gap appears: between the forests and the vineyards lies a river, the most of all natural element. What does Stuttgart have planned to conserve that? A few conceptual projects. What do Stuttgart's know of that? Not much!

Lack of concrete planning related to conserving and rehabilitating Stuttgart's River and its riverbanks, almost fully surrounded by big industries like EnBW and Daimler, leaves the Neckar marginalized and absent from the minds of average Stuttgart residents and visitors. Rather than spending their leisure time on the banks of the river, Stuttgart's lay on grass lawns in the urban city center, contemplating the view of shoppers and tourists roaming restlessly in fully-paved Königstraße, with a sound of a fake water feature in the background to give some feelings of nature and well-being. Students from the Institute of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of

Stuttgart took up the duty of conducting an intensive theoretical and field research, complimented with observations, surveys, and interviews around the Neckar riverbanks and in different parts of the city, to define the main reasons behind River-City disconnections, both in the perspective of city planners and the public.

"When we talk about connectivity, we don't only mean it in terms of physical and infrastructural networks that lead people from the city to the river. Of course these are quite important, but we also want to shed light on cognitive connectivity. Too many people don't even recognize the

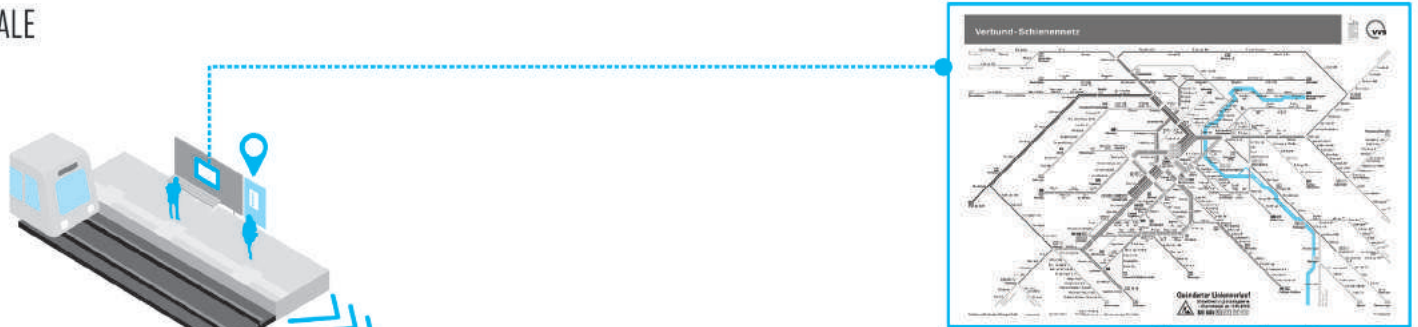
presence of a river in Stuttgart. Me, for example, I only realized Stuttgart's river after 5 months of living here!", Thomas J. Knapik states.

After defining the main reasons for River-City disconnections, the group used their findings to come up with a strategy that aims at solving the connectivity issue at multiple scales (overview on the next page). Each step is accompanied with on-site experiments, which are then presented and negotiated with interested stakeholders from public institutes and civic society organizations.

STRATEGY TIMELINE AND OVERVIEW

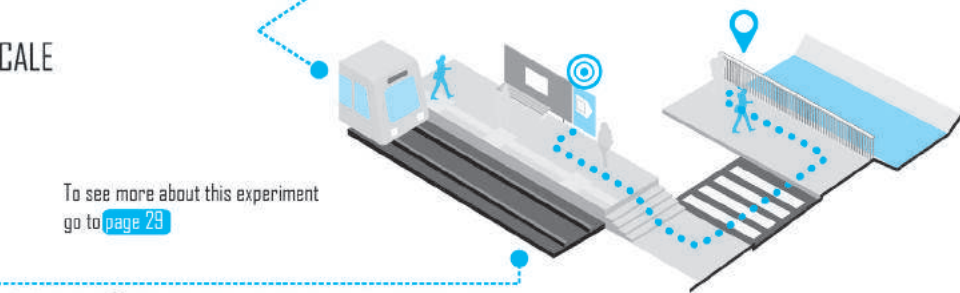
The diagram below illustrates the strategy developed by students from the Connectivity group, with practical experiments to tackle the issues of disconnection on 3 scales: Large, between the river and Stuttgart city as a whole, medium, between the river and the surrounding context, and small, between the river and the immediate riverbank.

L LARGE SCALE



To see more about this experiment go to [page 26](#)

M MEDIUM SCALE



To see more about this experiment go to [page 29](#)

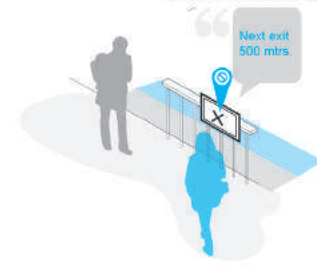
1 ? Pointing out a fact, e.g. criticizing the lack of services or furniture at the Riverbank



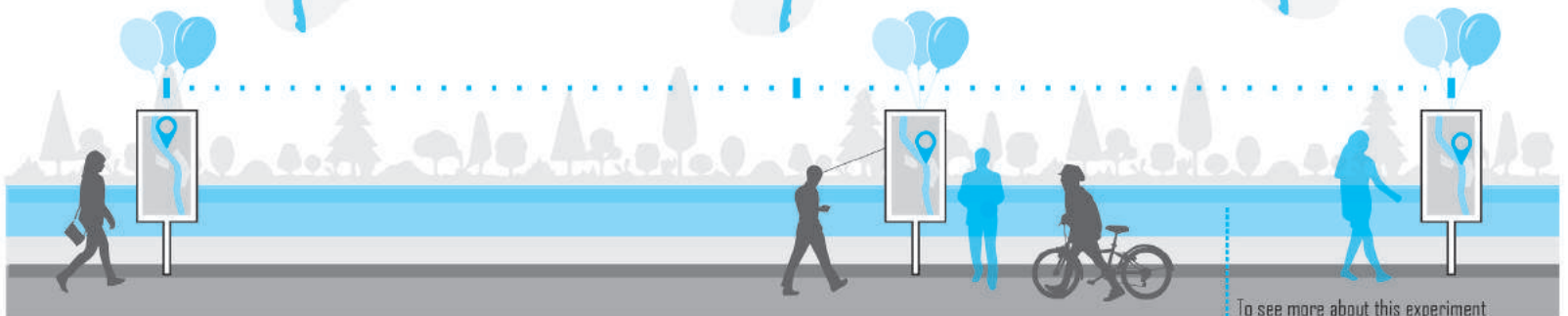
2 << Guiding users and showing exit points along the river



3 >> Identifying barriers and borders along the riverbank

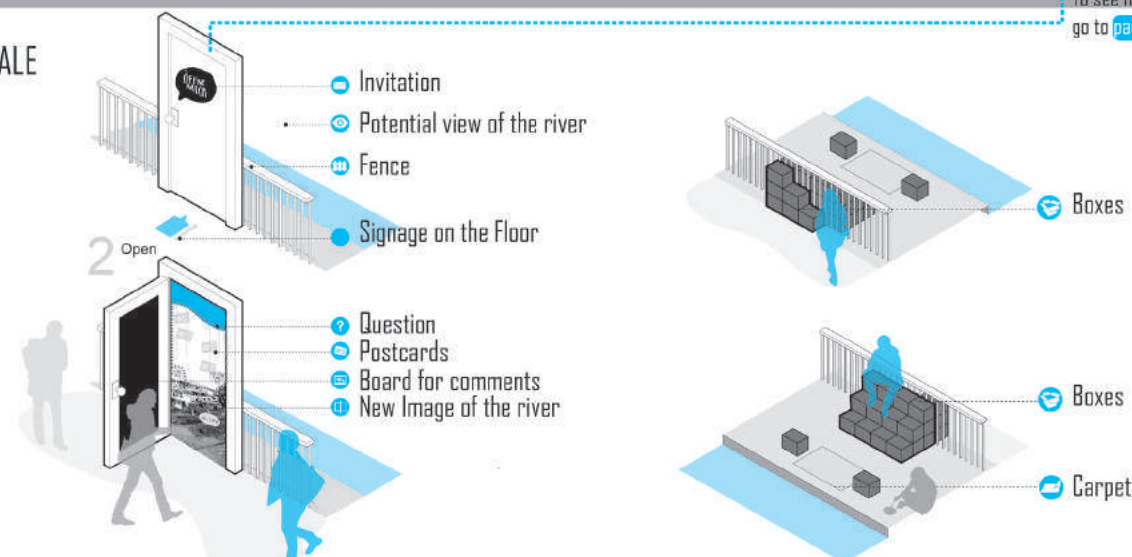


To see more about this experiment go to [page 24](#)



To see more about this experiment go to [page 28](#)

S SMALL SCALE



To see more about this experiment go to [page 22](#)

To see more about this experiment go to [page 23](#)

IS THERE A RIVER IN STUTT GART?



The first step to tackle an issue is to admit that there is a problem. The Awareness group's strategy was to acknowledge the issues, analyze the causes, identify the major problems and develop long and short term goals to bring the problems one step closer to an improvement.

With visual tools like postcards, interactive brochures and an awareness movie, various hidden locations were brought close to the people to give them a glimpse of various potential activities that could take place along the banks of the river Neckar.

Starting with basic questions like: "Is there a river in Stuttgart? How is it called? Where is the river? How do you get there?", to analyze deeper ones like: "What hinders the Neckar from crossing into people's daily lives? Is there a need to improve physical connection of the river to the city?", the awareness group took the initiative to analyze the issue from the roots. "We began the project by understanding broader topics such as barriers, borders, interlinkages and visibility, nature, culture, land use, accessibility, climate change, industrial heritage identity and temporary uses", Maria Encalada introduces. Various smaller groups in the studio looked at these topics separately and identified issues such as the private industrial areas along the river, big highways acting as a physical barrier preventing access to and visibility

of the Neckar, general lack of accessibility and visual aids to reach the river from the city center, undefined and neglected spaces along the river.

With this initial input the awareness group dived into further analysis using various methods and tools such as the sensorial and mental mapping.

"Classifying and sketching our findings with the method of problem tree, we identified three core issues that needed to be tackled, then we moved on to setting our long and

short term goals.", Nojoud Ashour explains.

"In the initial process we developed a sequence of thought. We understood that only by changing the perception of the people towards the river we could succeed in bringing people to the river, which gradually would increase the demands of urban design elements on the river banks. Thus leading to an urge of having improved urban design along the river." Ashour added. Furthermore, when people start to claim

Only by changing the perception of the people towards the river, we could succeed in bringing people to the river again

these spaces at the river, they potentially would demand for more, ultimately leading to the requirement of some of the largest fenced off areas to open their doors for daily life activities of the public.

CORE ISSUES

- 01 Negative perception towards the Neckar
- 02 Inadequate urban design
- 03 Closed private spaces

SHORT TERM GOALS

- 01 Positive perception towards the Neckar

LONG TERM GOALS

- 01 Adequate urban design
- 02 Open up closed private spaces

THE NECKAR UNVEILED...

"Under Awareness, our first step was to inform people about the existence of a river amidst them. In addition, we collected data to understand the diverse needs of people regarding activities they wanted to do on the river banks", Viviann Rimmel explains. This was accomplished through interviews carried out on three different locations across the city.

Aiming to receive a larger proportion of not only residents but also visitors of Stuttgart, a location at Schlossplatz, Königstrasse was the first choice. The physical distance and detachment of the users to the Neckar were evident in these interviews. The second location was Schlossgarten, which the users mainly visit either to relax or to do sports, activities that could potentially be done along the Neckar as well. "In this case, our interviewees were more motivated in their inputs providing us with a larger list of anticipated activities on the Neckar", Viviann clarifies. The final location, Wilhelmsplatz in Bad Cannstatt was chosen due to its proximity to the Neckar. The interviewees here were directly connected to the Neckar, majority of them often visiting it daily.

As part of their Awareness and Activation strategy, the group further discovered numerous hidden locations along the Neckar. How to tell people about them? "If the mountain won't come to Muhammad, then Muhammad must go to the mountain." The next step? To bring those spots closer to the people.

"Once we discovered beautiful hidden locations along the Neckar, we decided to present them to the residents and visitors of Stuttgart using visual methods", Saamil Patel explains. A movie was developed to catch the attention of people (see page 35 for further details). Visual methods such as intriguing postcards or an interactive brochure were used to create awareness about the discovered hidden locations.

"The interactive brochure displayed eight different locations. The participants were enhanced to fill it in, voice their opinions and claims and send it to the displayed contacts of representatives of the office of City Planning and Urban Renewal of Stuttgart. These brochures were not only a tool for increasing the awareness but also an activation step of the strategy. Our interactive brochures would be the first indicator of people's demands for improvement of the urban design along the Neckar. After their return to the office with participants' feedback, a stronger connection to the

city officials is expected. Our next step would be to have another experiment, re-enacting the demands of people about the riverbanks aiming to test its feasibility", Shaharin Annisa adds.

"Over a long-term period, once the hidden locations along the Neckar become active, we envision a demand of an increased number of such spaces from the residents. Once this point is reached, private institutions owning land right on the river banks could be approached to open their boundaries to the public. Experiments could be designed to analyse the feasibility of the strategies before moving on to making them permanent. The "how?" remains unclear, the exact steps are yet to be defined. It is a matter of trial and error and it depends on the outcome of every step" Shaharin concludes.

TOOLS

Questionnaires & interviews (P. 32)

Collecting opinions and understanding the perception of participants towards the Neckar.

Postcards (P. 32)

Used as a visual tool to create awareness about the beautiful hidden locations discovered by the awareness group. QR codes enabled residents to simply scan and reach these locations and maps pointing out the closest U bahn stops, including tips and tricks to enjoy the place.

Interactive collages (P. 35)

Based on the lines of the "planning for real" method, an image of hidden locations at the river was presented with cutouts of various potential activities.

Interactive Brochures (P. 35)

Eight different locations were showed with the aim of discovering what participants wanted to have in these locations.

MOVIE (P. 34 and 35)

A movie with an intriguing storyline was shot displaying various hidden locations along the Neckar and screened at different locations aiming to bring those locations close to the people of Stuttgart.



HIDDEN WATERS IN STUTTGART

Stuttgart, a city that turns its back to its water sources: the river Neckar, the stream of the Nesenbach and the mineral water springs.



Visualization of the Neckar in the future

Photo Courtesy: Hidden Waters team IUSD VI intake

Hidden waters, why are you hiding?

The water has always played an important role in the design of many cities all over the world. Not only the historical settlements were very dependent on the rivers, but also nowadays, water is often part of the urban identity and contributes greatly to the quality of life of citizens. 'Water' in this case is not only referring to rivers, but also to seashores, lakes, mineral water sources, drinking, sewage and rainwater. However, the degree to which these resources are visible varies in each city. London, Paris, Frankfurt - these are examples of cities which are recognized

for its rivers, by opening up the riverbanks to the people and allowing the water to be part of the city. Budapest is another city which has developed its identity around the largest mineral water source in Europe.

Even though certain water resources are not at all hidden but rather iconic, often we forget about the water cycle in general. What is happening with the clean rainwater in the city? Where does the tap water come from? What kind of waters mix in the sewage system underneath the city? There is a lot

of hidden waters still to be explored! It is important to understand these processes in order to find solutions of how to make water visible and to create a more sustainable water cycle.

First of all, there is a need to create awareness about the hidden water in order to turn it into iconic water. Awareness can bring the river, the rainwater or any other water source back into the minds of people and ultimately back into our cities. Consequently, the concept of hidden waters refers not only to the physical (in)visibility but it also entails the fact that it does not exist in the perception of the general public.

One of the cities doing a good job at hiding its water resources in Stuttgart. This gives re-

levance to the challenge of converting Stuttgart into a more sustainable city celebrating its local water resources. Let's discover the waters of Stuttgart and uncover its hidden potentials! But what transformations are needed to make these waters become iconic?

The following page will introduce the strategy of the **'Hidden water. Iconic waters.'** project analyzing Stuttgart's water cycle, proposing a strategy supported by real life experiments towards a potential solution.

FROM HIDDEN WATERS TO ICONIC WATERS. HOW?

The current situation lead to categorize the challenges around the water cycle and water resources into three topics: Challenges concerning the ecosystem, challenges concerning the infrastructure and socio-cultural challenges. To develop a strategy initiating a positive change first, a clear vision statement should create the guideline for the project. The envisioned long-term perspective was to work towards Stuttgart's integrated water resources creating a network of Ecosystem and Urban Life. Then, how could this be achieved?

In the next step, by scaling down the vision into more specific goals, the challenges were provided with ways on how to tackle them. In essence, the group formulated the following goals:

GOALS

- 01 Raising awareness
- 02 Increasing the usage of Stuttgart's mineral water
- 03 Shortening the water commodity chain
- 04 Improving accessibility of the river water
- 05 Improving the quality of the river water

However, it became clear that the challenges and thus also the goals cannot be regarded separately. Instead, all of the topics are interlinked and affect each other. The goals then were translated into explicit projects which would together make it possible to reach the vision.

Integrated Design Proposal

The proposal of the integrated design contains the implementation of three project strategies. In essence, by bottling Stuttgart's mineral water, the usage of the

local water resource should be increased and the water commodity chain shortened. Specifically, the focus is on inviting the citizens to try and explore the taste of the mineral water. This is promoted by handing out empty bottles, especially designed for the Brünnele Wasser, Stuttgart's local mineral water. Next, the group is suggesting a network of water-filled chanel on the streets and walkways which is connecting the mineral water fountains and the river Neckar, named Grünbächle. As a side-effect, the Grünbächle can contribute to recovering and activating the public space around water in Stuttgart. The project also addresses the usage of mineral water and the accessibility to the river water. By revitalizing the riverbanks,

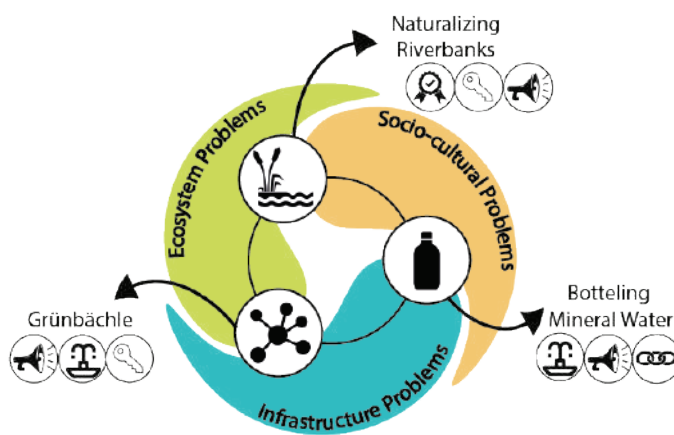
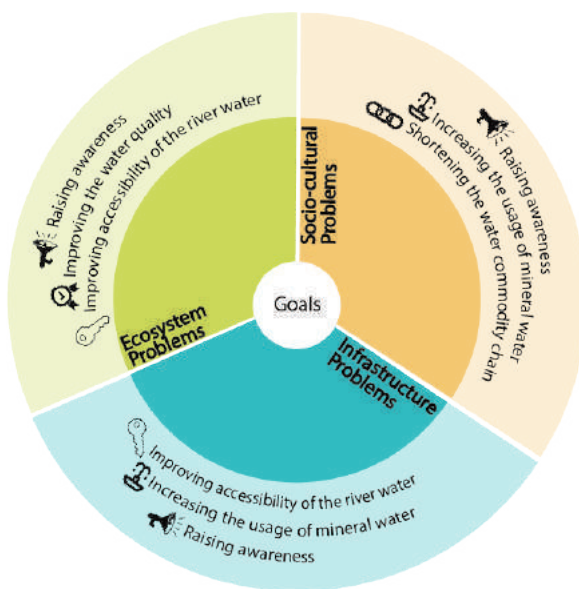
the third part of the strategy does not only continue to improve the accessibility of the river water, but also it begins with enhancing the water quality of the Neckar. This idea includes the creation of an ecosystem in which people as well as nature can claim their space at the river and interact with each other.

With the help of all three projects awareness is raised on the topic of local water resources, the current water cycle and how to make it more sustainable and inclusive for citizens. The projects represent different scales and refer to different phases of the strategy. In all phases, the projects are integrated in terms of building on the effects of the prior phase and preparing the ground for the next phase. Nevertheless, the

projects will not stop with the end of a phase but rather are to be continued on a higher level.

Strategy Development

The relationship between the three strategic projects is reflected in the diagram showed on the left, a fractal which is evolving and increasing in scale, as the impact of the project grows and time goes on. Each phase has a clear aim, which at the same time serves as a mean to measure the success. Depending on these milestones, the strategy has to be adapted or refined and the decision whether to move on or not can be taken. For each phase, this is always also based on the feedback and ideas collected from the citizens. The aim of the first phase is to measure the awareness, meaning to start a dialogue with the citizens about the topic of the local water resources and the water commodity chain. On the following level, enhancing visibility of and accessibility to the water through symbolically implementing a Grünbächle, recovering public space around the water and promoting bottles for mineral water is the focus. Here, the group means to engage the citizens more with the water cycle in Stuttgart and to show them different ways on how to improve it. The intention of the next phase is to naturalize the riverbanks and revitalize the public space around it. The long term perspective includes the growth of the Grünbächle network leading towards riverbanks with an enhanced ecosystem and finally, the expansion of the Brünnele Wasser bottle promoted by the City of Stuttgart and local organizations.



PROJECTS FOR STUTT GART

- 01 BOTTLING MINERAL WATER
- 02 GRÜNBACHLE
- 03 REVITALIZING RIVERBANKS

HOW TO BRING LIFE TO THE NECKAR?

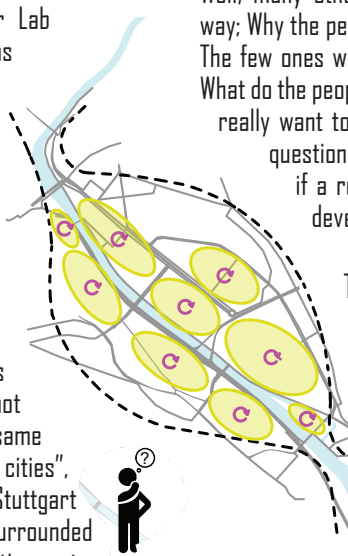


Photo Courtesy: Juan Sebastián Benitez

The story behind the Neckarlab

The urban researchers behind the so-called Neckar Lab were entrusted by the University of Stuttgart with the challenging task to develop a strategy that, being applied to the surroundings of the Neckar river in the Stuttgart area, could bring back the life and revitalize this beautiful but hidden and elusive gem in a sustainable and inclusive way.

The idea of the Neckar Lab was born after months of analyzing the surroundings of the Neckar river in the Gaisburg area and combining urban experiments with creativity in order to understand the area and the context. First, the researchers understood that it was not possible to apply the same recipe as in other "river cities", simply because in Stuttgart the river is mainly surrounded by big industries, logistic centers and low dense residential areas. Those industries are isolated and function as "islands", having their own dynamics but no communication with their neighbors.



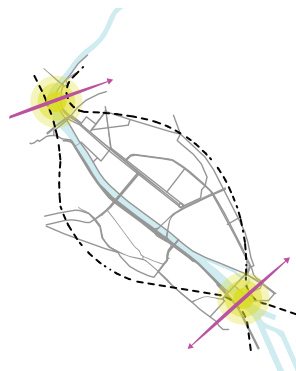
Despite the great relevance of those industries for the economy of the entire Stuttgart region, this spatial segregation translates into a negative perception of the area by the common citizen, who sees this zone as a blank space in the image of the city. Then, how to bring constant and permanent life around the river Neckar?

Well, many other questions arose on the way; Why the people do not use their river? The few ones who use it, do they enjoy it? What do the people think is missing? Do they really want to go to the river? All those questions needed to be answered if a realistic strategy was to be developed.

To do so, the researchers designed two urban experiments to interact with the citizens and to understand their feelings, claims, hates and loves towards the Neckar river and its surroundings.











The first experiment called "Selfie am Neckar" (see image on top) consisted of a set of playful frames that were hanged in two

locations, the König-Karls-Brücke connecting the city center with Bad-Canstatt and the Inselstrasse bridge that connects Wangen with Untertürkheim. The message was simple, "Take a selfie with the Neckar" and "What would you like to do at the Neckar?" The results called the attention of the researchers because the people had a lot to say and to express. **The citizens want to go to their river! The people want to use their river! But they do not feel attracted due to the lack of infrastructure, experiences, activities or furniture in there.**



Locations of the experiment "Selfie am Neckar"

What the citizens want...

-  Beach and Swimming facilities
-  Gastronomy
-  Sport Facilities
-  Green spaces along the River
-  Improve Infrastructure
-  Improve visibility of river banks
-  Accommodation near the Neckar
-  Events near the river
-  Experience the industrial heritage
-  Playgrounds for Children

"We wanted to start a conversation with the citizens about the things that for them, were necessary to revitalize the river, but also to show to the public that the river itself has a hidden beauty waiting for somebody to uncover it." Life Around the River group.

HOW IS THE LIFE AROUND THE NECKAR TODAY?

The proximities of the river are mainly of industrial and logistic activities and are comprised in larger patches of land and their limits are marked by highways, fences and railways. After a first investigation

of the site, based on the researchers' perception and field study, the initial findings showed mainly fragmentation of the area and isolation of the activities, but also the use of open spaces for sporadic

events, with constant low public life. Another fact worth mentioning is the use of the river mainly as a waterway, preventing the public access to the water. The monofunctional sites and the lack of

integration among the neighbors restricts the area to have specific activities during specific time frames. Many activities only function during specific time frames, leaving the spaces inactive on the remaining time.



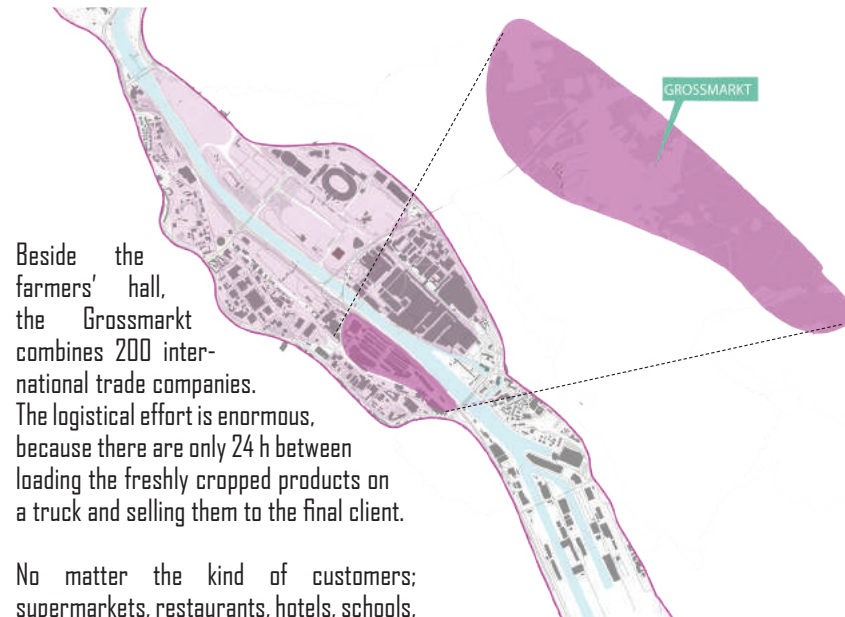
The second experiment called "Frame the Neckar" was even more interesting due to the romantic and artistic component attached to it but also because it raised real awareness of the hidden beauty of the Neckar river. The experiment created a momentum and a platform to reflect on what we are missing by the routine. However, a special article was saved for this intervention on the page n. 43.

that was the idea that changed the overall view and finally defined the outcome of what was going to be the NeckarLab.

"A lucky occasion opened us a door in the end. The parents of a friend own a restaurant and they buy at the Grossmarkt regularly. We got the possibility to accompany them and enter the Grossmarkt undercover at 5 a.m., that was already towards the end of the busy time. While the whole city is still sleeping, farmers from the region sell their fresh products to private clients. The atmosphere is friendly, most people know each other and with a fresh coffee, you can have relaxed talks. Besides, the farmers' hall is filled with smells of fresh products and bustling activity. An experience for all senses!" Alexandre Ulrich stated.

By that point, the researchers knew or at least got a hint on what the path could be from the citizens' perspective. But what about those "islands" mentioned before? How could you bring life to a place surrounded by industries, companies, businesses, logistic centers, trucks, big ships? This picture does not seem or sound to be attractive for people at all.

But what sounds like an adventure for urban researchers is tough business for others. The Grossmarkt is an company of big proportions with a yearly business volume of 630 Mio. Euro. They are responsible for the daily supply of 12 Mio. people within 300 km.



Beside the farmers' hall, the Grossmarkt combines 200 international trade companies. The logistical effort is enormous, because there are only 24 h between loading the freshly cropped products on a truck and selling them to the final client.

No matter the kind of customers; supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, schools, canteens, small and big businesses, you and me, we all rely on the Grossmarkt Stuttgart!

The answer was clear at that point. **Life should not be brought; the life is here already!**

From now on, the researchers knew what to do. **"We must transport and expand the activity of those islands into the public ground and make it part of the city, let's start with the Grossmarkt"** they said.

THE FINAL RACE TO THE RELEASE OF THE NECKAR LAB

After many attempts of getting in contact with some of the companies inside the Grossmarkt, finally the researchers succeeded.

area regarding the infrastructure and logistic problems they face every day and have not been attended by the city. There was a lot to work with, more than we were expecting. We identified a potential and we worked with it", the researchers stated.

"At the beginning, it was hard to get their attention and transmit our message, especially because we did not find many things to offer, it felt more like they were doing us a favor. However, after some meetings, we discover a gap that we could fill. They manifested the need to get in contact with people, with the common citizen, not necessarily with the intention of improving public space or the river itself as it was our intention, but for the exchange of ideas around the topic of food. There are some products for example that are grown in the region and managed by the companies inside Grossmarkt but its sale in the market is not satisfactory simple because the people do not know how to use it or how to cook with it. As well as this, other needs were discovered during the process, like the claims from the companies located in the farmers'

"Even though the pilot project was intended to be based on the needs of the Grossmarkt, we did not want our solution just to be specifically designed for it. We knew that similar situations could be happening elsewhere so we wanted our strategy to be replicable in all the "islands", that's why we defined a generalized research question.", the researchers clarified.

How to create an exchange platform between private stakeholders and the civil society on the public ground?

Well, The Neckar Lab was the answer to that question. The concept behind it was based on the idea of connecting the needs of different stakeholders into a common platform for exchange & collaboration, so

everyone could benefit from it. It could take place anywhere but with just one condition, the location must be in a public space in need of being activated and revitalized. The platform had to be designed to provide the users with a attractive environment and a topic of interest, so they feel comfortable to share their desires, experiences, feelings and suggestions.

getting on board and hopefully more and bigger Neckar Labs are coming around the river with maybe more creative urban experiments. The locations? Nobody knows, go to the river and enjoy its beauty, maybe you will find it on the way...

This is how one of the most promising initiatives to revitalize the Neckar river was born, the rest is history. What comes next? The researchers see a bright future with this new idea, more companies are



First pilot of the project Neckar Lab.





NECKAR: LOWER YOUR FENCES!

FREE UP THE NECKAR! YOU ARE INVITED TO ENJOY A FREE SATURDAY AT THE NECKAR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVERBANK FENCES. JOIN US IN MAKING A STATEMENT THIS SATURDAY 15.07.2017 STARTING 12:00 PM.

FREE LOWER YOUR FENCES SATURDAY 15-06-17

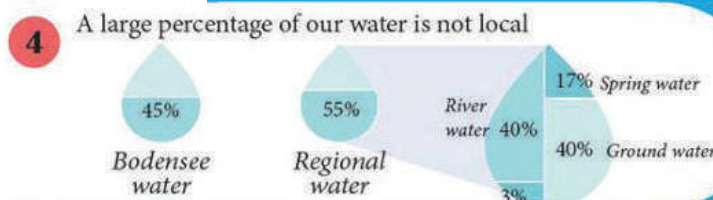
BEFREI DEN NECKAR UND SCHLIEß DICH UNS AN IN DEM DU AM SAMSTAG, DEN 15.07 EIN STATEMENT SETZ! DU BIST HERZLICH EINGELADEN MIT UNS DEN SCHÖNEN SAMSTAG AM NECKAR ZU GENIEßEN

PUBLI-CITY

STUTT GART AM NECKAR

Brünnele Wasser

DRINK LOCAL!



2 More than 250 wells and 19 fountains are located in the urban area of Stuttgart.

ÖFFENTLICHES & GESUNDES WASSER

1 Stuttgart has the second largest natural mineral water resource in Europe.

QR Code | Universität Stuttgart | Stuttgart am Neckar

698007

TICKET

KEEP THIS COUPON UNTIL THE END

AM 07 JULY 2017 CRITICAL MASS STUTT GART AM NECKAR

400869

Meet Your Neighbor on the Neckar
Sun 16.07.2017 Learn.Share.Discover.
10 am - 2 pm
You will find the first LAB next to the Fane Club in the meadows of NeckarPark.

NECKAR LAB
GIFT VOUCHER
LEARN SHARE DISCOVER
SUN 16.07.2017 10:00-2:00 PM

EXPERIMENTAL CITY

NECKAR IST NEBENAN

Attempts for more large-scale connectivity continue, this time with a series of posters that you have probably seen in U-bahn stations around town during the past weeks.

Continue reading on [page 29](#)

NECKARLAB

Intended to break the monotony of a linear asphalt path, a group of five young researchers from the initiative *Stuttgart am Neckar*, proposed alternative uses of the space for a day.

Continue reading on [page 30](#)

STUDENTS BRING THE NECKAR TO THE CITY

Through the overall analyses it became clear that the Neckar is not used to its full potential such as sunbathing, canoeing or walking along its riverbanks.

Continue reading on [page 32](#)

STUTTARTS EIGENES GRÜNBÄCHLE

Based on the outcomes of previous events, the Hidden Waters group decided to have an installation that would stay more than one day and let people interact with it.

Continue reading on [page 38](#)

URBAN EXPERIMENT TACKLES SMALL SCALE CONNECTIVITY ISSUES BETWEEN RIVER AND RIVERBANK

The Neckar, treated as private property, is denied from residents of Stuttgart by a dominant fence.



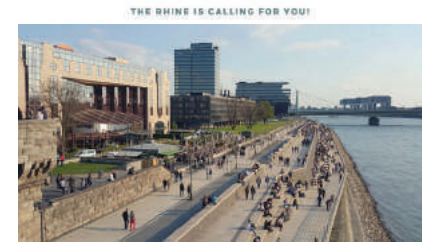
Photo Courtesy: Alex Wunch

“Neckar: Lower Your Fences” is an urban experiment that aims to question the issue of borders between the river and the riverbank. If you pay a visit to the Neckar, you will notice the presence of fences along the stretch of the Wasen area, and the stretch of riverbank between Untertürkheim until the end of the Mercedes Benz factory.

Sally Al-Ejeilat, Stuttgart, July 2017: “When asking the staff in the Stuttgart’s Planning Department about reasons behind the presence of these fences, we were informed that the fence opposite to the Wasen area was there to keep drunk people away from swimming in the Neckar during the Cannstatter Wasen Volksfest. For us, fencing the best landscapes and views of the Neckar, which are potentials for beautiful public spaces, for an event that takes place just twice a year, didn’t really fit into our urban planning mentality. We believe that fencing the Wasen and freeing the Neckar instead is a better alternative solution. We conducted the experiment in two parts. In the first part, called ‘Neckar:

Lower Your Fences I’, we built a door out in the open air leaning on one of the fences close to Mercedesstrasse (see pictures below). The message on the closed door reads “Öffne Mich”. When opened, the user is offered an alternative view of what the Neckar could be. We created a visualization that covers the fence, with images of people sun-bathing, reading a book, playing ball, or simply having a good time on the riverbank with their feet in the water. We also hung postcards of other river cities (Cologne, Paris, Berlin, Tübingen, Belgrade, etc...) to show people the potentials and make them wonder “Could this be Neckar?”.

On the open leaf of the door, we had a black board where we asked people to write what they wished to have there if the fence didn’t exist. People participated actively and their interactions were very rewarding. This was what urged us to take this further to a second part for this experimented”



COLOGNE, GERMANY



BANKS OF THE RIVER SEINE

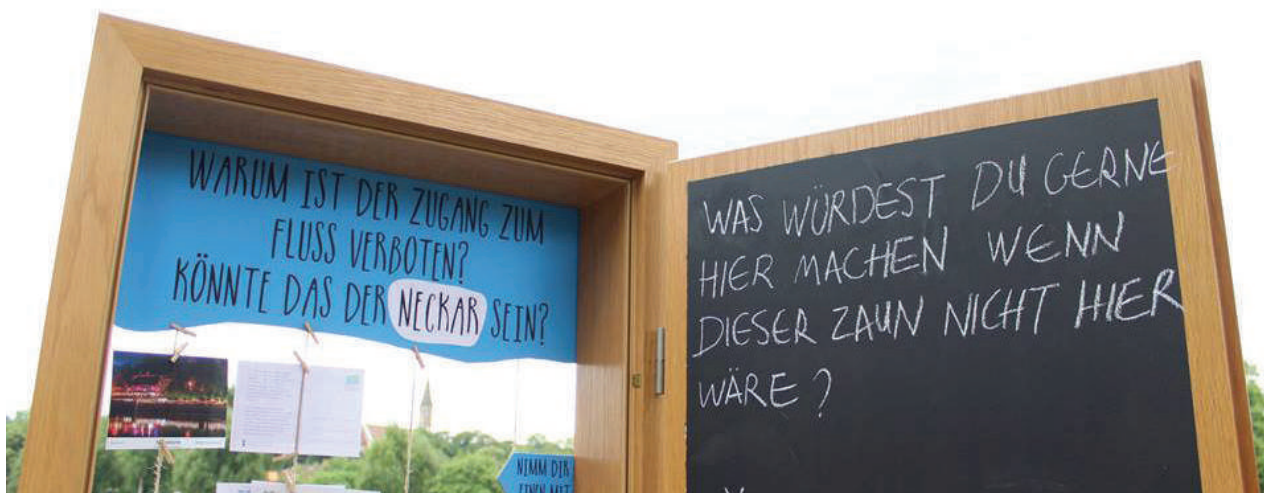


RIVER SPREE BERLIN



BERLIN, GERMANY

STEP 1: TO MAKE YOU WONDER



Closed door with an “Öffne Mich” sign to question riverbank fences. Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

“In ‘Neckar: Lower Your Fences 2’, carried out three weeks after the door experiment, we decided to challenge the norms. What if we invite people to cross the fences, and have their weekend picnic on the riverbank instead of elsewhere? We designed it as follows: We told people to bring their food and picnic gear, and from our side, we provided them with riverbank accessibility. The latter is done by using empty beer boxes. The boxes are arranged in a way to create a stair which can be climbed to the other side of the fence, where they form an amphitheatre to sit and enjoy the river. For the promotion of the event, we produced a video which can be found on our facebook page Stuttgart am Neckar, in addition with flyers we gave out on the day of Critical Mass (Read critical mass article on page 36 for further information).”

STEP 2: TO GIVE YOU ACCESS



On 15.07.2017, the "Stairs/Amphitheatre" were built in the same location where the previous door was installed. The fence leading to the site was decorated by the same postcards that were used inside

the door, Neckar Information maps (p.28 article) and sarcastic signage (p.25 article) and chalk spray on the floor led people to the installation. "Many people interacted

with the postcards on the fences, but unfortunately, only few dared to cross the fence to enjoy a riverbank picnic. The next day, the installation was "vandalized". We have it between quotations

because we are not sure what really happened. We came to find that the boxes forming the "stairs" were stolen or removed by some official entity. The amphitheatre on the other side, was left untouched. "

REACTIONS



Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

**"Ich würde gerne meine Zeit mit Freunden
geniessen & Spass haben!"** Anonymous Citizen

“YOU CAN LOOK BUT YOU CAN’T TOUCH”



Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

- NECKAR