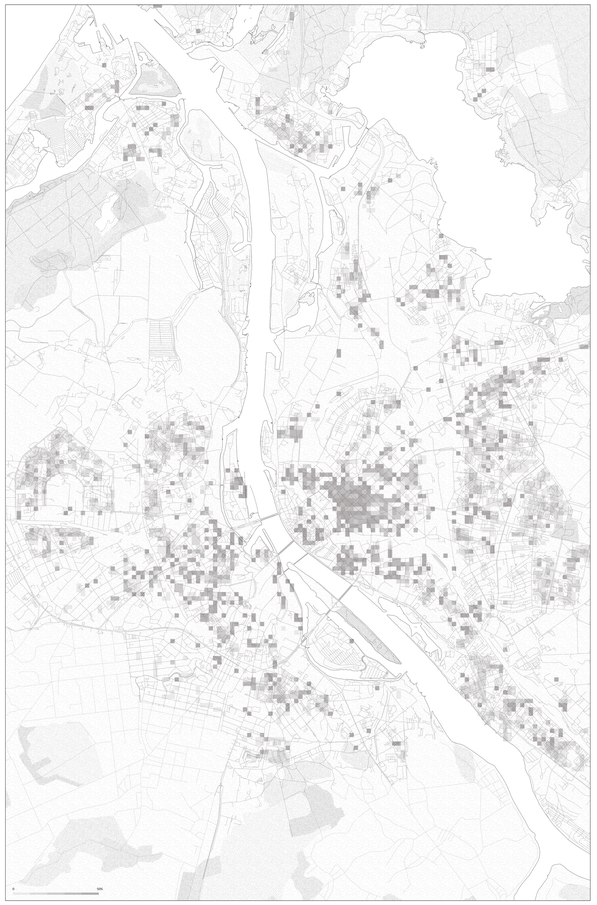
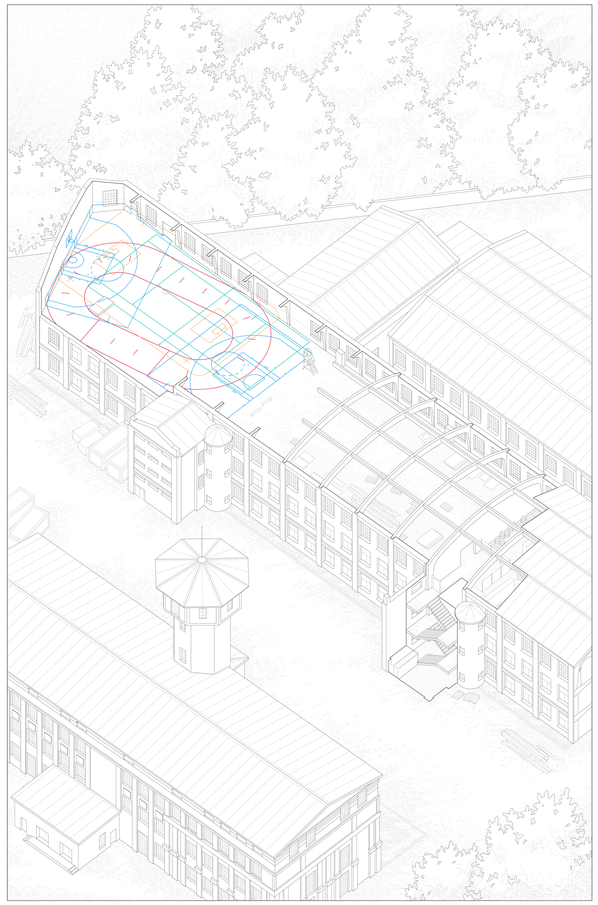
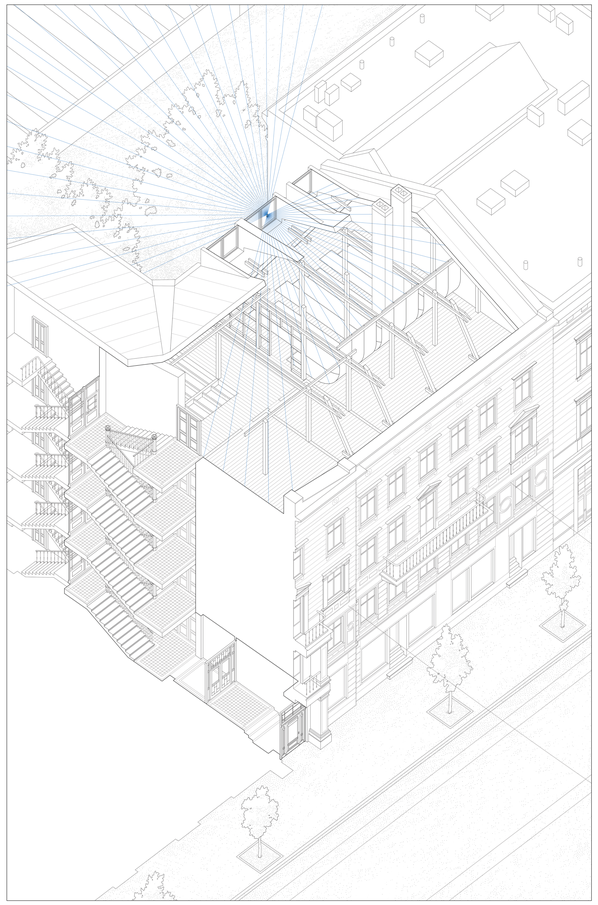


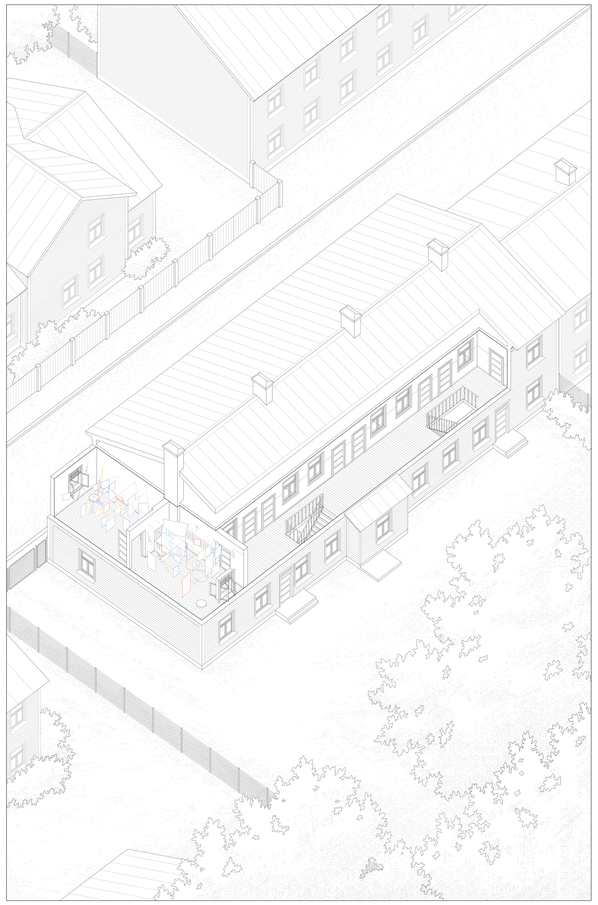
Map of Riga with highlighted 100 x 100 meter grid coverage points where the number of permanent residents has diminished in the time period from 2000 to 2020; 1: 25 000



Sloka-iela 52 unit A – The Chalk Gym

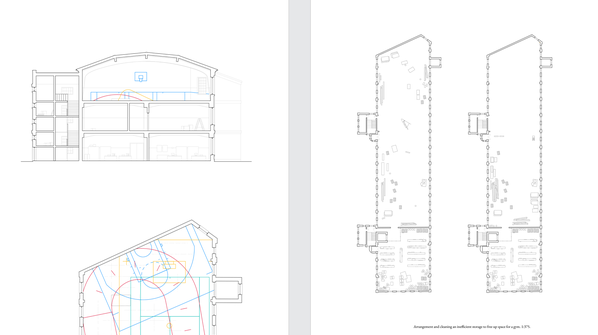


Valdemāra iela 17 – The Observation Tower

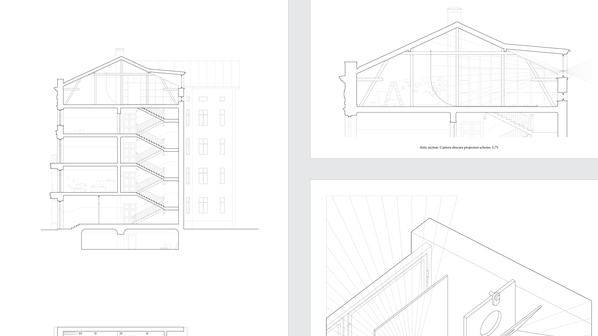


Čiekurkalna 1. līnija 13 – The Laundry Room

Sloka-iela 52 site, 1:1500



Arrangement and cleaning an inefficient storage to free up space for a gym, 1:375.

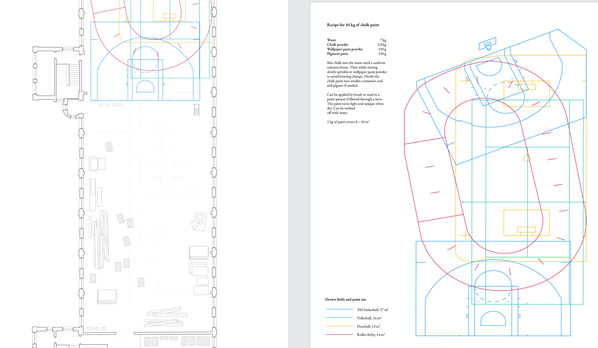


Arrangement and cleaning an inefficient storage to free up space for a gym, 1:375.

Arrangement and cleaning an inefficient storage to free up space for a gym, 1:375.

Valdemāra iela 17 site, 1:1500

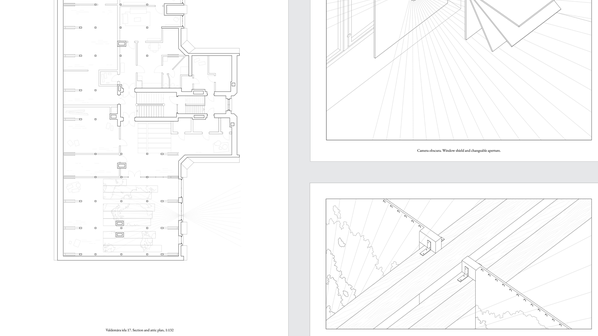
Čiekurkalna 1. līnija 13 site, 1:1500



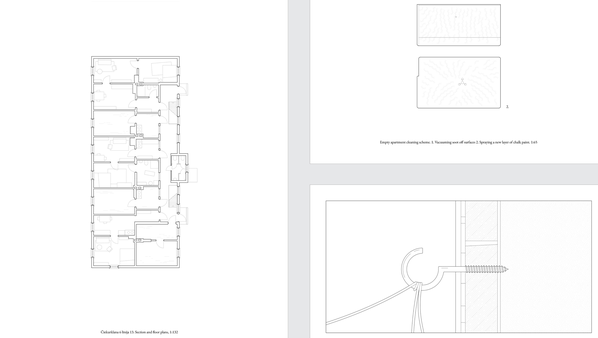
Recipe for 10 kg of chalk paint

Drawn fields and paint use

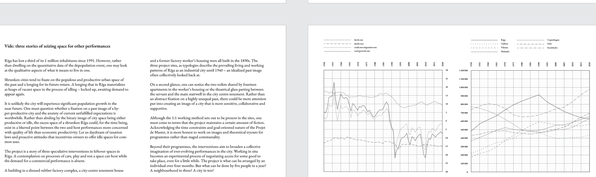
Sloka-iela 52, unit A, Section and second floor plan, 1:150



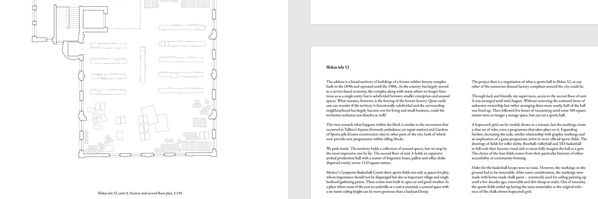
Valdemāra iela 17, Section and attic plan, 1:132



Čiekurkalna 1. līnija 13, Section and floor plan, 1:132



Total growth, birth, death and crude net migration rate per 1000 inhabitants in Latvia, 1990 – 2020



Population development of the capital cities of Northern Europe, 1990 – 2020

Vide: three stories of seizing space for other performances

Riga has lost a third of its 1 million inhabitants since 1991. However, rather than dwelling on the quantitative data of the depopulation crisis, one may look at this qualitative aspects of what it means to live in one.

Decades-cities tend to fixate on the populous and productive urban spaces of Riga, and it's keeping for its future owners. A keeping that is Riga neutralizes the large vacant spaces in the process of lifting – locked up awaiting demand to activate spirit.

Is it unlikely the city will experience significant population growth in the near future. One must question whether a fixation on a past image of a hyper-productive city and the anxiety of current unfulfilled expectations is worthwhile. Rather than abiding by the binary image of city space being either productive or dormant, one may look for a third option. In this third option, time is a channel joins human the two and best performances more concerned with quality of life than economic productivity. Let us daydream of session musicians and creative artisans that incentivize owners to offer idle spaces for common uses.

The project is a story of three speculative interventions in leisure spaces in Riga. A contemplation on processes of care, play and rest a space can host while the demand for a commercial performance is absent.

A building in a disused rubber factory complex, a city-centre nonsecret house and a former factory worker's housing town all built in the 1890s. The three project sites, as typologies describe the prevailing living and working habits of Riga's industrial heyday between 1890 and 1940 – an idealised past image often collectively looked back at.

On a second glance, one can notice the two orders dotted by Eastman apartments in the market's housing or the theatrical glass opening between the seminar and the main stairwell in the city centre seminary. Rather than an abstract fixation on a highly occupied past, there could be more attention put into creating an image of a city that is more sensitive, collaborative and relaxed.

Although the 1:1 working method was not to be present in the sites, one could imagine the spaces in the following configurations and conditions. Acknowledging the time constraints and goal-oriented course, staff of Core Studio Mentors, it is more human to work on images and theoretical tryouts for programme rather than staged commentaries.

Beyond their programmes, the interventions aim to broaden a collective understanding of what constitutes productivity in Riga. The three sites become an experimental process of negotiating access for some good to take place, even for a little while. The project is what can be arranged by an individual, a collective, and what can be done by five people in a year? A neighbourhood in three? A city in one?

Sloka iela 52

The address is a broad territory of buildings of a former rubber factory complex built in the 1890s and operated until the 1980s. As the country has largely moved away from industrial production, the site has been left to decay. The site's main storm as a single entity but is subdivided between smaller enterprises and annual spaces. What remains, however, is the fencing of the former factory. Quite easily accessible from the city centre and with a well-established park the surrounding neighbourhood has largely become one for living and small business, could the seminarie inclusion not dissolve as well?

The term towards what happens within the block's confines is the movement that occurred in Tallinn's Square (formerly attributes car repair station) and Gardens of Sperm pile (former construction site) in other parts of the city, both of which now provide new programmes within idling blocks.

We pitch tents. The territory holds a collection of unused spaces, but we stop by the most impressive one by far. The second floor of unit A holds an expansive gymnasium with high ceilings, a basketball hoop, a photo and coffee shoot, disguised comfy corner, 1:125 square metres.

Monica's Campeiro Basketball Center show sports fields not only as spaces for play, whose importance should not be disparaged but also as important village and neighbourhood gathering points. These centers were built to operate and good weather. In the case of the Sloka-iela 52 gymnasium, the ceiling height is comparatively more with a six-meter ceiling height can be more generous than a backyard hoop.

The project then is a negotiation of what a sports hall in Sloka 52, at any other of the numerous disused factory complexes around the city could be.

Through lack and friendly site supervisors, access to the second floor of unit A was arranged until mid-August. Without removing the scattered items of furniture, the second floor could be used as a basketball court. The ceiling height was sloped up. Thus followed the frame of a measuring tape of about 10 square metres were no longer a storage space, but not yet a sports hall.

A hopscotch grid can be crudely drawn in a mirror, but the mailbox creates a clear set of rules, even a programme that takes place on it. Expanding further, increasing the scale, similar relationship with graphic markings, and an implication of a game programme, arises in the basketball sports field. Unlike the hopscotch, the sports field's rules are not clear. The sports field is light scale then become visual aids to more fully imagine the ball in a gym. The choice of the four fields comes from their particular histories of either accessibility or community-forming.

Holes for the basketball hoops were no issue. However, the markings on the floor were a challenge. The chalk paint used to mark the sports fields was made with home-made chalk paint – contents mostly sourced for ceiling painting up until a few decades ago, removable and dirt cheap to make. Out of warranty, the paint was applied to the floor. Although it can easily or essentially as the original effect of the chalk drawn hopscotch grid.

Valdemāra iela 17

The building on Valdemāra iela 17 is located as centrally as one can possibly get in the city. Opposite the National Museum of Fine Arts, surrounded by the city's big parks. The building is an amalgam of two cards, a dentist's practice, an office, a defective metro station, and a cinema that has been closed for a decade and a half, and a few flats on the side. The whole building is scheduled for a general renovation some time in the future, but, as commonly seen in the city, such schedules tend to stretch on and on. It is certain that the renovation will take place, but the exact timeline remains unknown. Meanwhile, a new apartment block or a office down some forgotten tropical thermal decorations of an early 90's sauna. A building hosting multiple, fairly public programmes is interwoven with quasi-morals meant for collecting dust.

Having a stroll around the neighborhood, we peek around the corner of the museum to see a recently renovated plaza that has been animated quite successfully. In the middle of it stands a stepped underground vault of light that has become the domain of local skaters. The underground vault of the plaza speaks how have distorted from overly enthusiastic handings.

A famous story of dumbounding's endless of appropriation is that of a drought in California in 1976. Homeowners, pressured by water prices, opted to forgo their backyard pools empty. This gave rise to an epidemic of illegal skateboarding sessions on their empty pools, which, ironically, gave birth to the sport of skateboarding. Skateboarding as we know it today, a globalized sport through a small-scale projects as image on the opposing walls. In 1975, sociologist Patrick Cosidine bought a cement mixer in Edinburgh castle and, with the help of his friends, poured concrete into the ancient moat of Gordon's theory on knowledge and the owner was a coordination of a.

Freed from all other obligations, the apartment can fully devote it's physical dimensions to the owner. Through a small hole in a door projection of the view is framed, extending past the limits of the wooden frame and nailed to site. Projecting in light and shadow, the apartment transitions, the apartment becomes a camera fully devoted to the summer season.

Čiekurkalna 1. līnija 13

In the late nineteenth century, Čiekurkalns developed as a polished village of rental buildings for members of nearby factories. Čiekurkalna 1. līnija 13 is an early building of the neighborhood.

The two floors of unsure apartments during two orders and a dormer are a display of the questionable efficiencies for housing, so-they population. Founded years ago. Currently, however, the building is mostly a hotel with to senior inhabitants and eight-empty apartments, waiting for some tenant overload to catch up with, worn recent living space standards. What was once a greedy efficient machine for housing is now a long and contested at the same time.

The field of feminist economics looks at care – labour focusing on maintenance, repair and upkeep of existing materials, people, and institutions – as work without remuneration. It suggests that care and maintenance are instrumental to productive work to occur, challenging the magnitude of importance with which care is treated in comparison to work. Without care, productivity is unlikely to take place, a qualitative environment must be maintained.

If Sven space of the empty apartments carrion being extremely value, one has five reign to imagine what other values for households it could bring when shared.

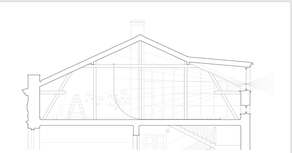
In the cold local climate, opening windows on both ends of a building is no-brainer. Cross-ventilation is a common-sense strategy in modern-day buildings, traditionally not so-common before. Only a few of the apartments in the house even have windows facing both ways.

But, it sought to blindly great for locality. Next best thing to hanging it out-door – and without the worst of odors or mess.

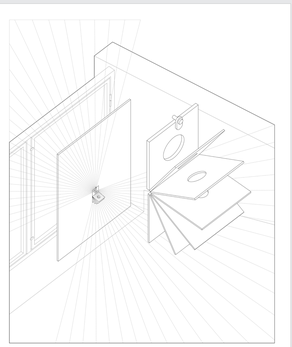
Open the doors and windows of the empty flat at the end of the corridor, drill some holes in the wall and you have a year-round drying room.

But this is a speculative drying room, conceived by an ebro in this house. Quite the-ebro is something more-permanent than laundry that should-ideo-place-ment.

The flat has a wood burning stove. A faulty chimney has made soot-stuff up on the walls and ceiling seemingly for years. It is a-use-d heat programme that can be offered without doubt. Ebro a fixed room certainly can. Before-hand, however, the-ebro-need-to-be-cleaned and painted – A hopeful invitation for other performances to take place.

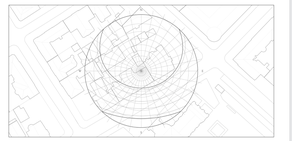


Attic section. Camera obscura projection scheme. 1:75



Camera obscura. Window shield and changeable apertures.

Camera obscura. Projection plate made of 80m² of suspended paper



Solar diagram. From early April to late September the observation tower has a clear view of the sunset.

Empty apartment cleaning scheme. 1. Vacuuming-over all surfaces 2. Spraying a new layer of chalk paint, 1:65

Laundry hook in a plastered wood-frame wall. 1:1

Keys handed over for the realisation of the interventions. Small gestures of trust. 1:1