



7. Sweet & Salt

*urban re-invention where
the river meets the sea*

Sweet & Salt regenerates dying urban spaces at the very heart of the city. It follows the flow of fresh water through the city, along the riverbanks of Rječina, to the salt sea harbour. Multiple projects honour the memory of lost space, while inspiring modern urban planning. The 6 year Flagship engages citizens in critical debate about their urban environment, stimulated by artistic interventions.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Lead Project Hosts: Centre for Advanced Studies of Southeastern Europe/ University of Rijeka

Local: The Port Authority of Rijeka, Centre for Industrial Heritage – University of Rijeka, Architect Association Rijeka, Platforma 9.81 – Split, Drugo more

European: Faculties of Architecture: University of Belgrade, University of Pecs, University of Paris/La Villette, University of Pescara, University of Trieste, University College London, Technische Universität Berlin – Institut für Architektur, ETH Zurich – Computer aided architectural design – CAAD, Institute For Advanced Architecture of Catalunya – IAAC, Barcelona, TU Wien Institut für Architektur und Entwerfen, ZKM Karlsruhe, TB-A21

Supplementary funding

sources: Urbact, Creative Europe – Culture, European Regional Development Fund – ERDF, Integrated Territorial Investments, local businesses

IMPULSE

Historically speaking, Rijeka's river served as a boundary between Sušak and Fiume. It has always been essential to its development. The river gave the City its name and its heart lies where the river flows into the sea. This sweet and salty starting point could be a precise description of a city that has treated its precious ecological resource poorly throughout history. No other coastal Adriatic city has a river flowing through its city centre but in Rijeka it was taken hostage by industry. Five kilometres where the sea merges with the river canyon is occupied by the port, active and inactive industrial facilities, a parking lot, a warehouse, a bus garage and a sewage filter. This space has never been used for leisure or contact with nature.

Rijeka, once driven by industry, in crisis for the past 20 years, can be divided into 3 clear spaces: *natural* (the Rječina river), *urban* (the space along Rječina's old banks, today known as the Dead Canal, and the Delta, now ground-filled) and *coastal* (the ports).

After opening part of the former port area to the public – the two kilometer long Rijeka breakwater, **Molo Longo** – the situation changed. Pedestrian areas merged with abandoned industrial zones. An accidental dystopian space was formed, one that demands life, design and careful deliberation to realise its potential, a laboratory for urban change.

PLACE

The target area stretches along the Rječina canyon, over the Delta and all the way to Molo Longo. The existing spatial potential is unlocked; some spaces are re-activated, while the others are under construction for new purposes. These are the spots that **Sweet & Salt** will animate:

- ▶ **Public spaces:** Molo Longo, Kont, Delta city beach, Tito Square, Dead Channel, Rječina Spring, Ružićeva street and others.
- ▶ **Cultural institutions and galleries:** Kortil, Croatian Association of Visual Artists, National Theatre of Croatia, Molekula.
- ▶ **Pop-up interventions in buildings/complexes:** Hartera, Energy Plant, Školjić City Bath.
- ▶ Reconstruction and cultural re-cycling of the **Galeb** ship, Tito's former floating headquarters.

ACTION

The main lead is taken by the Centre for Advanced Studies of Southeastern Europe at the University of Rijeka. They establish **The Strategy Room**, a support unit serving as a mobile space in one of Rijeka's famous "containers". The **Laboratory of Urban Re-Invention** acts as a nucleus for urban observation, mapping the target geographical area. It serves as an instrument for citizen engagement. Through workshops, seminars and panels led by experts, urbanists, architects, artists, activists, sociologists and others from various fields included in Fleet actions. These experiences are transformed into performative, site specific visual arts, music and educational projects, generating new perspectives.

TIMING

[ri:map] 2016–2017

- ▶ exploring the target geographical area
- ▶ engagement with citizens' groups
- ▶ guided architectural tours – "city wanderings"
- ▶ The Strategy Room – a re-designed container starts in the centre of the city and moves to different communities, as part of the [ri:map] phase.

[ri:learn] 2017–2019

- ▶ establishing Laboratory of Urban Re-Invention
- ▶ workshops, seminars, panels
- ▶ production of social maps
- ▶ visualization of a common framework to guide further citizens' actions
- ▶ temporary artistic actions
- ▶ 24 hour market

[ri:build] 2019–2022

- ▶ Pop-up re-construction of Hartera, Energy Plant, City Bath Školjić
- ▶ Galeb ship re-construction
- ▶ Reuse of the Culture Lighthouse, cranes, old barges and railway trails
- ▶ Construction of permanent rest stops and space for relaxation
- ▶ Urban gardens are constructed
- ▶ Establish new study programme at the Centre of Advanced Studies/University of Rijeka

FLAGSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Abandoned Territories

The project perceives the whole territory of **Sweet&Salt** Flagship as a unique brownfield in the centre of Rijeka. It can be described as abandoned infrastructure. In this project we are asking ourselves and all the participants how can it become a new infrastructure that confronts urgent issues of climate change, sustenance inequality and environmental degradation. In correlation with other mentioned projects in this Flagship through analyses, the first phase of the project is production of speculative scenarios in territorial scale with architects, urbanists, landscape designers, artists and other similar professions. Rethinking energy usage and re-usage, water management, off-the grid living and housing tomorrow issues, the final phase will produce 1:1 scale interventions such as real permanent settlements, DIY food production gadgets and water collectors. Technical knowledge and creative minds will reinvent new production cycle.

Lead Partner: Centre for Advanced Studies of Southeast Europe at the University of Rijeka. **Local:** Faculty of Architecture Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy – University of Split, Platforma 9.81 (Split). **International:** ETH Zurich, IAAC Barcelona, Faculty of Architecture Ljubljana, Architecture University of Beograd.

FLEET

The Container. The Cranes. The Train. The Barge.

The present lack of physical and visual contact with water in the city centre narrows the horizons, blocked by a long seawall protecting the harbour: Molo Longo.

- ▶ **The Container** intervention revives an old lighthouse structure that becomes a multifunctional, modular 3D tetris structure on a public space vanishing point, a new city landmark at the very end of Molo Longo.
- ▶ **The Cranes** – situated along this recently opened pedestrian path – reinforce their status as a touristic attraction with 360° panoramic view, giving new views of the Kvarner bay its islands as well as of the cityscape.
- ▶ **The Train** – an intervention along the spine of railway tracks, sometimes used by the Port Authority for transport along the harbour, offers new connectivity along the coast. A missing element in the urban transportation system is revived, giving life to invisible industrial heritage sites and connecting them to the city.

▶ **The Barge** – On the northern edge of the breakwater promenade there “floats on the disposition” an invisible and forgotten structure of the old barge that will be reused as a possible “archicultural” artefact, as an infrastructure for diversity offering cultural programmes such as floating cinema, dance floor, stage for theatre, public speech or presentation, gallery/exhibition, market place, restaurant or bar terrace.

Lead Partner: Architects Association of Rijeka.

Local: Port Authority of Rijeka, Croatian Railways, Faculty of Architecture Zagreb, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy – University of Split. **International:** Faculty of Architecture Ljubljana, Architecture University of Beograd.

Spring Forward

An intensive weekend showcase for the best young dancemakers from all over Europe – a unique meeting place for at least 80 artists. It's bringing 20 short works to Rijeka during 3 days in April 2020, placing them in unconventional spaces – a distillery, a tram repair depot, a paper factory, a railway station and others. Site specific choreography will become initiator of diverse view on the city and chosen locations.

Lead Partner: Aerowaves. **Local:** Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc Rijeka.

Mapping on the river

Workshops with citizens to produce social maps showing how citizens perceive their river and to visually analyse river banks. The starting point is statistics on social issues at the riverbanks, development plans, documented public discussions and relevant documents regulating different river issues (regulation on construction, environmental issues, etc.). The result of this workshop is a common framework to guide further citizens' actions.

Lead Partner: Drugo more. **Local:** Faculty of Architecture Zagreb, Hrvatske vode, Platforma 9.81 (Split). **International:** River Cities Platform, IAAC Barcelona.

Lobster

A multi-year art and land-art intervention and urban development project to alter remaining urban blind spots along Rijeka's riverbank and centre sea coast, offering twists in interpretation through participative and collaborative actions led by teams of artists, researchers, urbanists, architects and the local community.

From 2017 to 2019, nearly 30 locations are reconstructed and appropriated for temporary artistic actions to raise awareness of abandoned spots. In 2020 the programme culminates with the construction of permanent shelters and social spaces, selected by the community.

One example: **Skyscraper for birds**. As the antithesis to the Monument of Liberation, Belgrade-based multimedia artist Vladimir Perić is constructing an 11 metre high metal and wooden object, a skyscraper for birds. Birds get similar accommodation to most of Rijeka's citizens.

Lead Partner: Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rijeka. **Local:** Arterija. **International:** KGLU (Slovenj Gradec), CIANT – International Centre for Art and New Technologies (Prague), FBAUP – Faculdade de Belas Artes da Universidade do Porto (Porto), RIXC – Centre for new media culture (Riga).

The possible city

Explores and celebrates bottom-up initiatives in the form of a “24 hour market”. 2016 is spent investigating gardening practices in the neighbourhood of Vodovodna street, as well as various initiatives and small businesses in Rijeka and Europe. A “24 hour market” is organised regularly from 2017 to 2020. Besides the local and ecologically food products available, other activities take place – from new media to culinary experiments to workshops on urban gardening and panels on interaction between food and the city.

Lead Partner: Creative Cluster Kombinat. **Local:** Association Žmergo, 1postozauum-jetnost, Pravo na grad. **International:** La Plah (Barcelona), Raumlabor (Berlin).

Town at a second glance

The dialogue between students and their artists-mentors result in video art works. Using smart phones, tablets and digital cameras, the students will “second glance” their immediate surroundings, focusing, investigating, rethinking, re-imagining. Second phase of the project 2018–2020 using digital technologies will result with Smart City maps as scenarios for the city in the future.

Lead Partner: Platforma za unapređenje kulture POINT. **Local:** Academy of Applied Arts Rijeka, Rijeka elementary and high schools, Faculty of Architecture Zagreb. **International:** La Plah (Barcelona), Raumlabor (Berlin), ETH Zurich

Children of the port

A site specific project that gathers youngsters, artists and historians throughout 2020. Children and teenagers become performers, led by drama pedagogues and supported by international artists. Several neighbourhoods are connected with their schools, culminating in the event called “Rijeka's rock hymns”, based on one of the most potent expressions in the contemporary city history, rock music from the 80s and 90s, presented at Molo Longo, at the end of the pier. First children *Radio Port* will be established as a part of RI:2020 marketing site.

Lead Partner: Malik – youth theatre workshops. **Local:** Academy of Applied Arts in Rijeka, Croatian National Theatre in Rijeka, local arts and music organisations.

Kortil Live

Kortil, in local dialect means courtyard and is one of the oldest gallery venues in Rijeka, a gathering space, an area designed for playing games, during free time. This significance is being re-activated with smaller projects over four years (2017–2020), an open process which engages neighbours, young artists and other stakeholders – kindergartens, schools, universities, local and regional authorities, tourist offices, small businesses, craftsmen.

Lead Partner: Gallery Kortil.

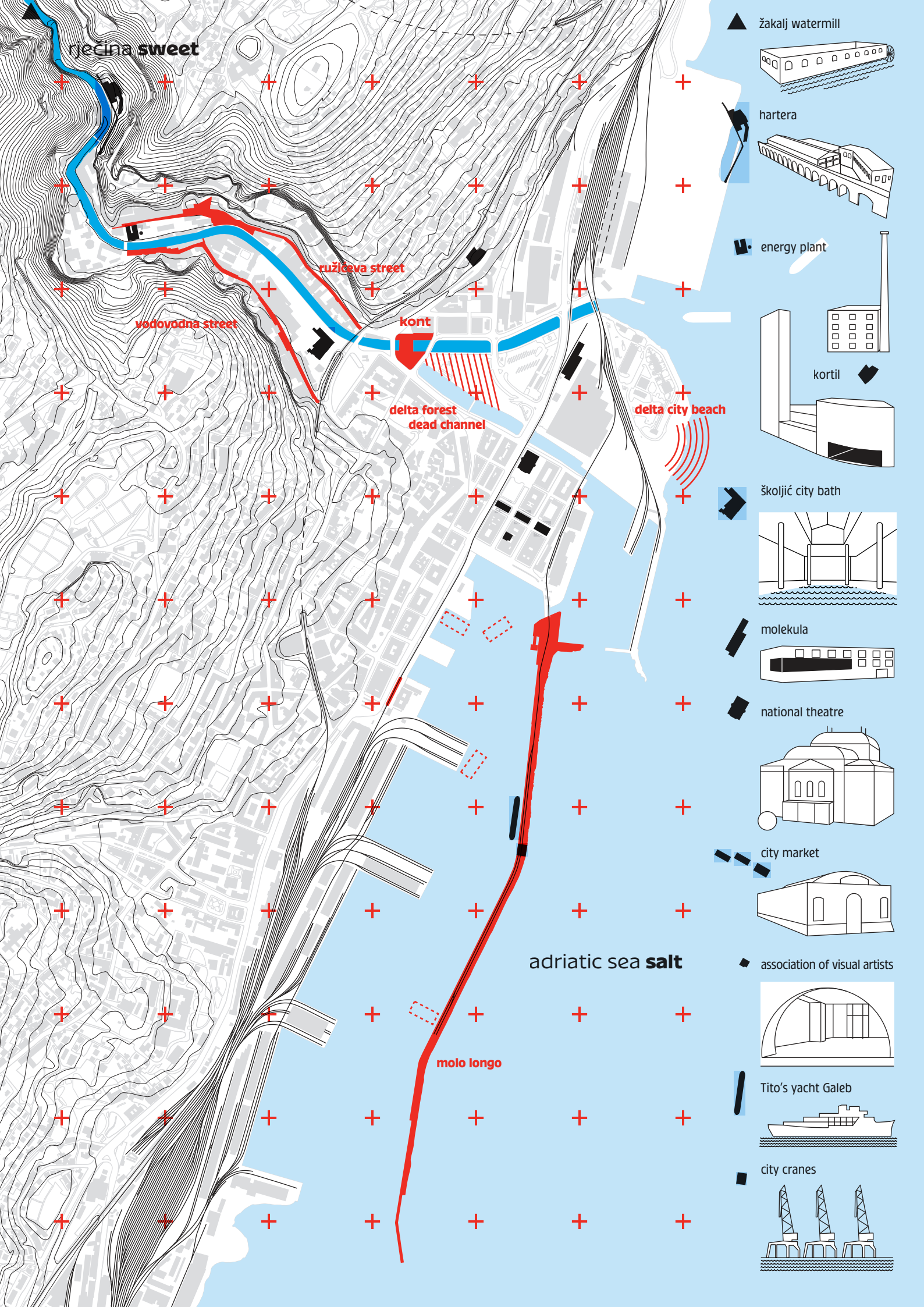
LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Sweet & Salt is a series of participative projects, with all the stakeholders acting as both, participants and audiences – local citizens, civil society organisations, architects, urban planners, musicians, visual artists, actors, performance artists, city authorities, port authorities, kindergartens, schools, universities, cultural institutions, organisations and associations, private companies, craftsmen.

POTENTIAL IMPACT

Citizens debate regularly about their city and its future formation, animated and encouraged by multiple artistic interventions. A new model of urban regeneration and citizen engagement is bubbling. City planners are sensitised to cultural needs.

Two units at the University of Rijeka are merged into a new study programme under the auspices of the Centre of Advanced Studies, a self-sustained driving academic force for urban re-invention in the city of Rijeka.



rječina sweet

ružičava street

vodovodna street

kont

delta forest
dead channel

delta city beach

adriatic sea salt

molo longo

žakalj watermill

hartera

energy plant

kortil

školjić city bath

molekula

national theatre

city market

association of visual artists

Tito's yacht Galeb

city cranes