The majority of Bucharest’s residents live in apartment blocks in the socialist dormitory neighborhoods, where the spaces between the blocks functioned during the last 25 years mainly as utilitarian transit zones rather than "spaces for social interaction" or resource for the community life. We decided to address this chronic shortage of physical as well as social public space with the help of the „Mobile Urban Accumulator (AcUM)”, a pop-up pavilion that hosted different cultural and civic activities.

The Accumulator was designed as a tool for the applied phase of the socio-anthropological research stage of the "Urban Spaces in Action" project, which was a 19-month pilot experiment coordinated by Komunitas Association. The aim of the project was to contribute to the improvement of public spaces in three Bucharest’s socialist neighborhoods (Tei, Tineretului and Timpuri Noi) by involving the citizens and increase their responsibility.

Designed by the team in advance, AcUM was built by students during a construction workshop. In one week’s time they transformed a pile of old windows thrown away by the residents, into a 2.5 meters wide and 3.75 meters high wooden structure triangular pavilion. Made out of detachable panels, the Accumulator was assembled on the four locations and then dismantled after few days.

Having a detachable structure, best suited for transportation, storage and installation on difficult sites, the Accumulator had a pop-up character and was a tool for instant place-making. The Accumulator was a tailored made temporary answer to the uncertain urban context of Bucharest, where not just physical public spaces are becoming extinct, but also social and cultural spaces are disappearing under constant pressure.