Map of the Kyiv library network

KRAVCHENKO library in Rusanivka district

Library space before the project start

Public space in Kyiv is characterized firsts by its concentration in the center of the city and seconds by its commercialization. Vivid public life runs mostly in cafes, coworcing spaces, around shops and squares in the very heart of the city.

The periphery districts are lack of both public spaces and cultural infrastructure as one of its components. The idea of the project to create local public places based on the city library network.

The last one is the soviet heritage, the only one element of cultural infrastructure in the ideal social city that still exist from Soviet Union time. The Kyiv Library network is very broad and include from four up to 13 libraries in every city district. Having lost its primary function in the new information, political and social period, most of libraries lie empty. However, library network has a huge potential to be a public space thanks to its accessibility: both physical (always possible to reach the library by foot) and financial (free entrance).

Residents map their district

"Otium" project has been started with a pilot project of KRAVCHENKO Library transformation. The library is situated in the distance from the center, in the district, which was designed in 1970th as an ideal residential area of socialistic city. The district is embosomed in the river and forms the island. Probably thanks to such specific geographical issue local residents identify them very much with the area and are on the way to form their local community.

First step of "Otium" project was to research the interests and needs of the local community. For that purpose, we undertook a sociological study and the "map my district" action. During the last one we have collected information about the infrastructure of the district from residents, who just left their notes on the huge map installed right on the street.

"Map my district" action: collecting favorite places, problems and needs in the district from its residents.