



the area before, photo: ONE ARCHITECTURE WEEK



... and after

The district of Trakiya was designed in the 1970's to become an exemplary Plattenbau district; it is now the largest in Plovdiv. In-between blocks 1, 2 and 3 of the post-war panel flat housing estates of Trakiya we found this abandoned outdoor swimming pool. A place at once generic and specific, the pool is present through its physical traces only, having been dry for nearly the entire time of its existence. All pool-appliances have been removed, and the basin is filled with concrete. A large amount of the estate's state-built apartments were privatized right from the beginning; today all apartments are private property. While private initiatives to customize these apartments took off especially after the fall of communism, hardly any work was ever done on the communal pool structure.

What does this common ground mean to the people living around it? In modernist housing estates such as Trakiya there is often vast in-between space which belongs to nobody in particular and to everybody in common; it is a space beyond ownership and the individual home. Such space creates distance, but it also connects buildings and inhabitants, places them together; it is public as a place for negotiation – for relationships, also for conflicts, that are liveable, as much as for solidarity. The swimming pool articulates this promise, more ghostly than concretely, in its concrete remains. There is something “in the air”: the promise of modernist high-rise premises, the promise of the right to affordable individualized housing and of communalism.

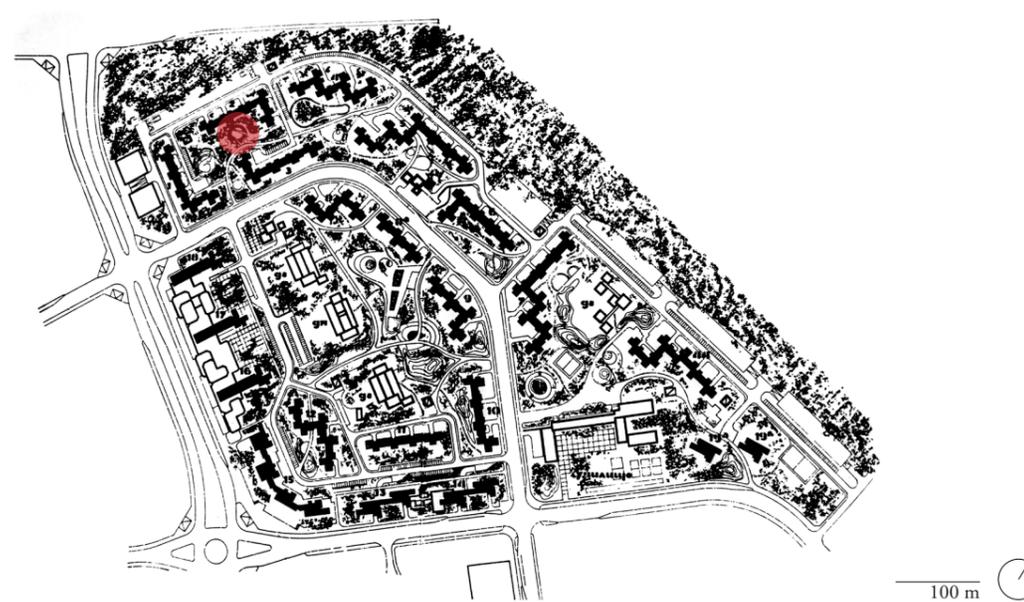
ONE  
ARCHITECTURE  
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10 — 19.10.2014  
PLOVDIV



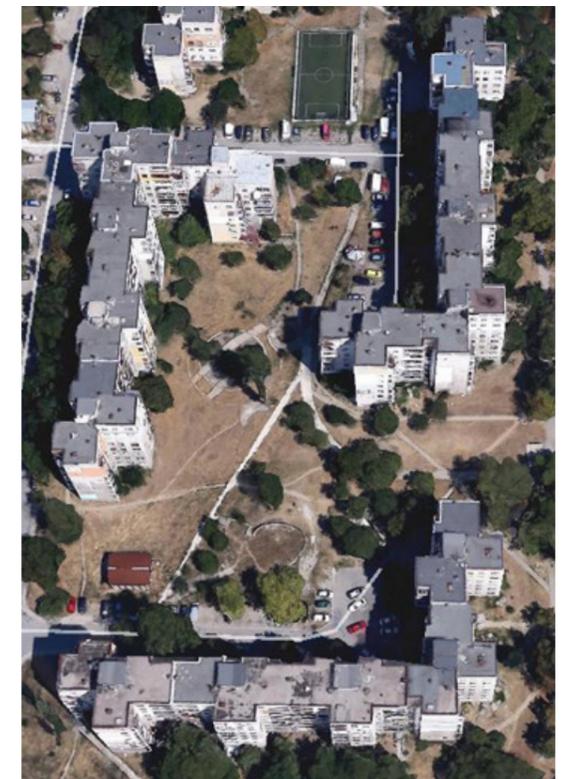
visualisation of a vision



Trakiya in Plovdiv (BG)



plan of Trakiya, third largest housing neighbourhood in Bulgaria, 61,920 inhabitants



Trakiya, block 1,2,3



photos: Lina Krivosheva



While both promises, in their utopian dimension, are far from being fulfilled, we planned to reactivate part of the larger project by starting with exactly this pool. While even today it is not possible for us to fill it with water, we nevertheless started to collectively re-activate it from its fringes. During the time of One Architecture Week, with two of their professionals and a small budget from them, and, most of all, together with a constantly growing number of inhabitants of block 1,2,3 we started to turn the pool's well-organized, but ruined geometric setting into a future central meeting place, a place to exercise, to dance, to debate, to contemplate.

The Promises of Modernist Premises – Pool Trakiya  
A collective implementation of a municipal center between block 1,2,3 in the modernist housing area Trakiya  
Concept and Design: GABU Heindl Architektur  
Team: Gabu Heindl with Alexandra Sýkorová  
Construction Process: 14.09. – 30.09.2016  
Construction team: Nina Krumova, Victor Latev, George Gochev, Rada Vatraveva, Vladmimir Kanchev, Emil Rusenov, Mariya Atanasova, Luboslav Dimitrou, Atanaska Traikova, Margarita Koeva, Kosta Ivanov Kostov, Venelin Petkov, Petio Penev, Georgi Manchev, Ivelina Tsvetanova, Donka Kopriyarova, Valentina Obretenova, Megi Savova, Zheko Ivanov, Faris Mechmed and from One Architecture Week: Dragomir Portev, Dobromir Bozhkov, Stefan Gladichev, Miroslav Koradjov, Angel Bondov, Todor Kesarovski, Elena Balabanska, Simeon Malinov and many more...  
Invited by curating team studioBASAR (RO)  
Commissioned by One Architecture Week Plovdiv, BG, 2016  
Communication on Site: |In|Formal (BG)  
Landscape architects of pool in 1973: Katya Geneva and Vasilena Kostova  
Photos by Gabu Heindl if not mentioned otherwise