Background. Annelinn, typical Soviet block housing area built in 1970s and 1980s, is the most densely populated district in Tartu, Estonia. The area consists of two large microdistricts which are made of eight sectors, combined together with pedestrian arteries.

These arteries were intended to bring people to main public functions (kindergartens, schools etc) and be filled with different public spaces and services (playgrounds, kiosks, pocket parks etc). Today, the arteries are in bad shape and most of the public space has not been constructed.

The intervention. In 2014, a public square was designed into the heart of the 2nd microdistrict. Tartu City Government wanted to at first renew the basketball court and add a small playground. TajuRuum, commissioned to do the job, organized a workshop with local people and in result of the analysis, suggested the area should be designed as the central public space of the district. Monofunctional abandoned place was reborn as a lively public square for the locals.

Future. Recent years have seen a new coming of public space in Annelinn. The quality of the living environment in the area is making great steps further. Local community has been activated and different initiatives have followed (local festival, temporary events, attempt to form a district association etc).

MONOFUNCTIONAL ABANDONED BASKETBALL COURT

MULTIFUNCTIONAL LOCAL SQUARE AND ACTIVE HEART OF THE DISTRICT