

# The city as an urban palimpsest: Gdańsk between periodic reincarnations

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## Abstract

*When taking about a city with a multi-layered historic temporal dynamic, one has to unfold these temporal dynamics activating its urban forms thus, a crucial question arises, whether the heritage product can be completely lost in its new development plans, or one can read it as a salient state between periodic reincarnations?*

*Therefore, this article utilizes the city of Gdańsk as a case study to investigate it from the perspective of urban palimpsests (Corboz, 1983), documents the Joint ISOCARP - ITACUS Young Professionals Workshop that took place in Gdańsk between 16 - 21 April 2023, and discusses its findings on shaping the on-ground and underground public spaces, developed on the occasion of the tunnelling project being part of the extension of the Popieluszki street, introducing an urban mobility connection between two significant zones of the area divided by the Motława river while utilizing urban acupuncture as an approach to provide an in-depth understanding of the city's collective identity and helps to reverse the decline of the industrial urban landscapes of one of its significant historic areas.*

## Keywords

*Urban Palimpsest, Urban Acupuncture, Cultural Heritage, Public Spaces, Urban Mobility, Gdańsk.*

## 1. Introduction

The notion of "palimpsest" linguistically refers to a manuscript page that has been partially or completely erased and overwritten, while traces of the previous text still remain (Carter, 2012). The earliest definition of palimpsest, which emerged in the 17th century, described a tangible object such as paper or parchment that could be erased and reused for writing. As time went on, particularly in the 19th century, the term became more specific, referring to a manuscript where new writing had been added over earlier erased.

"All history was a palimpsest, scraped clean and re-inscribed exactly as often as necessary." as wrote by George Orwell in his notable novel Nineteen Eighty-Four. In the 1800s, palimpsest took on a metaphorical sense, signifying something that had been repurposed or modified while still bearing remnants of its previous form, akin to a complex and layered historical record (Diener and Hagen, 2018).

Terminologically, in the context cities and urbanism, the metaphor of a palimpsest suggests that urban environments are layered with historical, Socio-cultural, and physical imprints from different periods, even if they are no longer visible or immediately apparent (Corboz, 1983).

The metaphor of the city as a palimpsest, as introduced by in his influential essay "The Land as Palimpsest" (Corboz, 1983), offers a profound lens through which to perceive the urban environment. Corboz highlights the city's multifaceted nature, emphasizing its historical layers and the continual process of erasure, inscription, and reinvention. Furthermore, exploring the meanings behind this metaphor, focusing on the

concept of the city as a salient state between periodic reincarnations. By delving into the complexities of urban development, this analysis sheds light on the dynamic nature of cities, their cycles of destruction and rebirth, and the enduring traces of their past.

Perceiving the city as an urban palimpsest significantly contributes to understanding of the city as a dynamic organism shaped by its historical layers (Engbersen, 2001). Through the metaphor, it highlights the complex interrelation between past and present, emphasizing the city's ability to reinvent itself while retaining traces of its previous incarnations.

This paper shall investigate the notion of city as urban palimpsest unfolding the temporal dynamics that activate the city's urban forms. Additionally, the paper documents the outcome of the Joint ISOCARP - ITACUS Young Professionals Workshop that took place in Gdańsk between 16 - 21 April 2023 with the participation of multidisciplinary young professionals. Moreover, developing a better understanding of urbanization and heritage interpretations which can have better impact on urban development, cultural significance, and climate resilience.

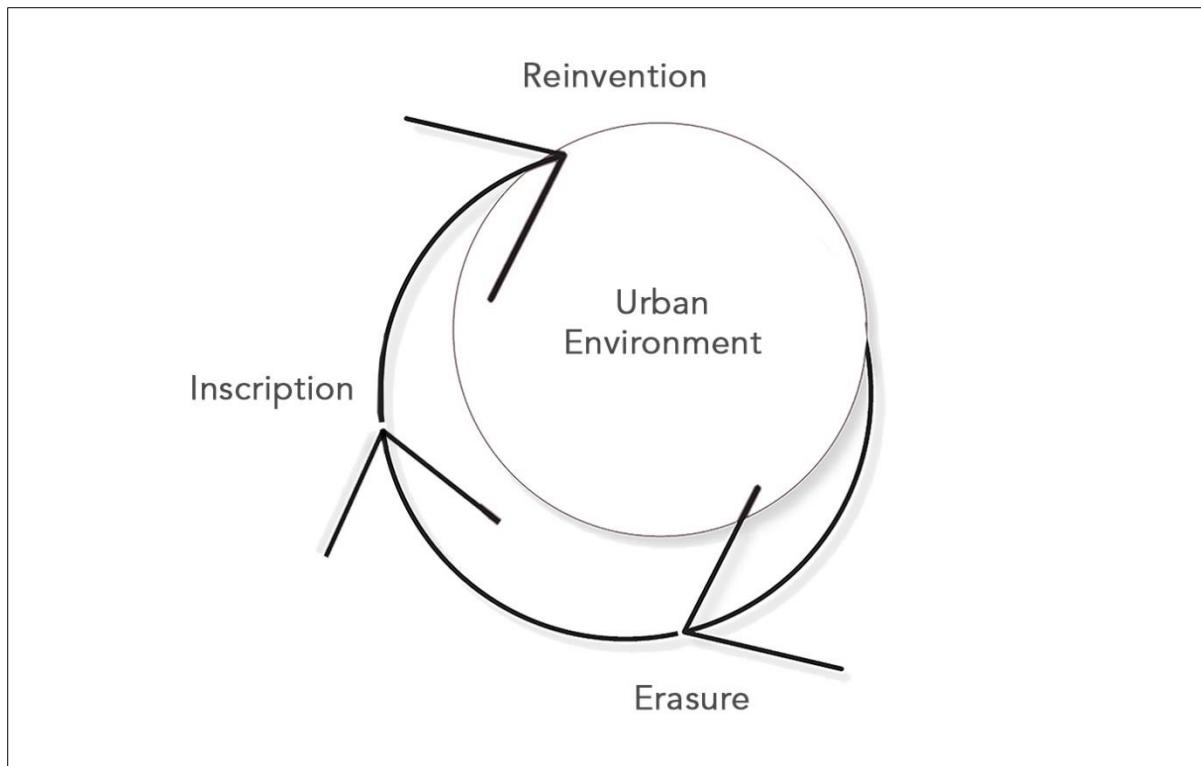


Figure 1. Illustration on City as an urban palimpsest between periodic reincarnations. Source: Authors, 2023.

## 2. Methodology

Through the lens of understanding the city as an urban palimpsest (Corboz, 1983), this article employs Urban Acupuncture (Lerner, 2014) as a qualitative multi-method approach that provides an in-depth understanding of Gdańsk collective identity and helps to reverse the decline of its public spaces and industrial urban landscapes calling for various planning tactics to produce more egalitarian socially inclusive culture-specific results.

Urban Acupuncture as a methodology shall emphasize on the recognition and activation of underutilized or neglected urban spaces to actualize transformative impacts on the urban fabric (Lerner, 2014). Just as a palimpsest contains hidden layers waiting to be uncovered, the city is replete with forgotten or overlooked areas that hold immense potential for revitalization. By identifying these pockets of potential, Urban

Acupuncture interventions can breathe new life into forgotten spaces, reintegrating them into the urban fabric and enriching the city's cultural narrative injecting a sense of vibrancy and diversity into the city.

Moreover, Urban Acupuncture interventions are often context-sensitive (Hoogduyn, 2014), responding to the challenges of a specific location through the lens of its characteristics as shown in *figure 2*. This approach mirrors the understanding of the city as a palimpsest, where each layer represents a distinct period in the city's history. By carefully considering the existing urban fabric, historical context, and social dynamics, Urban Acupuncture interventions can blend seamlessly with the layers of the city, creating a harmonious integration of past and present fostering adaptability, flexibility, and allowing for continuous experimentation and evolution over time.

The research starts with literature review in order to better understand cities as an urban palimpsest and to contextualize that in the case of Gdańsk, Poland. In parallel, it takes a series of qualitative methods to derive readings extracted throughout the Joint ISOCARP - ITACUS Young Professionals workshop, developed, and finally represented in a spectrum of design concepts and interpretations pertaining to the urban development in Gdańsk informing its placemaking strategies, and as a result provides a critical reflection on its development plan.

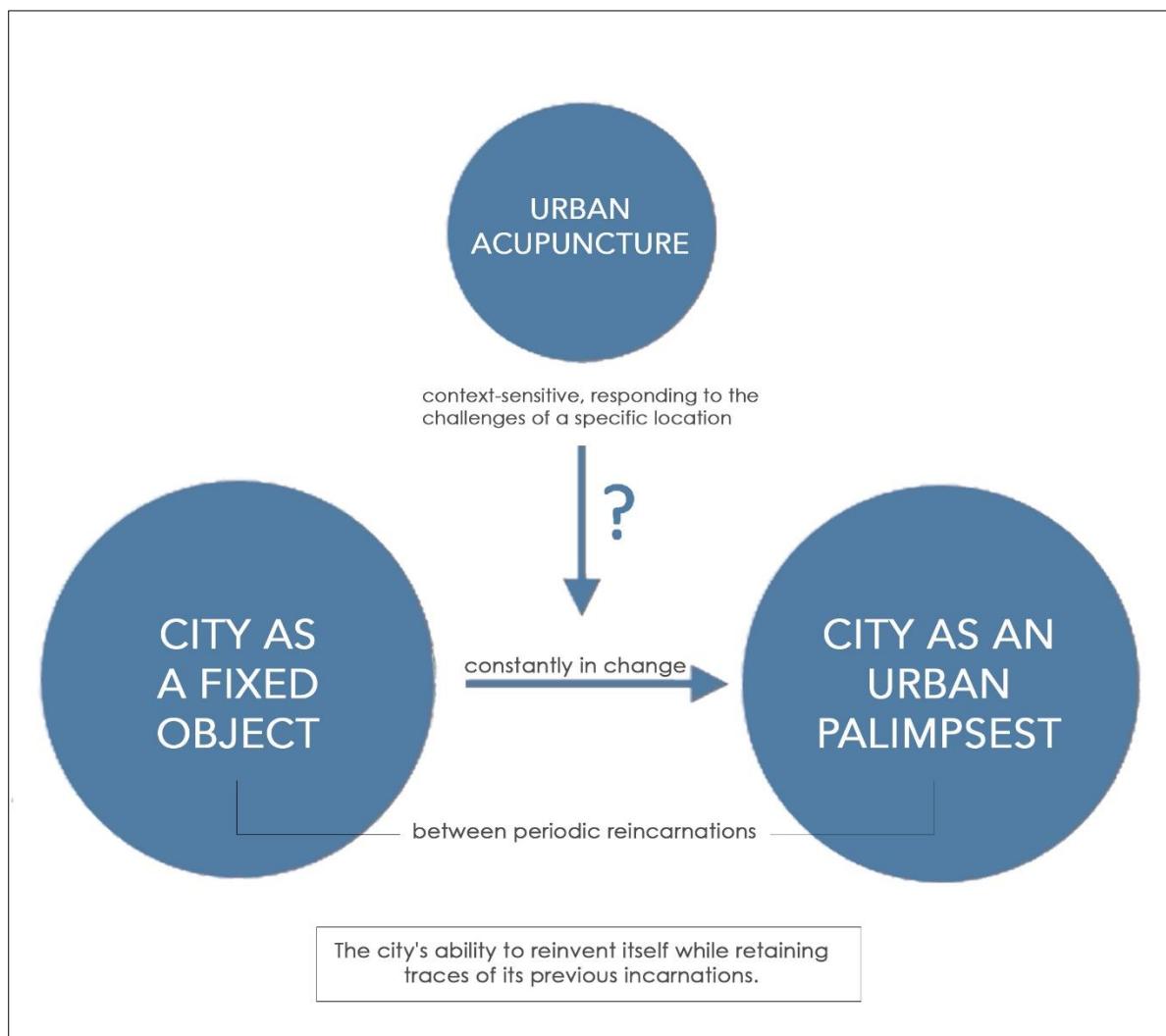


Figure 2. Illustration on the research methodology. Source: Authors, 2023.

### 3. The city as a Layered Narrative

#### 3.1. Unravelling the Palimpsestic Layers of a Reincarnating City

Cities serve as vessels of human history (Blank, 2005), preserving the narratives of generations past. Corboz's palimpsest metaphor accentuates the intricate layers that constitute the urban fabric. Like a manuscript overwritten multiple times, the city bears imprints of diverse urban tissues, architectural vocabularies, cultural attributes, and socioeconomic patterns. Each layer embodies a particular phase's aspirations, beliefs, and struggles, thus transforming the city into a living archive.

These historical layers not only contribute to a city's physical form but also shape its collective memory and identity (Huyssen, 2003). By engaging with the urban palimpsest, one could unravel the narratives and trajectories that have defined its existence. This correlation fosters a profound appreciation for the depth and richness of the urban experience, transcending the surface-level impressions occasionally associated with the formation of cities.

Expanding upon the metaphor of the city as an urban palimpsest by introducing the notion of the salient state (Corboz, 1983). This notion portrays the city as a dynamic entity constantly in change, undergoing periodic reincarnations. It critiques and challenges the perception of a city as a fixed, unchanging object and emphasizes its inherent adaptability and resilience (Alexander, 2019). In the salient state, the city exhibits a constant state of becoming, reflecting the cyclical nature of urban development. It is not a linear progression, but a dynamic process characterized by construction, destruction, and transformation. As erasure and inscription occur, the city's physical, social, and cultural landscape morphs, allowing for continuous reinvention (Powell, 2008).

Moreover, the salient state acknowledges the coexistence of various historical layers within the city. Each layer represents a distinct period, yet their interaction shapes the urban environment (Engbersen, 2001). The palimpsestic nature of the city enables the presence of multiple narratives, voices, and perspectives, resulting in a complex fabric of meanings.

#### 3.2. Periodic Reincarnations: Cycles of Destruction and Renewal

Within the framework of the urban palimpsest, the allegory of periodic reincarnations encapsulates the periodic nature of urbanism and planning (Corboz, 1983). Cities experience phases of destruction and reconstruction, akin to the shedding of layers from a manuscript before rewriting begins (Carter, 2012). These cycles occur gradually, perpetuating the salient state of the city.

Periodic reincarnations manifest in various ways. They can be triggered by natural disasters, human-caused disasters, or deliberate urban planning interventions. Each incarnation introduces novel urban and architectural forms, spatial and cultural expressions, and social practices while preserving remnants of the past. Thus, the city becomes a palimpsestic amalgamation of temporalities, with echoes of multiple layers resonating through its spaces. The traces of previous incarnations within the city fabric evoke a sense of historical continuity. They remind inhabitants and visitors of the city's evolution, connecting past and present. This continuity becomes a powerful testament to the adaptive capacity of cities and their ability to rise reinventing themselves (Bartolini, 2014).

## 4. The Salient State of Gdańsk

### 4.1. Historical Layers and Cultural Narratives

The city of Gdańsk in Poland is a captivating urban landscape shaped by its significant historical phases. The city's heritage product bears witness to its dynamic past (Köhler, 1893). In order to explore the impact of Gdańsk's historical layers on its urban development, one has to delve into the ways in which the city's history has influenced its planning, spatial scheme, urban design, and architecture shaping its cultural identity, in order to a better understanding of the intricate interaction between past and present in shaping the city's fabric.

Situated on the Baltic Sea, the city has witnessed the rise and fall of various powers throughout its history, resulting in a palimpsestic urban fabric reflecting its complex past (Clark, 2016), with Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque layers, and Hanseatic influences coexisting harmoniously (Geisler, 1918). The historical layers embody the narratives of different periods, each leaving their imprints on the cityscape.

#### **The influence of the Hanseatic League:**

This can be seen not only in the urban and architectural vocabularies but also in the city's spatial scheme. Gdańsk's layout, with its narrow streets, open squares, and proximity to the waterfront, reflects the strategic considerations of medieval trade (Tölle, 2008). The compact and interconnected nature of the city facilitated commercial activities and fostered a sense of community among merchants.

The medieval core of Gdańsk, exemplified by the magnificent Gothic architecture of St. Mary's Church and the iconic Crane Gate, reveals the city's origins as an important trading hub (Nicolle, 2014). These structures stand as reminders of Gdańsk's prosperity during the Hanseatic League era and its role in Baltic maritime trade (Tölle, 2008). The city's Renaissance and Baroque layers emerged during the era of Polish sovereignty over Gdańsk. These layers illustrate the city's flourishing cultural and intellectual life during the Polish Golden Age (Friedrich, 2012).

#### **Renaissance and Baroque Flourishing:**

The Renaissance and Baroque periods brought further transformations to Gdańsk's urban development (Köhler, 1893). As a city under Polish sovereignty, Gdańsk experienced a flourishing cultural and intellectual life during the Polish Golden Age (Omilanowska-Kiljańczyk, 2008). The emergence of elegant Renaissance buildings such as the Artus Court and the stunning façades along the Long Market reflected the city's newfound prosperity and artistic aspirations.

The urban and architectural elements of the period brought a sense of grandeur and refinement to Gdańsk's urban fabric. The Baroque period further embellished Gdańsk with ornate details and rich decoration (Friedrich, 2012). Notable examples include the magnificent Golden Gate and the opulent interiors of many churches and palaces. The Baroque influence extended beyond architecture and permeated the city's urban design and public spaces (Geisler, 1918). Elaborate sculptures, fountains, and gardens enhanced the visual experience of Gdańsk, creating a vibrant and harmonious cityscape.

#### **Reconstruction and Post-War Identity:**

The impact of historical layers on Gdańsk's urban development is also evident in the city's reconstruction efforts following the devastation of World War II. The destruction of Gdańsk's historic centre presented a significant challenge in reconciling the preservation of cultural heritage with the need for modernization

(Jeleński, 2018). The post-war reconstruction efforts in Gdańsk were driven by a desire to rebuild the city's identity while acknowledging its historical layers. The meticulous reconstruction of iconic places and monuments, such as the Long Market and the Granary Island, aimed to restore the city's cultural memory and create a sense of continuity (Friedrich, 2012). The rebuilt façades, carefully replicating their original appearance, serve as a tangible connection to Gdańsk's past.

Gdańsk's palimpsestic fabric is further enriched by the remnants of its tumultuous history. The scars of World War II and the subsequent post-war reconstruction efforts are etched into the cityscape (Clark, 2016). The reconstructed façades along the Long Market and the Granary Island serve as a testament to the resilience and determination of Gdańsk's inhabitants in preserving their cultural heritage.

#### 4.2. Between Destruction and Rebirth

Gdańsk's history is marked by cycles of destruction and rebirth, making it an adequate example of the salient state between periodic reincarnations. The city experienced severe damage during World War II, with its historic centre devastated (Tölle, 2008). However, Gdańsk's post-war reconstruction efforts aimed not only to rebuild the physical structures but also to revive the city's cultural identity (Bugalski, 2017). The process of reconstruction in Gdańsk presents a complex interaction between preserving the historical layers and introducing new elements (Clark, 2016). Urban planners and architects made meticulous efforts to restore the city's iconic places and monuments while incorporating contemporary design principles. This approach resulted in a harmonious blend of old and new, reinforcing the conception of Gdańsk as a palimpsestic city as illustrated in *figure 3*.

The palimpsestic nature of the city serves not only as a historical reference but also as a means to preserve cultural memory. The layers of Gdańsk's urban fabric are carefully curated, allowing residents and visitors to navigate the city's past and forge their connections. Museums, exhibitions, and commemorative sites play a crucial role in bringing these narratives to life, fostering a collective understanding of Gdańsk's identity (Bugalski, 2017).

Moreover, the metaphor of the city as a palimpsest offers valuable insights into the future of Gdańsk. Recognizing the city's salient state and the cyclical nature of urban development encourages sustainable approaches to growth. It prompts urban planners to introduce a balance between preserving historical layers and facilitating contemporary needs, ensuring that future additions to the urban fabric contribute to the city's evolving narrative.

#### 4.3. Urban Challenges of Gdańsk: Public Spaces and Heritage Assets

Gdańsk has experienced rapid urbanization in recent decades, leading to increased pressure on its public spaces. The growing population, coupled with tourism and economic development, has resulted in a higher demand for usable and accessible public areas. However, the scarcity of land and the historical nature of the city present challenges in meeting these demands (Workshop lecture by Lorenz, 2023).

The lack of adequate public spaces can lead to limited urban social life, and community interaction. As the city continues to grow, it becomes crucial to prioritize the enhancement of public spaces, ensuring that they cater to the diverse needs of residents and visitors. Gdańsk's rich tangible and cultural heritage is a significant asset, attracting tourists and contributing to the city's identity. However, the challenge lies in finding a balance between contemporary needs and the preservation of heritage.

The pressure for urban development and the need to accommodate contemporary infrastructure and amenities often clash with the preservation of historical buildings and urban fabric. The temptation to demolish or modify historic structures to make way for new developments poses a threat to Gdańsk's

authenticity and cultural continuity. To address this challenge, careful planning and urban design strategies are crucial. By repurposing heritage buildings and integrating them into the new development, Gdańsk can preserve its heritage while meeting the demands of urban growth.

Additionally, strict regulations and guidelines for new construction can ensure that urban and architectural expressions are sensitive to the city's character. Preserving Gdańsk's historical assets requires ongoing maintenance and conservation efforts. The aging infrastructure, combined with the effects of weathering and urban pressures, poses a significant challenge to the upkeep of urban mobility plans, heritage buildings, and public spaces.

Limited financial resources and competing priorities make it difficult to allocate adequate funding for conservation projects. As a result, some heritage structures may deteriorate over time, compromising their integrity and authenticity. Proper maintenance and conservation are crucial to protect the cultural significance and to ensure the longevity of its public spaces. Collaboration between the government, heritage organizations, and the local community is crucial in addressing this challenge. Seeking external funding, establishing heritage conservation programs, and engaging in community-driven initiatives can provide the necessary support and expertise for the preservation of Gdańsk's public spaces and heritage assets (Workshop lecture by Czyż, 2023).

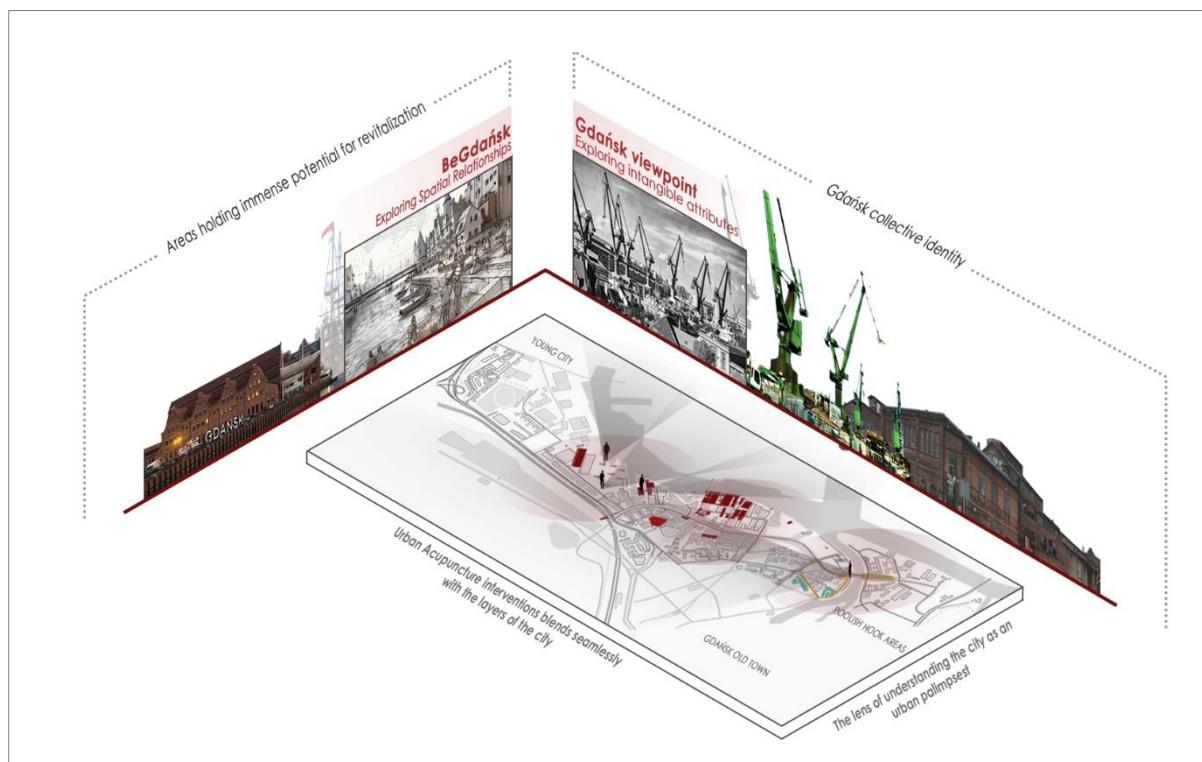


Figure 3. Illustration on palimpsestic layers of the reincarnating city of Gdańsk. Source: Authors, 2023.

## 5. The Joint ISOCARP - ITACUS Young Professionals workshop

### 5.1. Contextual overview and workshop challenges

A recent agreement between ISOCARP (The International Society of City and Regional Planners) and ITACUS (International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association's Committee on Underground Space) in cooperation with the city of Gdańsk as the host called for the organisation of a YPP (Young Planning Professionals) - YPTDP (Young Professionals Think Deep Programme) Workshop. The workshop aims to provide a forum for Young Professionals around the globe who have a keen interest in the fields of city planning, urban design, and civil engineering to collaborate on a particular urban development issue (Joint ISOCARP-ITACUS Young Professionals Workshop, 2023). In this instance, the workshop's subject is related to rethinking the northern part of Gdańsk city centre offers a potential to address its heritage product, in which its intangible attributes define the city's physical territory, urban spaces, and architectural expressions.

Given the numerous proposals represented in a spectrum of design concepts through which were generated during the workshop for the design of above and belowground public spaces resulting from the proposed tunnelling project for the Popiełuszki street extension, this part of the paper focuses on explicating two proposals conducted by two groups that represent two sides of the same coin, categorized into the tangible spatial layers tackled in the first proposal named "*BeGdańsk*", and the intangible socio-cultural attributes in the second one named "*Gdańsk Viewpoint*".

The two proposals were selected based on their attempt to understanding the city as urban palimpsest addressing the workshop challenges through utilizing Urban Acupuncture as a methodology with a deep focus on the mobility connection between two riverbanks of the Motława river. By examining the two proposals in depth, this shall provide a comprehensive review of the potential benefits and drawbacks of Urban Acupuncture as an approach to enhance the public realm on both tangible and intangible levels.

### 5.2. Proposal 01: Exploring Spatial Relationships

Considering both tangible and intangible attributes of the city's setting is crucial providing a comprehensive understanding of the complex nature of the urban landscape. The first proposal focuses on the tangible aspects of the built environment, such as spaces, streets, and buildings. These elements shape the way people experience and interact with the city. In the area where the discussions were held, the tangible assets that were recognised as different layers of historical monuments include several elements such as the cranes and their trackways, the flooring of the old yard. Additionally, the street grid that remains intact and reflects the industrial functions that once took place on the Shipyard estate is considered a significant component in terms of its function (Huang a et al., 2020).

Therefore, the "*BeGdańsk*" proposal emphasises how significant it is to see the tunnel as a crucial component of its surroundings, taking into account its connection to the ecological and historical components underneath. The proposal also bears in mind any potential future effects of the tunnel. It proposes a method that enhances public realm complementing the area of intervention with its heritage product as illustrated in *figure 4*.

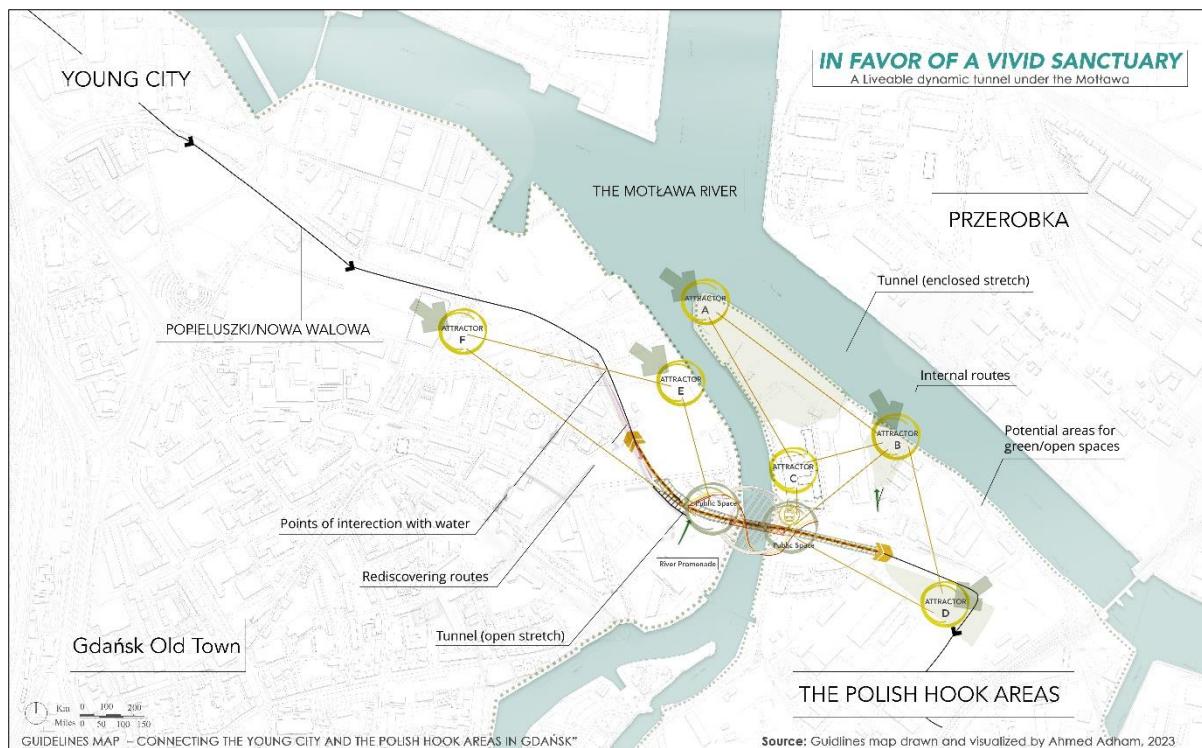


Figure 4. Guidelines map for “BeGdańsk” proposal. Source: Ahmed Adham, 2023.

### Objectives and Urban Strategies

The overall objective of the proposal is to empower the sense of community among residents of Gdańsk by creating a new communal space that reflects the area's physical and historical characteristics, while also contributing to the public health and vitality of the city. To achieve this goal, “BeGdańsk” outlines several urban strategies as shown in *figure 5*, including conducting a community engagement process to gather input and feedback from residents, incorporating sustainable design principles and materials into the development of the shared space, and establishing partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders to promote the use of sustainable mobility options.

Additionally, it seeks to activate public awareness of the natural and historical characteristics of the area through a range of community events such as art festivals, social hubs, markets that showcase the area's local image within a public space.

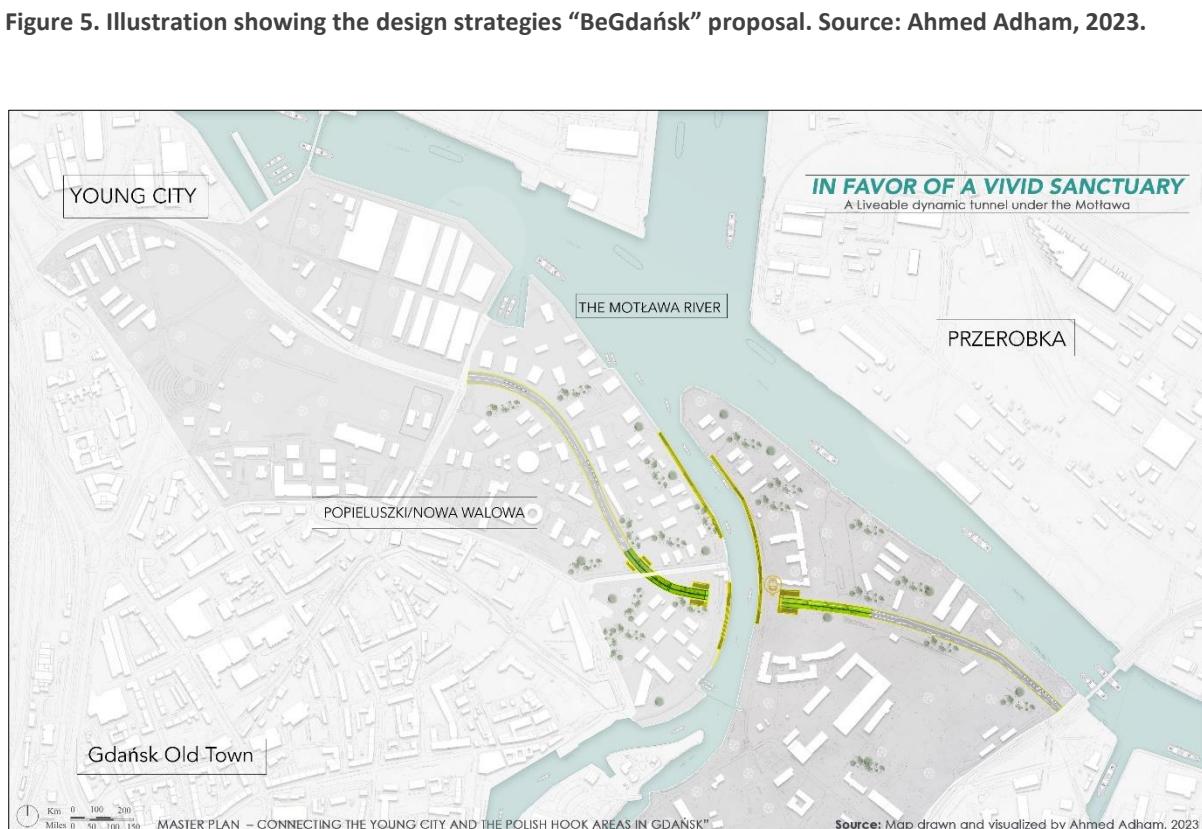
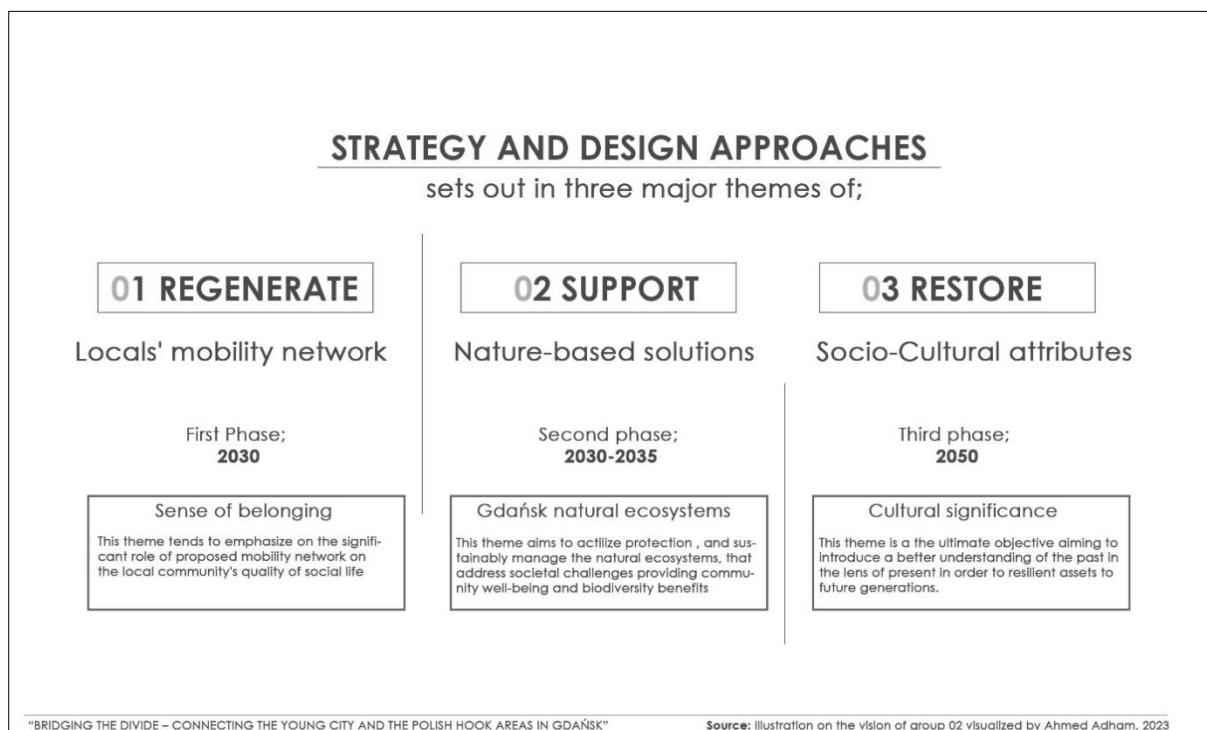


Figure 6. Masterplan showing the proposed connection of the riverbanks. Source: Ahmed Adham, 2023.

### Design Proposal through the lens of Urban Acupuncture

The proposal involves constructing a double-deck tunnel beneath the Motława River to connect both riverbanks as illustrated in *figure 6*. The first deck shall be enclosed for pedestrians, while aboveground shall be public spaces with a diverse activities, attractions proposed include socio-culture, community initiatives, art, and recreation as shown in *figure 7*.

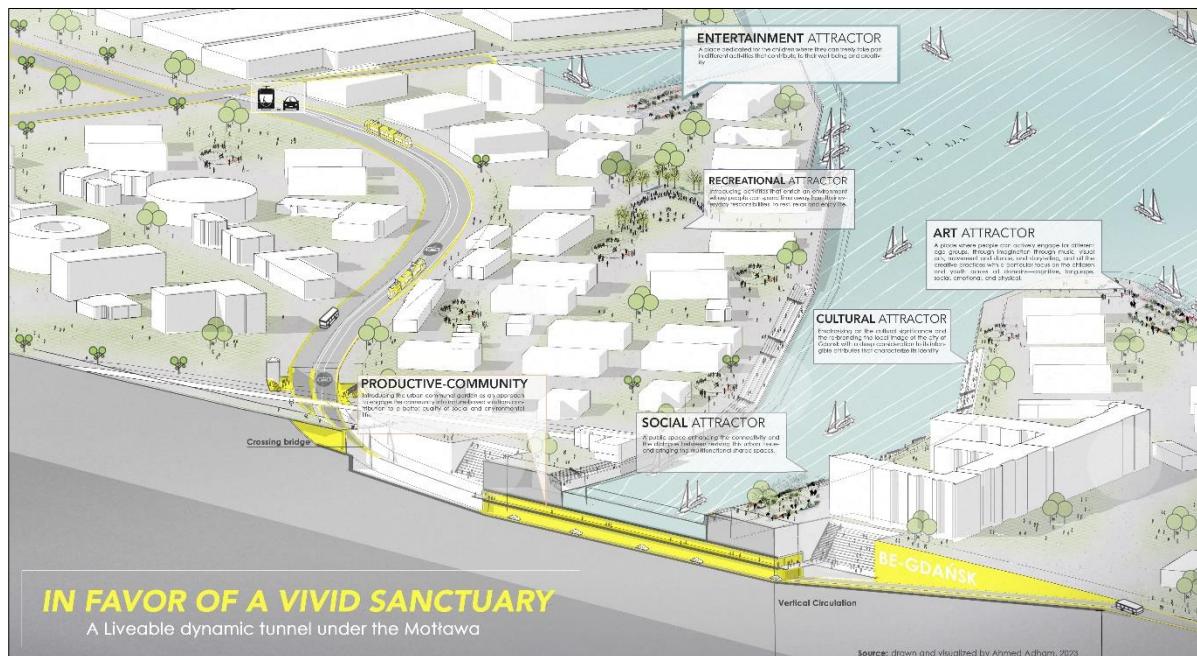


Figure 7. Illustration showing the public spaces and the urban attractors. Source: Ahmed Adham, 2023.

### Findings and outcome of “BeGdańsk”

The urban palimpsest can reflect and inspire Urban Acupuncture approach targeting the interrelation spatial layers of “BeGdańsk”. Therefore, the combination of urban acupuncture and understanding the city as urban palimpsest can provide a powerful framework for creating a genuine change in the urban context as illustrated in *figure 8*. By taking a holistic approach that considers both the physical and cultural layers of the urban environment and the specific urban challenges that need to be addressed.

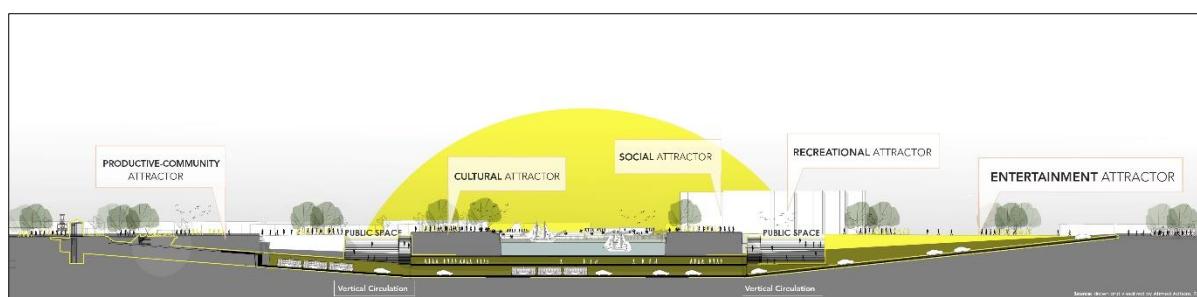


Figure 8. Section showing the attractors and its relationship to the tunnel. Source: Ahmed Adham, 2023.

### 5.3. Proposal 02: Exploring intangible attributes

The intangible aspects shape the way people use and perceive the urban environment having a significant impact on the socio-cultural life of the city (UNESCO, what is intangible cultural heritage? 2011). Likewise, the intangible attributes of Gdańsk young city together with the polish hook areas are closely linked to the history of the shipbuilding industry, which dates back to the mid-19th century, and the legacy of one of Poland's most significant social movements. The events of December 1970, the founding of the NSZZ "Solidarity" movement, and the agreements signed in August 1980 are all part of this heritage product. These events shaped the region's identity and left a lasting impact on its culture, traditions, and social values.

The intangible heritage associated with these events is a testament to the resilience and determination of the people of the region in the face of adversity (Huang a et al., 2020). Accordingly, to better connect with Gdańsk city according to the "*Gdańsk viewpoint*" proposal, there are plans to create a new spine that shall extend from Popiełuszki street helping people to explore and engage with the city's industrial heritage as shown in *figure 9*. This new spine shall serve as a comprehensive loop that encircles the city and will involve the construction of a tunnel beneath the Motława River (SCG Stocznia Centrum Gdańsk, 2022).

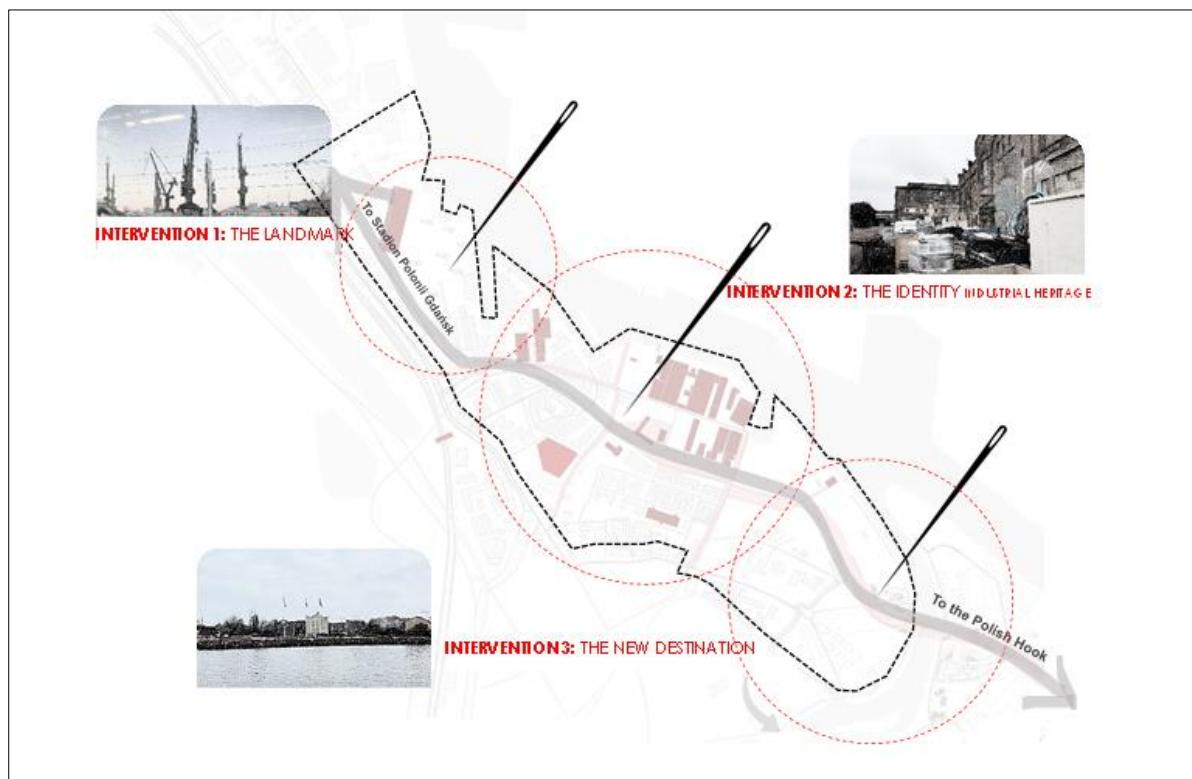


Figure 9. Illustration showing the proposed network on interventions. Source: Donia Tayel, 2023.

#### Objectives and Urban Strategies

The proposed project aims to empower the identity of the study area in Gdańsk by introducing public spaces that cater to the needs of local communities and visitors, while also improving the overall quality of life in the neighbourhood and the city. Ending the proposed spine with the "Viewpoint" attraction point shall encourage people to explore the area's industrial heritage and waterfront, while generating a flow of people through the area. It shall involve the creation of an overall permeable ground level that will empower new solutions of public-private partnerships to benefit all stakeholders involved, including the local community, tourists, and businesses as illustrated in *figure 10*.



Figure 10. Guidelines map for “Gdańsk viewpoint” proposal. Source: Donia Tayel, 2023.

#### Design Proposals through the lens of Urban Acupuncture

Gdańsk has the potential to foster sense of belonging among residents through a connected community celebrating the city's history and identity. The proposal begins by emphasizing how crucial it is to create a spine that aims to connect the Young City and the Polish Hook areas by creating a continuous route that leads to the significant Cranes of the former Shipyard. This route connects the Shipyard to a new destination, showcasing advancement and innovation. Likewise, the spine aims to connect the city's industrial heritage with the future. Accordingly, particular points of action that might significantly affect the city's public health and vitality were identified. The hotspots, the industrial heritage, and the new destination are the three key layers of intervention in this proposal as shown in *figure 11*.

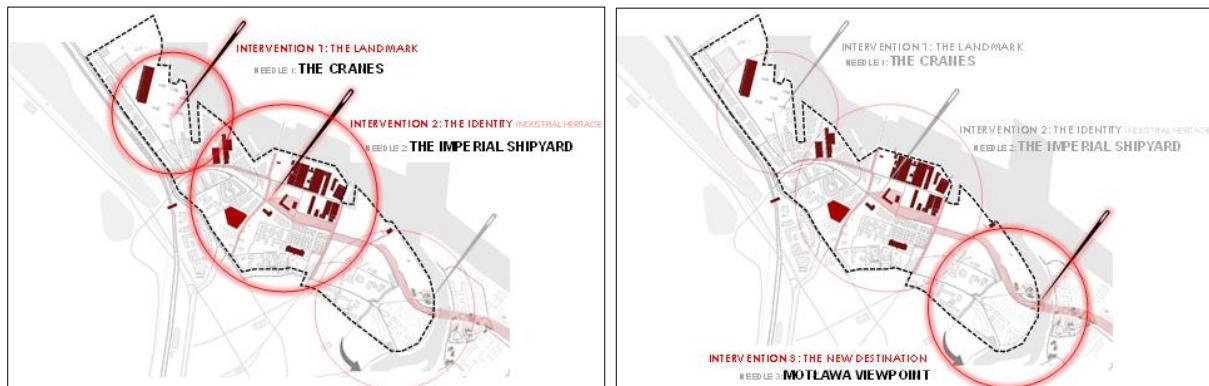


Figure 11. Detailed Guidelines for the layers of interventions. Source: Donia Tayel, 2023.

“Gdańsk Viewpoint” also concentrates on the Motława viewpoint as a new destination, with the expectation that it will have a beneficial impact on the neighboring region. This may involve generating fresh economic prospects for the nearby enterprises, raising property prices, and fostering a greater feeling of community pride and unity. Furthermore, this area could act as a driving force for additional progress in the Young City and the Polish Hook, resulting in a livelier and more energetic urban setting as in *figure 12*.

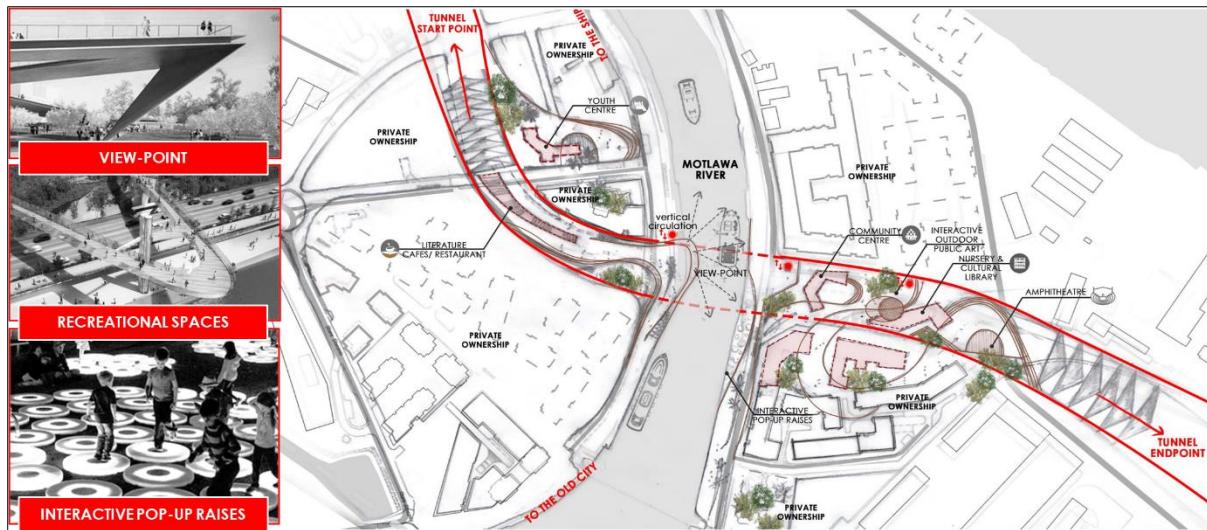


Figure 12. Masterplan showing the proposed view-point and urban spaces. Source: Donia Tayel, 2023.

#### Findings and outcome of “Gdańsk Viewpoint”

The “Gdańsk viewpoint” developed proposal includes several findings that contributes to the ongoing evolution of the urban palimpsest, ensuring a dynamic relationship that can adapt to future needs as illustrated in *figures 13 and 14*. Also, empowering intangible attributes of cultural and recreational assets for locals and tourists through a cultural spine that offers a unique and cohesive experience for visitors, showcasing the city’s heritage and culture while providing practical amenities for the local community.

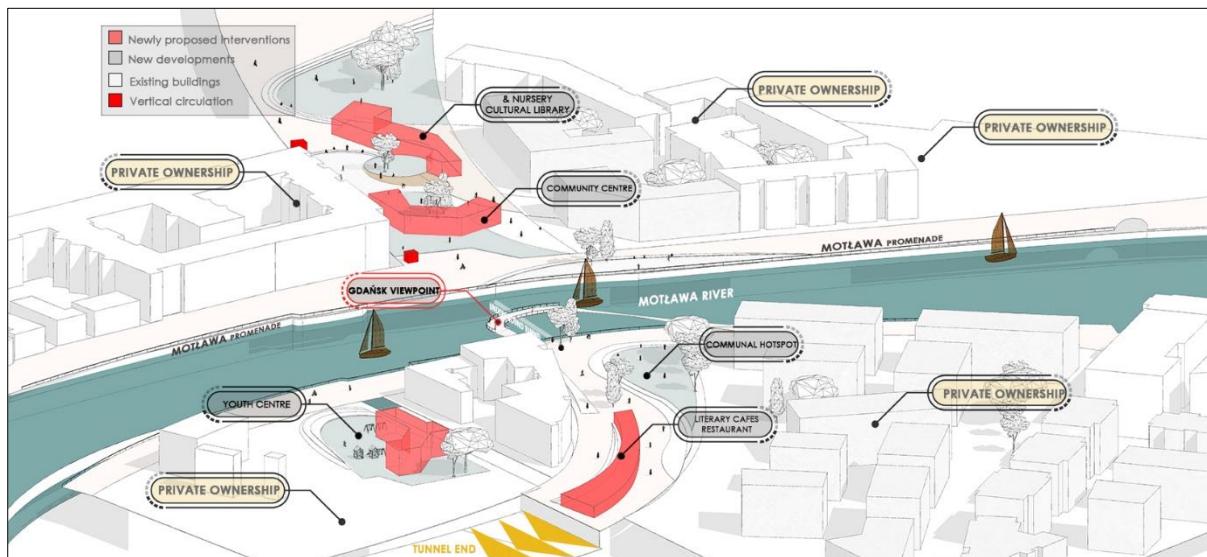


Figure 13. Illustration showing the new proposed interventions within the setting. Source: Donia Tayel, 2023.

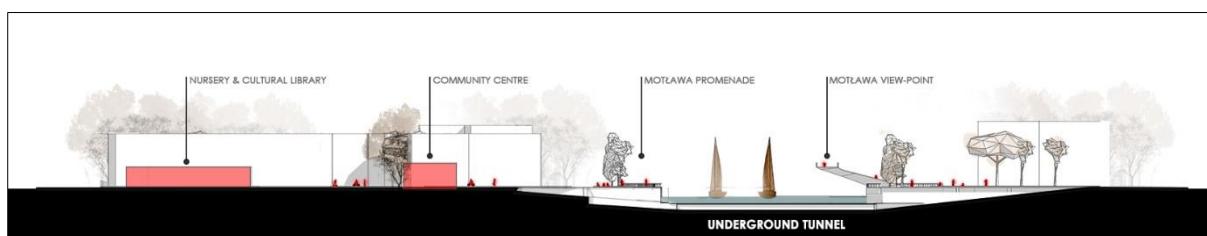


Figure 14. Section showing the activities on both riverbanks. Source: Donia Tayel, 2023.

## 6. Conclusion and Discussion

Urban palimpsest's allegory offers several valuable insights into the complex nature of cities and their historical depth. By conceptualizing the city as a palimpsest, it encourages appreciating the layered narratives embedded within urban landscapes. This approach highlights the richness and complexity of urban environments, where the physical structures, cultural heritage, and socio-cultural attributes intertwine to create a multicellular organism. The allegory of periodic reincarnations adds another layer of understanding to the palimpsestic city. Corboz argues that cities undergo cycles of destruction and renewal, resulting in a continuous state of change. This perspective challenges the common perception of cities as fixed trees (Alexander, 2019) and emphasizes their capacity for adaptation and resilience. By acknowledging the cycles of change and transformation, they bring attention to the socio-cultural and environmental factors that shape urban development.

Moreover, the focus on the salient state between periodic reincarnations sheds light on the transitional periods when the traces of past iterations blend with the emerging urban fabric. This concept acknowledges that the city's transformation is a gradual and ongoing process, rather than abrupt or linear. It helps to recognize the inherent complexity and continuity of cities, bridging the gaps between different historical layers and facilitating a holistic understanding of urbanism and development. Furthermore, exploring the palimpsestic city invites a multidisciplinary approach to urban studies. By emphasizing the interconnectedness of planning, urban design, architecture, politics, sociology, heritage studies, and climatology. It encourages scholars from various fields to engage with the urban landscape as a living tissue.

While the metaphorical framework provides valuable insights, it also presents some limitations that warrant consideration. First, the metaphor might oversimplify the complexity of urban development. While it highlights the coexistence of historical layers, it may overlook the nuances and conflicts that arise from the juxtaposition of diverse urban and architectural norms, social dynamics, and cultural practices. The metaphor risks reducing the city's richness to a mere chronological accumulation of physical and cultural imprints, potentially overlooking the power dynamics, contestations, and socio-economic factors that shape urban spaces.

Additionally, the metaphor of periodic reincarnations can be problematic in its portrayal of urban transformation. It may imply a sense of renewal and progress without sufficiently acknowledging the losses and displacements that occur during cycles of destruction. It could inadvertently romanticize or overlook the social, economic, and environmental consequences that marginalized communities often face in the process of urban renewal. Furthermore, the salient state between periodic reincarnations, while acknowledging the city's transitional nature, may be insufficiently explored by Corboz. His ideas provide limited guidance on how to navigate these transitional periods and address the tensions that arise between preserving the city's historical layers and facilitating contemporary needs. A more nuanced examination of the salient state would have required a deeper exploration of the complex interactions between continuity, change, tradition and innovation.

## 7. Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank ISOCARP and ITACUS for their great efforts to actualize their agreement in cooperation with the city of Gdańsk to host the YPTDP Workshop.

We gratefully acknowledge the time and effort that the respected members of the two groups "BeGdańsk" and "Gdańsk Viewpoint" have expended in their deep cooperation with the authors during the workshop in the city of Gdańsk.

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