

# **International Student Competition**

Exploring Tartu Emajõgi and its watercourses

# Winning teams and finalists

Working Period: October 2023 - January 2024 https://forum.ln-institute.org/international-student-competition-2023-2024

















# Weaving with Water

### Caroline de Vries, Malavika Mohan Das, Mahan Esmaeili Zavieh, Ernesto Velasquez Gonzalez

HfWU Nürtingen-Geislingen & HSWT Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Germany

Drawing inspiration from Estonian folk textile traditions, we view blue-green infrastructure as the warp and weft of Tartu's urban fabric. Just as stories unfold in the regional weaving traditions in Estonia, water weaves the context for a new regenerative narrative with the landscape. A network of urban streams and bicycle and pedestrian pathways serve as a loom for abundant life, clean water, and diverse cultural and economic functions.

In our focus area, we offer a solution for how development in housing and business can integrate ecological value into the urban fabric and provide a legible transition from the city to the rural landscape, releasing pressure on valuable habitats. We support and expand Tartu's current planning and sustainability initiatives as part of an integrated blue-green system designed to maximize the benefit of Tartu's investments in the city and increase equitable distribution.

Where land meets water has a timeless attraction for social life and biodiversity. By designing a new orientation to water, Tartu provides new amenities to its people, supports social and intergenerational cohesion, and enhances urban life both now and in a climate-adaptive future. Our model exemplifies a scheme for other periurban areas in an interconnected green belt. Weaving with Water will be considered a success when an abundant context for ecological and public health and well-being is established. Within this network, each local participatory initiative will ensure that the people of Tartu can steward their landscape and waterscapes as they develop, and weave their own stories into the city.

# FIRST PRIZE

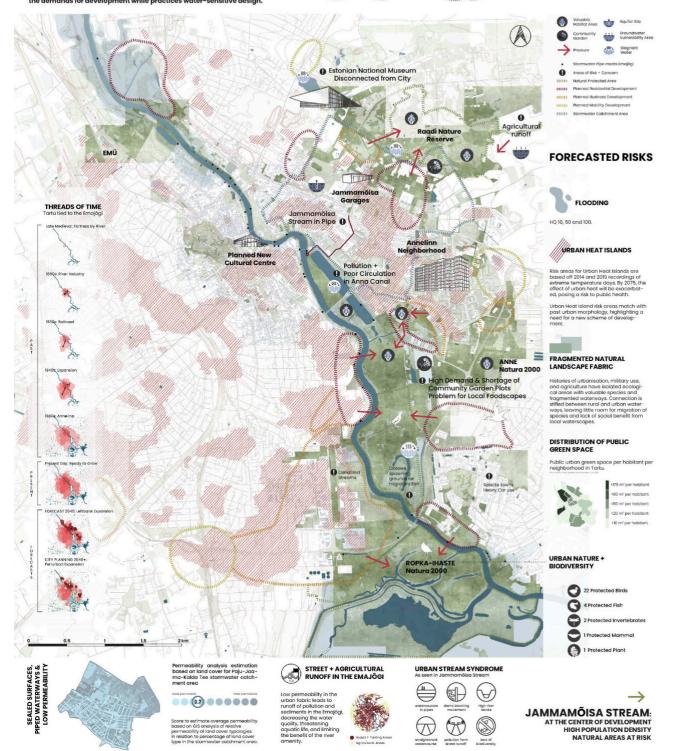
WEAVING WITH WATER

**ANALYSIS** 

Drawing inspiration from the traditions of Estonian folk textiles, we view the blue-green infrastructure as the weft and warp of the urban fabric of Tartu. Just as stories unfold in the many regional fabric traditions, water weaves the context for a new sustainable narrative with the landscape. Community, culture, business, nature, foodscapes, and history are interwoven to create the context for equitable ecological and social health.

In the coming 50 years, Tartu is planning development and housing in the periubran areas of the city to meet future needs of its population, driven by rising opportunities in Tartu's academic institutions and IT innovation. However, these areas put pressure on the valuable ecological areas that neighbor and overlap with planned development sites. We offer a solution that meets the demands for development while practices water-sensitive design.

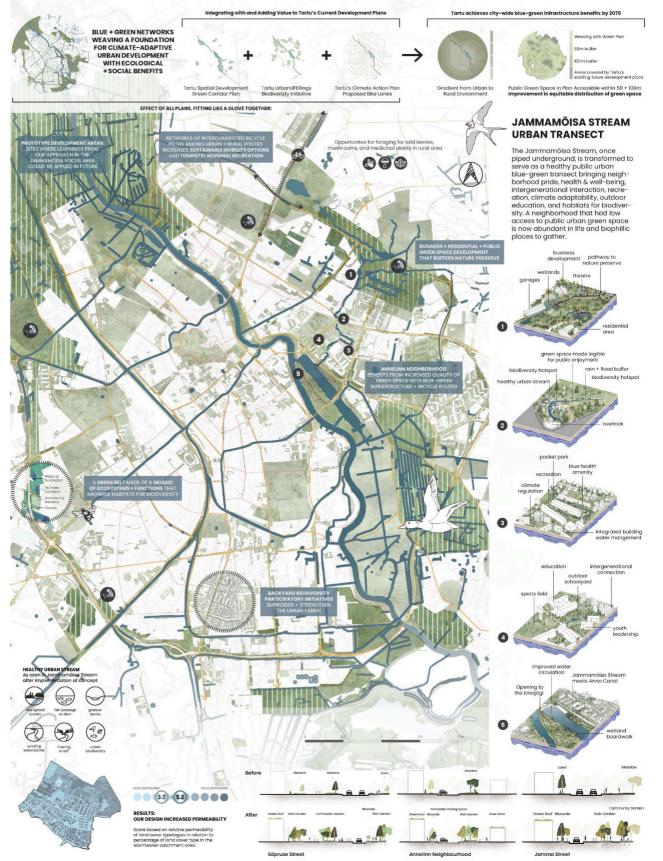


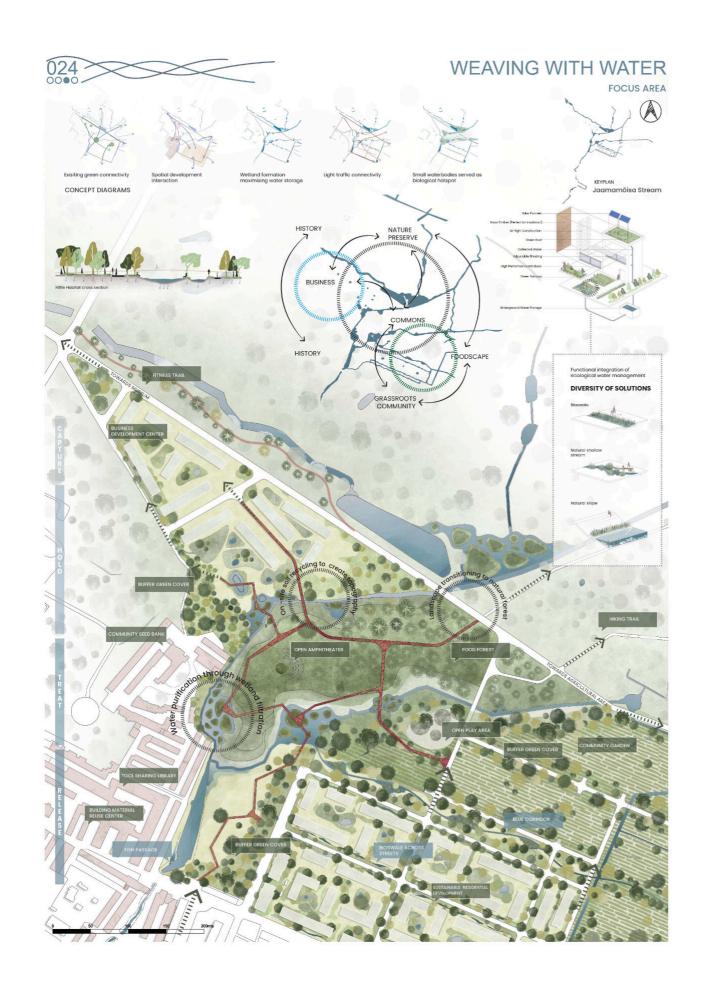


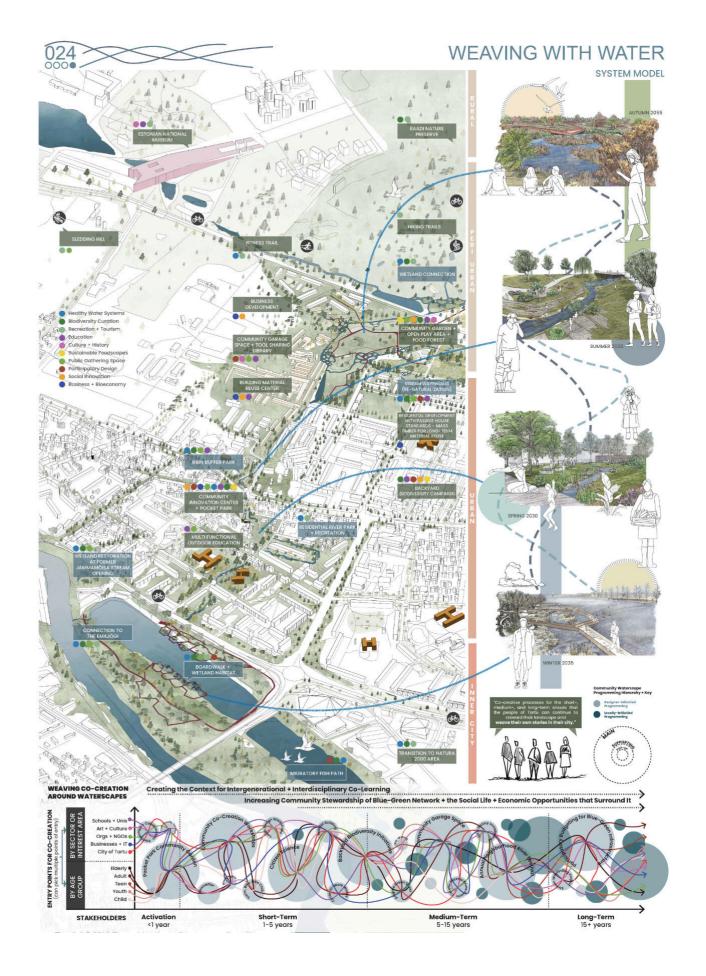


### WEAVING WITH WATER

CONCEPT







## PermaTartu

# Yanis Becquart, Steffen Both, Ryutaro Hanzawa

Sapienza University in Rome

The Emajogi river is the main feature of the urban landscape and life in tartu, both today and in the past. In order to secure the future of Tartu as a climate-resilient city, it was first important to understand the main threats and potentials of Tartu's urban history and development

With increasing precipitation events during ongoing urbanization, it is vital to ensure a permeable urban landscape and society.

Our project therefore investigates the watercourse of the Emajogi river and the city as a whole with a particular focus on the aspects of permeability and accessibility Focusing on the area around the Anne Canal, we as a group have identified three areas that offer particular challenges and opportunities.

The unused green space by the Emajogi river is to be renatured to serve as a wetland and attract a greater diversity of species. Nevertheless, the population of Tartu should be encouraged to visit the area for recreational purposes by means of a sensitively designed route. Clear rules are intended to make coexistence work and demonstrate the great value of nature in the city.

Since there are hardly any places to stop and linger in the chosen area, the usability of the green space between the river and the canal is to be increased by means of low-key offerings, pathways, footbridges and benches, without increasing the amount of sealed surfaces.

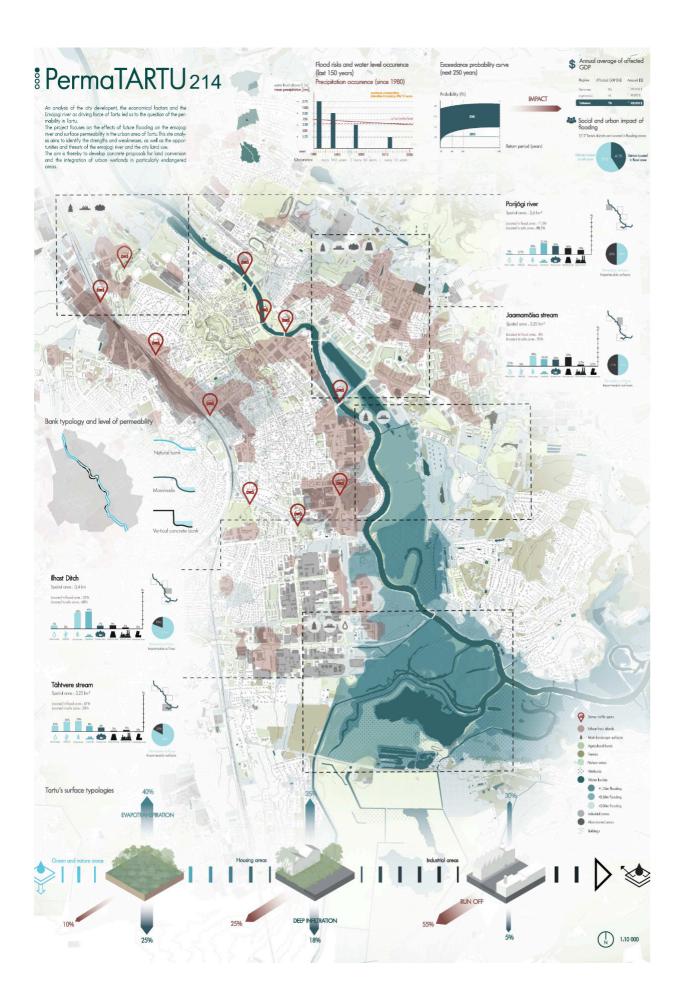
The unused industrial site on the Emajogi river is to undergo the greatest transformation. Due to the location of the site directly on the

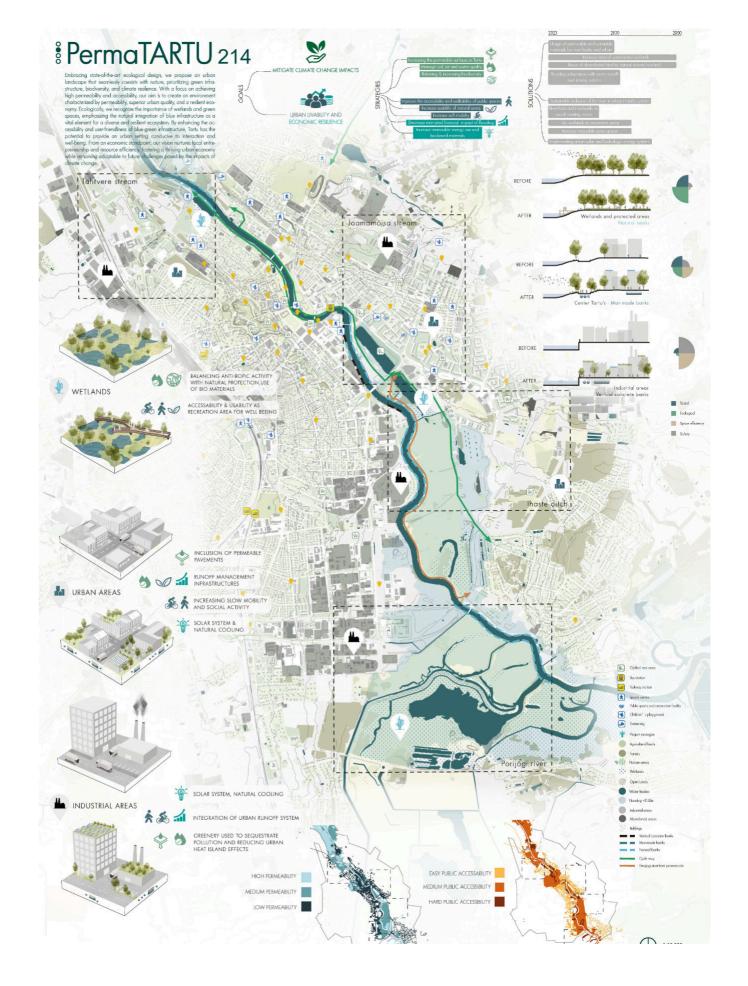
# SECOND PRIZE

riverbank, this area offers enormous potential. The building is to be repurposed as a community lab for permaculture with a participatory educational approach. In addition, the aspect of meeting and sharing is a priority, in a urban area where the possibility of cultivating regional plants together is given.

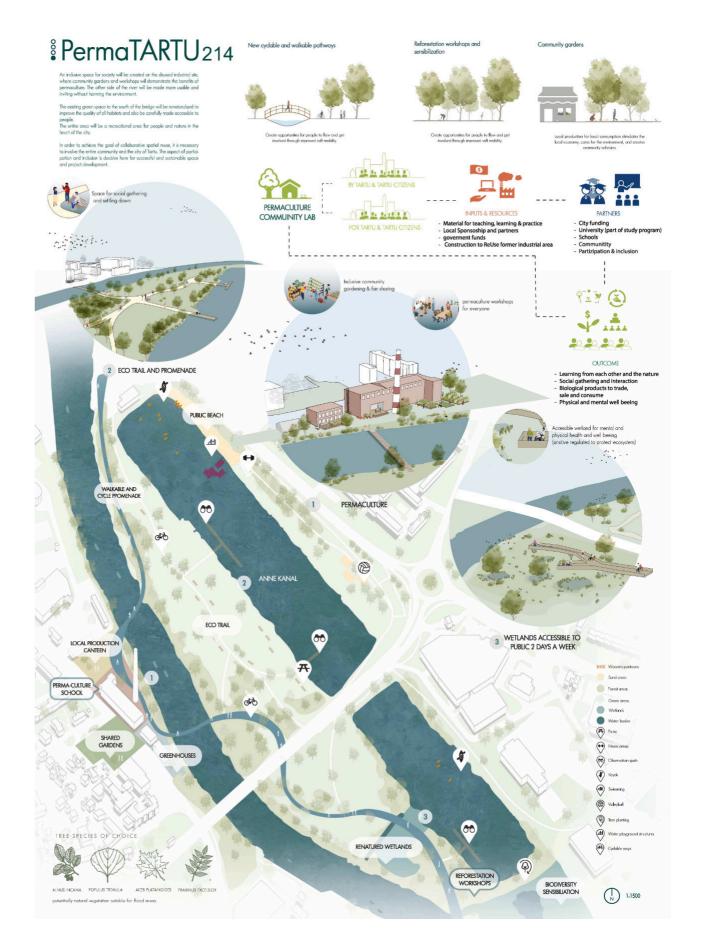
In addition, space for various cultural events will be offered in the heart of the capitol of culture.

This concept is intended to function in cooperation with the university of Tartu, schools, the city and its population and to be coordinated in a participatory process.









# Live in Harmony

## Eren Caba, Alina Chomaeva, Rojan Kamyab, Ghazaleh Monshizadeh

Sapienza University in Rome

The vibrant student city of Tartu is facing challenges as the Emajõgi river, spanning 10 km through Estonia, has transformed into a hazardous area in Tartu. In response, our project initiative seeks to convert this adversity into an opportunity by implementing environmentally friendly and sustainable strategies. The project envisions diverse businesses synergizing to create livable, entertaining, and safe spaces along the river, with circular economy principles.

The most important risk that Tartu is facing is flood near wetlands, therefore We came into the idea that using Tartu's timber resources to construct new residential areas with timber and high-rise buildings, significantly reducing the carbon footprint. Flood risks are addressed with adaptable stairs and structures, also adding a fun element along the river bank. A botanical garden and education center on the left side contribute to wetland preservation and biodiversity education which all connected through new bicycle lane to give residence unique experience.

Zone 1 includes new local industry, while downstream offers a recreational area for tourists with sports and cultural activities. The project aims to create a nature-oriented environment by strategically implementing green spaces, residential developments, and eco-friendly industries, fostering synergy between residential, recreational, and industrial functions.

# THIRD PRIZE

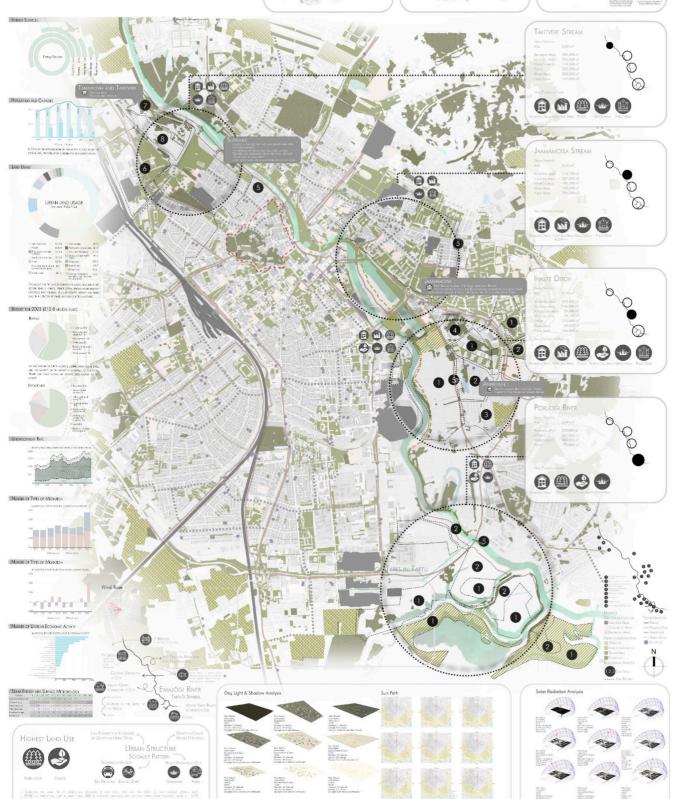
The transformation of the Emajogi river into a secure and enjoyable destination is envisioned to attract diverse individuals, providing memorable experiences and educational opportunities about the local environment.

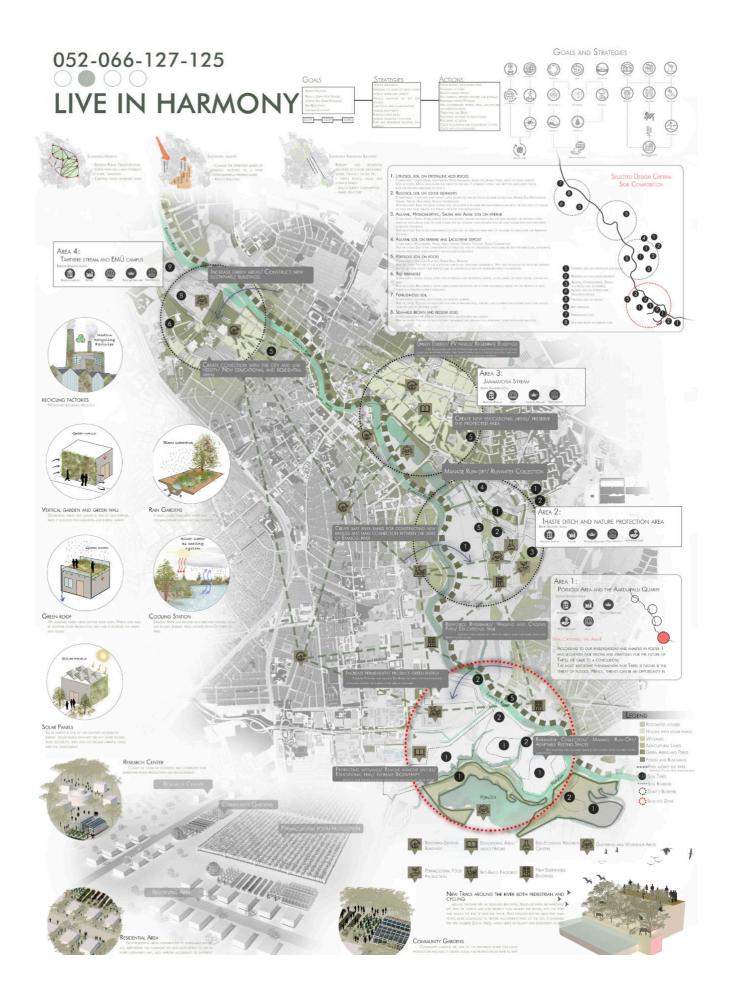
Ultimately, the project holds the potential to draw people from various backgrounds throughout different days and seasons, enriching their understanding of their living environment and nature.











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#### LIVE IN HARMONY



#### **NDUSTRIAL**

#### MOBILITY

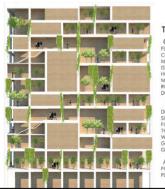
Landscape

B

New Sustainable Recycling Factor 3 BOTANICAL GARDEN

#1

HI

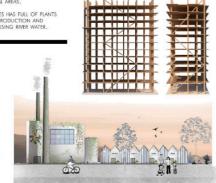


BIO INDUSTRY

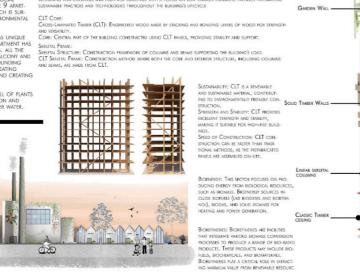
#### TIMBER SOCIAL HOUSING

GROUND FLOOR AND FIRST FLOOR ARE THE SOCIAL AREAS FOR COMMERCIAL FLACES. 44 APART-MENTS AND 16 COMMON AREAS IS LOCATED IN EACH SOCIAL HOUSE AND THERE ARE 9 APART-MENT IN THE SITE WHICH IS SUR-ROUNDING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN.

WITH TERRACE FOR CREATING
WITH TERRACE FOR CREATING
GREAR CIRCULATION AND CREATING
GREAT SOCIAL AREAS.



(3)

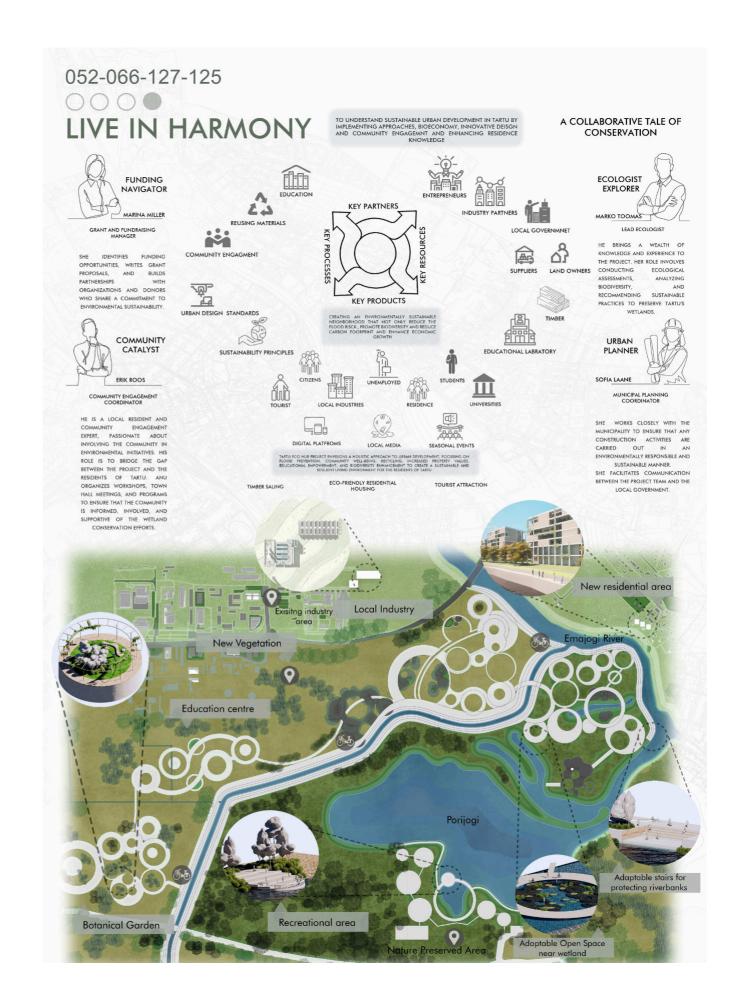


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1 Ратн





# Symbiotic Tartu

### Ruba Khaled Al-Hamzi, Asfia Islam, Shamim Rokhsari, Diana Salazar

Nürtingen-Geislingen University and Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Tartu is a continously growing city in Estonia, with the Emajõgi river flowing right through the center of it. As it transformed it lost certain important natural landscape features; neglecting or burying the water streams, expanding on wetlands, loss of biodiversity and more which we explored further in the project by digging deeper and creating our base and overlaying the swot maps which leads the way to the concept, vision and mission.

Concept: Footsteps Towards The Future

Our strategic approach employs the Green-Blue Footsteps concept, strategically addressing a city's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Applying a methodical acupuncture-like transect along rivers and streams, we categorize footstep interventions into research, educational, public interest, and climate adaptation. Each focuses on specific city sections, fostering a greener fabric and water course management. Through three phased implementations over 30 to 50 years, we aim for sustainable urban development, mitigating challenges and enhancing resilience for a vibrant and eco-friendly tomorrow.

#### Focus Area

Knowing the pros and cons and the areas of opportunities that Ihaste Dich offers, such as its residential and commercial areas, its interaction with the forest, areas of protection and connection with the main river Emajogi and with our vision for the future we were able to choose Ihaste Dich for awareness, reconnection and activation of its population.

# HONORABLE MENTION

Our proposal is divided into four zones, each zone has different interventions following the green-blue footsteps typology

Zone 1.- Riverfront Activation: Floating Gardens

Zone 2.-Educational: Floating Library, Botanical garden, Adm.research center, Retention point & Tree house (bird observatory)

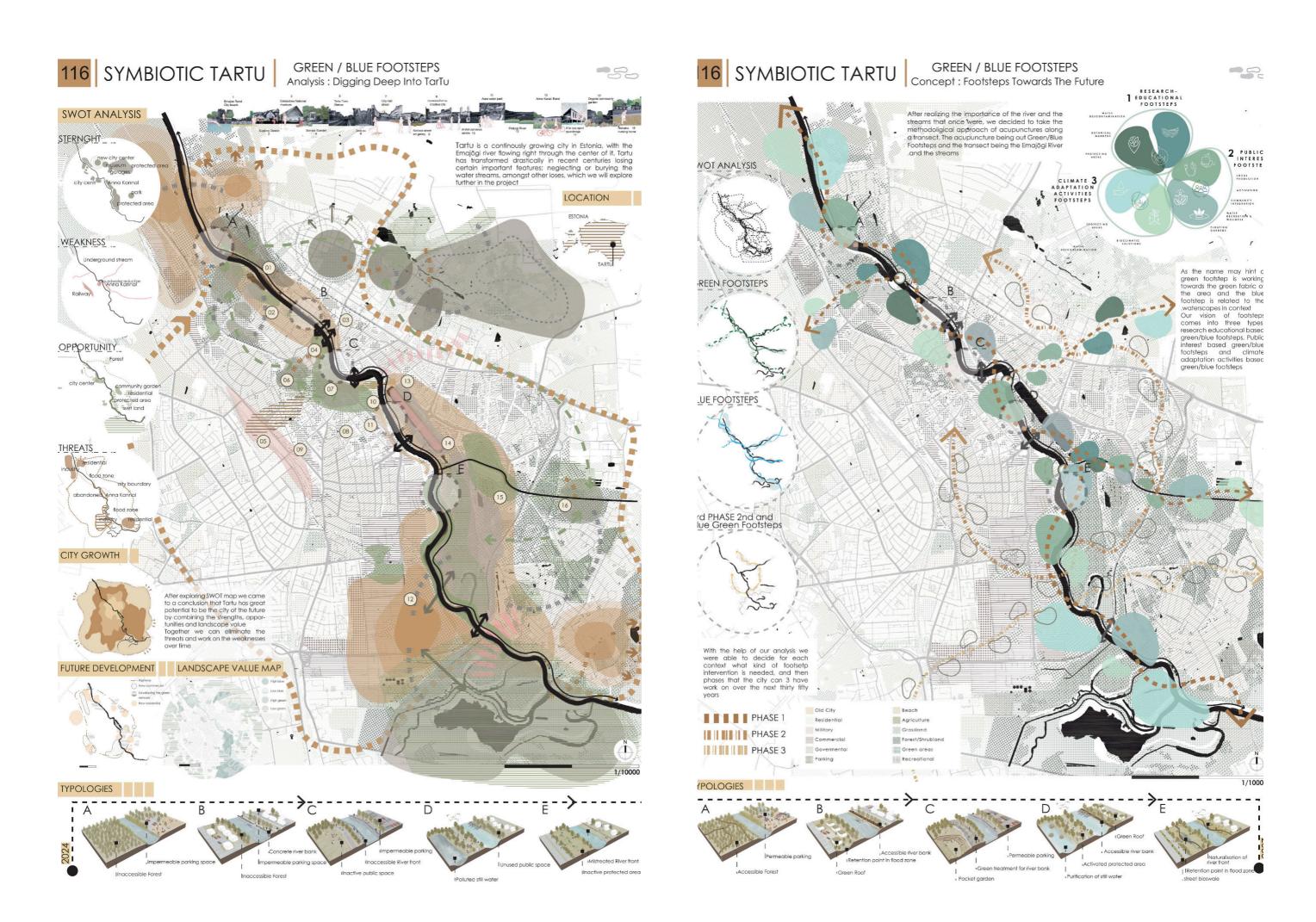
Zone 3.- Semi-Urban park: Biomarkers & pocket parks & Community eco-park.

Zone 4.- Natural Retreat: Leisure corner for the elderly people, extension of tartu Oak tree park and protection of the flower Shining.

All these areas are connected by bicycle & pedestrian roads and these interventions are designed for different station changes in Tartu.

Transformation and Implementation

To transform Tartu into Symbiotic Tartu, we provide each zone with a footstep, monitored by administration. Locals earn points for ecofriendly services, redeemable for benefits like farmers market space or farming school priority. 3 Phases include community-engaged growth, riverbank naturalization, and by third phase, creating wildlife sanctuaries and integrating gardening into children's education will be achieved.



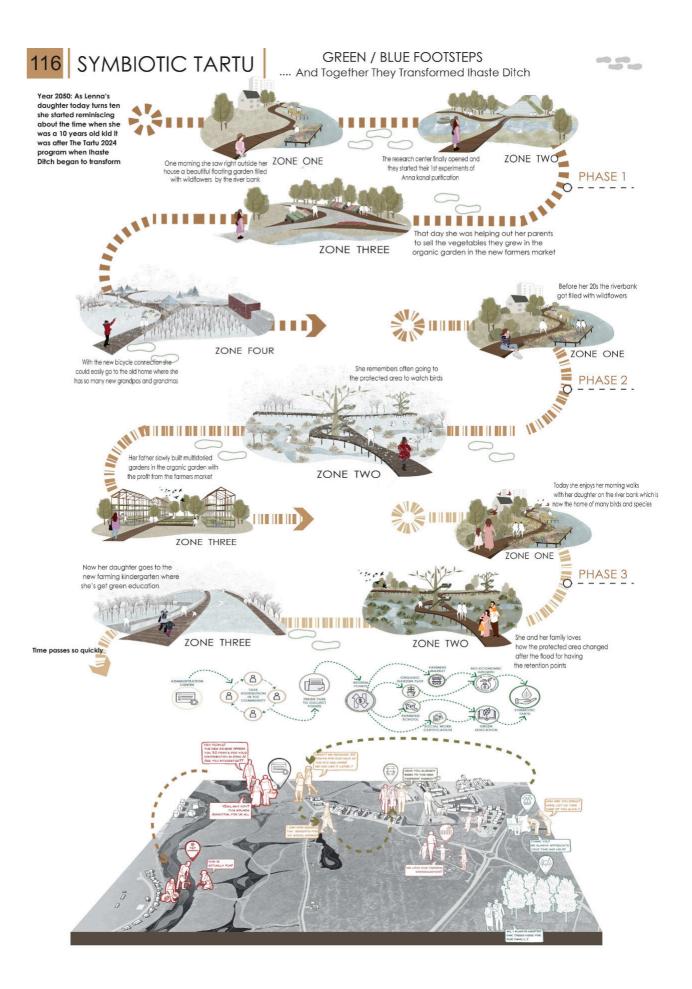
## SYMBIOTIC TARTU GREEN / BLUE FOOTSTEPS | Ihaste Ditch : Let's Take The First Steps Toghether











# Co-Diary

# Xianjie Pan, Chenyue Meng, Bei Chen, Xinyu Wang, Changhong Sun, Menglin Huang, Hanqing Zhao, Zihang Zhour

**Huazhong Agricultural University** 

Co-Diary. Landscape as a solution to active urban vitality.

Emajõgi flows through different parts of Tartu, where rivers, people, and cities together create diverse landscapes. Nowadays, Tartu is facing the challenges of urban expansion and climate change, as well as the increasing demand for public space. Tartu is currently characterized by flowing rivers, convenient transportation, and a large area of natural open areas.

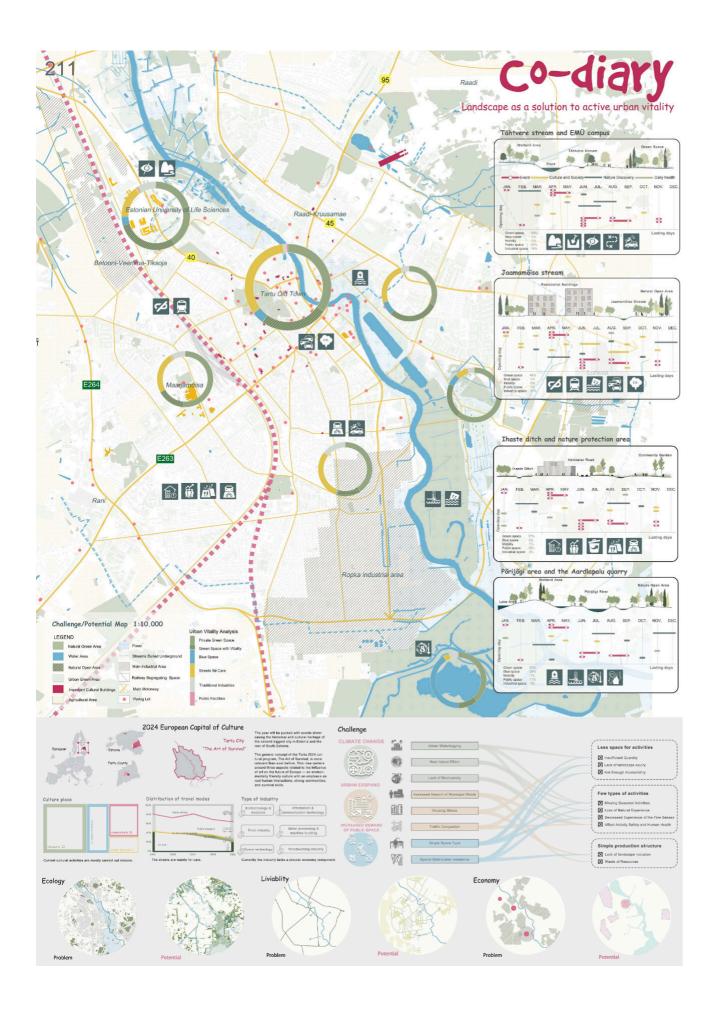
The concept of Co-Diary is to make Tartu a vibrant, blue-green city with shared prosperity, with universities, communities, and enterprises working together to shape the future of urban development. Existing green Spaces are connected to new ones, forming a resilient network with rivers that brings surrounding natural resources into the city. Healthy green infrastructure ensures the food security and mental health of citizens. Sensory blue infrastructure brings water features into the city and urban stormwater management ensures the safety of diverse activities. Streets are pedestrian-friendly and bike-friendly. Inclusive activities take place in the vitality urban area and are further linked to the surrounding unique natural areas. Renewable energy is being used to support the city.

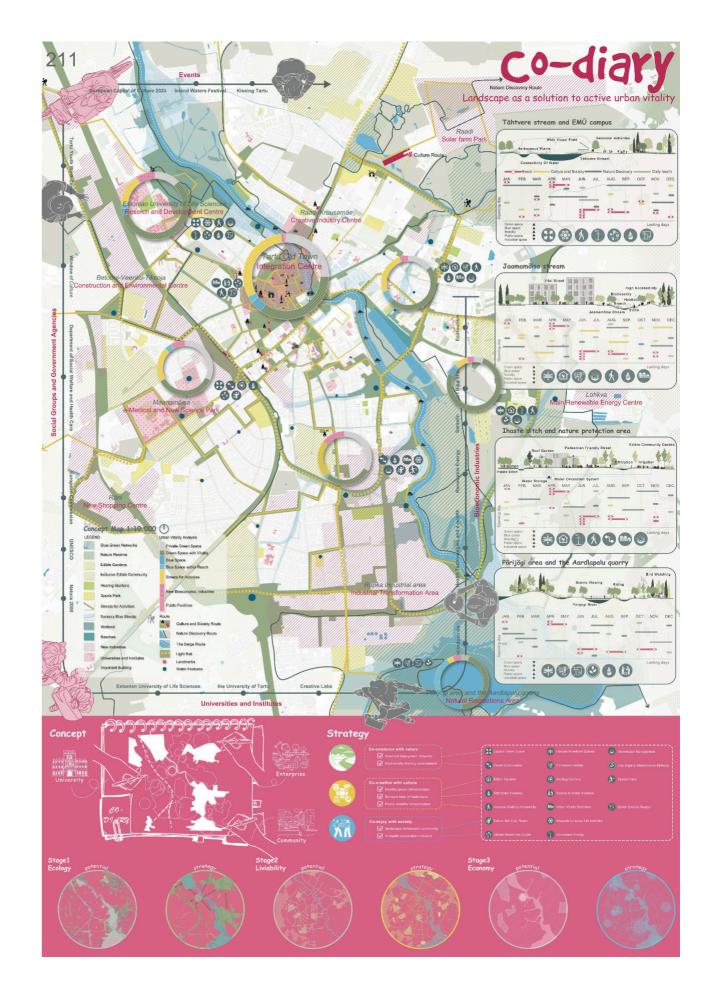
# HONORABLE MENTION

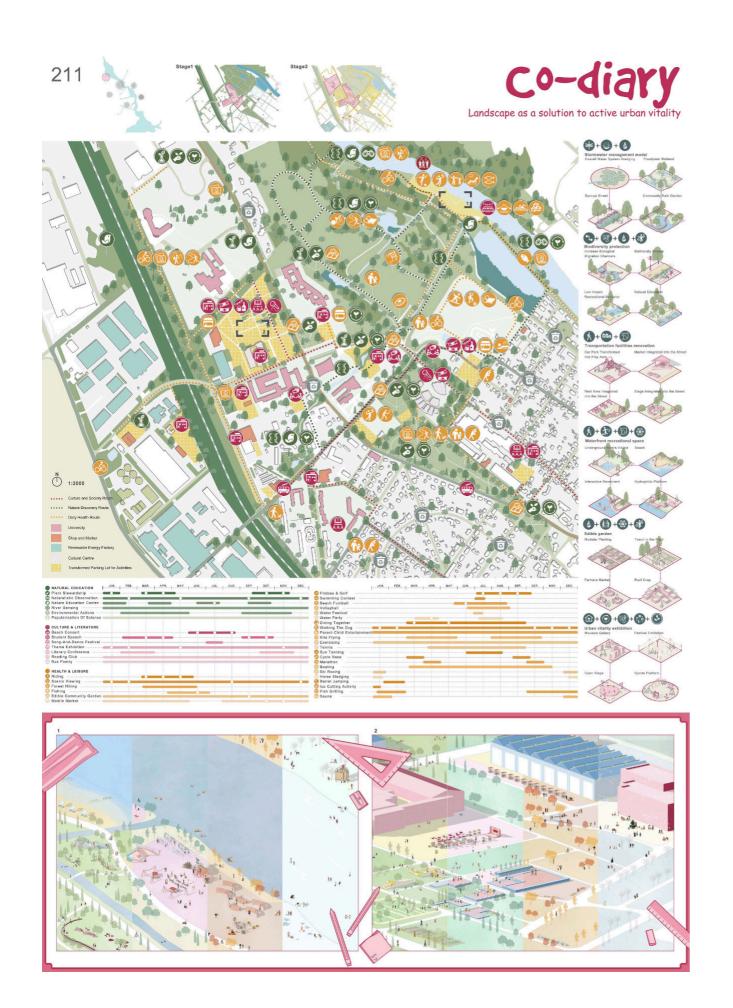
In a detailed focus area, the Estonian University of Life Sciences becomes the Research and Development Centre which is assembled as a demonstration area for the future bioeconomy. It brings together a mixed-use industrial clusterwith a sustainable food industry at its core. Citizens, students, and tourists can

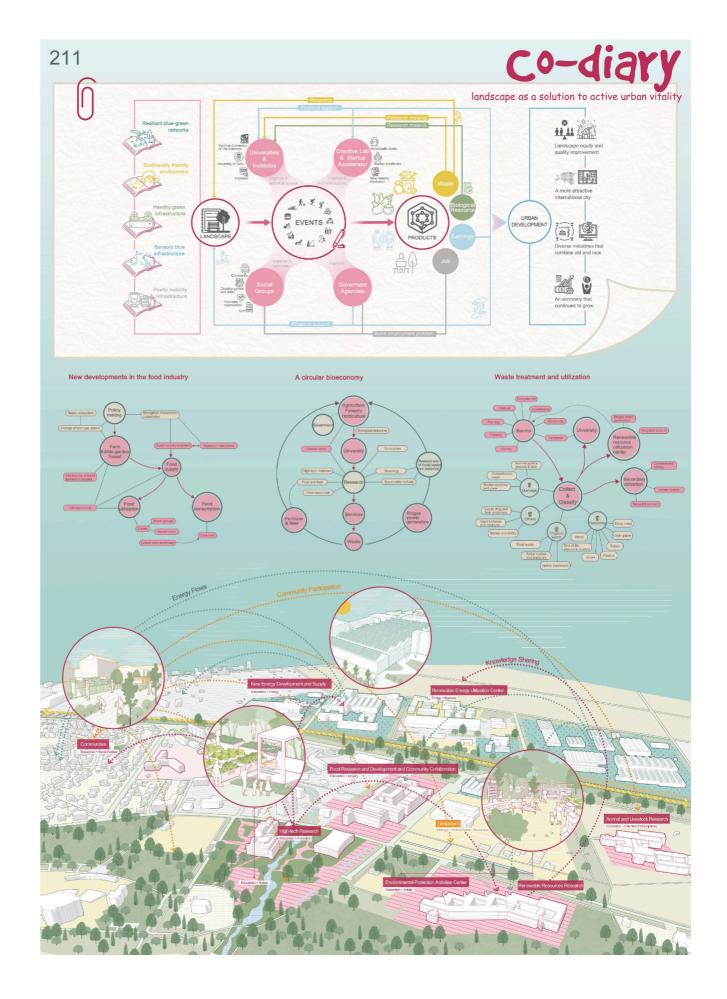
enjoy activities during the four seasons.

New activities are built through green, blue, and streets, interweaving new possibilities for living, working, and touring in the city. Tartu becomes a co-diary for all citizens.









## The Tartu Hive

# Sean Moyano, Chiara Moretti, Harrison Wade

Sapienza University Rome

The city of Tartu has a multitude of great resources to utilize in terms of creating a more unified and connected cityscape through multiple means including economic, social, ecological, and environmental. To accomplish these goals, we created in depth analyses looking at the existing blue green network, environmental risks, urban sprawl trends, the industrial coverage and existing cultural heritage sites, and referred to a SWOT analysis to aid in the process of creating a future forecast of the city based on current trends and what was deemed necessary to change for future growth. A series of circular economy models were created that identify the current issues and how they are all related to each other and with a series of thoughtful interventions the quality of life of residents and the overall city landscape could see drastic positive changes while progressing towards the future.

Suburbanization has been deemed the main culprit for many of the issues that Tartu is currently facing. Residents have moved farther from the city, leading to major land consumption that impacts biodiversity and agricultural land, greater needs for residents to purchase vehicles, and rising costs of agricultural products, amongst other issues. By identifying the areas where urban sprawl has taken place, we can focus on discouraging this practice going forward by creating co-living housing for residents and university students. In this way, it could be possible to lower the dependence of personal vehicles and promote the use of public transportation along with encouraging foot traffic and non-motorized means of mobility.

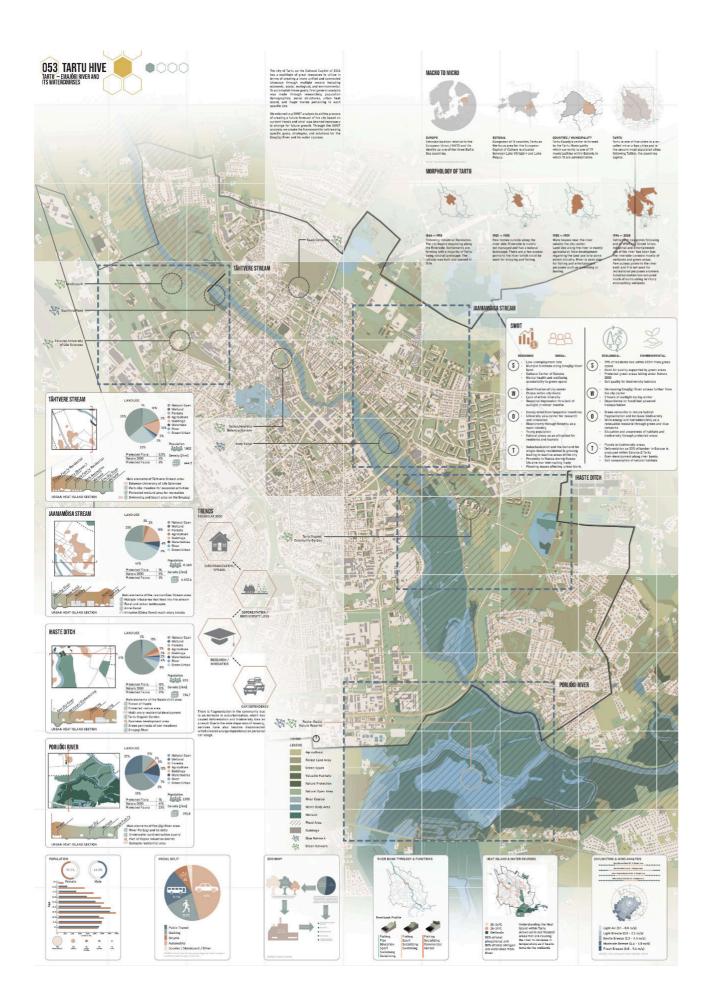
# FINALIST

Sensitive land areas should be protected by lowering carbon emissions, enhancing elements of biodiversity by creating ecological corridors that attract pollinators and identifying major environmental risks. It was deemed a priority to focus on filtering out impurities in water runoff through purification systems to keep all waterways and biodiversity areas healthy.

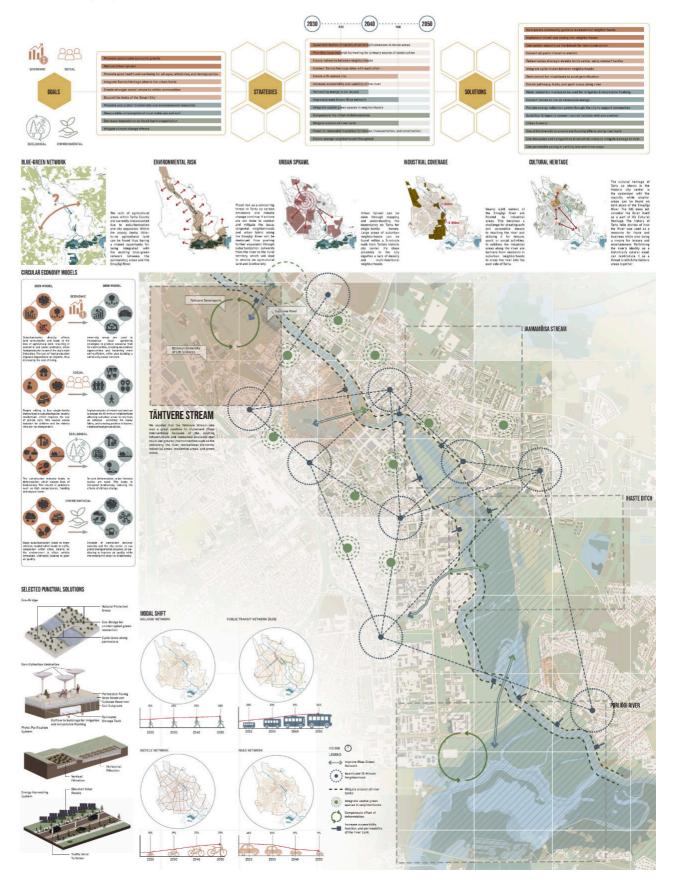
Moreover, industrial areas located in Tartu are a major contributor to carbon emissions and there are proposed methods to promote these industries in an eco-friendlier way, for example the lumber industry will have more strict regulations of forest management that also encourages the use of local wood formed into cross laminated timber, extending its lifespan and structural capabilities for new construction.

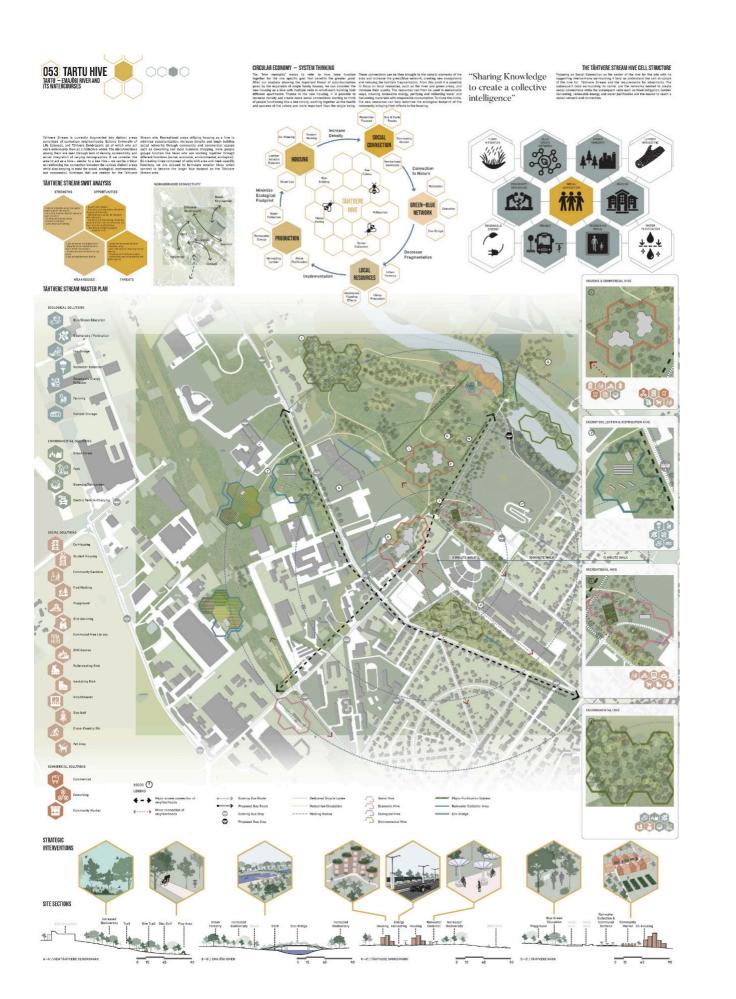
Last, there is a need to empower locals with access to a variety of resources that encourage interaction with each other and the environment including green spaces, parks, small businesses, community gardens, etc. that promotes the art of survival and working as one. We want to use every resource at our disposal including collecting rainwater for non-potable uses, and harvesting wind energy along roadways that can power outdoor lights by using wind from passing vehicles. We believe that by implementing these elements in Tartu, the city will work as a hive, able to repair itself and create a more self-sufficient community by reconnecting the fragments and utilizing all its resources in a thoughtful way. The hive will function properly only when all its components (social, economic, ecological and environmental) work together for the common goal of improving the quality of life of its inhabitants, creating a stronger sense of community and improving environmental qualities.

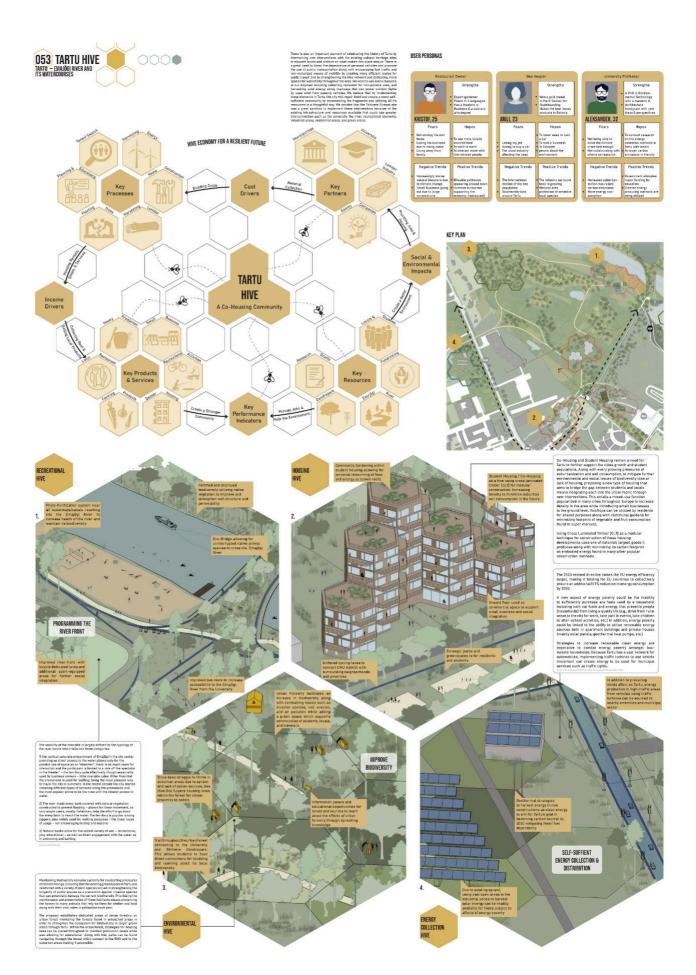
We decided that the Tähtvere Stream site was a great sandbox to implement these interventions because of the existing infrastructure and resources available that could use greater interconnection such as the university, the river, recreational elements, industrial areas, residential areas, and green areas. Moreover, this area is currently facing some of the major threats that were deeply analyzed, such as the suburbanization given by the future expansion of the nearby residential area, the fragmentation of services, the possible loss of biodiversity and the industries nearby. The Tartu Hive aims to create a strong, interconnected, and more selfsufficient community, that can be exemplified by future communities.











# Tartu Technology of Nature

# Alicja Reglinska, Antoni Hope, Natalia Wolska, Kamila Wysocka, Justyna Wasilewska

Gdańsk University of Technology

Welcome to the Tartu Eco-Educational Hub, where nature, innovation, and education meet along the spectacular Emajogi River. Project based on:

Education and Research: Come on a journey of discovery as we explore the areas of permaculture and aquaculture. Our hub specializes in expertise and promoting the development of new academic areas in biotechnology and innovative agriculture.

Recreation: Dive into the wonders of the waterfront by transforming the Emajogi River into a paradise for water and sports enthusiasts. From cycling and fishing to rowing and kayaking, our project inspires riverfront tourism.

Technology: Ambitions are high, setting our sights on creating a zeroemission district or, even better, a positive energy district. Enter the future with us, integrating cutting-edge technologies to confront urban heat islands.

Nature: Embedded in the sponge city concept, our project exemplifies the fusion between urban life and nature. We are addressing the challenge of climate change by using blue-green infrastructure in new green spaces.

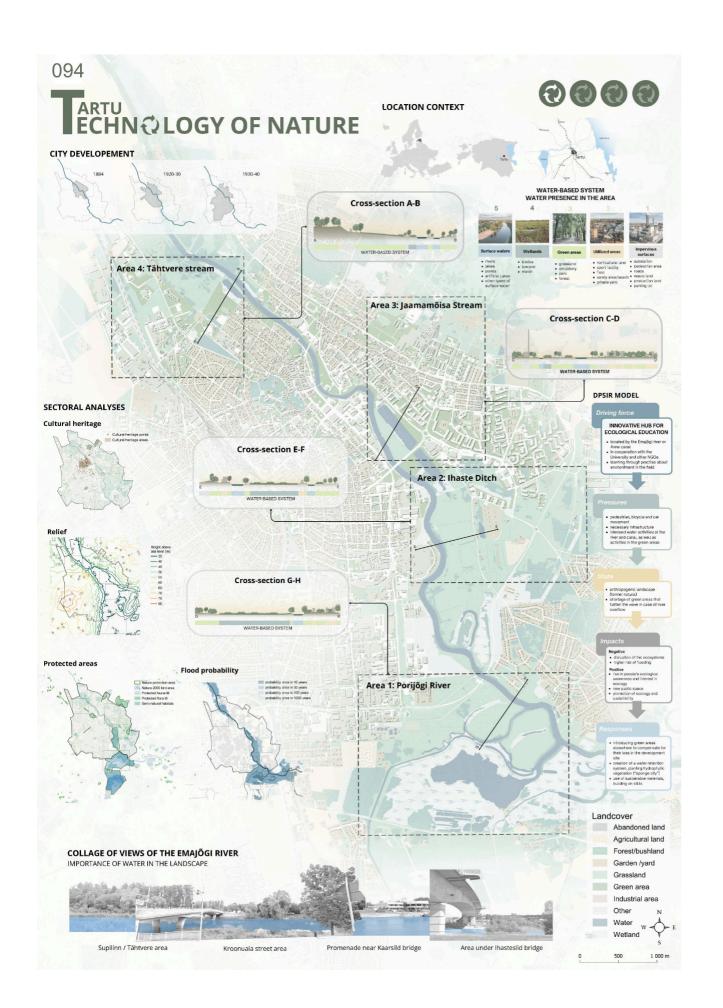
Agriculture: Come to see the secrets of permaculture and the experimental swamp cultivation. These fields are unique - they are breathing laboratories where sustainable processes bloom.

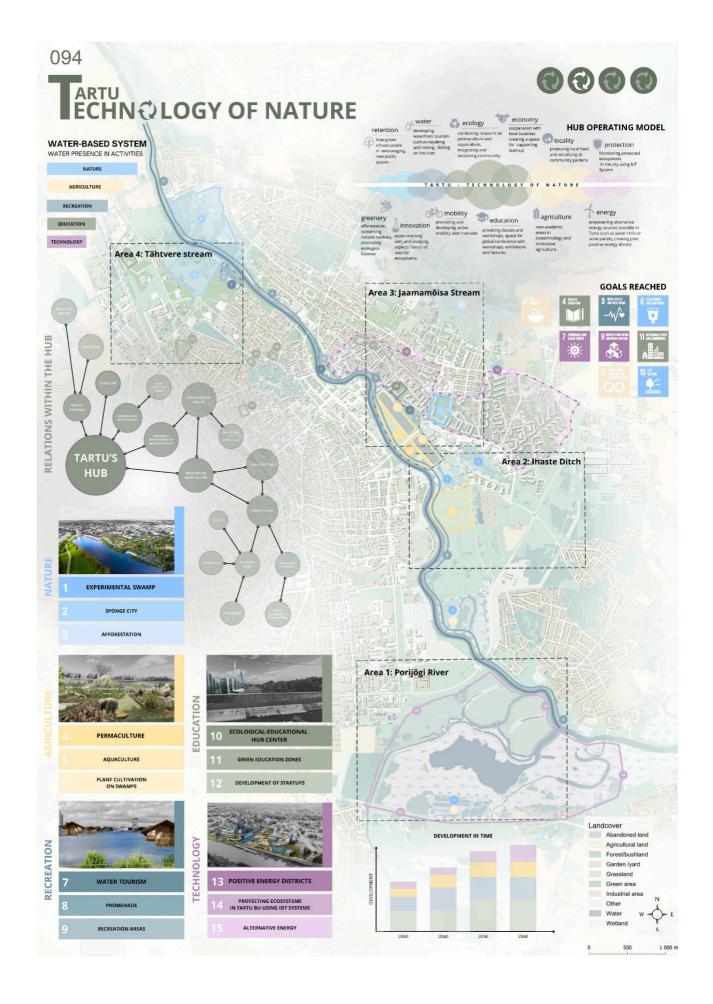
# FINALIST

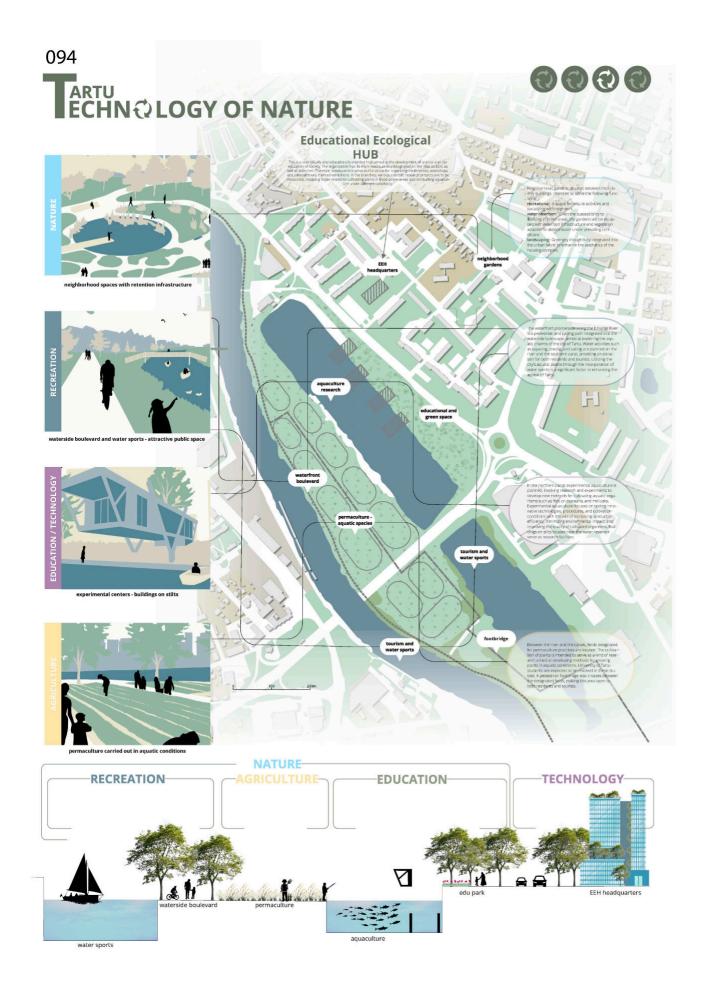
Model: Tartu Eco-Educational Hub is a joint effort of universities, Tartu City Council, Tartu Region, Estonian Government, European Union, environmental NGOs, secondary schools, local companies and Karula National Park Authority. Together we want to create a solid network for a sustainable future.

In our pursuit of sustainability, key processes guide our steps: management of EU funds, research, education, and reliable support for retention and recruitment. Our center rests on the pillars of knowledge, technology, partnerships, location, and funds, laying the foundation for sustainable initiatives and educational endeavors.

The offerings include courses, community gardens, locally produced food, coworking spaces, conferences, workshops, with attractive financial benefits - for tourists, students, and researchers/entrepreneurs. Join us on this one-of-a-kind journey, where the rhythm of the river tunes in with the beat of education, agriculture, recreation, technology and nature. The Tartu Eco-Education Hub is not just a project; it is a symphony of cooperations, processes, resources, values, products and services.









## A More Inclusive Future

# Guan Ruofei, Lyu Xinyi, Zhu Jiaojiao, Cao Fangxin, Zhang Hao, Lai Meihui, Gong Yuqu, Ma Yuewen

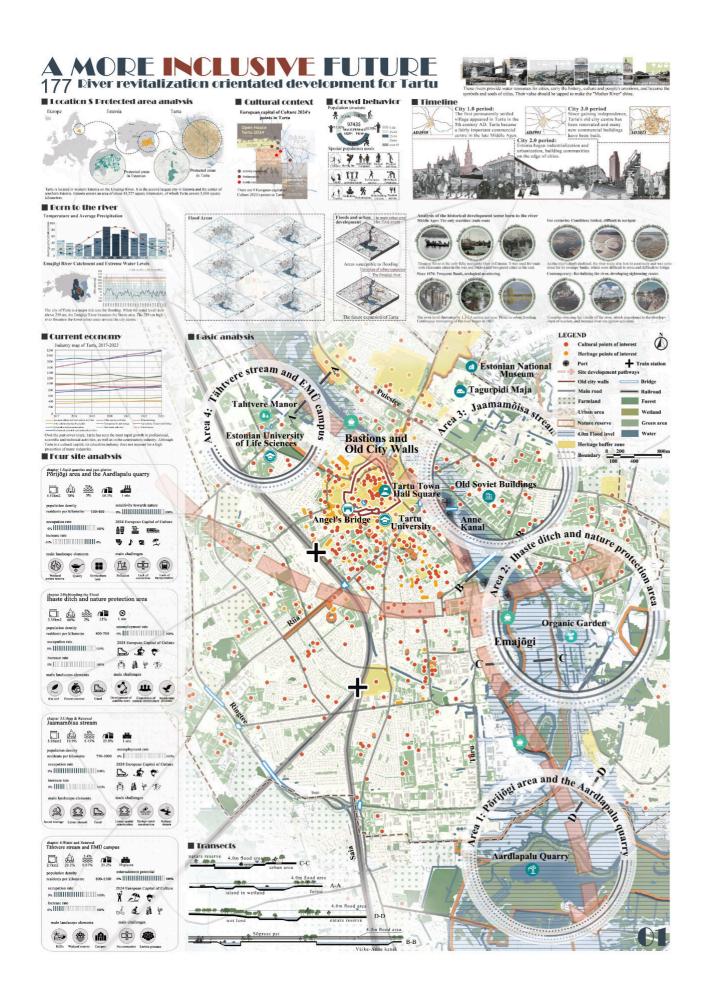
**Huazhong Agricultural University** 

Facing with multiple pressures from the environment, economy, as well as unresting political conflicts, we are attempting to fully revitalize Tartu through a coupled revitalization of ecological and public space with the river as the backbone to create a more inclusive future.

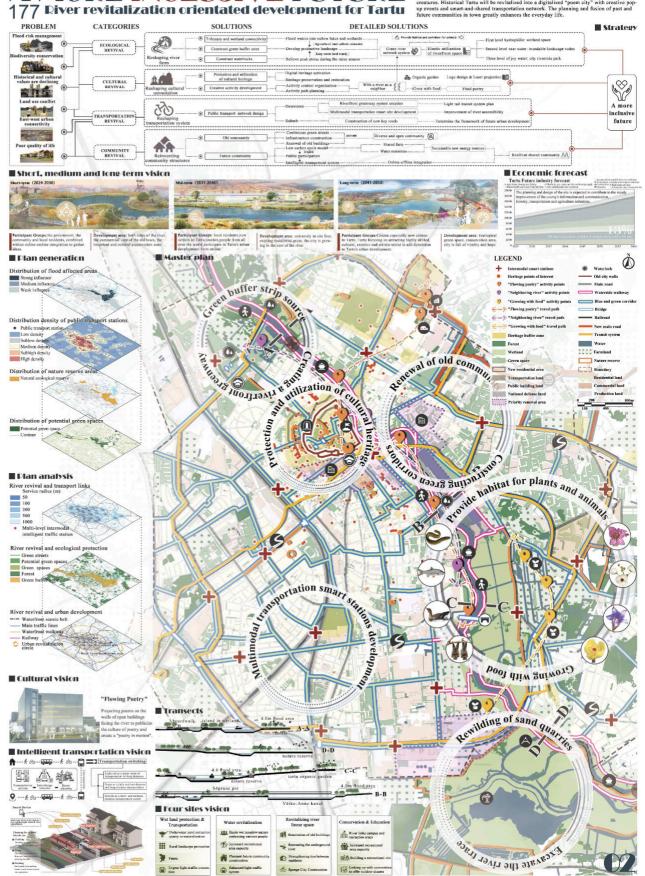
The program is based on Tartu's history and culture, taking into account climate change, population inflation, biodiversity conservation, as well as the planning and implementation of a zero-carbon economic and social transition. It will adopt online-offline integration of shared-economy, shared-transportation and other modes to activate creative industry and ecological economy, leading to the construction and renewal of zero-carbon communities.

Targeted to construct "the Cultural Capital of Europe", bringing along the revitalization of public life, including poetry, music, dance, water activities, nature education, urban agriculture, etc., the program is designed to create a multi-verse human-nature community, and ultimately to create a new model of more harmonious an sustainable urban development.

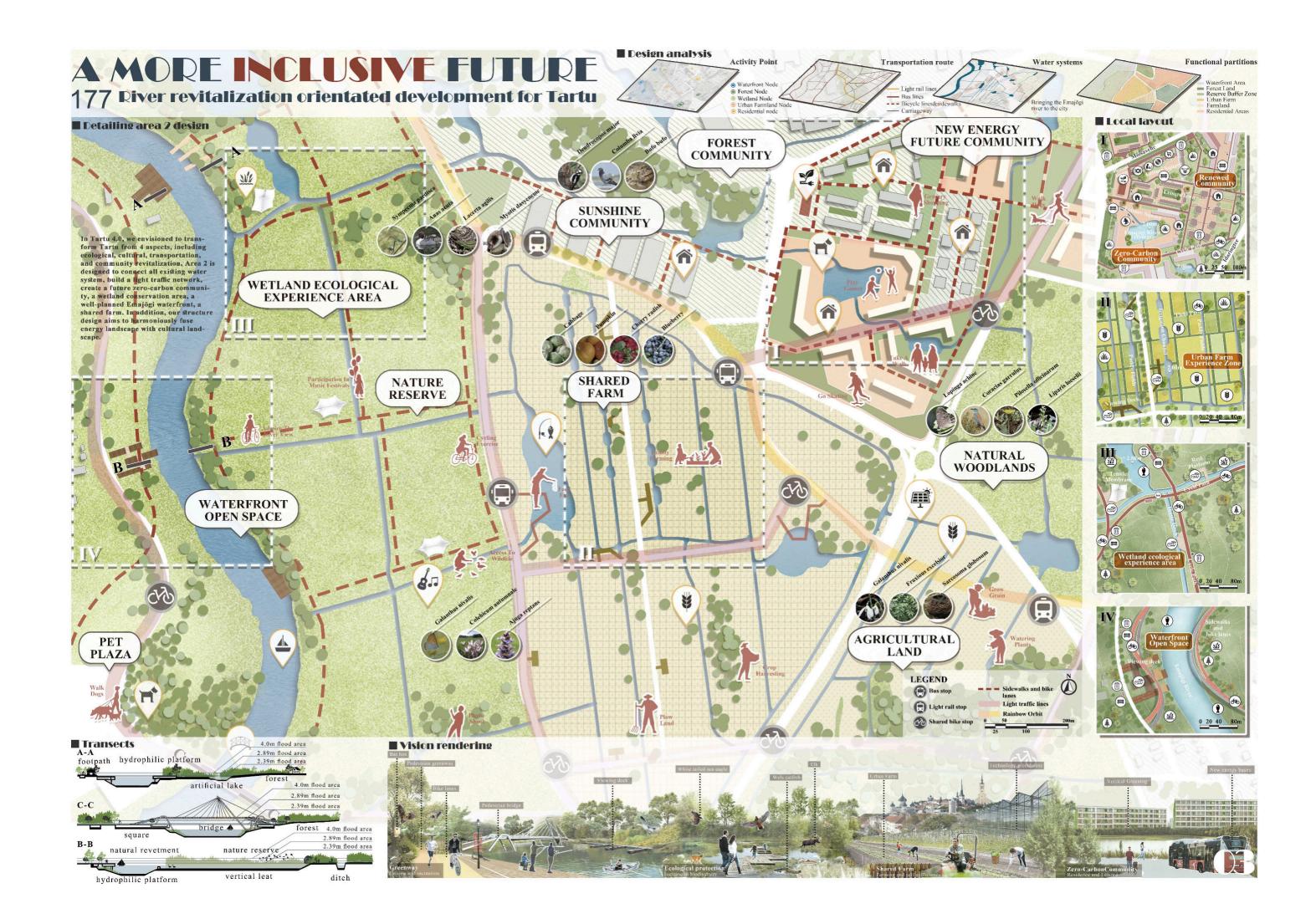
# FINALIST



## A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE In Vision 4.0, Tartu will be transformed into a vivid and inclusive city through the revival of Emajogi river. The future Tartu connects waterways and wetlands to form a comprehensive green river network, which enhances anti-flood capacity and provide excellent habitats for all creatures. Historical Tarta will be revitalized into a digitalized proon city; with creative popularies.



Enhance avrien



# There will be three developmental phases for the future Tartu. The es our efforts to connect nature with broader social, cultural and cerebrated development for Tartu There will be three developmental phases for the future Tartu. The es our efforts to connect nature with broader social, cultural and cerebrated the will address the pressing challenges of the human-river-city are also dedicated to use landscape to provide a complementary and too to fationia understandard confidence of the future Tartu. The estimated will address to estimate with the valid address to estimate the valid will address the pressing challenges of the human-river-city are also dedicated to use landscape to provide a complementary and too to fation at the valid will address to the future Tartu. The estimated will be considered to use landscape to provide a complementary and too the valid will address to the valid will address the valid will address to the valid will address the valid will address to the valid will ad ■ Croan de elepment time series planning map ■ Future vision analysis Integration for human-nature relat After 2050



# **International Student Competition Exhibition**

Exploring Tartu Emajõgi and its watercourses

This preview shows the 8 finalists and winning project of the Tartu Student Competition.

We received 38 submissions from 10 different countries in total.

All projects have been intensively evaluated by an international jury of eight experts.

We will soon present all submissions online.

See you at the Landscape Forum Tartu and South Estonia: June 24 - 28, 2024 https://forum.ln-institute.org/















