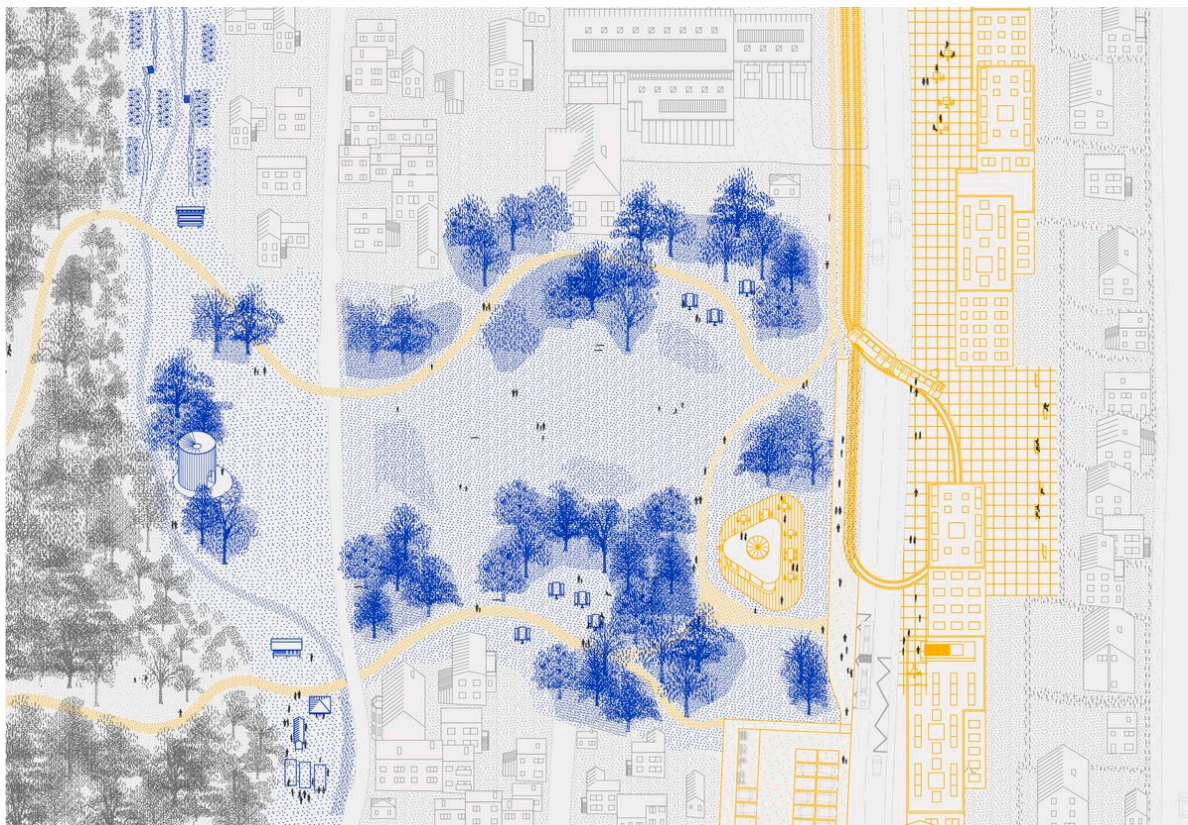


Šumaska Resa

Zvezdara Forest Park: Inventing Public Forest Fringe

Eric Bonhôte and Fabrizio Gramegna



Zvezdara Hill is a park forest of Belgrade. The astronomic observatory of Belgrade, the Zvezdara, gave the hilltop and surrounding municipality its name. The now forested landscape has undergone several transformations throughout history. In the 19th century, the foothills east of the town's centre were not yet integrated but were used by the city dwellers as a weekend resort or picnic area. After World War I, the hill was covered with meadows, vineyards and brickyards and the first farmers' settlements developed around it. In the early 1930s, the modernist observatory was built on top of the hill. Most of the area was forested to protect the scientific complex from encroaching development, tucking the astronomers away behind quiet trees. Forestation of the hilltop went on until the late 50s, when it reached the dimensions of a fully-fledged forest. The observatory is nowadays deemed unsuitable for scientific work due to the light pollution of the surrounding city fabric and was moved to the more modern observatory on Mount Vidojevica in southern Serbia. In 1972 Zvezdara Hill was officially classified as a park forest and protected as a natural monument.



In recent years, the hilltop has also become somewhat of a science park, attracting many research and development facilities. The newly finished Science and Technology Park, the Mihailo Pupin Institute for Robotics, a hospital, children's centres, and several schools and sports centres inhabit its immediate surrounding. Despite its protection, Zvezdara's integrity as park and important public landscape is constantly contested: many illegal settlements creeping up the slopes have intruded into the forest's fringe. The city government planned to give way to this urban pressure by converting some wooded areas into developable land in 2009. Due to heavy protests among the population, these plans were dropped. Earlier plans to extend parts of the forest towards the north and south to establish continuous green corridors were also never realised.

As the land of negotiation, torn between the private interest of the fast-developing neighbourhood and infrastructural and recreational importance, the forest has been cut down and replanted several times.

ARCHITECTURE OF TERRITORY
Metropolitan Projects

Project by
Eric Borbely
and Fabrice Grangier

3 ŠUMASKA RESA ZVEZDARA FOREST PARK

Inventing Public Forest Fringe

BELGRADE UNBUILT (1/2)
Spring 2018

1789 1800 1805 1850 1910

From Agriculture Fields to Forest Hill

Fig. 402 shows the development around the hill and shows different functions in the 19th century. The hill slopes were used for vine cultivation, around the base of the 19th century the hill became a military observation point where the Austrians placed the "Ludsker" trench on its top.

Zvezdara Hill
Named to Observe the Stars

In 1833 the astronomical Observatory of Fegudak was built on top of the hill, just outside the city centre. The name location ensured the disturbance-free observation of stars away from the street light and air pollution. "Zvezdara" literally means: "to observe the stars."

Zvezdara New Reading
Six Galvases of the Sun

Since the Ottoman empire, Zvezdara's curve slopes and sites served as a public area for the city dwellers. Last Gardens, vineyards and rustic restaurants were scattered within the hills. The current observatory is a rather recent.

1. Modern Single-Family House
2. Modern Single-Family House
3. Modern Single-Family House
4. Modern Single-Family House
5. Modern Single-Family House
6. Modern Single-Family House

Shrinking Forest as
Floorholder for Urban Development

In the absence of lacking planning, the low single estates and forms expanded through the entire village. The forest's continuous loss has led to the loss of public status, and public forest land falls into regular land speculation. The notion of the forest as a greenholder regulator for development in areas is more present than ever.

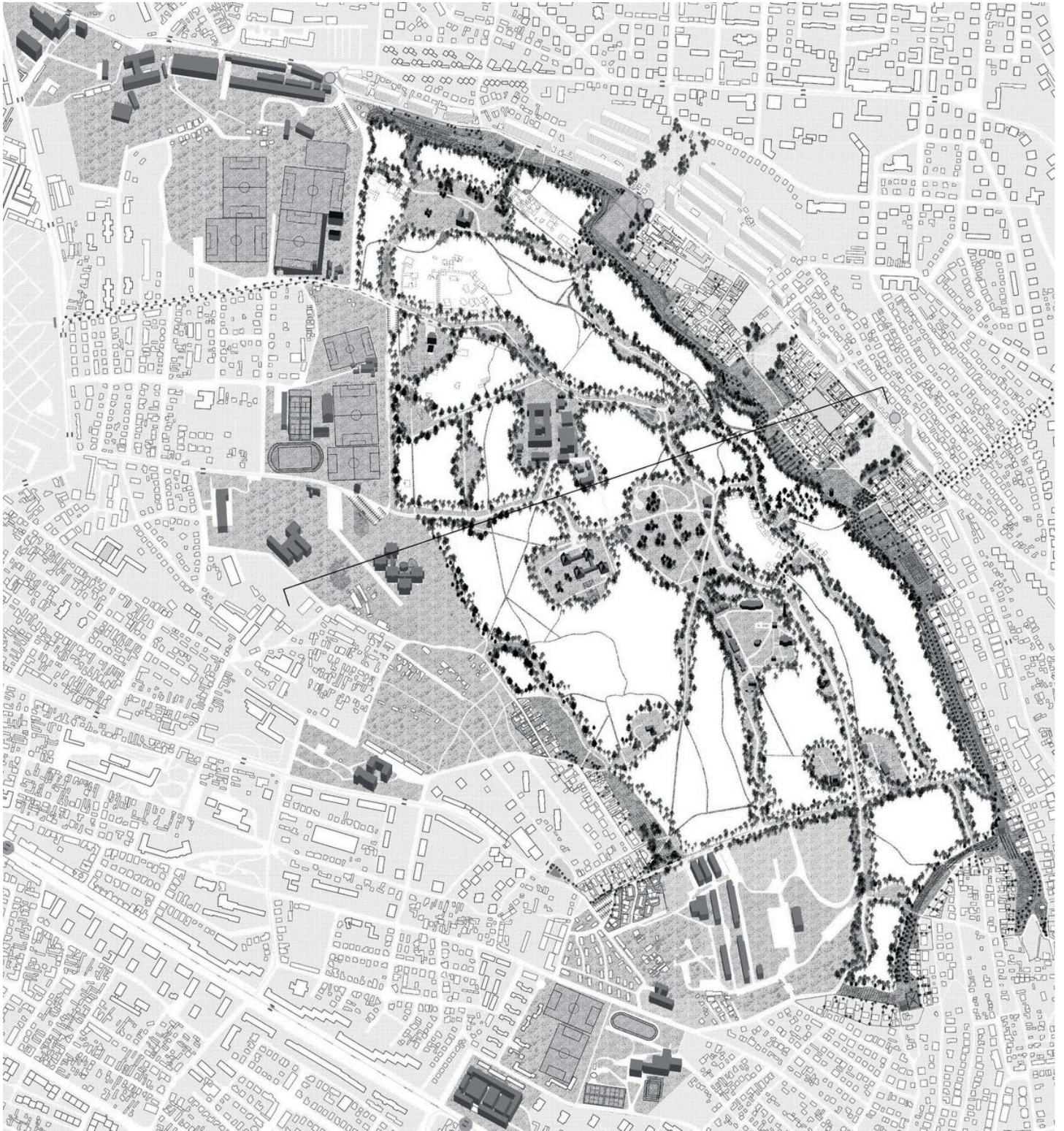
Zvezdara Forested Hill

During the 1940s, the still relatively unpopulated Zvezdara hill underwent massive construction in the form of mass housing complexes of brick, oak, and in sections, steel-plated. Today, Zvezdara hill is called "the hill lung of Belgrade" due to its forest.

The forest area in the Zvezdara Basin, Zvezdara hill, is a greenholder regulator for development in areas. It is a greenholder regulator for development in areas. It is a greenholder regulator for development in areas.

The project Zvezdara Forest Park: Inventing Public Forest Fringe explores how in today's context of urban pressure, the built and the unbuilt can be thought of in a fruitful system. The former fragmented forest edge secures and stabilises the forest as a public park and guides future development. The proposal works with three integrated elements to secure the encroached forest as Forest Park. Firstly, improved park accessibility by extending the tramway line and new wood paths. Secondly, distinct Forest Core and Forest Fringe zones protect woods and host community and neighbourhood functions. Finally, a strict ban and long-term relocation of private buildings inside the Core Forest.

The project understands the Forest Resa as an advancement of today's "spatial repertoire" in public forest parks, withstanding wood clearings and development forces.

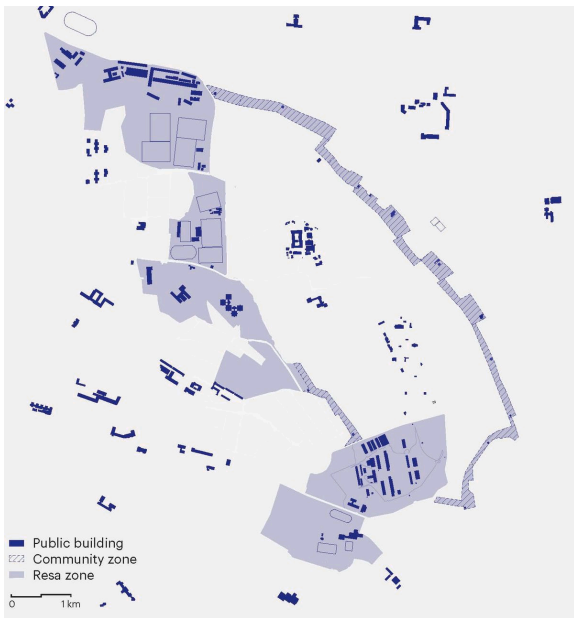




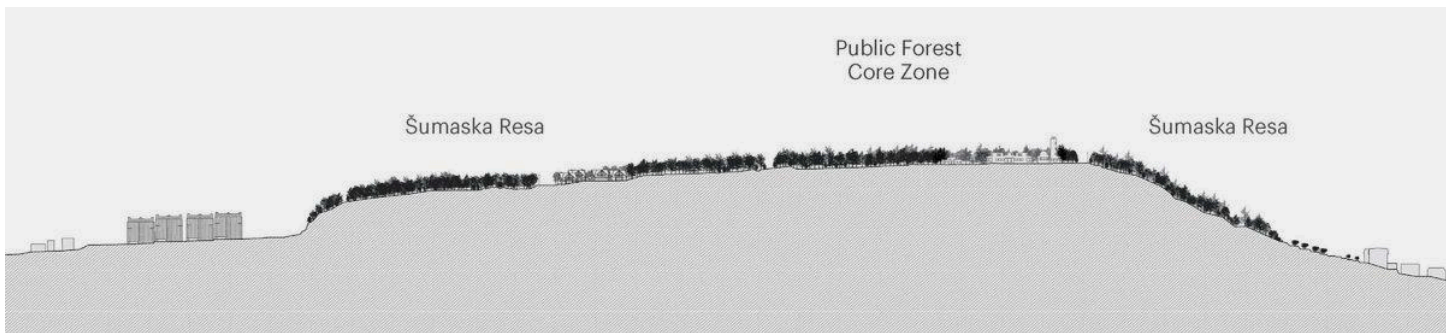
The Park Accessibility



The Core Forest



The Resa Community



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank especially Andreja Tutundžić and Dragana Ćorović from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Forestry, for sharing their knowledge so generously. Thank you to Danica Vicanović and Sandra Draganić, the SUSA community of Zvezdara, Mira Tomić and Dragan Tomić, Iva Čukić, Davor Ereš, and Dubravka Sekulić for the support in this project.

SOURCES

- Annemarie Bucher, Gurli Jensen, Klaus Merz. *Pamphlet: Der Stadtpark.* ETH Institute for Landscape Architecture, Prof. Girot.
- "Belgrade Urban Master Plans. Javno urbanistiko preduze Urbanistiki zavod Beograda Urbani lik modernog Beograda." Accessed May 2018. <http://urbel.com/beograd-kroz-planove>
- "Berlin Park am Gleisdreieck." Accessed May 2018. <http://www.publicspace.org/en/works/g047-park-am-gleisdreieck>
- "Central Park." Accessed May 2018. <http://www.nyc-architecture.com/CP/CP.htm>
- "Entwurf für Hamburger Stadtpark." Accessed May 2018. <http://www.mein-altes.hamburg/bekannte-bauwerke-des-hamburger-stadtbildes/der-entwurf-zur-anlage-eines-stadtparks/>
- "High Line de New York." Accessed May 2018. <http://www.bons-plans-voyage-new-york.com/tous-les-bons-plans/bons-plans-photos/highline-new-york>
- "Historischer Plan Schloss Schönbrunn 1780. Die Welt der Habsburger." Accessed May 2018. <http://www.habsburger.net/de/medien/historischer-plan-der-gesamtanlage-von-schloss-schonbrunn-von-franz-boos-1780>
- "Hyde Park." *Wikimedia.* Accessed May 2018. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:AmCyc_Park_Map_of_Hyde_Park_and_Kensington_Gardens.jpg
- "Parc des Buttes Chaumont." Accessed May 2018. http://www.remling.net/recitation/images/Cities/buttes-chaumont_park_paris.jpg
- "Plan of Belgrade, 1881." Accessed April 2022. <http://sammlung.wienmuseum.at/en/object/154371-plan-von-belgrad-und-den-umliegenden-gegenen-wien-bei-sebastian-hartl-buchh-und-buchb-in-der-singerstrasse/>
- "Plan Tiergarten Berlin 1765." Accessed May 2018. http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Plan_Tiergarten_Berlin,_1765.jpg
- "Prospect der Stadt Belgrade von der Nord Seite, 1788." Accessed April 2022. <http://kaldrma.rs/najvisa-tacka-beograda-nekad-je-bila-golo-brdo/>
- "Siege of Belgrade, 1789." Accessed April 2022. <http://sammlung.wienmuseum.at/en/object/154371-plan-von-belgrad-und-den-umliegenden-gegenen-wien-bei-sebastian-hartl-buchh-und-buchb-in-der-singerstrasse/>
- "Zvezdara Astrological Observatory." Accessed May 2018. <http://www.balcanicaucaso.org/bhs/layout/set/print/Media/Galerie/Brezuljak-pod-zvezdama-Slike/>

This work by Eric Bonhôte and Fabrizio Gramegna was created as part of the design studio Beograd Unbuilt (1/2) at ETH Zurich in Spring 2018. The PDF is intended for educational purposes only. Its commercial distribution is strictly forbidden.

© 2025, Architecture of Territory

Architecture of Territory
Professor Milica Topalović

TEACHING TEAM

Thais De Roquemaurel

Hans Hortig

Karoline Kostka

Metaxia Markaki

Ferdinand Rabe von Pappenheim

Milica Topalović

Adrienne Wilson

Prof. Milica Topalović

ETH Zurich

ONA G41

Neunbrunnenstrasse 50

8093 Zurich

Switzerland

+41 (0)44 633 86 88

www.topalovic.arch.ethz.ch