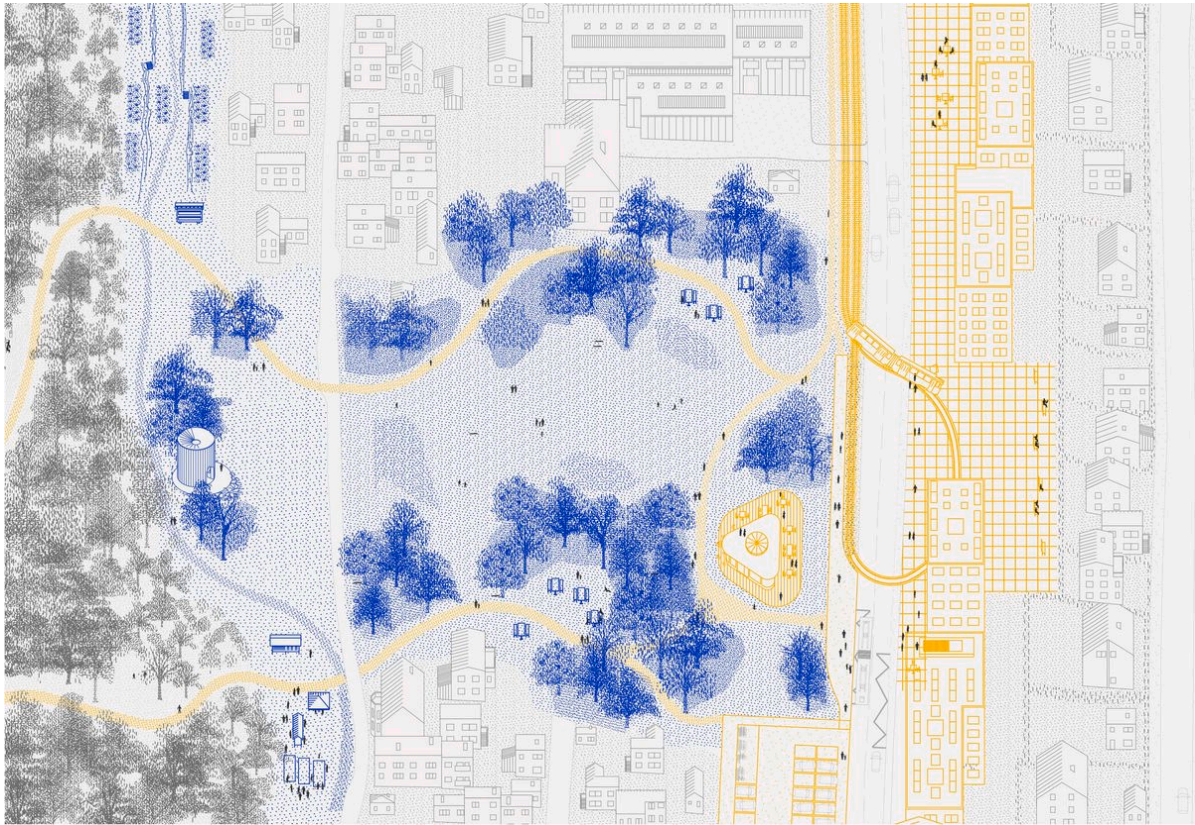


Šumaska Resa

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
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3 ŠUMASKA RESA ZVEZDARA FOREST PARK

Inverting 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-18th century, the hill slopes were used for vine cultivation, around the base of the 19th century the hill became a military observation point when the Austrians placed the "Ludsker" trench on its top.

Zvezdara Hill
Named to Observe the Stars

In 1833 the astronomical Observatory of Feguhovski was built on top of the hill, just outside the city centre. The name location secured 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 Galaxies 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 greenhouse regulator for development's area is more present than ever.

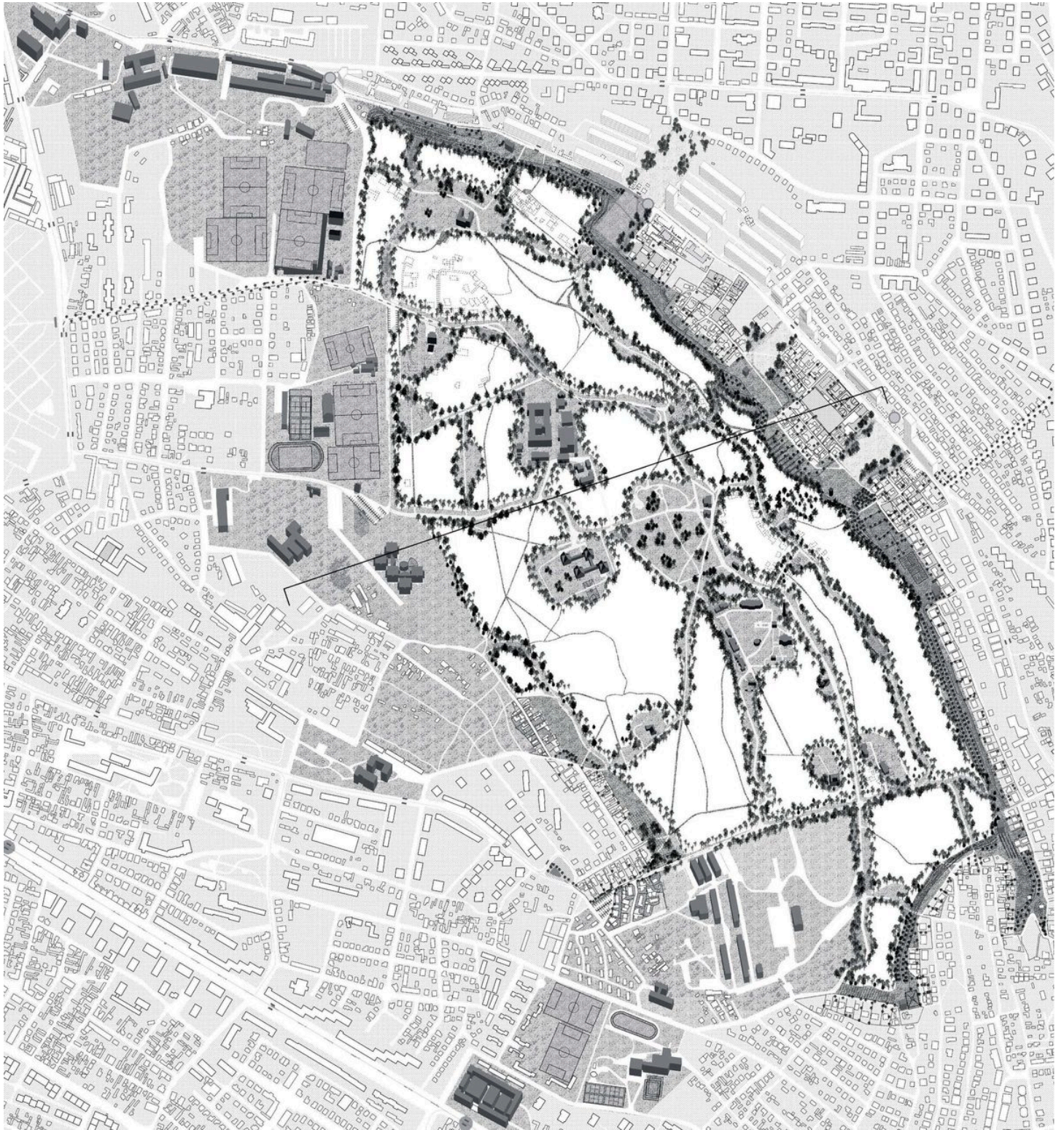
Zvezdara Forested Hill

During the 1940s, the still-relatively unpopulated Zvezdara hill underwent massive construction. In the 1950s of mass housing construction of brick use, and in 1960s, was planned. Today, Zvezdara hill is called "the hill lung of Belgrade" due to its forest.

Zvezdara Forested Hill

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.





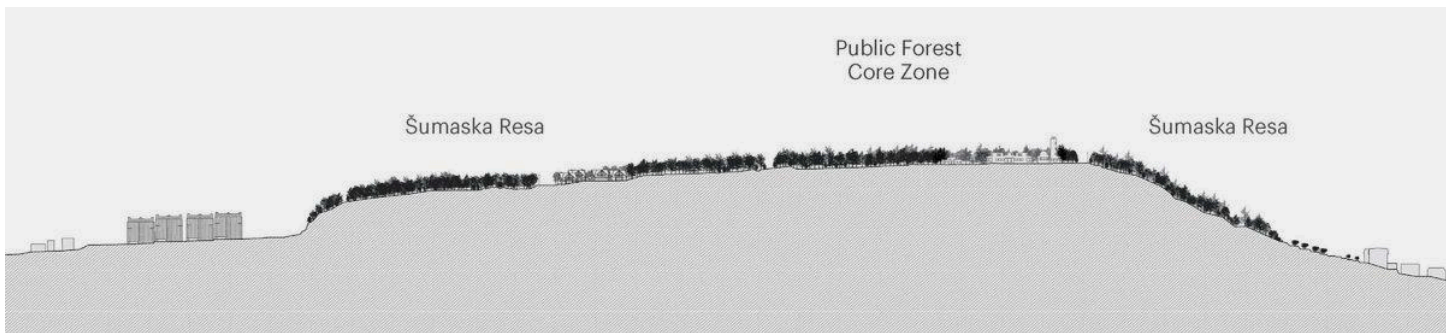
The Park Accessibility



The Core Forest



The Resa Community



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