

# SOCIAL ASPECTS IN THE URBAN REGENERATION MODELS OF BUDAPEST

research site: Budapest - Józsefváros

Melinda Mária Borsos

DLA dissertation -  
abstract and thesis statements

Budapest University of Technology  
and Economics, Faculty of Architecture  
Doctoral School of Architecture



In memory of my Mother and Brother.

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Supervisor: Levente Szabó DLA

NAGYFUVAROS-U.  
28

OSZTÁK  
NEMETK  
RAKRISSZT  
OSZVES  
MEHES  
APP



# STRUCTURE OF DLA DISSERTATION

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VIII kerület, József kör  
Nagy Fuváros utca  
18 — 28

ÜVEGES  
KÖZLEKEDÉSI JELEK  
MAGYARORSZÁG

# ABSTRACT





# ABSTRACT

## SOCIAL ASPECTS IN THE URBAN REGENERATION MODELS OF BUDAPEST

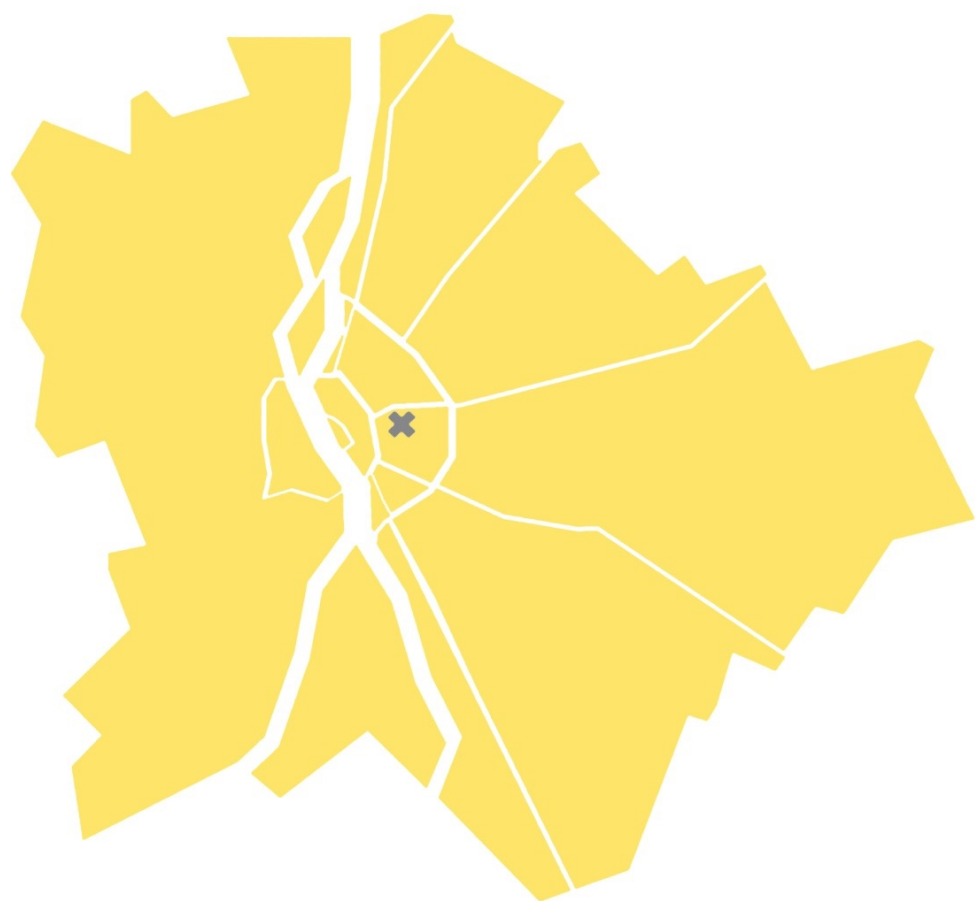
The starting point of my research is connected to a practical architectural experience that leads to a special environment linked to the socially sensitive regeneration of the Magdolna quarter in Budapest, one of the most disadvantaged quarters in the capital city with the largest Roma ethnic minority. I came up with the initial opinions and statements based on the connection made with local communities, which provided the basis of this current dissertation. After the practical engagement, I wanted to understand more about the fate of the city district, the process of changing the architectural role, the situation of the disadvantaged social groups, their motivations, their connections, and then to form an objective opinion and criticism for the regeneration directions and our own actions.

The subject of my doctoral research focused on the interaction between city and society, including the relationship between the city and the architect in a modern, disadvantaged metropolitan environment. I assumed that the city - with its structure, built physical quality, urban planning preferences and decision-making background - is responsible for ensuring a wide range of opportunities for residents, especially disadvantaged social groups. To prove the above mentioned preliminary statement, I examined three cases of renewals in Józsefváros, the 8th District of Budapest.: the Corvin quarter, the Magdolna quarter and the Orczy quarter. The directions of urban renewal are taking place in the quarters since 2000 are significantly different from one another, but their mutually reinforcing effects can be accurately demonstrated.

Comparing the three urban regeneration models, I have found that, according to this study of the Magdolna Quarter, a socially sensitive regeneration has a deterrent, speed-reducing nature in the process of urban development, the most important reason being the maintenance of the original population. The interest of the investors cannot be prominent due to the Roma population, so real estate market changes are difficult to observe up until now. This weakening and at the same time retaining effect - as the ultimate goal of socially sensitive regeneration - and the preservation of social values, depend solely on the decisions of the state and city leaders on housing, social and urban development (effective not just on the quarter, but on the entire district).

Furthermore, a part of my dissertation was to examine the possible direct connections of the designer in a socially unfavorable environment. In such a situation, the process of designing is obstructed by the complex programming and practical implementation tasks of a wide-ranging urban renewal. To this over-diversified system, in my opinion, the allocative direction can be the solution.

It is allocative in the process of dividing tasks and utilizing free professional capacities, meaning that several architects or city planner groups are involved in the urban regeneration program at the same time. By dividing work, the elements of urban development can be made more transparent and organized, promoting a better communication in between the teams at different levels. I intend to set up a set of small scale direct interventions where the aim is to create an urban renewal model that can be expressed directly in the interests of the disadvantaged social groups.







# THESIS STATEMENTS



# THESIS STATEMENTS

*Thesis 1 - The first, early steps of the renewal and reurbanization of the 1990s first appeared in the abandoned, degraded districts (Ráday street, Ferencváros, Corvin quarter), which had a central position in the city, a strong urban structure and a consequent spontaneous demand.*

Downtown areas in Budapest, which are directly linked to the dense urban center or to main roads, are more capable of retaining their long-term role in the city. The source of this is the statutory behaviour based on the interests of market conditions, which is strictly based on demand and property market needs. The development of urban districts away from these places is largely dependent on existing social characteristics, the permanent perception and negative attributes of the quarter, and therefore the impact can become uncertain and temporary.

*Thesis 2 – Slowing down gentrification is an important aspect of developing urban regeneration strategies where the direction of the solution is to be found in the gentrification compensation of decision-makers: building a social, job creating cultural and community network within the quarter that accurately takes into account its urban structure and the interests of the population.*

The slow but fatal revaluation that has been observed in social-based urban regeneration processes, counter to the original purpose, can cause the gradual exchange of disadvantaged population. Local residents are only able to enforce their retention needs if, during and after urban rehabilitation, a long-term, conscious support system is built up even after the quarter's appreciation, where priority is given to social interventions and not only in physical environments.



*Thesis 3 - In order to overcome conflicts and negative stereotypes arising from the population composition in a socially and ethnically disadvantaged neighbourhood, the solution is not to reinforce ethnic identity, but to strengthen communication in variety of heterogeneous compositions, and to provide wide mobility in urban regeneration strategies.*

The society in the region of Józsefváros – heterogenous in the sense of common disadvantage but homogenous with regard to its diverse ethnic composition – is in a state of constant change. The identity of the Roma population - due to the fact that they come from multiple directions and from different groups - is not uniformly bound up with the area. This is further enhanced by the emergence of more and more Asian and African immigrants. For these reasons, identity seeking aspirations based on Roma culture and identity cannot be successful. Instead, it needs interventions that go beyond closed-territorial strategies and offers an open, multi-neighbourly area, so it builds on a broad range of opportunities.

*Thesis 4 - In the socially charged downtown areas, as a zeroth step in urban rehabilitation, an early stage of participation is needed, which helps architects connect with the inhabitants to prepare for later involvement and promote their effectiveness through the tools of conscious community development and community capability development.*

The marginalized population living in the target areas of social urban rehabilitation is difficult to motivate. Once the connection is started, the relationship between the parties still remains uneven. Early participation would mean the establishment of a direct relationship of trust where later assistants and actors of urban rehabilitation would be able to expand the communication possibilities and tools of the local population through direct and personal interconnection, involvement, community building and lobbying methods, preparing them for effective involvement in urban rehabilitation processes.

*Thesis 5 - The re-evaluated and improved model of the MICROMagdolna project in my research needs to be able to realize potential implementations at downtown level, - and by delimiting the boundaries of the quarter- in the whole district, which in all cases should be based on allocative assignment planning and defining small scale communities and creating a direct connection with it.*

Positive feedback from MICROMagdolna shows that a model of direct communication with the population can be an effective and prominent part of the rehabilitation strategies of degraded city quarters. However, an urban rehabilitation strategy that provides a unified model for problems, due to the significantly widened and over-diversified role, can not provide effective communication and advocacy. For this purpose, an allocative, capacity-responsive, multi-design group can be the solution and be used to determine a small-scale defined community and by direct linking to it, a real involvement can happen. In addition, with the model crossing the boundaries of the area, the status of the local population within and beyond the district could rise to a new level.









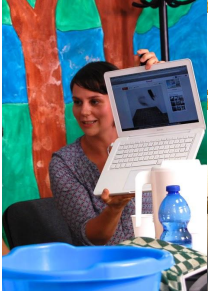
micro  
Magdolna

MICROmagdolna\_ Vol.01

fogadd örökbe a vágyakat!  
vágygyűjtés és közösségi tervezés  
a budapesti Magdolna Negyedben  
Borsos & Dimitrijevic 2014



wake up  
and  
dream





MASTERWORK



# MASTERWORK

## IDESÜSS! KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY, BUDAPEST INTERIOR DESIGN

Site: X. district Budapest.

Designers: MICROarchitects - Tijana Dimitrijevic, Melinda Borsos. Year of design and implementation: 2015.

The building was awarded the Budapest Építészeti Nívó Díja (Budapest Architectural Standard Prize) in 2016.

In 2013 - together with Tijana Dimitrijevic - we started an architectural experiment directly related to the disadvantaged social groups in the Magdolna quarter in the VIII. district of Budapest. The MICROMagdolna architectural project launched here explored the possibilities of linking architecture and direct participation in a metropolitan area that is disadvantaged and segregated in many ways.<sup>1</sup> Its practical experience and objective, rethinking assessment play a central role in the evolution of my dissertation and its summative findings.

In Józsefváros, the model that was developed during the MICROMagdolna project -and is based on direct involvement and trust- has also become a starting point for our classical design work. The direct relationship with the customer remained an important element of our design system for classic architectural designs (klasszikus dizájnra van valami szakszó?) too. In this case, direct linking is also helped by jointly exposed interests and processes.

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<sup>1</sup> the creators and implementers of the program: Tijana Dimitrijevic and Melinda Borsos architects, at that time students of the BME Doctoral Architect School, 2013.

Even in classical design, it is not a simple process to map customer needs, for gathering information and exploring desires.

During the Idesüss! design planning, a similar microenvironment should be created, and the goal is to reach the same level of trust as the one set within the disadvantaged community. In this multiplayer process, instead of the traditional division of labor, we started a complex design method, where the continuous and direct connection, the on-site drawing and on-site evaluation was prioritized, both towards the client and towards the co-designers too.

The design task was to accommodate four kindergarten and two nursery groups in the Betonyp-frame building built in the 1970's with the additional features required. In the course of the joint planning, the architectural<sup>2</sup> layout was supplemented with further suggestions and spatial modifications to which we later adapted custom-designed furniture, coverings and graphic signs. According to the base concept created with the contractor, the house provides a solid but inspirational frame for kids.

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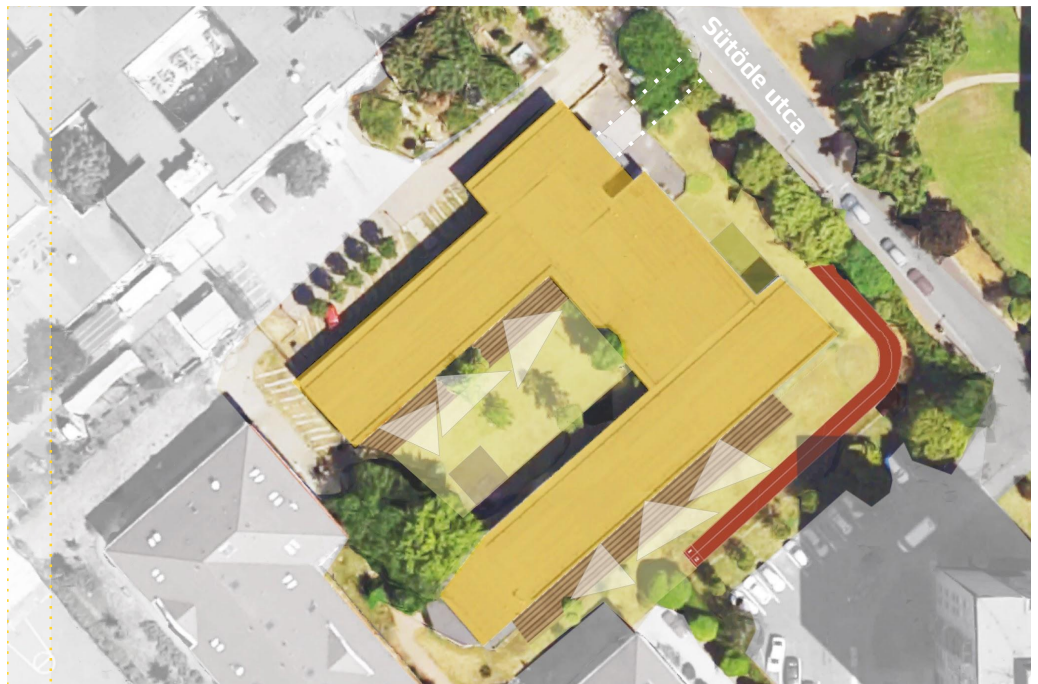
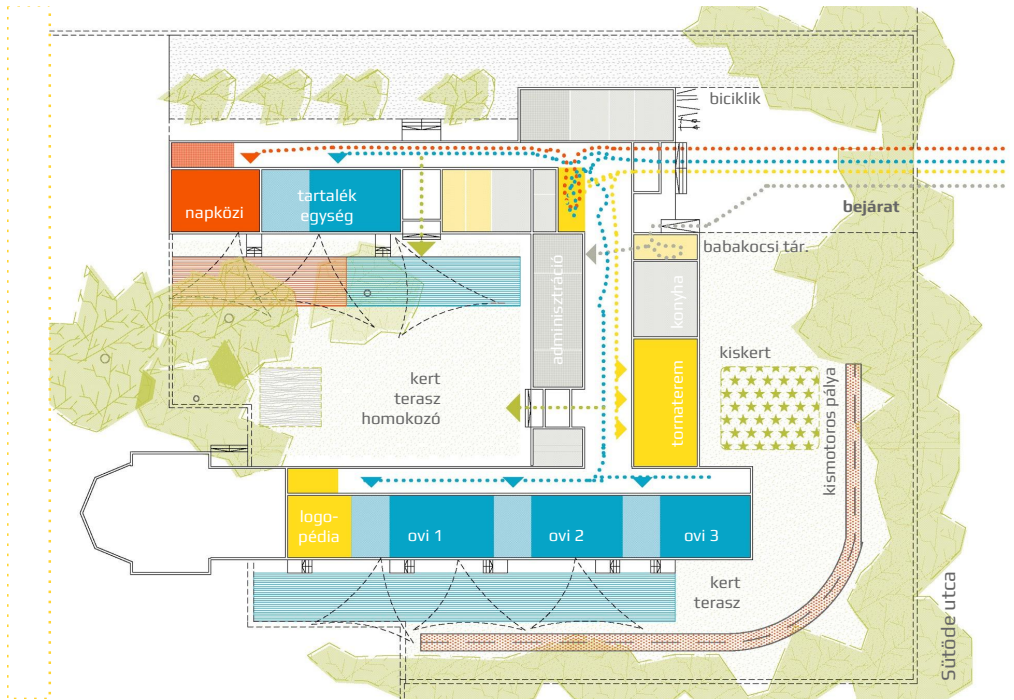
<sup>2</sup> the names of the designers and the project details can be found in the dissertation Appendix



sok gyerek...

IDEASÜSS!  
ÓVODA















# RÉSUMÉ

## STUDIES

- 2015 pre-degree certificate, BME Faculty of Architecture, Doctoral School of Architecture
- 2010- PhD student, BME Faculty of Architecture, Doctoral School of Architecture
- 2007-2008 Master Course of Architecture, 2nd Term
- 1994-2000 M.Sc. degree architect, BME Faculty of Architecture, Department of Urban Planning and Design

## RESEARCH AND CREATION

- 2015 "BUS 99" - STUDENT WORKSHOP; the "MNPIII T3/4 99 Bus Pilot Project" in the Magdolna Quarter (Budapest VIII.) Organizer: Rév8 Zrt. – György Alföldi DLA, invited organizers: Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic
- 2014 MICROMagdolna SUMMER COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP, community design and exhibition in the Magdolna quarter (Budapest VIII.), With the involvement of BME ÉPK students; organizers Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic
- 2013 MAGDOLNA JOINERY WORKSHOP in the Magdolna quarter (Budapest VIII.), With the involvement of BME Faculty of Architecture Students, support: Rév8 Zrt., organizers: Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic, Gergő Kukucska, Dávid Szabó
- 2013- BME Doctoral School of Architecture research and independent projekt: MICROMagdolna - desire collection, researchers: Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic
- 2012-2013 BME Doctoral School of Architecture research project: QUARTER; researchers: Csaba Brósz, Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic, Gergely Kukucska, Dávid Szabó, supervisor: György Alföldi DLA
- 2012- individual doctoral research: urban rehabilitation directions and consequences in Budapest, supervisor: Levente Szabó DLA

## ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN WORKS

- 2018 Pagony Nursery - Richter workplace nursery, Budapest X., Architectural and interior design, architects: Tijana Dimitrijevic, Melinda Borsos - MICROarchitects, Miklós Oroszlány, Júlia Losonczi - GINKGO Architect's Office

- 2016 Kőbánya Council, Marriage Hall, built interior design, architects: Tijana Dimitrijevic, Melinda Borsos – MICROarchitects
- 2015 IDESÜSS Kindergarten and nursery, built interior design, architects: Tijana Dimitrijevic, Melinda Borsos - MICROarchitects
- 2014 Re-thinking of Aquincum's ruins "BME ÉDI Design Competition, 1st prize, architects: Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic, Zsuzsa Kovács-Magyari, Zsófia Szántay, Boglárka Szentirmai
- 2014 4 SPOTS - intensive family caretaker, social laundry, neighborhood social center, women's club, Budapest VIII. district Magdolna Quarter - complete architectural design and management; architects: Csaba Brósz, Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic, Gergely Kukucska, Dávid Szabó, Consultant: György Alföldi DLA
- 2008-2012 Zsolnay Quarter, PTE Faculty of Visual Art, Institute of Fine Arts, architecture: László Herczeg, Melinda Borsos, Mónika Weichinger (MCXVI Architectural Studio), Media Architecture Prize 2012. shared price
- 2008 Expansion of the Municipal Cultural Center, Paks (Masterclass) Architectural Design Contest - 1st prize Architects: Ferenc Cságolyi DLA, András Dobos, Miklós Galambos, Marianna Koós, Melinda Borsos
- 2008 Expansion of the Tiszaliget Swimming Complex, Szolnok, Architectural Design Contest - Shared 2nd Prize Architects: Attila Borsay, Melinda Borsos (MCXVI Architectural Studio)
- 2007 Corvinus University of Budapest – new building, built interior design, architects: Gábor Szokoljai, Linda Erdélyi, Melinda Borsos (MCXVI Architectural Studio)
- TUITION
- 2015 TDK 2015 - Consultant, BME Faculty of Architecture - "Fields of Study" Workshop for Construction: Debora Leitold, Szabolcs Magyar: Ecologic coexistence, consultants: Melinda Borsos, Balázs Kemes – 2nd place
- 2013- invited lecturer at BME ÉPK on several subjects: Interior Design - cl.: György Major; Sustainable Building Design Strategies, BME Faculty of Civil Engineering: Ferenc Cságoly, Contemporary architecture workshops - cl.: György Major,

- 2010- Kiskomplex – cl.: Balázs Kemes  
Design Consultant at BME ÉPK Department of Urban Planning and Design, Subjects taught: Square composition, Public Building Planning 2, Departmental Plan 3;  
invited opponent for a diploma (BME EPK, SZIE Győr)

#### LECTURES, EXHIBITIONS, PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Mit tehet egy építész a nagyvárosi gettóban? Nagy vágyak, kis lépések a Magdolna negyedben (eng: What can an architect do in a metropolitan ghetto? Great desires, small steps in the Magdolna quarter). Publications: Close Proximity to Public Buildings. BME Faculty of Architecture, Department of Urban Planning and Design, 70-year Jubilee Publications, author: Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic, editor: Krisztina Somogyi - Péter Klobusovszky. Budapest, 2017. 236-247
- 2016 IDESÜSS! óvoda - ahol élmény gyerekeknek lenni (eng: IDESÜSS! Kindergarten - where it is a great to be a kid). publication, author: Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic, Építészfórum, 13.09.2016 <http://epiteszforum.hu/idesuss-ovoda-ahol-elmenny-gyerekeknek-lenni> (download: 03.08.2018.)
- 2016 EUTROPIAN, Funding the Cooperative City; closed roundtable discussion, invited speakers: MICROmagdolna
- 2015 SEISMIC conference - Unused spaces for urban communities, invited speakers: MICROmagdolna
- 2014 "POLC", Exhibition – Doctoral School of Architecture, FUGA Architectural Center
- 2014 "THE CREATORS OF IDEALITY", Gallery8 – Roma Contemporary Art Space, invited exhibitors and graphics designers of exhibition: Melinda Borsos, Tijana Dimitrijevic
- 2013 ROUTES AND ROUTE SEARCH - Architecture and Communication - Master's degree in Architecture VII. Conference, invited speaker
- 2010 Venice Architectural Biennale, Hungarian Pavilion, Borderline Architecture, architectural drawing exhibition – invited exhibitor

#### STUDY VISITS

Riga, Ogre, Berlin, Belgrade, Bucharest, Berlin



