



DLA Dissertation - Collection of theses

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Supervisor: Prof. Zsolt VASÁROS DLA

BUTE Doctoral School of Architecture

Budapest, 2023

BORDER IMPRINTS

Perceiving the patterns and spatial appearance of borders – three cases from Budapest

THESES

Border imprints.

Perceiving the patterns and spatial appearance of borders – three cases from Budapest

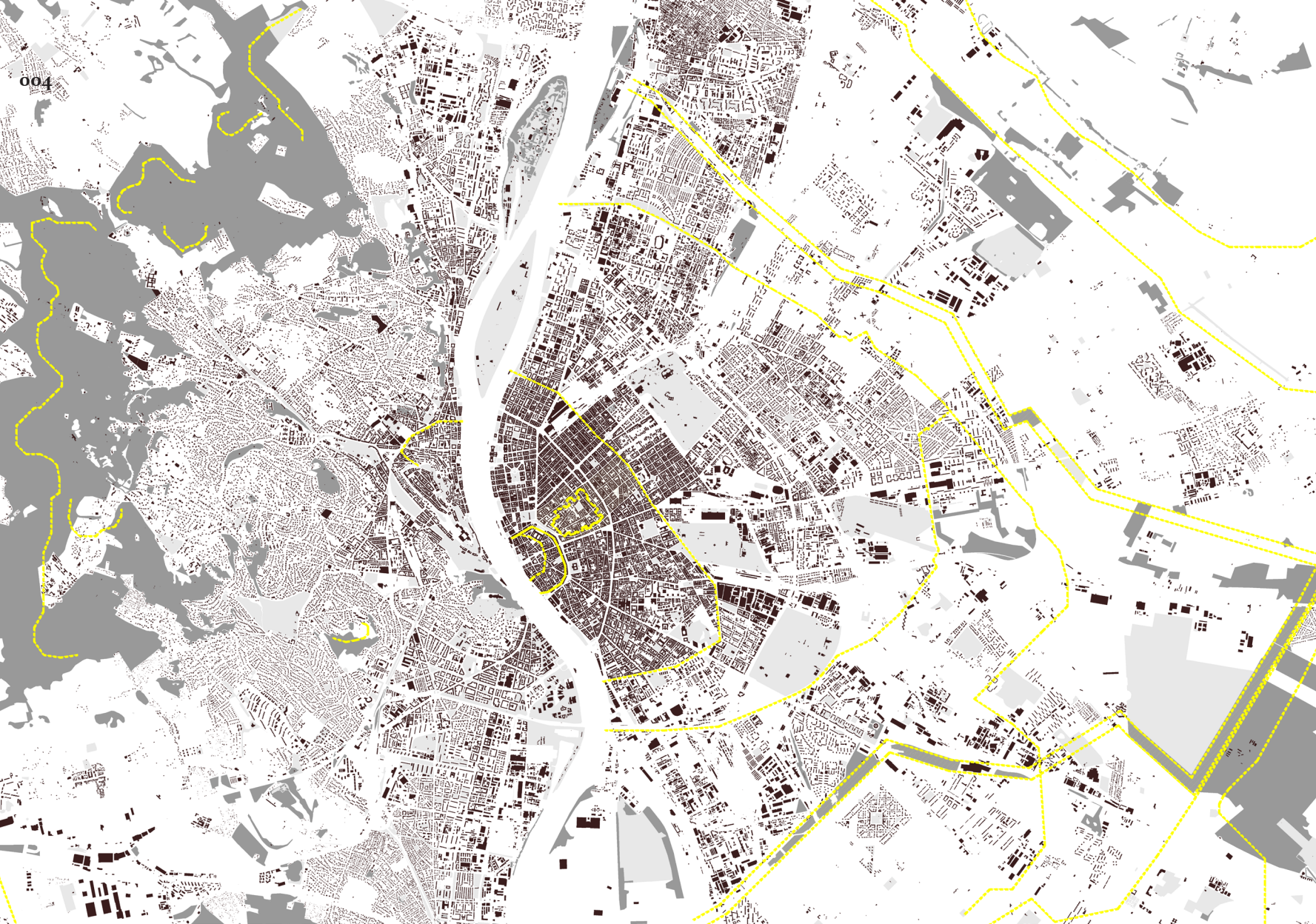
DLA dissertation.

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BUTE Doctoral School of Architecture

Masterwork: Time Box Pavilions at the Archaeopark of Călugăreni
Călugăreni (Eremitu) Județul Mureș
Transylvania, România

Budapest, 2023.



ABSTRACT

The thesis can be considered the organic continuation of an earlier research and published article with similar title which investigated the interpretation possibilities of different spatial and social aspects of the border imprints in Călugereni, Mureș County, Transylvania, at the location of the masterwork connected to the thesis.

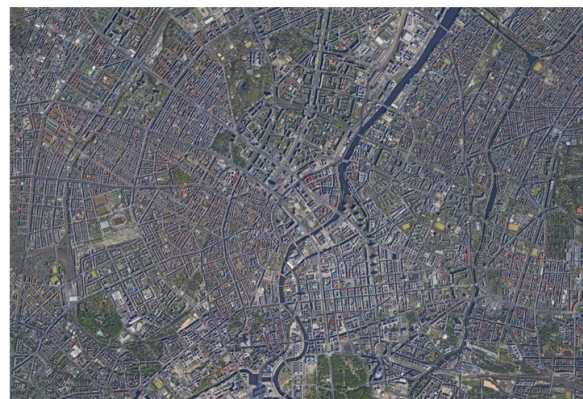
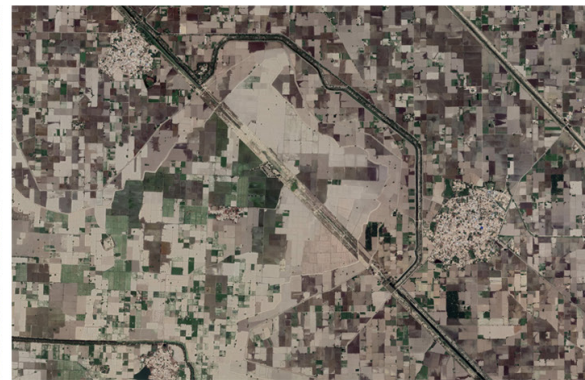
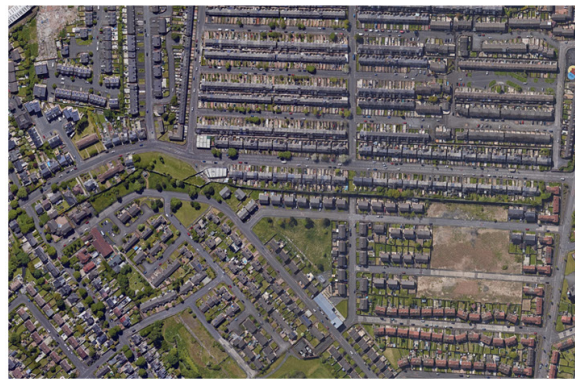
This paper intends to both broadening the content of the topic and justifying the results of this more general and extensive context exploration in a location which I am personally and strongly attached to. The three border-cases chosen in Budapest – the historical urban borders, the Jewish quarter in Pest, and the fortification system around the capital dated to the Second World War – represent very varied spatial and chronological scales. The structure of the three study cases relies on a three-fold compositional unit, as a result of „rapport-matrix” trinity established for the description of individual case-studies. Between the physical dimensions (phenomenon) of border imprints and the related social narratives (meaning) the bond is the time, the main organizing element of the matrix. Hence the case-studies are presented through the contemporary interpretation of border imprints and their spatial occurrence and position in the urban fabric.

In the last part of the paper, in the summary we return to our starting point; the conclusions of the earlier paper will meet the results of the present work, thus the masterwork, the organic element of the summary and the fourth study case, can be interpreted as the contemporary reading of this last chapter.

1

*Határnyomatok.
Erővonalak emlékképeinek vizsgálata
térben és időben a Maros megyei
Mikházáán.* in: BUN, Z. – SZABÓ, L.
(eds): *Építészet és Innováció.*
Az Építőművészeti Doktori Iskola
Évkönyve 2020.
Budapest: BME Építőművészeti Doktori
Iskola (2020)

006



1st THESIS

The character of border and its imprint can be described with three attributes: timeliness, spatiality and connotation. The spatial or built structures formed around the borders, unequivocally refer at the cause and circumstances of border establishing, therefore chronologically changing connotations, deduced from the imprints, can be assigned to these structures.

One can establish common patterns from the analysis of case-studies from different corners of the world. These patterns can be characterized by the trinity of 'structure-time-connotation'. These patterns show similarities in the fact that the character of border or border imprints can be determined in each time sequence by the investigation of the social attitudes (connotation) related to built or spatial structures embedded in well-recognizable spatial or urban fabric. This feature cannot only be interpreted in the present time, as the different connotations of the previous periods leave different, but characteristic and durable imprints on the structures formed along the border.

008

TEZENIS
underwear

TEZENIS
underwear

TEZENIS
underwear

CALZEDONIA



2nd THESIS **The imprints of border remain recognizable in the fabric of a settlement or landscape even after the original function of the border has been lost, and as such, the character of the border will be reshaped. The spatial, structural, and usage-related character of border imprint, unequivocally, refers to the cause and aims of border creation and, meanwhile, to the initial character of the border at its establishment.**

Investigating the current urban fabric of Budapest (even the smallest plot partitioning, or the larger structures of the city, different spatial and chronological space- and land usage) one can conclude that the historical borders of the city produced well-recognizable traces in the current urban fabric, even today. The earlier borders are present not only physically, but also on a social level in the current urban fabric of the city, therefore, we can consider them, individually or as an assemblage, highly effective imprints of Budapest's historical borders. By observing these imprints, we can define, even now, the original character of these borders, the cause and aim of their creation, and on a broader extent, the history of the city.



3rd THESIS As spatial and built structures with characteristic features have been formed along the borders, recognizable border lines are contouring, in some cases, in areas which developed in a different manner to their environment. These areas will become inclusions when the circumstances of the region are unfavourable. However, social will is able to reshape the negative character of these inclusions in a very short time.

The transformation of one urban region into an inclusion and thus its decline, isolation can happen spontaneously, apparently under „peaceful” circumstances, but also in a violent manner, as a result of external, negative factors. The history of the Jewish quarter, later the ghetto in Pest, illustrates well how the violently created inclusion and border established around it with the purpose of intentional humiliation creates this situation, even to the cost of natural evolution processes. The contemporary change of the area is a good example for a city quarter which returns to its proper, natural evolution rhythm with enough social will, even after a horrible trauma.



4th THESIS From a historical perspective, the imprints of earlier borders behave the same way, and they can become a reference point for both the natural structures and the borders of different character established in a later period. Thus, several different connotations can be assigned to a border imprint which can be present in the social consciousness with different activities, according to their chronology.

The borders are often formed at an already existing, natural, or artificial land feature, but during times, even the borders creates similarly behaving formations around themselves. A certain social memory can be associated to these features which is, however, strongly time-related and it can change according to the alternation of social and political environment: it can intensify, blur, or reactivate. There are two conditions for the reactivation: the feature related to earlier borders should be physically detectable, and the social-political environment should establish the conditions for the reactivation of the border.

5th THESIS **Borders are the essential needs of societies; hence societies will never be able to completely cease them without giving up their fundamental inner working mechanism. Until the imprints of borders are preserved, whether in the physical space or in the social collective memory, borders will never disappear, they only „rest” and are inclined to reactivate any time.**

The establishment of borders are determined by less abstract and artificially created concepts than the aspirations targeting their ceasing. The former mechanisms derive rather from primal and elemental evolutionary drives, while the latter are the creations of the modern and postmodern social approach which often endeavour to prove confusing and difficult-to-experience explanation of the world. The recent events, the pandemic and migration crisis, however, have successfully demonstrated how fast these borders were, apparently annihilated and overwritten with great care in the past years, could be reactivated as a reaction to the altered political and social circumstances.



6th THESIS **With time many, different connotations can be assigned to the border imprints, and these connotations can be deliberately manipulated. The border as a creation of such new and artificial narratives, with the adoption of the omnipresent social and physical constructions can help in shaping the social self-image and building the historical consciousness.**

If we accept that the existence of borders is not an original harm but the fundamental need of a society, we should also accept the permanence of the border as a construction. In this case, instead of their forced ceasing, we should place the emphasis on the formation of narratives related to them. If our attitude towards the borders and narratives of border imprints is conscious and sensible enough, and if we use these narratives to serve the politics of memory, then the positive social effect can be enhanced, rather than the violent ceasing or removal of borders or border imprints.



MASTERWORK

TIME BOX PAVILIONS AT THE ARCHAEPARK OF CĂLUGĂRENI.

Site: Archaeopark of Călugăreni
Parcul Arheologic Călugăreni, Călugăreni, Județul Mureș (România)

Author: Gergely SÁGI
Consultants: Zsolt VASÁROS DLA
Cicelle GAUL DLA

Local partner: Zsolt TÖVISSI
Exhibition: Szilamér Péter PÁNCZÉL, Silvia MUSTAȚĂ, Koppány Bulcsú ÖTVÖS (Mureș County Museum)
Graphic design: István KARÁCSONY (Mureș County Museum)

Design: 2013-2015
Construction: 2015-2016

Prizes: 2017 Piranesi Student Honorable Mention - Shortlisted
2016 Media Architecture Prize - Finalist

Exhibited: 2019 Tér///Erő. II. National Architectural Expo. Kunsthalle (Budapest)

Publication: PÁLINKÁS, E: *Jel a kukoricásban*. Magyar Építőművészet 2016/6 pp. 52-53 (2016)

1 Divisare
2 Archdaily
3 Építészfórum
4 Magyar Építőművészet Online

Budapest, 2023.



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