



ČAU RIGA



# PREFACE

“Čau Riga” is the output of an exploration trip done by Institut for (X) who was invited by Free Riga to check out Riga with focus on Sarkandaugava.

Free Riga is project partners in Danish Cultural Institutes, Urban Cultural Planning project. The project is lasting the next 2 years and the one of the main objectives is to investigate how cultural planning can be used as a method for social innovation

Institut for (X) has since its foundation in 2009 been a laboratory for bottom-up, hands-on urban development initiated by citizens of Aarhus.

Institut for (X) is a project born out of Bureau Detours - A group that operate on various platforms in a mix of art, design, architecture and cityplanning.

This Booklet is an attempt to showcase our process of understanding the neighborhood of Sarkandaugava, which is a part of Riga, the capital of Latvia.

## URBAN CULTURAL PLANNING

“Over the past two decades cultural planning has been developed as a proven method for citizen-driven urban social innovation.

The key challenge for public authorities in applying cultural planning is that new skills need to go beyond forms of classical (and often more passive) citizen participation.

Active co-creation of collaboration between citizens themselves and between citizens and authorities is needed.”

# Reading Guide

The content of the booklet is divided into three chapters, where the chapters are chronologically reflecting our process and discoveries during the time spent in Riga.

Chapter One is showing some of the relevant methods and philosophies from home; all of which are developed through the experiences and works of Bureau Detours and the long term programming of Institut for (X).

Chapter Two is our discoveries and so far understanding of Sarkandaugava, Riga. We tried to understand by using the Puppy Attitude approach and the method of Befriending People. By doing this, chances are to get an honest non-distorted perspective of the neighborhood and the city. Simply by observing and listening to stories from the ones with the Boots on the Ground.

Chapter Three is an example of a Project Ping Pong Process, which is looking into possible futures and different agendas; ours, our new partners, local neighbors and new friends we have met along the way.

We hope the booklet will function as an easy communication form in this Ping Pong Process. The next question is: where will the Pings land? We are curious to see what comes back our way..

Happy Reading!



**ENJOY  
THE  
PROCESS**

# YO RESIDENCY

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## What

Easy acces to friendly Spaces n' Places

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## Based on

Experience from the works of Bureau Detours  
and the long term programming of Institut for X  
Where we have regular visits from the World  
And visit the World  
Often (most) in a very informal way

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## Goals

Say Yo!

Become acquaintances or better friends  
Through friendship become able of doing stuff together  
Driver is natural desire and personal motivation  
Exchange knowledge through doing  
Through knowledge create a better local Space

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## How

Have an easy local opportunity for accommodation  
Have someone from the space to be the SPOC

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## Guidelines

Short visits works fine  
Works better if there is a small connection before  
A residence programme almost like the others











# SWISS CHEESE MODEL

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## Philosophy

Closed of areas can be reopened easy to the public by cutting holes in the fence  
Like the holes in a swiss cheese

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## Places of Use

All areas of city that could be more trans-walkable  
Old factories fenced of  
Industriel old water fronts with walls

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## Experience Design

Bureau Detours swiss cheesed the area  
And thereby made new routes in the city  
Opening up for for ideas of use and development  
made the area around Institute of X

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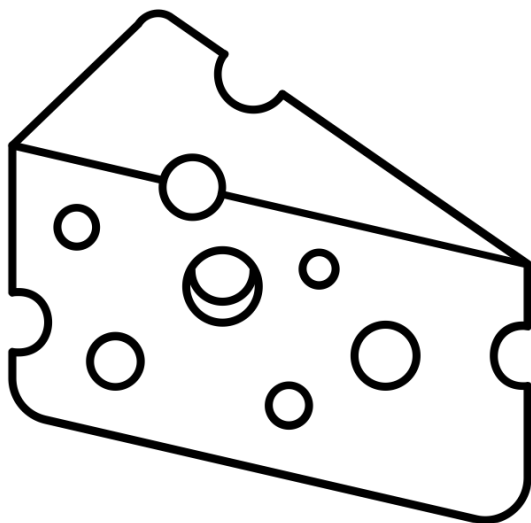
## Tools

Angel grinder  
Bolt cutter

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## Communication

Sometimes don't tell anyone you are cutting the fence  
Just do it



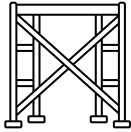




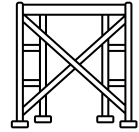








# SCAFFOLDING



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## **The Philosophical Term**

Origins from a philosophy in the teaching and pedagogy world  
Design frameworks for students, where they can learn themselves  
Don't teach book - teach how to learn

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## **The Term By Bureau Detours / X**

Setting up projects by this method means that a part of the planning  
is to take emerging co-creation into account at all times  
Keep the plan flexible and yet on track

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## **How To: Building Projects**

Work-stations must be set up to easy navigate and keep tidy  
Plans must be changeable towards sudden ideas  
1-2 persons only do scaffolding - this can shift during a day/days  
1-2 persons design and redesign, by doing so the project keeps in line

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## **How To: Office**

Everyone understand their tasks  
Someone is the boss  
Decisions are made fast so the crew can keep momentum  
The boss has to be almost not needed  
Self decisions - All should be able to take decision without  
referring to boss at all times  
Boss must leave once in a while - where no Q/A is possible  
Boss decision can be called anytime

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## **Power Diagram**

Flat structure with a small peek

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## **What not to**

Understand the term into 'everything is open'  
There is always a plan









# SWALLOWS NAIL HOUSE

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## **What**

Basically the term covers the in-build possibility for basic needs  
(electricity, water and sewer)  
And a roof over the head

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## **What : Swallows Nail**

The more philosophical approach to the term  
is the story of the swallows nest  
When swallows (and other birds) build their nest,  
they need the first attachment point  
The nail in the barn is the most simple form of these  
It only takes one old rusty nail to start a nest

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## **Effect / Long Term Impact**

The Good Neighbourhood Liveability for Citizens Creative Space

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## **Non-linear Timeline**

Find building  
Research nail capability  
Contact owner and friendly take over  
Understand future use  
Fix basic needs yourself or with owner  
Use the House for Good Stuff

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## **Skills Needed**

Office: Communication on building and bureaucracy  
Office 2 : Make organisation with the people  
Architecture : Drawings and co-drawings  
Crafts-Men : Electrician + Plumber

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## **Why**

Make space in the city for 'The Good Stuff'

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## **The Good Stuff**

Start up  
Creative living  
Cultural events

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## **What not to do**

Lazy model  
Instead: Do it properly



# RER ROOFTOP







# THE AREA OF SARKANDAUGAVA

When entering this area, we first needed to acclimate from Aarhus and immerse into the spaces and places of Sarkandaugava, a hood which is filled with desire paths in between wilderness and birch trees shooting out of the buildings

By foot we zigzagged through the blocks and made sure we had enough time to relax, observe details and actually feel the ground of this post-industrial territory and still quite green neighborhood.

It was necessary to put this energy into it, so we could be open to what it was telling us. Our mission was to understand how Sarkandaugava differs from any other neighborhoods of Riga, what values it inhabits and what potential it carries.

While walking for hours a lot of questions came to mind;  
Where is the traffic flow? Who uses the river? How do people live? What is produced here? Is it people from Sarkandaugava that works in the factory? How has the history of the area affected the culture of today? Are all these Empty Spaces actually empty? Where do people hang out? Can you arrange a space easily?

At the end of a walk we knocked on the door to a house with a massive mural, a pink and orange artwork, simply because it looked interesting. The house turns out to be P8SH. One of the buildings a Free Riga members has managed to bring into live.



Aina; an artist and resident at the Free Riga space, Tallinas Iela Kvar-  
tals, turned out to be living there. Her and another member of the  
artist collective, Lidija offered us a cruise in Lidija's Alfa Romeo 166  
with sexy red leather seats. For half a day they were showing us their  
favourite local spots of Sarkandaugava, thus experiencing the urban  
investigation together, creating relations.

We noticed how this post-soviet neighbourhood is transforming a  
modern city, but not at the speed of the more central part of Riga.  
This means that it is still providing space for 70's & 80's factories -  
both active and passive. Most of them along the river, where the Free  
Port and RER seems to be most present and noisy.



As a result of this Sarkandaugava turns out to be inaccessible in large sections and all its fences and barbed wire creates a feeling of closeness. These large industrial areas also pushed housing to be dense and created a mega busy centre.

One attempt of understanding the potential of the neighborhood was by mapping out chill spots, possible venues, accesses to the river and other stuff we encountered on our way that we personally find amusing and central to the experience of a good neighborhood.

After all this exploring, it was necessary so search for the space where we could make an improvement. The obvious first thought was the river, as it seemed almost unpresent, although running through the neighborhood. How can we polish the forgotten gem and help the local activist who's already been planting sunflowers that absorbs toxins of the waters? How can we improve these few access points to the water with the resources available?

## NICE URBAN GREEN POCKET









# SARKANDAUGAVA MAP

Take a glimpse on the right side and you will find our very first impression of the area, *Basic Understanding*.

This is the simple stuff you can find on Google Maps (water, roads, train tracks, green areas, etc)

We used this data to get a perspective of the daily life and perhaps even some answers to why people act like they do in the neighborhood.

On the following next two pages, there will be two titles

First title is **Exploration:**

Things we noticed on our walks  
where we experienced things "tourist-like"  
And walked via the guide of intuition.

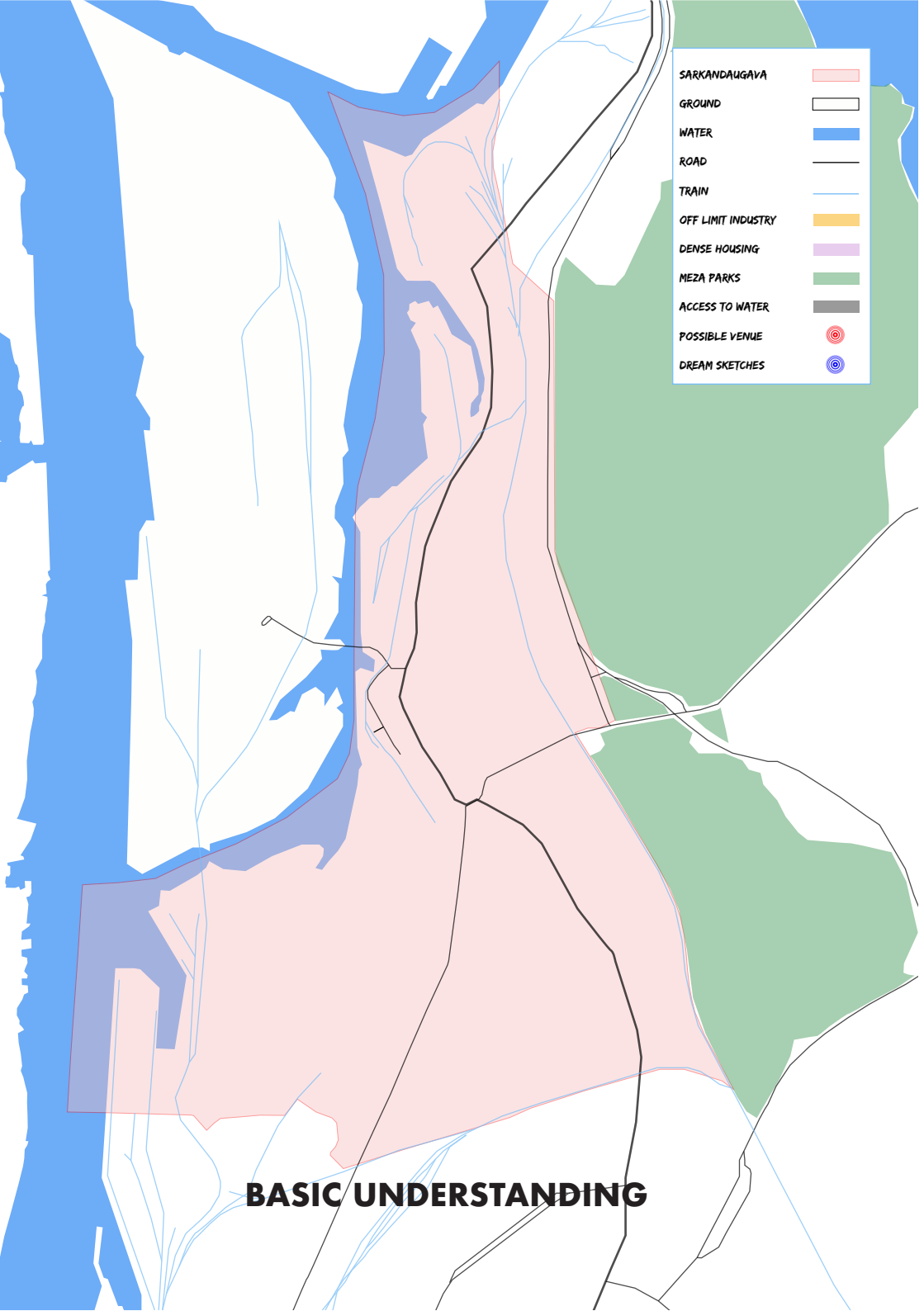
All the post industrial Soviet style factories and surroundings were inaccessible for us. This is mapped as *Off Limits Industry*.

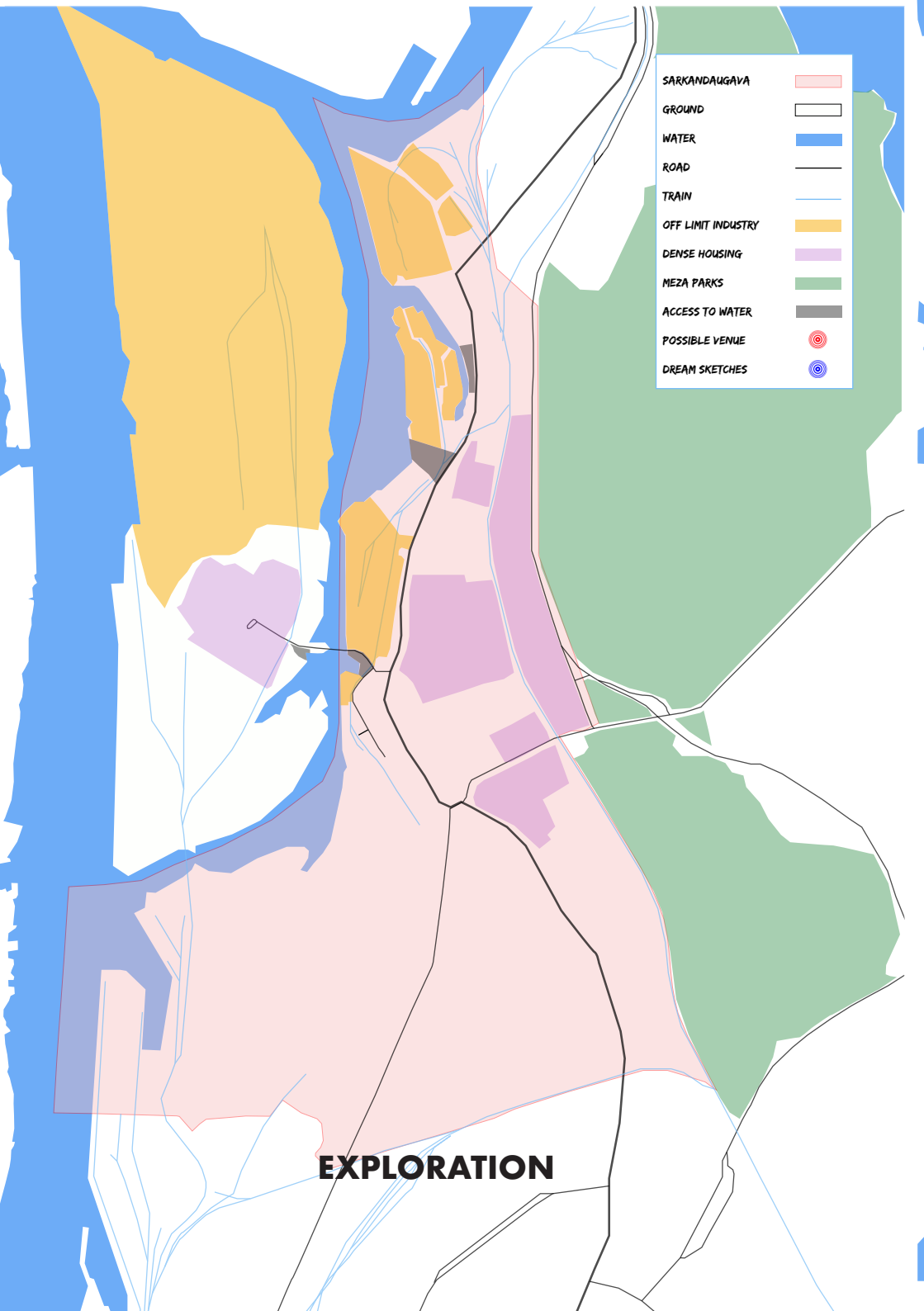
A large area of Sarkandaugava is imprinted by the communistic way of creating cheap housing, that could fit many people.  
This is mapped as *Dense Housing*.

Second title is **Usage:**

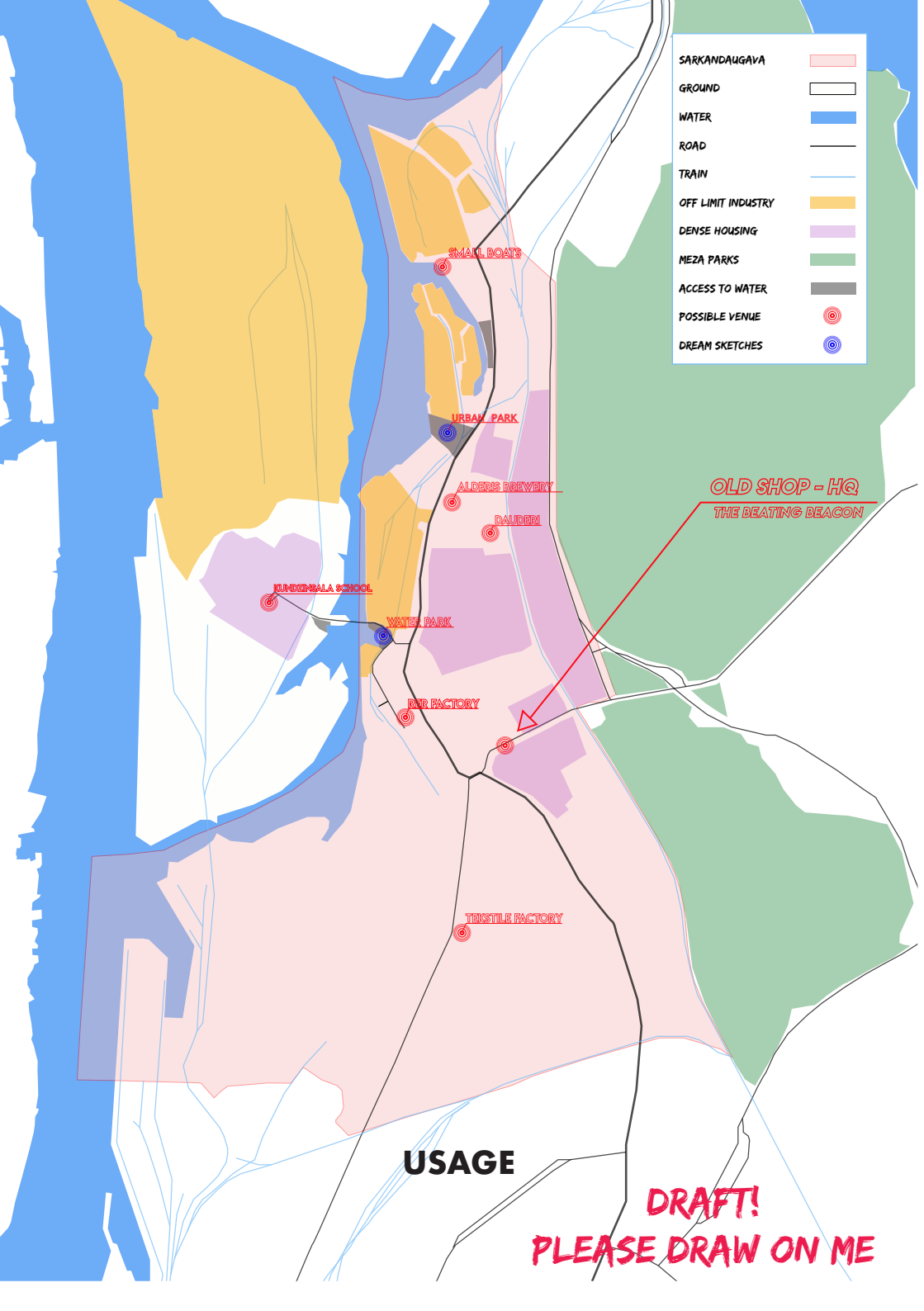
This map points at some of the spots where we, or local heroes could do something. That something is e.g Pop Up Office or a Noisy Electronic Jam Session, Clothing Remix.. all things we did in the former shop (HQ) in the mainstreet during our stay..

At the map, you will find Dream Sketches, which is a possible future. It would be nice to upgrade the existing usage near The Water.















# AGENDA X RIGA

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## Free Riga Crew

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### **Kaspars**

Social interventions  
Nail House (open new cultural place)  
Build friendships  
Learn and share The Knowledge

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### **Jonas**

Cultural planning itself  
Sarkandaugava to succeed  
Ground breaking change  
Evidence for culture as settlement  
Experience: Godsbanen + AAK as Creative lead

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### **Free Riga (UCP)**

Organize activities  
Invite artists  
Connect with local stakeholders  
Stronger Connection with Riga City Council  
Create connections with outside world  
Build capacity, learn for further projects

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### **Danish Culture Institute / Emils**

Port dialogue eg. new passenger line  
Riga to succeed as City  
Showcase good projects  
Cultural Operators / Creative Living  
Art Academy / meaningful careers / studios

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## Institut For X

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### **Vivian**

Artist studio X  
Yo Residency both ends  
Projects cross polination  
Free Electron Impacts  
The Bubble Plan

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### **Johan**

Tell story about Sarkandaugava  
and help making it better  
Booklet / Maps / Photos  
The Riga Folder  
YO Residency

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### **Mads Peter**

Easy acces in an easy way  
Swallows Nail House  
Develop Ambassade X / Riga X  
Projects

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### **Institut for X**

Network  
Find hidden Gems  
Best Practice  
Europe Works

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## Kundzinsala

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Arnolds + Dzintra

Develop a living neighbourhood  
Revitalise the cultural life  
Activate the Kundzinsala School  
Inform the World about the Islands history  
Create stories and invite others in  
Collaborate with entrepreneurs

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## Riga City

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Test cultural planning methods and learn  
Data about processes in Riga and Sarkandaugava  
Contacts with other Riga City Council institutions  
Financial support for UCP realisation  
Support activities, eksperiment and trust  
Spread the word about activities here  
Appreciate activities, understand its importance and popularise it

**Janis, Mára**

Take part in Local events  
Help with advice  
Visit neighbourhood and spent time here  
Meet people, cooperate and build personal contacts

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## Sarkandaugava Gang

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Alija, Maija, Jazeps

Contacts of stakeholders  
Find leaders to curate initiatives/helikopter view  
Real action using own knowledge and skills  
Educational project for children / youth / grown-ups  
Care for surroundings / better living / nicer areas

"My very personal interest is Tiltā Street,  
because I live here on this street"

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# HUMAN RUBBER

## **What : Philosophy**

When you land in new territory / port  
Needed is a soft and somehow friendly landing  
Like the rubber wheels on the docks take the impact of  
ships, so shall places by presenting proper humans

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## **Experience**

When Institut for X and Bureau Detours landed in Riga,  
we where met by the sweetest of Human Rubbers  
Free Riga : Kaspars + Jonas  
TIK : Uldis + Armand + Edd  
KKC : Kaspars + Davis + Liene

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## **Question to ask oneself when receiving**

Who is Human Rubber? What is the Rubber?

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## **Gain**

External colleagues  
Friendship Efficiency

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## **What not to**

Underestimate the power of Human Rubber









# PUPPY ATTITUDE

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## What

Attitude of a person  
Who genuiely likes to sniff around  
new People and Splaces  
with a Happy-Go-Lucky attitude

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## When to Puppy Attitude

When Entering closed territory  
When metting neighbours  
When discovering new Splaces

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## How to Puppy

Puppy Attitude is a natural Art  
and can not be faked  
although one can learn  
to sharpen ones senses..

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## What not to

Be stupid





# POSSIBLE 2020+ RIGA PROJECTS

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## Houses / Platforms

KKC / The attic + Cross event +  
TIK / Uldis hall +  
Tech Uni RTU / Nail  
RER / Mapping

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## Places

Kometa / Build + Stage + Event +  
Hospital / Nail House  
Kiosk at TIK / Civilize it  
Uldis at TIK / Help and make love  
Bridge to KundinZala / 'The Water Park'

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## Existing Social Structure

Free Riga : Jonas + Kaspars +  
KKC crew : Davis + Kaspar + Lene  
Yo Residency : Lord Focus + Uldis + Sandis



TU JAU ZINI KUR



# JULATER TOURS

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## **Road Trip**

Start : Aarhus

End : Riga

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## **What**

Pitstops : UCP Locations

TEH Members & New Cultural Hotspots

Possible Future : Projects, People,  
Funding & Swallows Nailhouse

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## **Berlin**

UFA Fabrik, Holtz Markt, RaumLabor&Spree

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## **Gdansk**

Where is the Cultural Hotspots?

Who are the People?

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## **Vilnius**

Where is the Cultural Hotspots?

Who are the People?

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## **Riga**

Kometa, Tallinas Iela Kvarters,  
Kanapes Kultural Center, Free Riga & friends

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## **When**

Juli aka JULATER

Late Summer 2020

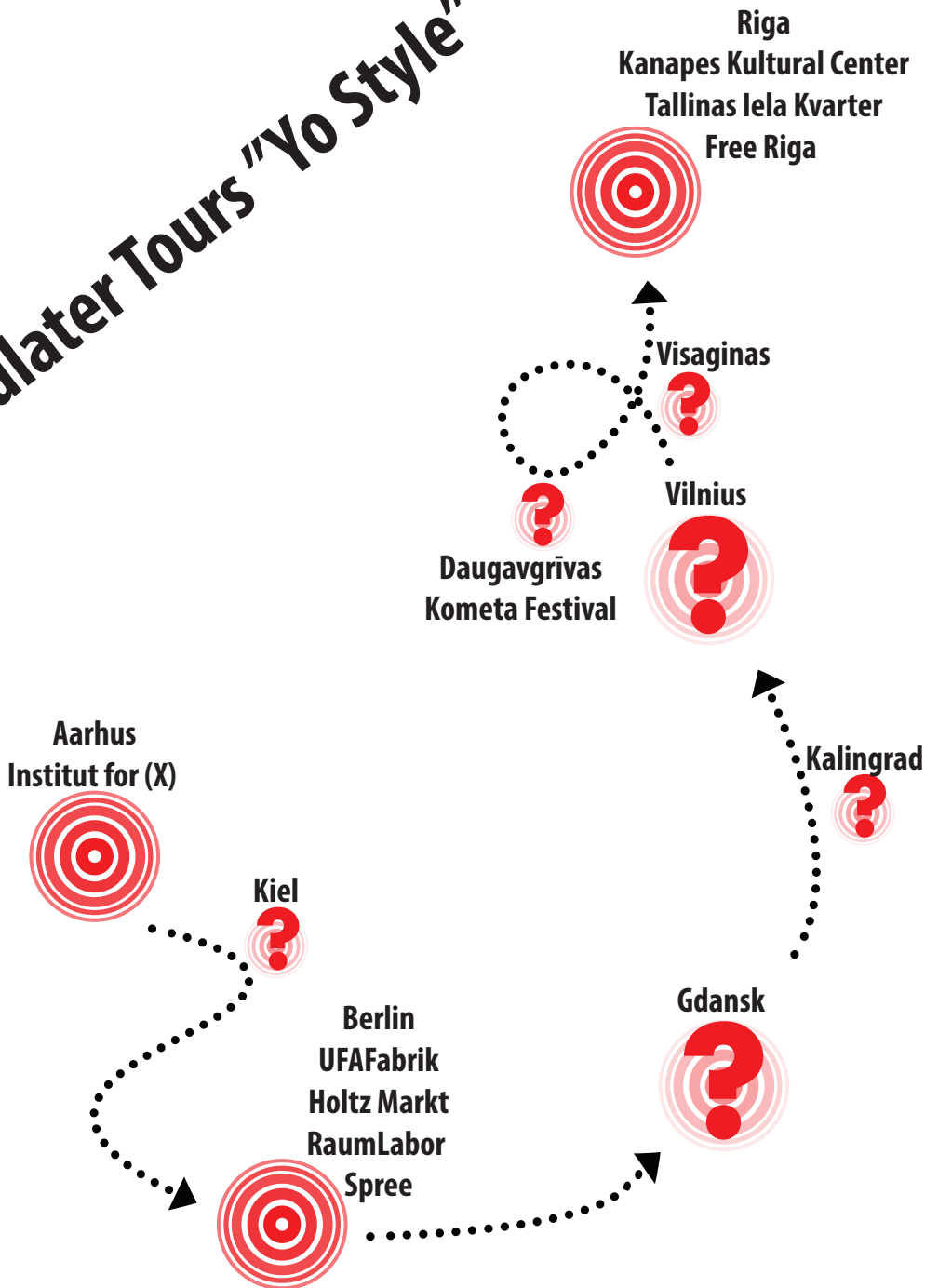
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## **Vibe**

Work Holliday



# Julater Tours "Yo Style"



### the packing list Riga 2020

- Molton (Uldaris)
- Free Furniture
- Tools (Complete kit)
- ~~This is~~ X / Stickers
- Rolling table / DJ station / <sup>Instant</sup> Office
- Fresh blood (Feum?)
- ~~Sound System~~ Sound System?
- Yo Residency booklet
- ~~Vinyl~~ Vinyl station
- A Secret Agenda?
- Something stolen from the road trip
- Sun Cover / Rain Cover

**FIRST DRAFT**

# THE PACKING LIST

## Julater Tours

- A Car
- This is X Books
- 2000 X Stickers
- Tools (Complete Kit)
- DJ Station
- "Cau" Booklet
- Awnings
- Vinyl Station

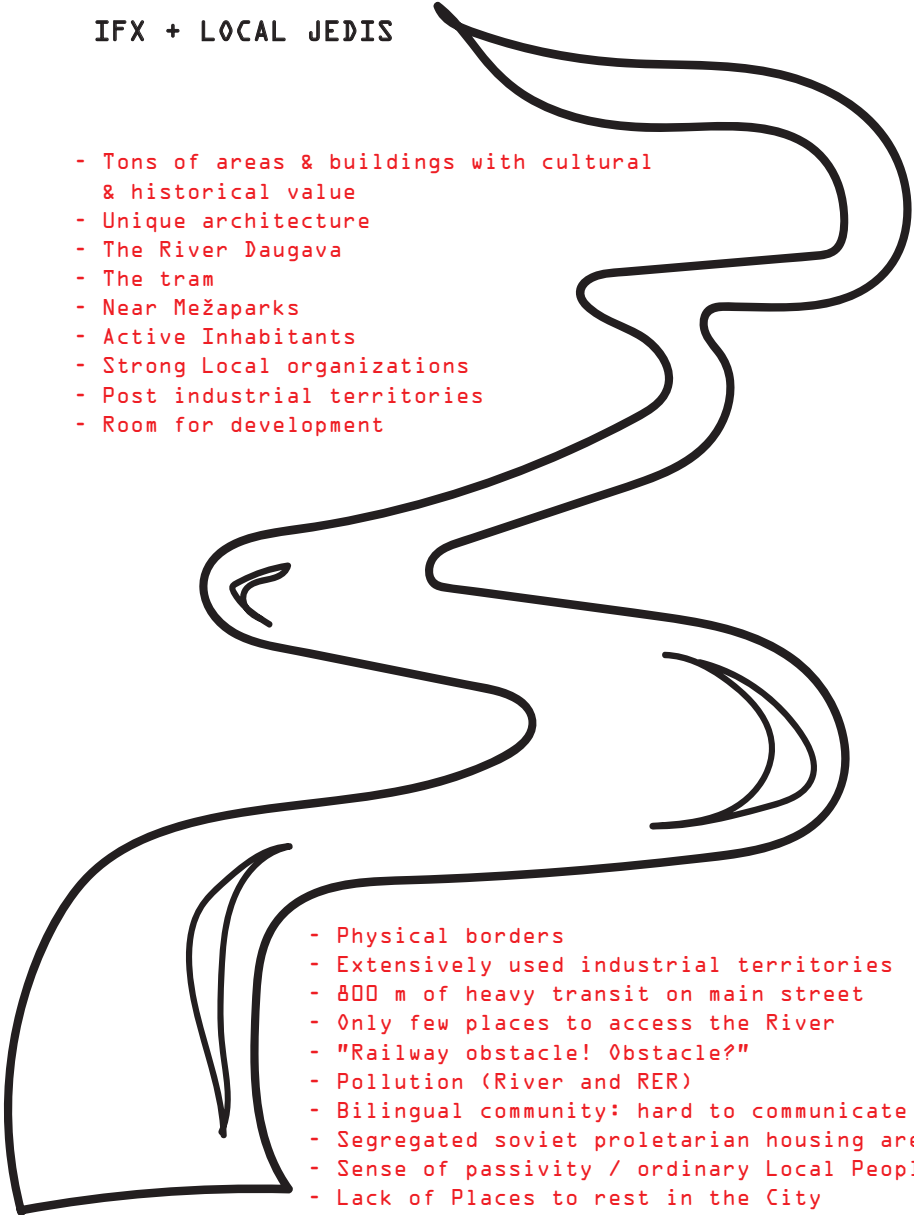
PLEASE ADD THINGS TO ME

SECOND DRAFT



# IMPRESSIONS OF SARKANDAUGAVA

## IFX + LOCAL JEDIS

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- Tons of areas & buildings with cultural & historical value
  - Unique architecture
  - The River Daugava
  - The tram
  - Near Mežaparks
  - Active Inhabitants
  - Strong Local organizations
  - Post industrial territories
  - Room for development

- Physical borders
- Extensively used industrial territories
- 800 m of heavy transit on main street
- Only few places to access the River
- "Railway obstacle! Obstacle?"
- Pollution (River and RER)
- Bilingual community: hard to communicate
- Segregated soviet proletarian housing area
- Sense of passivity / ordinary Local People
- Lack of Places to rest in the City
- Lack of modern Public space (indoor)
- In general; Lack of Third Spaces



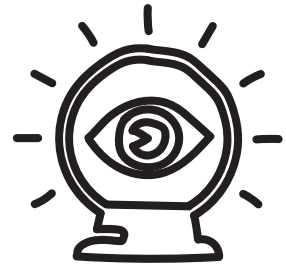






# **POSSIBLE FUTURES**

2020 + PROJECTS



## **Swallows Nail House:**

- Possible Venues
- Embassy X
- Spread The Word

## **Culture & events:**

- Yo-recidency
- Riga artistic network/already existing social structures



**Bureau Detours  
Design Tools  
& Experiments  
(old + new)**

## **Urban Architect Programme: Dream Sketches for Spaces and Places**

Who:

Free Riga + Riga City + RTU  
BDK + BD + IFX  
Local Partners + owners

- Waterpark Front Park  
(bridge to Kundzinzala)
- Bridge passage to the  
water  
(Mangali)

- Map already existing  
Activity in RER
- Create Open Source  
list / people with  
access to buildings

*Transition of Town:*

*How to go from old to new without Super-Gentrification?  
Is Positive Gentrification possible?*

Thanks to all The Human Rubber we met on our way.  
Neighbors of Sarkandaugava, Tallinas Ielas Kvartāls,  
The Danish Cultural Institute, helpful people in Riga City  
Council and last but not least Free Riga for inviting us  
and supporting throughout our stay in Riga.

Čau! Till we meet again...



EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

**FREE  
RIGA**

**INSTITUT FOR**

**BUREAU  
DETOURS**

**U<sup>C</sup>** Urb  
Cultural  
Planning

