Miklós Dormán (miklosdorman@gmail.com)
https://orcid.org/0009-0009-0896-6639
Department of Urban Planning and Design, Budapest University of Technology
and Economics Faculty of Architecture

New opportunities for community spaces on the edge of agglomeration. Analysis of rural public spaces and public space situations around Budapest

Nowe możliwości dla przestrzeni społecznych na obrzeżach aglomeracji. Analiza wiejskich przestrzeni publicznych i sytuacji w przestrzeni publicznej wokół Budapesztu

Abstract

The study analyzes settlements around the capital that used to have the patterns of rural settlement types, but in the last 5–10 years they have been reached by the typical stratum of the urban population, which means the emergence of other patterns, thereby starting the urbanization processes in the settlements. Therefore, we are looking for guidance on the use of space in settlements where there is a family population moving out of the capital, but commuting to the city is no longer typical.

Keywords: usability, formal–informal, formal language, toolkit, provisory–permanent, assemblage

Streszczenie

Badanie analizuje osiedla na obrzeżach stolicy, które niegdyś charakteryzowały się wzorcami oraz zwyczajami wiejskich typów osadnictwa, a do których w ciągu ostatnich 5–10 lat dotarła warstwa ludności typowo miejskiej. Prowadzi to do pojawienia się nowych wzorców, a tym samym rozpoczęcia procesów urbanizacyjnych. Poszukujemy wskazówek dotyczących wykorzystania przestrzeni w osiedlach, w których mieszkają rodziny, które wyprowadziły się ze stolicy, ale zasadniczo nie dojeżdżają już do miasta.

Słowa kluczowe: użyteczność, formalny–nieformalny, formalny język, zestaw narzędzi, prowokacyjny–trwały, asamblaż

1. INTRODUCING THE PROJECT

An important objective is to assess the state of public spaces in villages (linked to small settlements) with a growing population that are located outside the Budapest agglomeration. It is also important to explore the potential of formal and informal community spaces. It is also essential to explore how the population and the local community can be involved in a common reflection that can have an impact on their environment, public spaces or even a local formal language.

1.1. TOPICALITY OF THE SUBJECT

During the last decade in Hungary, the economic role of the capital city has been increasing, but at the same time there has been a parallel increase in rural displacement. The Budapest orientation of job opportunities is increasingly causing Hungarian families to feel safe close to the capital. However, given their financial background, their ability to settle close to the centre is limited, and they are not even able to buy property in the immediate agglomeration of Budapest. Against the background of relocation, it is important to highlight the fact that after the COVID epidemic, home-office options have become more widespread in the workplace, so that it is often sufficient to visit the workplace office in the capital a few times a month.

In this way, the outlying agglomerations (e.g. Pilisszentkereszt, Dány, Vácrátót, Bugyi, etc.) where relocation has started in recent years are coming to the fore (based on BM data, 2022).

The majority of the displaced are young family communities, where self-organisation and self-active circles are emerging. There is a need to deal with the environment, partly through self-activity and partly through formal involvement of the mayor's office. The maintenance of the new public spaces created is an important aspect. It is not necessarily a question of looking for permanence, but of providential public interventions as opposed to permanent ones. It may be good logic that a temporary structure becomes long-lasting or disappears after demolition, depending on its use.

The aim of the research is to produce an inspiring and instructive set of suggestions on how the design of public, outdoor community spaces and the residents who live in them can become more open and communal in practice.

The socialist society has made the Hungarian rural community fundamentally closed, and that is why there is a need to create community public spaces, even 30 years after the regime change.

2. METHODOLOGY

In the course of the research, I will examine settlements that are beyond the Budapest agglomeration, not belonging to it organically, more isolated, directly connected to smaller settlements only. They are municipalities where the population has been growing in recent years. These include: Pilisszentkereszt, Dány, Vácduka, Bugyi, Áporka (and other municipalities, selection later) I will focus on the most problematic public spaces in these municipalities, for which a case study will be prepared (case study outline at the end of the document.) The factors important in the case study are: bus shelters, cultural functions, commercial functions, educational institutions, offices and their relations.

In the development of the case studies, I examine the spatial location of these important public functions and highlight the typical problems of the spaces between them.

The case study will be developed with the involvement of the local community and local government.

3. SPACE ANALYSIS OF SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES NEAR THE AGGLOMERATION

Fig. 1. Graphics of the municipalities covered by the study, 2022. Created by author

A survey of relevant municipalities, using a step-by-step approach, with a gradual mapping of problems. The approximation is still in its initial phase, mainly presenting the concept of the survey method.

In the first semester, the first phase of the research is a public space analysis of selected municipalities near the agglomeration. The next phase will present solutions for community space situations in a comparison of two municipalities.
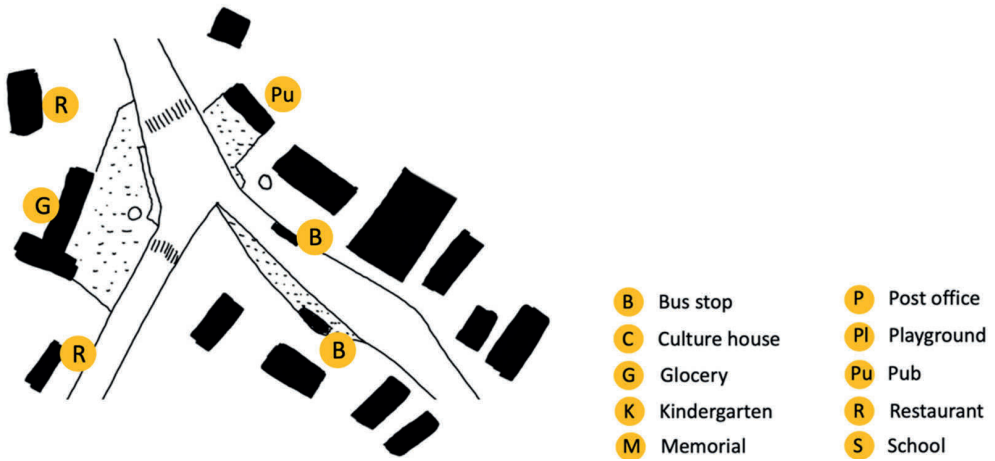

Fig. 2. Site plan drawing of the study areain the village of Pilisszentkereszt, 2022. Created by author

3.1. PILISSZENTKERESZT VILLAGE

In the village, bus stops (B) are in forced locations compared to community functions. Community outdoor public spaces are not used before community functions (grocery (G), pubs (Pu), restaurants (R)). Residents of the settlement and hikers from Pilis wait in tight spaces next to the bus stops. We can speak of cogent space use, an unused public space available in the area.

Fig. 3. Google Streetview about Pilisszentkereszt village at the examinedarea. Source: https:// maps.app.goo.gl/GwagKHQFQv28eSu9 (date of access: 2022)

Fig. 4. Google Streetview about Pilisszentkereszt village at the examinedarea. Source: https:// maps. app.goo.gl/QUfeoM1riQf77G6E8 (date of sccess: 2021)
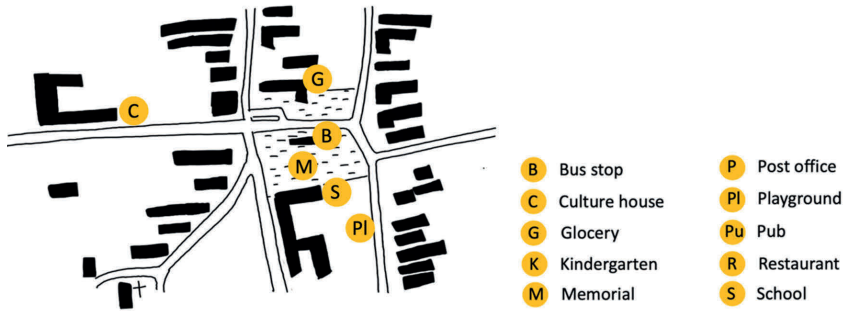
Fig. 5. Site plan drawing of the study areain the village of Dány, 2022. Created by author

3.2. DÁNY VILLAGE

In the case of Dány, behind the bus stop (B), in a more isolated position, there is a World War memorial (M). The use of the park is not visible, its delimitation from the road and the bus stop is questionable as to whether it is justified. A glocery (G) can be seen opposite the bus stop, and the unused public space can be observed between the two.

Fig. 6. Google Streetview about Dány village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app. goo.gl/vjxsjBDtAzjmqs7DA (date of access: 2022)

Fig. 7. Google Streetview about Dány village at the examined area. Source: https:// maps.app.goo.gl/ oja9SqEzUmX2cbzL6 (date of access: 2022)
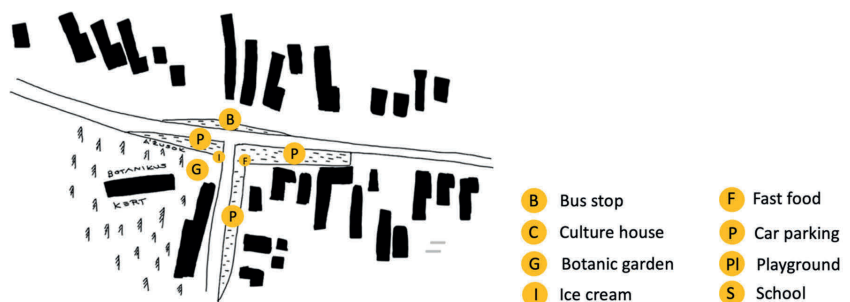

Fig. 8. Site plan drawing of the study areain the village of Vácrátót, 2022. Created by author

3.3. VÁCRÁTÓT VILLAGE

The important centre of the town is also a tourist centre, and the entrance to the botanical gardens (B) is located here. The terrace of the ice-cream stall (I) and the vendors at the entrance are in a state of disrepair, with parked cars encroaching painfully into the public space. In contrast, the bus shelter (B) stands isolated, carved into a hill. The problems of public communal spaces in the area marked by the dotted hatching are worth exploring further public space options.

Fig. 9. Google Streetview about Vácrátót village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Vv61ZQ9mcp2CWvoA7 (date of access: 2023)

Fig. 10. Google Streetview about Vácrátót village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Wggcgce5Cs2KY5Fy9 (date of access: 2023)

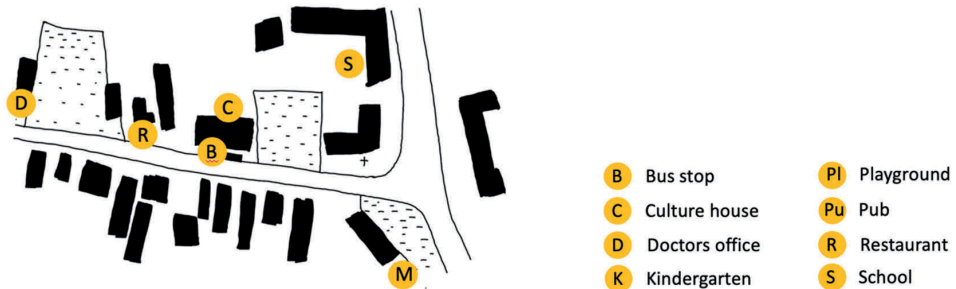| B | Bus stop | Pl | Playground |
C	Culture house	Pu	Pub
D	Doctors office	R	Restaurant
K	Kindergarten	S	School

Fig. 11. Site plan drawing of the study areain the village of Bugyi, 2022. Created by author

3.4. BUGYI VILLAGE

The most frequented stop in the municipality is located ot he narrow sidewalk in front of the culture house ©. The shelter is well used and is an important location for transfers. In both directions of the road from the site there is an area of unused community space (dashed sraff), one of which connec ot hethe school (S), church (+) and doctor's surgery (D). These are currently parking lots, which have mainly a space-destroying effect.

Fig. 12. Google Streetview about Bugyi village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app. goo.gl/pBfcJVjhtqKUi4FP9 (date of access: 2023)

Fig. 13. Google Streetview about Bugyi village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app.goo. gl/5UYkBNiisCSS36MZA (date of access: 2023)

B	Bus stop	S	School
C	Culture house	P	Post office
D	Doctor office	Pl	Playground
M	Memorial	S	School
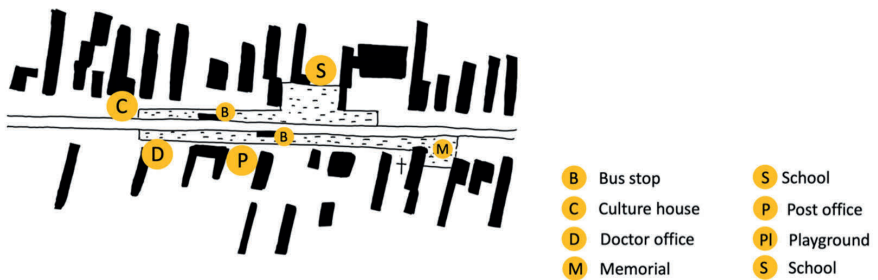
Fig. 14. Site plan drawing of the study areain the village of Áporka, 2022. Created by author

3.5. ÁPORKA VILLAGE

The most important institutions in the municipality are clustered in one place with two bus shelters (B), as shown in the figure. In front of the institutions – the post office (P), the doctor's office (D), the church (t), the café (R), and the school (S) – there is no definable public space. The 56' memorial (M) and the church (+) also stand detached by themselves. With the spatial layout of the irregularly hatched terrain, the possibility of spaces of different qualities and uses arises. At present, the bus shelters (B) are in a confined position in both directions, with minimal repositioning they can be embedded in the (established) public spaces.

Fig. 15. Google Streetview about Áporka village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app.goo. gl/dagwuKHBBqtnA3wv8 (date of access: 2011)

Fig. 16. Google Streetview about Áporka village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app. goo.gl/zFyDyyf8YTjeDwj98 (date of access: 2011)

Fig. 17. Site plan drawing of the study areain the village of Szada, 2022. Created by author

3.6. SZADA VILLAGE

In the case of Szada, it is worth examining a larger settlement environment, the village section between two pairs of bus stops, where we can see very similar problems. A built community space can currently be seen between the grocery (G) and the Post office (P), which is designed with parking lots, not divided by vegetation at all, and made transparent. Other community functions are strictly and alienatedly demarcated, to which we can almost reach by forced route from the parking lot or bus stops (B) Hospitality premises and buffets/ cafés are located on the edge of the parking lots, turning their backs on the settlement image, completely detached from the character of the settlement. Rethinking the use of space in the areas marked with a hatch can have a beneficial effect on the community life of the settlement.

Fig. 18. Google Streetview about Szada village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app.goo.gl/HVG1k4U8jHRS7HZG8 (date of access: 2022)

Fig. 19. Google Streetview about Szada village at the examined area. Source: https://maps.app.goo.gl/THjWzeZ3zCNDi7dg8 (date of access: 2022)

4. RESULTS

The lessons I have learned from these studies are that there are important spatial reserves that will be able to act as community spaces. As a result of this study, we will look at typical potentially exploitable residual land that has the potential to be used by communities as public open space. Understanding and deciphering such reserves can be a key factor in the life of a settlement with an urbanising population.

Well-functioning public spaces can play a role in a healthy sense of well-being, a sense of security, social relations, sustainability and not least the economy.

4.1. RESERVE AREAS BETWEEN THE PLOT BOUNDARIES AND THE CONTOUR OF THE ROAD
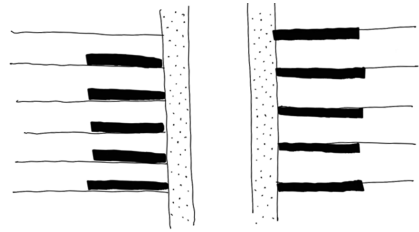
Fig. 20. Urban tissue type situation, 2023. Created by author

One of the archetypal and traditional spaces for community dialogue in the village is the benches in front of the farmhouses. Nowadays, in many villages, these areas are spaces taken up by cars, and with the constant widening of roads, the lanes often become very narrow.
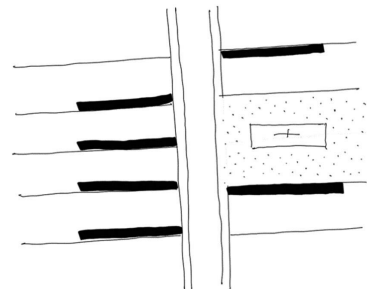
4.2. REMNANT AREAS AROUND THE CHURCH

Fig. 21. Urban tissue type situation, 2023. Created by author

This is another community space that follows the tradition of the use of space, which also carries its boundedness, usually divided and organised by tombs and monuments, which does not allow for much flexibility. Unlike the space for dialogue, the church is a rather quiet space, where the community life is mainly religious and cultural.

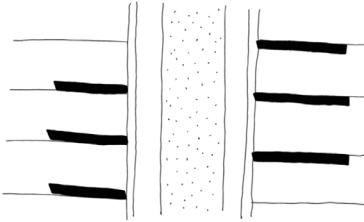## 4.3. GREEN SPACE BLOCKED BY ROADS

Fig. 22. Urban tissue type situation, 2023. Created by author

A common remnant in the centre of settlements is the long green tongue or green strip, once used for fairs. These are fortunate reserve areas for the community life of the settlement.
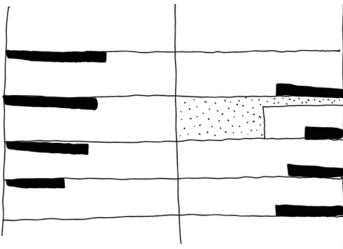
4.4. LAND USE BEHIND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Fig. 23. Urban tissue type situation, 2023. Created by author

The stricter constraints of sawtooth construction often make it difficult to create public spaces. In the creation of recreational spaces, the land behind public buildings on the street front articulates a protected space. Its exploration is very constrained by its location.
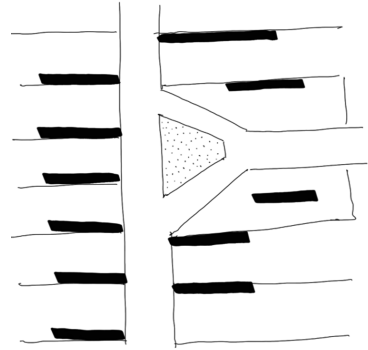
4.5. REMNANT SQUARE AROUND A FORMER WELL

Fig. 24. Urban tissue type situation, 2023. Created by author

The remnant space around the former well is a small area intersected by roads, which is also a communal space archetype in the settlement history of villages. By preserving traditions, these areas can be saved from large-scale development as spaces for dialogue. In many cases, these spaces are centralised by monuments, which often undermine the potential for community use.

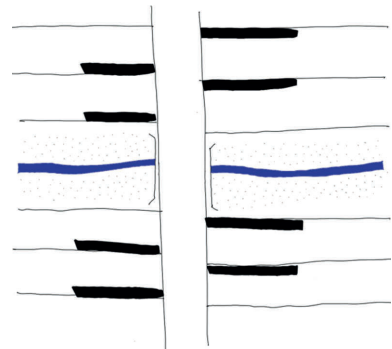## 4.6. REMAINING AREAS ALONG THE STREAM

Fig. 25. Urban tissue type situation, 2023. Created by author

One of the great reserves of community space in many municipalities is the green space along the stream. The creek typically runs through settlements, as villages are deliberately built along the creek. In this way, the stream channels green space into the centre of the settlement, which can be used in many aspects of recreational community space functions.

The author is responsible for linguistic correctness of the paper.

REFERENCES

Danurb (2017). Danurb – Spatial Cultural Strategies along the Danube, Research Camps, International workshops, 2017. Retrived from: https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/danurb/partners (date of access: 2022).

Herceg, T. (2009). Hungarian village funeral architecture. Budapest. Retrieved from http://konyvtar2.mome.hu/doktori/ertekezesek/DLAertekezes-HerczegTamas-2009.pdf (date of access: 2022/09/05).

Holczer, V. (2012). *Alulról építkezve – pajtából közösségi ház, Markóc*. Retrieved from https://epiteszforum.hu/alulrol-epitkezve-pajtabol-kozossegi-haz-markoc (date of access: 2022/11/14).

Magyari, Zs., Francsicsics, L., Szántay, Zs. (2013). *Nyim falu fejlesztése*. Budapest: BME. Retrieved from http://dla.epitesz.bme.hu/appendfiles/176-ta_nyim_2%20JOo.pdf (date of access: 2022/12/10).

Reischl, G. (2010). *Mezőgazdaság és építészet*. Budapest: Terc.

Sendra, P., Senett, R. (2020). *Designing Disorder: Experiments and Disruptions in the City*. Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Guadiance: Árpád Szabó DLA, Tutor: Tamás Fenes DLA, Academic year: 2022.