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## RIJEKA WITHIN THE REACH OF THE CITY URBAN IDEAS ABOUT THE SAVA IN ZAGREB

### RIJEKA NADOHVAT GRADA URBANISTIČKE IDEJE O SAVI U ZAGREBU

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The book “Rijeka within the Reach of the City – Urban Ideas about the Sava in Zagreb” by Irena Matković, Ph.D., deals with the relationship between the city and the Sava River – one of the most important urban issues in Zagreb in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. From the beginning of river regulations until today, in numerous urban competitions, plans, studies, analyses and projects, urban planners have been permanently preoccupied with rethinking the city – river relationship and the development concepts for its littoral. The incompleteness of the research of the proposals for the development the Sava area, their insufficient professional and scientific processing, as well as evaluation in the context of spatial and urban planning, were the main stimuli of the author's research. It refers to reflections on the area of the Sava River and its banks in the period from 1889 to 2017, within the administrative boundaries of the City of Zagreb, which stretches along 30 km of river flow.

Most of the book brings the findings of comprehensive scientific research conducted during 2010 and 2011 at the Faculty of Architecture in Zagreb<sup>1</sup>, subsequently supplemented by the most important studies and projects for the period until 2017. Based on the available written, cartographic and graphic material, professional literature and press, the historical development of Zagreb on the Sava bank was investigated, with special reference to regulatory works that enabled the settlement of the Sava lowland, construction of bridges over the Sava in Zagreb and historical reflections on navigability and the construction of the port. The author points to

constant changes in the professional conception of the Zagreb Sava area, analyses the relationship of previous proposals to urban fabric, architecture, traffic and landscape, and thus creates a basis for future evaluations and planning of the development of Zagreb on the Sava banks.

The book is richly illustrated, contains 220 pages and 16 chapters, and can be divided into two basic parts. In the first part, the author introduces us to the historical development of Zagreb in the coastal area, natural features and water management basics. Based on the records of numerous proposals for design and development of the river area, it compares proposals and connects them with the time and social context, analysing them in several categories: proposals for design and use of inundation belts, proposals for the Sava coast, landscape features of the proposed solutions, recreational aspects of coastal use. Instead of the conclusion of the first part of the book, Irena Matković singles out the challenges of arranging the Sava in Zagreb and makes recommendations for future procedural and formal-legal regulations of the Sava coastal planning process in Zagreb.

A special contribution is the second part of the book, which occupies more than half of its volume, in the form of a catalogue of chronologically arranged proposals for the arrangement of the Sava River and the coast. The proposals are classified into categories according to the type and degree of elaboration: strategic spatial planning documents, spatial planning implementation documents, urban, urban-architectural or architectural projects,

tender works, conceptual studies / expertise and ideas / directions. The proposals recorded in the overview table are placed in the context of significant events and / or documents related to the Sava River in Zagreb. Each of the 117 catalogued proposals were classified into an appropriate category, elaborated with a graphic presentation and a brief description, authors and sources and literature. In this way, the catalogue provides an insight into various ideas on arranging the banks of the Sava or its part in Zagreb, and together with an exhaustive list of literature and represented authors, the catalogue contributes to the knowledge about the urban issue of the Sava in Zagreb as a whole and on the experts who worked on them in the span of 110 years.

The book is intended primarily for experts, scholars and students in the field of architecture, urbanism, spatial planning and landscape architecture, but also for the general public as a source of relevant data on the reflections of the Sava and the city over 110 years – from the first decision on the river regulations in 1899, questioning newly planned interventions. It is particularly important in the context of ongoing doubts and the absence of an interdisciplinary consensus on the most acceptable scenario for the future development of the city along the river. Therefore, it represents a significant contribution to the establishment of the necessary transdisciplinary approach that should ensure the sustainable coexistence of the city and the river in the future, with respect to the ecological-landscape and urban values of this sensitive interrelationship.

<sup>1</sup> The master's thesis “Proposals for Arranging the Sava River with the Coast in the Area of Zagreb from 1899 to 2010, Urban, Architectural, Landscape and Hydrotechnical Features” was prepared under the mentorship of academician Mladen Obad Šćitaroci and defended at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb in May 2011. The research was created as a part of the research project “Urban and Landscape Heritage of Croatia as part of European Culture, led by prof.dr.sc. Mladen Obad Šćitaroci, which was implemented with the support of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia in the period 2007-2013.