



Vlora Bay!

A blooming city

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Vlora City

The city of Vlora is one of the most ancient city in Albania dating back to the 6th century BC contemporary to the ancient Greek civilization and known as Aulon. Nowadays, its population reaches 150 000 units, and the city has the second largest port of Albania which is also a fishing port and holiday resort.

Vlore is very rich in historical and archeological landmarks and from natural beauty point of view, one of the most attractive tourist centers in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea. In the last 10 years the city economy has been marked by a construction booming that was directed to build new residence for an increasing population and to accommodate tourists. In many cases the existing and outdated urban regulations were disregarded leading to chaotic developments such as disproportionally high buildings or erratic building orientations both in the city center and along the water-front.

As other Albanian cities, Vlore also exhibits many problems associated with unmanaged urbanization, such as pollution, weak sewerage infrastructure and waste disposal, poor water supply, presence of illegal settlements and traffic congestion. Particularly worrisome is the management of the city's waste as the service offered is irregular, inefficient and inadequate. In worst case, solid waste is left to litter or decompose on streets and empty lots. Even solid waste collected by the municipal authorities is dumped and burned in non-engineered open areas within the city limits.

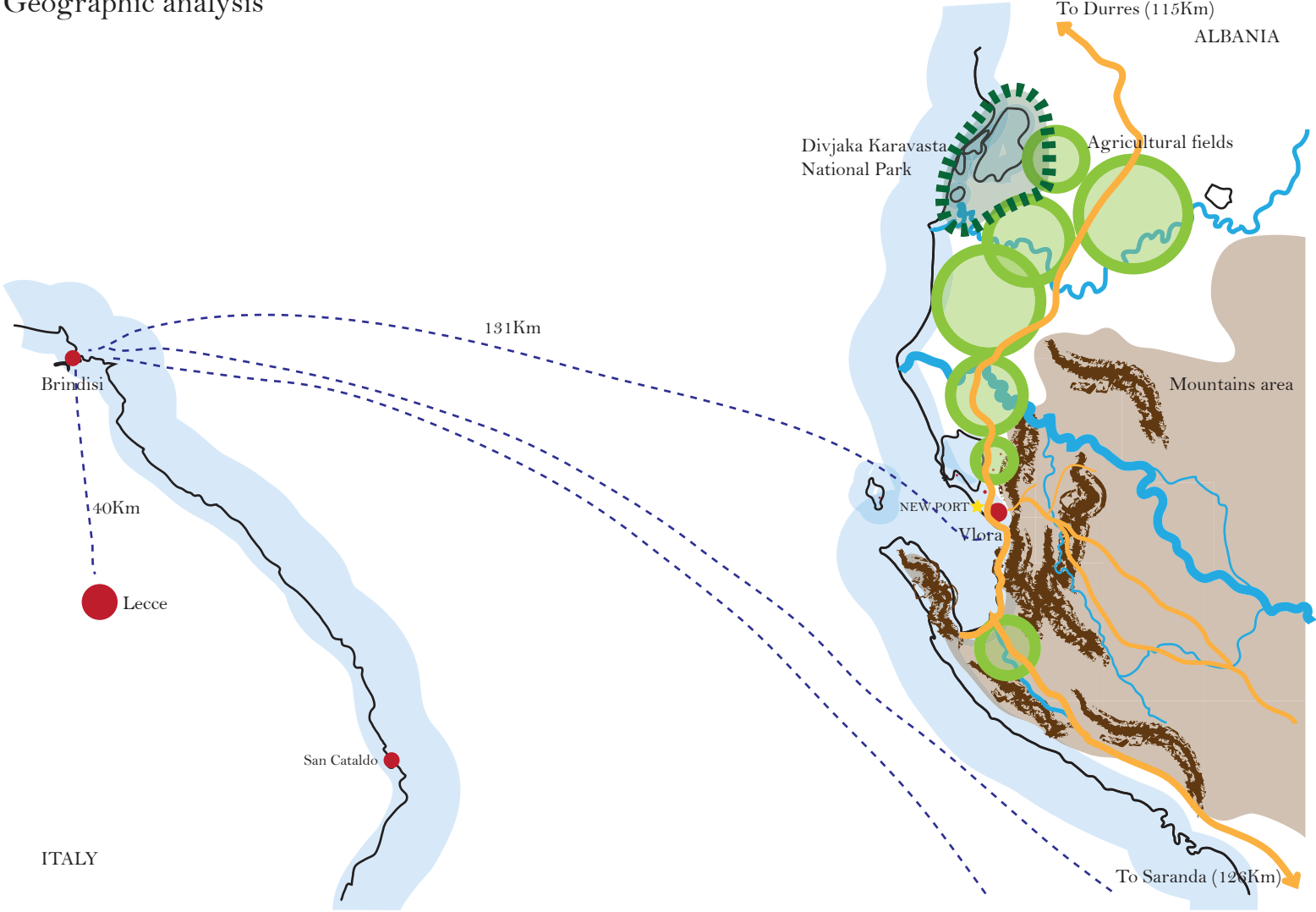
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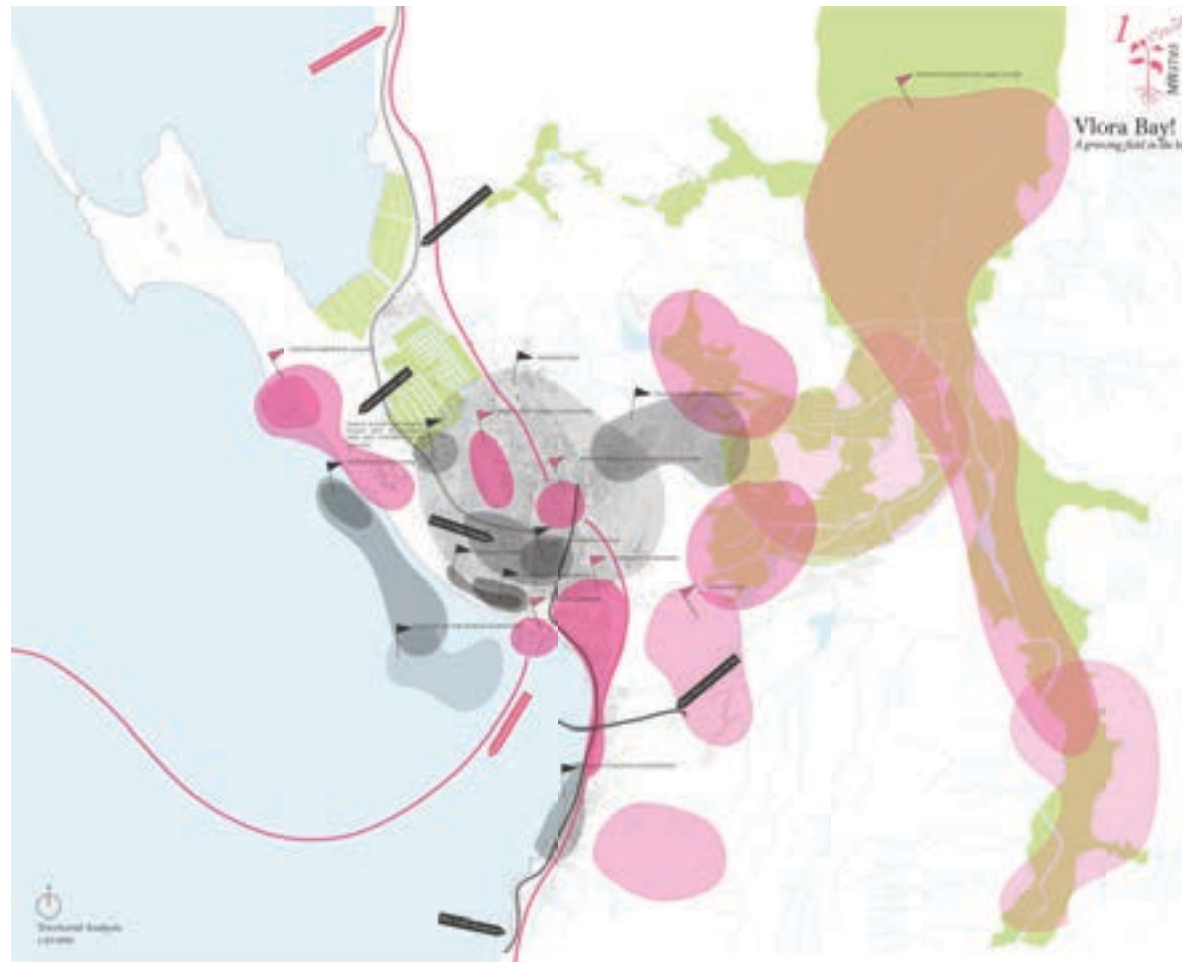
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Geographic analysis



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Territorial Analysis



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SWOT Report

STRENGTHS > REINFORCE

SECOND HARBOUR IN ALBANIA

The city has the second largest port of Albania which is also a fishing port and holiday resort.

SPECIFIC IDENTITY WITH ANCIENT HISTORY

Vlore is very rich in historical and archeological landmarks and from natural beauty point of view.

TOURISM INCREASING

In the last 10 years the city economy has been marked by a construction booming that was directed to build new residence for an increasing population and to accommodate tourists.

SCENIC HARBOUR

Located along the Adriatic coast in a scenic harbour surrounded by a beautiful landscape of green hills.

GREEN HILLS

Surrounded by inland mountainous areas and discovering regional cultural heritage.

PERFECT CLIMATE FOR AGRICULTURE

Vlore inland is well known in Albania for quality olive oil, citrus fruits cultivations and vineyards.

WEAKNESSES > STOP AND SOLVE

WATER CONTAMINATION

The presence of an abandoned PVC factory with residual soil contamination and the presence of an active furnace which is not equipped with filters to control of toxic emissions.

UNCONTROLLED URBAN SPRAWL

Together with the lack of an appropriate regional plan, has already led to loss of valuable agricultural land.

LACK OF PARKING SPACES

Insufficient public funds to allocate to the upgrading of the existing infrastructure and the construction of new ones is a major concern.

DEFORESTATION

Due to the lack of an instrument to plan the development of the city several areas have been deforested to build new houses to allocated the growing population.

ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTIONS

The absence of an overall masterplan has led to informal and illegal development in areas of ecological and scenic significance that should be protected, managed and rehabilitated.

DAMAGES TO MARITIME ECOSYSTEM

The uncontrolled pour of waste water to the sea has caused several damages to the Maritime Ecosystem.

FREQUENT TRAFFIC CONGESTIONS

Road infrastructures are already congested and in poor conditions creating many car accidents and hindering the development of business activities.

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Kit of Architectural Seeds

For the regeneration of the Vlora Bay the project will provide a Kit of Architectural Seeds. These seeds will be planted in the different zones of the site to colonize individual spaces.

The seeds are planted as an active response to the specific weaknesses found in each area. The solution to each problem can be provided in several ways. The classification system in Vlora Bay organizes the seeds by their main function. This way we can observe Structural Seeds, Production Seeds, Attraction Seeds and Authohtonous Seeds.

Different types of spatial relationships emerge depending on seed pairings. Each seed type is reliant on the others to continue growing and recreate Vlora Bay.



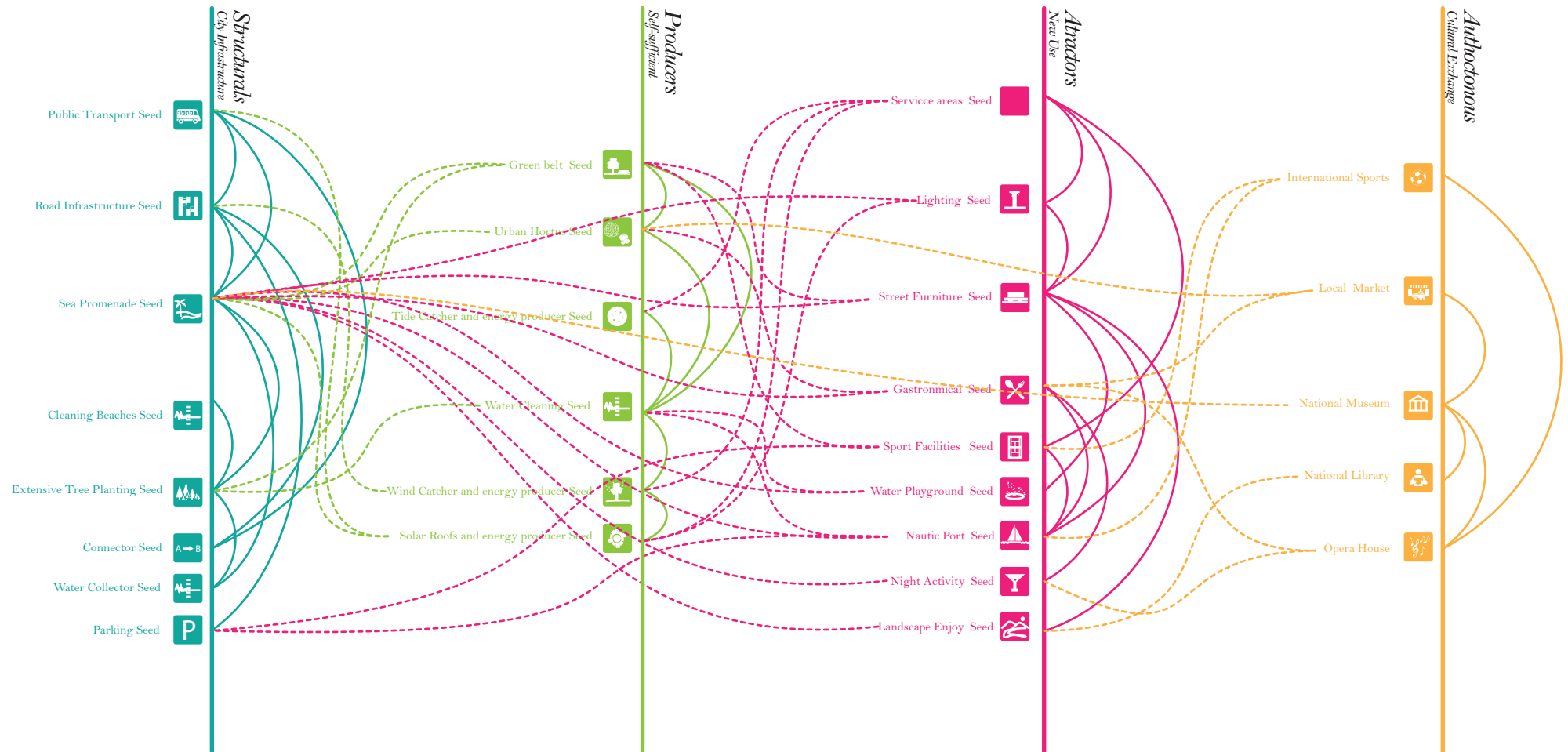
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Seed Organigramm

This diagram explores the relations among the Seed types



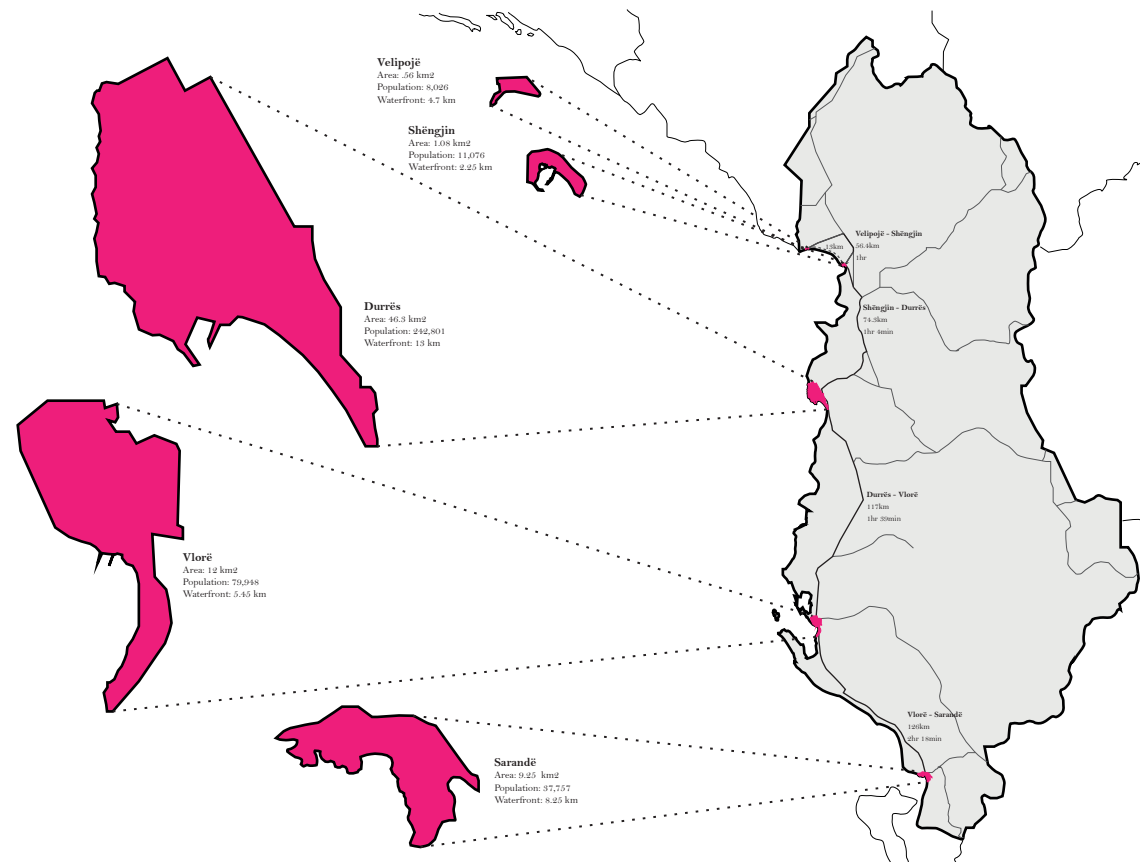
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A Blueprint for other Albanian Cities

The Kit of Architectural seeds will be applied to other three future projects.
The type of seed needed for each location will depend on the analysis of the area, and depending on the needs of the city new seeds could develop!



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Vlora Bay

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For the City of Vlora the Sea is a reference point. Most of the leisure and economic activities are related to the Sea, from fishing to tourist resorts. But they were not respectful towards this gift and they did not take care of it as they should.

With this project the city has a second chance to grow something from the landscape from which they belong. For this restoration, they will use the Kit of Architectural Seeds. Each Seed will be placed at strategic points to create a basic structure for the redevelopment of the Waterfront.

The Waterfront will be divided into different areas with diverse atmospheres; The Green Beach, The Sea Gate Vlora Park, The Holiday Everyday and an Untouched Land.

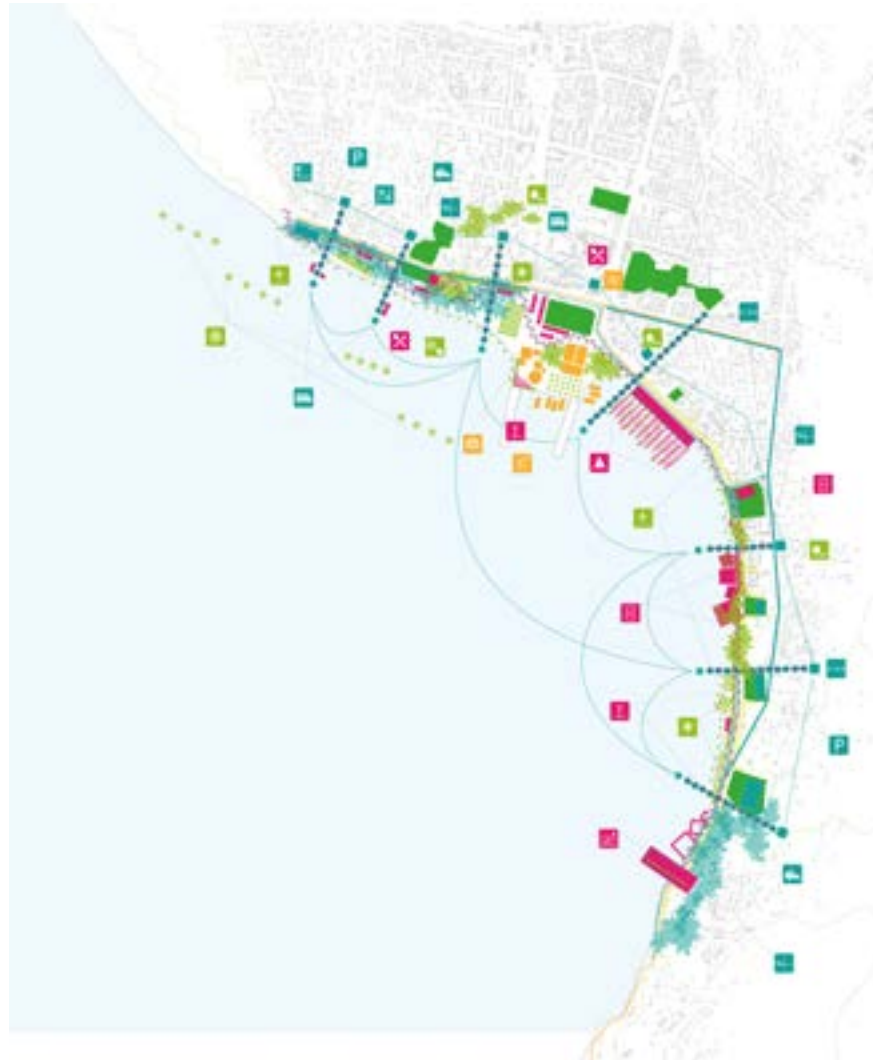
In the Green Beach the project will focus on the cleaning of stormwater using wetland systems, and the existing beach will be remain intact. The aim is to provide the city of a proper urban beach.

For the Sea Gate Vlora Park the project looks for an international, cultural exchange where foreigners can get to know the culture of Vlora and Albania. The harbour is preserved as a touristic port with adjacency to the new nautical sports marina.

In the Holiday Everyday area, tourist will find everything they need to enjoy their time in Vlora.

The Untouched Land will be a Nature Reserve where visitors can only access from the Seaside.

Planting Diagram

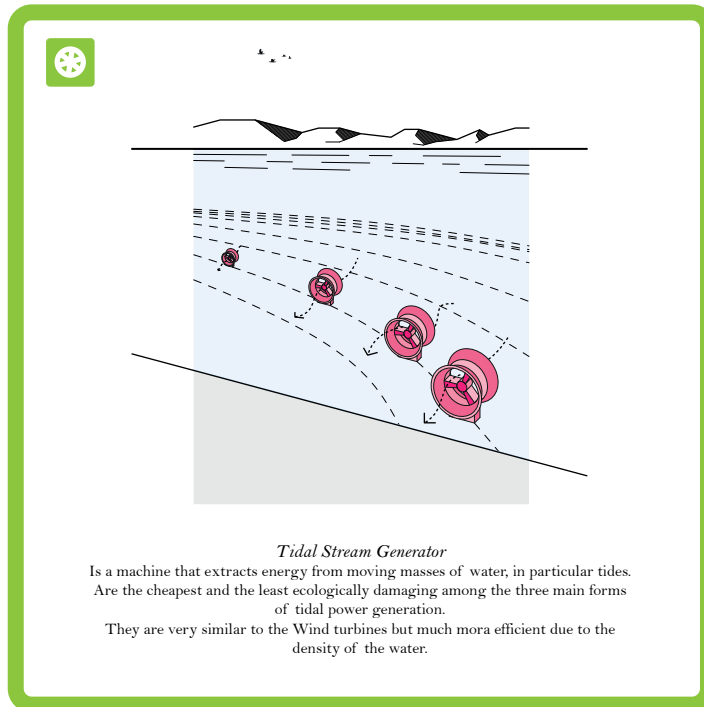


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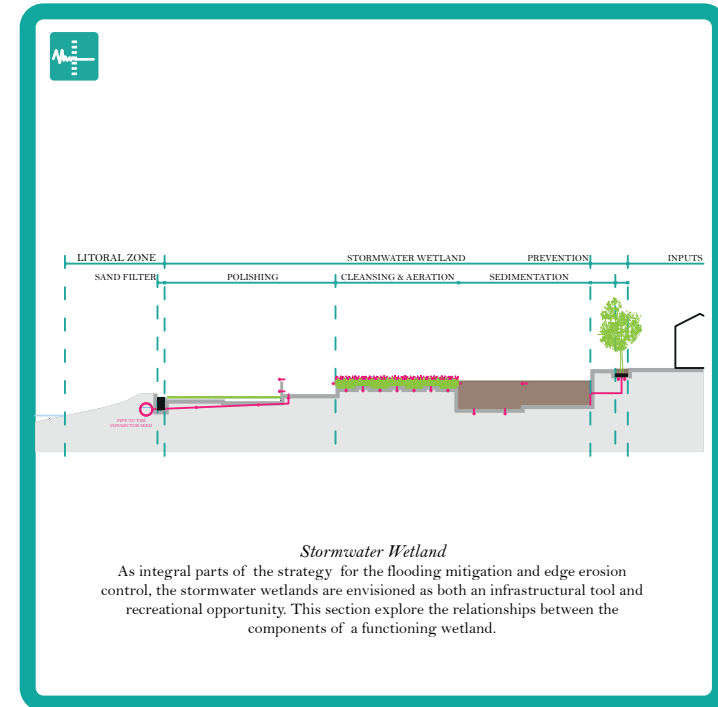
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Seeds with fix morphology



Tidal Stream Generator

Is a machine that extracts energy from moving masses of water, in particular tides. Are the cheapest and the least ecologically damaging among the three main forms of tidal power generation. They are very similar to the Wind turbines but much more efficient due to the density of the water.



Stormwater Wetland

As an integral parts of the remediation strategy for flood mitigation and edge erosion control, the stormwater wetlands are envisioned as both an infrastructural tool and recreational opportunity. This section explores the relationships between the components of a functioning wetland.

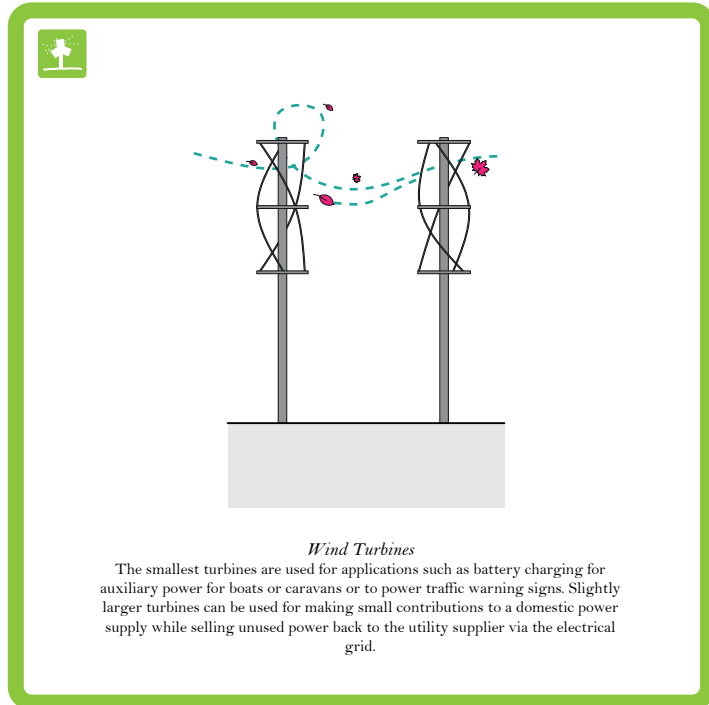
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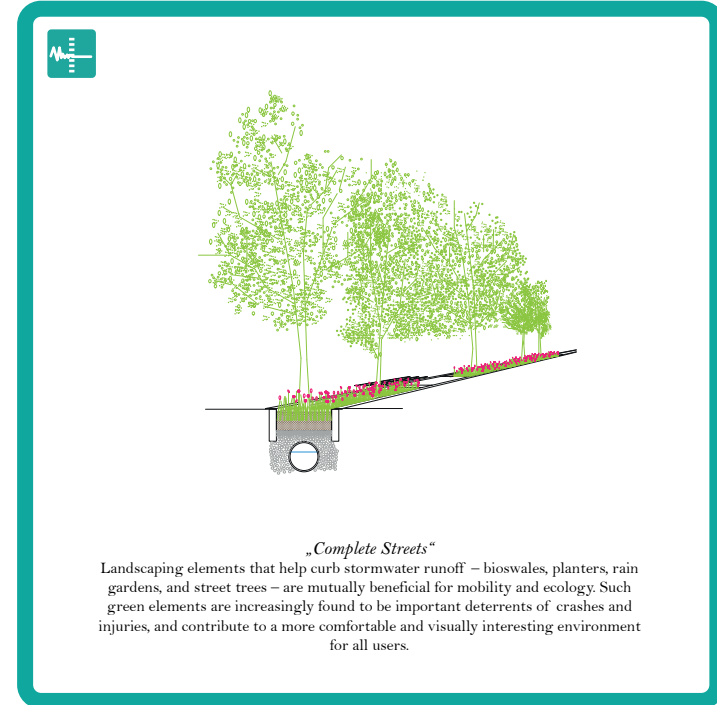
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Seeds with fix morphology



Wind Turbines

Small wind turbines are employed to charge auxiliary batteries on boats and hybrid caravans, or to power traffic warning signs. Slightly larger turbines can be used for making modest inputs to a domestic power supply or to sell surplus power back to the utility supplier. Wind energy can contribute to the self-sufficiency and sustainability of the Vlora waterfront.



"Complete Streets"

Many landscape elements help manage stormwater runoff. Bioswales, green space, rain gardens, and street trees are all mutually beneficial for mobility and ecology. These green elements are increasingly found to be important deterrents of collisions and accidents, and contribute to a more comfortable and visually interesting environment for all users.

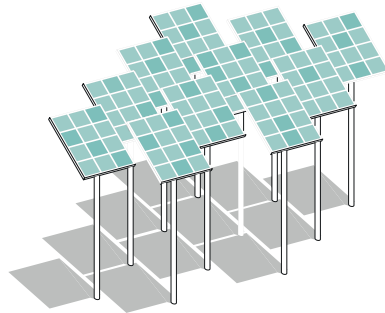
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Seeds with fix morphology

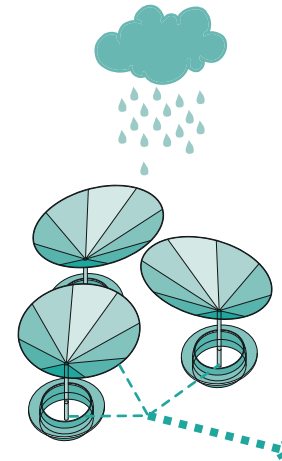


Solar Panels

The sun is natural energy source that can be caught with photovoltaic cells. Placing the Solar Panels on the beach areas we can use them as a Parasol elements and energy catchers.

Solar Roofs

The sun is a natural energy source that can be collected using photovoltaic cells. By placing Solar Collectors along the beach areas, they can be used for both energy collection and sunshading (i.e. parasol elements).



Water Collectors

In Vlora nothing goes to waste! When it rains the water is collected and used to water the urban vegetable gardens that will supply the restaurants in the closest area.

Water Collectors

In Vlora nothing goes to waste! When it rains the water is collected, cleaned and reused to water the urban agriculture fields. The vegetables produced in these gardens will supply local restaurants in the area.

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The Green Beach

The Green Beach

Wetlands in a Forest

Environmental degradation and public hygiene conditions are a serious concern.

There are about 17 sewerage channels that discharge directly into the sea with inevitable damage to the marine ecosystem.

Moreover, groundwater contamination from industrial and domestic sewage has made much of the city's water supply unfit for drinking.

To change this situation, the Vlora Bay will implement a natural system for cleaning contaminated water. The Green Beach is a place dedicated to water remediation. At the Natural Beach, we propose a system of Wetlands that uses plant cycles to clean runoff, groundwater and soil high in mercury.

The Wetlands will run along the pedestrian walkway, integrating it as part of the landscape within this coastal zone. A coastal forest is also proposed at the Green Beach, continuing the northern edge of existing woods by replating trees along the coast.

Additionally, the Green Beach will generate energy through tide movements using Tidal Stream Generators placed at a depth of 40 m below sea level.

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The Green Beach



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The Sea Gate Vlora Park

The Sea Gate vlora Park

A Magic Overlap

The city has the second largest harbour in Albania which is also a fishing port and holiday resort.

Vlora is rich in historical and archeological landmarks, as well as views of the beautiful natural landscape. These features make it one of the most attractive tourist centers in the eastern region of the Mediterranean Sea.

The city is benefiting from local and international tourism, mainly from Kosovo and Macedonia where many Albanian ethnic minority live. The city harbour is the actual gate to Europe, connecting Albania to Italy.

The project intends to develop an area to allow different cultures can meet. The Sea Gate Vlora Park is where travelers can get to know the Albania and have a culturally enriching experience. Surrounding the Harbour area, an artistic and cultural neighborhood will be encouraged to grow. With flexible streets that host outdoor performances, cultural events, concerts, artistic exhibitions, etc.

As part of the Sea Gate, we propose the integration of a new touristic Marina adjacent the existing Ferry Harbour. This will attract nautical sport activities such as Windsurfing, Kitesurfing, Parasailing, and more.

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The Sea Gate Vlorë Park



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The Holiday Everyday

The Holiday Everyday

The potentials of the Seafront

Currently, the tourism sector represents about half of the local economy. Huge investments have been made recently to increase the housing stock for residents and improve the hotel and restaurant markets.

However, more needs to be done to meet the demands of sophisticated tourist and to compete with similar tourism hotspots along the Adriatic coast. In particular, tourist attraction should be based on a variety of services and amenities to be offered to tourists. These conveniences should be built on the valorization of the coastal mountain area and the discovery of the regional cultural heritage.

Vlora Bay proposes to improve the existing beach facilities and consolidate the narrowest part of the coast line creating an airy platform where visitors can enjoy the sunset, practice yoga, sunbathing or just breath the fresh air.

The Holiday Everyday segment aims to bring people into contact with the sea. A series of connections distribute tourist and residents along the seaside for unique experiences. These connectors allow pedestrians to transition further into the sea simply walking.

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The Holiday Everyday



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