



SZENT ISTVÁN UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE AND  
URBANISM – BUDAPEST  
Department of Garden and  
Open Space Design

## GREEN CITY MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Dóra Csizmadia

# STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE EXAMPLE OF BUDAPEST





# BACKGROUND



## Changing urban climate

### Extreme weather events

- ▶ Heavy rainfall
- ▶ Floods and droughts

### Traditional urban structure

- ▶ Old infrastructure
  - ▶ Dense urban structure
- ↓
- ▶ Overloaded treatment plants
  - ▶ Flood protection & damages:  
extra costs, medical risk
  - ▶ No possibility for rainwater reuse

## CLIMATE CHANGE



# BACKGROUND



## **SUSTAINABLE URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT (SUWM)**

- ▶ onsite rain- and stormwater treatment
- ▶ infiltration, harvesting, retention, vaporization

# BACKGROUND



## **SUSTAINABLE URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT (SUWM)**

- ▶ onsite rain- and stormwater treatment
- ▶ infiltration, harvesting, retention, vaporization

## **Restoration of the river Emscher (1992-2020)**

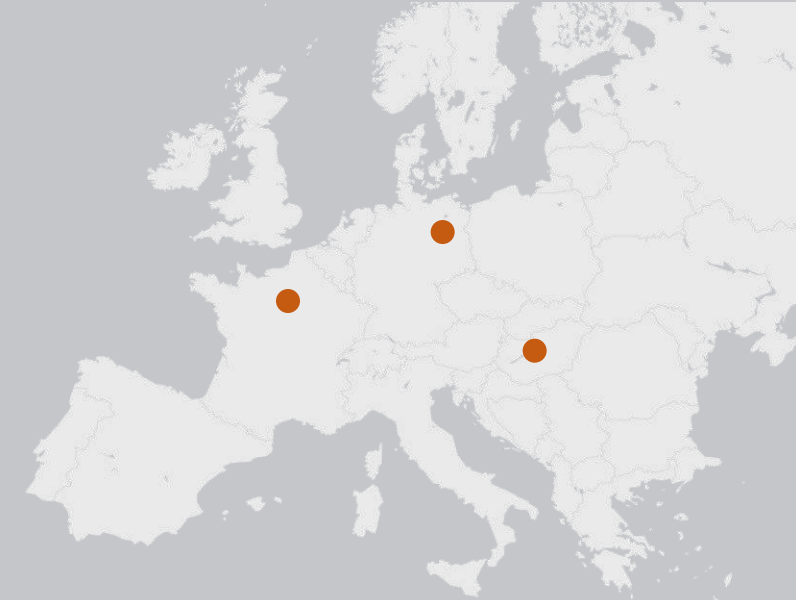
- ▶ Transitioning more than 100 ha brownfield into a healthy and liveable environment
- ▶ 1994-98: 500 small pilot projects in rainwater management
- ▶ Goal: disconnecting from sewage system (15%)



**KONZEPTE FÜR URBANE REGENWASSERBEWIRTSCHAFTUNG UND ABWASSERSYSTEMEN**  
CONCEPTS FOR URBAN RAINWATER MANAGEMENT, DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS



# BEST PRACTICE IN EUROPE



## **AIMS OF RESEARCH**

- ▶ Collecting methods and measures of sustainable urban stormwater management
- ▶ Finding the suitable SUWM measures for features of Budapest

## **METHODS**

- ▶ Comparison of three old european metropolises (Paris, Berlin, Budapest)
- ▶ Studying solutions through development plans, climate and water strategies and case studies
- ▶ Spatial analysis of Budapest: defining categories for SUWM

# BUT HOW...?

## HARVESTING---INFILTRATION---RETENTION---VAPORIZATION---CLEANING



New green areas



Green roof



Green wall



Street trees



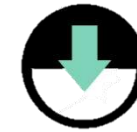
Rain garden



Swales



Ponds and lakes



Permeable paving

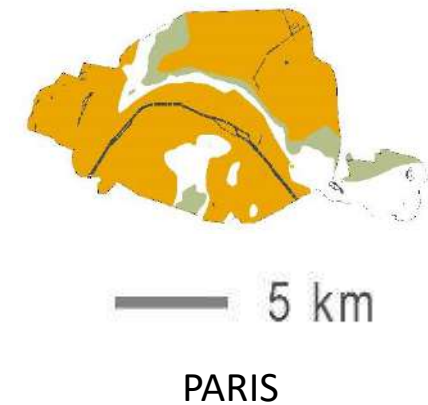
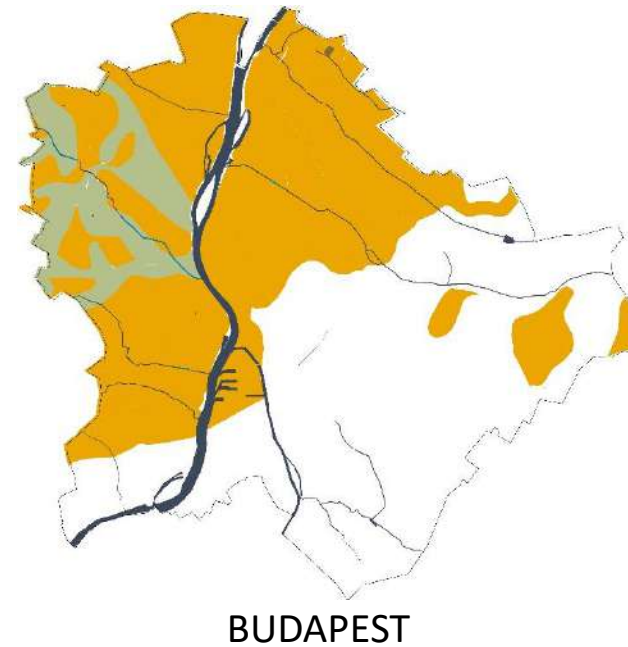
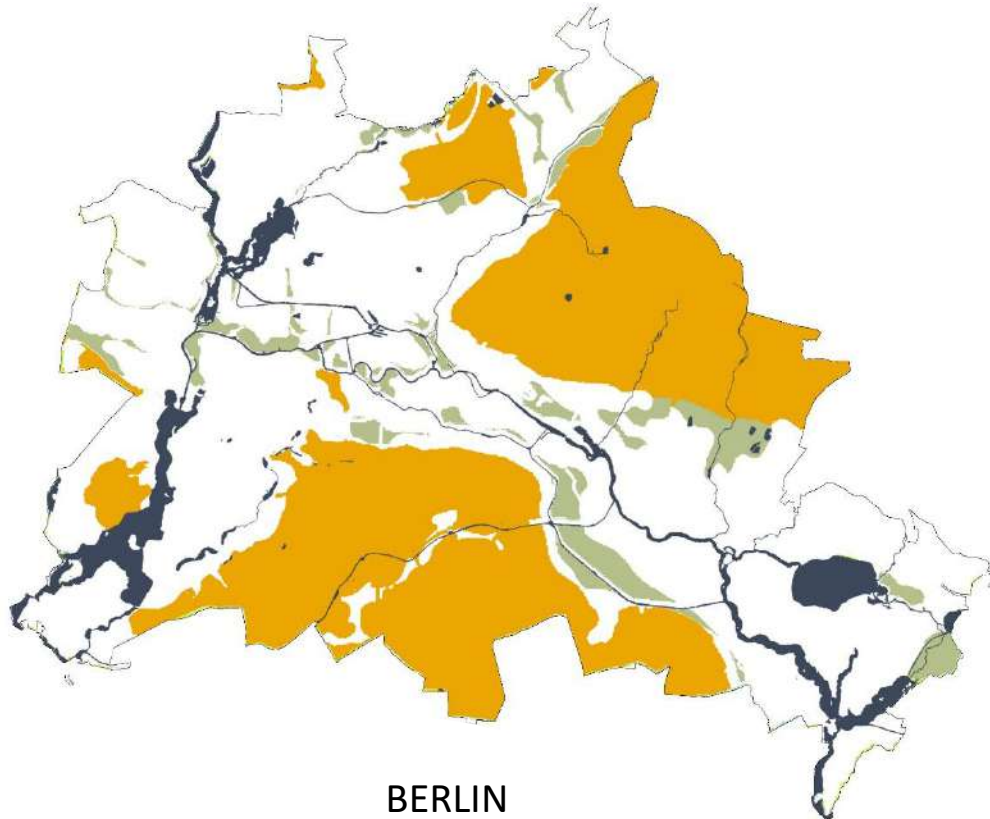


Adaptable plant use



# NATURAL SETTINGS & URBAN STRUCTURE

## GEOLOGY



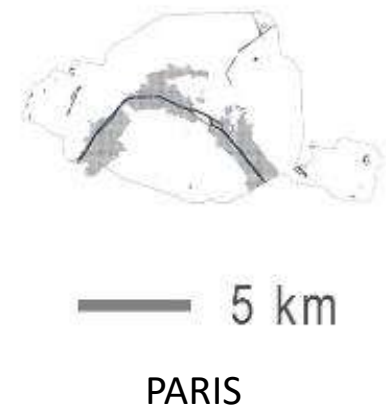
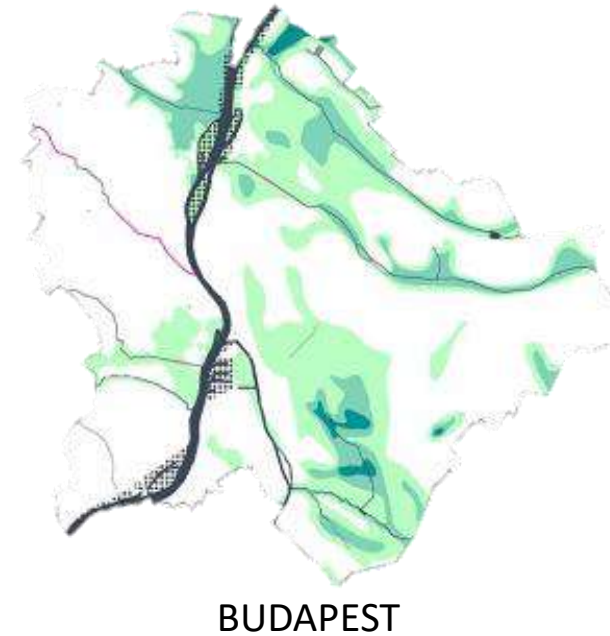
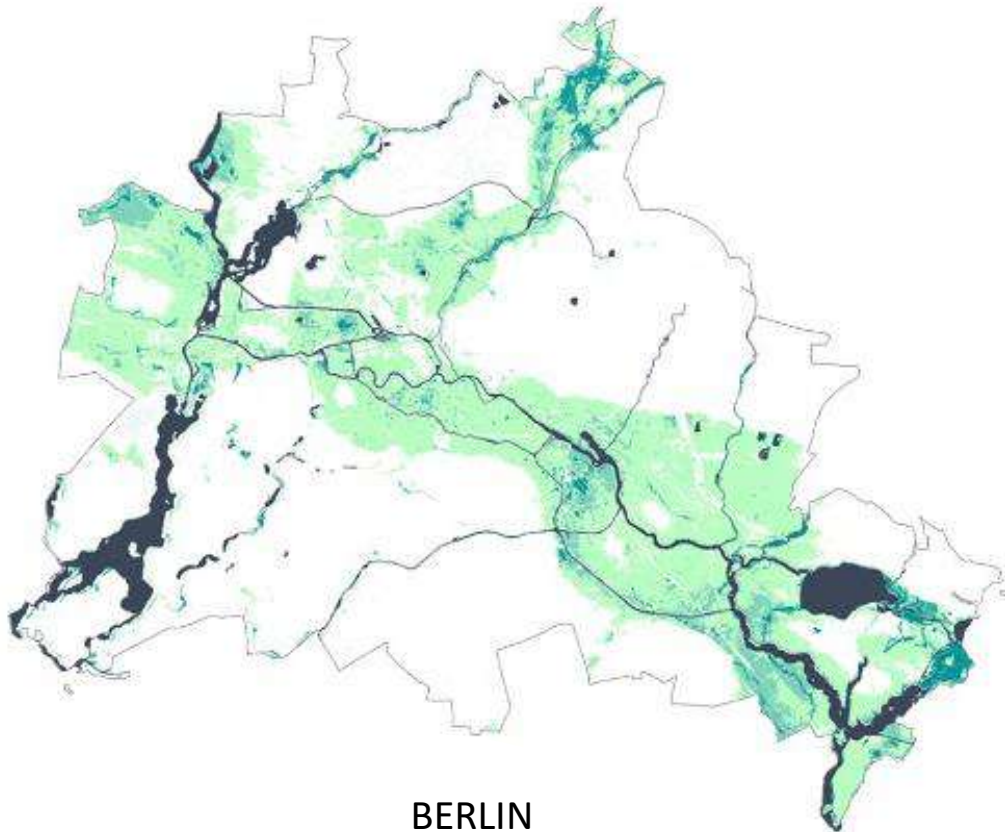
- water permeable soil type
- watertight soil type
- water sensitive soil type  
(turf, limestone, dolomite)

— 5 km



# NATURAL SETTINGS & URBAN STRUCTURE

## HYDROLOGY



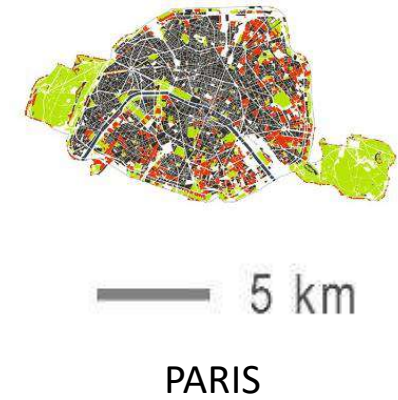
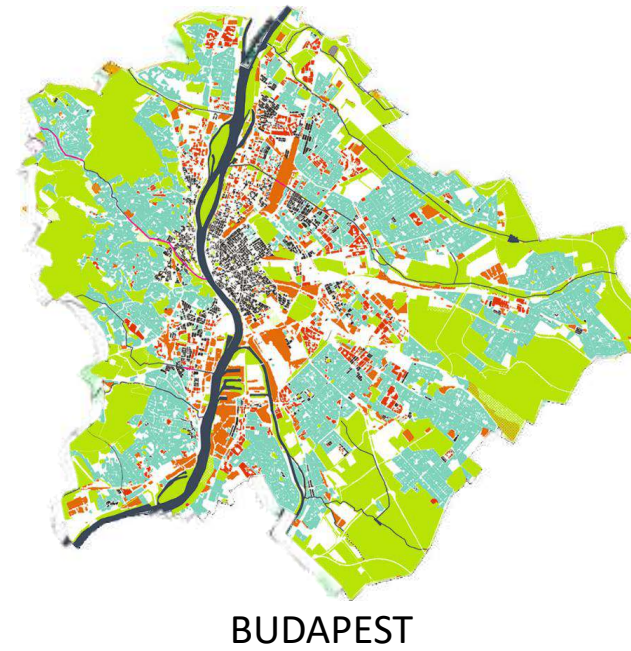
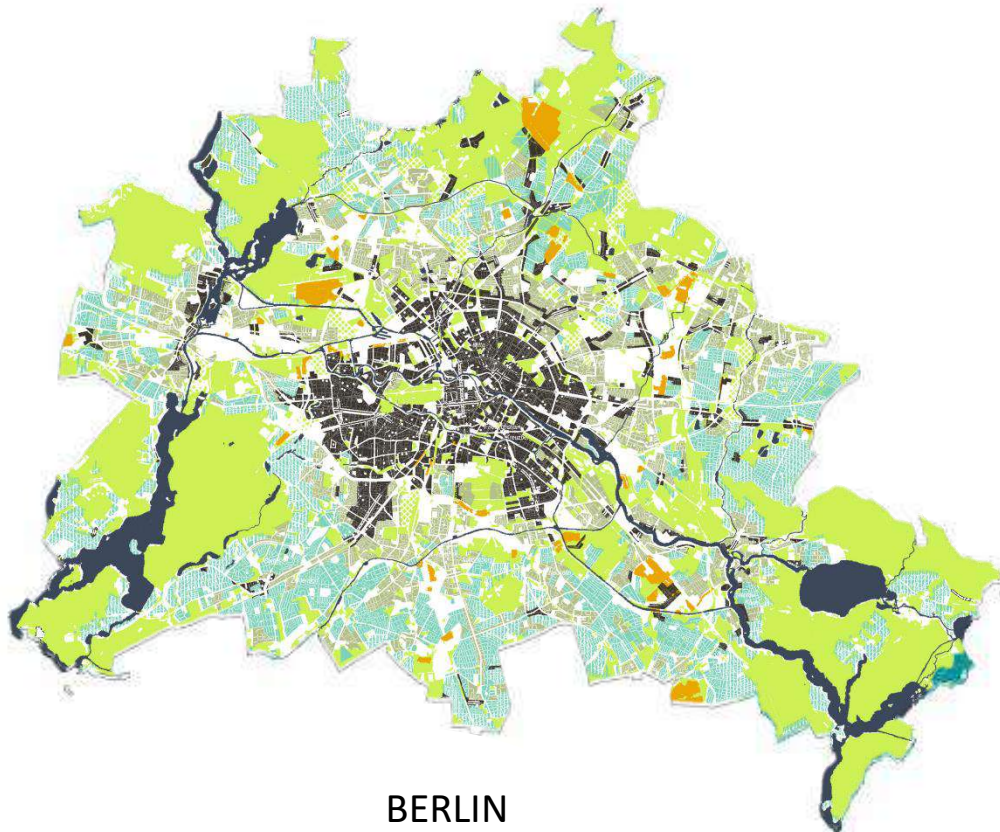
- groundwater level 0-1 m
- groundwater level 1-2 m
- groundwater level 2-4 m
- flooding zone

— 5 km



# NATURAL SETTINGS & URBAN STRUCTURE

## LAND USE

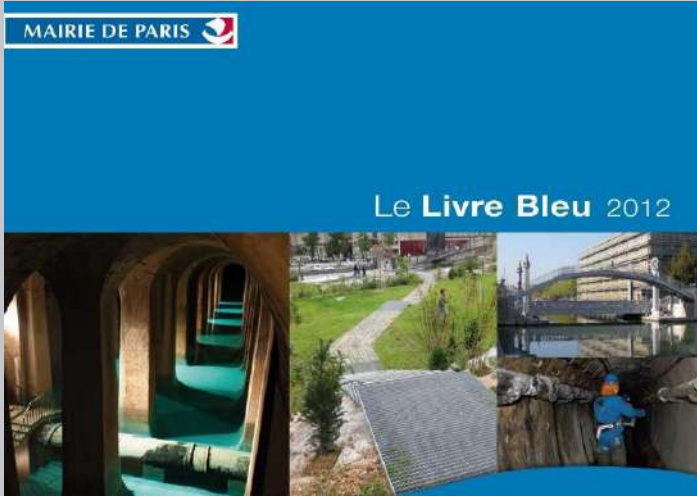


- closed urban blocks (built around 1900)
- public housing\*
- brownfields
- detached housing
- green areas

\*housing from 20-30ies and prefabricated buildings from 60-80ies with large green spaces between buildings

— 5 km

# BEST PRACTICE PARIS



## RISKS

- ▶ Flood risk on Seine
- ▶ Dense tenement housing -> less infiltration, heat island effect





# BEST PRACTICE PARIS



## RISKS

- ▶ Flood risk on Seine
- ▶ Dense tenement housing -> less infiltration, heat island effect

## MEASURES

- ▶ city gardens
- ▶ small green areas (swales and planters)
- ▶ green roofs
- ▶ the lake “Lac Inférieur”



# BEST PRACTICE PARIS

## RISKS

- ▶ Flood risk on Seine
- ▶ Dense tenement housing -> less infiltration, heat island effect

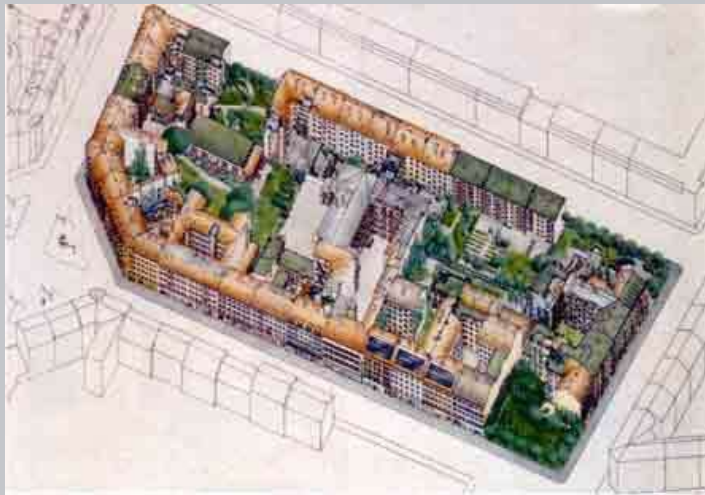
## MEASURES

- ▶ city gardens
- ▶ small green areas (swales and planters)
- ▶ green roofs
- ▶ the lake “Lac Inférieur”
- ▶ Quai opened for public use





# BEST PRACTICE BERLIN



## RISKS

- ▶ Dense city centre -> heat island effect
- ▶ Watercourses (water quality, riverside areas)
- ▶ Green areas

## MEASURES

### City centre

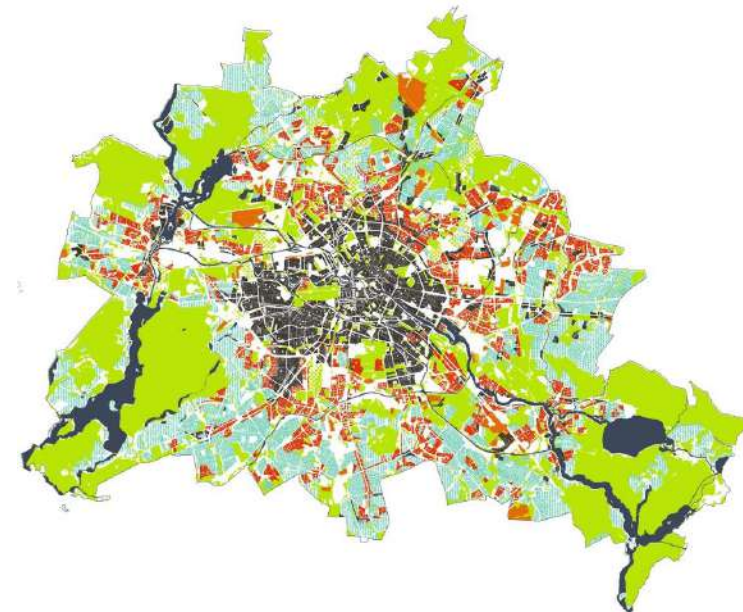
- ▶ Permeable paving
- ▶ Street trees
- ▶ green roofs and green walls

### Watercourses

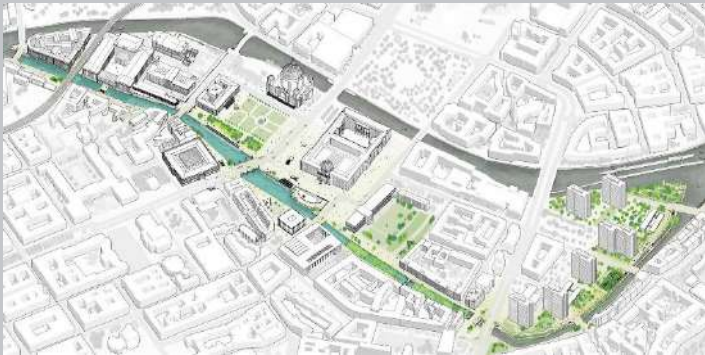
- ▶ River restorations (Flussbad Berlin)

### Green areas

- ▶ adaptive plant species



# BEST PRACTICE BERLIN



## RISKS

- ▶ Dense city centre -> heat island effect
- ▶ Watercourses (water quality, riverside areas)
- ▶ Green areas

## MEASURES

### City centre

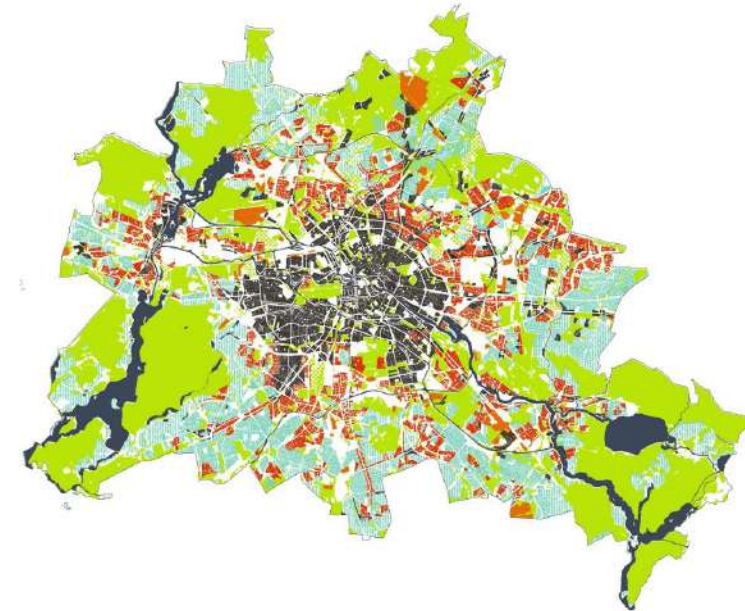
- ▶ Permeable paving
- ▶ Street trees
- ▶ green roofs and green walls

### Watercourses

- ▶ River restorations (Flussbad Berlin)

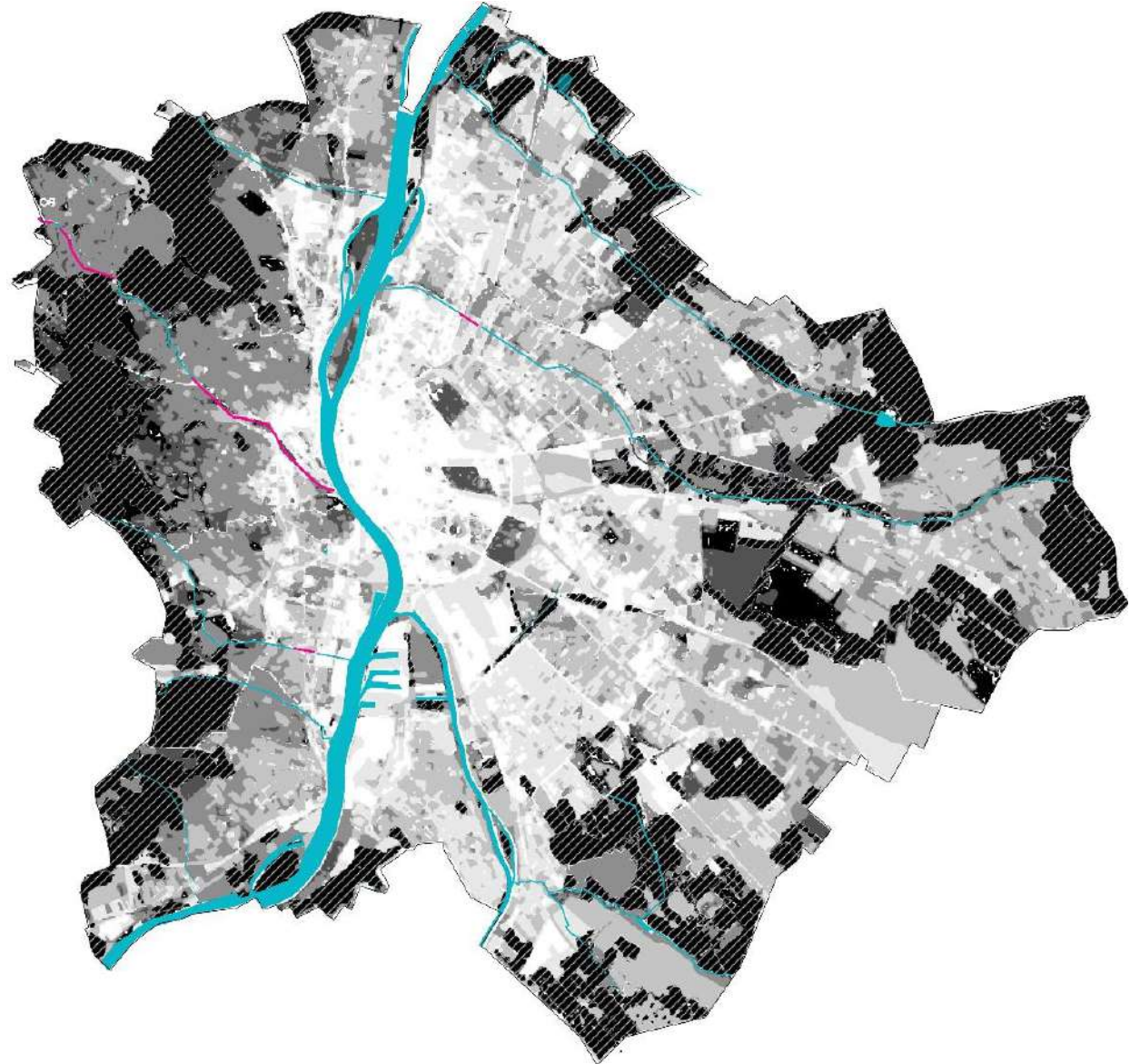
### Green areas

- ▶ adaptive plant species





# BUDAPEST IN FOCUS

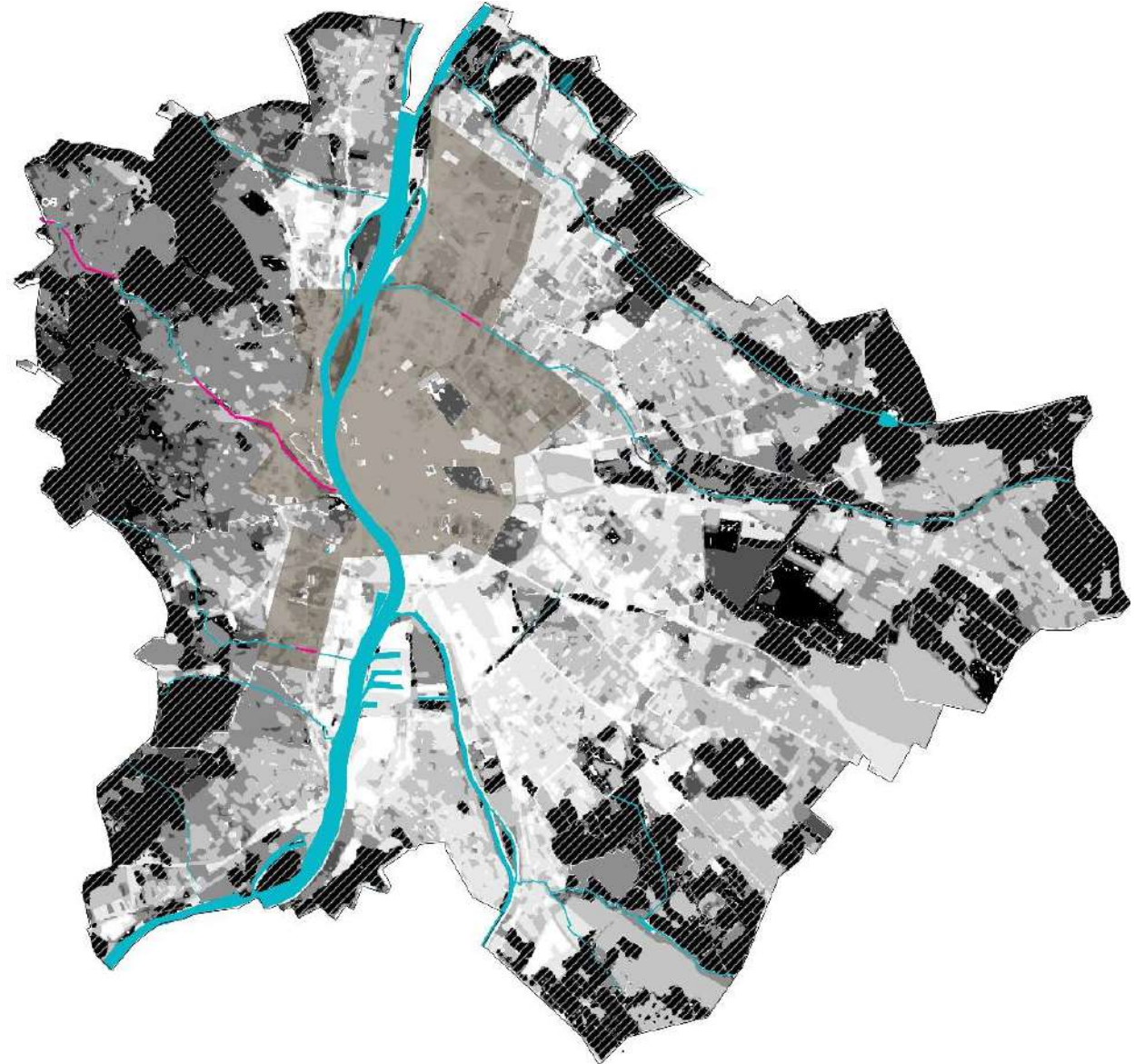
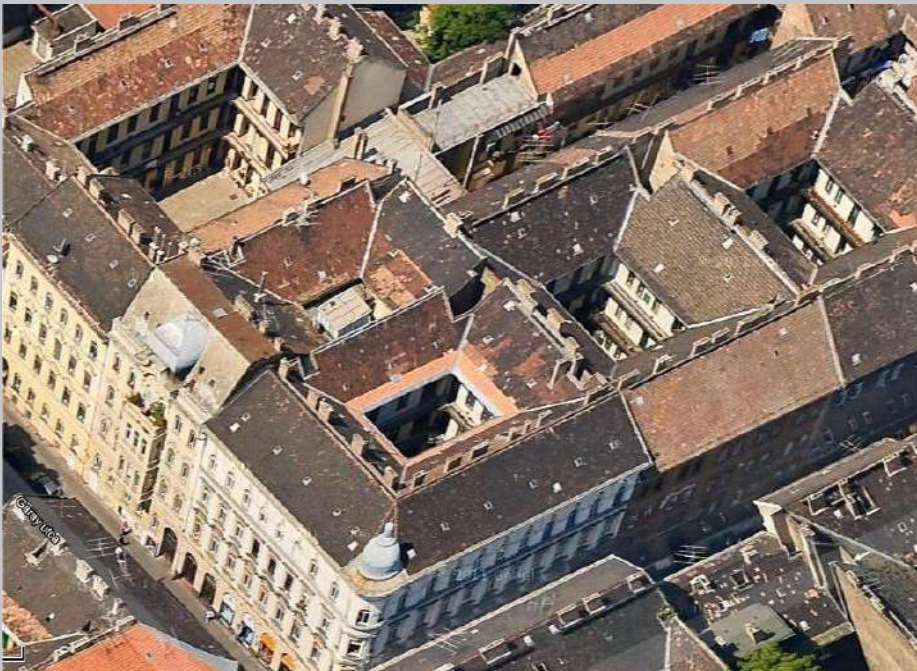




# BUDAPEST IN FOCUS



CLOSED URBAN BLOCKS

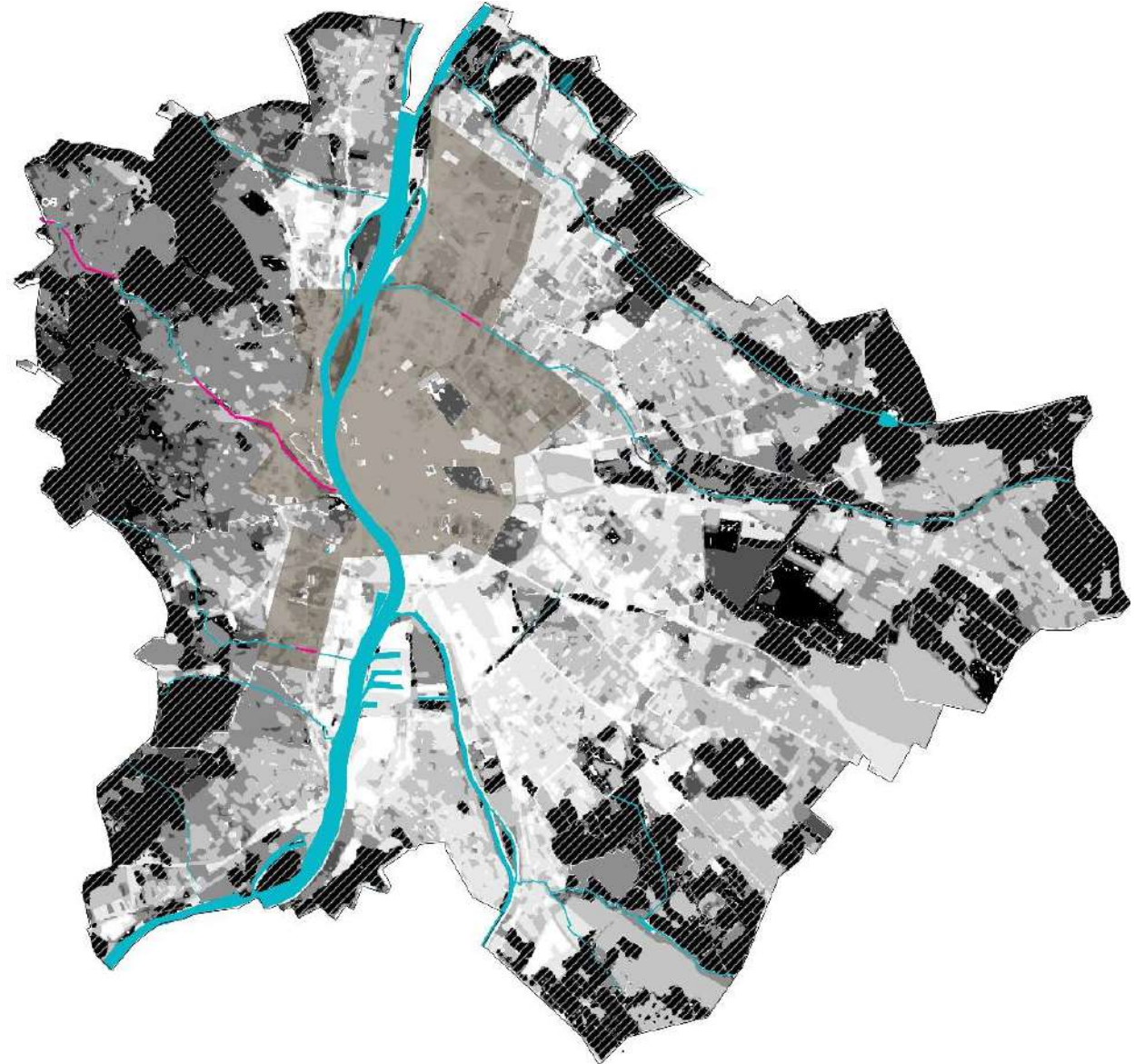




# BUDAPEST IN FOCUS



## CLOSED URBAN BLOCKS

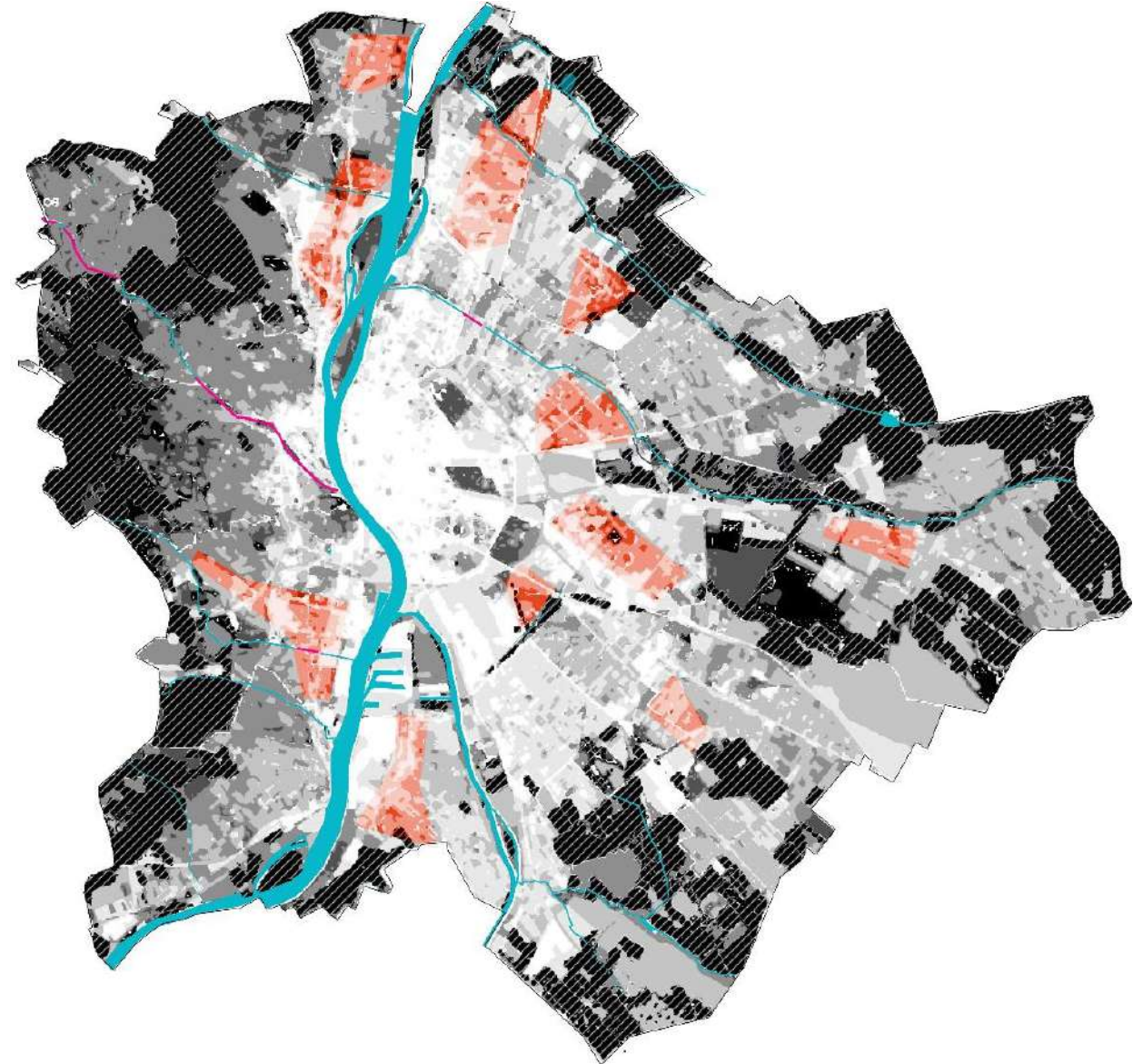




# BUDAPEST IN FOCUS



PUBLIC HOUSING

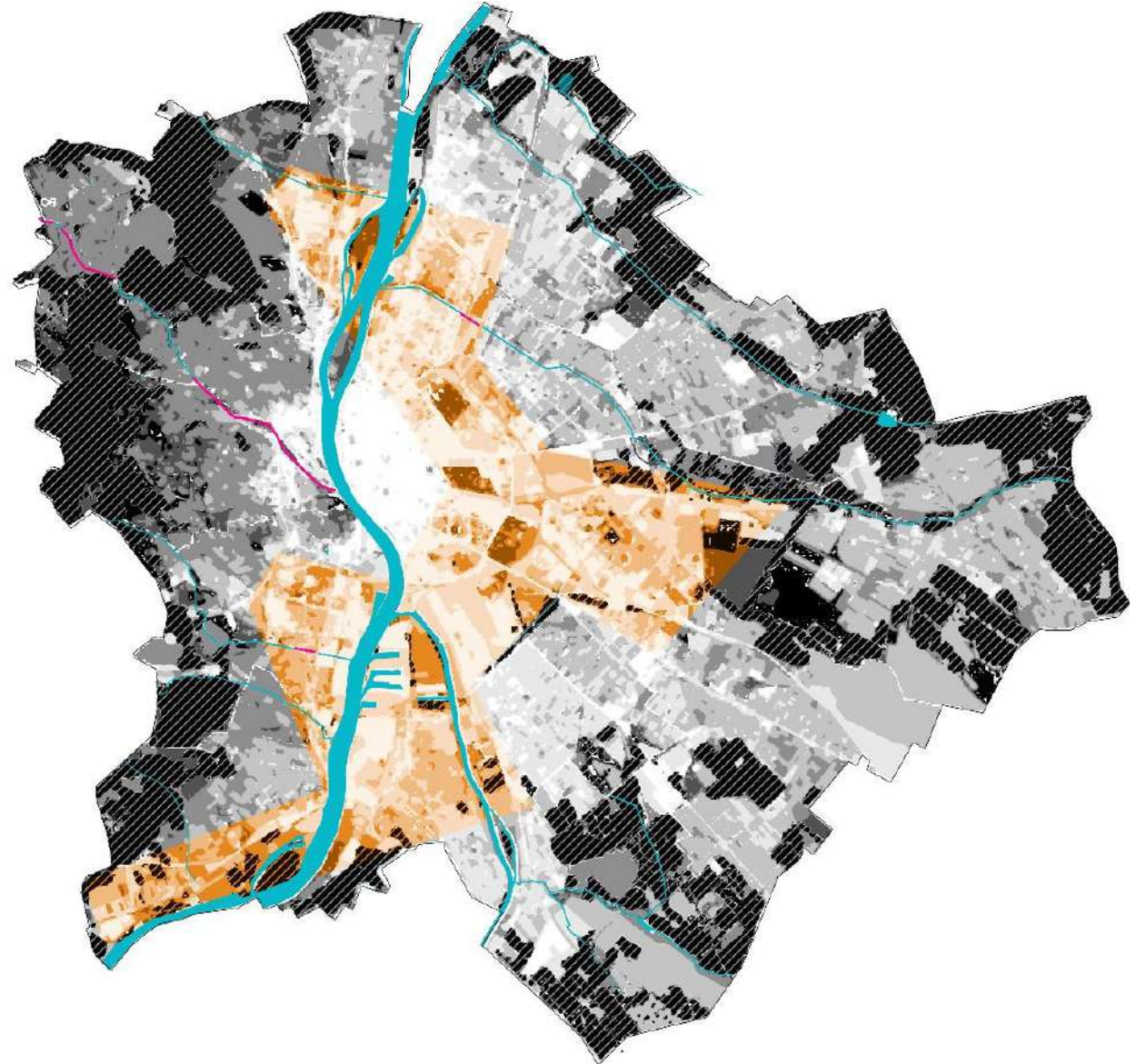




# BUDAPEST IN FOCUS



## BROWNFIELDS





# BUDAPEST IN FOCUS



## RIVERSIDE AREAS

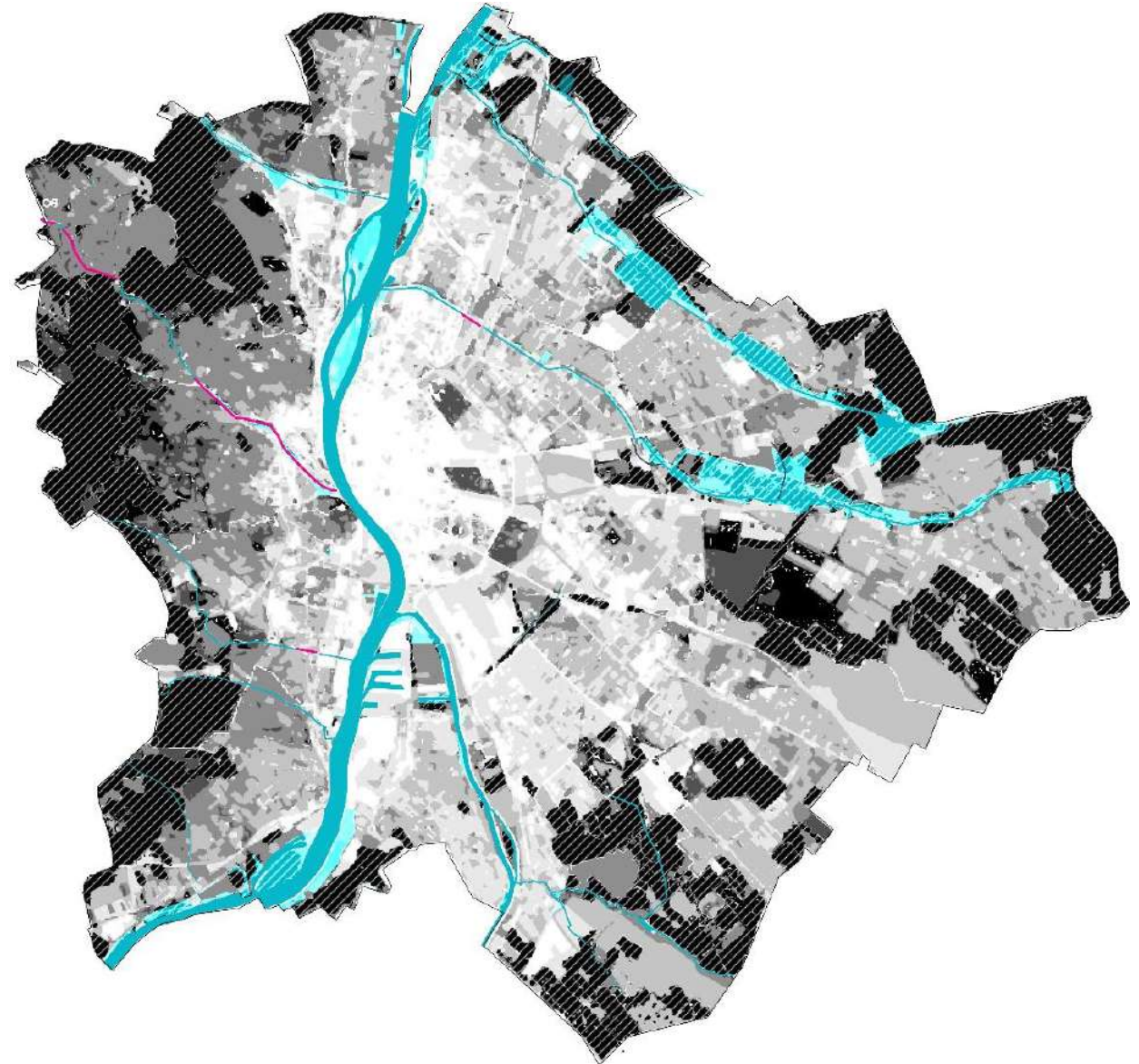




# BUDAPEST IN FOCUS



## RIVERSIDE AREAS





# BUDAPEST IN FOCUS



## GREEN AREAS





# ACCESSIBILITY OF SUWM MEASURES



CLOSED URBAN BLOCKS



PUBLIC HOUSING



BROWNFIELDS



RIVERSIDE AREAS



GREEN AREAS

OPEN SPACES    BUILT-IN AREAS

Building type analysis of the Intensive urban development  
between 1870-1990



# ACCESSIBILITY OF SUWM MEASURES



CLOSED URBAN BLOCKS



PUBLIC HOUSING



BROWNFIELDS



RIVERSIDE AREAS

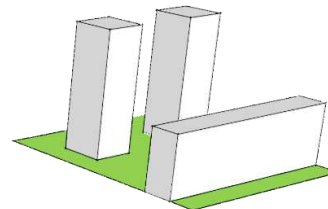
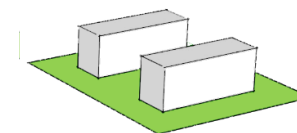
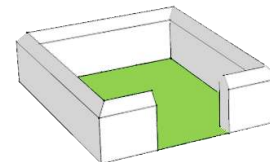
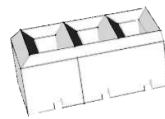
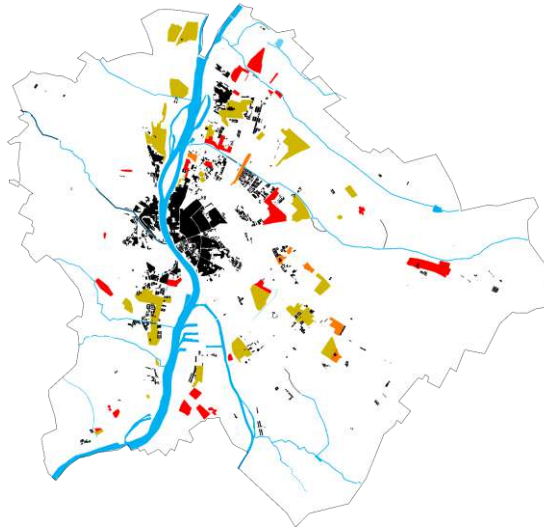


GREEN AREAS

BUILT-IN AREAS  
OPEN SPACES

Building type analysis of the Intensive urban development  
between 1870-1990

- Planning principals of the age
- Examination of application of SUWM measures (KURAS Project)



CLOSED URBAN BLOCK



FRAMED BLOCK






LOW FREE STANDING BLOCKS



HIGH FREE STANDING BLOCKS



# ACCESSIBILITY OF SUWM MEASURES

 CLOSED URBAN BLOCK	 New green areas ● ●	 Green roof ●	 Green wall ●	 Street trees ● ●	 Rain garden ● ●	 Swales ●	 Ponds and lakes ●	 Permeable paving ● ●	 Adaptable plant use ● ●
 FRAMED BLOCKS	●	●	●	●	● ●	● ●	●	●	●
 LOW FREE STANDING BLOCKS	●	● ●	● ●	●	● ●	● ●	●	●	●
 HIGH FREE STANDING BLOCKS	●	●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●



# ACCESSIBILITY OF SUWM MEASURES

									
 CLOSED URBAN BLOCK									
 FRAMED BLOCKS									
 LOW FREE STANDING BLOCKS									
 HIGH FREE STANDING BLOCKS									





# CONCLUSION

- ▶ Riverside revitalisations and new green area establishment provide social, ecological and economical benefits
- ▶ Old European cities struggle with the same challenges → sharing „best practice”
- ▶ Transitioning of existent housing needs individual solutions