

UNISCAPE En-Route International Seminar
Recovering river landscape
UNISCAPE Napoli
University of Naples Federico II
Napoli, Italy
28-30 September 2015

**THE SIMBIRKA RIVER AS THE PROTAGONIST IN THE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT OF THE
HISTORIC CITY CENTER OF ULYANOVSK IN RUSSIA**

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Traccia b: Resilient spaces of river fruition

Key words: *Urban landscape, River restoration, Pedestrian area*

Abstract:

The Simbirka River and some dates. In the 19-th century the Simbirka River runed from northern uptown through all over the town and flowed into the Sviyaga River. City authorities annually allocated funds to water purification and to its coastal protection. In the 1910 – 1920-s years nobody was being engaged in a city improvement, the ravine of Simbirka was turning to the huge tank for a dump of manure from the whole city. In the 1950 the river was enclosed into the reinforced-concrete pipe with a diameter of the 1.5 meters, dams were strengthened on the Karl Marks Street and near the Central Market. In the 2002 the ravine of Simbirka was a huge area of debris and waste that polluted the environment and was a source of epidemiological contagion. It was required the reconstruction of the river. In June 2003 the graduation project was presented by M.Komarova in Ulyanovsk State Technical University.

The basic urban planning projects ideas. The project of reconstruction of the Simbirka River and creation a pedestrian area in its flood plain are formed on the basis of the historical landscape and architectural environment of the Ulyanovsk city center. The first pedestrian area connects the Karl Marks Street, the Goncharov Street and the promenade of the Volga River. The second pedestrian area connects the "Dam", the Lenin Preserve, the Shevchenko Street and the promenade of the Sviyaga River. A uniform pedestrian system is creating in the central part of the city from the three rivers promenades, residential and public micro-groups. The projected object borders on the industrial plants "Utes" and "Contactor". There are also objects of trade: Central Department Store, the "Consumer Services Office", two large retails and office centers. The Simbirka River with its banks becomes a new landscape and recreational core for the normal functioning of the newly built residential and public microgroups of city center site.

Characteristics of the landscape and the pedestrian areas. The reconstructed part of the river with its length of 625 meters is the main compositional axis, the recreational space is formed around it. The project proposes to restore the movement of the river on its existing channel with minimal adjustment and to improve the embankments depending on the size of their slop, to green the coastal area with fast-growing trees and shrubs, to create favorable conditions for sports and leisure. It is also proposed to adapt all historic buildings that situated in the projected area to new functions, to reconstruct their inputs and restore the principal fronts. The total lands area of reconstruction is equal to 5.9 hectares. The area of paths and grounds is equal to 1.5 hectares; the area of the body of water is equal to 0.7 hectares; the planting area is equal to 3.67 hectares and the area of small architectural forms is equal to 0.03 hectares.

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