

# STUTT GART AM NECKAR



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 Stuttgart am Neckar 2017

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Behind every great idea

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*Hello from Stuttgart!*

We are an independent initiative called *Stuttgart am Neckar* borned in the M.Sc. of Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design (IUSD) of the University of Stuttgart. We are 22 students from around the globe committed to bring the river Neckar back where it belongs, in every Stuttgarter heart. Join us in our journey and let yourself be part of this initiative filled with passion, creativity and knowledge.

# MOTIVATION

Let's do a small exercise. Search on your Images section in Google: "Paris". What do you see in the first images? Now, do the same with the following: "London", then "Budapest" and finally, "Prague". Do you see something in common? Even if you do not go that far and search again but this time for: "Berlin", "Cologne", "Dresden", "Heidelberg", "Koblenz". Do you see any similarity between all of them? I bet there is. Probably, what you will find are pictures of the river Seine with a romantic background of the Eiffel tower in Paris. Or maybe you will be amazed by the views of the magnificent Parliament and the Citadel separated by the Danube river in Budapest. Coming closer, you might feel the amazing contrasts in how the history and its river, the Spree, has shaped the city of Berlin. Most probably, your small research will also delight your eyes with images of beautiful promenades along the Thames river in London, the historic bridges crossing the Vltava river in Prague, the Rhine in Cologne with the historical cathedral as background,

the green areas around the Elbe in Dresden or the Neckar in Heidelberg and the magnificent connection of the rivers Mosel and Rhine in Koblenz.

But the exercise is not over, there is one more step to reach the end. Let's type "Stuttgart" this time. At this point, you might be expecting a similar picture of a city with its emblematic buildings and a beautiful river finding its way across. However, what you found is not like that, right? Well, that is because the river in Stuttgart is not part of its identity, not at least in the minds of most of the inhabitants of the city. The truth is, Stuttgart does have a river and it is called *Neckar*.

What happened then? Why having a river Stuttgart is not recognized as a "river city" like the ones mentioned above? Why nobody has done anything about it? And more important, how a river like the Neckar, neglected by citizens and decision-makers for decades, could be revitalized?

The idea of reviving the riverbanks in Stuttgart is not new. Almost every summer season, the theme of bathing in the Neckar comes to discussion in the city with unsatisfactory results. Apparently, the water is too dirty and the fact of being a national waterway makes the direct interaction between citizens and the river almost impossible. But this is not the one and only problem, the Neckar riverbanks are the least of the things why the city should feel proud of. Lack of proper infrastructure, very narrow bike and pedestrian paths, long distances without facilities, almost non-existent pulling attractions, very few access points, fences along the river, low maintenance and a sense of non-belonging are just some of the features that the few users of the river experience every day. As a response to all those problems, many initiatives have aroused with the years, claiming the right to enjoy the river and demanding more and better solutions from the city towards a better environment around the river. Even though the efforts

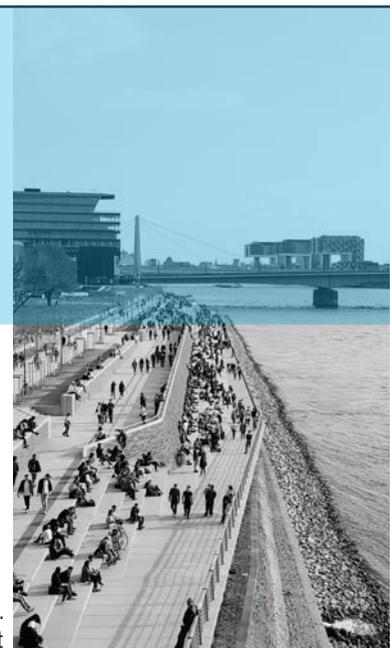
have not been prominently successful, they have started to build the ground to keep pushing for integrated solutions and calling the attention of citizens and officials.

Should we lose any hope, then?

These and more questions will be addressed in this publication along with the efforts made during the summer season of 2017 by Stuttgart am Neckar, an independent initiative borned in the Master of Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design (IUSD) of the University of Stuttgart as part of the Integrated Research and Design studio, with the aim to find effective solutions and realistic strategies to revitalize the Neckar river and bring it back to the city.



Promenades along the Seine river, Paris.  
Photo Courtesy: Sally Ejeilat



Activity along the Rhine, Cologne.  
Photo Courtesy: Sally Ejeilat

Moorland of Schwenninger Moos



## THE NECKAR HISTORY AT A GLANCE

What makes up a river city? A river flowing through a city has a huge and manifold impact on that city, usually a beneficial one. Over the centuries, the inhabitants of those cities worked with and on their river often turning it and its banks into a vital urban arteria. Amsterdam, Cologne, London, Paris or Porto are but a few well-known examples. Such cities had been founded on a river because of strategic commercial, geographical and political reasons. Their rivers grew into a normal part of the historic urban fabric, like a huge linear park. This is also due to the Gestalt, the shape and design of the river banks: the urban fabric often comes close to the river, sometimes it waves back, thus creating urban spaces, such as parks, promenades and squares which make the river accessible for the public.

What about Stuttgart? It's not a river city yet, albeit its river, the Neckar. The reason for this is twofold. First, the Neckar flows right between the main historic urban cores

of Greater Stuttgart: the Stuttgart city center located in the Nesenbach valley (an affluent of the Neckar), and Bad Cannstatt; eventually the Neckar only touches the north-eastern fringes of Stuttgart's urban fabric in the valley. Second, the Neckar in the Stuttgart region grew into an industrial river since the late 19th century. The Neckar, its port along with all the energy and traffic infrastructure, logistics and factories, large and small, famous and less known, are vital factors of prosperity. That's why the Stuttgart "cheeks" of the Neckar are hardly accessible and attractive for urban leisure and cultural activities.

Initially, the Neckar was marked by typical river bank vegetation and fauna in the water and on the banks. Its very name, of Celtic origin, signifies "wild water". This showed in heavy floods (e.g. in 1524, 1734, 1817, 1824) which also changed the river course, especially in the wide valley between Hedelfingen/Untertürkheim and Stuttgart-

Berg/Cannstatt and Stuttgart.

Coping with this wilderness has a long tradition. People canalized particularly dangerous river segments, and built embankments, bridges and weirs. The latter were often accompanied by various mills – Stuttgart-Berg, for instance, had nine mills in 1753. The industrial and infrastructural use of the Neckar included rafting and the so-called Treidel shipping, with ships being pulled by men or horses along the banks. With the railway system, the technical progress first challenged the relevance of the Neckar as a traffic route in the 19th century, but due to motor shipping and the political changes after World War I the Neckar was turned into a federal waterway up to Plochingen just south-east of Stuttgart. The Neckar got canalized and tamed by 27 locks, most of them built in the 1920s and 1930s to sensible designs of Paul Bonatz (who also designed the Stuttgart main railway station). This allowed for energy and traffic infrastructure, industry and settlements to be laid out in the secured

valley plain. The Stuttgart port opened in 1958, the Plochingen port ten years later, both on the right Neckar bank, and they are still playing an important commercial and industrial role. But the landscape design of the banks from the 1950s to the 1980s is, if you can call it like that at all, austere and appalling. It matches the large and busy motorways B10 and B14 which push hard on the left Neckar bank. This are but two of the legacies from the 1950s-1980s period which are being challenged since the early 1990s.

Since then, river awareness is constantly rising among the Stuttgart society. There is still much to be done, but the prospect of turning the Neckar into an urban river is promising indeed, with the City of Stuttgart working hard on its complex Neckar Masterplan.



Confluence of Neckar (left) and Rhine at Mannheim.



I find that the Neckar is not that river that gives you inspiration, I cannot enjoy the river.



You cannot swim in it, it is more an industrial river, I have nothing much to say about it.



# VOICES FROM THE NECKAR



I walked along the Königstrasse and because it is so hot, it would be great if I could walk along a nice river.





I would like to have more interaction possibilities with water for my kids!



There should be more mineral fountains in the city centre!



We could use the water to irrigate plants around the city!



## WHAT PEOPLE SAY?



There should be more advertisement from the city to promote mineral water!



MY PARENTS USED TO TAKE ME TO BASEL (...) WE WOULD SWIM THE WHOLE AFTERNOON AT THE RHINE, WHEN WE HAD A RIVER RIGHT AT OUR CITY.



# BEHIND EVERY GREAT IDEA...



*Stuttgart am Neckar* started earlier this year as a student project, carried out by the international Master program IUSD - Integrated Urbanism and Sustainable Design from the University of Stuttgart, its main driver was the revitalization of the Neckar river. The project, managed by 22 students, was strongly supported by the university and often invited representatives of established organizations and institutes, creating partnerships and opening dialogues with different actors of the region.

A common session was arranged with some of the ones who boosted and accompanied this project throughout the realization of it. Dr. Prof. Astrid Ley, head of the department of International Urbanism of the University of Stuttgart, Mr. Johannes Rentsch, representative of Stuttgart's department of City Planning and Urban Renewal, and Dipl.-Ing. MSc. Lenka Vojtová, lecturer of the Integrated Research & Design studio (IRD) of the IUSD master program, accepted our invitation and were happy to answer all our questions and to share their knowledge and experience with us.

Born in the University of Stuttgart six years ago by the efforts of Prof. Antje Stokman and Prof. Philip Misselwitz to create an in-

terdisciplinary and reality-based teaching program, the IUSD international Master program is one of a kind in Germany. "The IUSD is unique with bringing together different disciplinary backgrounds and the extend of its focus on community engagement" as Prof. Astrid Ley explains. It is mainly composed of international students with different professional backgrounds, "this year for example, we have professionals from the fields of architecture, engineering, urban planning and even communications & media, all coming from more than 15 countries" Prof. Ley adds.

This was the group of young researchers selected to join WECHSEL, "a collaborative research project released in 2017 between the City of Stuttgart, the Stadtwerke Stuttgart and the University of Stuttgart rep-

resented by the Urban Planning Institute (SI), the Institute for Energy Economics and Efficiency (IER) and the Center for Interdisciplinary Risk and Innovation Research (ZIRIUS). This BMBF financed interdisciplinary research project looks, among others, into the upcoming energy transformation, a realistic estimation of the energy potentials at the Neckar river and scenarios for the potential urban and landscape development along the river", as Lenka Vojtová explains.

This sounds like big business, doesn't it? Then, what is the role of the students in all of this?

"Well, the IRD Studio with the topic 'Integrated Urbanism\_Neckar Re...loaded!' used the obvious synergies - the analytical and strategical students' work could enrich the

starting phase of the research project, and the project partners would be an irreplaceable resource, contact and valuable critics during the semester.", Lenka explains. "Since the research project was still at its infancy stage, we hoped that the IRD could bring about greater insights, brainstorm innovative ideas and create first links to stakeholders." Prof. Ley adds.

One might think that depositing such a responsibility to a group of students is a mistake. However, Mr. Rentsch uses his academic and professional background to refute this paradigm. "From my time as an Urban Design student in Berlin, I know the creative potential of working groups formed by young people from different disciplines. In long, busy nights, with a lot of fun, playfully different perspectives on the topics of

city and landscape were thrown, discussed and planning concepts developed. Just as in the Stuttgart am Neckar initiative, the results were usually unconventional approaches to how the city can be rethought and further developed. As an administration of a large city, we are often confronted with regulations such as laws, finances, property relations, etc. Under those conditions, it is not always easy to keep the great vision of urban development and landscape development in the focus. As an addition to this official level, it is valuable and important that the IUSD students worked in a more open form with the Neckar and the surrounding urban space.", he states.

Over the past century, the Neckar river in Stuttgart has been mainly surrounded by all kind of businesses and industries which in fact, are the engine of the economic prosperity of the region. It has been also declared a National Waterway to facilitate freight transport and channelled for flooding control. Then, why just now? Why the idea of "reviving" an industrial river?

Taking the floor, Mr Johannes Rentsch explains that "the idea of giving the Neckar in Stuttgart a new appearance, has been pursued for a long time at the City Planning Department. Already in the 1980s and beginning 90s, initial concepts were developed and smaller ecological projects implemented. But true momentum has come into the subject in the last couple of years. Meanwhile the desire of the people in Stuttgart to experience the river for leisure and recreation purposes is so strong, that politics has also recognized the importance of the topic. For the first time, it is possible to really think about a process of transforming the Neckar valley from an almost pure area for industry and infrastructure, into a multi-coded urban landscape and even to realize it."

So, how the group of researchers addressed this challenging task of reviving one of the most industrialized rivers in Germany? Until this point, we knew that Stuttgart am Neckar works as one initiative created by the IUSD students. However, this name was not even in the panorama at the beginning. "Topics were predefined only for the very first analytical phase to get a broad view and well-grounded knowledge of the overall themes and the site. All other decisions were taken by a group consent. After an evaluation of the analysis in a common workshop, the students identified the highest potentials and important challenges to be tackled and decided for four topics determining the remaining semester ac-

tivities, each team working on one of these topics.", as lecturer Lenka explains the approach of the seminar.

**Awareness, Connectivity, Hidden Waters and Life around the River.** Those were the four main topics selected as the most relevant and which defined the outcome of what it is today Stuttgart am Neckar.

Starting with the design of an overall strategy (which in all cases had to be redesigned with the more input the teams were gaining throughout the process and the more interaction with stakeholders found on the way), each team defined the path for the following months. Just one thing was clear from the beginning, the "battle" was not inside the classroom, it was in the streets, with the citizens, with the ones in favour and against, with the actors involved in the complex dynamics of the Neckar river. But due to the time and manpower limitation and the scale of the project, this battle could not be fought separate. This was the

real reason for the group to join efforts and make the project look like just one. The decision? Stuttgart am Neckar as a collective title, easy to remember and attractive for publicity, under which they all could act and appear as one initiative.

backbone of financial support released the students from a lot of frustration and stress and allowed them to concentrate on the content. They still actively (and successfully) looked for partners and sponsors as well as recyclable materials from the streets, but what you start with, definitely makes a difference." Lenka explains.

During a time-frame of three months, the four groups had more than 20 main activities, reaching from urban experiments (which was the focus), interim presentations to meetings with relevant stakeholders. Some more risky than others, some more serious than others, some based on observation, some others on interaction; all of them equally relevant and creative.

But, what was the outcome of those activities? Were the results successful? What was the highlight of the whole process? To those questions, Lenka felt the necessity to clarify that "in general, experiments in public space should not be rated as successful or unsuccessful. An experiment is a tool for understanding and testing certain situation and if properly evaluated, it allows for further adaptation of strategies or the choice of a different approach".

specific and say that for her and her family "the nicest event was to discover with the initiative the Neckar river at the canoe club and share food and ideas at the same time. The kids had great fun and we were amazed how much collaboration became visible and the degree of professionalism to present ideas (see page n.30 for further details). However, all other events also were characterized by a great degree of creativity and enthusiasm."

Using Mr. Johannes words, the students approached the project with an incredible amount of passion and that passion is also visible in the results, which the reader will find in this publication. "I was fascinated by how the concepts were presented in a complex and professional way. It is also interesting to note, that despite the same task, the groups have come to completely different approaches to the question how the Neckar in Stuttgart could be activated for urban life.

In the end the range covered ecological, economic, social as well as spatial approaches".

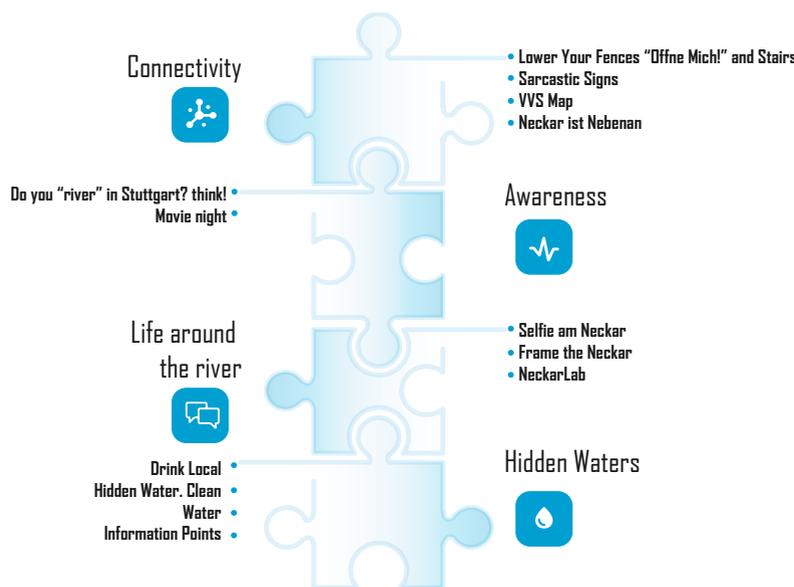
What all participants agree in, is that the group of researchers realized a project beyond expectations. "It is just not comparable with an usual studio situation as you can feel the degree of ownership and responsibility that goes along with it" as Prof. Ley expresses. That is the level of engagement and ownership that our three participants encourage all the citizens to have with their city, with their river, "it belongs to them!", Mr. Johannes exclaims. As Lenka concludes, "When we look at Berlin, Paris, Prague, the citizens feeling a certain kind of belonging won't let the river be taken away from them. In Stuttgart, this seems to be different and so must be the approach of reviving the riversides. Any new design planned and implemented along the river is likely to fail without the acceptance of the current dynamics, without the activation of citizens and awakening their interest in discovering the hidden places, what the river has to offer. The riverside needs people first."

That was the reason why the decision of making this publication was a necessity to keep spreading the word and keep pushing for a better Neckar in Stuttgart. What the reader will find reading the following pages, is the work developed by this group of students during the summer semester of 2017 all along with their strategies, urban experiments and some extra material.

**Are you ready?**

**"For the first time, it is possible to really think about a process of transforming the Neckar valley"**

**"When we look at Berlin, Paris, Prague, the citizens feeling a certain kind of belonging won't let the river be taken away from them. In Stuttgart, this seems to be different"**



For covering a wide range of topics in an also wide scale, not just the man-power and the goodwill of students and lecturers, but the economic support must be critical for the materialization of what was embodied in the strategies. The group however was lucky to get this, at least partial, support. "Straight at the beginning of the semester, we applied for co-funding through Stuttgarter Change Labs, even though it was not yet clear, where the journey would take us. We were very lucky to become one of the ten supported initiatives. This already secured

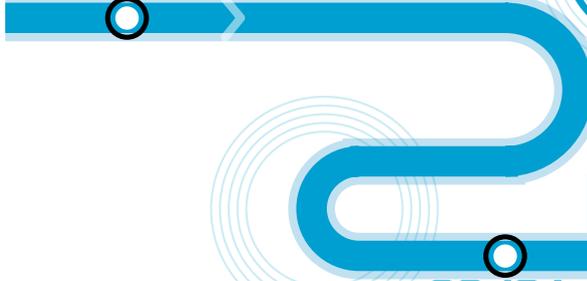
Johannes agrees and complements the idea saying that equally or even more important than the results of the experiments, was "the strategic approach that was chosen as a principle for the concepts. It was consistently tried to identify actors and existing networks regarding the Neckar, and to integrate them into the planning process. In this way, a form of urban planning can succeed, that thinks and links new and existing structures together". Being an active participant during many of the activities held by the group, Prof. Astrid felt confident to be more

# 2017 STUTT GART AM NECKAR

Initiation of the project  
See p. 6

11/04

INITIAL PHASE



20/04

First symposium



24/04



Bicycle trip around the river.  
Acquaintance with the river from  
Gaisburg to Max-Eyth-See

02/05

Analysis Phase  
Presentation

STRATEGIC PHASE

30/05

Presenting initial  
strategies of the  
groups



Life around  
the river  
See p. 18



Connectivity  
See p. 12



STUTT GART  
AM NECKAR



Awareness  
See p. 14



Hidden Waters  
See p. 16

06/06

Formulating  
different  
committees



Media &  
Communication



Coordination



Public Relations

Inception of *Stuttgart am Neckar*  
and Logo and Image design

10/06



Facebook  
Stuttgart am Neckar  
2017



Instagram  
Stuttgart am Neckar

EXPERIMENTAL PHASE



- Critical Mass Event**
- Symposium**
- Life around the river**
- Connectivity**
- Hidden Waters**
- Awareness**



**Symposium at Mercedesstrasse**  
Open air symposium at Mercedesstrasse  
See p. 42



**Critical mass**  
Neckar movie on the After-mass  
See p. 36

**EXPERIMENTAL PHASE**



**Lower Your Fences 2.0 Stairs Experiment and Sarcastic Signs**  
Along the riverbank  
See p. 22-24



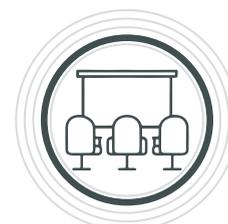
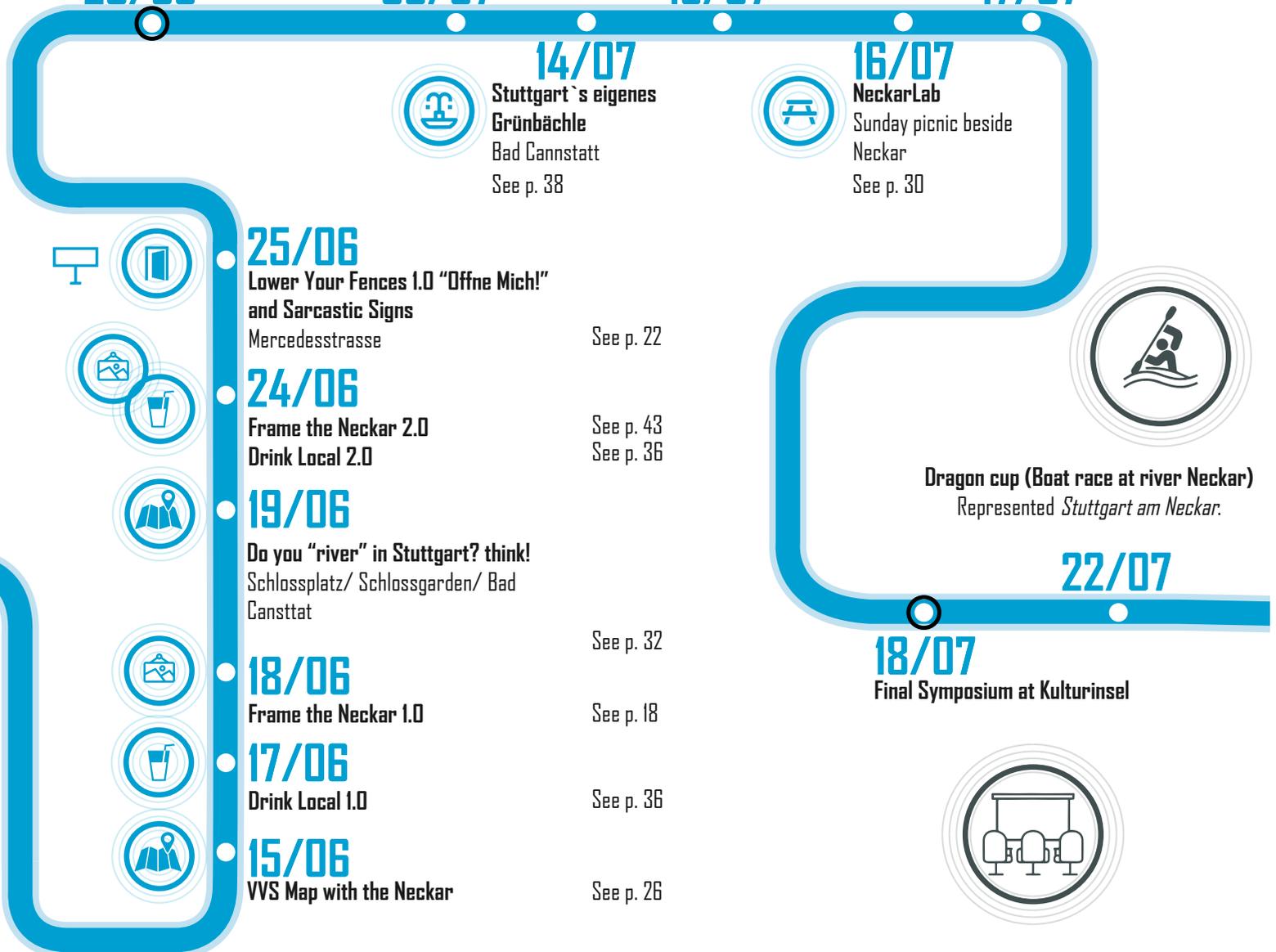
**"Neckar ist Nebenan" Posters in U-Bahn Stations**  
See p. 29

28/06

08/07

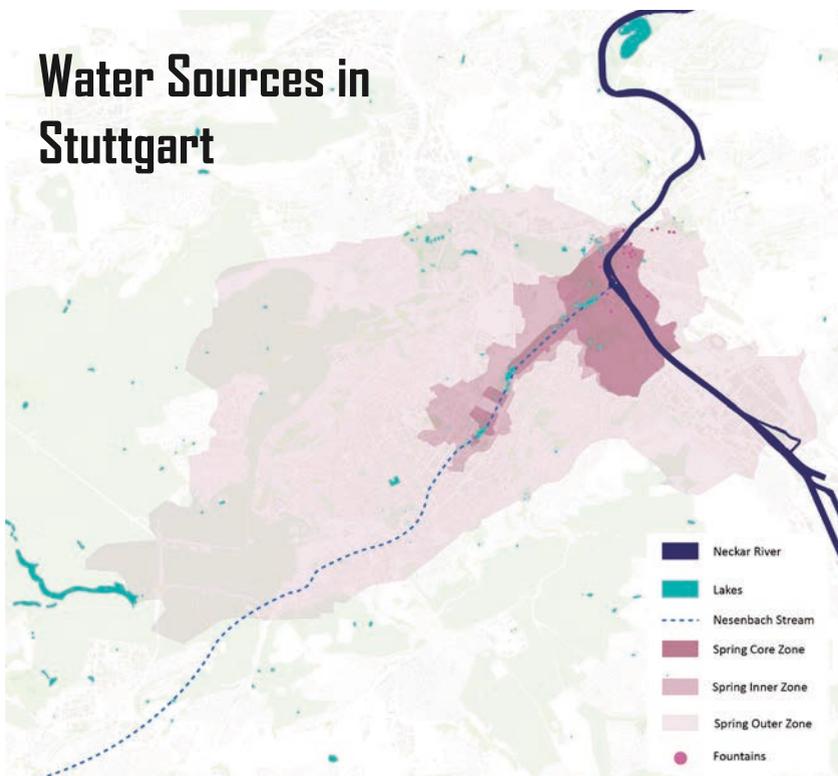
15/07

17/07



# WATER & THE CITY

## Water Sources in Stuttgart



Source: Hidden Waters team

Centuries ago, Stuttgart settled at the Nesenbach stream, which since decades is running underground due to the heavy infrastructure of the city centre laying on top of it. Nowadays, Stuttgart also lies at the Neckar river, which is flowing freely without being captured under the tunnels, hidden in the identity of the city and the perception of people. This is influenced by the lack of interaction opportunities with the river water and the industries located at the riverbanks. Also, the local mineral water springs that form the second largest source in Europe after the city of Budapest, are barely known to the majority of Stuttgart's citizens, let alone valued as part of its identity in the larger context of the region of Stuttgart.

**Stuttgart is the 2nd largest mineral water source in Europe**

Half of the daily needs of drinking water is

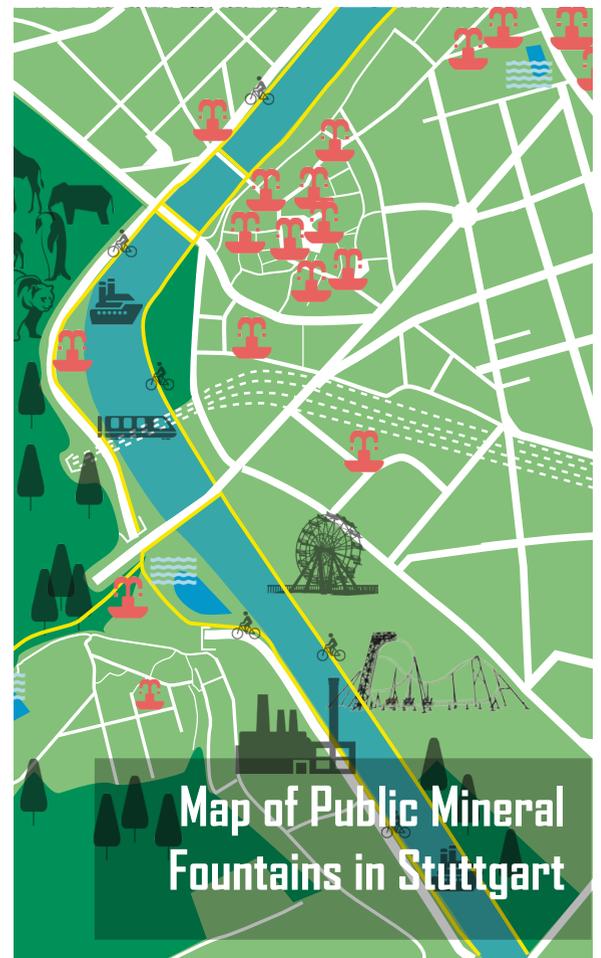
being provided from the regional sources such as spring water, groundwater and river water. Along with that, the other half is being provided from Bodensee which requires great amount of energy to reach Stuttgart. Besides, 30 percent of the water that goes to sewage system is clean rain and mineral water which then mix with gray water to be cleaned again in the treatment plant without being used for irrigation, drinking or any other purpose.

As if it was an iceberg, the situation of the water cycle in Stuttgart is barely visible on the surface (see image below), therefore it can be said it is a hidden process. The issue starts with the rain water and the mineral water from fountains which are having the same cleaning process without needing it. One consequence of this is the overload of the city's pipe system as it is receiving water from many sources at the same time. This can lead to saturation or flooding due to the limited capacity. Another consequence

is the energy spent during the cleaning process, inferring that the bigger the amount of water to clean, the bigger the amount of energy spent in such process. It is necessary to create new water cycles within the city. It is about integrating this resource in the urban landscape and in the everyday life of the citizens.

There are more than 250 wells located in the urban area of Stuttgart and 19 public mineral water fountains located either in the old city of Bad Cannstatt or in Stuttgart near by the Neckar River. Namely, these are Mühlenbrunnen, Leuzebrunnen, Veielbrunnen, Schiffmannbrunnen, Strohmbrunnen, Erbsenbrunnen, Jakobsbrunnen, Polizeibrunnen, Klösterlebrunnen, Kellerbrünnele, Schreinererebrunnen, Lautenschlägerbrunnen and Auquellbrunnen. The taste differs in every fountain depending on the relative amount of minerals they contain. The mineral water mainly consist of Magnesium, Calcium, Potassium, Chlorine, Iron and Sodium which help cells to regenerate, boost bones and muscles, prevent dehydration, protect heart and nervous system, as well as to fasten the production of red blood cells.

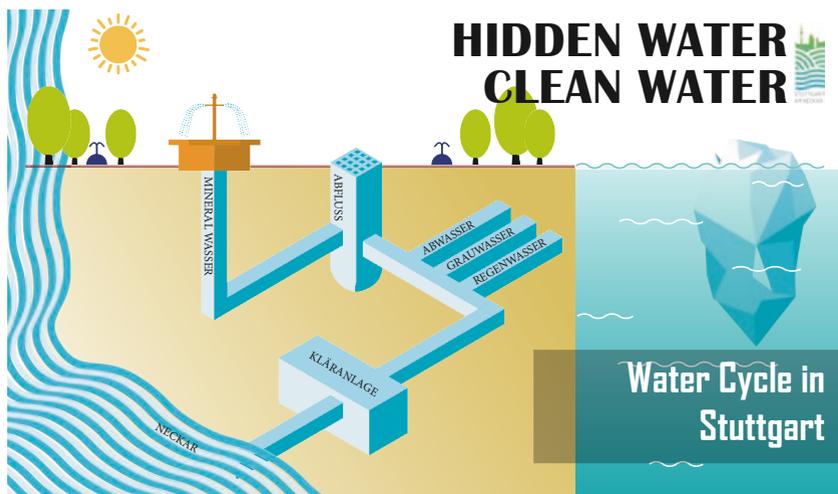
The nutritional information of the mineral water of Stuttgart was found at the City Hall website, which raise a question about the promotion of such information. Why is



## Map of Public Mineral Fountains in Stuttgart

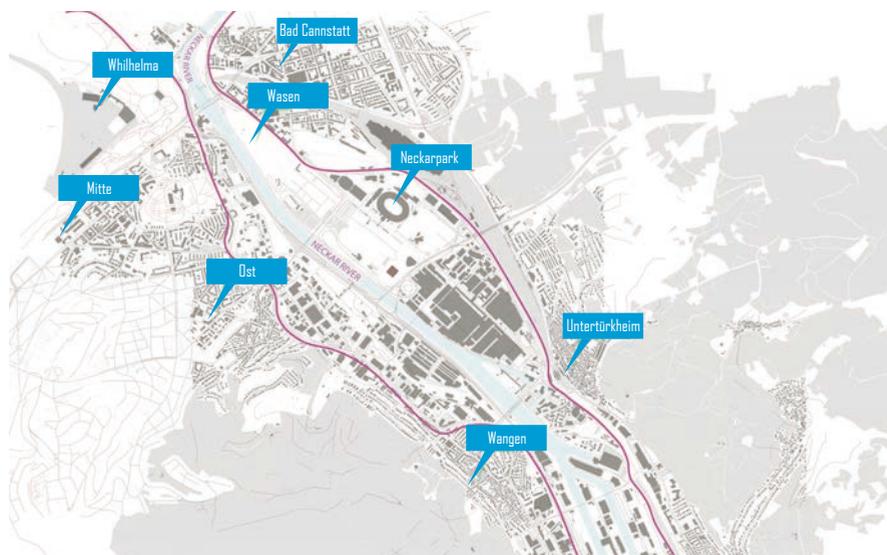
**More than 250 wells and 19 public mineral water fountains are located in Stuttgart!**

this resource not being promoted if the information is already available? The city might be spending money, time and energy in the maintenance of the fountains, but what is the purpose if the main information is not being spread? As it can be seen in the graphic below, this resource offers to the inhabitants several benefits for their health. Unfortunately, the source of this water is far from the city center of Stuttgart, which is one of the most crowded places of the city and therefore a proper place for promoting it. We see the mineral water as a mean to take people back to the river, as it is surrounded by most of the fountains.



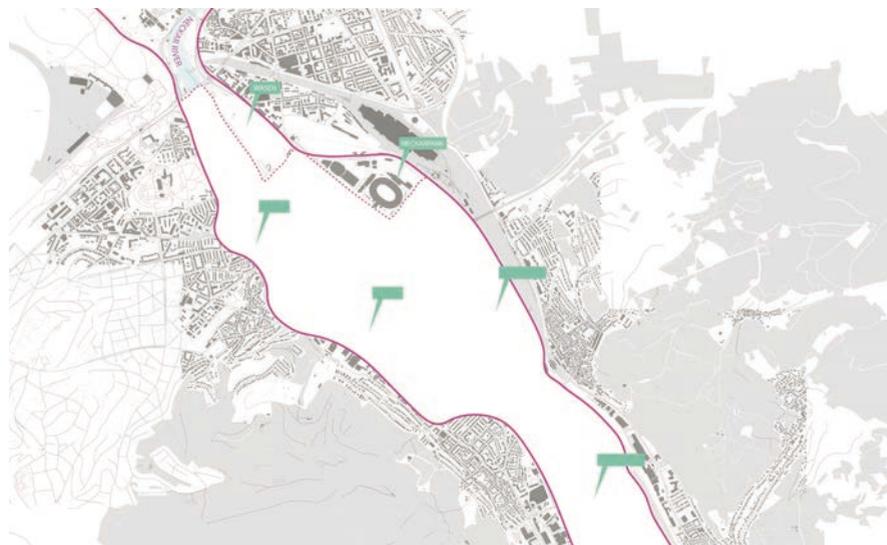
## BORDERS

The limits highlighted in pink show a contrast in the urban fabric of the area. Outside the limits, there are known districts of Stuttgart, with higher density and smaller lots than the area found inside the limits. The proximities of the river are mainly of industrial and logistic activities and are comprised in larger patches of land and their limits are marked by highways, fences and railways.



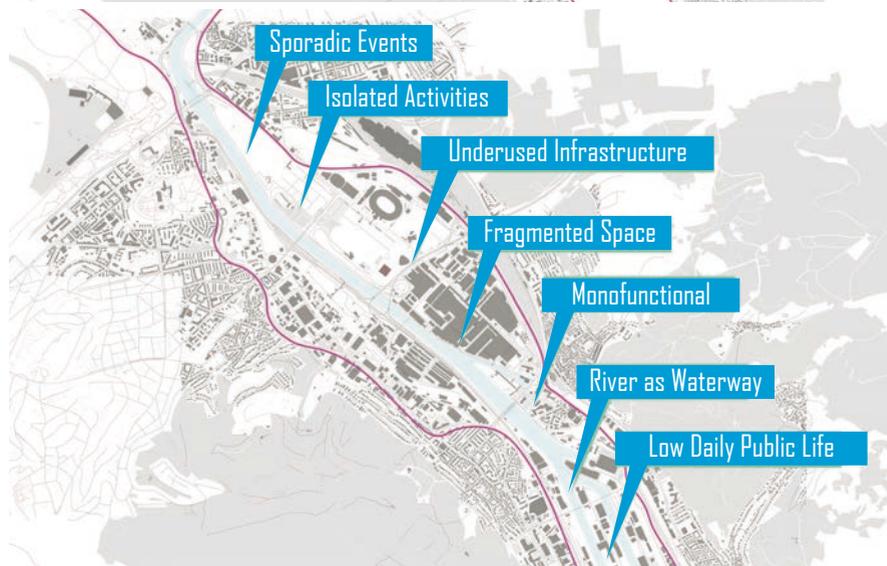
## PERCEPTION

The limits showed above not only segregate the river physically, but also on the overall image of the city. The perception of the common citizen is affected, turning the area into a blank space in the image of the city.



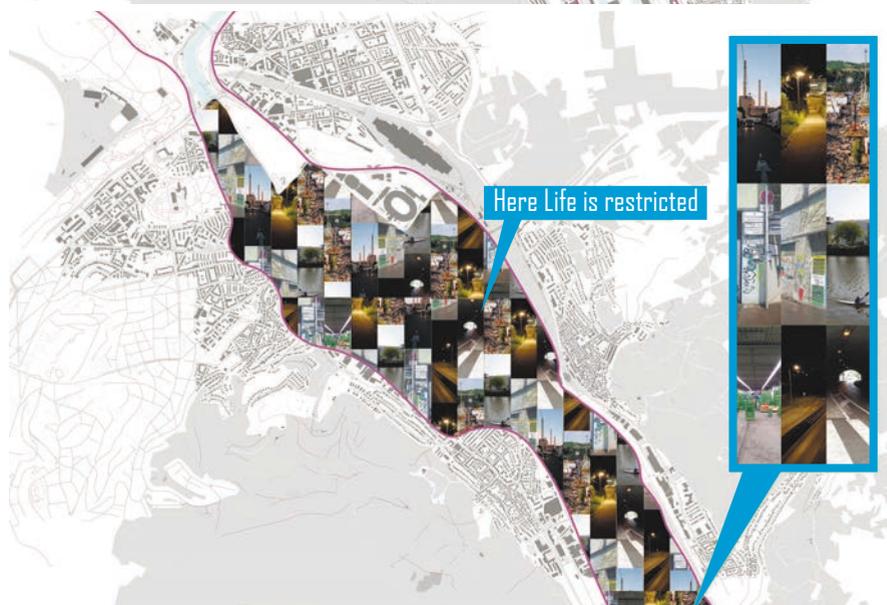
## PRIMARY FINDINGS

After a first investigation of the site, the initial findings set the path for the research and intervention approach. Those were mainly about the fragmentation of the area and the isolation of the activities, but also the use of open spaces for sporadic events, with constant low public life. Another fact worth mention is the use of the river mainly as a waterway, preventing the public access to the water.



## LIFE AROUND THE NECKAR

Life is restricted: The monofunctional sites and the lack of integration among the neighbors, restricts the area to have specific activities during specific time frames. The fragmentation of the space is mirrored on the time efficiency of the area. Many activities only function during specific time frames, leaving the spaces inactive on the remaining time.



# STRATEGIC CITY

## CITY-RIVER LINKAGES

Students evaluated Stuttgart city's connectivity to the Neckar River.

Continue reading [below](#)

## IS THERE A RIVER IN STUTTGART?

The first step to tackle an issue is to admit that there is a problem. What hinders the Neckar from crossing into people's daily lives?

Continue reading on [page 14](#)

## HIDDEN WATERS IN STUTTGART

Stuttgart, a city that turns its back to its water sources; the Neckar, the stream of the Nesenbach and the mineral water springs.

Continue reading on [page 16](#)

## HOW TO BRING LIFE TO THE NECKAR ?

The Story behind the NeckarLab

Continue reading on [page 18](#)

# CITY-RIVER LINKAGES: A WHOLE SYSTEM OF DISCONNECTIONS



## *Parking with a View!*

Parking space with river vistas owned by Mercedes Benz. Indeed, the best views of our Neckar are reserved for parked cars and speeding bicycles on a 1-meter-wide bicycle lane. What can Mercedes Benz offer to give Stuttgart's back their right to the river?

Students from the Städtebau-Institut (SI) at the University of Stuttgart evaluate Stuttgart city's connectivity to the Neckar River. Where is the disconnection? - Everywhere!

**Stuttgart city takes pride in the slogan "City between forests and vineyards". The planning approach of the city values nature highly; 7 nature conservation areas (6.6% of the total city area) and 27 landscape conservation areas (32.4%) have been defined since the 2007 masterplan.**

Yet, despite the slogans and the regulations, a major gap appears: between the forests and the vineyards lies a river, the most of all natural element. What does Stuttgart have planned to conserve that? A few conceptual projects. What do Stuttgart's know of that? Not much!

Lack of concrete planning related to conserving and rehabilitating Stuttgart's River and its riverbanks, almost fully surrounded by big industries like EnBW and Daimler, leaves the Neckar marginalized and absent from the minds of average Stuttgart residents and visitors. Rather than spending their leisure time on the banks of the river, Stuttgart's lay on grass lawns in the urban city center, contemplating the view of shoppers and tourists roaming restlessly in fully-paved Königstraße, with a sound of a fake water feature in the background to give some feelings of nature and well-being. Students from the Institute of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of

Stuttgart took up the duty of conducting an intensive theoretical and field research, complimented with observations, surveys, and interviews around the Neckar riverbanks and in different parts of the city, to define the main reasons behind River-City disconnections, both in the perspective of city planners and the public.

"When we talk about connectivity, we don't only mean it in terms of physical and infrastructural networks that lead people from the city to the river. Of course these are quite important, but we also want to shed light on cognitive connectivity. Too many people don't even recognize the

presence of a river in Stuttgart. Me, for example, I only realized Stuttgart's river after 5 months of living here!", Thomas J. Knapik states.

After defining the main reasons for River-City disconnections, the group used their findings to come up with a strategy that aims at solving the connectivity issue at multiple scales (overview on the next page). Each step is accompanied with on-site experiments, which are then presented and negotiated with interested stakeholders from public institutes and civic society organizations.

# STRATEGY TIMELINE AND OVERVIEW

The diagram below illustrates the strategy developed by students from the Connectivity group, with practical experiments to tackle the issues of disconnection on 3 scales: Large, between the river and Stuttgart city as a whole, medium, between the river and the surrounding context, and small, between the river and the immediate riverbank.

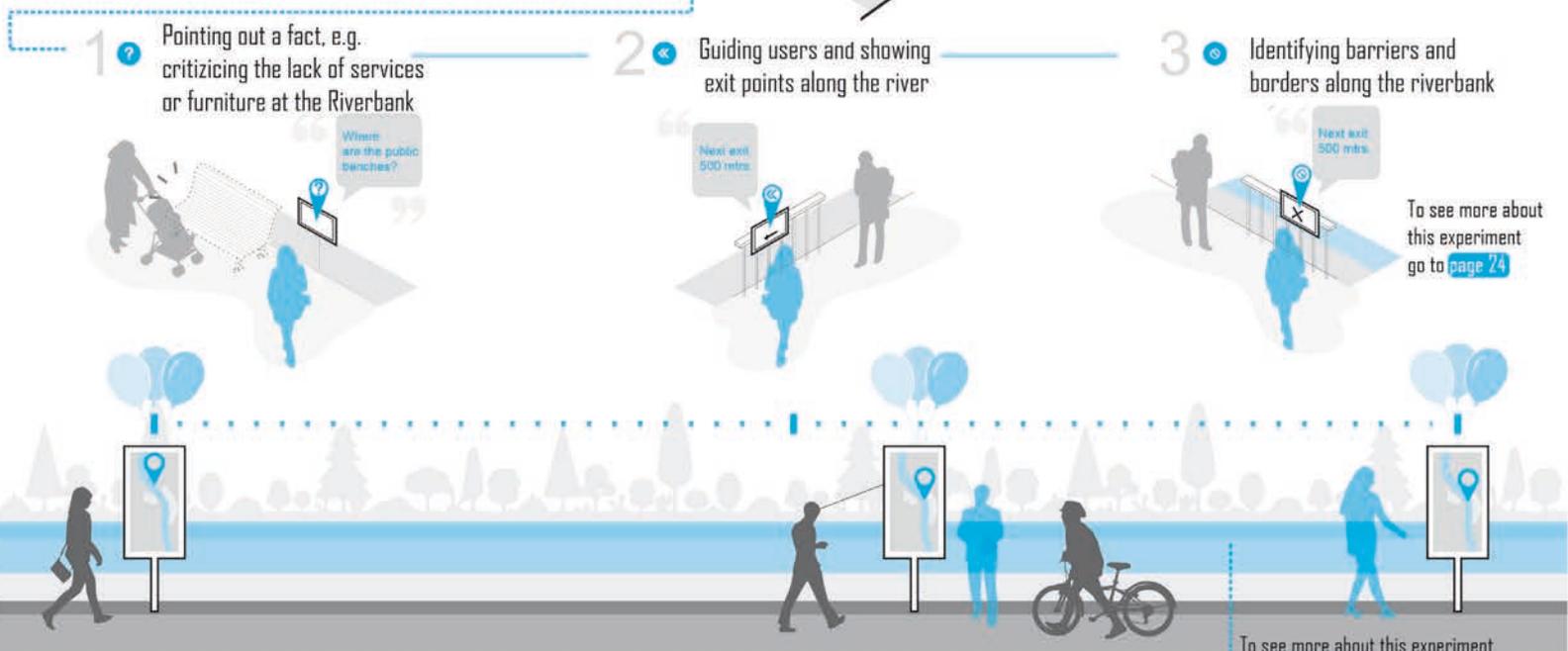
## L LARGE SCALE



To see more about this experiment go to [page 26](#)

## M MEDIUM SCALE

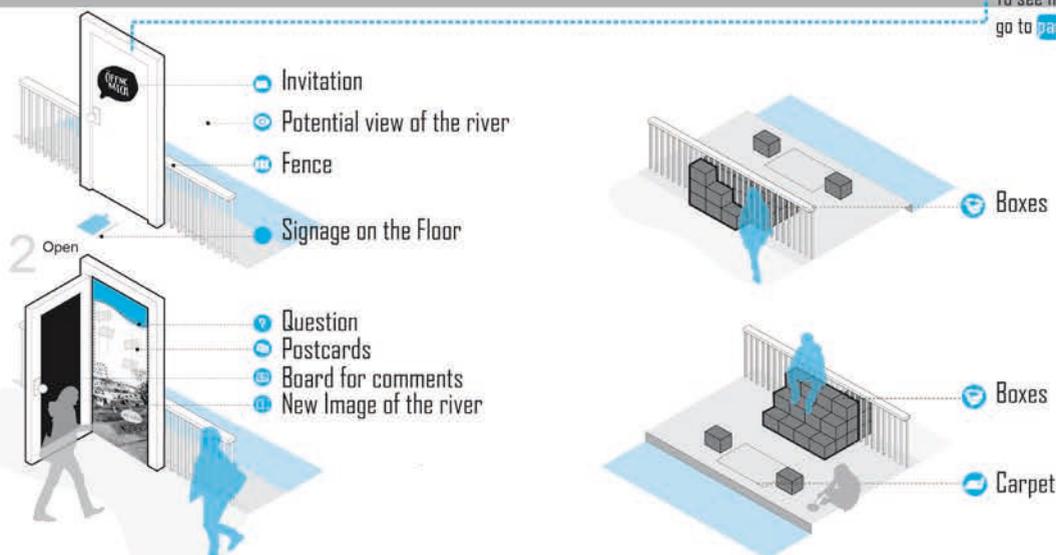
To see more about this experiment go to [page 29](#)



To see more about this experiment go to [page 24](#)

To see more about this experiment go to [page 28](#)

## S SMALL SCALE



To see more about this experiment go to [page 22](#)

To see more about this experiment go to [page 23](#)

# IS THERE A RIVER IN STUTTGART?



“ Is there a river in Stuttgart? ”

“ How can I get there? ”

“ What can you do there? ”

The first step to tackle an issue is to admit that there is a problem. The Awareness group’s strategy was to acknowledge the issues, analyze the causes, identify the major problems and develop long and short term goals to bring the problems one step closer to an improvement.

With visual tools like postcards, interactive brochures and an awareness movie, various hidden locations were brought close to the people to give them a glimpse of various potential activities that could take place along the banks of the river Neckar.

**S**tarting with basic questions like: “Is there a river in Stuttgart? How is it called? Where is the river? How do you get there?”, to analyze deeper ones like: “What hinders the Neckar from crossing into people’s daily lives? Is there a need to improve physical connection of the river to the city?”, the awareness group took the initiative to analyze the issue from the roots. v “We began the project by understanding broader topics such as barriers, borders, interlinkages and visibility, nature, culture, land use, accessibility, climate change, industrial heritage identity and temporary uses”, Maria Encalada introduces. Various smaller groups in the studio looked at these topics separately and identified issues such as the private industrial areas along the river, big highways acting as a physical barrier preventing access to and visibility

of the Neckar, general lack of accessibility and visual aids to reach the river from the city center, undefined and neglected spaces along the river.

With this initial input the awareness group dived into further analysis using various methods and tools such as the sensorial and mental mapping.

“Classifying and sketching our findings with the method of problem tree, we identified three core issues that needed to be tackled, then we moved on to setting our long and

short term goals.”, Nojoud Ashour explains.

“In the initial process we developed a sequence of thought. We understood that only by changing the perception of the people towards the river we could succeed in bringing people to the river, which gradually would increase the demands of urban design elements on the river banks. Thus leading to an urge of having improved urban design along the river.” Ashour added. Furthermore, when people

Only by changing the perception of the people towards the river, we could succeed in bringing people to the river again

start to claim these spaces at the river, they potentially would demand for more, ultimately leading to the requirement of some of the largest fenced off areas to open their doors for daily life activities of the public.

## CORE ISSUES

- 01 Negative perception towards the Neckar
- 02 Inadequate urban design
- 03 Closed private spaces

## SHORT TERM GOALS

- 01 Positive perception towards the Neckar

## LONG TERM GOALS

- 01 Adequate urban design
- 02 Open up closed private spaces

# THE NECKAR UNVEILED...

"Under Awareness, our first step was to inform people about the existence of a river amidst them. In addition, we collected data to understand the diverse needs of people regarding activities they wanted to do on the river banks", Viviann Remmel explains. This was accomplished through interviews carried out on three different locations across the city.

Aiming to receive a larger proportion of not only residents but also visitors of Stuttgart, a location at Schlossplatz, Königstrasse was the first choice. The physical distance and detachment of the users to the Neckar were evident in these interviews. The second location was Schlossgarten, which the users mainly visit either to relax or to do sports, activities that could potentially be done along the Neckar as well. "In this case, our interviewees were more motivated in their inputs providing us with a larger list of anticipated activities on the Neckar", Viviann clarifies. The final location, Wilhelmsplatz in Bad Cannstatt was chosen due to its proximity to the Neckar. The interviewees here were directly connected to the Neckar, majority of them often visiting it daily.

As part of their Awareness and Activation strategy, the group further discovered numerous hidden locations along the Neckar. How to tell people about them? "If the mountain won't come to Muhammad, then Muhammad must go to the mountain." The next step? To bring those spots closer to the people.

"Once we discovered beautiful hidden locations along the Neckar, we decided to present them to the residents and visitors of Stuttgart using visual methods", Saamil Patel explains. A movie was developed to catch the attention of people (see page 35 for further details). Visual methods such as intriguing postcards or an interactive brochure were used to create awareness about the discovered hidden locations.

"The interactive brochure displayed eight different locations. The participants were enhanced to fill it in, voice their opinions and claims and send it to the displayed contacts of representatives of the office of City Planning and Urban Renewal of Stuttgart. These brochures were not only a tool for increasing the awareness but also an activation step of the strategy. Our interactive brochures would be the first indicator of people's demands for improvement of the urban design along the Neckar. After their return to the office with participants' feedback, a stronger connection to the city officials is expected. Our next step would be

to have another experiment, re-enacting the demands of people about the riverbanks aiming to test its feasibility", Shaharin An-nisa adds.

"Over a long-term period, once the hidden locations along the Neckar become active, we envision a demand of an increased number of such spaces from the residents. Once this point is reached, private institutions owning land right on the river banks could be approached to open their boundaries to the public. Experiments could be designed to analyse the feasibility of the strategies before moving on to making them permanent. The "how?" remains unclear, the exact steps are yet to be defined. It is a matter of trial and error and it depends on the outcome of every step" Shaharin concludes.

## TOOLS

### Questionnaires & interviews (P. 32)

Collecting opinions and understanding the perception of participants towards the Neckar.

### Postcards (P. 32)

Used as a visual tool to create awareness about the beautiful hidden locations discovered by the awareness group. QR codes enabled residents to simply scan and reach these locations and maps pointing out the closest U Bahn stops, including tips and tricks to enjoy the place.

### Interactive collages (P. 35)

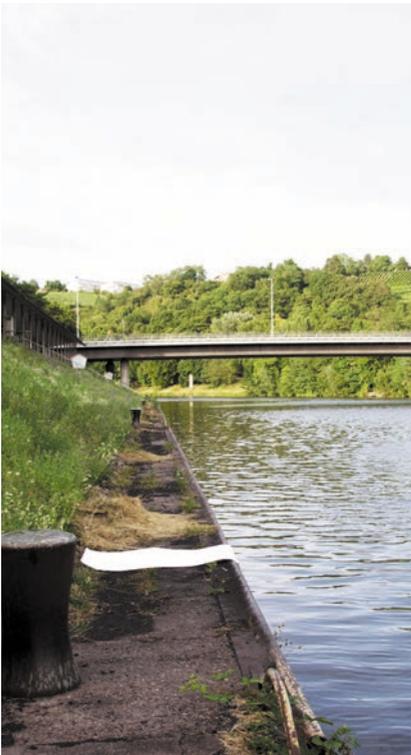
Based on the lines of the "planning for real" method, an image of hidden locations at the river was presented with cutouts of various potential activities.

### Interactive Brochures (P. 35)

Eight different locations were showed with the aim of discovering what participants wanted to have in these locations.

### MOVIE (P. 34 and 35)

A movie with an intriguing storyline was shot displaying various hidden locations along the Neckar and screened at different locations aiming to bring those locations close to the people of Stuttgart.



# HIDDEN WATERS IN STUTTGART

Stuttgart, a city that turns its back to its water sources: the river Neckar, the stream of the Nesenbach and the mineral water springs.



Visualization of the Neckar in the future

Photo Courtesy: Hidden Waters team IUSD VI intake

## Hidden waters, why are you hiding?

The water has always played an important role in the design of many cities all over the world. Not only the historical settlements were very dependent on the rivers, but also nowadays, water is often part of the urban identity and contributes greatly to the quality of life of citizens. 'Water' in this case is not only referring to rivers, but also to seashores, lakes, mineral water sources, drinking, sewage and rainwater. However, the degree to which these resources are visible varies in each city. London, Paris, Frankfurt - these are examples of cities which are recognized

for its rivers, by opening up the riverbanks to the people and allowing the water to be part of the city. Budapest is another city which has developed its identity around the largest mineral water source in Europe.

Even though certain water resources are not at all hidden but rather iconic, often we forget about the water cycle in general. What is happening with the clean rainwater in the city? Where does the tap water come from? What kind of waters mix in the sewage system underneath the city? There is a lot

of hidden waters still to be explored! It is important to understand these processes in order to find solutions of how to make water visible and to create a more sustainable water cycle.

First of all, there is a need to create awareness about the hidden water in order to turn it into iconic water. Awareness can bring the river, the rainwater or any other water source back into the minds of people and ultimately back into our cities. Consequently, the concept of hidden waters refers not only to the physical (in)visibility but it also entails the fact that it does not exist in the perception of the general public.

One of the cities doing a good job at hiding its water resources in Stuttgart. This gives re-

levance to the challenge of converting Stuttgart into a more sustainable city celebrating its local water resources. Let's discover the waters of Stuttgart and uncover its hidden potentials! But what transformations are needed to make these waters become iconic?

The following page will introduce the strategy of the **'Hidden water. Iconic waters.'** project analyzing Stuttgart's water cycle, proposing a strategy supported by real life experiments towards a potential solution.

# FROM HIDDEN WATERS TO ICONIC WATERS. HOW?

The current situation lead to categorize the challenges around the water cycle and water resources into three topics: Challenges concerning the ecosystem, challenges concerning the infrastructure and socio-cultural challenges. To develop a strategy initiating a positive change first, a clear vision statement should create the guideline for the project. The envisioned long-term perspective was to work towards Stuttgart's integrated water resources creating a network of Ecosystem and Urban Life. Then, how could this be achieved?

In the next step, by scaling down the vision into more specific goals, the challenges were provided with ways on how to tackle them. In essence, the group formulated the following goals:

## GOALS

- 01 Raising awareness
- 02 Increasing the usage of Stuttgart's mineral water
- 03 Shortening the water commodity chain
- 04 Improving accessibility of the river water
- 05 Improving the quality of the river water

However, it became clear that the challenges and thus also the goals cannot be regarded separately. Instead, all of the topics are interlinked and affect each other. The goals then were translated into explicit projects which would together make it possible to reach the vision.

### Integrated Design Proposal

The proposal of the integrated design contains the implementation of three project strategies. In essence, by bottling Stuttgart's mineral water, the usage of the

local water resource should be increased and the water commodity chain shortened. Specifically, the focus is on inviting the citizens to try and explore the taste of the mineral water. This is promoted by handing out empty bottles, especially designed for the 'Brünnele Wasser', Stuttgart's local mineral water. Next, the group is suggesting a network of water-filled chanelns on the streets and walkways which is connecting the mineral water fountains and the river Neckar, named *Grünbächle*. As a side-effect, the *Grünbächle* can contribute to recovering and activating the public space around water in Stuttgart. The project also addresses the usage of mineral water and the accessibility to the river water. By revitalizing the riverbanks,

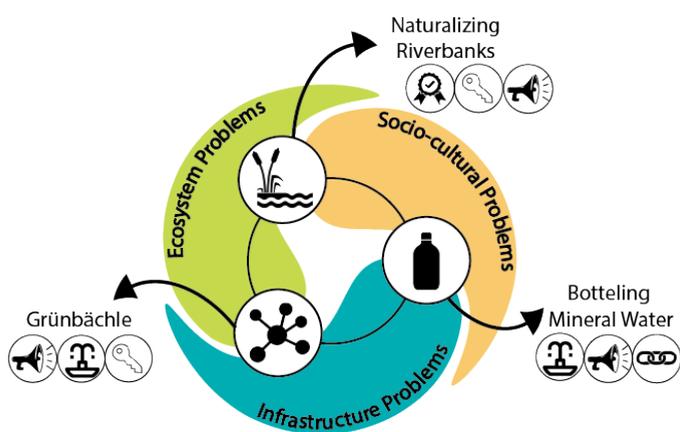
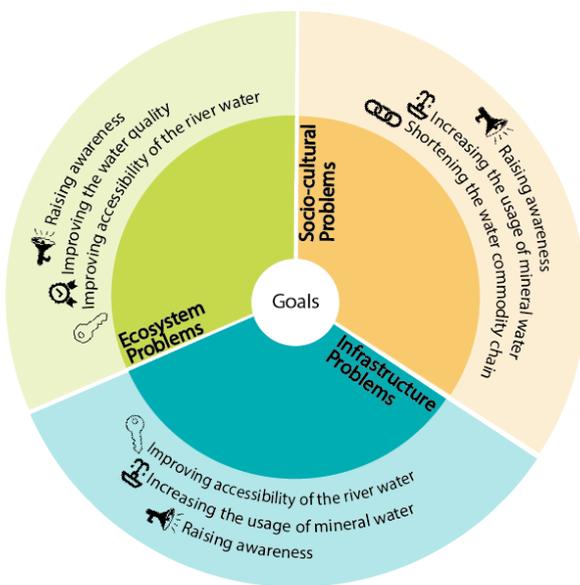
the third part of the strategy does not only continue to improve the accessibility of the river water, but also it begins with enhancing the water quality of the Neckar. This idea includes the creation of an ecosystem in which people as well as nature can claim their space at the river and interact with each other.

With the help of all three projects awareness is raised on the topic of local water resources, the current water cycle and how to make it more sustainable and inclusive for citizens. The projects represent different scales and refer to different phases of the strategy. In all phases, the projects are integrated in terms of building on the effects of the prior phase and preparing the ground for the next phase. Nevertheless, the

projects will not stop with the end of a phase but rather are to be continued on a higher level.

### Strategy Development

The relationship between the three strategic projects is reflected in the diagram showed on the left, a fractal which is evolving and increasing in scale, as the impact of the project grows and time goes on. Each phase has a clear aim, which at the same time serves as a mean to measure the success. Depending on these milestones, the strategy has to be adapted or refined and the decision whether to move on or not can be taken. For each phase, this is always also based on the feedback and ideas collected from the citizens. The aim of the first phase is to measure the awareness, meaning to start a dialogue with the citizens about the topic of the local water resources and the water commodity chain. On the following level, enhancing visibility of and accessibility to the water through symbolically implementing a *Grünbächle*, recovering public space around the water and promoting bottles for mineral water is the focus. Here, the group means to engage the citizens more with the water cycle in Stuttgart and to show them different ways on how to improve it. The intention of the next phase is to naturalize the riverbanks and revitalize the public space around it. The long term perspective includes the growth of the *Grünbächle* network leading towards riverbanks with an enhanced ecosystem and finally, the expansion of the 'Brünnele Wasser' bottle promoted by the City of Stuttgart and local organizations.



## PROJECTS FOR STUTT GART

- 01 BOTTLING MINERAL WATER
- 02 GRÜNBACHLE
- 03 REVITALIZING RIVERBANKS

# HOW TO BRING LIFE TO THE NECKAR?

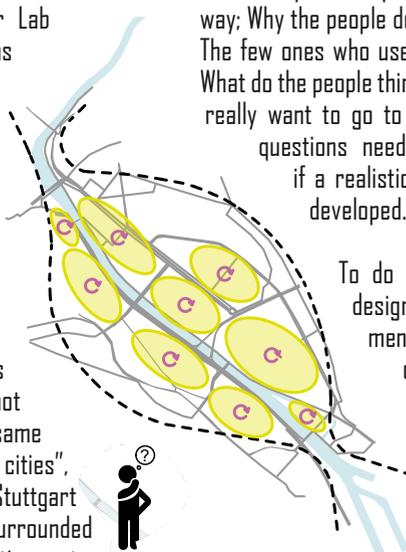


Photo Courtesy: Juan Sebastián Benitez

## The story behind the Neckarlab

The urban researchers behind the so-called Neckar Lab were entrusted by the University of Stuttgart with the challenging task to develop a strategy that, being applied to the surroundings of the Neckar river in the Stuttgart area, could bring back the life and revitalize this beautiful but hidden and elusive gem in a sustainable and inclusive way.

The idea of the Neckar Lab was born after months of analyzing the surroundings of the Neckar river in the Gaisburg area and combining urban experiments with creativity in order to understand the area and the context. First, the researchers understood that it was not possible to apply the same recipe as in other "river cities", simply because in Stuttgart the river is mainly surrounded by big industries, logistic centers and low dense residential areas. Those industries are isolated and function as "islands", having their own dynamics but no communication with their neighbors.



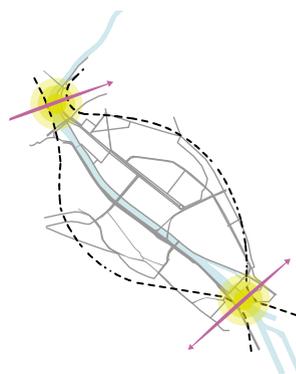
Despite the great relevance of those industries for the economy of the entire Stuttgart region, this spatial segregation translates into a negative perception of the area by the common citizen, who sees this zone as a blank space in the image of the city. Then, how to bring constant and permanent life around the river Neckar?

Well, many other questions arose on the way: Why the people do not use their river? The few ones who use it, do they enjoy it? What do the people think is missing? Do they really want to go to the river? All those questions needed to be answered if a realistic strategy was to be developed.

To do so, the researchers designed two urban experiments to interact with the citizens and to understand their feelings, claims, hates and loves towards the Neckar river and its surroundings.

The first experiment called "Selfie am Neckar" (see image on top) consisted of a set of playful frames that were hanged in two locations, the König-Karls-Brücke

connecting the city center with Bad-Canstatt and the Inselstrasse bridge that connects Wangen with Untertürkheim. The message was simple, "Take a selfie with the Neckar" and "What would you like to do at the Neckar?" The results called the attention of the researchers because the people had a lot to say and to express. **The citizens want to go to their river! The people want to use their river! But they do not feel attracted due to the lack of infrastructure, experiences, activities or furniture in there.**



Locations of the experiment "Selfie am Neckar"

## What the citizens want...

-  Beach and Swimming facilities
-  Gastronomy
-  Sport Facilities
-  Green spaces along the River
-  Improve Infrastructure
-  Improve visibility of river banks
-  Accommodation near the Neckar
-  Events near the river
-  Experience the industrial heritage
-  Playgrounds for Children

"We wanted to start a conversation with the citizens about the things that for them, were necessary to revitalize the river, but also to show to the public that the river itself has a hidden beauty waiting for somebody to uncover it." Life Around the River group.

## HOW IS THE LIFE AROUND THE NECKAR TODAY?

The proximities of the river are mainly of industrial and logistic activities and are comprised in larger patches of land and their limits are marked by highways, fences and railways. After a first investigation

of the site, based on the researchers' perception and field study, the initial findings showed mainly fragmentation of the area and isolation of the activities, but also the use of open spaces for sporadic

events, with constant low public life. Another fact worth mentioning is the use of the river mainly as a waterway, preventing the public access to the water. The monofunctional sites and the lack of

integration among the neighbors restricts the area to have specific activities during specific time frames. Many activities only function during specific time frames, leaving the spaces inactive on the remaining time.



The second experiment called "Frame the Neckar" was even more interesting due to the romantic and artistic component attached to it but also because it raised real awareness of the hidden beauty of the Neckar river. The experiment created a momentum and a platform to reflect on what we are missing by the routine. However, a special article was saved for this intervention on the page n. 43.

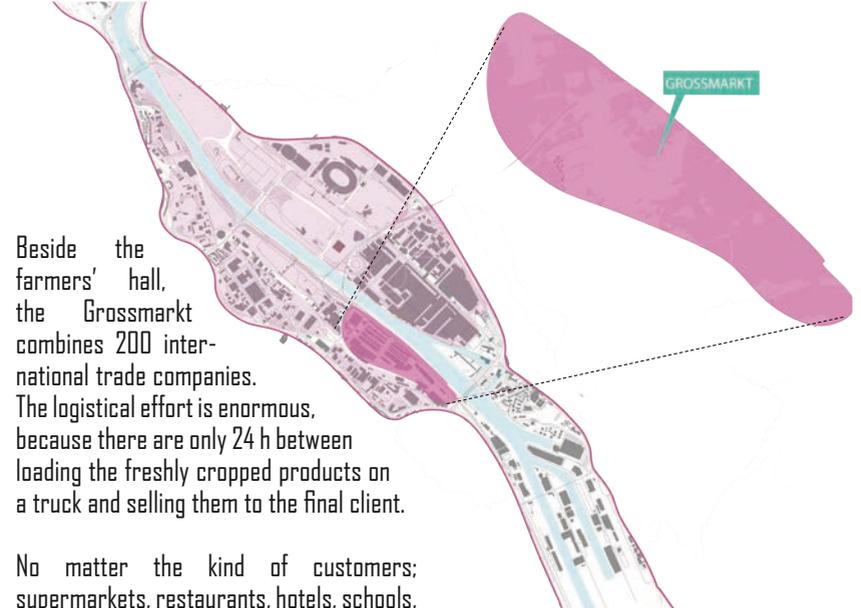
By that point, the researchers knew or at least got a hint on what the path could be from the citizens' perspective. But what about those "islands" mentioned before? How could you bring life to a place surrounded by industries, companies, businesses, logistic centers, trucks, big ships? This picture does not seem or sound to be attractive for people at all.

Well, the first step to deal with it, is not to neglect it but instead, to go inside and see the real panorama to work something out of it...or not. **"Somehow, we must go inside one of those islands!"**, that was the idea

that changed the overall view and finally defined the outcome of what was going to be the NeckarLab.

"A lucky occasion opened us a door in the end. The parents of a friend own a restaurant and they buy at the Grossmarkt regularly. We got the possibility to accompany them and enter the Grossmarkt undercover at 5 a.m., that was already towards the end of the busy time. While the whole city is still sleeping, farmers from the region sell their fresh products to private clients. The atmosphere is friendly, most people know each other and with a fresh coffee, you can have relaxed talks. Besides, the farmers' hall is filled with smells of fresh products and bustling activity. An experience for all senses!" Alexandre Ulrich stated.

But what sounds like an adventure for urban researchers is tough business for others. The Grossmarkt is an company of big proportions with a yearly business volume of 630 Mio. Euro. They are responsible for the daily supply of 12 Mio. people within 300 km.



Beside the farmers' hall, the Grossmarkt combines 200 international trade companies. The logistical effort is enormous, because there are only 24 h between loading the freshly cropped products on a truck and selling them to the final client.

No matter the kind of customers; supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, schools, canteens, small and big businesses, you and me, we all rely on the Grossmarkt Stuttgart!

The answer was clear at that point. **Life should not be brought; the life is here already!**

From now on, the researchers knew what to do. **"We must transport and expand the activity of those islands into the public ground and make it part of the city, let's start with the Grossmarkt"** they said.

## THE FINAL RACE TO THE RELEASE OF THE NECKAR LAB

After many attempts of getting in contact with some of the companies inside the Grossmarkt, finally the researchers succeeded.

"At the beginning, it was hard to get their attention and transmit our message, especially because we did not find many things to offer, it felt more like they were doing us a favor. However, after some meetings, we discover a gap that we could fill. They manifested the need to get in contact with people, with the common citizen, not necessarily with the intention of improving public space or the river itself as it was our intention, but for the exchange of ideas around the topic of food. There are some products for example that are grown in the region and managed by the companies inside Grossmarkt but its sale in the market is not satisfactory simple because the people do not know how to use it or how to cook with it. As well as this, other needs were discovered during the process, like the claims from the companies located in the farmers' area regarding the

infrastructure and logistic problems they face every day and have not been attended by the city. There was a lot to work with, more than we were expecting. We identified a potential and we worked with it", the researchers stated.

"Even though the pilot project was intended to be based on the needs of the Grossmarkt, we did not want our solution just to be specifically designed for it. We knew that similar situations could be happening elsewhere so we wanted our strategy to be replicable in all the "islands", that's why we defined a generalized research question.", the researchers clarified.

How to create an exchange platform between private stakeholders and the civil society on the public ground?

Well, The Neckar Lab was the answer to that question. The concept behind it was based on the idea of connecting the needs of different stakeholders into a common platform for exchange & collaboration, so

everyone could benefit from it. It could take place anywhere but with just one condition, the location must be in a public space in need of being activated and revitalized. The platform had to be designed to provide the users with a attractive environment and a topic of interest, so they feel comfortable to share their desires, experiences, feelings and suggestions.

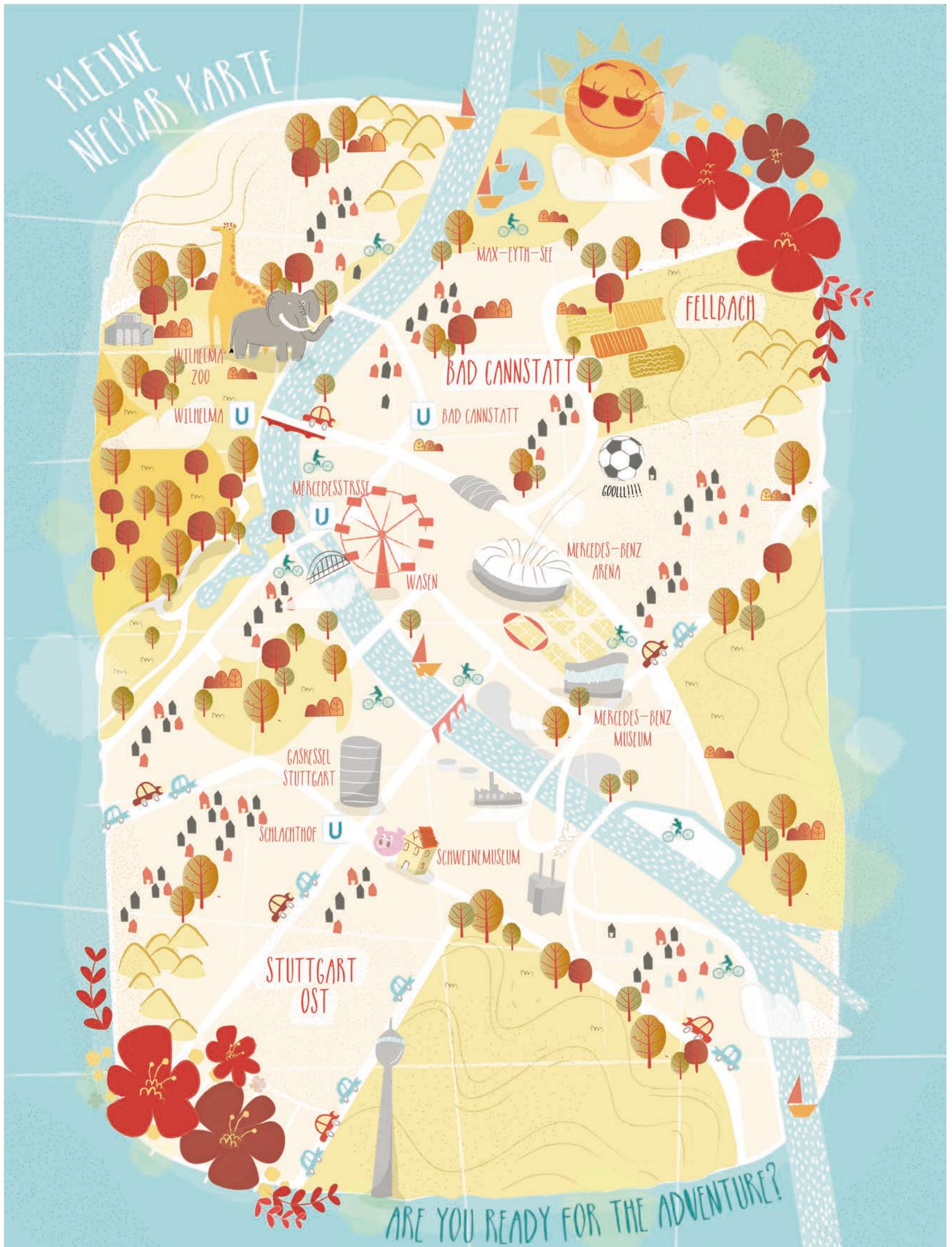
This is how one of the most promising initiatives to revitalize the Neckar river was born, the rest is history. What comes next? The researchers see a bright future with this new idea, more companies are

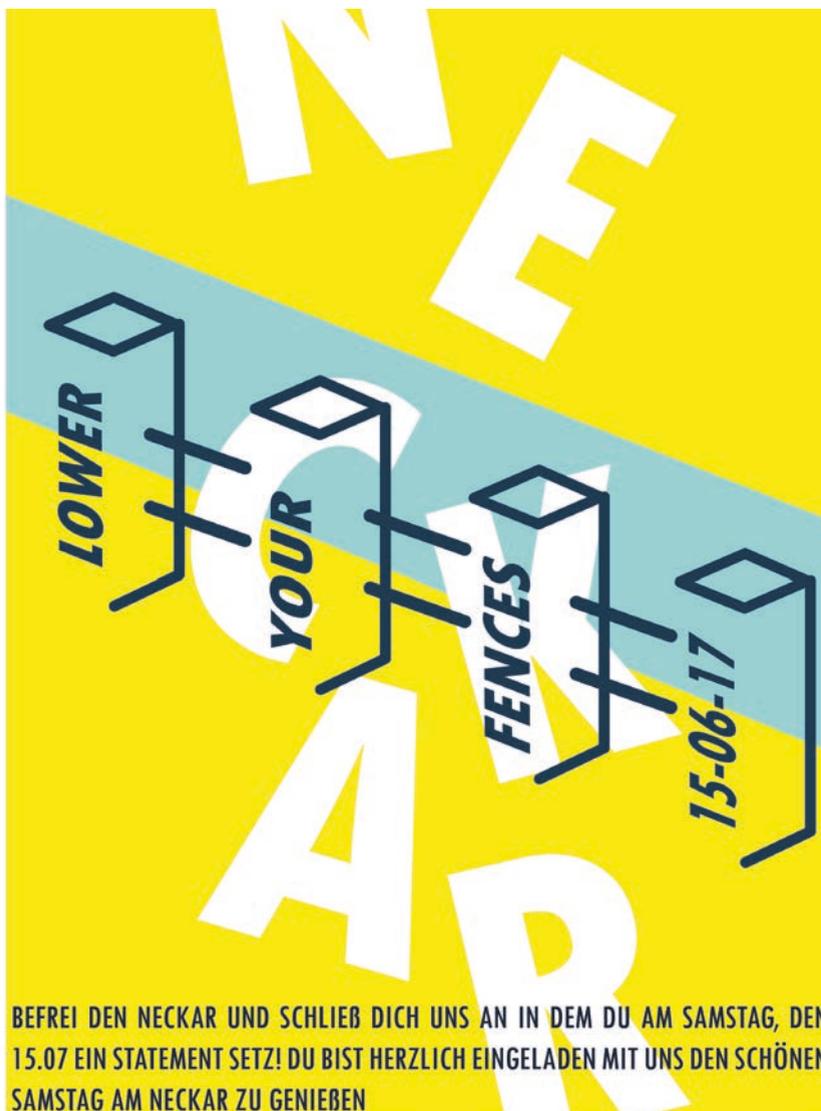
getting on board and hopefully more and bigger Neckar Labs are coming around the river with maybe more creative urban experiments. The locations? Nobody knows, go to the river and enjoy its beauty, maybe you will find it on the way...



First pilot of the project Neckar Lab.







# o-CITY

Advertisement campaigns for promoting the Stuttgart am Neckar initiative were done by the team. Maybe you saw or received some of them. Here, some of the teasers and promotional material!

**Brünnele Wasser DRINK LOCAL!**

**5** A large percentage of our water is not local

- 45% Bodensee water
- 55% Regional water
  - 3% River water
  - 40% Ground water
  - 17% Spring water

**3** Germany is the 6th largest consumer of bottled water in the world  
10 billion litres per year  
124.9 litres per person  
528 brands of mineral water

**2** More than 250 wells and 19 fountains are located in the urban area of Stuttgart.

CO<sub>2</sub> Magnesium Sodium Potassium Sulfur Calcium Iron Chloride

**ÖFFENTLICHES & GESUNDES WASSER**

**1** Stuttgart has the second largest natural mineral water resource in Europe.

QR code, Universität Stuttgart, Stuttgart am Neckar, Stuttgart am Neckar



# EXPERIMENTAL CITY

## NECKAR IST NEBENAN

Attempts for more large-scale connectivity continue, this time with a series of posters that you have probably seen in U-bahn stations around town during the past weeks.

Continue reading on [page 29](#)

## NECKARLAB

Intended to break the monotony of a linear asphalt path, a group of five young researchers from the initiative *Stuttgart am Neckar*, proposed alternative uses of the space for a day.

Continue reading on [page 30](#)

## STUDENTS BRING THE NECKAR TO THE CITY

Through the overall analyses it became clear that the Neckar is not used to its full potential such as sunbathing, canoeing or walking along its riverbanks.

Continue reading on [page 32](#)

## STUTTARTS EIGENES GRÜNBÄCHLE

Based on the outcomes of previous events, the Hidden Waters group decided to have an installation that would stay more than one day and let people interact with it.

Continue reading on [page 38](#)

## URBAN EXPERIMENT TACKLES SMALL SCALE CONNECTIVITY ISSUES BETWEEN RIVER AND RIVERBANK

The Neckar, treated as private property, is denied from residents of Stuttgart by a dominant fence.



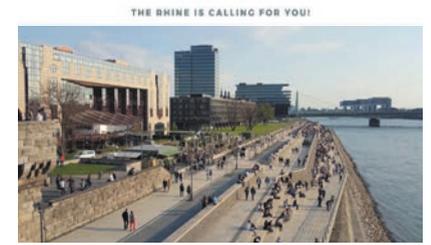
Photo Courtesy: Alex Wunch

“Neckar: Lower Your Fences” is an urban experiment that aims to question the issue of borders between the river and the riverbank. If you pay a visit to the Neckar, you will notice the presence of fences along the stretch of the Wasen area, and the stretch of riverbank between Untertürkheim until the end of the Mercedes Benz factory.

Sally Al-Ejeilat, Stuttgart, July 2017: “When asking the staff in the Stuttgart’s Planning Department about reasons behind the presence of these fences, we were informed that the fence opposite to the Wasen area was there to keep drunk people away from swimming in the Neckar during the Cannstatter Wasen Volksfest. For us, fencing the best landscapes and views of the Neckar, which are potentials for beautiful public spaces, for an event that takes place just twice a year, didn’t really fit into our urban planning mentality. We believe that fencing the Wasen and freeing the Neckar instead is a better alternative solution. We conducted the experiment in

two parts. In the first part, called ‘Neckar: Lower Your Fences I’, we built a door out in the open air leaning on one of the fences close to Mercedesstrasse (see pictures below). The message on the closed door reads “Öffne Mich”. When opened, the user is offered an alternative view of what the Neckar could be. We created a visualization that covers the fence, with images of people sun-bathing, reading a book, playing ball, or simply having a good time on the riverbank with their feet in the water. We also hung postcards of other river cities (Cologne, Paris, Berlin, Tübingen, Belgrade, etc...) to show people the potentials and make them wonder “Could this be Neckar?”.

On the open leaf of the door, we had a black board where we asked people to write what they wished to have there if the fence didn’t exist. People participated actively and their interactions were very rewarding. This was what urged us to take this further to a second part for this experimented”



COLOGNE, GERMANY



BANKS OF THE RIVER SEINE

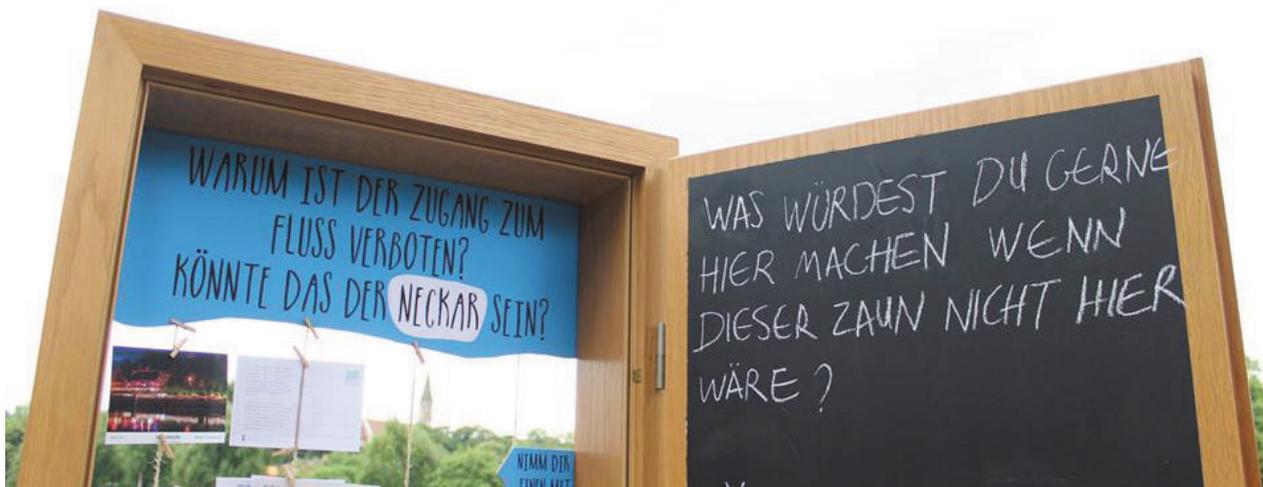


2017 RIVER SPREE BERLIN



BERLIN, GERMANY

## STEP 1: TO MAKE YOU WONDER



Closed door with an “Öffne Mich” sign to question riverbank fences. Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

“In ‘Neckar: Lower Your Fences 2’, carried out three weeks after the door experiment, we decided to challenge the norms. What if we invite people to cross the fences, and have their weekend picnic on the riverbank instead of elsewhere? We designed it as follows: We told people to bring their food and picnic gear, and from our side, we provided them with riverbank accessibility. The latter is done by using empty beer boxes. The boxes are arranged in a way to create a stair which can be climbed to the other side of the fence, where they form an amphitheatre to sit and enjoy the river. For the promotion of the event, we produced a video which can be found on our facebook page Stuttgart am Neckar 2017, in addition with flyers we gave out on the day of Critical Mass (Read critical mass article on page 36 for further information).”

## STEP 2: TO GIVE YOU ACCESS



On 15.07.2017, the "Stairs/Amphitheatre" were built in the same location where the previous door was installed. The fence leading to the site was decorated by the same postcards that were used inside

the door, Neckar Information maps (p.28 article) and sarcastic signage (p.25 article) and chalk spray on the floor led people to the installation. "Many people interacted

with the postcards on the fences, but unfortunately, only few dared to cross the fence to enjoy a riverbank picnic. The next day, the installation was "vandalized". We have it between quotations

because we are not sure what really happened. We came to find that the boxes forming the "stairs" were stolen or removed by some official entity. The amphitheatre on the other side, was left untouched. "

## REACTIONS



Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

**"Ich würde gerne meine Zeit mit Freunden  
geniessen & Spass haben!"** Anonymous Citizen

# “YOU CAN LOOK BUT YOU CAN’T TOUCH”



*Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors*

## - NECKAR

## CAN A PLAYFUL APPROACH MAKE A POINT FOR DECISION MAKERS AND RIVERBANK USERS?

“Access permitted only if you pay for a boat cruise”, “Picnic Zone: Bring your own chair”, “You can look but you can’t touch - Neckar”, “What If: Mercedes Benz Restaurant”. These messages and more are now available to entertain your imagination while wandering along the Neckar!

Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

**H**ave you ever decided to venture to walk beside the Neckar? If so, you must have gone through infinite and long stretches without finding a chair, a public bathroom or any service, even the desperation and craving that is caused by the continuous walk without knowing where the next exit is, for many users result to be a nightmare.

Even students told us that for them, while in full field activities, it was difficult to find the exit points once inside. To tackle this, they found a fun and original way of facing the problems and deficits that the river presents. We had the opportunity to interview a representative of the group, Gabriella Micciche, while she was hanging a sign next to one of the only five benches that are in the 3,6 km stretch along the Neckar, and that can hardly cover the totality of users who walk there.

In a space as small as a letter sheet it is difficult to calculate the potential of written messages, this specific one, imposes to the user the question “*What is this bench facing?*” as a way of pointing out a fact that almost no one sees, that even with a landscape as nice as the Neckar, the few benches that are available on the riverbank face elsewhere rather than Neckar River.

“We can not change anyone’s mind, but we can make them think about their surroundings.”



Gabriella told us. Sometimes it is difficult to realize what is wrong in our context because we spend every day in the same place seeing the same problems, so we get used to the shortage and not having enough or efficient services. While observing every day deterioration, Stuttgart and its citizens seem to have accepted and surrendered to the appropriation of spaces around the Neckar, as well as the abandonment and lack of maintenance. Without realizing,

**We can not change anyone’s mind but can make them think about their surroundings”**

this acceptance becomes a way of giving away those spaces, as well as the right for contact with nature.

But there is always a turning point when something makes you think more, a fact, a situation; just a simple message can spark the light in some minds, or encourage those who felt they were fighting alone for this purpose. The way this group of students worked on this experiment was quite systematic but at the same time creative. Giancarlo Muñoz explains that there are four characteristic situations repeated along the Neckar that needed to be attacked with sarcastic signage. Signs served in the following: Criticizing the lack of services or urban furniture at the Riverbank; Criticizing the amount of kilometers to reach a restroom; Creating guidance for riverbank users concerning existing exit points; Identifying and criticizing barriers and borders along the riverbank, which is the most common case; finally, giving clues of which activities can be done on abandoned places or where nothing is happening now.

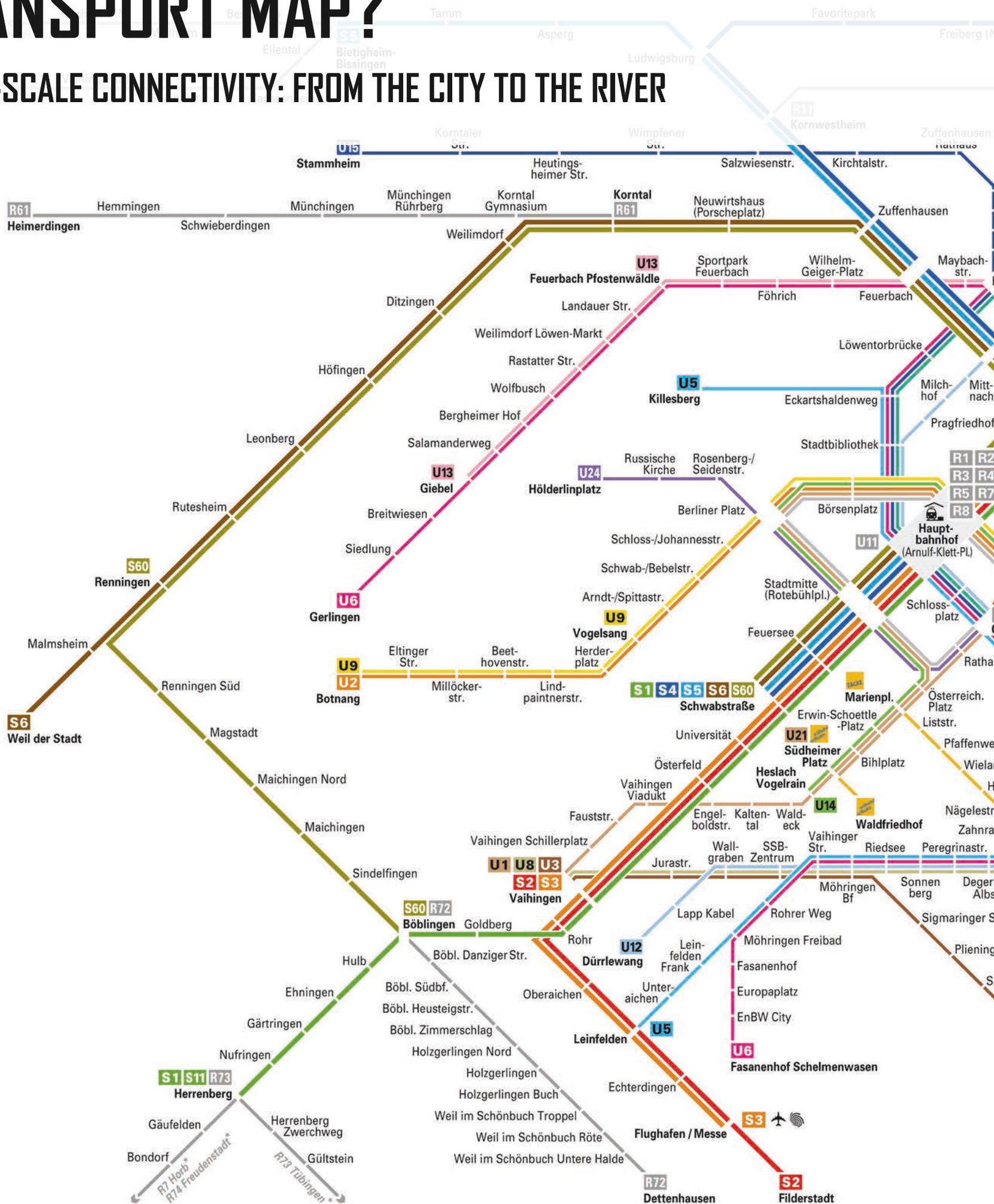
These messages come loaded with a touch of humor and sometimes a bit of sarcasm that brings a smile to the faces of those who pass there. In the short time that our team was preparing this report, we noticed that several users took a second of their time to stop and read the content of posters. Some with good humor laughed and went on their way, others with serious countenance read the message in silence as if contemplating and reflecting a little more on what is written. In one way or another, the messages were sent. This experiment, as Gabriella express, does not claim to be permanent, but at least it is in the minds of the users of the area, since it is them who have the power to change something and can raise their voices to demand bringing the Neckar into the course of daily life.



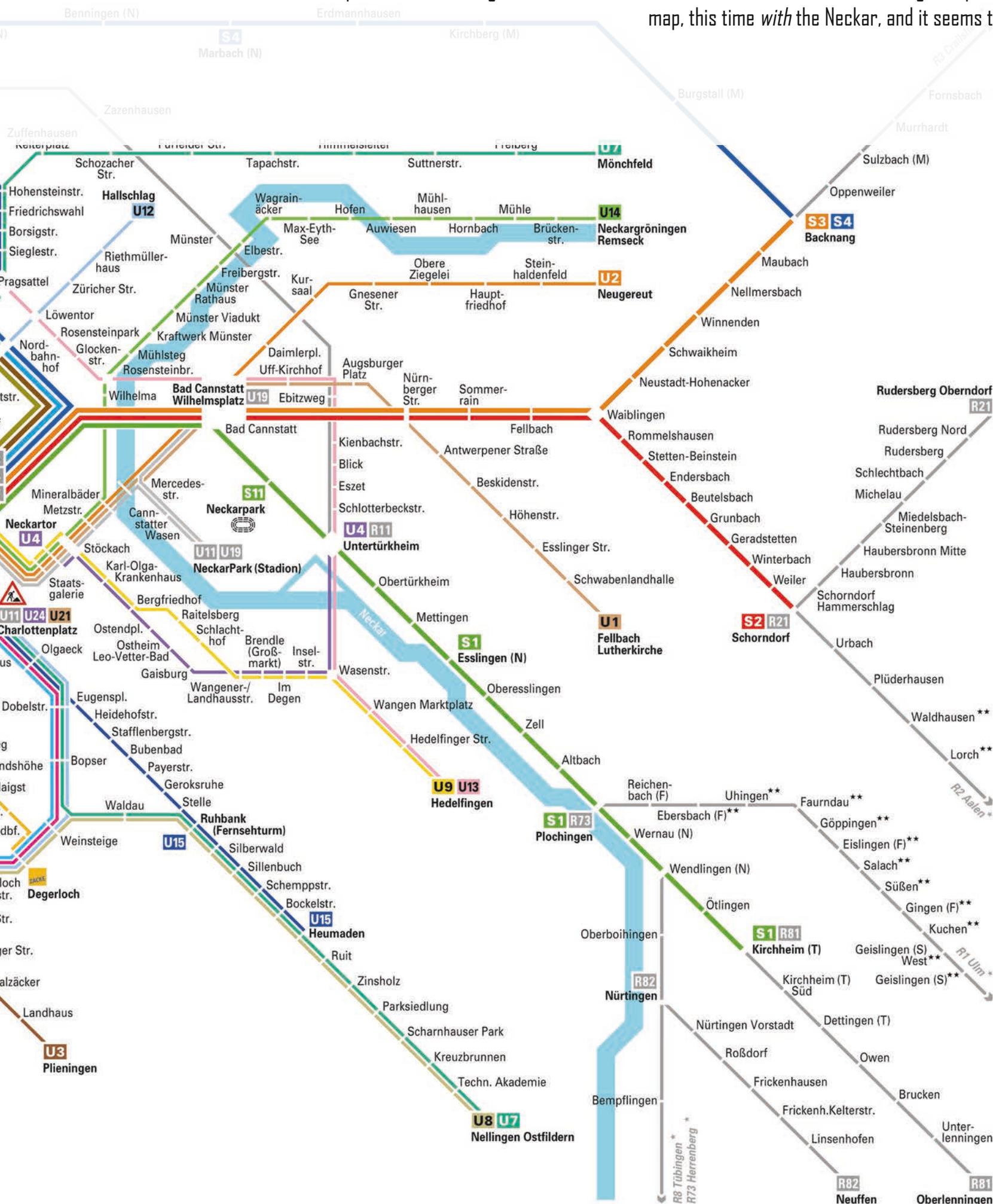
Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

# A NEW STUTTGART PUBLIC TRANSPORT MAP?

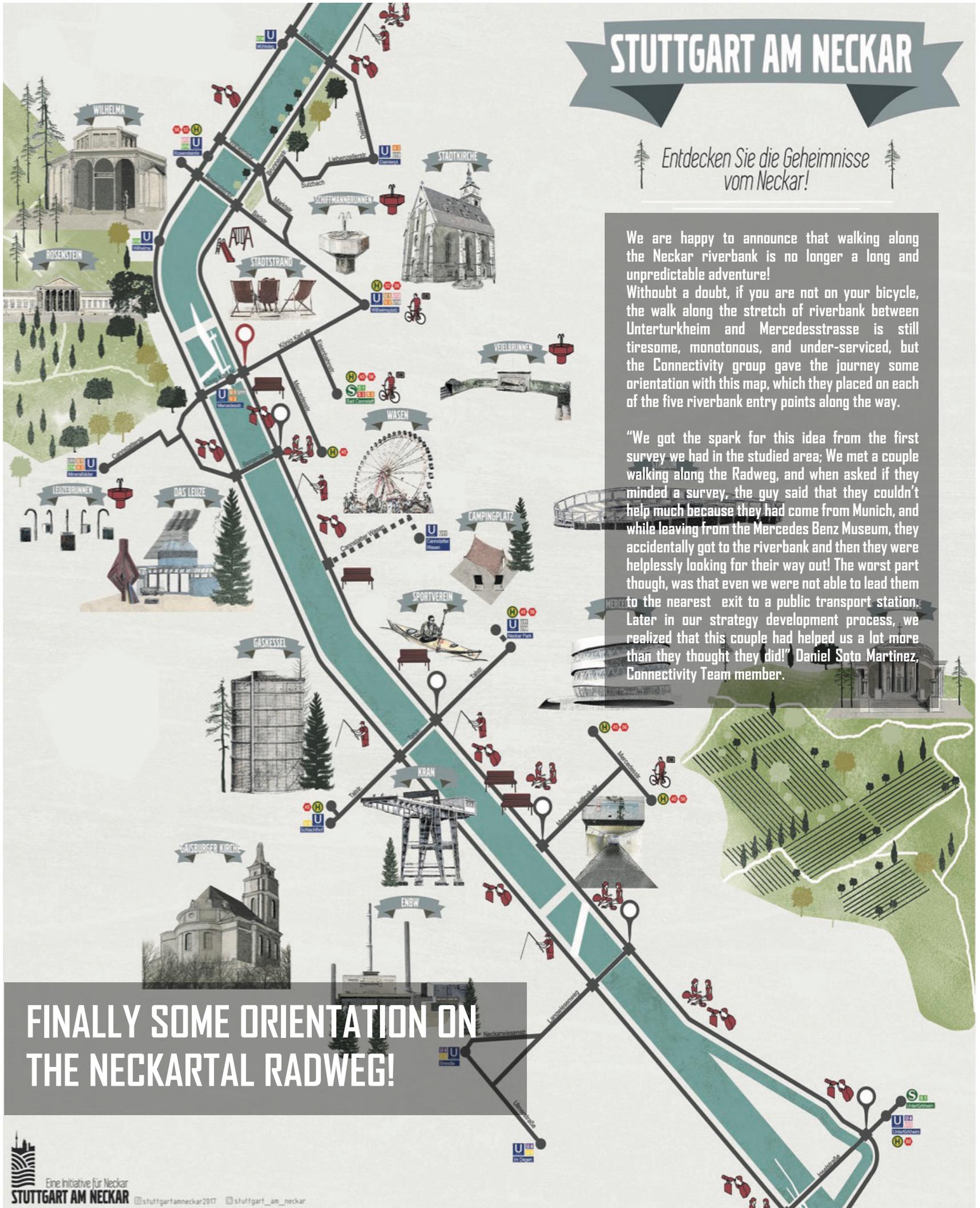
## LARGE-SCALE CONNECTIVITY: FROM THE CITY TO THE RIVER



Looks familiar? It should. You have probably noticed that most cities incorporate the river into their public transport network map (e.g. Paris, London, etc.). The river is often at the heart of the city's recreational center and the city makes effort to draw people towards it. Why is Stuttgart rejecting the Neckar? Why is it marginalized, under-developed, and not inviting for visitors? Students created their own vision of Stuttgart's public transport map, this time *with* the Neckar, and it seems to fit right in!



Source: VVS map 2017. Adapted by Connectivity group members



# STUTT GART AM NECKAR

Entdecken Sie die Geheimnisse vom Neckar!

We are happy to announce that walking along the Neckar riverbank is no longer a long and unpredictable adventure! Without a doubt, if you are not on your bicycle, the walk along the stretch of riverbank between Unterturkheim and Mercedesstrasse is still tiresome, monotonous, and under-served, but the Connectivity group gave the journey some orientation with this map, which they placed on each of the five riverbank entry points along the way.

"We got the spark for this idea from the first survey we had in the studied area; We met a couple walking along the Radweg, and when asked if they minded a survey, the guy said that they couldn't help much because they had come from Munich, and while leaving from the Mercedes Benz Museum, they accidentally got to the riverbank and then they were helplessly looking for their way out! The worst part though, was that even we were not able to lead them to the nearest exit to a public transport station. Later in our strategy development process, we realized that this couple had helped us a lot more than they thought they did!" Daniel Soto Martinez, Connectivity Team member.

## FINALLY SOME ORIENTATION ON THE NECKARTAL RADWEG!

On July 15th, maps promoting existing & potential attraction points along the riverbank, as well as nearby public transport and access points, were placed in five different spots along the Neckar. Once installed, they instantly found interest from a large audience of walkers and cyclists.

# “NECKAR IST NEBENAN”

POSTERS REMOVED FROM U-BAHN STATIONS, ACTORS THREATENED WITH A FINE.

Attempts for more large-scale connectivity continue, this time with a series of posters that you have probably seen in U-bahn stations around town during the past weeks.

On Friday 14.07.2017, students from the connectivity group went around Stuttgart spreading posters that read “Neckar Ist Nebenan”. They placed them close to existing SSB information stands in U-Bahn Stations. The posters point out the physical distance of the observer from the nearest station to the river, and which U-Bahn line to take in order to get there. e.g. To travel to the river from the main station, only need to travel 6 stations on U1 (Fellbach) or U2 (Neugereut). They aim at delivering the point that the Neckar is closer than you think!

**“Sadly, the stakeholders we need for adapting this idea from a temporary experiment, aiming to raise awareness about the presence of a river to permanent part of the system, are not on our side.”**

*Giancarlo Muñoz Ramirez, team member*



## HOW DID SSB REACT?

“In the 1<sup>st</sup> experiment, we noticed through social media reactions that our river version of the public transport map got noticed and appreciated by many, so we contacted SSB to negotiate the possibility of incorporating the river into the actual city maps. After some time, we got a reply stating that incorporating the river into the public transport map isn't doable in the short term since it requires coordination with multiple involved actors, and major changes in the structure of the map. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> experiment (*Neckar ist Nebenan* Posters) it was a bit different, we made the mistake of not obtaining a permission to hang the posters, we just went ahead and spread many posters in stations, and of course, with an efficient company as SSB, this did not go unnoticed; they sent us an e-mail two days later asking us to clean it all up or the institute will receive a fine.” Giancarlo Muñoz Ramirez, team member

## OUT OF SIGHT, YET ONLY A 5-MINUTE WALK: FROM THE SURROUNDINGS TO THE RIVER



Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

Victoria Vuong, Stuttgart, July 2017: “Our working group’s focus point was connectivity. We always conducted long meetings where we brainstormed for ideas on how to make the Neckar an integrated part of Stuttgart city. The way we saw it, Neckar is most integrated in those areas where it

is visible for passers-by, and where an entry point to the riverbank is close by (e.g. Mercedesstrasse). In some cases, a close by entry point is available, but the Neckar is out of sight from the neighborhood or the U-Bahn station (e.g. Untertürkheim, and most other examples), therefore, users of

**“You can find our walking maps in Mercedesstrasse, Bad Cannstatt (Wilhelmsplatz), Rosensteinbrücke, Mineralbäder, Wasenstrasse, Brendle (Grossmarkt), Schlachthof and Untertürkheim. In the longest case, the walk is only 10 minutes”**  
Victoria Vuong.



Photo Courtesy: Connectivity Group Authors

the riverbank are mostly those who have lived in the area long enough to know their way to the river. But we wanted to engage everyone! That was what our project was all about; to make Stuttgart a river city by function and not just on a map. We created a continuation of our previously-created

“Neckar ist Nebenan” Posters: After taking the U-Bahn to the closest station to the river, this time, you find a new map that shows you the walking path to follow to get to the river. In the longest case, the walk is only 10 minutes”.



# NECKARLAB

## MEETING NEIGHBORS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES



**New ways to experience the Neckar**  
Stuttgarters get to discover spaces around the Neckar and its neighbors. The event gathered passers-by throughout five hours of activities and contemplation at the riverside.

The day started more colorful than usual in a small part of the riverside that Sunday. The place, unknown or unnoticed to many Stuttgarters, is used as access to the water for members of the KGS Kanuklub. Facing the gas tank, it is one of the few points where the view of the riverside is not blocked by dense vegetation. Cyclists there, usually with their heads down in high speed, were surprised, sometimes annoyed, to slow down and share the riverside with some curious people taking a moment to enjoy the space. Intended to break the monotony of a linear asphalt path, a group of five young researchers from the initiative *Stuttgart am Neckar*, proposed alternative uses of the space for a day. The stairs normally used for bringing the canoes to the water turned into improvised bleachers where onlookers could enjoy the view of the river. For the more curious ones, chairs were placed on the plateau right next to the water, as people could also dip their toes. It was a scene not often found there, as said by a young couple seated by the water. "I often bike through here because it is faster, and that is what it is to me: a fast lane, nothing more. It never occurred to me that it could be actually peaceful and a nice small break from biking", says the woman as she takes off her shoes and finds a comfortable position on her chair. The view was not the only attraction there. On the other side of the cycle path, on the upper side, a rustic lounge was set by the

fence of the canoe club. Pallets and cushions formed furnitures and large baskets with fruits invited passersby to experience that place. The timidity of many to grab some fruits was broken by warm welcomes from the organizers. "The idea is for people to discover that they can use public spaces in different ways, trying to incorporate them in their daily life.", says one of the organizers. "We want to blur the line between social and public life".

**"The idea is for people to discover that they can use public spaces in different ways, trying to incorporate them in their daily life."**

### NECKAR LAB

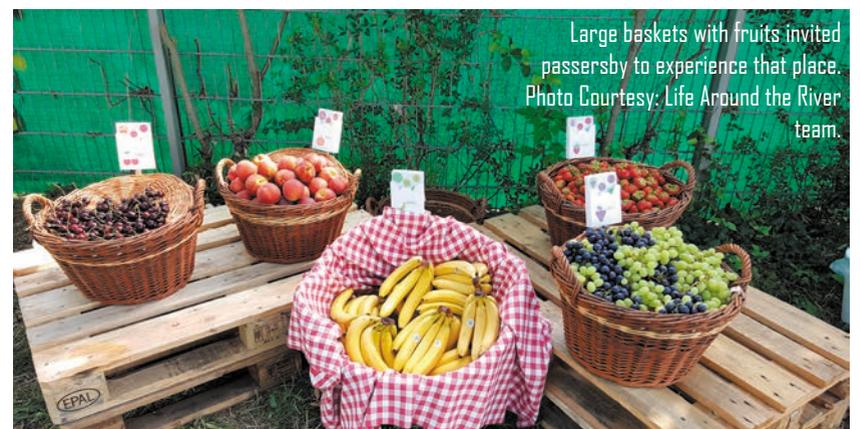
The happening on July 16th was part of a series of interventions under the initiative *Stuttgart am Neckar*. With the focus on the quality of the urban life around the river, the organizers provide a "platform for new experiences", as described in their leaflets. "While still analyzing the area and trying to find an entry point, we realised that there is a general unfamiliarity from the common citizen. The area is sort of a blank space in the city's image. People are well aware of Wasen and the stadium, but they wouldn't put the riverside as their top destination in Stuttgart" one member of the team, tells me. This blank space, as they say, is indeed

marked by the lack of urban furniture and places to stay there. And it is not only the scenery potential, but the current activities on the site are also unknown. The sense of belonging is almost inexistent there, surrounded by fences, high speed cyclists and warning signs.

"One of the biggest distributors of fruits and vegetables of the country is one of the Neckar's neighbors. So is the powerplant that provides energy for a big part of the city", says Debora Zukeran, Neckarlab team member. This NeckarLab is constantly talking about awareness and somehow engaging people's curiosity in the urban issues. Yet only set for about six hours, starting 10 a.m, this new urban setting revealed to achieve its main purposes: raise public space awareness and instigate people to discover the potential of their neighborhood. As their event motto "Hi, I'm your neighbor!", the

visitors could know a little more about the two neighbors brought together to promote this event, the GrossMarkt and the KGS Kanuklub. Two companies of the Grossmarkt, Andretta Fruchtimport GmbH. and Gemüsering Stuttgart GmbH, were interested in connecting with their consumers, provided fresh fruits and information about their products. The information was tailored by the NeckarLab so people could have a first glimpse of how steps of the food production chain are closer than they thought.

The wish of activating the grounds near the Kanuklub property was always present, but the administration of the club haven't seen a possibility to do something unrelated to sports. Even though not directly linked to canoeing, visitors were pleased to watch the athletes training for the next weekend competition and even delivered some fresh fruits to them on the water.



Large baskets with fruits invited passersby to experience that place. Photo Courtesy: Life Around the River team.



**“The area is sort of a blank space in the city’s image. People are well aware of Wasen and the stadium, but they wouldn’t put the riverside as their top destination in Stuttgart.”**



Above: couple take a break from biking and have some fresh fruits by the water. Left: Group of friends wet their feet and enjoy the water. Below: Kayaker makes a detour to grab fruits.

**“We want to blur the line between social and public life.”**



**“It never occurred to me that this spot could actually be peaceful and a nice small break from biking.”**

## REACTIONS FROM THE NECKARLAB

We invited people to share their experiences from the river.

“I live in Stuttgart for 5 years now. I came here to study and got a job right after my graduation. The city has many opportunities for young people. When the weather is nice, I am one of those creatures fighting for any space in the city’s gardens. I used to go to Schlossgarten all the time when I lived close by. I like to stay outside, but I would never choose to stop by the river and have a moment. Even if my bike breaks, I would find a way to get out as quick as possible. For me, it has only been a way to passby. I make use of the emptiness to speed up on my bike. I have to admit, though, that I was surprised by this place’s qualities. I had an unique experience, I enjoyed a lot. But it also made

me angry, to be fair. How is it possible that our river is not celebrated? How come all around is just industries? I think people don’t come here because they don’t know the potential this place has. Maybe there is no much marketing of the river, but I think the City would only benefit if investing in it. While being here, feet in the water, looking at that huge gas tank, I was thinking: “Did I ever mention the Neckar when describing Stuttgart to an outsider?” No! I haven’t. As a citizen, I think that I have to claim for the right to the river. It is now on my picnic and dog walking route. After seeing the potential of it, I want the Neckar to be part of Stuttgart.” Anna Kaiser, 29 years

**“I had an unique experience, I enjoyed a lot. But also made me angry, to be fair. How is it possible that our river is not celebrated?” Anna Kaiser**

“I am an erasmus student from Italy. I grew up in the sicilian city of Palermo and I was within short distance from the sea, so this relation with water was always present in my life. It was a big contrast when I moved to Stuttgart. I do like the vineyards and the woods in Vaihingen are quite nice for a run, but I was still missing this contact with the water. I was told about the mineral baths of Stuttgart, but it wasn’t a big thing when I asked my german classmates. I found out about the Neckar when I was biking to see an apartment in Bad Cannstatt. I was impressed by the dimension of it, from the bridge I could notice that is quite long. Coming to this event is very exciting for me, I was always a little scared by the “verboten”

signs by the river. I am going back to Italy, but I am happy to discover this place before I go. People have a great place and should come more often, make it public, maybe like a park with some restaurants and bars.” Rocco Maggiori, 22 years

**“People have a great place here and should come more often, make it public, maybe like a park with some restaurants and bars.” Rocco Maggiori**

“First we stoped when I heard one of the organizers say: “free fruits!”. I admit it, I saw the event from far and I was ready to say “no, don’t have time”. I’m glad I didn’t. Not only for the fruits, they were delicious, but for the experience that me and my boyfriend could have. We were coming back from the city, he often takes this cycle path to go to work. But he said he never stops. I cannot blame him, I wouldn’t stop either. There are few benches and at most of the places, you cannot even see the river, the bushes are just too tall. The space provided on that day were just what we needed to enjoy the riverside: a few places to sit. I don’t think that is much trouble for the city to provide, after that day I am wondering why that area doesn’t receive more attention. I grew up

in Stuttgart, in Schondorf, and it was my FIRST time dipping my feet into the water! We grew up with this impression that the river is dirty, but it was good for me to see that people practice their canoeing there. It is funny to remember that my parents used to take me to Basel to have summer holidays, we would swimm the whole afternoon at the Rhine, when we had a river right at our city. We should definately ask for investment. I think it starts with small things, like making the place nice for people to spend some time sitting or having a picnic. It doesn’t need to start with the swimming, but we could have options to stay by the water.”

Katharina Rumi, 33 years

**“I think it starts with small things, like making the place nice for people” Katharina Rumi**

# STUTTGARTER STUDENTS ARE BRINGING THE NECKAR TO THE CITY

The students of the Awareness-Group were present in the Stuttgarter City Center, the Schlossgarten as well as in Bad Cannstatt in July 2017. Read more about their work and the experiments they have done.

## “DO YOU RIVER IN STUTTGART?”

“Do you River in Stuttgart?” was the overall provocative question asked to the people in this experiment to emphasize that the noun ‘river’ does not have an equivalent verb which describes activities in and along rivers.

The aim was to get information about people’s perception concerning the Neckar. The experiment was held in three different locations: At the Königstrasse/Schlossplatz, the Schlossgarten next to the U-Bahn station Mineralbäder and close to the U-Bahn station Wilhelmsplatz. The experiment contained three actions: a small recorded oral survey about the perception of the Neckar, a written questionnaire asking for the existence and current uses of the river and third, a map of the Neckar and its surroundings that people could use to mark their frequently used locations.

Nearly everybody who filled out the questionnaire knew that a river exists in Stuttgart, just a few of them answered the question either with “I do not know” or left the question blank. It can be seen that most people do not go to the Neckar frequently, the majority answered that they are never going to the river, and some of them are visiting the river less than once in a month. This gives a hint on how the Neckar is not used to its full potential, although the people in Stuttgart are aware of its existence. Interestingly, we could find a difference in the answers given on the Königstrasse/Schlossplatz and Schlossgarten and the



answers given in Bad Cannstatt. People who are never going to the Neckar were mostly interviewed at the Königstrasse/Schlossplatz and Schlossgarten than in Bad Cannstatt. “When we asked what people think about the river, the water itself was mentioned often, mostly in combination with the words “waterquality” and “dirty”. Although we asked in different spots, the answers were diverse and did not differ according to the location” Vivian Rimmel explains. The answers to the question “What do you not like about the river?” are nearly identical to the responses given before: Pollution/Dirt and accessibility through construction or fences seemed to be negative points about the river. Surprisingly, nobody mentioned the distance to the city center as a reason for not going to the Neckar. The few who are going to the river, use the riverbanks for sports like running or biking, they like to take a walk, or they prefer to be active on the water with fishing or canoeing activities. “When we asked what people would like to do along the river, we got the highest amount of answers. Sportive activities were mentioned the most, followed by relaxation and sitting activities and active swimming in the Neckar. Besides the obvious activities like biking, walking or sunbathing, the desire of buying icecream along the Neckar was given various times and independent from the location of the experiment.” Rimmel concludes.

“I walked along the Königstrasse and because it is so hot, it would be great if I could walk along a nice river.” Anonymous citizen

### I THINK THE RIVER IS...

- DIRTY
- NOT ACTIVE
- UGLY

### I DO NOT LIKE THAT...

- IT IS TOO DIRTY
- I HAVE NO ACCESS
- IT IS UNSAFE

### I WOULD LIKE TO...

- ENJOY THE NECKAR
- BE ACTIVE
- EAT ICE CREAM

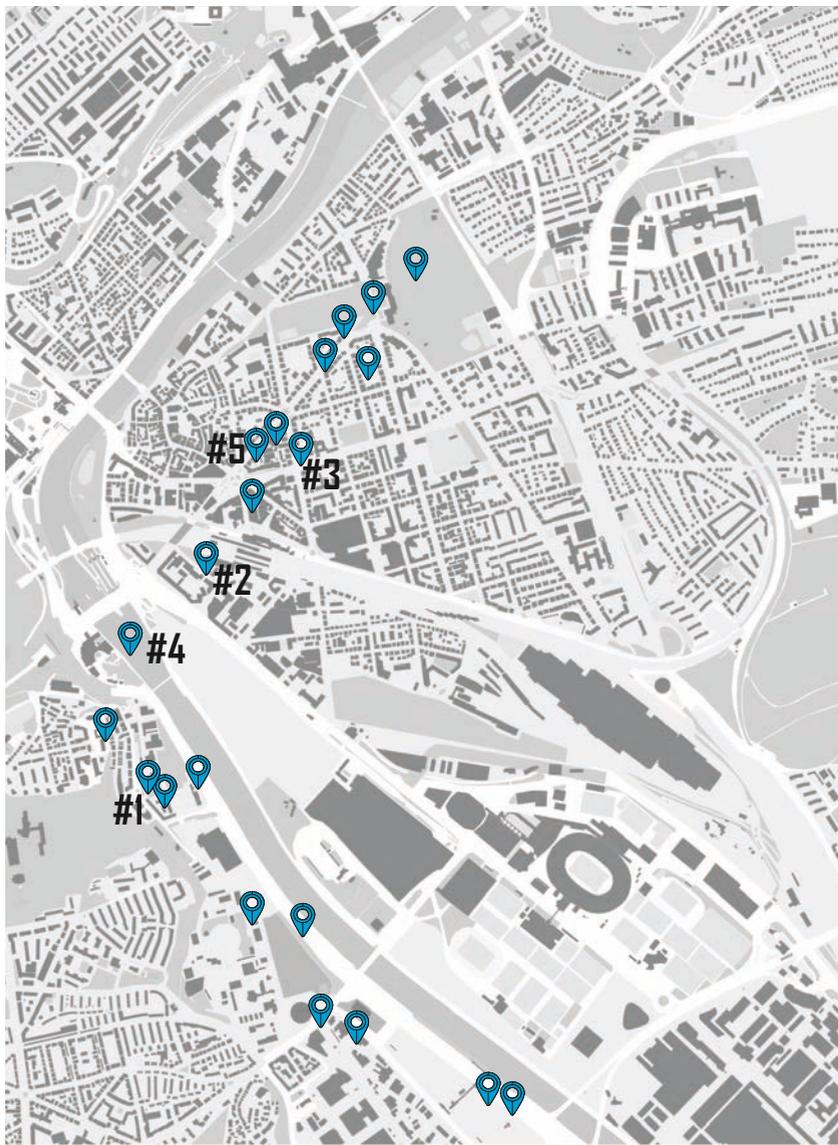
**“I FIND THAT THE  
NECKAR IS NOT THAT  
RIVER THAT GIVES  
YOU INSPIRATION,  
I CAN NOT ENJOY  
THE RIVER”**

**A citizen like you or me**

# EVER WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ALONG THE NECKAR?

## WE HAVE THE RIGHT SPOTS FOR YOU!

By scanning these codes you can locate the hidden spaces around the Neckar! What are you waiting for? Try them now.



#1

You can find this great location as the number #1 on the map. Listen to the powerful sound of the river lock in the background while enjoying the sun. Take your mat to this location and relax on the tree stump.



#2

Here you can take your mat and picnic on the table. It is a great opportunity to observe the activities along the river such as the Theaterschiff or canoers.



#3

This spot under the bridge next to the Wilhelma is welcoming visitors with its fantastic view on the river and Bad Cannstatt in the background. Drive away with your thoughts of older times while watching the bridge and the old column in front of you.



#4

If you are more interested in the aesthetics of industrial heritage, you should not miss location #4. Either you walk or bike along the river, take a small break from your tour here and enjoy the view of the last active Gas tank in Germany.



#5

Location #5 is a truly hidden spot, you can nearly enjoy the river privately. It is a great spot to walk around, or even do a small BBQ as the ground is nicely patterned.



## EXCLUSIVE BACKGROUND STORY: HOW THE GROUP FOUND THE HIDDEN LOCATIONS ALONG THE NECKAR

"It all began on a sunny Saturday in the end of June 2017. A day, when the temperature already reached 25°C at 8:00 AM. I just packed my bike for the upcoming trip, a trip that changed my perspective of Stuttgart, the Neckar and my capability of riding my bike. Another group member and I planned to use this sunny day for a small excursion to find interesting spots along the Neckar for our project and I think what I found was much more: I found locations shimmering like some small gems; unpolished gems that were just laying along the Neckar and nobody has really seen them. Until now. We started the tour from our home, close to Neckartor and drove through the empty Schlosspark to the U-Bahn station Mineralbäder. From there we split up, I went left, my group mate right. This was the worst choice of the day. We should have stayed together, because we found such beautiful places, but were just able to enjoy them alone. After two hours of biking along the Neckar,

I already discovered four hidden locations. Locations where I was totally alone, enjoying the view, observing what was happening around me, breathing in the air and listening to the sounds of birds while the water flew silently in the background. I had to stop several times, not just because of exhaustion, but because of the breathtaking landscape I was surrounded by. The river, the vineyards, the animals, the city, the industry. All in once. I constantly checked my GPS status, to be sure that I marked the locations I found, so that others can follow and they did. Around midday, my energy level was already close to zero. I reached the northernmost point of my journey – time to go back where I started in the morning. At night I invited our friends to join us for a small picnic at one of the locations we found, but this time I went with the U-Bahn. It was a successful Saturday for our exploration team and I would do it again.", Saamil Patel narrates.



## MOVIE NIGHT

At the Königstrasse and Schlossgarten to bring the Neckar to the people

The group preparing to show the movie at the Königstrasse/ Bolzstrasse

The experiment called "Movie Night" was prepared by the Awareness-Group. Three were the main objectives: inform, gain input and let people participate in the rediscovering of the Neckar.

"We started our preparation for the second experiment in the end of June and planned to show our movie in the middle of July 2017. The group was divided into the "moviemakers" and the ones responsible for creating postcards and a participatory game.", Nojoud Ashour introduces. The overall strategy for the whole experiment was the image of a white mat that is travelling from the city of Stuttgart to the

Neckar. The white mat symbolizes a person, who is adventurous enough to discover the river, showing different locations and spots to the audience.

**"Take your mat and claim your right to the river"**

"We captured different situations where the mat was first travelling with the train to the Neckar and afterwards relaxed at different locations.", Nojoud continues. The focus was always on the surrounding landscape that changed during the small movie. The movie shows industrial landscapes, abandoned places and the overall beauty of

the different situations. "We also wanted to show locations that are not considered as accessible by capturing a door being opened. The different scenes in the movie are divided by short sentences that are stating our ideas and thoughts about the main issues", Saamil Patel adds. The group made different versions of the movie: "As we saw in the first experiment, Stuttgarter citizens are feeling more comfortable with German language, so we produced a version in German to show in public and one in English for our Master program. The movie ended with our overall message that people should take their own mat and claim their right to the river.", Patel concludes.

## PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The Group decided to integrate a small participatory activity besides the projection of the movie. Like in the first experiment, the outcome should give the participating people time to think about the river and us a broader understanding of the needs of the Stuttgarter citizens.

The method selected for this activity was to provide people with four images of certain locations along the Neckar that lacked of people and were therefore underused. People were encouraged to "Design" their Neckar by giving them various figures in a box that showed people doing different recreational activities (i.e. jogging, playing an instrument, reading, having a picnic etc.). "We tried to give a high variety of activities that could be done along the Neckar, also in retrospective of the findings from the first experiment. Besides recreational activities, we also encouraged the people to add animals or other relevant objects to a natural environment.", Maria Encalada explains.



Raising awareness among those who do not know about the fact that Stuttgart is rich in mineral water sources.

# STUTT GART, DRINK LOCAL!

The experiment "Drink Local" took place on a sunny Saturday afternoon on 17th of June at Karlsplatz beside the Fleemarkt which is always well visited. The aims of this event were to measure the awareness of people on mineral water as a drinking resource and raising awareness among the ones who do not know about the fact that Stuttgart is rich in mineral water sources. To reach those aims, the group set up a stand right next to the Fleemarkt where the amount of people passing by is quite high, and invited them to taste the mineral water from the Leuzebrunnen served with some fruits and decorations. During the three hours event, the group had conversations with approximately 150 people, 70 of which also participated in the questionnaires provided. The questionnaires aimed to collect information if people know the fountains and Stuttgart being rich in mineral water sources, already drink from the fountains, would drink after this event and recommend it further, would like to have it remain free to the public or prefer buying it from the supermarket or being served in the restaurants. Besides questionnaires, postcards were handed out, one of which was a map of fountains in Stuttgart and the other was the components of the mineral water and their health effects. On the back side of the postcards, a brief information about the mineral water and a QR code linked with the locations of fountains are provided. What the group learnt from this first event was that there is a lack of knowledge about mineral water sources in Stuttgart and that people perceive mineral water as a value belonging to Bad Cannstatt rather than to the whole city. Moreover, people who knew about the fountains mostly knew about Leuze due to its fame for healing effects. There is a need for more fountains in the city center, and last but not least, people prefer mineral water to remain free and access from the fountains rather than buying it from the supermarket.



Leuze is the most famous but other fountains are not known enough



Mineral water should remain free to the public!



## "STUTT GART AM NECKAR" SHOWS STRONG PRESENCE AT CRITICAL MASS



All Stuttgarters must know by now that the first Friday of each month marks the day of "Critical mass". With the assistance of Stuttgart's police, this organized movement gives cyclists the freedom to cycle in the midst of Stuttgart's car-free streets, off the bicycle lanes, and under the tunnels. It is in these two hours that cyclists feel complete safety and ownership of the streets. With drinks, music and a great spirit, Stuttgarters demand their right to better bicycle infrastructure and a city friendly to its residents. This is where *Stuttgart am Neckar* stepped in. For them, the statement "Fighting for a Liveable Stuttgart" extends to including the river.

Cyclists with decorated bikes, *Stuttgart am Neckar* personalized t-shirts and big flags spread between the thousands attending the Critical Mass event that day. An information stand at the After-Mass destination, 'Im Wizemann', provided Neckar awareness postcards, small prints of the VVS public transport maps-river-version (p. 26), flyers for the upcoming events (p. 21) and water bottles promoting Stuttgart's hidden mineral water springs.

To strengthen the idea of using mineral water as a local drinking source, the group had been planning to distribute long lasting bottles in the city to motivate people to fill

# HIDDEN WATER. CLEAN WATER



Experiment on the square around Jakobsbrunnen

Photo Courtesy: Hidden Waters team



"Planning for Real" Model

Photo Courtesy: Hidden Waters group



The experiment "Hidden Water. Clean Water" took place on the 24th of June at Jakobsbrunnen in the old city of Bad Cannstatt. Based on the responses of the event "Drink Local", the group decided to target a different kind of users this time; people who live in Bad Cannstatt, pass by the fountains and perhaps drink from them. The aim of this event was gathering information about people's perception on mineral water and river side usage. To reach the purpose, the group set up a stand next to the Jakobsbrunnen where postcards and posters with the map of fountains and health effects of mineral water were displayed and handed out. The crucial part of the experiment was applying the participation method called "planning for real" with two different models representing the riverbanks and the square around Jakobsbrunnen (see images on the left). Along with the models, icons of various activities and objects printed on little flags were provided to people so they could choose which ones they would like and place them wherever they wish in the model. Various activities and objects included trees, benches, plants, urban gardening, cycling, sunbathing, playgrounds, sports, fishing, animals and swimming, but also flags with blank papers were offered to enable people to write down other ideas and enrich the possibilities.

During this four hours event, more people than expected participated in the planning for real experiment and the models got filled with flags until very little space was left on them. Many people came up with new ideas besides the ones showed on the flags with every kind of activity and objects. In general, the placement of flags by the riverbanks was higher than on the square; furthermore some people placed the flags in a way which created a connection between the fountain and the riverbanks.

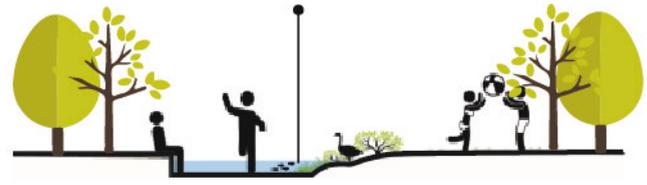
Lessons learnt from this experiment were that people have much more knowledge about the fountains, mineral water and the river compared to the ones in the city centre. However, although the majority have the knowledge, there are still some who are living close by and do not know that the water from the fountain is drinkable, thus, there is a need for information or signs on the fountains. Also, people are highly interested on improving the open public spaces around the water bodies and to have more activity options. Alike with the results of the experiment "Drink Local" (see previous page), Bad Cannstatt residents also see mineral water as a source belonging rather to Bad Cannstatt than to the whole of Stuttgart. Last but not least, many people are interested in having a connection between the fountains and the river either with small stream or green patches.

them from the mineral water fountains rather than buying drinking water from the supermarkets. By doing this, people would contribute decreasing mineral water wastage by causing less water to go to the sewage system and mix with grey water and also they would benefit from the positive health effects by drinking (see page 10). The group had contacted with several bottle manufacturers, one of which named "Hünersdorff" was willing to become sponsor for this unique purpose and granted more than 500 long lasting, corrosion proof bottles. Later, labels to emboss on the bottles were designed including the components of mineral water, QR code

that linked with the fountains in google maps and a logo created for the mineral waters of Stuttgart, branded as "Brünnele Wasser". The purpose of joining the Critical Mass was to reach specific kind of users who are interested in the topics of sustainable living and consuming local. During this event, a total of 150 bottles were handed out. "Info points" were placed one day later in Karlsplatz and Schlossplatz in the city centre and the group handed out 100 more bottles with the same purpose. *Stuttgart am Neckar's* presence reached a wide audience, and stirred many remarks and questions from cyclists that day:

"What is Stuttgart am Neckar?"  
"Way to go! People have been fighting for this for a really long time now, we hope this time it works!"  
"But Stuttgart is not am Neckar, it is am Nesenbach!"  
"We like the Neckar! It separates us from Cannstatt, and we don't like Cannstatt!"

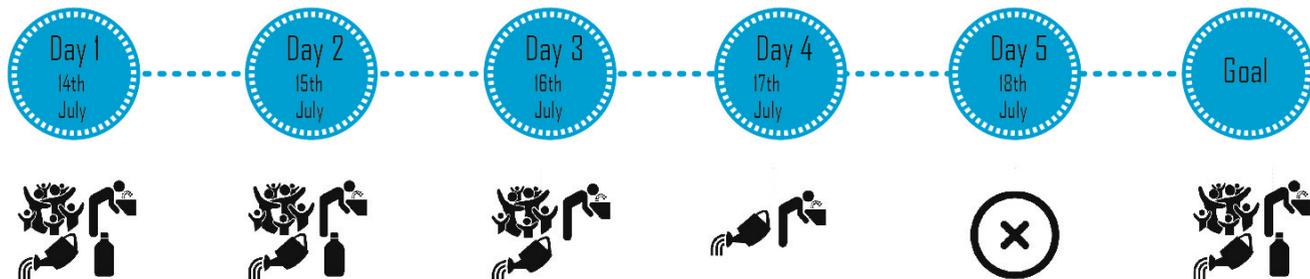
Of course, reactions varied between positive and negative. But a city as clean, organized, and economically vibrant as Stuttgart can and must apply some strict regulations and renovation strategies around the Neckar to set an example for international livability standards.



# STUTTGARTS EIGENES GRÜNBÄCHLE

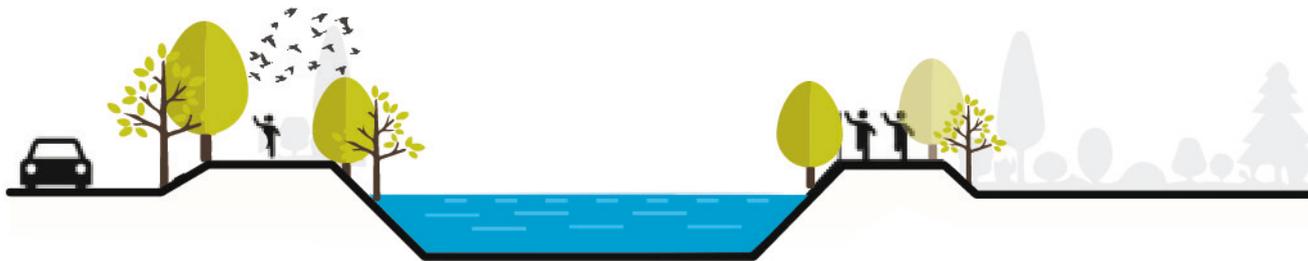
Based on the outcomes of previous events, the Hidden Waters group decided to have an installation on the site that would stay more than one day and let people interact with it. Since the beginning of the strategy development, connecting mineral water fountains with each other and with the river by bringing the water on the surface and creating an inviting public space around it, was the main idea of implementation. Also, from the ideas collected during the planning for real experiment, it was obvious that people would like to have more interaction with the water and spend more time around the fountains and by the riverbanks. For these purposes, the concept of "Grünbächle" was developed, inspired by the City of Freiburg, in which the 'bächle' around the old city let the water flow in small channels creating an inviting atmosphere with a chance of interacting with the water. In addition to that, the 'Grünbächle' concept refers to the system in where the water flows into the naturalized channel from one mineral water fountain to another and finally to the river, instead of directly going to the sewage

system. The event "Stuttgart's Eigenes Grünbächle" took place from the 14th until the 17th of July at Klösterlebrunnen in the old city of Bad Cannstatt. For the three-day experiment, a symbolic version was applied into the square where the Klösterlebrunnen is located. A wood channel covered by waterproof foil was set up in front of the fountain and through the pipes water would flow into the channel. Seating elements and plants were placed around the channel to resemble to the real concept of Grünbächle which implicates greenery and water presented together. Additionally, bottles were hanged on the fountain for people to take away and in the sense of collecting ideas from people, a board was provided, on which people could draw or write their ideas, recommendations and comments. Learnings from this experiment were that people need more activated public spaces including interaction with water and a better water cycle should be created in order to keep water sources used more efficiently. Cooperation with public, private and civil society stakeholders is crucial to realize a successful concept.

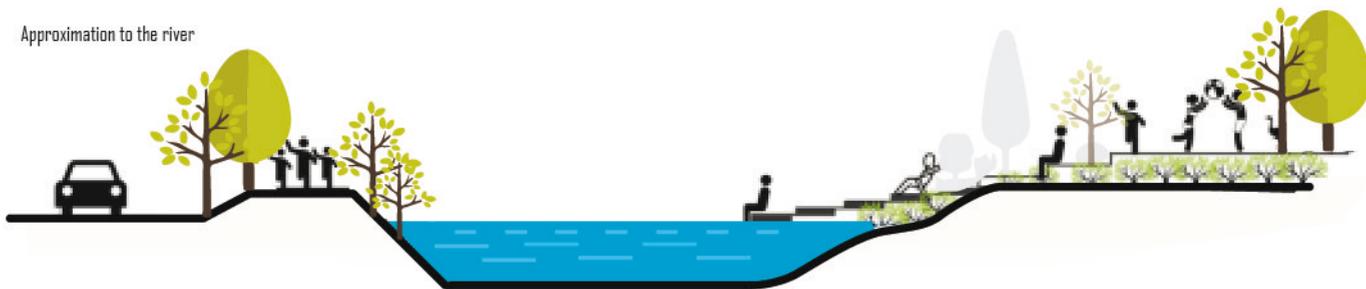


# WHAT IF...

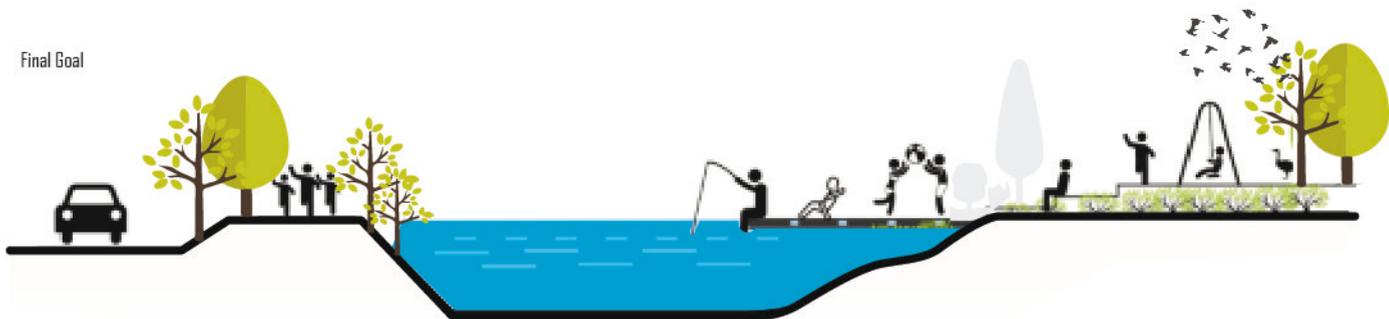
Current Situation of the Riverbank



Approximation to the river



Final Goal



Source: Hidden Waters team



# THE ROLLING BOTTLE

Have you ever imagined that a bottle could travel? We followed the trail of our best companion on adventures and it has had much more luck than the publishers of this newspaper. Born in Stuttgart, our friend decided that the story behind *Stuttgart am Neckar* had to be known around this beautiful world. With just a small reserve of mineral water from one of the many Stuttgart's mineral fountains, the rolling bottle began its trip and we can't be more jealous about the places it has visited. However, we know that we are being very well represented. From places like the Neckar or Königstrasse, to Brazil, Egypt, Greece and many more!



Rio de Janeiro, Brasil



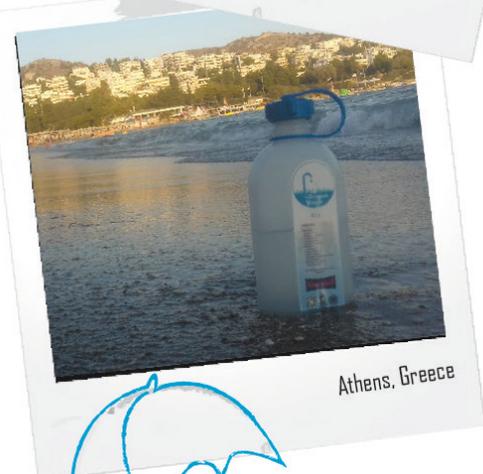
Internationale Gartenausstellung, Berlin



Athens, Greece



Harry Potter Store in Heathrow, London, UK



Athens, Greece

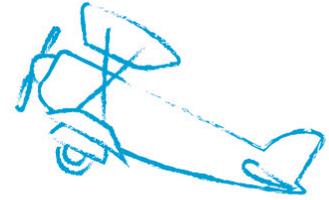


Peak District, UK





Abu Dhabi



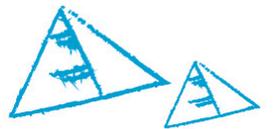
The Nile, Egypt



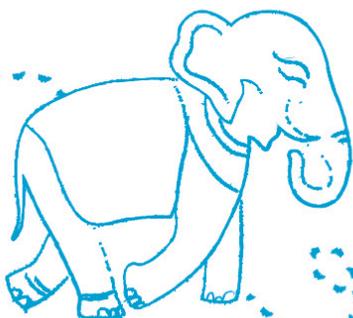
Cairo's Rifa'i Mosque, Egypt



Old Settlements, Oman



Citadel, Cairo Egypt



Vadakkunnathan temple, Thrissur, Kerala, India



# LEARNING IN THE CITY



It was the middle of June and the project was in an already advanced phase, however the group felt the need of showing the preliminary results to the public. "By that time, we had already done some experiments on the public ground and we were adjusting our strategies according to the first results, but we were keen on some boost and more people on board though", Giancarlo Muñoz introduces. The group needed a location close to the river, hidden or neglected, appropriate to host an unknown number of people and of course, in open public space and in best case, waterproof.

Probably you recognize the place showed above. Just a few meters away from the Neckar river, as famous as neglected, the Hall of Fame (as it is known) under the König Karls Bridge in Bad Cannstatt is a symbol of the street art in Stuttgart. Despite of its importance for some, the place has a negative connotation for many: unsafe, ugly, dirty, sleepy. Does it sound familiar? You might have heard or said the same about the river Neckar. That was the right spot!

Do you wonder about the beach chairs and

a 'classroom' environment in front of these graffiti-painted walls, all at the same time? "The idea was to use some sort of neglected or forgotten place and give it another meaning, using it for another purpose. In our case, we wanted to transform this place into a public exchange room next to the river in which we could present our ideas but also open a common ground for discussion.", Mauricio Estrada explains.

Using the characteristic creativity and resourcefulness, the group of students organized a two-hour session, one hour for presenting strategies and partial results of the urban experiments, the other one for discussion, finding answers and exchange of ideas and suggestions. "We invited some of our partners, citizens, friends, representatives of the administration of the city, lecturers and the idea of doing it in a public space was to also gather some passers-by who could feel attracted by the activity.", Abdullah Lizu adds.

Mr. Johannes Rentsch, representative of Stuttgart's department of City Planning and Urban Renewal, attended this activity and was actively participating in the discussion session. Asked about how he perceives the

'outside' perspective of foreign students on Stuttgart and its relationship with its river, he answers that "The IUSD students from all over the world certainly bring valuable view on the current situation. People who live and work in this city every day, or even have grown up in Stuttgart, maybe find it difficult to question and reconsider the familiar environment. In that case, an analytical view with a certain distance is valuable to recognize the problems as well as the potentials that the Neckar holds for Stuttgart. So, what can be better for Stuttgart than young people from different continents, who have a critical, but professional view at Stuttgart and its relationship to the Neckar and present their ideas for future development?"

Besides the purpose of opening up a fruitful discussion on the Neckar and its issues, "one of the main messages we wanted to send to the people, is that everything you perceive as ugly or not attractive, might easily and cheaply be transformed into something else, something you want, something you need, something you love, you just need an idea and tons of good energy to make it happen.", Nojoud Ashour concludes.





## Go, claim the Neckar!

Are there no public spaces along the Neckar?  
No feeling of togetherness or neighborhood?  
It might be the reason that nobody cares!

A couple of months ago, a group of students hung a simple white frame between two trees and placed a chair at the Neckar riverbank. What might seem like a trivial intervention, triggered a debate on principles about daily life culture along the Neckar.

**Can we give a place to someone when it is public ground? That is what I am asking myself, because many people thanked us anonymously for the place we gave them by putting a simple white frame and a chair on the Neckar riverbank.**

**All we did, was highlighting a view, which made people reflect upon their environment. The reaction we got was loaded with emotion and nostalgic feelings.**

“Love it!”  
“Bin begeistert!”

What we can learn out of it, is that people are not looking for unexpected places in their daily life. Even more, they are backing off the public ground and do not find the beauty in the ordinary anymore. It is true, the spot we chose for hanging our frame has a specific atmosphere.

The industrial landscape seems peaceful and brutal, sculptural and out of context, harmonic and irritating at the same time. It invites people to deal with the place and that brings up memories and emotions.

However, every place has the potential to be experienced by people. The question is not “Where is the space?”, but “Where are the people?”. We are not providing a costly installation, we only fix a view. And this is already enough to make people stop, stay and reflect.

“Einfach mal 5 Minuten innehalten, dem Fluss beim Fließen zusehen und die schönen Dinge außerhalb von Normen und Rahmen entdecken.”

Even though this is a nice spot and people appreciated the installation, it will never be an experience, which is part of our daily

life, as long as there is no social interaction in this place. Only then, this place will be activated constantly and give possibilities to socialize. The claim for the space and the invisible social agreement gives the spot a value and makes it to a legitimized place.

We must be aware of the fact that our surrounding causes feelings and, even when they are subtle, they can set free emotional power. The enthusiasm, desire or even refusal, needs to be translated in an affirmation for public spaces.

“I love all cyclists!”  
“I love Cannstatt!”  
“Wunderschöner Platz mit einem wunderschönen Menschen.”

These feelings can even be projected on our fellow men and create more trust, openness and love among people. Instead of blaming politicians or companies for the absence or

insufficient daily life quality, we must start caring by ourselves for public spaces and social interaction.

To finally get back to the question if we can give public ground to someone, I clearly must negate.

If we give something to somebody, that means it belongs to a certain person, it is owned by somebody. Public spaces, however, are common ground, which in fact manifest the rights and essence of a democratic society. We should be proud of the chances to adopt public ground for our needs. We must claim them every day, soak up the atmospheres, become part of the urban life and start caring for our city.

**No, we do not have the right to give a place, but we will keep on looking for hidden spaces and highlight their beauties. Together, we can transform them!**

# WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DIDN'T: REFLECTIONS

Some say that there are no good or bad results of an experiment, just plain results from which it is up to the experimenter to decide what to do with this new knowledge.

The Stuttgart am Neckar team kept this in mind from the very beginning of the experimentation phase and it shaped the nature of the experiments they implemented. Sally Al-Ejeilat, explains this further: "Having a 'failure proof' mentality made us be a little more courageous about the kind of experiments we wanted to do, whether it was testing a hypothesis or proving a point. We didn't care that much if our experiments were breaking the rules or challenging the status quo, we just focused on what was needed to carry out our strategy".

Giancarlo Muñoz clarifies that even if incurring in 'illegal' acts, they were never acting in an irresponsible or reckless way: "A temporary improvement of people's urban experience was always our priority, so, it's only logical you want to make sure that what you are doing is completely safe and easily removable from public space once the purpose of an experiment is fulfilled." For the whole team, it was very rewarding to witness how, in most cases, people understood this concept and did not hesitate to interact with their interventions.

In general, the Stuttgart am Neckar group was overwhelmed with the amount of positive reactions and interest in the topic and especially in the proposed design strategies. The experiments reached out to many citizens and passers-by and generated

various inspiring interactions creating a learning exchange among all involved. The type of responses to the experiments were diverse, depending on the target group and the methods used, producing different levels of participation. There was a balance between interactions aiming at informing a large number of people on a broader level and those focussing more on in-depth conversations with a smaller group of people.

However, reactions from certain institutions were not as positive as they wished to be. Also, some team members were confronted with doubts of whether the implementation of experiments around the city instead of developing specific design proposals for building 'the city of the future' was helpful at all. However, Lenka Vojtová, lecturer of the IRD Studio, clarifies that "IRD focuses rather on conducting analysis, identifying stakeholders, on developing strategies and their testing in series of experiments, than on detailed design proposals, which (if necessary) would in our understanding only follow later in the process. In that sense, yes, the hands-on approach and real life experiments were compulsory components of the studio, nevertheless not seen as its result but as a precondition for developing a well-grounded, long-term strategy based on current situation and needs.", which means this is the first step to make a real, long lasting and sustainable proposal for all and not for a few.

The whole team agrees, that the amount of experiences and diversity of results they managed to gather (expected and unexpected), helped not only in the development of their overall strategies but most of all, left them with very valuable lessons useful for implementing any future project.

In the development of the strategy, for example, the group remarks that people's participation and positive reactions on site and in social media gave legitimacy to their ideas and in the long run helped them to establish new strategic partnerships that could, hopefully, guarantee the future continuity of some of their projects.

**"We realized that people sometimes just need a detonator to start reclaiming their right to use the public space"**

a doubt the most reliable partners of this kind of processes are local actors: ordinary people, community organizations or other collectives that are interested and willing to support new initiatives in the area", Muñoz explains. "However, if you aim for more significant changes like recovering lost urban connections, or establishing new ones in a permanent way, you need to simultaneously focus on gaining powerful allies such as those who oversee giving shape to the city.", he continues.

Other lessons, less related to the strategy but not less important, are the ones learned by observing people in the public space. In the words of Gabriella Micciche: "Sometimes the best way to realize what people want is to carefully notice the small hints

they leave when they use public space, even when this space is restrictive to their behaviour." In the case of the stairs experiment, for example, "it was clear for us that people wanted to enjoy the riverbank, because we noticed that every time we visited the area, the gates leading to the riverbank were open despite the obvious signs next to them prohibiting the crossing of the fences".

Ironically, this same observation made them realize that, even though signs have a lot of power modifying people's behaviour in the public space, actions can be an even more powerful tool. "We realized that people sometimes just need a detonator to start reclaiming their right to use the public space and this can be as simple as others showing them alternative uses of it, this is what we tried to do in most of the experiments, 'showing the bright side of the moon', small interventions that encourage interaction, bring life to those forgotten places and show the huge potential that we are missing every day", Vani Sood concludes.

The biggest lesson though, would probably be the role of the citizens in the process of claiming the river back and reviving the riversides. Stuttgart in its beginning has not developed along the river like many other river cities, it incorporated it only after the city structure was shaped and so were the plots along the river, defined, privatized, occupied by industries. However, the river belongs to them! It is in the backyard waiting for somebody to explore, to discover, to experience and then...**to act!**



# AND NOW WHAT...?

Here is a fact: During the four months of research, actions and discoveries, the team fell in love with Neckar.

Even though the *Stuttgart am Neckar* project was part of a semester course, the team didn't see it as something temporary, terminating with the semester. The uncertainty of what was going to happen after the experimentation phase was completed became a strong concern for the group, provoking thoughts about ways in which the continuity of the process could be guaranteed, as Sally Al-Ejeilat explains: "Since many team members were going to leave Stuttgart after the semester ended we knew from the very beginning that we had to come up with a strategy to pass the torch to someone else who could take care of the project, it became obvious then that gaining new partnerships was a priority."

During the experimentation phase the team could establish relations with some important stakeholders with which they expect to collaborate in the future: "With VVS, for example, we opened a channel of communication after we sent them our version of the Verbund-Schienennetz map including the Neckar and they suggested the possibility to include our data in their DSM network", Al-Ejeilat explains. Also, as Debora Zukeran adds, "After the end of the semester, some companies inside the Grossmarkt are still on board, we have been meeting with them for several times to analyse the prospects of future collaboration."

There is good news also from the official side, as Mr. Johannes Rentsch, representative of Stuttgart's department of City Planning and Urban Renewal explains "The Masterplan 'Landschaftspark Neckar - Stadt am Fluss' that has been worked out by the City Planning Department, offers many proposals for the future development of the river banks of the Neckar in Stuttgart. The plan, however, forms the framework on the spatial level. How people from the urban context as well as other actors could be involved in the concretization of the projects is not yet addressed by the Masterplan. I think for that additional planning level of



Visualization Image for The Grünbächle In The Future

Source: Hidden Waters group

'activation of spaces' the approaches of the IUSD project can be a suggestion for the City Planning Department and flow into the master plan."

On a smaller scale, the group established a relationship with the local initiative Stadtlücken as they share the team's vision of creating a Critical mass-like event focusing on the Neckar. Thomas J. Knapik, member of the team, expanded on this: "We want to take on our event of 'Lower your fences' as we see a great potential in the idea. Our vision is a monthly event in which the neighbours of the Neckar can 'break the rules' and cross the fences of the riverbank for a day and combine it with Stadtlücken's concept of Critical Mass", he continues, "we already shared our idea with them and we hope, that it is worth being taken over soon."

Concerning the Mineral Water bottle strategy, the group suggests to continue the marketing by selling special designed bottles to be filled with mineral water as a Stuttgart

product in tourist information points and some other local organizations, possibly together with the different maps resulting from the Stuttgart am Neckar project. Furthermore, signs should be added to the fountains communicating and assuring about the drinking quality of the mineral water and its positive effects on health. "These could be the first steps towards strengthening the cultural and heritage value of mineral fountains. Possible stakeholders for future cooperation are the citizen initiative Zukunft Bad Cannstatt, the Green party of Bad Cannstatt, the 1000 Wasser association Stuttgart and the Brünnele Association.", as Mennat-Allah Fathy suggests.

When asked about the next steps now that the project is over, lecturer Lenka Vojtová says that "It feels wrong to say, 'the project is over with the semester'. The students learned to love the Neckar and became very passionate about the current, unsatisfactory situation, way beyond the studio requirements. They managed to open many doors,

gained contact with various initiatives and to put it poetical, for four months they took care of a seed planted, but also forgotten, in the past years. As other initiatives before, they uncovered many potentials and I believe, it happened in a fruitful time. The acquired knowledge and the results will be incorporated into the research project WECHSEL. A movie on Neckar is currently competing in a competition organized by 'Unser Neckar', some of the students are still in contact with their partners, some looking for funds to continue their research and implement their ideas, our partners from the City administration are interested to take up some ideas. Reading this, you hold a copy of our newspaper presenting all results and we as well plan an exhibition to inspire other students' projects and the existing initiatives. But at the end, for Stuttgart on Neckar to keep on race, it needs active citizens, it needs small steps taken by each of us, so next time you want to have a nice breakfast, go and picnic at the riverside."

**"IF YOU GO ALONE YOU CAN BE FAST, IF YOU GO TOGETHER, YOU CAN GO FAR."** African proverb

# ENTERTAINMENT

## BEHIND THE SCENES



## NECKAR HOROSCOPE



**ARIES** March 21 - April 20

This month you must make many decisions, for your personal and professional life. The beginning of a future full of brilliance! The constellations are on your side just jump the barrier and immerse yourself in the river! Open the door to many better opportunities that are awaiting for you.



**TAURUS** April 21 - May 21

This month you will travel to your dream destination, you will go through some difficulties in the beginning but also unforgettable moments. Always remember to take the bottle with you and send a photo to our newspaper team.



**GEMINI** May 22 - June 21

Things become difficult for you this month, but nothing like doing gardening work to free the mind of any concern, we recommend helping the group of Hidden Waters in their experiment "the Grünbächle".



**CANCER** June 22 - July 22

Mercury is retrograde, that means you should try to look for activities that distract you and make your life more entertaining, what if you go jogging along the river? The physical activity will be the key for you to overcome this month.



**LEO** July 23 - August 22

What you have been waiting for so long will knock on your door soon. You will find the love of your life under the bridge of Mercedesstrasse the first Friday of this month after your rubber is spiked after having made the route of critical mass around the Neckar.



**VIRGO** August 23 - September 23

You finally need to get out of work, so much effort deserves its rewards. How about inviting the girl you like to watch a movie at night beside the river? Sounds romantic, right? The moon is aligned with your stars and this may be the opportunity you hoped for.



**LIBRA** September 24 - October 23

Remembering that old love? You need to go ahead, you better go to the river and take some time with yourself appreciating the landscapes framed around the river by the guys from Stuttgart am Neckar.



**SCORPIO** October 24 - November 22

Always of bad character and with a humor of dogs? You should take a rest today, grab your blanket and go to one of the hidden destinations that we indicated previously! Relax and empty your mind of problems.



**SAGITTARIUS** November 23 - December 21

You should eat healthier, your body is important, this month we recommend attending the Neckarlab and eat lots of fruits! They are rich in vitamins and minerals! The best is that they are for free.



**CAPRICORN** December 22 - January 20

The adventure awaits you. If you are always open to new experiences you should try to find new hidden spots for relaxing around the river, the guys from Stuttgart am Neckar might need your help for that! Contact them!.



**AQUARIUS** January 21 - February 19

You are in a difficult moment of your life, you need to think more what you do and concentrate on your career. We recommend you to start drinking mineral water, in Stuttgart you have many options, this will give you the nutrients you need and connect you with the nature.



**PISCIS** February 20 - March 20

You love the water! You can't live without it and this month Venus gives you the chance. What a better place to be that the Kanuklub, in which you can enjoy doing sports and having fun with your family and friends.

# CREDITS

With the exception of "The Neckar at a Glance" (p. 3) by Dr. Ing. Dan Teodorovici, all the articles were written by the team members of *Stuttgart am Neckar*. To each and everyone, for your restless spirit, incredible good energy and professionalism, THANK YOU!

## CONNECTIVITY GROUP

Thomas J. Knapik, Poland-Germany  
Architect  
Erasmus Student



Victoria Vuong, China  
Architect  
Bachelor Student



Sally Al-Ejeilat, Jordan  
Architect  
IUSD Student



Giancarlo Muñoz, Costa Rica  
Architect  
IUSD Student

Gabriella Micciche, Venezuela  
Architect  
IUSD Student



Viviann Rimmel, Germany  
Architect  
IUSD Student



Shaharin Elham Annisa, Bangladesh  
Architect  
IUSD Student



Nojoud Afif Ashour, Jordan  
Architect  
IUSD Student



## AWARENESS GROUP



Saamil Patel, India  
Architect  
IUSD Student



Maria José Encalada, Ecuador  
Architect  
IUSD Student

## HIDDEN WATERS GROUP



Mennat-Allah Fathy Aref, Egypt  
Architect  
IUSD Student

Simone Gretsch, Germany  
Communication & Media Designer  
IUSD Student



Mauricio Estrada, Colombia  
Architect  
IUSD Student



Selen Kus, Turkey  
Urban Planner  
IUSD Student



Vani Sood Kunnappilly, India  
Architect  
IUSD Student



Tran Thi Ha My, Vietnam  
Environmental Engineer  
IUSD Student

Débora Picorelli Zukeran, Brasil  
Architect  
IUSD Student



Greta Čerškutė, Lithuania  
Architect  
Erasmus Student



## LIFE AROUND THE RIVER GROUP



Juan Sebastián Benítez B., Colombia  
Civil Engineer  
IUSD Student



Kh M Abdullah Lizu, Bangladesh  
Architect  
IUSD Student

Alexandra Ulrich, Germany  
Architect  
M. Sc. Architecture

## LECTURERS



Prof. Dr. Astrid Ley



Dipl.-Ing. MSc. Lenka Vojtová



Dr.-Ing. Dan Teodorovici



V. Prof. Dr. Jan Dieterle

## EDITION AND LAYOUT



Juan Sebastián Benítez B.



Gabriella Micciche

Supervised by Lenka Vojtová

\*All the interviews were conducted by Gabriella Micciche and Juan Sebastián Benítez B.

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- Teachers and lecturers
- Friends, family and Neckar enthusiasts
- AND!!! To all citizens

...for your constant support, exchange of ideas and joining forces to make Stuttgart and its river, the Neckar, just one.

*Stuttgart am Neckar.*

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