

urb / bme

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY - DIPLOMA PROJECT

BMEEPUIQ901

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Theme

My topic of interest is to design a **community, cultural, or youth center** that brings **nature and green** spaces to small neighborhoods in big cities. I'm interested in this topic because I believe that there are many benefits to spending time in nature and that these benefits can be lacking for people who live in the cities. I believe we (city dwellers) are not spending enough time with nature and Mother Earth. I think it's important to create spaces that allow **people to connect with nature**, even in an urban environment.



Theme

I want to bring **sustainable buildings** and **green solutions** to create more smart cities.

I want to work with sustainable materials like **timber** and connect them to greenery!

We can create this in spaces like **community, cultural, or youth center**

Offering them a place to do **gardening and plantation.**



Theme

Community spaces can really help bring people together, and they can foster a sense of community and connection. You're right that living in a city can make it difficult to form those connections because people tend to keep to themselves more. But with a space that's designed to encourage social interaction, you can really help people get to know their neighbors and build relationships. And using nature and gardening can be really helpful in that regard because it's a great activity to do together. It also has the added benefit of bringing people closer to the environment and creating a sense of stewardship.



Theme

Shaping the City Through Food



Feeding today's cities sustainably is becoming a great challenge. The growing population and existing global food infrastructure systems are not only disconnecting people from food and its origins but are also causing detrimental health and environmental impacts. As a result, people are now tasked to look for ways to repair the environment and still have enough choices of healthy, nutritious, locally sourced food. One way to respond to these challenges is to look for ways to produce food in a space-saving, sustainable, and community-engaging manner within city boundaries.

A new Urban Farming Community Centre is an opportunity to reconnect people with food and inspire them to recognize and acknowledge the importance of nutrition. The center brings food production right into the city center so nature can recover, and city dwellers can benefit from fresh, locally-grown foods. It supports the globally spreading urban agriculture movement and aims to become the social hub for the local community of the city. Its mission is to make food's production-consumption-disposal cycle as transparent to the public eye as possible so people can better understand the process and impact of food production. Participation in urban farming activities will help people form social bonds, increase awareness, and bring city residents back to nature while opening their eyes and minds to global issues.

Site

I am searching for a site in Budapest and I want it to be somewhere in the city center where people already feel like they have grown up away from Mother Earth and do not really have a chance to do gardening but also need a site that has access to soil and the environment so gardening can be done.



Site

- Proximity to other community resources: Having the garden near other community resources, such as **parks, libraries, and schools**, can enhance the overall experience and sense of community.
- Connectivity: The site should have good **access to transportation options, such as public transit, bike lanes,** or sidewalks, to make it easy for people to get to and from the garden.
- Green infrastructure: Location that has **green infrastructure features, such as trees, bioswales, or rain gardens,** which can help mitigate stormwater runoff and improve air quality.



Site



Urban farming in Western Europe



Urban farming and community gardens in Western Europe serve a multitude of **purposes that contribute to the well-being of local communities and the environment**. These initiatives play a crucial role in promoting sustainable food production and enhancing food security within urban areas. Beyond providing fresh produce, **they act as educational platforms, teaching individuals about sustainable agricultural practices and fostering a deeper understanding of the food system**. Additionally, they serve as valuable spaces for community engagement and social interaction, fostering a sense of belonging and cooperation among residents. These gardens also contribute to the preservation of green spaces within cities, mitigating the impacts of urbanization and providing habitats for local flora and fauna. Overall, urban farming and community gardens in Western Europe not only address food-related challenges but also promote social cohesion, environmental stewardship, and a healthier lifestyle for urban dwellers.

Site



History of community gardens

The history of community gardens traces back to the early **19th century in Europe** and the UK, where they served as vital spaces for the urban working class. Allotments, set aside as **early as 1819 in the UK and the 1830s in Western Europe**, provided a respite from the crowded industrial cities and supplemented families' food supplies. A resurgence in interest occurred during the economic recession of the 1930s and World War II, with the flourishing of '**victory gardens**' in urban landscapes. Despite a decline after the Second World War, community gardening persisted and gained popularity globally, evolving into sought-after urban retreats and vital sources of food production. Presently, their demand continues to grow, with various well-organized movements and networks supporting their development and management in different parts of the world.

Site

KEK- Community Gardens



In Budapest, the sample consisted of **families with small children involved in community gardens and university students**. In Budapest, the user needs analysis was obtained from the two organizations who managed most of community gardens, the Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre (three gardens) and the Urban Garden Association (also managed three gardens). One garden was organized by Youths from the Hungarian Countryside Foundation. The gardens started to work with the support from the local authorities in 2012 and 2013. The seven gardens had a total of around 10,000 m² and were located in different districts.

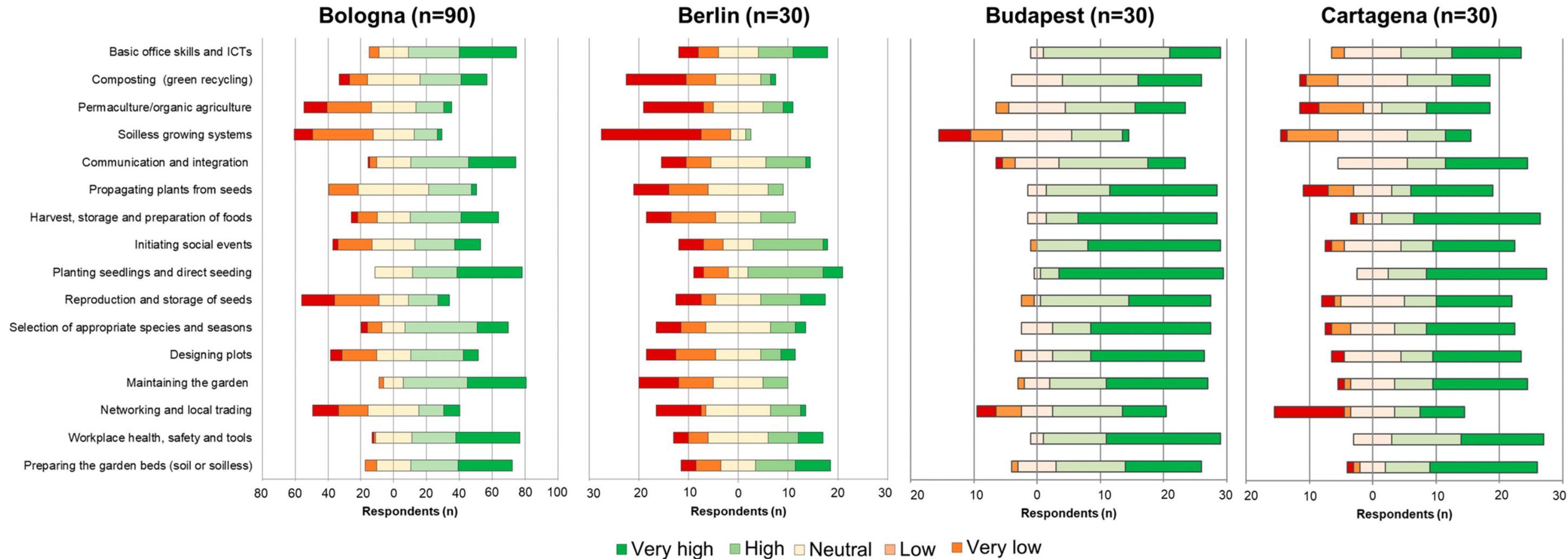
Following the pattern of Western Europe in 2010–2012, community gardens appeared in most Central and Eastern European countries. In Budapest, the dynamics of setting up community gardens have been accelerated in recent years. From five community gardens in 2012, Budapest now counts with **30 community gardens** in operation and 6 planned initiatives. A great upswing was observed in 2014–2015, although at present, it seems to have slowed down, as the activities of the main initiators and organizers have decreased. With regards to the type of gardens, from the beginning, two **typical building environments could be observed: the currently-dominant housing estate/block of flats installation, and the unbuilt real estate of the areas of downtown gentrification**. The community gardens in Budapest are unused or under-utilized urban areas—most often linked to residential housing construction, where they also play promotional functions. According to the sociological approach, community gardens in Budapest are **semi-public, common areas**.



Photo: Kisdiófa Community Garden

Site

KEK- Community Gardens



Regional results for NAQ2 regarding competences required by gardeners in community gardens, according to city. The graphs display the answers to the questionnaire as a Likert-scale, where the respondents evaluated the need for training on the specific competences.

Budapest and Cartagena showed similar results. The sample from Budapest included participants from newly-started initiatives and with limited experiences in urban horticulture, and expressed a major need for receiving gardening skills. In Cartagena, urban garden initiatives had recently been increasing, but on the contrary, the knowledge in garden basics of the urban farmers was higher than in Budapest because of the agricultural background of the survey participants.

Site

KEK- Community Gardens

According to the observations and analyses collected from different sources, community gardens present a few challenges. The **first** is that community gardens must contend with the **challenges of space**. In busy urban areas, it can often be difficult to find space for a garden. The scale of the plot limits the types of plants that can be grown and limits the amount of space that can be used for gardens. In addition, community gardens must sometimes contend with a **lack of funding**. Despite the many benefits community gardens offer, they often struggle to receive the financial support necessary to keep them running. The managers interviewed expressed a fair amount of uncertainty regarding the future of these gardens. The responsibility is relatively pointed to the authorities for not having a clear legal framework and the community for the varying level of commitment they tend to show. As for the factors of leisure, food and social impact, some of these gardens outperform others. More extensive gardens with more plots and beds (e.g., Rózsa Garden) tend to produce more food and aromatic plants, while climate gardens are more prone to foster biodiversity. Hence, they provide more types of products even though the quantity is not the main asset, as it is shown in Auróra Climate Garden.

by [Mariann Simon](#) and [Amine Mseddi](#)

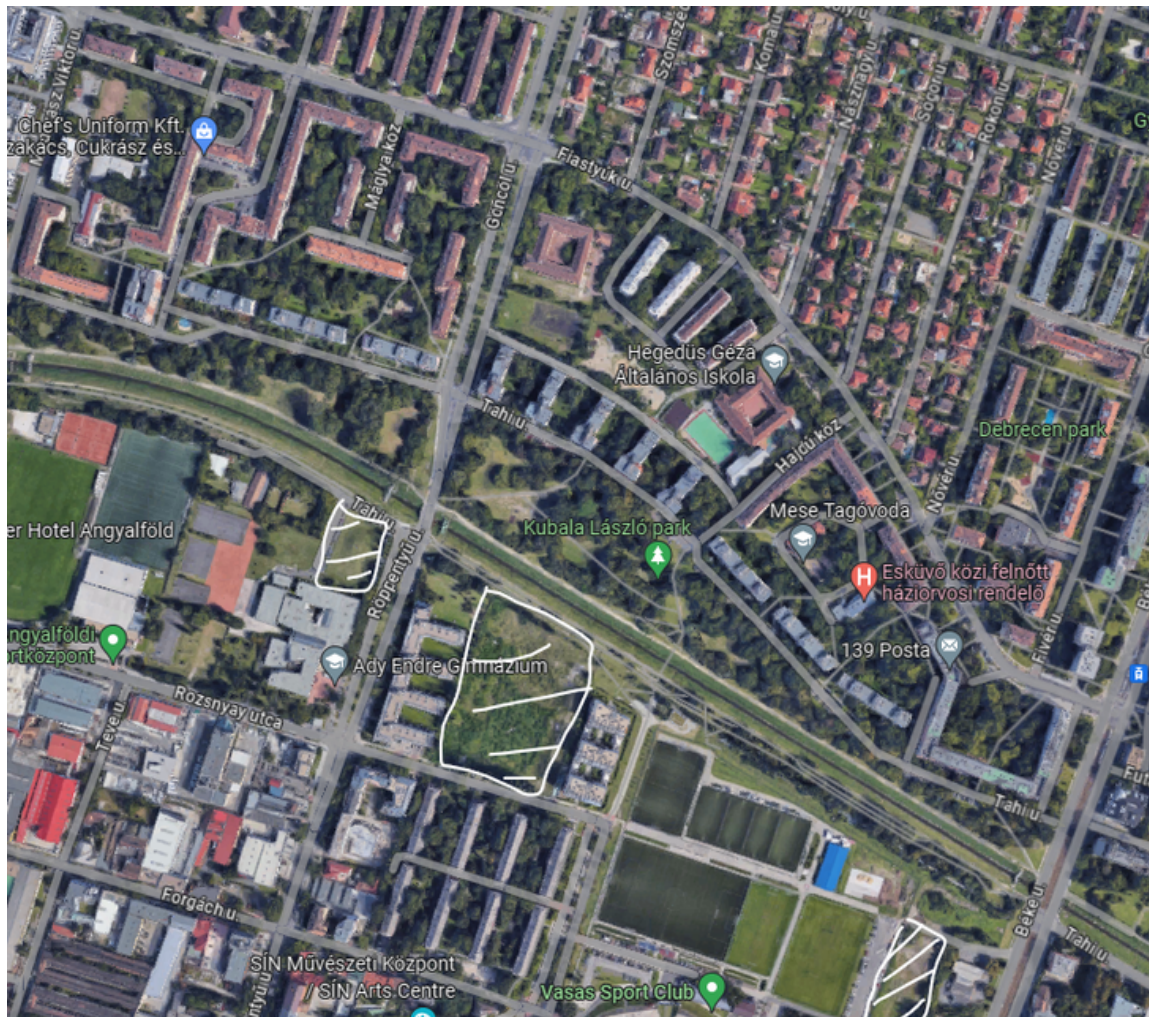
TABLE I: THE STUDY CASES COMPARISON MATRIX

	<i>Kisdiófa Garden</i>	<i>Auróra Garden</i>	<i>Rózsa Garden</i>	<i>Tolnai Garden</i>
History	Plot of a demolished building Vacant area 2016- community garden	Plot of a demolished building Parking lot 2019- climate garden	Plot of a demolished building Vacant area to host housing and a pulmonology care center. 2021-community garden	Plot of a demolished building Playground for a kindergarten 2014- community garden Unused area 2021- community garden and open park
Initiator	KEK (Contemporary Architecture Center)	Auróra Civil Center	6th district, Terézváros Municipality	Rév8 Ltd
Contributors	NGOs + Volunteers + Local community	Experts + Volunteers + Local community	KEK + Local community	Rév8 Ltd + Local community
Implementation	Smooth transition from the previous function of 2014 Regular events Strategic vision	Started with small pots and mobile boxes Organic increase of contributors Strategic vision	Funded by the municipality + cooperation in the management and educational aspect with KEK	Funded by the municipality + cooperation in the management and educational aspect with Rév8 Ltd
Current situation	+Adoption and regular usage by the inhabitants +Hosting events and workshops -Recreational	+Adoption and regular usage by the inhabitants +Hosting events and workshops -Recycling hub -Recreational -Artistic events	+Adoption and regular usage by the inhabitants +Hosting events and workshops -Recreational -Artistic events	+A mix of a community garden, a public park with picnic tables and a water fountain, plus a dog park
Challenges	+Temporary status +Coordination +Social adhesion +Engagement	+Temporary status +Political change in the municipality +Coordination and communication with the authorities and neighbors +Engagement	+Temporary status +High demand for plots +Coordination and communication among the plot owners +Engagement	+Temporary status +Communication between the different users +Engagement

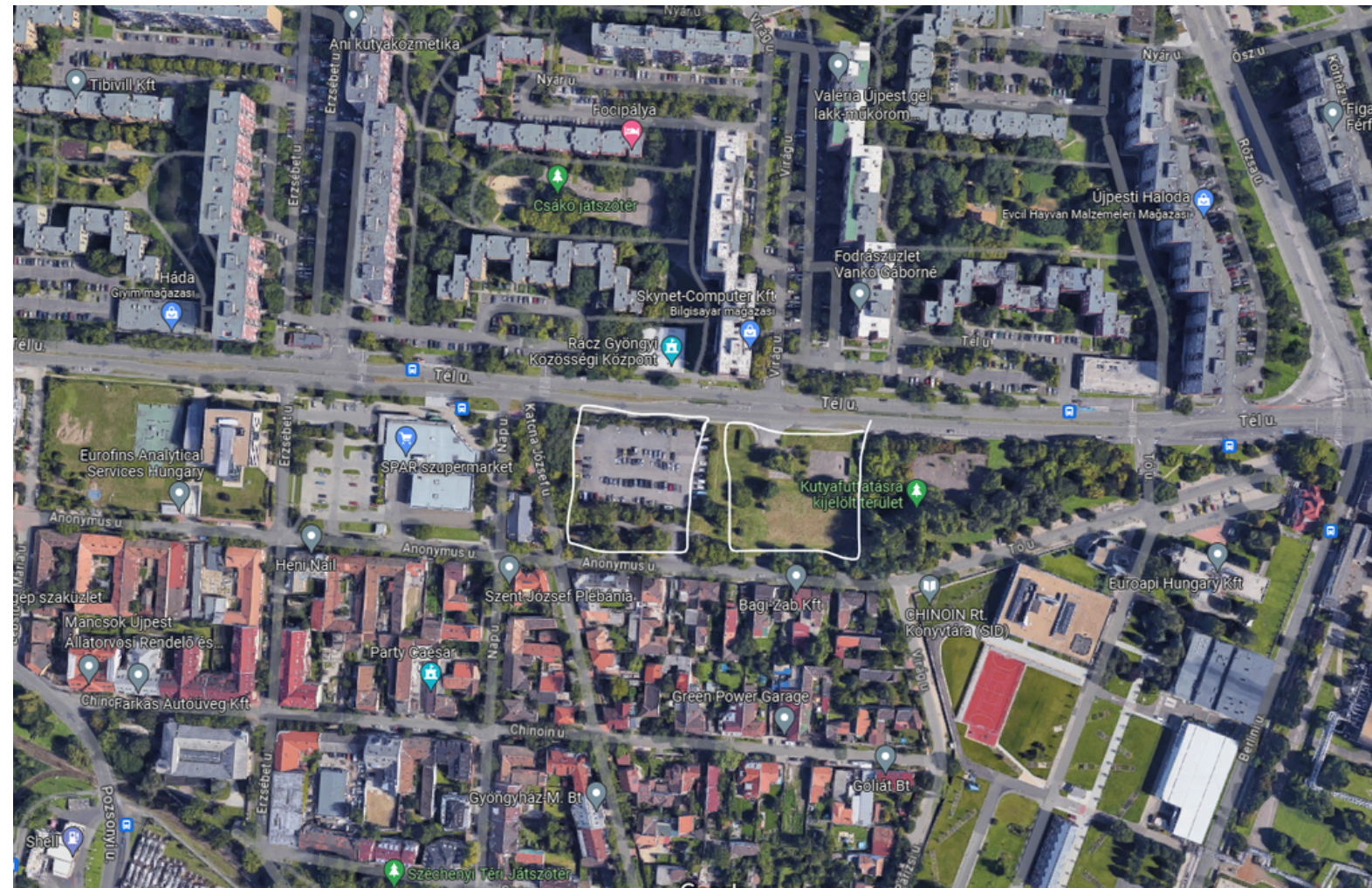
Site

Possible Locations

Rakos-Creek



Ujpest

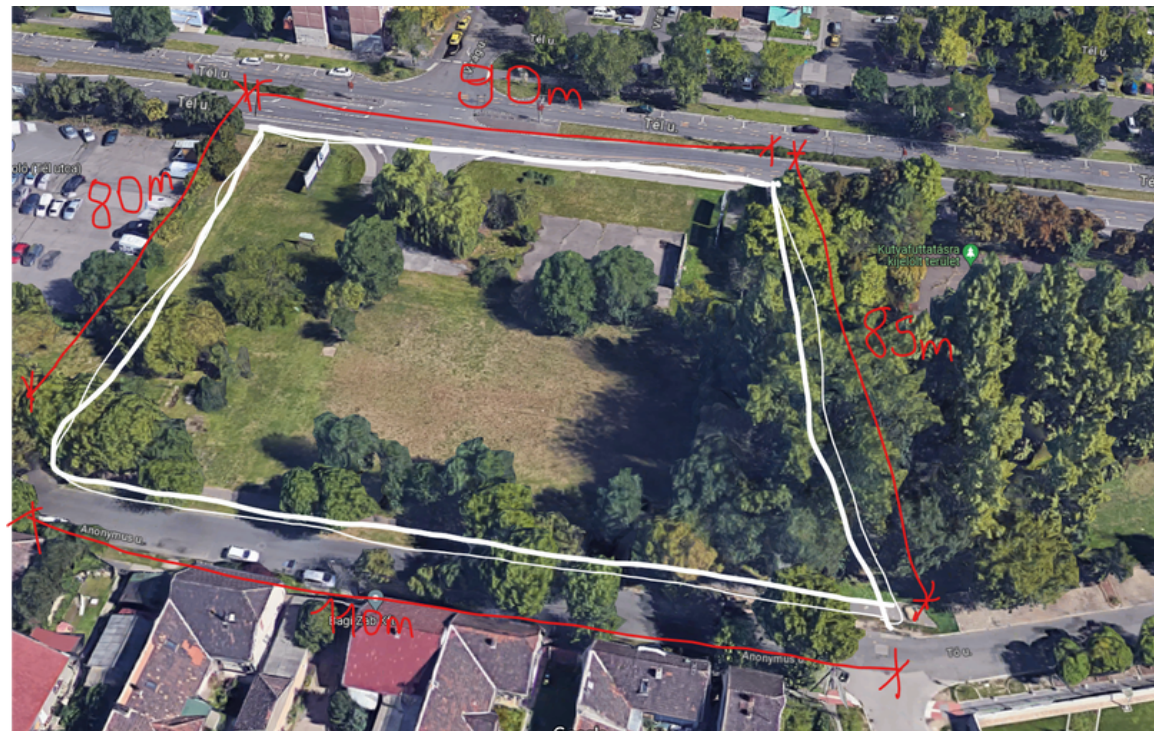
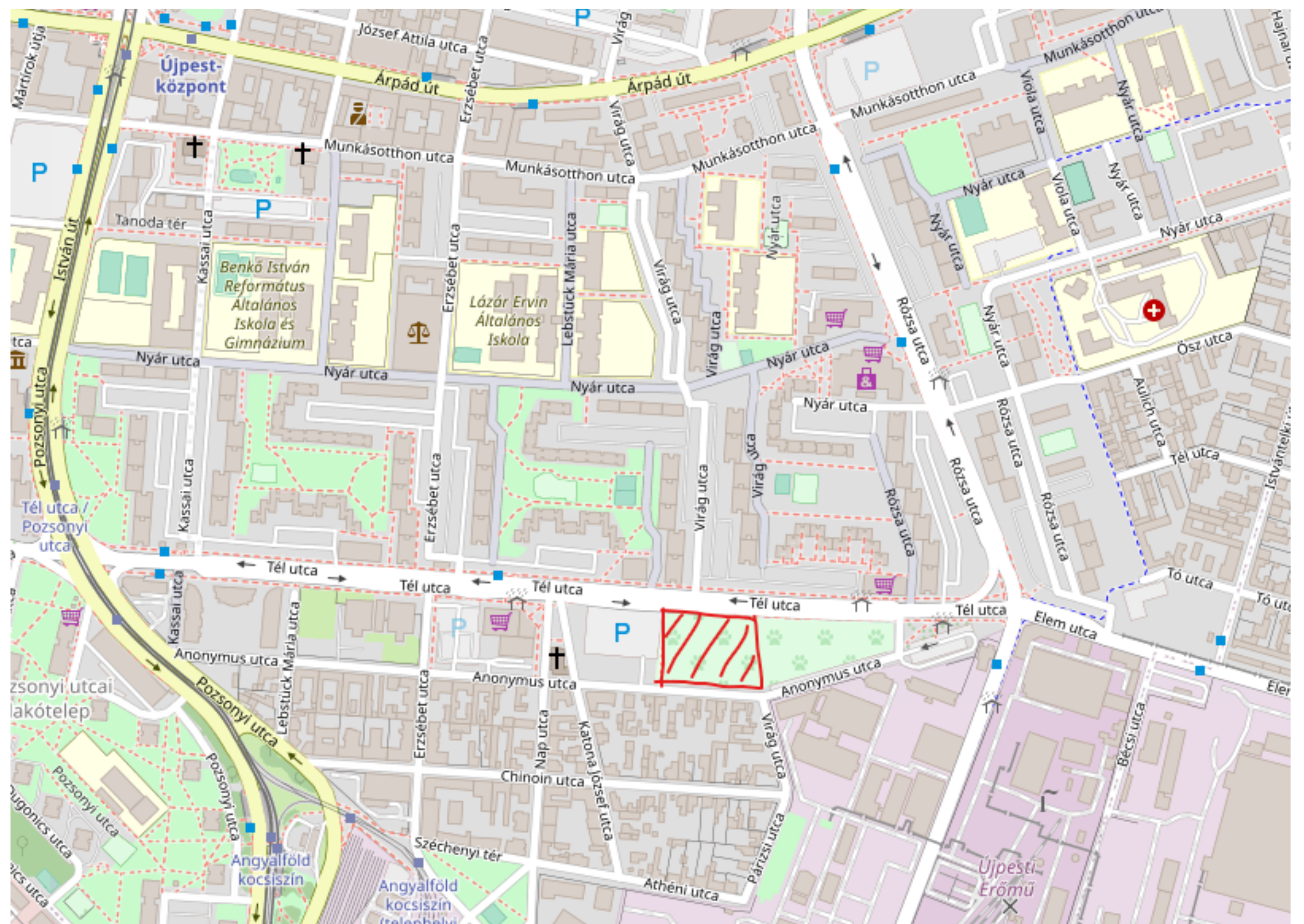
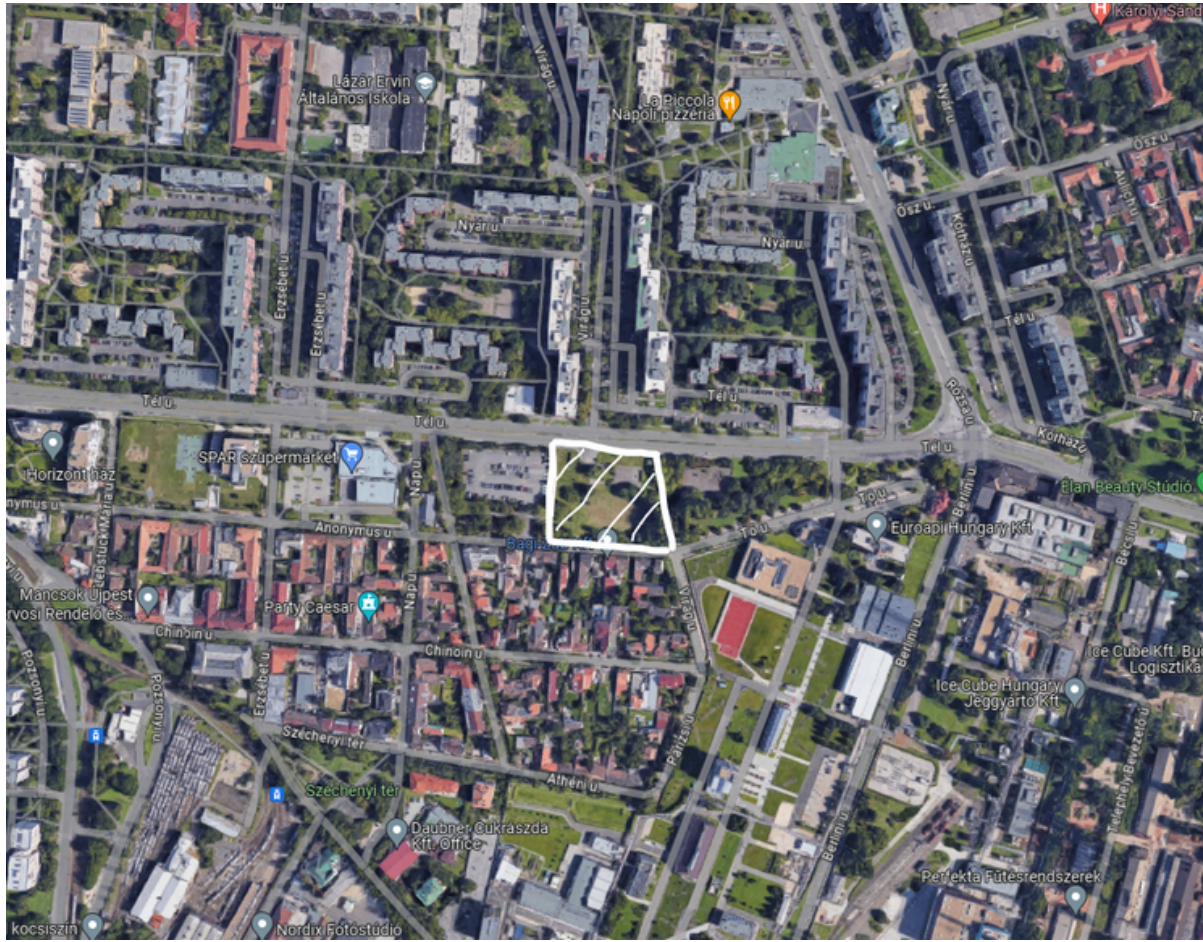


Kelenföld

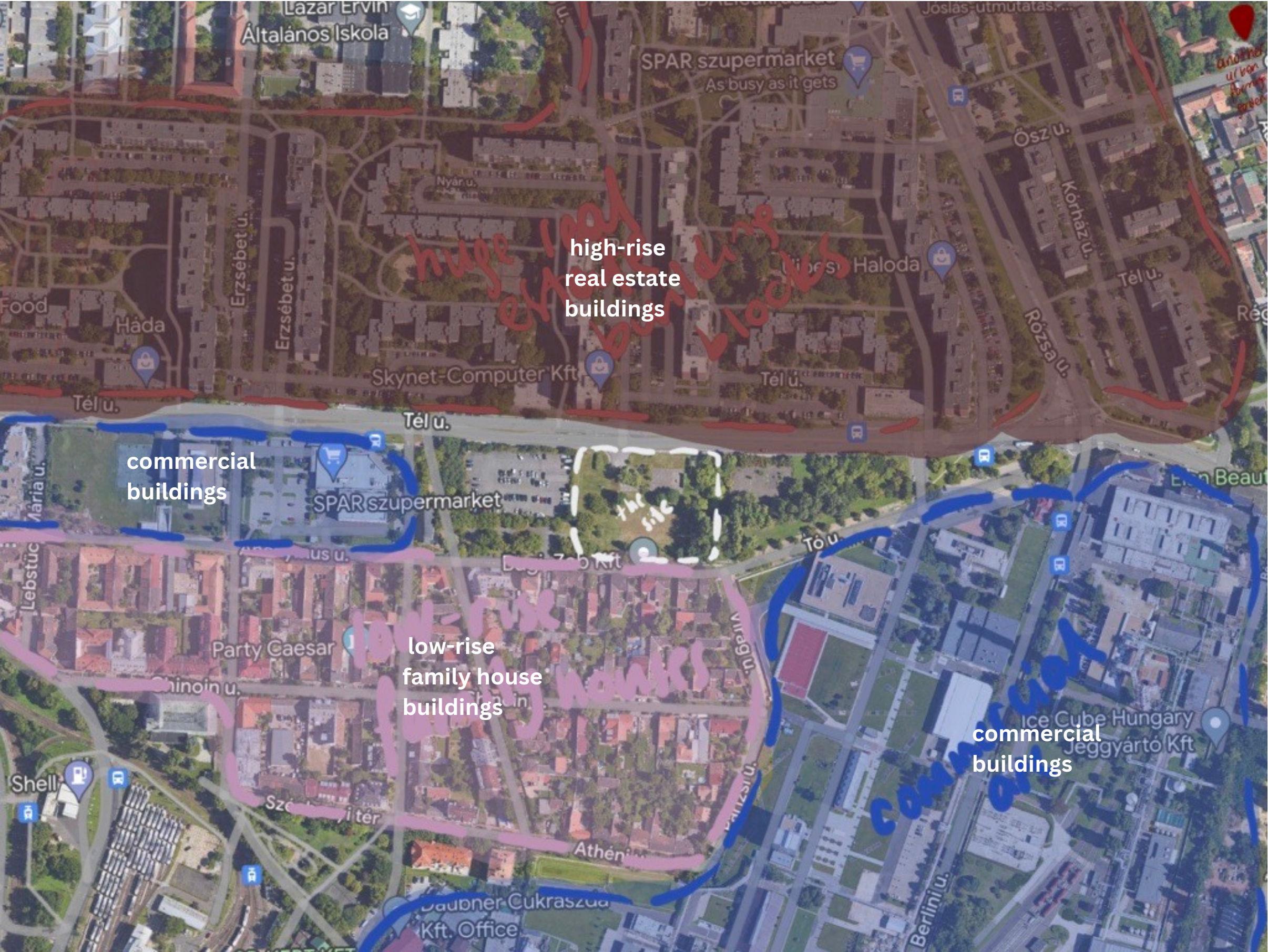


Chosen Site

Ujpest, Anonymus utca - Tél utca
Budapest, 1045



Site Analysis - Ujpest



Function Map



Mind Map - Possible Functions

COMMUNITY GARDEN

urban farming

- vegetable beds 50m²
- fruit trees 50m²
- green house 50m²

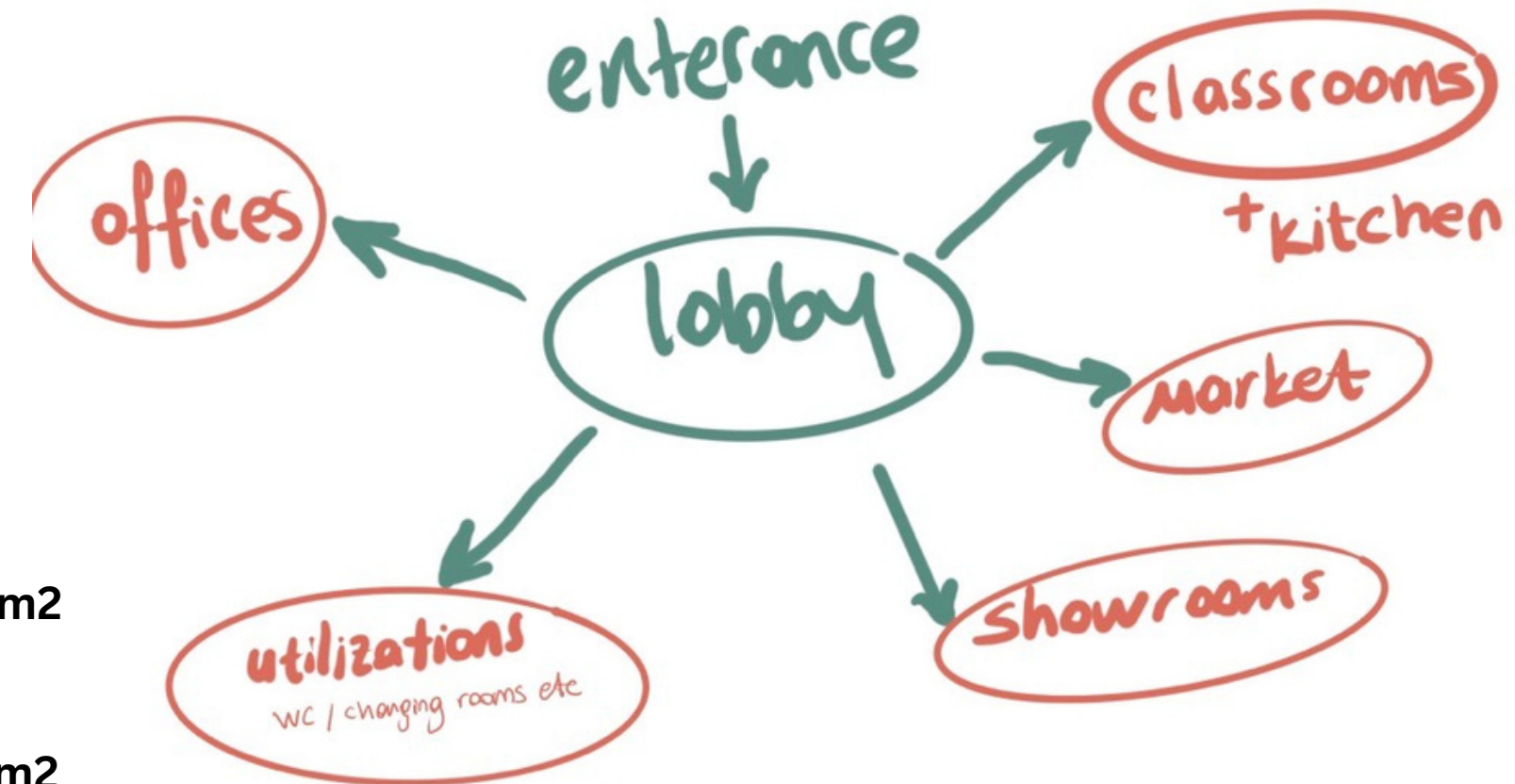
Total: 150m²

GARDEN

building facilities

- showrooms 30m²
 - gardening techniques
 - urban farming products
 - eco-friendly products
- classrooms 50m²
 - gardening workshops
 - cooking classes
 - environmental educations
- local market 20m²
 - fresh product from garden
 - composting goods
- cafe or restaurant 30m²
 - farm to table concept
 - local and seasonal ingredients
- community spaces 30m²
 - socializin
 - meditation garden or space
 - picnic area
- offices 20m²
- utilizations 20m²
 - WC / changing rooms etc

Total: 200m²



Total: 350m²

+ rain water harvesting
+ solar panels

Program

I imagine this garden as a gathering area, where you can do something together. That is why I want to force people to be together so this space should contain areas like a **gathering area**, a **shared kitchen** where they can cook together, and a **showroom** where they can cook and display. It can also contain **classes** where they teach each other how to garden or cook. Or if they harvest more than necessary then there could be a market area where they do **local marketing** and sell their harvest.



Showroom Area



Case Study

Issue-urban farming+ community

ujpest - Viola Community Garden (1042 Budapest, at the intersection of Viola utca and Tavasz utca)

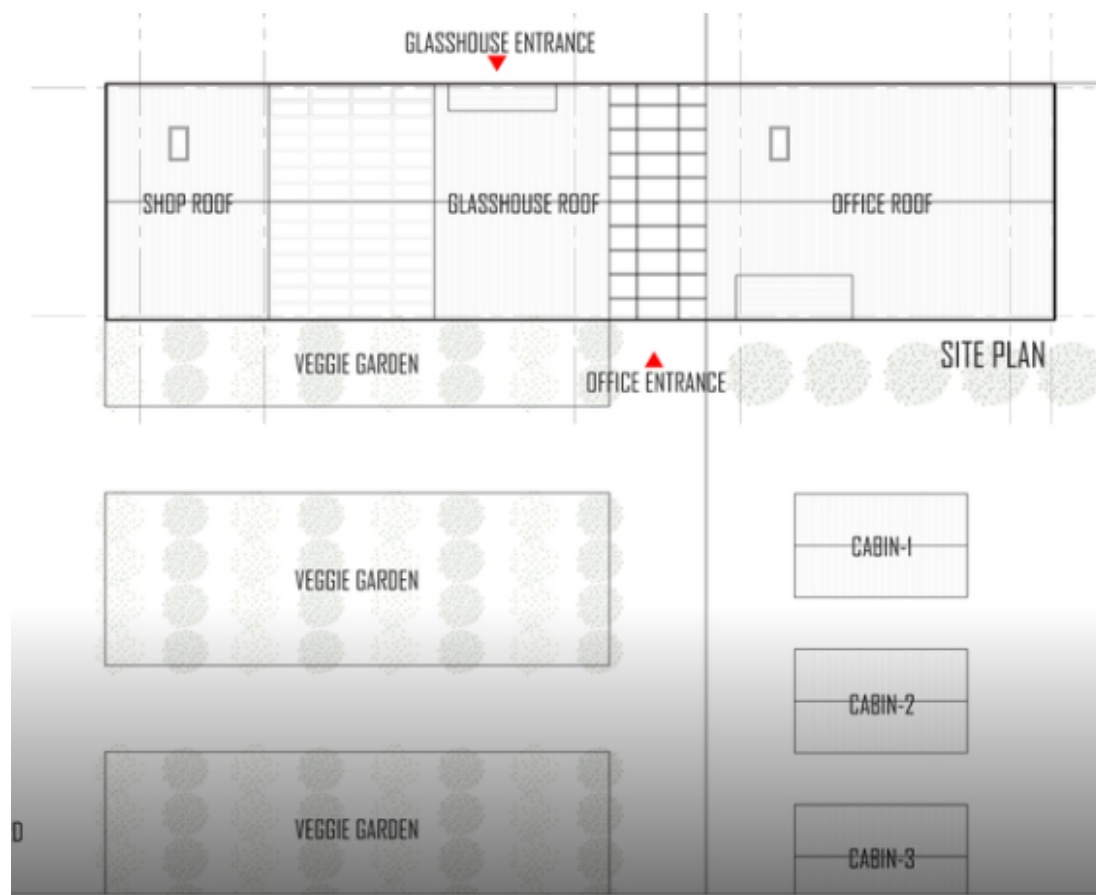
the local government provides professional and technical assistance for this, in addition to building them, not to mention the fact that it has created a particularly beautiful cultural environment for all of this.



Case Study

Issue-urban farming+ community

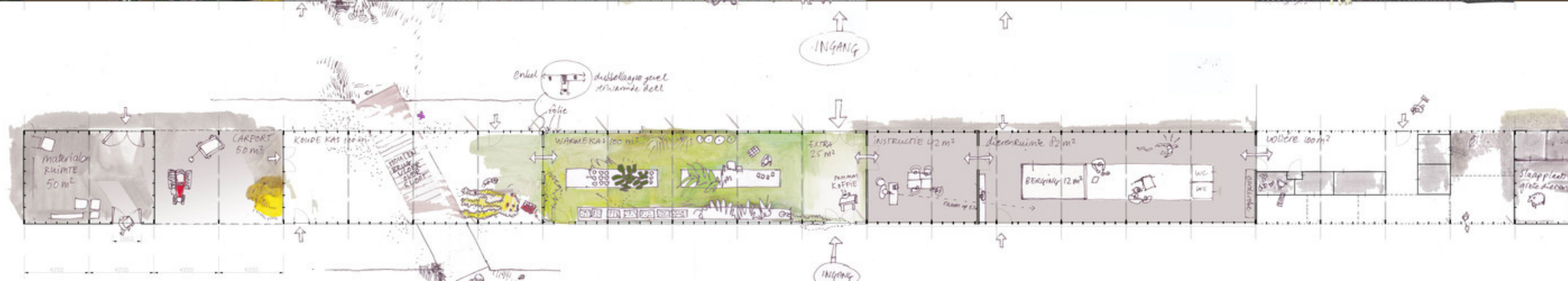
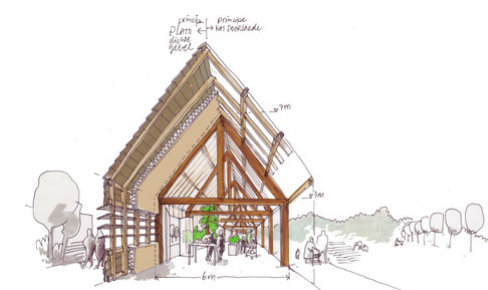
Mangmi Farm by Todot Architects and Partners in SOUTH KOREA



Case Study

Farming School

Schoolgarden "De Buitenkans" / RO&AD Architecten in THE NETHERLANDS



Case Study

Farm and Restaurant

FERME DU RAIL by 8 grand huit in THE FRANCE

