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4. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

Source: Aleksandre Okrostsvaridze

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TRANSFORMATION OF OPEN SPACES

The presented proposals for transforming the different open space typologies demonstrate the variety of open spaces that exist and the potential these typologies have to contribute to a more sustainable neighborhood. The proposals differ in terms of the depth of implementation, the time and financial effort required, legal framework, ownership issues, and much more. Some of the proposed solutions can be implemented by the residents themselves, while others require the involvement of an organized and professional entity.

Identifying types allows for a systematic approach to organizing the transformation of the neighborhood. Instead of presenting a precise design for every location in Block VI, principles of transformation for typical open spaces show the strengths and weaknesses of each type and their broad spectrum of possibilities. This approach enables the development of action plans that can be implemented step by step, and it offers the ability to focus initially on a certain typology or a specific part of the neighborhood, depending on development pressure, community activity, or financial means. Some of the measures can be managed by individuals, which provides an opportunity for short-term improvement of Block VI and, at the same time, can strengthen neighborhood involvement and participation, thereby supporting and strengthening social cohesion and self-identification with the neighborhood.

The proposals were conceived as distinct measures—a tool kit of available options rather than part of a definitive and comprehensive master plan. The various transformation proposals could be implemented as single actions or could build on each other. One typology could be transformed consistently throughout a neighborhood, or it could be flexibly adapted according to residents' changing needs and interests—and the available budget. It would not be helpful to create a definitive and detailed blueprint for transforming Block VI, as this would contradict flexibility and would make future adaptations difficult. And yet, although the measures work independently, a strategic plan would be of great value. Such a plan could identify which projects should be prioritized and which transformations could benefit from each other. It could also explain which measures could be organized and realized by residents themselves and where support from district management and/or the municipality would be needed.

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The Green Superblock

As described in the previous chapter with regard to a variety of options, the transformation of open spaces could lead to the transformation of the entire neighborhood. If a critical mass of proposed measures is implemented, the neighborhood will take on a completely different character. It will be characterized by attractive green spaces that contribute to greater social interaction, a higher quality of life, and climate protection and adaptation. At the same time, Vazha-Pshavela Block VI could become the first green superblock in Tbilisi.

Figure 1: The Future of Vazha-Pshavela Block VI
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The Green Superblock could be a car-restricted neighborhood, allowing access only for pick-up and delivery for its residents, or it could even be car-free. All parking would be located outside the block in parking garages, bundled along the perimeter of the block, or arranged along the surrounding streets. Traffic inside the neighborhood would be mostly or entirely non-motorized, prioritizing pedestrians and cyclists—of course with exceptions made for emergency vehicles and people with disabilities. The inner streets and passages would not only provide accessibility, but would also—and most importantly—facilitate communication and social interaction. The new transportation infrastructure would shorten distances for pedestrians and cyclists within the block, improve connections to public transportation, and ensure the residential area remains accessible to those traveling by car.

The restructured outdoor spaces optimize access to high-quality open spaces for diverse user groups and densify the neighborhood by adding essential amenities and living spaces. Future transformation measures would prioritize open, unsealed surfaces and green spaces over concrete and paved spaces. The Green Superblock offers a variety of open spaces for communal activities, meetings, and gathering with neighbors; sports activities; relaxation; and private use

The goal is to have as much green space as possible and only as many buildings as necessary. New buildings would be placed in select locations to help organize the space, for instance by dividing private spaces from public spaces, noisy spaces from calm spaces, et cetera. With the careful addition of buildings, the neighborhood could be augmented with missing functions, such as additional services or more apartments. The interconnected network of open spaces offers inhabitants many spaces to take charge of their living environment and leads to ideal microclimate conditions. It helps deal with rising heat, and provides plenty of room for diverse flora and fauna. These features further qualify the quarter for changing climate conditions and strengthen the social cohesion of the neighborhood.

Requirements and Perspectives

Scenarios are not design proposals. Rather, they are meant to exemplify possible futures. They clearly show what positive future potentials could arise for people and the planet if action is taken. The scenarios also demonstrate that specific prerequisites are necessary to achieve a desired future. The presented scenarios illustrate only simplified design solutions; many other measures are needed to achieve the outlined improvements. For successful implementation, citizens, planners, and the administration must work hand in hand, supporting each other. Professional approaches cannot be limited to a single approach, nor can they be achieved by a single profession. The silos of disciplines with-

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in administrative departments and within university study programs must be dissolved, and integrated solutions that take knowledge from different viewpoints into account have to be tested. Resources must be used sustainably, and climate-resilient solutions that consider our natural and social resources must be negotiated against profitability and political will. It is essential to find new planning approaches that address land use and ownership in a future-proof manner that limits speculation and ensures that scarce resources remain accessible for the public good.

Living labs are a great tool for enabling participatory processes that can initiate discussions and actions about the sustainable transformation of the neighborhood, driven by the local community. The living lab "The Green Superblock" that we established in Vasha-Pshavela in May 2025 has the potential to serve as a model for similar activities in other parts of Tbilisi. The lab's various activities, such as round tables, planning workshops, and walking tours, sparked and promoted discussions about the future development of Block VI and even implemented a transformation in one of the yards. The site transformation of an underused open space, implemented during an integrated workshop in which students and neighbors worked together, demonstrates the great potential of bottom-up activities. And the transformed space has become a beloved place. By supporting projects like this, the city will gain access to the fundamental knowledge its citizens have about their living environment. Integrated approaches help to achieve sustainable solutions that are accepted by users and planners alike, but they depend as much on the active involvement of the administration as they do on that of the participating citizens.

The planning proposals for Block VI in Vazha-Pshavela integrate existing policies because the 15-minute city concept is already on Tbilisi's planning agenda. This model envisions urban spaces where all essential services, workplaces, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, shops, parks, and recreational areas are accessible within 15 minutes on foot or by bicycle. In this regard, the Georgian capital envisions several superblocks as pilot projects, modeled after Barcelona. Superblocks are urban areas with a strong focus on human well-being. Surrounded by perimeter roads, their street layout prevents through traffic, offering improved quality of life in the urban environment. All current pilot projects are in densely urbanized areas close to the city center. Block VI has the potential to become Tbilisi's first Green Superblock.

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