



RĪGAS DOME



RĪGA | 2014



# URBAN STREAMS

Union of Baltic Cities  
Commission of Urban Planning & Commission of  
Environment

RIGA | September 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>



# Theme of the seminar

Water has always been associated with life. And historically water objects – rivers and lakes – have been essential for emergence and life of the cities. In the early days of human settlements water served as a resource for food and water. With the development of civilization, lakes and rivers became widely used for defence, trade and industry purposes. The water has shaped the way cities look today yet the relationship between the city and the water has always been complicated. Water bodies have been admired for their beauty but at the same time they instil fear for the natural power that they have.

Water has played an important role in Riga's development as well. River Daugava has been key to the city's initial growth and over time it has come to be known as a true national symbol.

However, over the years the riverbanks gradually sunk into oblivion. With the advance of the industry, the waterfronts were increasingly taken over by factories and heavy machinery. To support the growth of the industry, new roads were built and the riverbanks were cut off from the residential areas. Different forms of water transport that used to operate within the city slowly disappeared but the water bodies were still being polluted by the heavy industry and an inadequate sewage infrastructure.

Yet the trends are shifting. Climate change – heavier rainfalls and more frequent floods - have raised the question about the need to adapt to climate change rather than to fight it and have fuelled discussion on how to deal with rain and stormwater in urban environment. This trend is coupled with growing demand for good quality public space, wider and more diverse water body use.

To what extent can the natural watercycle be restored in an urban environment? How to develop urban space along the water bodies? And who are the ones that need to be involved in the planning process?

Questions like these are being asked in many towns and cities. Therefore in this seminar we would like to address all these aspects of city-water relationship and let you find the answers to questions by working on specific territories in Riga.

During three days of seminar you will have a chance to live with the water. Welcome!

# The speakers



**Robin Crompton**



**Hannamaria Yliruusi**

M. Sc. in Environmental Management and Policy, Project Manager at UBC Commission on Environment dealing with development projects that concern water quality and water management.



**Anita Zariņa**

Dr. Geogr., Lecturer at University of Latvia, Faculty of Geography and Earth sciences, researcher at the landscape of history, landscape planning and cultural geography



**Agrita Briede**

Dr. Geogr., Professor at University of Latvia, Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences



**Ilze Rukšāne**

M.in Spatial Planning, landscape architect, urbanist at apdALPS



**Jurijs Kondratenko**

BSc in Economics and Business, M. Sc. in International Environmental Science, project manager (economics and sustainability) at urban planning consultancy "Grupa93"



**Māra Liepa – Zemeša**

Dr. Arch., Territorial planner at Riga city Council City Development Department



**Lauma Līdaka**

M. Arch., Territorial planner at Riga city Council City Development Department

# Program

## Sunday, 14th September

**Location:** Kīpsala

**18:30** Get together – Welcome to Riga

## Monday, 15th September

**Location:** Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture & Urban Planning

**8:00** Registration

**8:30** Opening

**8:45** Riga story

**9:30** The new planning documents of Riga – opportunities and challenges

**10:00** Climate change in Riga

**10:45** Coffee break

**11:00** Introduction to project territory

**11:30** Lecture “Storm Water Management in River and Urban Areas”

**12:30** Lunch

**13:30** Lecture about waterfront regeneration examples

**14:30** Guided tour in workshop areas

**17:00** Free time

**18:00** Guided tour and dinner – renovation of historical quarter and promenade “Spīķeri”

**-22:00**

## Tuesday, 16th September

**Location:** Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture & Urban Planning

**8:30** Lecture “European Landscape convention - approach for Riga”

**9:30** Workshop (coffee break included)

**12:00** Lunch

**13:00** Common UBC questions

**14:00** Examples from different cities (pecha kucha):

1. “Reanimation and Remediation of Sarkandaugava River”

2. “(D)Rain For Life – Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems”

3. “Race For the Baltic – Supporting Modern Sustainable Development in Cities”

4. ...

**15:00** Workshop continues (coffee break included)

**17:00** Free time

**18:00** Guided tour and dinner in Old Riga (by bus from/back to hotel)

**-22:00**

## Wednesday, 17th September

**Location:** Riga Technical University, Faculty of Architecture & Urban Planning

**8:00** Workshop – final touch

**9:00** Group presentations (open for public)

**11:00** Conclusion and summary

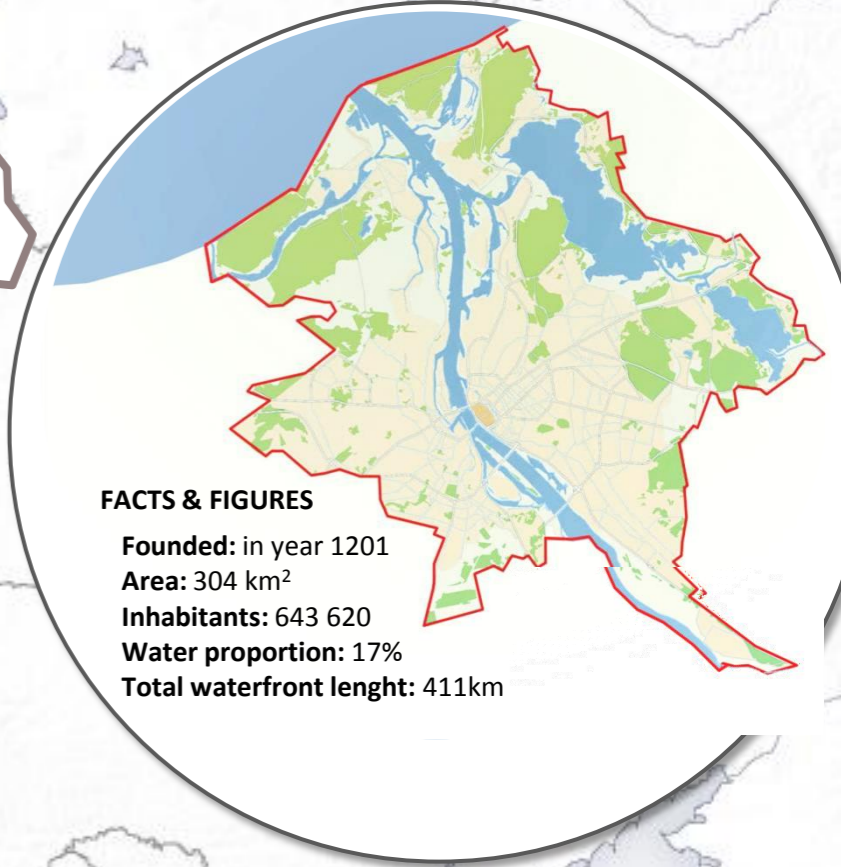
**12:00** Lunch

**13:00** Planning session of the UBC Sustainability Action Programme 2016 – 2021

**-17:00** (coffee break included)

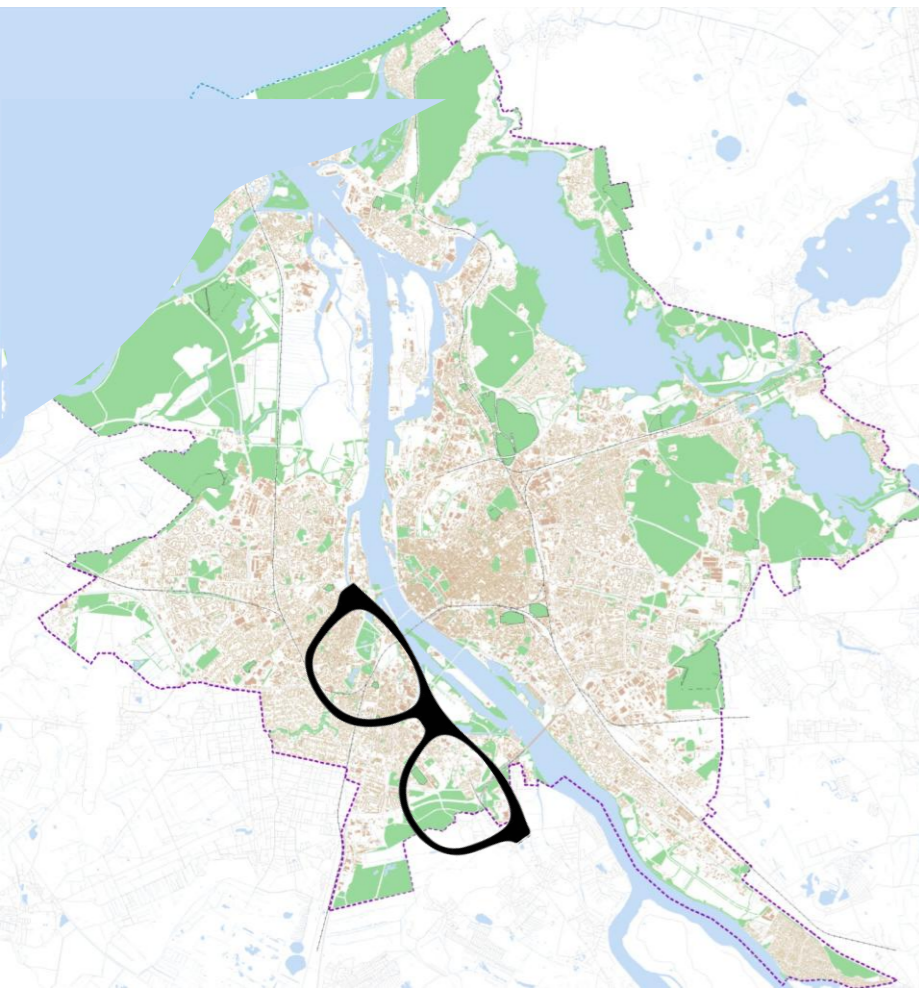
# About Riga

THE CITY OF OPPORTUNITIES





# Workshop territories



## DIFFERENT SCALES – DIFFERENT CHALLENGES

With the previous UBC seminar in mind, this year we have selected the same three territories that were analysed last time in order to ensure planning continuity.

All three territories have played an important role throughout the city's history and are centrally located. Zunda and Kileveina Channels are located on the left bank the River Daugava while the islands can be found right opposite the city centre and the most historical part of Riga – The Old Town.

These territories have evolved over time as a result of the changing flow of the River Daugava that in turn has been affected by natural processes and human activity. Water is definitely one of the defining features when one is to consider the development opportunities for these chosen locations.

Each of the selected territories offers a different challenge due to its size, location or historical background so feel free to choose the one that suits you the best.

## MEDIUM

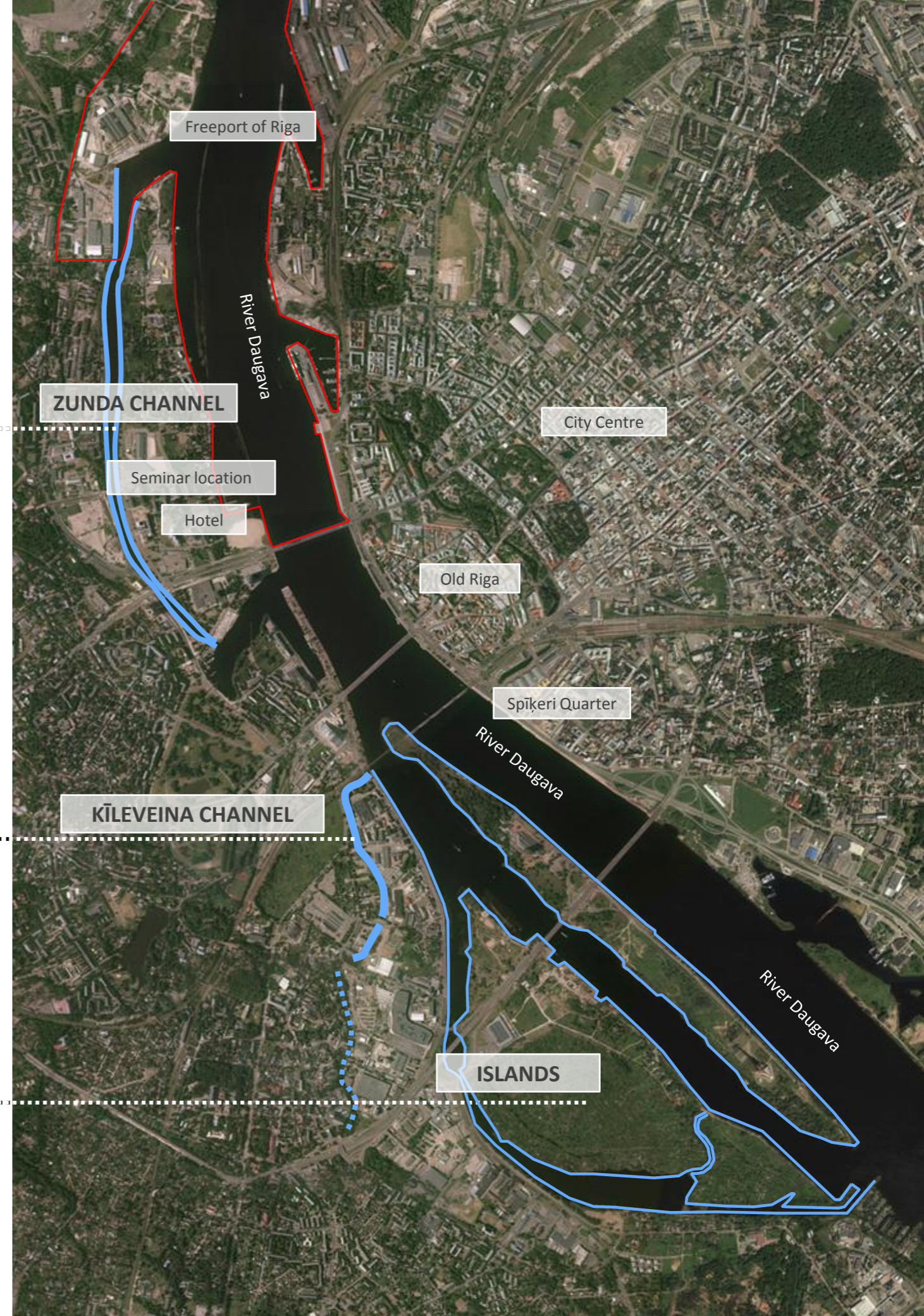
*Reveal the diversity of this waterfront, think about access and functionality...*

## SMALL

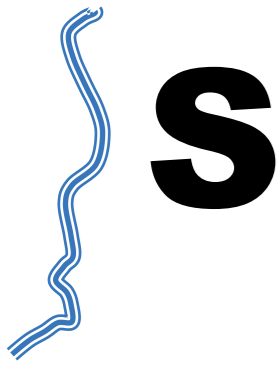
*Small is beautiful but it must be discovered, polished and allowed to shine. Think about design and details.*

## LARGE

*There is nothing more complicated than designing a greenfield site. Think strategically and wisely, give your advice!*







## KĪLEVEINA CHANNEL

Kileveina Channel runs parallel to Biekengravis and flows into the River Daugava right next to the Railway Bridge. This channel collects surface and rain water from neighbouring territories that since Soviet times has served industrial purposes and is therefore heavily polluted and overgrown. Despite its current condition, it has a real potential to become an appealing recreational spot as territories around it are changing.

Former industrial areas are now slowly turning into office clusters. On the left bank of channel the building process of new campus for University of Latvia has started, on the Northern part this year has been finished the building of National Library of Latvia. For people who work, live and in future will study in the area Kileveina channel can serve as a place where to stop and rest for a moment in daily run. In addition, it can also be turned into a unique example of a sustainable rain water management system.







## ZUNDA CHANNEL

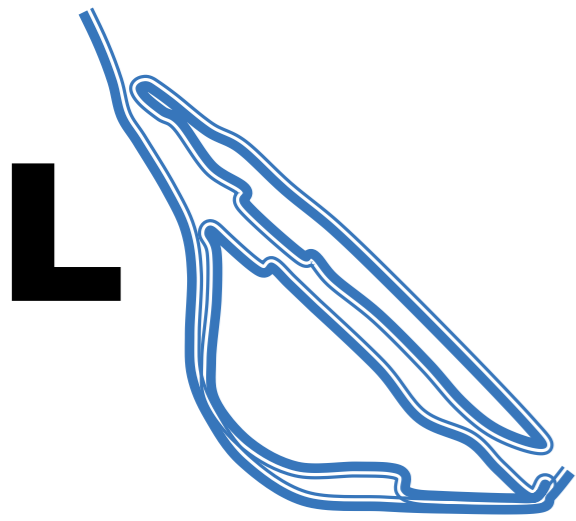
Zunda Channel is one of the River Daugava's branching rivers that separates the island Kipsala from a major part of Riga called Pardaugava. In the old days Zunda used to be a wharf perfect for barges due to its sheltered location and slow river flow. The islanders were known to be fisherman, seamen, pilots, ferryman and other tradesmen whose occupation relied on the vicinity of the River Daugava and the Baltic Sea.

Today Zunda Channel gives a fascinating insight into the different times that it has seen. There are old fisherman huts next to abandoned factories, a small university community opposite a large supermarket, an impressive expo hall right across from vacant land waiting to be developed etc. Furthermore, the Southern tip of Kipsala has been cut off from the rest the island by the Vansu Bridge and is gradually being turned into a high rise district.

All in all, there is a lot of contrast between the "new" and the "old" architecture on the banks of Zunda Channel where luxurious houses rub shoulders with derelict wooden huts and neglected plots of land. But what pains Riga the most is that over the years this valuable channel has sunk into oblivion and its potential to offer a unique public space has not been achieved.





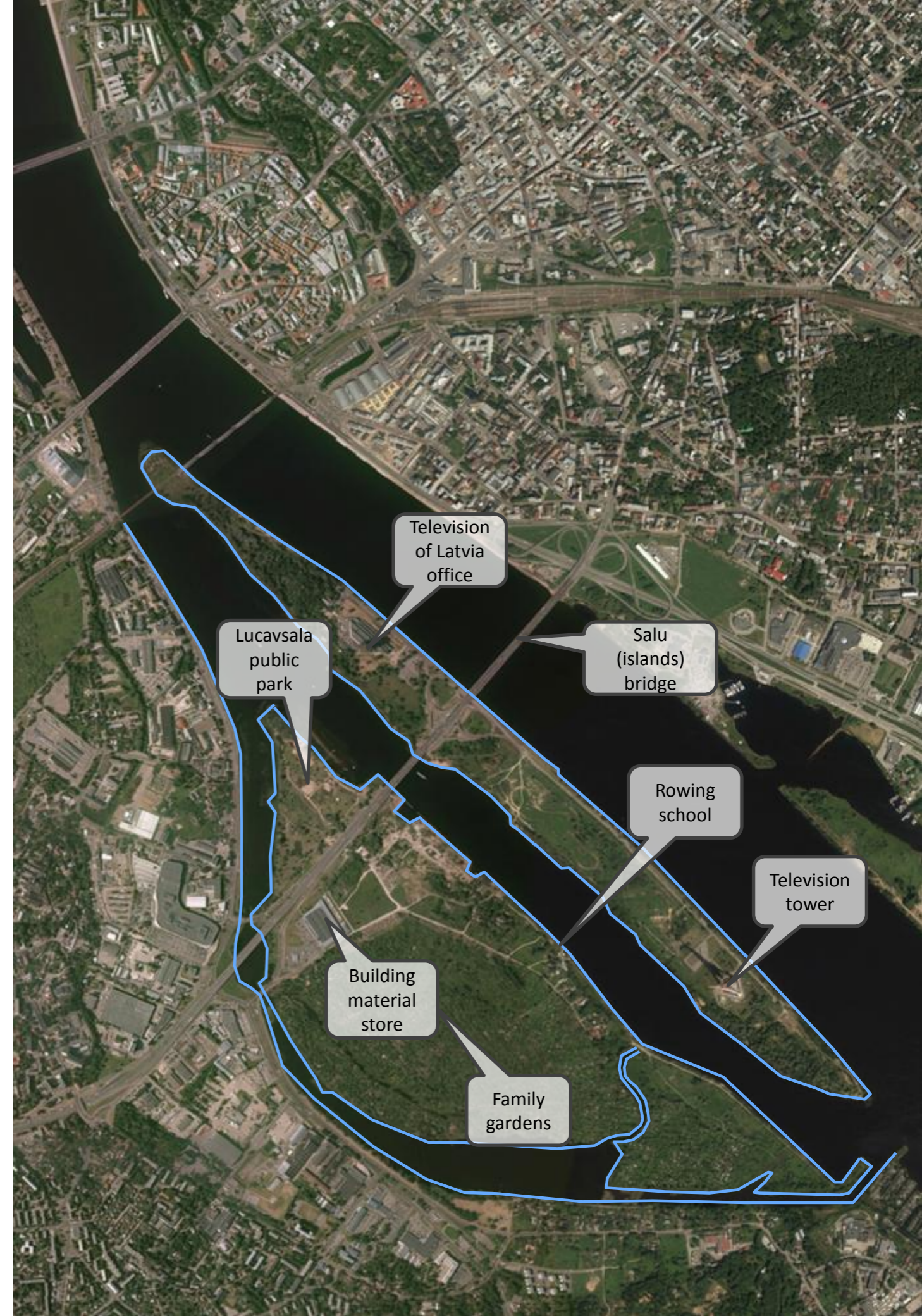


## ISLANDS

“A fairy tale right in the heart of Riga...” Those were the words of one of the most beloved Latvian poet upon discovering the island Lucavsala.

The city islands have remained relatively intact despite the rapid urban development on the both sides of the River Daugava. Largely this has been due to their inaccessibility, lack of infrastructure and complicated geomorphological conditions. That in turn has resulted in a somewhat peculiar landscape – the island Lucavsala is covered in urban allotments while the island Zakusala hosts various television buildings, its roads are popular with people who are learning to drive and the forested area is sometimes used for military training. Due to their limited functionality, the islands have not been used by many people which is why they have been able to preserve that very special and unspoilt charm.

Lately, however, the islands have started to experience some change. There is a new public park on the island Lucavsala and a spacious promenade facing it on the right side of the River Daugava. Furthermore, the city is planning to build another promenade on the left bank of the River Daugava that will offer a better access to the island from both sides. Ultimately the island Lucavsala will be connected to other recreational zones allowing for a wider and more varied use of the island.





# Practical information

## If you have any questions, please contact us:

**Lauma Līdaka** | Territorial planner – lauma.lidaka@riga.lv / +371 67105471

**Māra Liepa-Zemeša** | Territorial planner – mara.liepa@riga.lv / +371 67012926

**Elīna Pētersone** | Society involvement expert – elina.petersone@riga.lv / +371 67105956

## Seminar location

The seminar will be held in Riga Technical university Faculty of Architecture and Urban planning

Āzenes iela 18, Riga, LV-1048



## Hotel

The participants are responsible for booking their own accommodation during the seminar.

We suggest to stay at Islande Hotel, as it is located really close to seminar premises.

### Islande hotel Riga

Kipsalas street 20,

Riga, LV-1048

<http://www.islandehotel.lv/>



**Important:** To make the reservation contact the hotel directly by e-mail to [reservation@islandehotel.lv](mailto:reservation@islandehotel.lv) or call + 371 67 608 026, + 371 67 608 027.

To receive a reduced price, room reservations should be made until 14<sup>th</sup> of August.

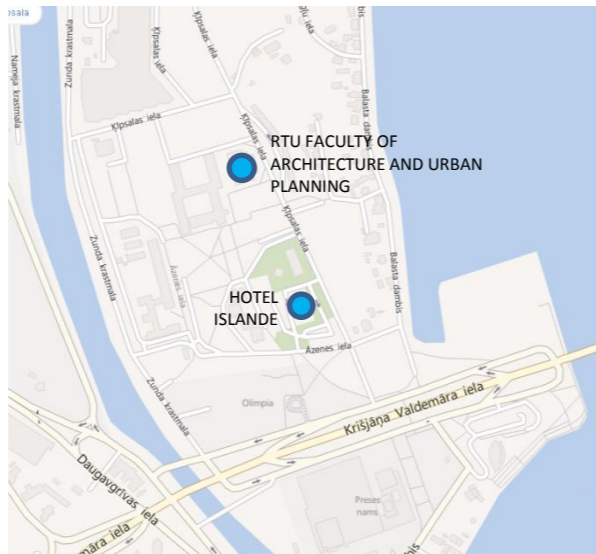
Password for UBC guests: *Union of Baltic Cities Commission on Urban Planning* seminar.

Prices at the hotel:

Single room: 45 EUR/per night

Double room: 50 EUR/per night

Breakfast, free wi-fi and parking included.



## Transportation to Riga

### By AIR

Stockholm - Riga 14.09. 2014.

10:05- 12:20

15:10-17:25

Warsaw – Riga 14.09.2014.

06:10 - 08:35

Amsterdam – Riga 14.09.2014.

11:20 - 14:35

Aarhus – Riga 14.09.2014.

10:50 - 15:10

Turku – Riga

07:25 - 08:30

Ticket info: <http://www.airbaltic.com/en/index>

### By FERRY

Stockholm- Riga 13.09.2014.

17:00- 11:00

### By BUS

Tallinn – Riga

Valga- Riga

Gdansk - Riga

Ticket info: <https://ticket.luxexpress.eu/>

### More info about travel to Riga

<http://www.liveriga.com/en>

## Transportation in Riga from Airport

**Taxi** - The taxi can be found outside departure terminals. Use red or green ones. The price to the Old Town and the Center should be no more than 10 – 15 EUR. The journey takes up to 20 - 40 minutes depending on traffic.

- Red Cab (red ones) if you can't find any free one in front of the Airport, call 8383.
- Airbaltic Taxi (green ones) if you can't find any free one in front of the Airport, call 8500.

**Airbaltic minibus "Airport express" shuttle** - Buses depart every 30 minutes. The bus serves the route between Riga Airport and Riga city center with following stops: Riga Airport - Hotel ABC (Zolitudes str.) - **Islande Hotel (Kipsalas str.)** - Maritim Park Hotel Riga (Slokas str.) e.t.c.

The price for a ride is EUR 5. Payments are accepted in cash only. More information - <https://www.airbaltic.com/to-from-riga-airport>

**Islande hotel offer** – Islande hotel transfer (up to 8 persons) – 17.50 EUR/per drive

## Climate

The weather is typically mild at the beginning of September. Temperature is around 13-15 C°. You must be prepared for sudden rain so grab both – sunglasses and an umbrella. Please take shoes and clothing that are suitable, especially for Monday when the tours to the workshop territories will take place.

## Registration

Registration can be made through: <https://www.webpolsurveys.com/S/A64FE984FDE497AE.par>

Registration is open until 14<sup>th</sup> of August.