



## Ultima Frontiera - The Ultimate Border - Die äusserste Grenze

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### Design Studio/Kleines Entwerfen im Donaudelta WS 2019/20, Course 260.577 in Cooperation UAUIM - Kooperation with Ion Mincu Universität Bukarest

„Ultima Frontiera“ (ultimate border) is the name of an eco-tourism hotel in Periprava village, C. A. Rosetti municipality and Tulcea county at the very end of the Danube Delta and is situated just next to the Ukrainian border in the Danube Delta. The complex of Ultima Frontiera covers an area of 10,000 ha and is not openly accessible. After the breakdown of the communist system, the complex was bought by a foreigner. A grim history inherits the place. During the 1950ies and 60ies the place where we find today a comparatively elevated tourism was a work camp for political prisoners. The prisoners had to dig canals and to prepare the infrastructure for an economic development. The conditions were brutal and harsh and several thousand political prisoners lost their life in the Romanian work camps. A few survivors of the National Association of Former Political Prisoners are still alive and can tell their stories and on the fate of their miserable colleagues that were killed and who never returned from the Danube Delta. We plan to commemorate these people by establishing memorials at different spots in the landscape and unify these memorials in a prisoner memorial trail.

Tourists coming to stay in the hotel seldom have in depth knowledge on the history of their place. This should change in the future by exposing tourists and visitors to a chain of locations with prisoner histories. Similar to a bird watching tour these sights should become visible. Participating students should help to exemplify on how personal histories of prisoners could be expressed in the surrounding landscape and use the ruins of barracks or other reminders to design artworks, small constructions or simple memorials inspired by nature to commemorate the history. In parallel students from the University of Architecture and Urbanism Ion Mincu will contribute to this venture. Students are expected to produce design concepts or research reports on par-

ticular aspects of the overall theme or prepare a concept to unify the individual elements to an ensemble.

Beside the National Romanian Association of Political Prisoners, several stakeholders and supporters like the representatives of the local communities and in particular the resident minorities of Russians (Lipovans) and Ukrainians (Hohols), the owners of the current tourist complex Ultima Frontiera, will be invited to actively participate. The mayors and political representatives of the concerned municipalities and county, representatives of the Danube Delta Biosphere Administration, scientific institutes like the Danube Delta National Institute, Danube Delta tourism association, international representatives of the Danube Region Strategy (EUSDR) and representatives of the working groups, the Working Community of the Danube Countries (ARGE Donauländer) including governments of Lower Austria and Vienna will be invited to contribute to the program as resource persons.

Interested students of TU Wien are invited to write a one page „expression of interest“ and send it to [meinhard.breiling@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:meinhard.breiling@tuwien.ac.at) at the earliest convenience. Up to 15 students from TU Wien will get the possibility to join the course. You will receive a confirmation e-mail. The estimated costs to participate in the study tour are € 650.- (or perhaps less, depending on sponsorship available and individual arrangements). This amount should cover: flight to Bukarest, transport to Tulcea in the Danube Delta, transfer by boat to Periprava and local accomodation in C. A. Rosetti Municipality.

A deposit of € 50.- should be paid to the bankaccount:  
Dr. Meinhard Breiling,  
IBAN: AT 671200030325738400, BIC: BKAUATWW



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## Course Schedule:

Sept. 19th, 2019 12:00 to 12:05,	Short Presentation of course to students of Faculty of Architecture and Planning at TU Wien, HS 17 TU Wien
Oct. 3rd, 2019	Last Day to write a motivation letter if places are still available!
Oct. 4th, 2019	At 14:00: Informal meeting with regard to travel arrangements at Landscape, Erzherzog Johann Platz 1/3, A-1040 Wien
Oct. 8th, 2019	Kick-off at TU Wien (with members of ARGE Donauländer and others), Karlsplatz 13, Entrance 7, 4th floor, Projektraum Städtebau E260, 14:00 bis 17:00
Oct. 9th to 10th!	Travel to Romania for Study Tour
ACCOMODATION NOT ORGANIZED!	The accomodation until Oct. 11th has to be booked individually!
Oct. 10th, 2019	Trip to Bukarest and Tulcea, individual arrangements, by plane, train and bus.
Oct. 11th, 2019	Morning: 9:00-10:30, Visit to Danube Delta "DANUBE DELTA" NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, Dr. Iulian Nichersu, 165 Babadag street, Tulcea 820112, Romania <a href="http://ddni.ro/wps/contact_en/">http://ddni.ro/wps/contact_en/</a> 10:45-12:15, Visit to Danube Delta Biosphere Administration Meeting at Str. PORTULUI Nr. 34A, Tulcea, Romania 820243 <a href="http://www.ddbra.ro/en/">http://www.ddbra.ro/en/</a>
Oct. 11th, 2019	Afternoon: 13:00 Transfer Tulcea to Periprava; Boat trip!
ACCOMODATION ORGANIZED!	The accomodation from Oct. 11th to Oct. 15th in C.A.Rosetti Municipality will be organized. Accomodation until Oct. 11th or from Oct. 15th has to be booked individually
Oct. 12th, 2019	Field trip Periprava, location studies, discussion with owners of hotel
Oct. 13th, 2019	Field trip Danube Delta, Letea, Sfistofca
Oct. 14th, 2019	Discussions with mayor in C. A. Rosetti and stakeholders, presentation of ad hoc ideas, sketches
Oct. 15th, 2019	Transfer Periprava to Bucharest
ACCOMODATION NOT ORGANIZED!	The accomodation from Oct. 15th until Oct. 16th or Oct. 17th has to be booked individually!
Oct. 16th, 17th, 2019	Transfer to Austria and/or Visit to Ion Mincu University and Bucharest Old Town.
Nov. 15th, 2019	Intermediate Presentation on designs and concepts; comments, M. Breiling and resource persons, TU Wien
Dec. 13th, 2019	Final designs and concepts; comments M. Breiling and resource persons, TU Wien
Jan. 10th, 2020	Latest delivery of course output!
Jan. 15th, 2020	Zeugnis/Certificate based on final delivery

**Outstanding Works will be published in: Academic Journal & Research Center for Vernacular Architecture  
Public presentations!**

April, 2020	Public Presentation at 27th Conference of the Danube Region Countries in Tulln, Apr. 21st to 22nd, 2020
June, 2020	Ninth Public Participation Forum of Danube Region Strategy, Zagreb