

The background image shows a dark, industrial-style interior. The ceiling is made of concrete beams with some visible wiring. On the left, there are two large windows with multiple panes. The right wall is made of concrete and has significant peeling paint. A doorway is visible on the right side.

ČAU RIGA



PREFACE

“Čau Riga” is the output of an exploration trip done by Institut for (X) who was invited by Free Riga to check out Riga with focus on Sarkandaugava.

Free Riga is project partners in Danish Cultural Institutes, Urban Cultural Planning project. The project is lasting the next 2 years and the one of the main objectives is to investigate how cultural planning can be used as a method for social innovation

Institut for (X) has since its foundation in 2009 been a laboratory for bottom-up, hands-on urban development initiated by citizens of Aarhus.

Institut for (X) is a project born out of Bureau Detours - A group that operate on various platforms in a mix of art, design, architecture and cityplanning.

This Booklet is an attempt to showcase our process of understanding the neighborhood of Sarkandaugava, which is a part of Riga, the capital of Latvia.

URBAN CULTURAL PLANNING

“Over the past two decades cultural planning has been developed as a proven method for citizen-driven urban social innovation.

The key challenge for public authorities in applying cultural planning is that new skills need to go beyond forms of classical (and often more passive) citizen participation.

Active co-creation of collaboration between citizens themselves and between citizens and authorities is needed.”

Reading Guide

The content of the booklet is divided into three chapters, where the chapters are chronologically reflecting our process and discoveries during the time spent in Riga.

Chapter One is showing some of the relevant methods and philosophies from home; all of which are developed through the experiences and works of Bureau Detours and the long term programming of Institut for (X).

Chapter Two is our discoveries and so far understanding of Sarkandaugava, Riga. We tried to understand by using the Puppy Attitude approach and the method of Befriending People. By doing this, chances are to get an honest non-distorted perspective of the neighborhood and the city. Simply by observing and listening to stories from the ones with the Boots on the Ground.

Chapter Three is an example of a Project Ping Pong Process, which is looking into possible futures and different agendas; ours, our new partners, local neighbors and new friends we have met along the way.

We hope the booklet will function as an easy communication form in this Ping Pong Process. The next question is: where will the Pings land? We are curious to see what comes back our way..

Happy Reading!

**ENJOY
THE
PROCESS**

YO RESIDENCY

What

Easy acces to friendly Spaces n' Places

Based on

Experience from the works of Bureau Detours
and the long term programming of Institut for X

Where we have regular visits from the World
And visit the World

Often (most) in a very informal way

Goals

Say Yo!

Become acquaintances or better friends
Through friendship become able of doing stuff together
Driver is natural desire and personal motivation
Exchange knowledge through doing
Through knowledge create a better local Splace

How

Have an easy local opportunity for accommodation
Have someone from the splace to be the SPOC

Guidelines

Short visits works fine
Works better if there is a small connection before

A residence programme almost like the others







SWISS CHEESE MODEL

Philosophy

Closed off areas can be reopened easy to the public by cutting holes in the fence
Like the holes in a swiss cheese

Places of Use

All areas of city that could be more trans-walkable
Old factories fenced off
Industriel old water fronts with walls

Experience Design

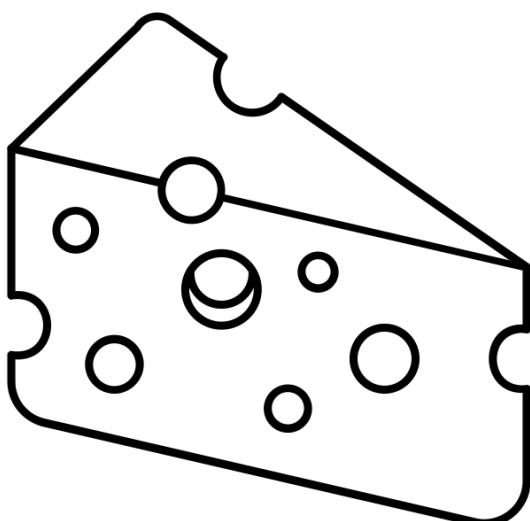
Bureau Detours swiss cheesed the area
And thereby made new routes in the city
Opening up for ideas of use and development
made the area around Institute of X

Tools

Angel grinder
Bolt cutter

Communication

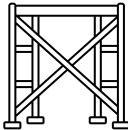
Sometimes don't tell anyone you are cutting the fence
Just do it



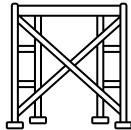








SCAFFOLDING



The Philosophical Term

Origins from a philosophy in the teaching and pedagogy world
Design frameworks for students, where they can learn themselves
Don't teach book - teach how to learn

The Term By Bureau Detours / X

Setting up projects by this method means that a part of the planning
is to take emerging co-creation into account at all times
Keep the plan flexible and yet on track

How To: Building Projects

Work-stations must be set up to easy navigate and keep tidy
Plans must be changeable towards sudden ideas
1-2 persons only do scaffolding - this can shift during a day/days
1-2 persons design and redesign, by doing so the project keeps in line

How To: Office

Everyone understand their tasks
Someone is the boss
Decisions are made fast so the crew can keep momentum
The boss has to be almost not needed
Self decisions - All should be able to take decision without
referring to boss at all times

Boss must leave once in a while - where no Q/A is possible
Boss decision can be called anytime

Power Diagram

Flat structure with a small peek

What not to

Understand the term into 'everything is open'
There is always a plan





SWALLOWS NAIL HOUSE

What

Basically the term covers the in-build possibility for basic needs
(electricity, water and sewer)
And a roof over the head

What : Swallows Nail

The more philosophical approach to the term
is the story of the swallows nest
When swallows (and other birds) build their nest,
they need the first attachment point
The nail in the barn is the most simple form of these
It only takes one old rusty nail to start a nest

Effect / Long Term Impact

The Good Neighbourhood Liveability for Citizens Creative Space

Non-linear Timeline

Find building
Research nail capability
Contact owner and friendly take over
Understand future use
Fix basic needs yourself or with owner
Use the House for Good Stuff

Skills Needed

Office: Communication on building and bureaucracy
Office 2 : Make organisation with the people
Architecture : Drawings and co-drawings
Crafts-Men : Electrician + Plummer

Why

Make space in the city for 'The Good Stuff'

The Good Stuff

Start up
Creative living
Cultural events

What not to do

Lazy model
Instead: Do it properly



RER ROOFTOP





THE AREA OF SARKANDAUGAVA

When entering this area, we first needed to acclimate from Aarhus and immerse into the spaces and places of Sarkandaugava, a hood which is filled with desire paths in between wilderness and birch trees shooting out of the buildings

By foot we zigzagged through the blocks and made sure we had enough time to relax, observe details and actually feel the ground of this post-industrial territory and still quite green neighborhood.

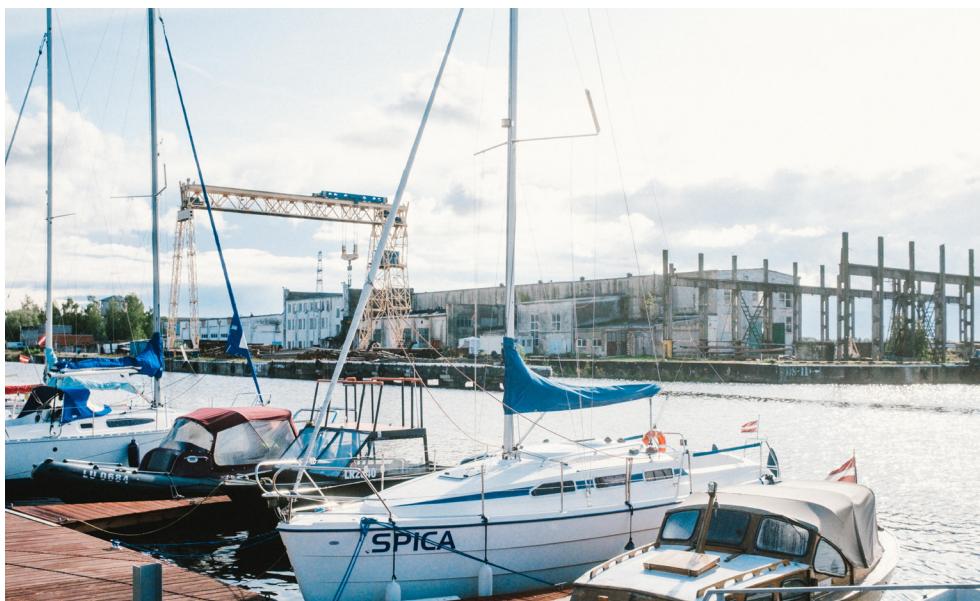
It was necessary to put this energy into it, so we could be open to what it was telling us. Our mission was to understand how Sarkandaugava differs from any other neighborhoods of Riga, what values it inhabits and what potential it carries.

While walking for hours a lot of questions came to mind; Where is the traffic flow? Who uses the river? How do people live? What is produced here? Is it people from Sarkandaugava that works in the factory? How has the history of the area affected the culture of today? Are all these Empty Spaces actually empty? Where do people hang out? Can you arrange a space easily?

At the end of a walk we knocked on the door to a house with a massive mural, a pink and orange artwork, simply because it looked interesting. The house turns out to be P8SH. One of the buildings a Free Riga members has managed to bring into live.

Aina; an artist and resident at the Free Riga space, Tallinas Iela Kvar-tals, turned out to be living there. Her and another member of the artist collective, Lidijs offered us a cruise in Lidijs's Alfa Romeo 166 with sexy red leather seats. For half a day they were showing us their favourite local spots of Sarkandaugava, thus experiencing the urban investigation together, creating relations.

We noticed how this post-soviet neighbourhood is transforming a modern city, but not at the speed of the more central part of Riga. This means that it is still providing space for 70's & 80's factories - both active and passive. Most of them along the river, where the Free Port and RER seems to be most present and noisy.



As a result of this Sarkandaugava turns out to be inaccessible in large sections and all its fences and barbed wire creates a feeling of closeness. These large industrial areas also pushed housing to be dense and created a mega busy centre.

One attempt of understanding the potential of the neighborhood was by mapping out chill spots, possible venues, accesses to the river and other stuff we encountered on our way that we personally find amusing and central to the experience of a good neighborhood.

After all this exploring, it was necessary to search for the space where we could make an improvement. The obvious first thought was the river, as it seemed almost unpresent, although running through the neighborhood. How can we polish the forgotten gem and help the local activist who's already been planting sunflowers that absorbs toxins of the water? How can we improve these few access points to the water with the resources available?

NICE URBAN GREEN POCKET



RER



SARKANDAUGAVA MAP

Take a glimpse on the right side and you will find our very first impression of the area, *Basic Understanding*.

This is the simple stuff you can find on Google Maps
(water, roads, train tracks, green areas, etc)

We used this data to get a perspective
of the daily life and perhaps even some answers
to why people act like they do in the neighborhood.

On the following next two pages, there will be two titles

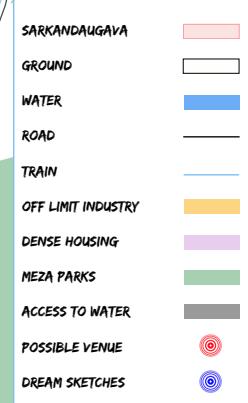
First title is Exploration:
Things we noticed on our walks
where we experienced things "tourist-like"
And walked via the guide of intuition.

All the post industrial Soviet style factories and surroundings were inaccessible for us. This is mapped as *Off Limits Industry*.

A large area of Sarkandaugava is imprinted by the communistic way of creating cheap housing, that could fit many people.
This is mapped as *Dense Housing*.

Second title is Usage:
This map points at some of the spots where we,
or local heroes could do something. That something is e.g Pop Up Office or a Noisy Electronic Jam Session, Clothing Remix.. all things we did in the former shop (HQ) in the mainstreet during our stay..

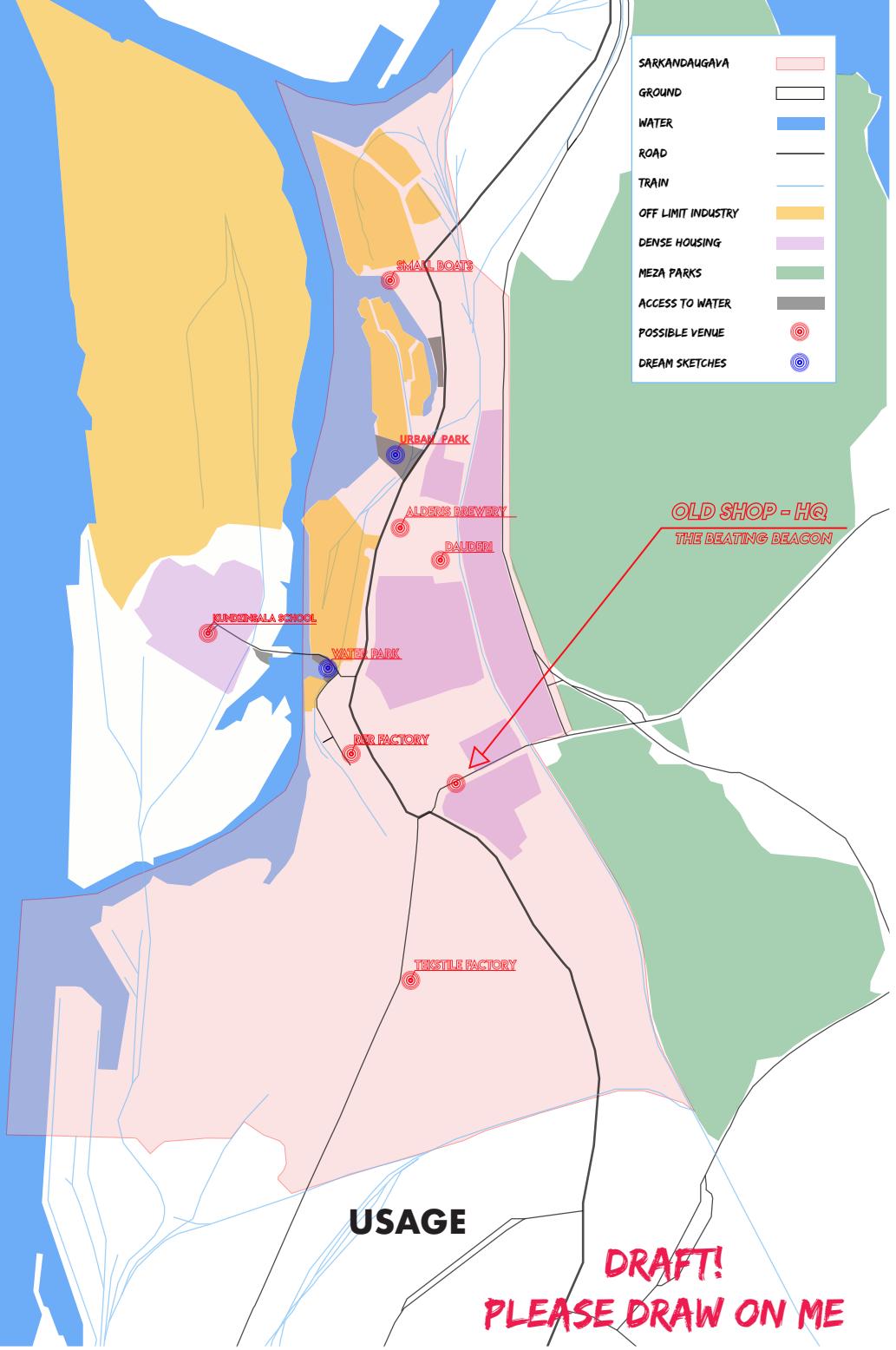
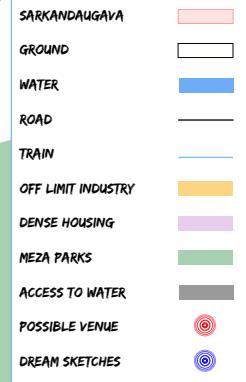
At the map, you will find Dream Sketches, which is a possible future.
It would be nice to upgrade the existing usage near The Water.



BASIC UNDERSTANDING

SARKANDUGAVA	
GROUND	
WATER	
ROAD	
TRAIN	
OFF LIMIT INDUSTRY	
DENSE HOUSING	
MEZA PARKS	
ACCESS TO WATER	
POSSIBLE VENUE	
DREAM SKETCHES	

EXPLORATION







AGENDA X RIGA

Free Riga Crew

Kaspars

Social interventions
Nail House (open new cultural place)
Build friendships
Learn and share The Knowledge

Jonas

Cultural planning itself
Sarkandaugava to succeed
Ground breaking change
Evidence for culture as settlement
Experience: Godsbanen + AAK as Creative lead

Free Riga (UCP)

Organize activities
Invite artists
Connect with local stakeholders
Stronger Connection with Riga City Council
Create connections with outside world
Build capacity, learn for further projects

Danish Culture Institute / Emils

Port dialogue eg. new passenger line
Riga to succeed as City
Showcase good projects
Cultural Operators / Creative Living
Art Academy / meaningful careers / studios

Institut For X

Vivian

Artist studio X
YO Residency both ends
Projects cross polination
Free Electron Impacts
The Bubble Plan

Johan

Tell story about Sarkandaugava
and help making it better
Booklet / Maps / Photos
The Riga Folder
YO Residency

Mads Peter

Easy acces in an easy way
Swallows Nail House
Develop Ambassade X / Riga X
Projects

Institut for X

Network
Find hidden Gems
Best Practice
Europe Works

Kundzinsala

Arnolds + Dzintra

Develop a living neighbourhood
Revitalise the cultural life
Activate the Kundzinsala School
Inform the World about the Islands history
Create stories and invite others in
Collaborate with entrepreneurs

Riga City

Test cultural planning methods and learn
Data about processes in Riga and Sarkandaugava
Contacts with other Riga City Council institutions
Financial support for UCP realisation
Support activities, eksperiment and trust
Spread the word about activities here
Appreciate activities, understand its importance and popularise it

Janis, Māra

Take part in Local events
Help with advice
Visit neighbourhood and spent time here
Meet people, cooperate and build personal contacts

Sarkandaugava Gang

Alija, Maija, Jazebs

Contacts of stakeholders
Find leaders to curate initiatives/helikopter view
Real action using own knowledge and skills
Educational project for children / youth / grown-ups
Care for surroundings / better living / nicer areas

"My very personal interest is Tilta Street,
because I live here on this street"



HUMAN RUBBER

What : Philosophy

When you land in new territory / port
Needed is a soft and somehow friendly landing
Like the rubber wheels on the docks take the impact of
ships, so shall places by presenting prober humans

Experience

When Institut for X and Bureau Detours landed in Riga,
we where met by the sweetest of Human Rubbers

Free Riga : Kaspars + Jonas
TIK : Uldis + Armand + Edd
KKC : Kaspars + Davis + Liene

Question to ask oneself when receiving

Who is Human Rubber? What is the Rubber?

Gain

External colleagues
Friendship Efficiency

What not to

Underestimate the power of Human Rubber





PUPPY ATTITUDE

What

Attitude of a person
Who genuinely likes to sniff around
new People and Splices
with a Happy-Go-Lucky attitude

When to Puppy Attitude

When Entering closed territory
When metting neighbours
When discovering new Splices

How to Puppy

Puppy Attitude is a natural Art
and can not be faked
although one can learn
to sharpen ones senses..

What not to

Be stupid



POSSIBLE 2020+ RIGA PROJECTS

Houses / Platforms

KKC / The attic + Cross event +
TIK / Uldis hall +
Tech Uni RTU / Nail
RER / Mapping

Places

Kometa / Build + Stage + Event +
Hospital / Nail House
Kiosk at TIK / Civilize it
Uldis at TIK / Help and make love
Bridge to KundinZala / 'The Water Park'

Existing Social Structure

Free Riga : Jonas + Kaspars +
KKC crew : Davis + Kaspar + Lene
Yo Residency : Lord Focus + Uldis + Sandis



TU JAU ZINI KUR



JULATER TOURS

Road Trip

Start : Aarhus

End : Riga

What

Pitstops : UCP Locations

TEH Members & New Cultural Hotspots

Possible Future : Projects, People,
Funding & Swallows Nailhouse

Berlin

UFA Fabrik, Holtz Markt, RaumLabor&Spree

Gdansk

Where is the Cultural Hotspots?

Who are the People?

Vilnius

Where is the Cultural Hotspots?

Who are the People?

Riga

Kometa, Tallinas Iela Kvarters,
Kanapes Kultural Center, Free Riga & friends

When

Juli aka JULATER

Late Summer 2020

Vibe

Work Holliday

Julater Tours "Yo Style"

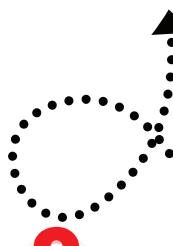
Aarhus
Institut for (X)



Kiel
Berlin
UFAFabrik
Holtz Markt
RaumLabor
Spree



Daugavgrīvas
Kometa Festival



Vilnius



Kalingrad



Gdansk



Riga
Kanapes Kultural Center
Tallinas Iela Kvarter
Free Riga

the packing list Riga 2020

- Molton (Ulars)
- Free Furniture
- Tools (Complete kit)
- ~~This is X~~ /Stickers
- Rolling table/PJ station/ Instant Office
- Fresh blood (Feen?)
- ~~██████████~~ Sound System ?
- Yo Residency booklet
- Vinyl Station
- A Secret Agenda ?
- Something stolen from the road trip
- Sun Cover/Rain Cover

FIRST DRAFT

THE PACKING LIST

Julater Tours

- A Car
- This is X Books
- 2000 X Stickers
- Tools (Complete Kit)
- DJ Station
- "Cau" Booklet
- Awnings
- Vinyl Station

PLEASE ADD THINGS TO ME

SECOND DRAFT

IMPRESSIONS OF SARKANDAUGAVA

IFX + LOCAL JEDIS

- Tons of areas & buildings with cultural & historical value
- Unique architecture
- The River Daugava
- The tram
- Near Mežaparks
- Active Inhabitants
- Strong Local organizations
- Post industrial territories
- Room for development

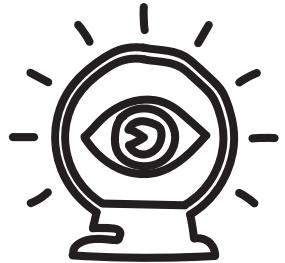
- Physical borders
- Extensively used industrial territories
- 800 m of heavy transit on main street
- Only few places to access the River
- "Railway obstacle! Obstacle?"
- Pollution (River and RER)
- Bilingual community: hard to communicate
- Segregated soviet proletarian housing area
- Sense of passivity / ordinary Local People
- Lack of Places to rest in the City
- Lack of modern Public space (indoor)
- In general; Lack of Third Spaces





POSSIBLE FUTURES

2020 + PROJECTS



Swallows Nail House:

- Possible Venues
- Embassy X
- Spread The Word

Culture & events:

- Yo-recidency
- Riga artistic network/already existing social structures

Bureau Detours Design Tools & Experiments (old + new)

Urban Architect Pro- gramme: Dream Sketches for Spaces and Places

Who:
Free Riga + Riga City + RTU
BDK + BD + IFX
Local Partners + owners

- Waterpark Front Park (bridge to Kundzinzala)
- Bridge passage to the water (Mangali)

- Map already existing Activity in RER
- Create Open Source list / people with access to buildings

Transitision of Town:

*How to go from old to new without Super-Gentrification?
Is Positive Gentrification possible?*

Thanks to all The Human Rubber we met on our way.
Neighbors of Sarkandaugava, Tallinas Ielas Kvartāls,
The Danish Cultural Institute, helpful people in Riga City
Council and last but not least Free Riga for inviting us
and supporting throughout our stay in Riga.

Čau! Till we meet again...



Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN
REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
FUND

**FREE
RIGA**

INSTITUT FOR

**BUREAU
DETOURS**

U C Urb
Cultural
Planning

