

CAMPUS Asia Summer School

WS Participant Report

Olbia Workshop Edition

Gaku Oike, 1st Year Master's Student, Kyushu University

Online Workshop

Dates: July 21–24, 2025 (Lectures), July 28 & 31, 2025 (Critiques)

Location: Online

On-site Workshop

Dates: September 1–5, 2025 (Workshop)

September 6, 2025 (Sardinia Tour)

Location: Olbia, Sardinia

Theme

Environmental Project for the Gulf City of Olbia

Participating Universities

Kyushu University, Oita University (Japan), Tongji University (China)

Pusan National University (Korea), TU Wien (Austria)

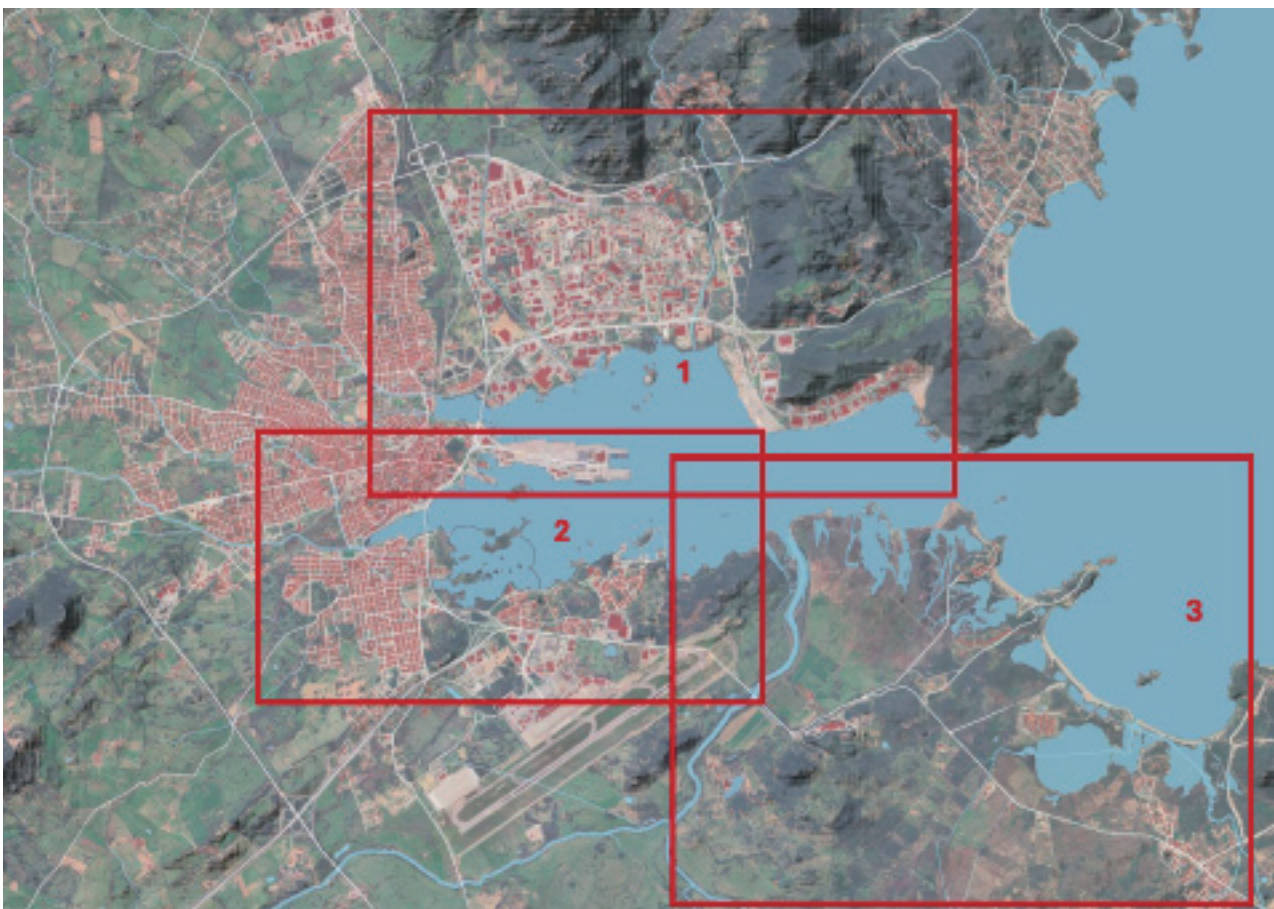
University of Sassari, University of Palermo (Italy)

○ Workshop Overview

The theme of this workshop was “Environmental Project for the Gulf City of Olbia.” The fundamental philosophy of this program is that architecture and urban planning are inseparable. Therefore, the focus was not merely on constructing buildings, but on adopting a “Territorial Approach” (a broad, regional perspective) to decipher the natural environment and historical background of the land. The main objective was to encourage a shift toward a sustainable city while considering environmental issues and the fragility of the ecosystem in Olbia’s inner gulf. Ultimately, we were required to propose specific, new projects that would contribute to the development of the “Gulf Contract,” Olbia City’s strategic plan.

Target Sites

- 1, Inner Gulf North Bank: Integration of industrial areas and the city.
- 2, Inner Gulf South Bank: Connection of urban public spaces.
- 3, Padrongianus River: Urban/Environmental river and Delta Park.



○ Site 3 Overview

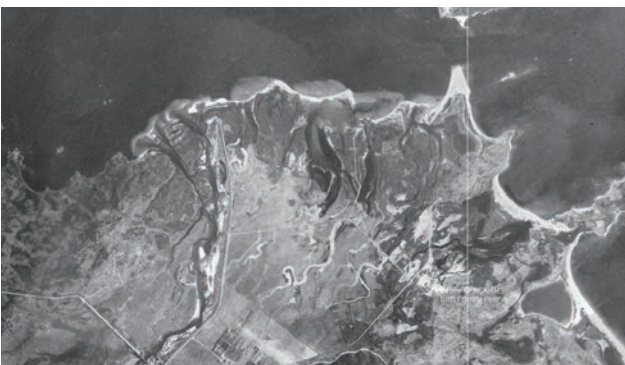


Our assignment was Site 3: Padrongianus River Urban/Environmental River and Delta Park. Although this area is the center of a rich ecosystem, it has been underutilized for a long time. The aim of the plan for this site is to regenerate and revitalize the River Park and the Sa Corroncedda district as part of the national “River Contracts” program. Specifically, the realization of the following three points was required:

1:Environmental Regeneration and Improved Access: To regenerate the area as a river park where citizens can enjoy the rich natural environment by developing promenades and routes for canoeing and cycling, and creating recreation areas.

2:Social Inclusion: The goal is not only to restore the environment but also to create stable employment through environmental conservation activities. We aimed to transform this historically marginalized district into an important place for the local community and achieve social integration.

3:Connecting City and Nature: To strengthen the connection between the urban area on the south bank and the Padrongianus River Park, physically and functionally reconnecting the divided city and nature.



Aerial photograph of the wetland area in 1940



Aerial photograph of the wetland area in 2013

Day 1 (9/1): Welcome Speech & Site Visit



The workshop kicked off with greetings from the Mayor of Olbia and professors from each university. During the lectures, we heard from local experts, gaining information that we could not obtain during the online workshop.

Lecture prior to the site visit



In the afternoon, all participants toured the respective sites. As expected of a port city, I had the impression that every site had a strong relationship with the sea. On the other hand, the relationship between land and sea felt different at each site. I was excited to see how the differences between the three areas would manifest in the proposals.

Scenes from the site visit: A city close to the sea

2日目 (9/2) WS Discussion



Based on the site survey from the first day, we determined the direction of our proposal. Through sketches and feedback from professors, we discovered new perspectives and leaps in our ideas. The proposal went beyond the architectural scale, approaching the realm of civil engineering. It was a fulfilling session with points raised from fields outside our expertise, such as hydraulics.

Feedback from professors and experts

Day 3 (9/3): WS & Site Visit 2



Second site survey with University of Sassari students and Professor Aitani

We went on a second site survey with students from the University of Sassari and Professor Aitani. The Sassari students planned to film the site with a drone, so I tagged along. We were able to visit places we couldn't reach on the first day, and I realized anew the richness of the wetlands. We then began our design work in earnest for the presentation two days later.



Drone photography by Professor Aitani: Expansive rich wetlands at Site 3

Day 4 (9/4): WS Work



Refining the proposal for the final presentation

We worked almost through the night to refine our proposal for the final presentation. We deliberated on how to convey the concept and what kind of architecture would be suitable to protect this wetland environment. We divided the work, leveraging the different specialties of our team members.

Day 5 (9/5): Final Presentation



Presentation scene



Comments from the professors

Presentation Title: Minimal Intervention for Unchanged Nature and Landscape

We considered what should be built to protect nature from illegal development without altering the natural environment. We sought to create “Weak Architecture” rather than large, strong architecture—something akin to Japan’s Nagare-bashi (flow bridge). We had been working on this idea since the online workshop in July. In the on-site workshop, we utilized the rich wetland environment we experienced firsthand and proposed distributing towers, boardwalks, and other structures throughout the site to protect this environment. I believe we were able to offer a proposal from a perspective different from that of students from other universities.

• Proposal Overview

While Olbia developed as a port and industrial city, its coastline continues to change shape due to wave erosion. To protect this delta zone with its rich ecosystem and pass it on to the future, we proposed “Weak Architecture” that nestles close to the environment, rather than “Strong Architecture” that dominates nature.

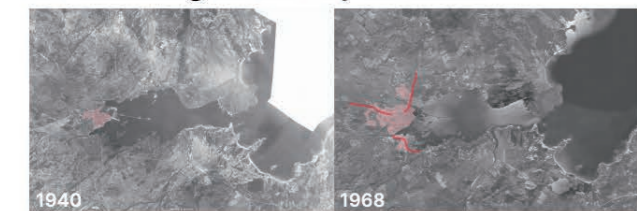
The core of this plan is infrastructure that adapts flexibly to environmental changes.

The Symbolic Observation Tower: Features a multi-layered structure that promotes natural ventilation (chimney effect). Floating Boardwalk: A walkway in the wetlands that responds to changes in tide levels. Undersea Tunnel: A sequence that leads visitors from the tower, through the wetlands, and into the sea.

These structures serve as breakwaters to curb excessive development. By allowing people to approach wetlands they normally cannot enter, we provide new learning opportunities. We aimed for architecture that protects the beautiful ecosystem by its very existence. By changing in accordance with the environment, the architecture maintains the natural form that should be protected. We proposed architecture as a catalyst for regenerating and maintaining the ecosystem.

00 Analysis

The founding of the city of Olivia.

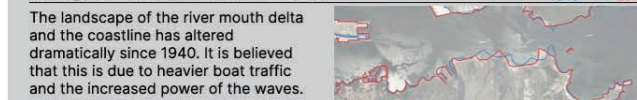


1940 A small harbor town
1968 The town developed along three main roads, centered around the old town.



1998 The city has grown quickly with the establishment of the port and airport.
2019 There is an industrial area in the north.

Changes in the coastline near Site 3.



The landscape of the river mouth delta and the coastline has altered dramatically since 1940. It is believed that this is due to heavier boat traffic and the increased power of the waves.

01 Back Ground

Abundant nature and its problems.

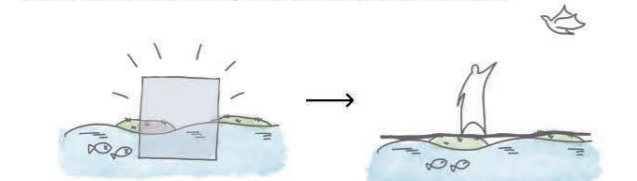
Site 3 is located on a river delta and is home to a rich natural environment. It has become a spot visited by rare water birds. However, it is far from the city, so access is poor. Furthermore, the coastline is changing its shape due to wave erosion.



02 Concept

Minimal architecture in harmony with nature.

Creating "Strong architecture" leads to the destruction of nature. The alternative is to pursue "Weak architecture" aiming for a coexistence with the natural world. What is the ideal state of being that allows for symbiosis with nature?



03 Proposal

Minimal Intervention for Unchanged Nature

In this area, people are carrying out illegal development to live closer to the natural environment. We must ask: How can we engage with the wetlands while also preserving them?

The solution may be "to build something to protect the environment so that it can remain unchanged."

- 1. Pulling the town's defining roads into the wetlands.
- 2. Creating a boardwalk to experience and preserve the wetlands.



- 3. Creating activities by harnessing the rich natural environment.



Minimal Intervention for Unchanged Nature and Landscape



Summer School Workshop 2025

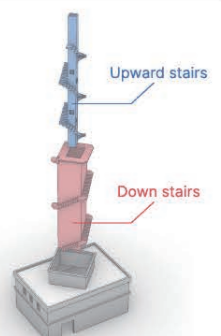
Kyushu University

Misa Nakasuji, Gaku Oike, Yusaku Ito

05 Diagram

Tower

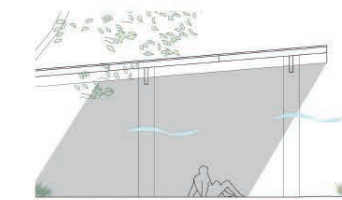
The tower's upper section is constructed in multiple layers. Arranged concentrically, these are the descending route, the ascending route, and a central lightwell that illuminates the base. This upper portion is deliberately enclosed to eliminate exterior views. To counteract the darkness, a void is carved through the center. This also creates a chimney effect, which produces a pleasant airflow and ensures a comfortable interior environment.



Walking base

At the heart of the site is a shelter that serves as both a hub and a resting place, defined simply by a roof and the shade of a large, central tree. From this point, visitors can embark on various activities, and to this point, they can return for a moment of rest.

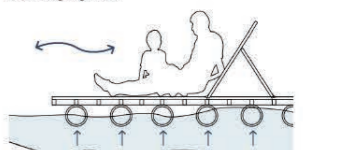
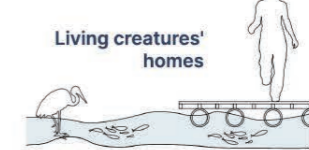
Meteorological analysis of the site showed that blocking direct sunlight in the summer would create a comfortable environment. Therefore, it was designed as a semi-outdoor space for creating shade, where one can leisurely engage with the surrounding nature.



Boardwalk

This boardwalk floats on the water's surface, enabling it to respond fluidly to the evolving form of the wetlands as the years pass.

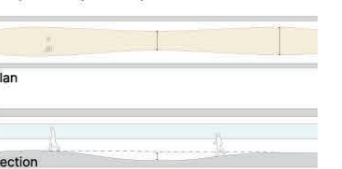
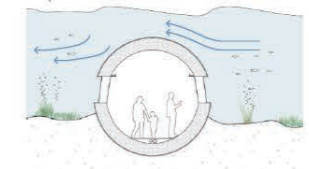
Conceived as a "weak architecture" instead of a "strong architecture," its design is both sensitive to the natural environment and capable of adapting to a changing era.



Undersea tunnel

The form of the tunnel is designed to avoid impeding water currents. Its circular cross-section was chosen to create a shape with low fluid resistance.

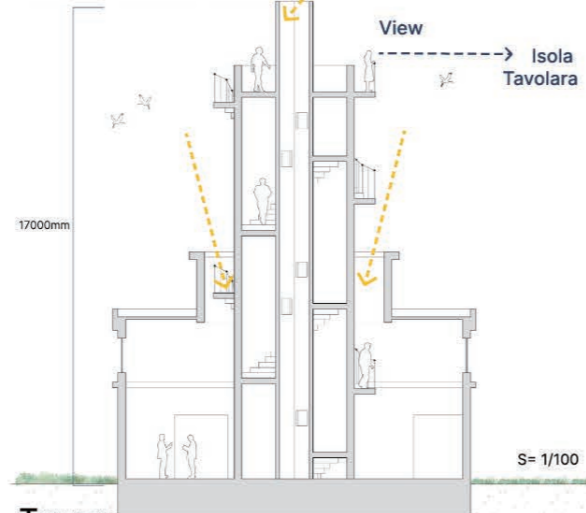
Furthermore, the floor plane is a gentle slope. This gradual incline and decline alters the perceived width of the path. The vertical shift also changes one's point of view, resulting in a varied and dynamic spatial experience.



04 Design

1: Arrival & Lookout

Arrive and climb the tower for an overview.

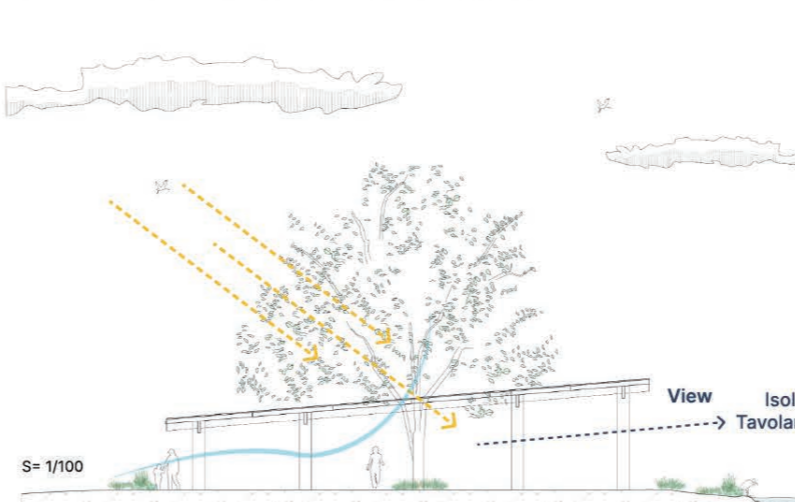


Tower

The tower possesses a design that stands in deliberate contrast to the nearby lighthouse. It is the first place visitors ascend. Its base is oriented to face the road, while its upper portion establishes an axis with the Basilica di San Simeone and Isola Tavolara. The journey upwards is enclosed, concealing the exterior view until the summit. There, visitors are met with an expansive panorama of nature that suddenly unfolds before them. They descend with a sustained sense of excitement, having confirmed the next stage of their adventure.

2: Break & Connection

A short rest before connecting to the next activity in the shade of a large tree.

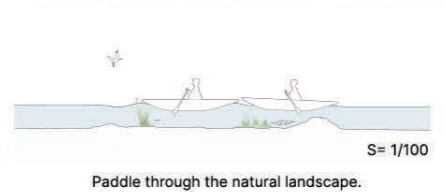


Walking base

Built at a key junction of the walking paths, this base acts as a hub. From here, visitors can branch out to enjoy local food, observe the wetlands, or explore the Undersea tunnel. It also serves as a resting spot before the next stage of the adventure, offering a place to pause in the shade of a large tree and feel the breeze. The roof shares the same axis as the tower, oriented towards Isola Tavolara. It's a space for a short respite, offering views of the island in the distance and the wetlands in the foreground.

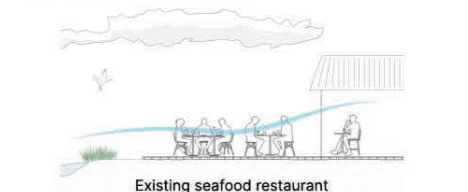
3: Nature Immersion: Canoe Exploration

Canoeing has been introduced as a new wetland activity.



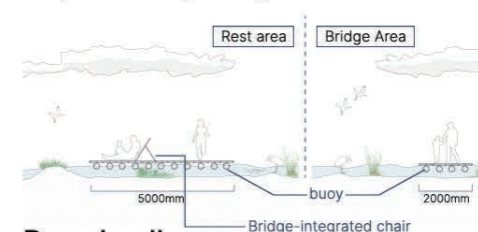
4: The Joy of Food: Fresh Fish and Shellfish

Enjoy fresh-off-the-boat seafood.



5: Nature Immersion: Wetland Observation

Experience nature by observing the wetlands.

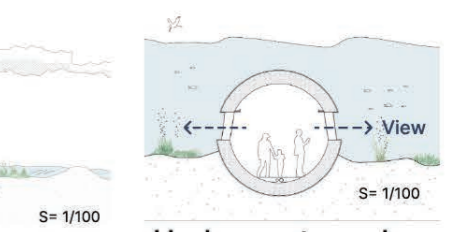


Boardwalk

The boardwalk is designed for an intimate observation of the wetlands, while also guiding visitors to their next activity. Underneath, it provides shade, creating a new habitat for wildlife in the marsh. The installation of this boardwalk is a definitive step to prevent any more development, ensuring the beautiful wetlands are preserved long into the future.

6: Nature Immersion: Into the Sea

Experience nature by heading into the water.



Undersea tunnel

This tunnel offers a view into the underwater world, which is otherwise impossible to see. It also provides a look at the artificial reef built to protect the beach from wave erosion.

Extra Report: Sardinia Trip (8/30)



Foresteria Monastero San Pietro di Sorres



Archaeological site in Sardinia: Nuraghe



Chiesa della SS. Trinità di Saccargia

On the day we arrived in Sardinia, two students and the professors went to see the architecture of the island.

First, we visited a monastery called Foresteria Monastero San Pietro di Sorres. A local wedding was taking place there. While we were eating lunch, we witnessed the wedding convoy driving through the town honking their horns. The atmosphere was different from Japanese weddings, which was very interesting.

We also saw Nuraghe, ruins of the giant stone civilization of Sardinia dating back to prehistoric times. I was surprised to learn that double-dome structures existed from this era.

Finally, we visited Chiesa della SS. Trinità di Saccargia. This church is a representative example of Romanesque architecture in Sardinia. It was a very rare style that even Professor Hori had never seen, featuring a transept (crossing) but no side aisles. I was captivated by the facade, which used alternating black and white stones. This was my top architectural pick of the two-week Italy workshop.

Extra Report: Bus Trip to Central Sardinia (9/6)



Group photo in front of the murals in Orgosolo

On the final day, the University of Sassari organized a bus trip to the center of Sardinia. Here, too, we visited ruins. For lunch, we had local cuisine such as roasted pig and pasta at a ranch. The last place we visited was Orgosolo, a town famous for its murals. Pictures were painted on walls everywhere in the town, and it was fun to walk around looking for different murals.

Extra Report: Personal Interest - Chimneys

While looking at the townscapes in Italy, I was surprised to see that every house had a chimney. As I took photos of them, I discovered many different types, so I wanted to report on them. It was great to see so many chimneys, which are rarely seen in Japan.

