



West Traffic Island, ED*

At the intersection of Corneliu Coposu Bvd and Mircea Vodă Bvd, two islands divert the traffic flow and mark the starting point of Calea Călărașilor. The left traffic island, or the West Traffic Island, for geographical accuracy, is surrounded by three pedestrian crossings, offering pedestrians a temporary refuge that allows them to safely cross the intersection in three directions, depending on their route.

In August 2022, roadworks and district beautification turned the intersection into a construction site. The bitumen covering the traffic island was removed and a thick layer of sand replaced it overnight. An inviting beach resurfaced on the island, visible from all the sidewalks that surrounded her, a manufactured breach of faith in the linear urban fabric.

Urged by the excavators that guarded its imminent dissipation, I returned in the company of my two friends, prepared to rejoice over a moment at the beach, to signal an illusory outpost of leisure. The island was paved a couple of days later; the sand layer was marking the second stage of the paving process.

The action arose spontaneously during a walk around the Moșilor-Mântuleasa area.

Photos: Chronological timeline of the island between 2009-2023, using Google Street View archive & personal archives of the author and of participants Maria Năstase & Wilfred Tomescu.

E.D. – Existence Doubtful, is an International Hydrographic Organisation abbreviation used to indicate the possible, but unconfirmed existence of a rock, a wreck etc. in territorial and international waters.