

# Textile as shelter.

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**Introduction-** During the visit to the city of Lezha, we got to know an interesting city that carried important cultural and territorial values. In our days this has led to social and economic cities reflected in the new territorial extension. During the acquaintance with the city, some general problems were identified, which are reflected in the facades of the buildings and in the way of using the common areas. Almost the entire area had a chaotic development. My proposal is related to intervention through textile materials. These interventions will help to regenerate the appearance of the city. During the visit to the Lezha town hall, where we had a meeting with the mayor of the city of Lezhe, he introduced us to the city's development plan. Acknowledging that Lezha has had a development in the last 10 years in terms of urban areas, the mayor stopped proposing new constructions in the city because an increase in the number of residents was expected. But during the visit to the city and during the comments that were made in the hall, the presentation of the project opened a debate between the listeners and the presenters of the program. Since a very large number of high-rise buildings still had unused residential houses, it was proposed that perhaps it would be better to create a maintenance plan for the city rather than an increase in unrestricted construction. This part of the conversation became the impetus for the initial ideas on textile facades. This was one of the first thoughts I had, to create a new view of the existing city. Then, by dividing the work into groups,

it was decided to analyze three different points of the city, which had different typologies. At this moment, the analysis of each area began, and, based on the needs, it was designed to place a tent or intervene in the textile facade.

The purpose of these facades or roofs is to unify the areas. Creating a more identifying image of the city! In this study, we will delve into these studies and the development of the city's typologies, in time and space.

Lezha is a developing city that does not have well-organized public centers.

In the documents of the years 1945-1990, where we have the documentation of the transformation of the city based on the regulatory plan of the city, which brought it with common buildings of 4-5 floors. These areas which were spent at that time were also supported by the urban plan of these writings. In the constructions after the 90s, every part of the city was built based on expropriations and individual economic needs, which led to the construction of a city without a well-organized urban plan. This development brought problems for the new city that was being built. Every area of the city has a chaotic appearance as far as the first approach to it is concerned. In certain areas, we have overlapping buildings that belong to different times. For this reason, there was a need for an aesthetic homogenization, focused on the facades, accompanied by functional improvements related to climatic problems. Another connection with the reflection of light and heat in us is the research of a group of students (Elena Garcia-Nevado, Antoine



Fig.1/ Textile Shelter . Source/ The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts

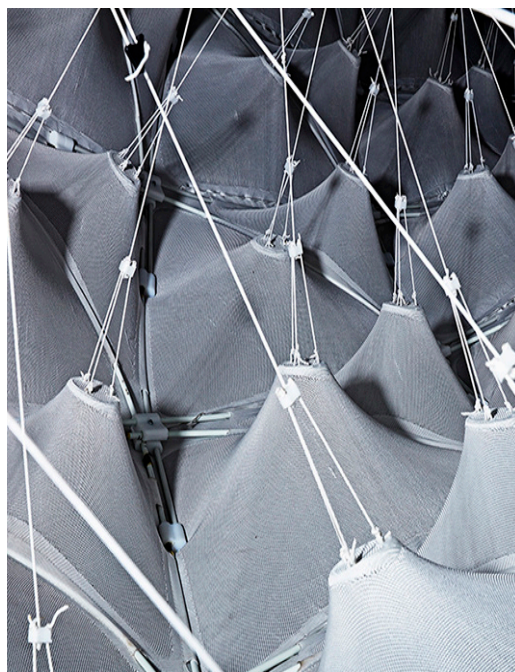


Fig.2/ Textile Shelter . Source/ The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts

Bugeat, Eduardo Fernandez, Benoit Beckers) who have conducted a study on a terrain similar to that of the temperature change on the asphalt using textile tents. According to the results, temperatures fall by 10 degrees C with the use of textile tents. During the study of the areas, we have chosen to analyse more closely three areas with certain characteristics in the district of Lezha. First, historical descriptions of the areas were made, in order to see more closely their development over the years. The studies start from the maps of each area, in three specific periods: studies of the maps of the areas they belonged to, the pre-communist period, the study of the maps of the communist period, and the one of the maps after the communist period. After the study of the predetermined territories based on the different typologies that they represented through maps, the areas were selected by looking at the dwellings not only in spatial view but also in height. In this way, the contrasts of transformations from each period until today have been analyzed more clearly. All three of these times analyzed have their own typologies that characterize the area. In the pre-communist period, the buildings were detached vernacular type, with the corresponding courtyard. Which were mainly inhabited by one family. Afterwards, the buildings that were erected respecting the urban plan drawn up were mainly of the block type, inhabited by several families. The plans for the construction of these apartments were accompanied by a reorganization of the infrastructural aspects of the area. While the typical

buildings that were built after communism were those of the tower type and these were inhabited by groups of families. Or informal constructions inhabited by one family mainly not with connected yards, building additions, adaptation of volumes, etc. Divisions of areas describing the respective typologies. sources from google maps, ASIG If we look through the construction of maps referring to different periods of time, in the areas studied, the diversity of buildings and their overlapping is very evident. In some cases we have an increase in the number of apartments and in some cases we have superimposition of additions to the existing floor plans. Through the documentation of the photos taken in each of the analyzed areas, various problems have been identified. These problems are related to the general aesthetic image that the city offers. If many cities developed in Albania after the 90s have problems with the overlap of buildings and the occupation of common spaces. In the last decades in architecture, we have an increase in the use of textile facades in many contemporary buildings. The textile facades can be used as covers for the buildings in its conception. They are also a very efficient way to be used as an adaptation on existing buildings. This is to make possible a unification between the informal buildings that have been added to the city. Textile facades with various technological developments have achieved performance capabilities that can compete with many static materials and at the same time have a very good durability performance. Some positive properties of textile facades



Fig. 3 / Plan of intervention with textile shelter, area 1, Lezhe Author Source

are: low cost, adaptation to different sizes, direct impact on protection from UV radiation, protection of the facade from wind or rain. Studying the city of Lezhe closely, we found that it has a diverse climate where the sun is present for most of the year and is also accompanied by strong winds and torrential rains. According to these descriptions, it is understood that the intervention in the facade is not only an aesthetic and identifying element for the area, but also a functional one because it will help in the best possible performance of the facades. Interventions with textile elements will be designed only for residential houses, not for public buildings.

**Study-** Area no. 1 is characterized by buildings of the post-communist period which have been erected in the form of multi-storey towers. Near them there are also houses built in this period, but they are of the popular and single-family type. In this area we have the influence of strong natural features such as the river. In this area, the presence of the three typologies mentioned above is noted. Proposal area 1 Since the sides of buildings along the road create a non-uniform structure, not only aesthetically but also from the level of wind movement towards the northwest and southeast. By proposing this textile facade, it can serve not only as an aesthetic balancer, but also as protection from the sun or as protection from strong winds. Factors that characterize the city's climate throughout the year. Façade textile proposes a multitude of dynamic forms for intervention in the facade of the building.

The structures created by this company are assembled in the factory and placed on the surface of the building through tensile structures. Different companies working in the field of facades offer these services in different parts of the world. Façade textile international, based on its many years of experience, offers us a variety of functional examples of intervention on existing facades and the construction of facades ("Home") in contemporary buildings. An example is the Medical Office Building in West Hills which was built in 1964 FTI System: Aero S Architect: Michael W. Folonis Architects Manufacturer: Flex Facades. The challenge was to renovate the facade taking into account the budget constraints and choosing an innovative and sustainable design. Used as solar and thermal protection, the bioclimatic facade strongly contributes to improving the energy balance of buildings by improving the transmission of natural and homogeneous light. Both in renovation and in new construction, the bioclimatic facade is an environmentally responsible method. Used as solar and thermal protection, the bioclimatic facade strongly contributes to the improvement of the energy balance of buildings while enhancing the transmission of natural and homogeneous light. In both renovation and new construction, the bioclimatic facade asserts itself as a responsible and environmentally friendly method.

Area no. 2 is an area which lies on the slope of the hill, near the city's castle. This area had a development in the communist period where various infrastructural plans and housing constructions were added.





Fig. 4 / Plan of intervention with textile shelter, area 2, Lezhe. Author Source



Fig. 5 / Plan of intervention with textile shelter, area 3, Lezhe. Author Source

In the years after communism, this area had a construction development where a variety of constructions belonging to the three times can be observed. In addition to the new post-communist constructions (which in the area are characterized as informal constructions with 1- to 2-story type apartments with 1 family function. Also, the Lezha area is characterized by strong winds and sunlight in a period throughout the year. In it in the same period of time we also have additions to the existing housing, bringing changes in the use of shared urban public spaces in the area and creating an imbalance in the composition of the facades. Another problem of this development is the infrastructural aspect, where overlapping constructions have led to a chaos and in the discharge or passage of sewage and white water. By superimposing the importance of the climatic aspects that characterize the area we can say that there is a need for regeneration strategies. The interventions proposed by me are those through textile materials for architecture, which help in the creation of uniformity of the facades Proposition Area 2 Skenderbeu Since we are in post covid period, they will help the communities by staying in premises outside the residential centers, having a protection through tensioning structures which help to join these facades with each other and create a usable environment in the community, which also has natural ventilation, as it is with open parts on all sides. Area number 3 had a military character. In the post-communist period, this area, as well as areas of the Lezha district, had an increase

in informal housing or various silos. In this area, why is it necessary to regenerate the exterior of the housing or the surrounding walls, I would propose a reorganization of the common areas in certain functional, recreational areas. Adaptation of mobile structures in common spaces by creating centers in certain areas. These interventions in temporary materials or in external structures that I propose (mainly with textile materials) I think would have a positive effect on the areas analyzed. Some examples of these interventions: Interventions with textile materials will be proposed on the facade. In addition to the facade, the interventions will also be reflected in the common areas with the intervention of attractive umbrellas to unite the common spaces between the buildings. Also, these umbrella-shaped interventions cover the front of the objects in moments when there is an overlap of objects. Intervening on the facade will help both in neutralizing the winds and protecting from the sun's radiation. At the same time, it will be a covering part of the facades, balancing the interventions that have been made through additions and overlays.

**Conclusion-** These areas, which have different characteristics, can have a difference from a visual and performance aspect by interfering with the existing facades. The city would create a new image that is contemporary and interactive with its citizens. In this way, not very frequented areas could be turned into attractive areas for its citizens, but also for new residents who can be added to the city over time.