

A new market in the “Historic Center” of Prishtina

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There is nothing greater in Prishtina than walking in the narrow roads of the Old City. You might get lost sometimes, but the enjoyment you get from exploring this part of the city when trying to find the way out, is the most interesting part of the journey.

"God is in the details" said van der Rohe, and he couldn't describe it better. Every wall and every window has its own story to tell, every mosque has its own prayers that have been made through the years and every museum preserves testimonies of the past lives of our ancestors.

Architecture is more than form and esthetics, it manifests a society's image of itself. The language of architecture evokes the past and articulates the present at the same time.

The protection of our cultural heritage is an essential part of protecting our identity. It describes who we are, how we got here and it guides us to the future. Nowadays, with the development of the world, the greatest challenge is protecting the heritage. Our cultural heritage is not just a set of cultural objects or traditions from

the past, it is the result of a selection process. This process happened through the years where every human society decided what is worthy to be preserved and protected for the future generations.

"Old Prishtina" is losing its identity. During the early communism period, the urban development was established under the motto "Destroy the old, build the new". Until the end of the World War II, Prishtina was a typical oriental city. After this period, the Ottoman Bazaar and a large part of the historic center were destroyed to be replaced with "modern" architecture. At this time, the city's small shops, streets, religious and other public buildings were destroyed for the sake of the new.

This area is located in the center of Prishtina and serves as an important connection between some strategic points of the city. The Green Market¹ is one of the most problematic parts in this urban chaos because it is demountable but in poor conditions for pedestrians and cars.

This thesis is focused in the Old City of

¹ / Green Market is called the largest market in Prishtina. It is located in the old part of the town behind the Sultan Fatih mosque and it is a place full of vegetables, odds and ends. The Green Market is a place you can go to buy your vegetables or just to walk around. It is known as one of the best markets in Prishtina.



Fig1 / Existing situation on the Market of Prishtina

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Fig2 / Existing situation on the Green Market of Prishtina

Prishtina, one of the most interesting parts of the city. It is important to acknowledge that Kosova people as a society need to become aware of the values embodied in our cultural heritage. These existing buildings are evidence of the past centuries and it is our obligation to preserve them for the next generations. In this context, this thesis is intended to serve as a call to

awaken and to contribute more in the improvement of this situation.

The Green Market

Theoretical and philosophical analysis of case studies

This study introduces and explains one of the main problems in the urban context in the city of Prishtina. The designed project for this particular



Fig3 / Analysis of the city

part of the city which is located in the "Historic Center" aims to create a new perception for the capital city of Kosova . Moreover, this project has the potential to be a landmark for the city. During the process of designing this project, some case studies are selected based on its urban and architectural characteristics. A research on the plans and philosophies of John Hejduk is made regarding to its Diamond Houses in order to understand better the flexibility he archived and to use it for the new Market in Prishtina. Atelier Bow-Wow; Hanamidor Cultural Center is another project taken as a case study.

The experience you get through walking inside the market is similar in almost every market in Prishtina and other cities of Kosova . The original location of the market is not being used now by traders who instead are invading the streets around and creating chaos in the city.

The concept

The concept derived from the analysis and it embraces the idea of flexibility. The idea of this project is to create a useful space for the community. This space is a multifunctional area with different functions included inside its perimeter which at the same time co-exist with each other. The idea is to create various atmospheres inside the site, to promote social interface, to attract a larger community inside the city, to make more enjoyable the trading process and to give a landmark to the city. The walking lines treated with

different pavements from the main entry of the market lead to the market, which is designed in a way to connect and in the same time to separate the two environments. One line goes behind the structure of the market to a very linear and quiet public space created for the inhabitants around this area and continues with the ramps that guide to the rooftops. The roofs of the market are projected to be mini-squares with various functions; the first one is a garden, the second is an amphitheater, the third is a playground for the children and the last one is a little square. On the other side takes place all the chaos and people fluxes. The inside spaces of these structures are designed in a flexible way, the stalls of the market are transformed into sliding panels which make possible for the traders to create their own spaces. These panels are arranged differently in every fragment of the market so this space can be experienced from people in many ways. Moreover, the market is divided in five fragments:

- Open air market
- The food corner
- Arts and crafts market
- Clothes market
- Food market.

Structure of the market

The fragments of the market are independent from each other and connected at the same time. In terms of constructions, each fragment is an independent structure. All of them are covered spaces with different uses inside and on the top. Each of them is

contoured by its pavement and its cover. Inside these perimeters are the traders sliding stalls. The flexibility is created by these sliding panels and traders can move them along their sliding lines to create the space that they need. There are three typologies of stalls: linear, circular and a combination of both. Stalls inside the market are planned to be made of wood and the covers with steel and concrete. The pavements are also treated with various materials in order to create the feeling of division of the outer spaces so each of them can be experienced differently. The aim of this proposed concept is to understand how people will respond to this new way of thinking, meaning the traditional public market in a historic site. The proposal of implementing a contemporary structure in a muddled environment which is configured as part of a Historic Center demonstrates the importance of architecture and urban design in terms of the city and its citizens. Although it is a contemporary

intervention, the market doesn't interrupt the morphology of the historic center, rather it becomes a part of it by adding more people flows and events on the area.

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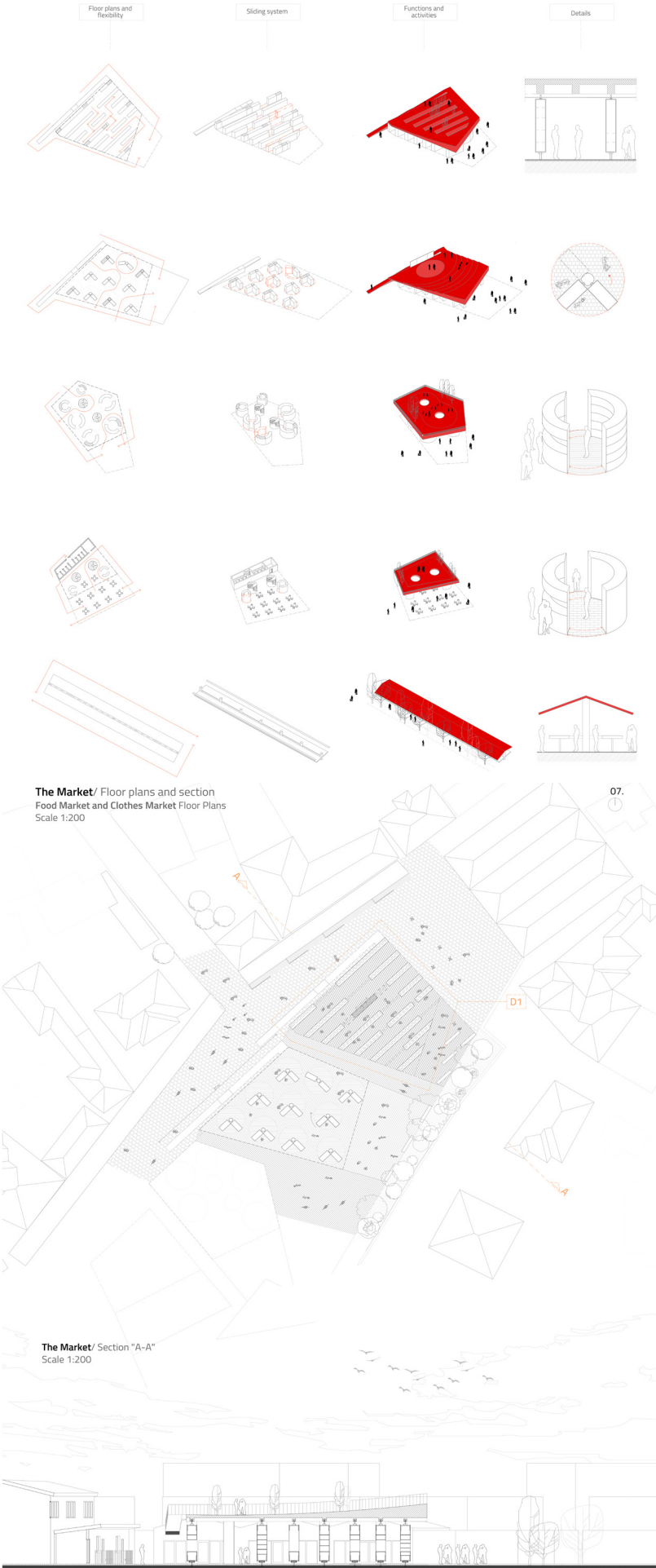
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Fig4 / Prishtina analysis/ City structure. Historic center/ Relations with the city. Scale 1:5000



Fig5 / Source / author



Axonomic view of the Market
Functions and activities

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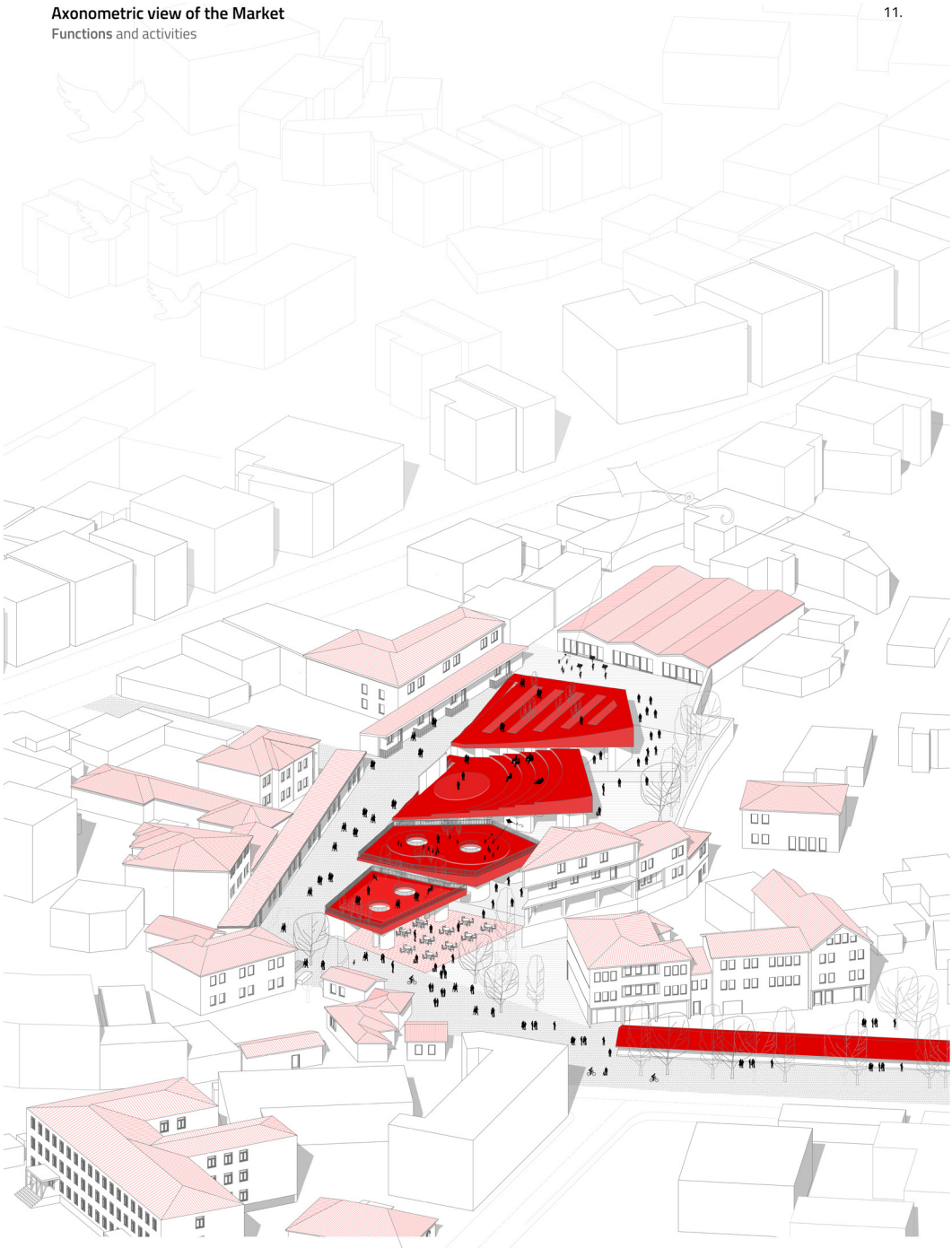


Fig7 / Source / author