

# INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION

## Central City Square of Rahovec

Project Report



**CENTRAL CITY SQUARE**

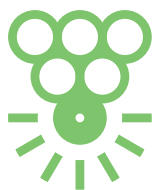
Sheshi Qendror i Qytetit / Centralni Gradski Trg

**RAHOVEC**



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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE





**CENTRAL CITY SQUARE**

Sheshi Qendror i Qytetit / Centralni Gradski Trg

**RAHOVEC**

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)  
Leading Urban Change in Rahovec through revitalisation of the Central  
City Square

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>AKM</b> | Association of Kosovo Municipalities |
| <b>MDP</b> | Municipal Development Plan           |
| <b>MPT</b> | Municipal Planning Team              |
| <b>SDG</b> | Sustainable Development Goals        |

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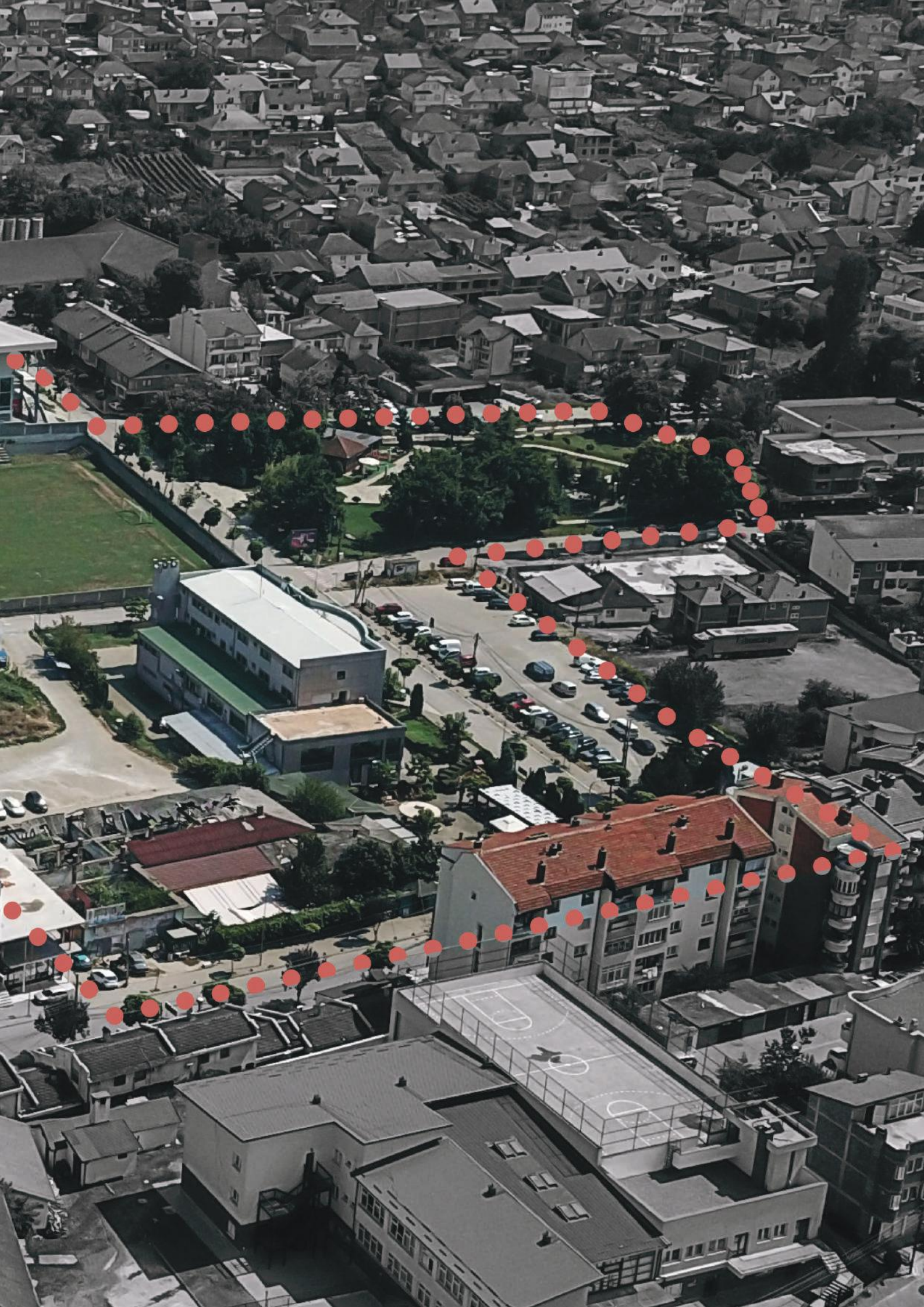
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# INTRODUCTION

Leading Urban Change in Rahovec through revitalisation of the Central City Square is a result of the collaboration between Municipality of Rahovec and UN-Habitat Kosovo Office. It aims to promote urban regeneration and inclusive public space development through inclusive, transparent and innovative planning and design methods. Specially, the project has provided technical support to the International Design Competition process for the Central City Square in Rahovec municipality. The project was financed by the Municipality of Rahovec. The International Design Competition for the Central City Square of Rahovec was organized by Municipality of Rahovec with technical support of UN-Habitat.

**Municipality of Rahovec** is located in the western region of the country, covering an area of 275.89 km<sup>2</sup> and based on the last census of 2011, the municipality has a population of 56, 208 inhabitants.

Municipality of Rahovec is one of the very few municipalities in Kosovo that does not have a proper public space network, nor does it have a central city square. The city is a place of tradition and culture, activities and events, but lacks a common public space which would bring together all citizens without exception.

The current Open Public Space coverage in the municipality is 0.19m<sup>2</sup>/citizen and the existing local standards for public spaces do not match the desirable ones the municipality set the goal back in 2016 (MDP) to invest and achieve as a long-term development goal 7-10m<sup>2</sup> of public space per resident.

The idea for this capital project of the city derives from the goals set out in the Municipal Development Plan of Rahovec (2018-2026 +) under the Goal 6: Improvement and expansion of the public space network, and is also presented as one of the development solutions as a result of the environmental, social and public services SWOT analysis.

**UN-Habitat** has been actively assisting Kosovo institutions in the field of governance, spatial planning and municipal administration since 1999. Building on its knowledge, tools and expertise, the UN-Habitat Kosovo Office provides at the demand of partners, strategic and comprehensive package of support to build or complement municipal planning and management capacities, and other functions. In line with this UN-Habitat has provided technical support to the International Design Competition process for the Central City Square in Rahovec.

Knowledge, tools and experiences gained from this process will be shared within AKM to further advance urban regeneration and inclusive public space matters, and transparent approaches and tools for urban planning/design and local decision-making processes.





# ABOUT

The International Design Competition for the Central City Square aims to put Rahovec in the map and promote urban regeneration and inclusive public space development, through an inclusive, transparent and innovative process. It instigated a substantial public dialogue at different stages of the process through innovative tools and methods, targeting various (non)institutional audiences, including women and girls, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities.

The aim of the project was to achieve a planning and design solution for the Central City Square providing access to safe, healthy and inclusive green & public spaces, in particular for women and children, elderly and persons with disabilities, and creating job and business opportunities.

Through responsive and inclusive planning and urban design and public engagement, Rahovec municipality aims at creating a new identity for the city - always in harmony with its tradition and culture - and at the same time aspires at paving the way for establishing a network of public and green spaces by filling out the urban gaps with mixed use, economic opportunities and social interaction.

The project also combined tailored on-the-job assistance towards 'learning by doing', advisory services, peer-learning and exchange of experiences during all the stages with a view to strengthen the institutional and human resource capacities of local authorities and other stakeholders.

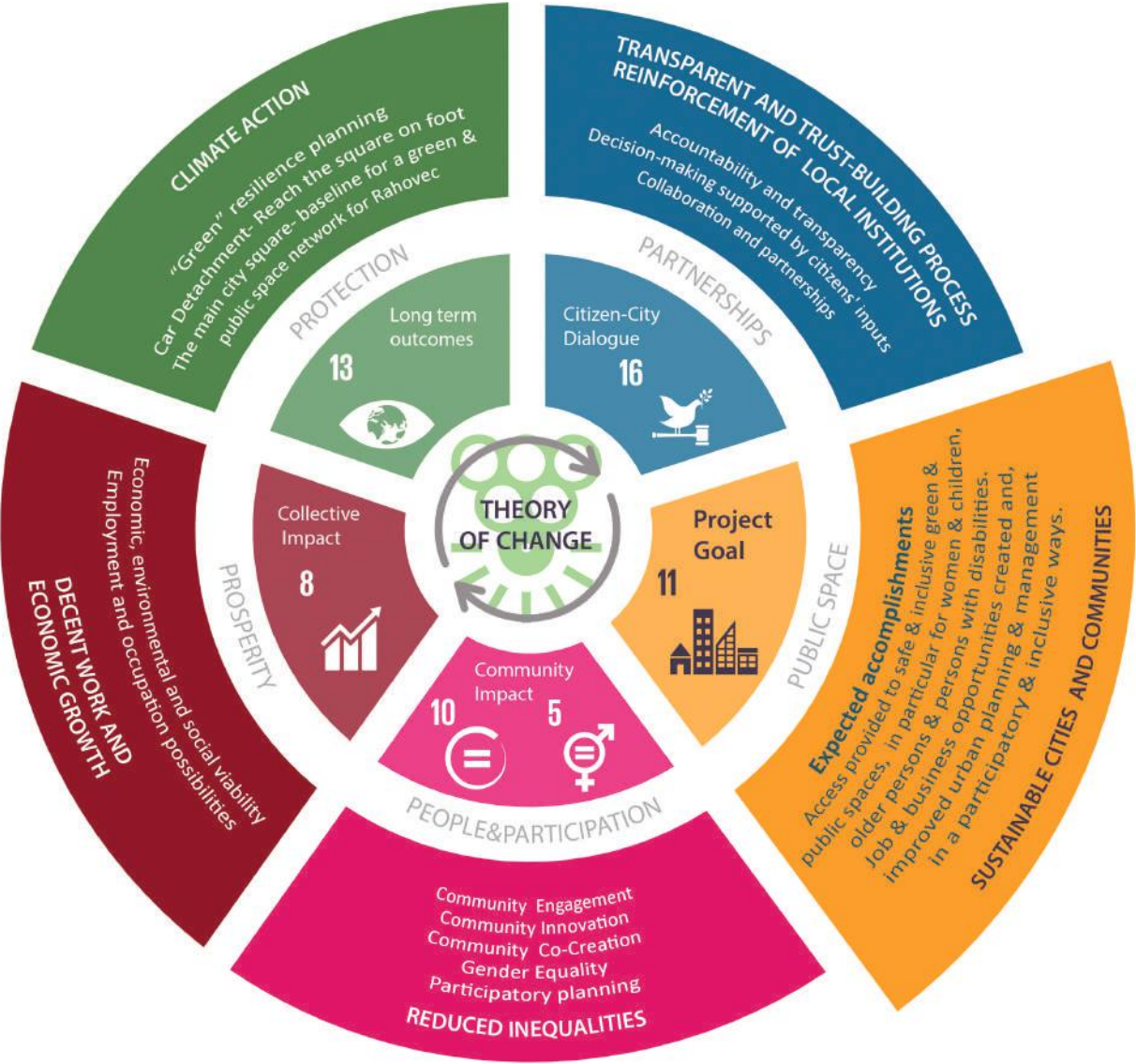
| <b>Main direct beneficiaries of the project include</b>    |  |
|--|--|
| <b>The Municipality of Rahovec</b>                         | The project provided valuable guidance to the local leadership and municipal departments, serving as a basis for policymakers to develop and implement urban regeneration & public space policies and design that advance inclusive development and good governance. The municipality has been equipped and empowered to design and implement participatory and transparent spatial planning related processes, and strengthen the democratic engagement of citizens in decision-making and refine municipal responses to citizen demands. |
| <b>The population of Rahovec</b>                           | With emphasis on the inhabitants of the urban area of the municipality (15892 inhabitants (800m ratio) and specifically those living in the 400m ratio from the project site), as well as commuters and visitors upon implementation of the selected planning and design solutions after the competition process.  |
| <b>The civil society and business community of Rahovec</b> | Benefited from opportunities to engage directly with municipal decision-makers, and contribute to articulate their needs and aspirations, and convey their inputs and evaluations to proposed solutions. The improved sojourn quality of the public space will stimulate the overall city's economic climate, by promoting the city's long history and its rich tradition as a center of Kosovo's wine region.   |

**Table 1.** Beneficiaries of the project.

The project also aimed at pushing forward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by putting into effect the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This whole process and the competition itself encompassed 6 (5, 10, 8, 11, 13, 16) out of 17 goals with a particular focus on the SDG 11, specifically 11.7 on Public Spaces.

The illustration below (Figure 1) shows how the project is anchored in the robust theory of change, building on the different development goals such as: sustainable cities and communities, climate action, peace justice and strong institution, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities and gender equalities.

**Figure 1.** Theory of change Rahovec.





The process started with the initiative of the director for Urbanism, Planning and Environmental Protection at the Municipality of Rahovec to make a request at AKM for support to organize a competition for the design of Rahovec Central City Square. After several meetings between UN-Habitat representatives and municipal authorities, the pairs agreed for UN-Habitat to technically support the Municipality of Rahovec on the process of organizing the International Design Competition for the Central City Square of Rahovec.

In May 2019, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UN-Habitat Kosovo Office and the Municipality of Rahovec.

Figure 2. Scheme of the process.



Competition Programme and Material



Submission deadline



Jury Evaluation



AUGUST  
2020

SEPTEMBER  
2020

NOVEMBER  
2020

DECEMBER  
2020



**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**  
www.centraalplein.nl

September 1 - November 16, 2020

Urban planners, urban designers, architects and landscape architects are invited to participate in the international design competition for Central City Square of Rotterdam (Nieuw). The design competition for Central City Square of Rotterdam is organized with the aim of creating a vibrant and lively public space through the development of a central square. The aim of the project is to promote urban regeneration and to create a vibrant public space through innovative, transparent and urban planning and design.

Competition Launching

LET IT GROW

SECOND PRIZE Za3203

Winner announcement



Exhibition

# INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP AND INITIAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## 3.1 Institutional establishment

To strengthen the institutional and human resources capacities of local authorities, the Municipality of Rahovec has hosted the UN-Habitat project team to ensure daily joint work.

| Name and surname      | Position                             |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Gwendoline Mennetrier | Chief Technical Advisor              |
| Zana Sokoli           | Spatial/Urban Planning Advisor       |
| Modest Gashi          | Spatial/Urban Planning Advisor       |
| Artan Rexhepi         | Programme Management Officer         |
| Arijeta Himaduna      | Gender/Liaison/Civil Society Officer |

**Table 2.** The team engaged on the programme concept and programme project.

| Name and surname  | Position  |
|-------------------|---|
| Zana Sokoli       | Lead/Supervision<br>Spatial/Urban Planning Advisor        |
| Arion Xhemaj      | Project Leader<br>Programme Officer/Spatial Urban Planner |
| Blerina Boshnjaku | Urban Development Associate                               |
| Reimonda Hoxha    | Communication Officer                                     |
| Leontina Cena     | Data Collection Assistant                                 |
| Floriana Zllanoga | Data Collection Assistant                                 |
| Paul Boettcher    | Intern  |
| Artan Rexhepi     | Programme Management Officer                              |

**Table 3.** The team engaged on the competition process.

Based on the law of Local Self-Governance, of Public-Private Partnership and Rahovec municipality statute a Municipal Planning Team (MPT) of 12 members was established on March 29,2020. The MPT comprised officials and staff members of nearly each department of the municipality.

| Name and surname | Department                                      | Role        |
|------------------|---|-------------|
| Rumir Zhuniqi    | Urbanism, Planning and Environmental Protection | Lead        |
| Shpejtim Mustafa | Urbanism, Planning and Environmental Protection | Coordinator |
| Sylejman Daka    | Municipal Public Services                       | Member      |
| Qemajl Krasniqi  | Culture, Youth and Sports                       | Member      |
| Bjondina Ramaj   | Urbanism, Planning and Environmental Protection | Member      |
| Selim Metkamberi | Urbanism, Planning and Environmental Protection | Member      |
| Bylbil Oruçi     | Center for social work                          | Member      |
| Esat Hoti        | Economy, Development and Tourism                | Member      |
| Muharrem Metbala | Geodesy, Cadaster and Property                  | Member      |
| Saranda Shala    | Economy, Development and Tourism                | Member      |
| Ilvi Durguti     | Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development     | Member      |
| Ardian Rama      | Health and Social Care                          | Member      |
| Venhar Topalli   | Municipal Public Services                       | Member      |

**Table 4.** Municipal Planning Team.

A number of meetings have been held, where different topics have been discussed:

- Introduction of the process of organizing the competition and planned activities;
- Boundaries, site development scenarios and public dialogue;
- Launching of the competition and competition schedule.

### **3.2 Competition site and boundaries**

The competition has been distinguished between the actual project site, a more extensive strategic site and the broader urban area. The boundaries have been drafted jointly with the Municipal Planning Team.

The strategic site of the competition covers an area of 87.7 ha. A large number of public institutions and public spaces, as well as other strategic components of the city have been included within the strategic boundary. Entrants were asked to present a more general solution for the strategic site, explaining the connection of project site with other public spaces and public facilities, as well as mobility and accessibility solutions.

The competition project site is located within the very center of the city and covers an area of 4.49 ha. A large area of the site was owned by the Municipality of Rahovec, as a strategic area for capital investments. It is surrounded by several public and commercial services like schools/ kindergarten, a museum/library, a post office, the wine cellar and heritage buildings, as well as edging the main roads of the city (which accommodates the city's interurban public transport).



Figure 3. MPT meetings.



**URBAN AREA BOUNDARY**

**STRATEGIC BOUNDARY**

**SITE BOUNDARY**

**Figure 4.** Competition boundaries.



There is a number of important public facilities within the competition project site. Considering the functions of the area, it can be divided in three main areas:

**Figure 5.** Area 1 boundary.

Sports facilities – Football Stadium “Jahja Danuza” and indoor Sports Hall “Mizair Isma”.



**Figure 6.** Area 2 boundary.

Green public spaces and water area (City Park and River Duhlo).



**Figure 7.** Area 3 boundary.

Commercial-Business Premises (Park Plaza Hotel, open local market and former agricultural cooperative buildings – buildings where now is located “Hardhia” bar).



**Figure 8.** Adjacent area boundary.

Adjacent area to the competition site is an area with mixed use commercial-residential area, in private ownership, with buildings from 1 to 4 floors.



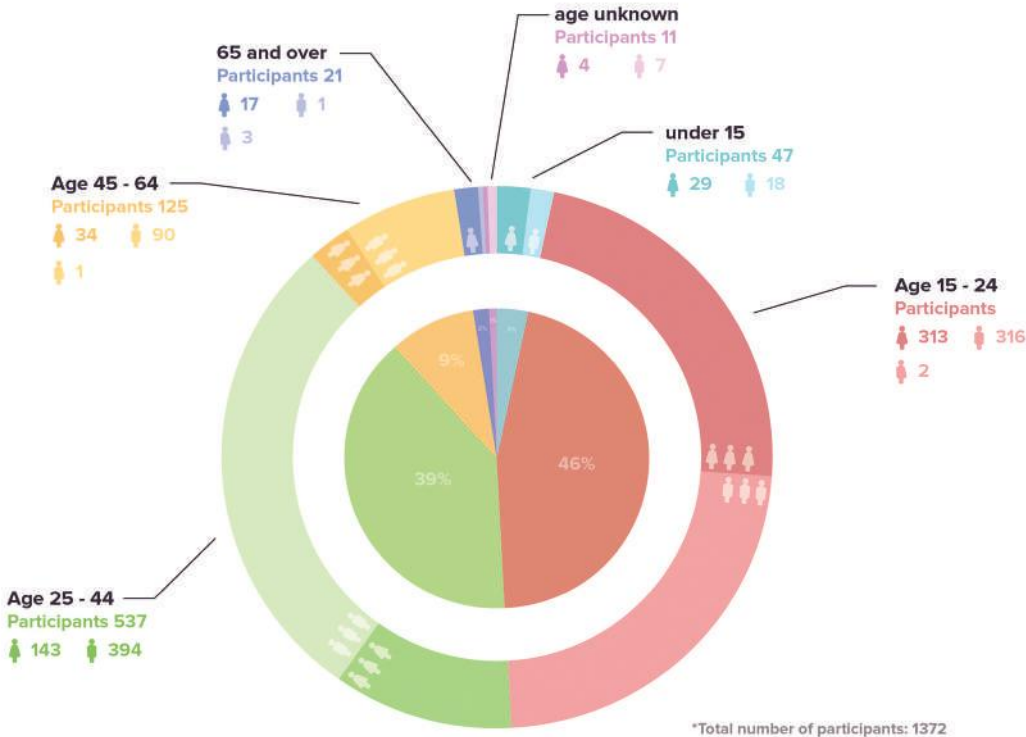
### 3.3 Citizen Dialogue/ Public Consultation

A vital activity of organizing process for the competition was the initiated dialogue on different stages of the process. This dialogue targeted various (non)institutional audiences, incl. women and girls, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities.

Due to the restricted measures with the pandemic COVID-19, public meetings were canceled and rearrangements had to be made. A digital survey on a map-based platform was organized where citizens expressed their ideas, suggestions and visions for the square. A considerable number of answers were collected where more than 1300 citizens contributed (Figure 9).

There was an increase on the number of women participating on this process, where more than 40% of the participants were women, comparing to their usual participation on such processes, especially at the municipality of Rahovec (20%).

**Figure 9.** Public consultation, participation by age and gender.



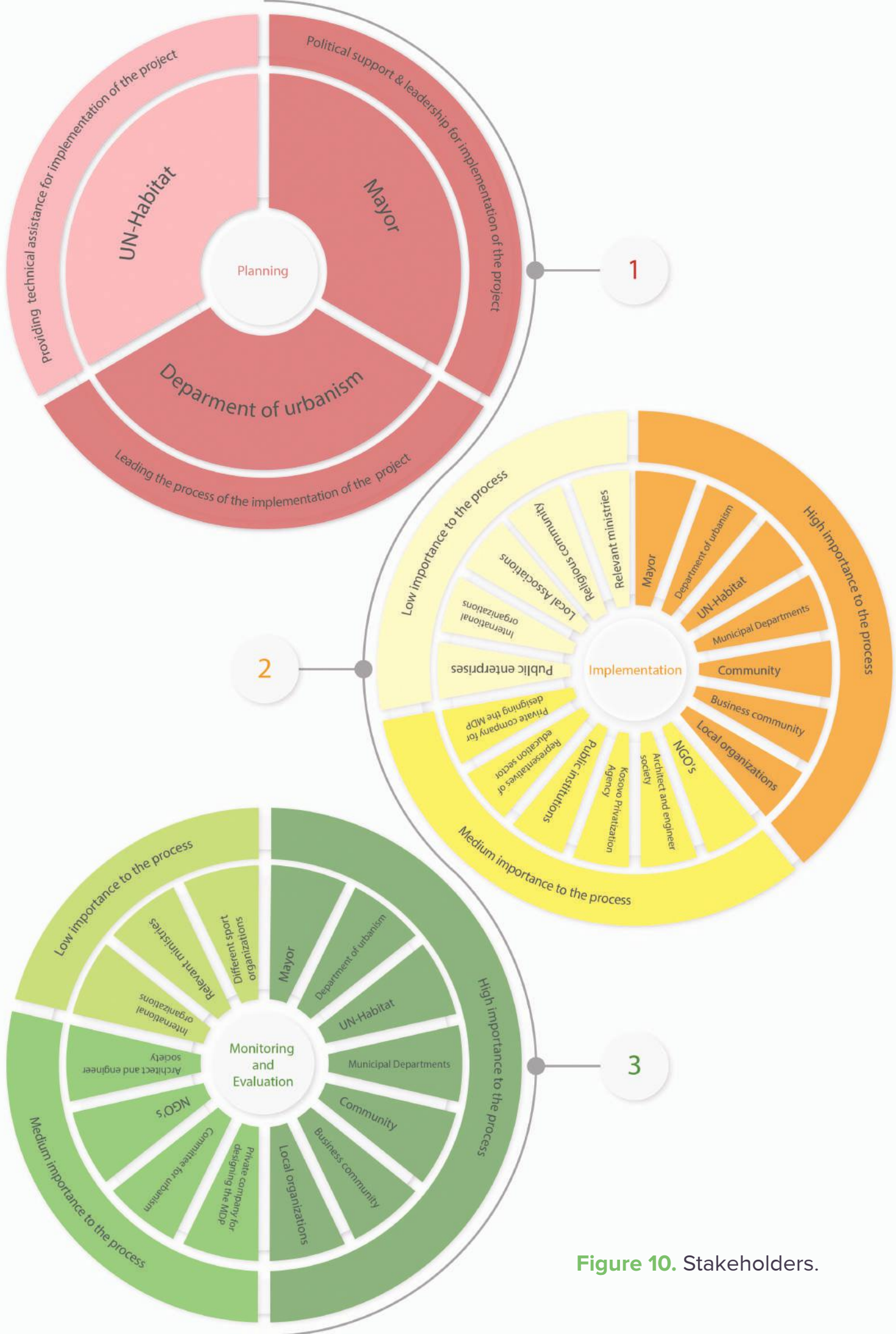
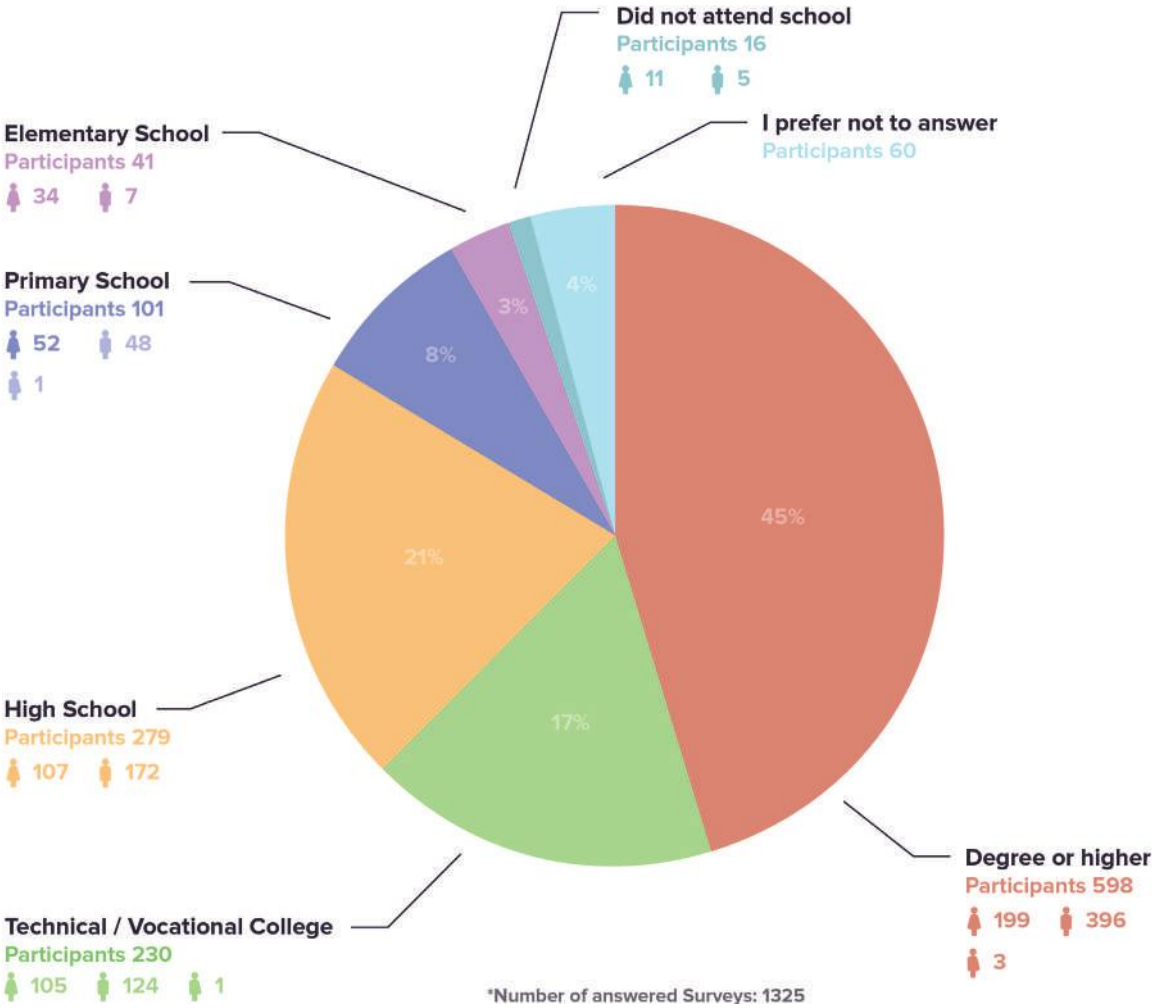


Figure 10. Stakeholders.

A number of qualitative and quantitative data have been gathered throughout this process, trying to understand where do citizens go for recreation; which roads are most frequented for walking or driving; what would they want to preserve and what would they want to remove on the project site; what activities should the square contain; or how do they imagine the square in 10 years?

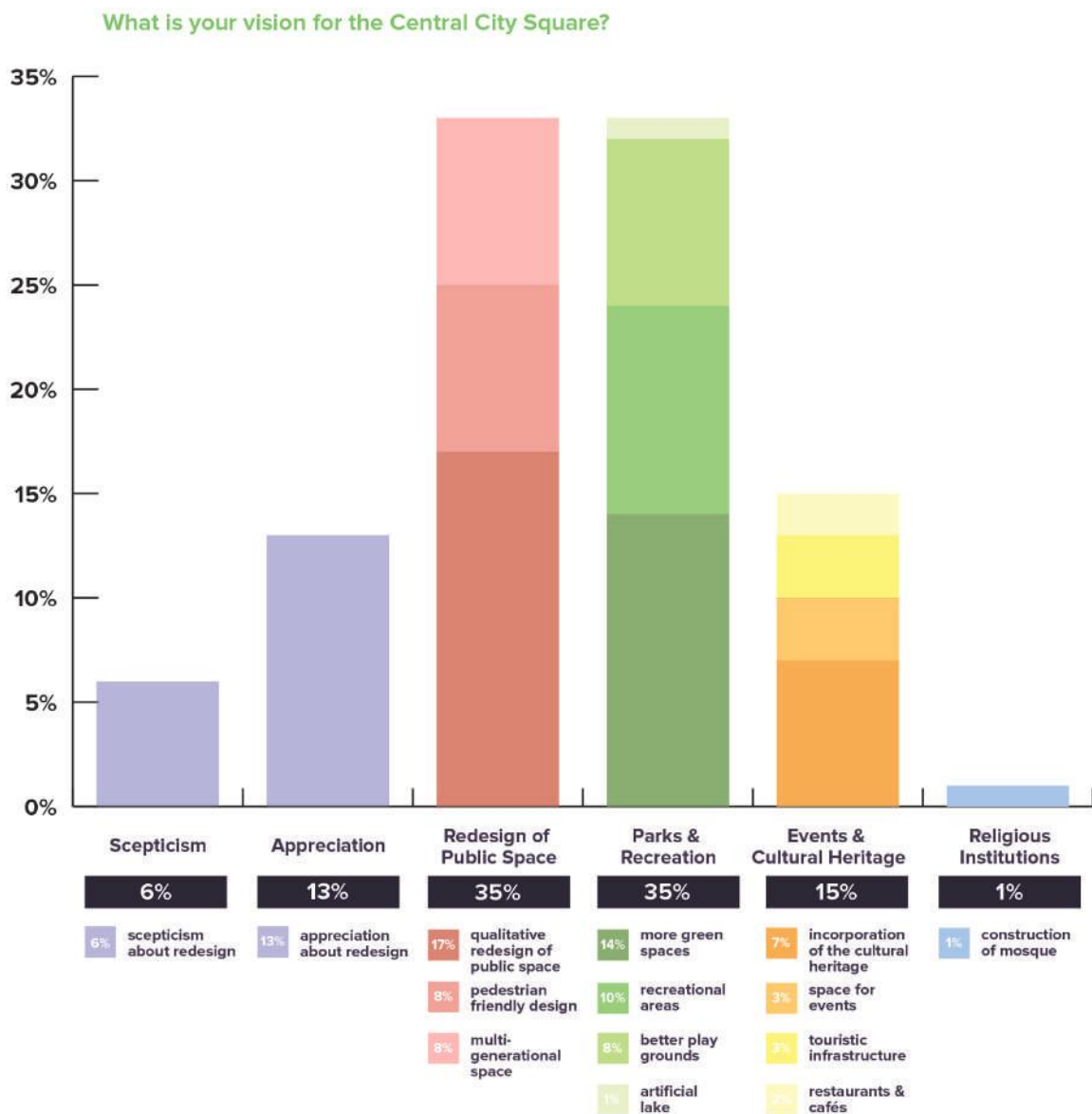
**Figure 11.** Public consultation, participation by education.



Based on these answers, a common vision for the Central City Square was compiled:

“The central square as a new identity and landmark for the city, which offers safe access to public and green spaces for residents of all ages and genders, creates new opportunities for business development and promotes urban regeneration of other public spaces, creating thus an organized and functional network in urban and rural areas”.

**Figure 12.** Citizens vision for the Central City Square.





Getting at the city center by walking



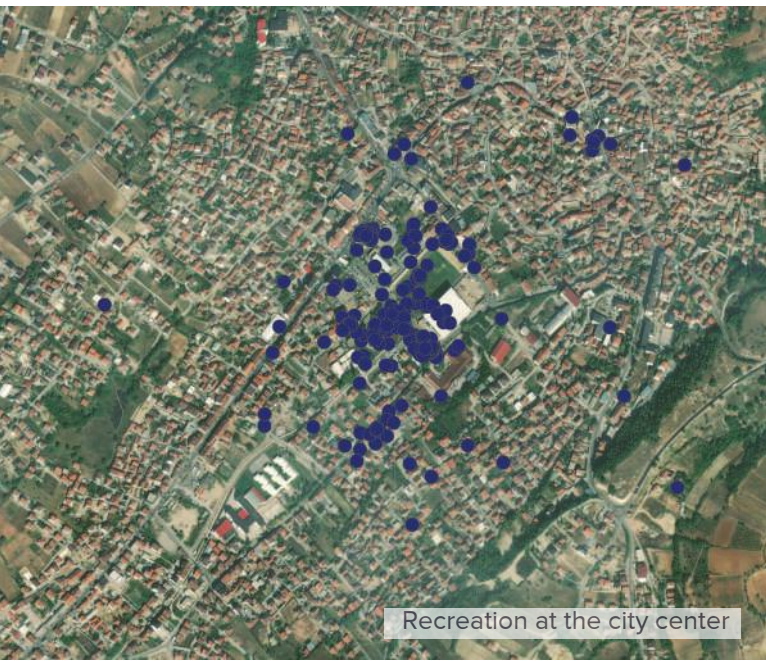
Getting at the city center by bike



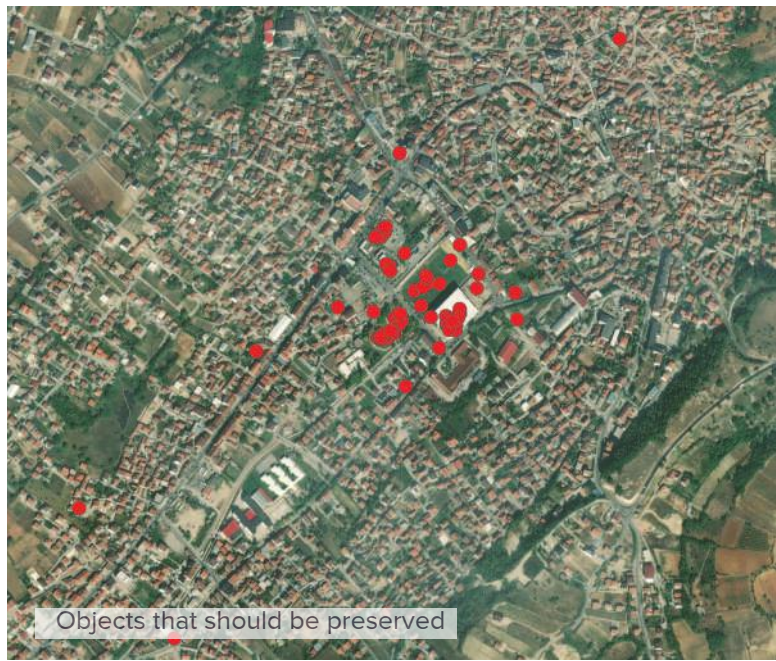
Getting at the city center by vehicle



Getting at public facilities at the city center



Recreation at the city center



Objects that should be preserved

**Figure 13.** Public consultation, citizens' answers to the questionnaire.

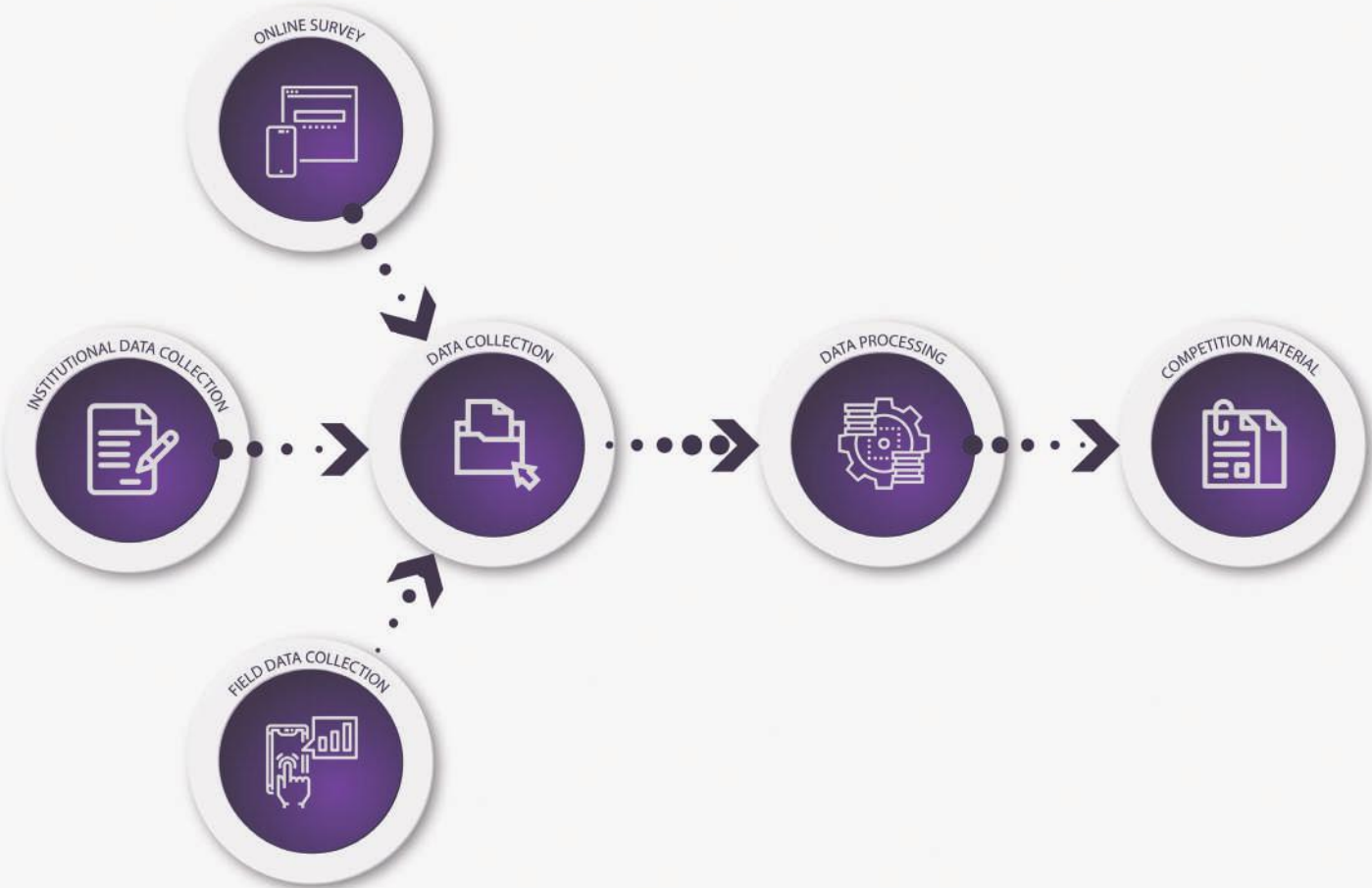
### 3.4 Institutional and field data collection for designing the competition

Information and data regarding the competition project site and wider strategic site, city and municipality area have been available for the entrants. Those information and data have been gathered from different departments of the Municipality and a number of institutions (Table 6).

Furthermore, two assistants were engaged for the purpose of field data collection. Using innovative digital platforms, they have collected data regarding built environment, landscape, activities, urban furniture, accessibility and movement flow (Table 5).

Information and data collected from the institutions and the field have been processed and presented in Project Brief and Programme and Competition Material.

Figure 14. Scheme of data collection process.



| Theme             | Collected data  |
|-------------------|---|
| Built environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location;</li> <li>- Functionality;</li> <li>- Facade;</li> <li>- Number of floors;</li> <li>- Building use;</li> <li>- Each floor use;</li> <li>- Fences;</li> <li>- Access points;</li> <li>- Picture.</li> </ul>  |
| Landscape         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location;</li> <li>- Type;</li> <li>- Categorization;</li> <li>- Size;</li> <li>- Picture.</li> </ul>  |
| Urban Furniture   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location;</li> <li>- Type;</li> <li>- Condition;</li> <li>- Material;</li> <li>- Picture.</li> </ul>   |
| Activity          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Area of activity;</li> <li>- Type;</li> <li>- Number of people;</li> <li>- Number of women, children, elders, people with bicycle, people with disabilities;</li> <li>- Number of vehicles parked nearby the activity area;</li> <li>- Characteristics (noise pollution, lightening, shadows, waste);</li> <li>- Picture and video.</li> </ul> |
| Accessibility     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location;</li> <li>- Object of (non) accessibility;</li> <li>- Whose accessibility the object affects;</li> <li>- Level of prevention the object creates;</li> <li>- Number of people with disabilities using the access point;</li> <li>- Picture.</li> </ul>   |
| Movement flow     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number and direction of pedestrians, cars, bicycles, buses and trucks.</li> </ul>  |

**Table 5.** Data collected in the field.





Built environment

Specify primary building access point

North; East; South; West; North-east; North-west; South-east; South-west

South-east

and

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0  
q w e r t y u i o p  
a s d f g h i k

| Department/ Institution  | Document/Data   |
|--|---|
| Department for Urbanism, Planning and Environmental Protection | Strategic Planning Documents:<br>- Municipal Development Plan 2011;<br>- Municipal Development Plan (2018-2026);<br>- Municipal Mobility Plan 2016-2021;<br>- Public Open Spaces Investment Plan 2016-2021;<br>- Draft version of Regulatory Plan of Old City Center. |
|  | Decision for the relocation of the football stadium.  |
|  | Information about microclimatic and macroclimatic conditions, direction of wind and other relevant data.  |
|  | Public transport lines and bus stops.   |
|  | Information about flood directions on a city and site level.  |
|  | Drawing plans of existing buildings on the project site.  |
| Department for Geodesy, Cadaster and Property                  | Geodetic measurements.  |
|  | Land ownership.   |
|  | Copy of plans and certificates.   |
| Department of Education  | Contacts of school directors.   |
| Regional Water Supply Company K.R.U. Gjakova                   | Underground water supply, atmospheric and fecal sewage.   |
| Kosovo Electricity Distribution Company (KEDS)                 | Underground infrastructure.   |
| Rahovec Police Station   | Data for planned activities, critical crossroads, most frequented roads and number of accidents at the city center.   |

**Table 6.** Information and data gathered from municipal departments and public institutions.

## Challenges

### Lack of organogram.

**Solution** Establishing the MPT in close collaboration with the staff of the Department for Urbanism, Planning and Environmental Protection.

### MPT meetings in a pandemic situation, organizing online meetings, staff did not possess digital equipment at home, elderly staff, etc.

**Solution** Limited number of meetings respecting pandemic preventive measures such as using masks, keeping the distance and maintaining personal hygiene.

### Private properties in the competition site location.

**Solution** Land expropriation by Department for Geodesy, Cadaster and Property.

### Restricting measures on holding public meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Solution** Organizing a map-based online questionnaire.

### Gender representation on the online questionnaire.

**Solution** Engaging two data collection assistants to collect responses from women on the field.

### Age group representation on the online questionnaire.

**Solution** Organizing a separate survey for children under 15 and sharing it through the Department for Education.

### Complicated online platform for general use.

**Solution** Preparing a video tutorial on how to navigate the questionnaire.

### Communication with public institution with reduced human capacities during the pandemic.

**Solution** Parallelizing the activities while waiting for responses.

### Lack of geodetic measurements.

**Solution** Engaging a private company to prepare the geodetic measurements of the competition site.

### Lack of digitized data and maps of Rahovec city.

**Solution** Digitizing maps and data from orthophoto and other sources.

### Lack of data.

**Solution** Engaging two assistants to collect data on the field.

### Data accuracy gathered during the pandemic.

**Solution** Rearranging timesheet of activities and putting into consideration the differences in lifestyle during the pandemic.

### Infection risk gathering data during the pandemic.

**Solution** Respecting pandemic preventive measures such as using masks, keeping the distance and maintaining personal hygiene.

**Table 7.** Challenges and solution on institutional set-up and initial public engagement.

# PREPARATORY WORK FOR ORGANIZING AND DESIGNING THE COMPETITION

## 4.1 Project Programme and Competition material

Information and data collected have been processed and integrated into Project Programme and Competition Material.

Competition brief and project programme contained information about municipality of Rahovec as well as the region, the purpose of the competition, information about the project site and requirements/conditions/regulations.

On the folder Competition Material, a number of maps and pictures have been available for entrants (Table 8).

Competition Brief and project programme, Competition material, Declaration of authorship and Terms and conditions can be downloaded at <https://centralsquare-rahovec.info/documents/>.

The official website for the competition ([www.centralsquare-rahovec.info](http://www.centralsquare-rahovec.info)) was designed for the purpose of sharing information and news about the competition, downloading the material and applying at the competition.

| Theme                        | Map/document  |
|------------------------------|---|
| General Information          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Boundaries;</li><li>- Project Site location within the Municipality;</li><li>- Rahovec Central City Square (.kmz);</li></ul>  |
| Strategic Planning Documents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Local Waste Management Plan 2016-2021;</li><li>- Municipal Development Plan 2018-2026;</li><li>- Public Open Spaces Investment Plan 2016-2021;</li><li>- Urban Mobility Plan for the Municipality of Rahovec 2016-2020;</li></ul> |

| Theme          | Map/document   |
|----------------|--|
| Urban Area     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural Heritage in urban area;</li> <li>- Cultural Heritage Time of Construction;</li> <li>- Floods;</li> <li>- Land Ownership;</li> <li>- Occupancy;</li> <li>- Public Institutions;</li> <li>- Public Space Categorization;</li> <li>- Public Space Network;</li> <li>- Public Transport;</li> <li>- Road Categorization;</li> <li>- Site location within the city context;</li> <li>- Topography;</li> <li>- Vineyards;</li> <li>- Urban Area (.dwg);</li> </ul> |
| Strategic Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activities;</li> <li>- Bicycle Flow;</li> <li>- Building access point;</li> <li>- Building Condition;</li> <li>- Ground floor business type;</li> <li>- Ground Floor Function;</li> <li>- Land Use;</li> <li>- Number of Floors;</li> <li>- Pedestrian Flow;</li> <li>- Type of Activities;</li> <li>- Vehicle Flow;</li> </ul>   |
| Project Site   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessibility;</li> <li>- Electrical Infrastructure Distribution;</li> <li>- Lighting;</li> <li>- Urban Furniture;</li> <li>- Vegetation;</li> <li>- Water supply and sewage system infrastructure;</li> <li>- Geodetic measurements (.zip);</li> <li>- Vegetation;</li> <li>- Vegetation (.dwg);</li> <li>- Pictures of vegetation;</li> </ul>   |
| Pictures       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pictures of Project Site;</li> <li>- Picture angles.</li> </ul>   |

**Table 8.** Maps and documents that have been available for entrants.

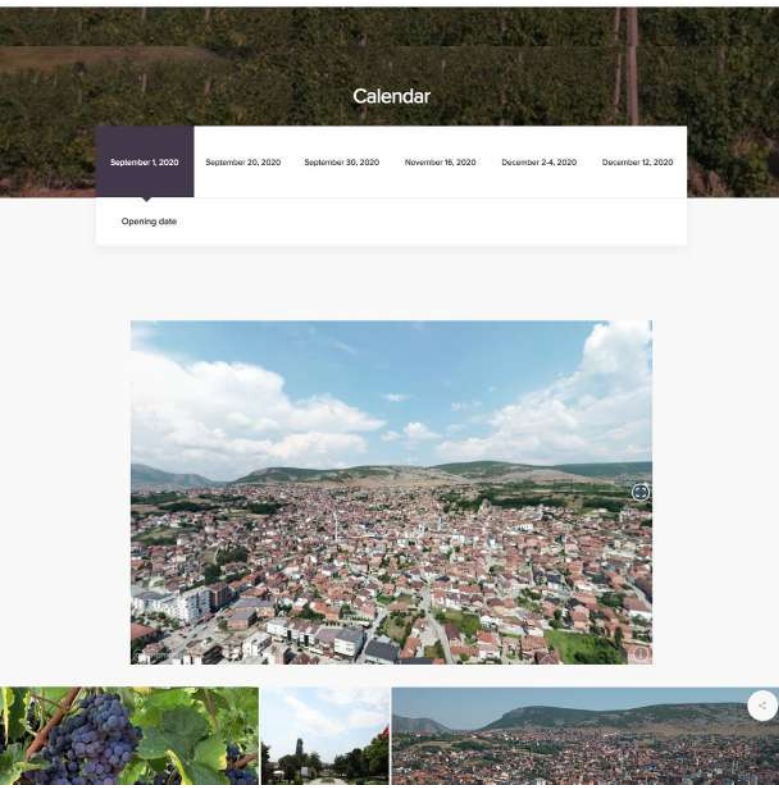
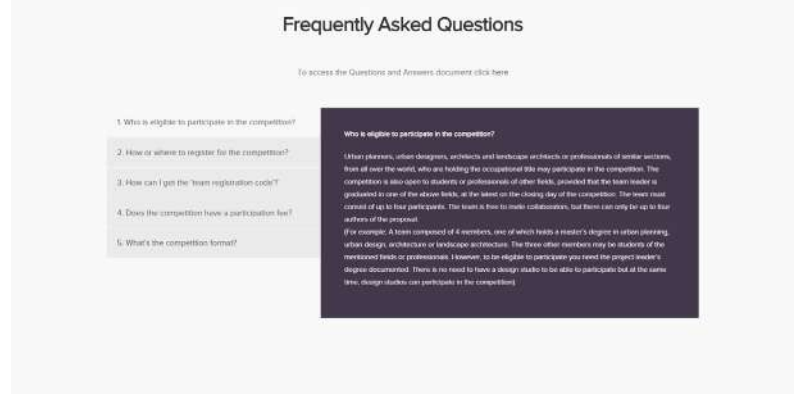
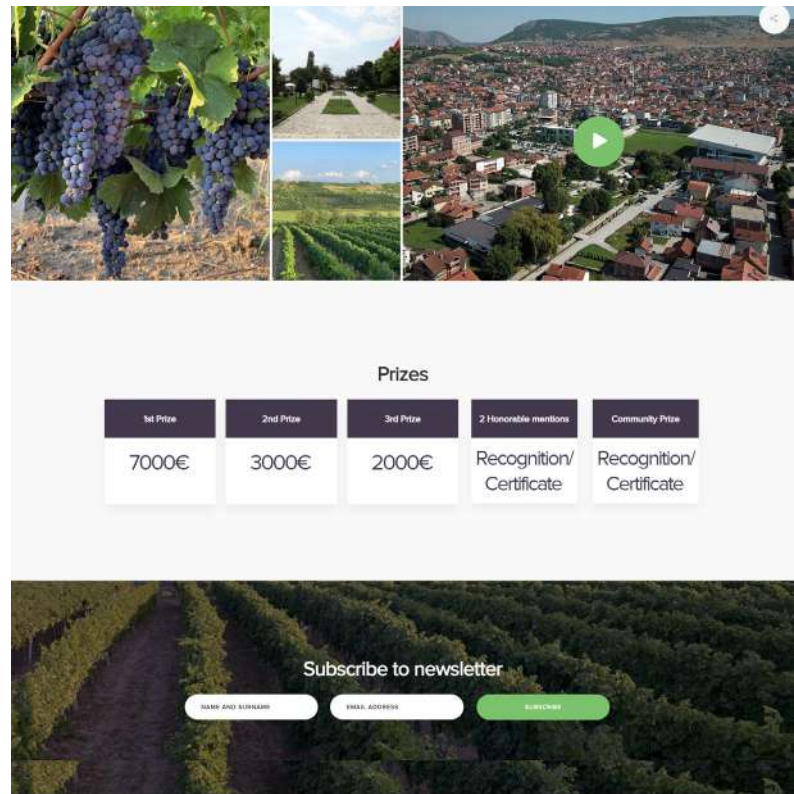
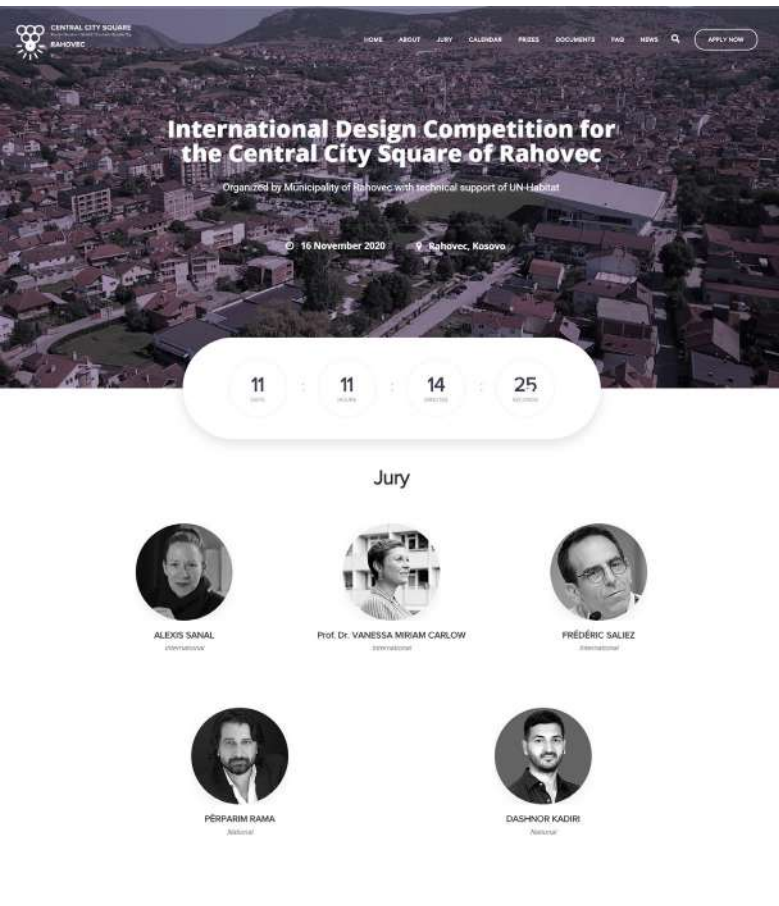


Figure 15. Official website of the competition.

## 4.2 Information and publication of the competition

The official launching of the competition was done through the Competition Official website and was shared in social media.

Furthermore, international and local well-known architecture and design magazines have been contacted. The competition was shared through digital platforms on different international and local prestigious magazines such as: ArchDaily, Competition.archi, e-architect, Bustler, etc.

Prestigious architecture universities and architecture associations have been contacted and the competition was shared within their communication networks.

The official website of the competition was visited more than 49,000 times from more than 16,000 different visitors.

## 4.3 Prizes

Only the short-listed projects of the competition received prizes. A total prize fund of 12,000 EUR has been awarded to first, second and third place. Furthermore, two honorable mentions and the community prize received recognition/certificate.

Figure 16. Prizes.





**CENTRAL CITY SQUARE**  
Sheshi Qendror i Qytetit / Centralni Gradski Trg

**RAHOVEC**



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



# CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

[www.centralsquare-rahovec.info](http://www.centralsquare-rahovec.info)

**September 1 - November 16, 2020**

Urban planners, urban designers, architects and landscape architects or professionals of similar sections are invited to participate in the International Design Competition for Central City Square of Rahovec (Kosovo). The International Design Competition for Central City Square of Rahovec is organized within the project Leading Urban Change in Rahovec through revitalization of the Central City Square. The aim of the project is to promote urban regeneration and the development of public spaces through inclusive, transparent and innovative methods of urban planning and design.



## 4.4 Work plan for the competition

The competition was launched on September 1, 2020, together with the official website of the competition, where all information for the competition have been published.

## 4.5 Setting the programme's conditions and requirements/ Application and submission

The International Design Competition for the Central City Square of Rahovec was an idea competition open for urban planners, urban designers, architect and landscape architects or professionals of similar sections. The entrants could participate individually or as a team of maximum four members, or a legal entity (design studio, enterprise, etc.). The registration and submission of the proposal were completed together through the official website of the competition, where entrants were asked to upload their information, three board panels, a booklet, a description of the project, a cover picture and the signed declaration of authorship and terms and conditions.

| Challenges  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Designing the competition website and online application form.</b> |  |
| <b>Solution</b>   | Engaging a private company to design the competition website; predicting the system load and testing the system.   |
| <b>System load before the registration and submission deadline.</b>   |  |
| <b>Solution</b>   | Predicting the system load and maintaining the website during the deadline for technical support.  |
| <b>Sharing the competition announcement worldwide.</b>                |  |
| <b>Solution</b>   | Branding the competition, communicating with international prestigious architectural magazines and sharing the competition announcement in their platform. |
| <b>Anonymity of entries.</b>  |  |
| <b>Solution</b>   | Each team was required to select at their choice a six-digit alphanumeric code. The code contained an uppercase, lowercase, and four-digit number.         |

**Table 9.** Challenges and solution on preparatory work for organizing and designing the competition.

**Figure 17.** Competition announcement.

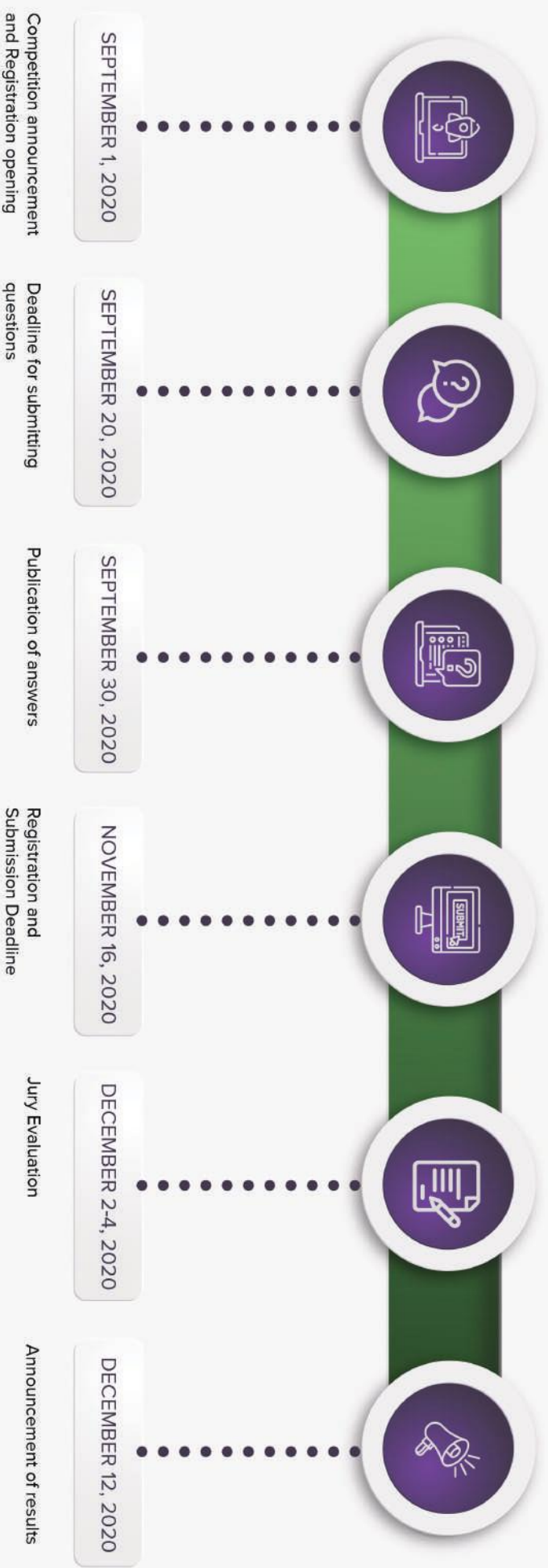


Figure 18. Competition calendar.

## **5.1 Conference and site visit**

Due to the restricted travel measures with the pandemic COVID-19, the site visit and the conference on the occasion of the opening the competition were cancelled.

Entrants were provided with extended site information, including photos and videos of the site. A virtual tour of the site was published as well, where participants were able to see the site in a different perspective and to understand the obstacles of walking on the particular site.

## **5.2 Frequently Asked Questions**

Starting on September 1st up until the given deadline date, interested participants were able to send their questions at the official email of the competition.

The document with answers of the frequently asked questions was published on the competition website, together with additional material.

## **5.3 Receiving the competition entries/proposals**

The competition did have a wide reach of interest. Before the given deadline 80 proposals from all around the world were submitted on the Official Website of the Competition. Architects, urbanists and architectural and design studios from 37 different countries prepared and submitted their proposals.

In order to submit the proposal each team had to fill the online application form on the Official Website of the competition.



**Figure 19.** The countries where the applications have been submitted from.



## 5.4 The work of the jury: analytical evaluation and binding decisions of the jury

### 5.4.1 Site visit

The jury evaluation process started with a visit of site location and city of Rahovec. The jury panel was hosted by the Mayor of Rahovec, Mr. Smajl Latifi and the Director for Urbanism, Planning and Environmental Protection, Mr. Rumir Zhuniqi.

During their visit the jury panel, municipal representatives and UN-Habitat team visited the site location and discussed in depth the vision of the municipality on future developments of the site, the characteristics and the obstacles.

A visit of old city center and local wine cellars took place on the second part of the visit. Walking through the old alleys of the Rahovec city gave the jury members a wider perspective of the citizens' needs as well as the development opportunities Rahovec and the region holds.

**Figure 20.** Site visit (December 02, 2020).





#### 5.4.2 The analytical evaluation

The competition jury panel consisted three international and two local jury members, all professionals in the field of architecture and urban planning. At the very beginning of the evaluation process jury members selected their Head of the Jury.

Due to the pandemic COVID-19 situation and travel restrictions most countries were facing on the given time, two members of the jury panel didn't have the possibility to travel to Pristina. Supported by the local team during the analytical evaluation process three members of the jury were present in Pristina, while two other members joined the sessions via video conference.

In the first session each member of the jury nominated 10 to 15 proposals to be further discussed. During the session the jury discussed the proposals with two or above votes, and scored the proposals high, medium or low with view to the selection criteria. On the second session each jury member had the chance to bring back into discussion projects that were excluded in the first session. On the final session of the jury evaluation, the short-listed proposals were discussed more in depth and the jury awarded three winners and two honorable mentions, as well as five other projects for the exhibition.

**Figure 21.** Jury evaluation (December 03, 2020).







### 5.4.3 Binding decisions of the jury

After the jury had selected the winners, they had the responsibility to write and sign the Jury Report.

To ensure anonymity, participants were required to select at their choice a six-digit alphanumeric code. The code contained an uppercase, lowercase, and four-digit number and was placed in the upper right corner of each page of the competition material. The same code was used as Team Identification Code when submitting the proposal on the official website of the competition.

## 5.5 Exhibition and selection of the Community Prize

The exhibition of short-listed proposals was opened at Rahovec Sports Hall after the winners announcement. Citizens of Rahovec and interested visitors had the chance to visit the exhibition and see the proposals.

The exhibition stayed open for one whole week and the citizens had the chance to vote for their most favorite proposal.

**Figure 22.** Exhibition (December 14-18, 2020).



This image shows a large architectural exhibition board. At the top left, there is a detailed aerial photograph of a city or town. Below it, the board is filled with various architectural drawings, including site plans, floor plans, and cross-sections. The text is organized into several columns and sections, with some headings in bold. The drawings use a color palette of greens, yellows, and greys to represent different elements of the design. The board is mounted on a wooden easel.



## 5.6 Winning proposals

First Prize – Urban Space

Name: MUTUAL ATELIER

Participants: Thomas Boerendonk, Daniel Arce Chu, Nguyen Duy Minh

Extract from the jury report:

The project builds on the opportunity offered by the relocation of the football stadium to convert the central area of Rahovec into a constellation of well-articulated public spaces. The scheme's bold approach to urban form - a circle - provides a memorable identity for Rahevec's city center and public life to thrive. This scheme is able to both unite the whole of the site while creating unique zones for the square's diverse edge conditions.

At the center sits a large circular clearing, a wide multifunctional plaza that can accommodate large events while also providing space for daily functions of multiple actors simultaneously. The bold circular design of the square is supported by a canopy that connects new and existing buildings, offers an elevated promenade, creates shade and rain protection when needed, secures the pedestrian character of the area and allows for a wide range of temporary uses. The scheme's comfort at both an urban scale of a shared grand room and at a human scale to be meandering under the trees was a natural transition and empathetic to the spatial needs for international festivals and daily needs of moving through the porosity of the site.

It creates identity through a robust iconic form, a sense of monumentality, a capacity to transcend a sense of timelessness and to symbolize the democratic character of the central square. It possesses the potential to convert itself into a national landmark and will provide a memorable identity for Rahevec's city center (continue reading: <https://centralsquare-rahovec.info/announcement-of-results/>).

**Figure 23.** First Prize.

# CENTRAL CITY SQUARE OF RAHOVEC



## URBAN STRATEGY

The urban void remaining from the relocation of the Football stadium offers the citizens of Rahovec the opportunity for an intervention that creates a new center for cultural and leisure activities. This intervention is framed in a larger strategy for the redevelopment of public spaces and aims to convert the central area of Rahovec into a constellation of public spaces.

This strategy intends to enhance an alternative for motorized transportation, offering an adequate and pleasant connection of the town with the new city center. Therefore, 3 interventions are proposed:

1. A pedestrian loop that connects the main public buildings and public spaces. The extension of the sidewalks along this loop offers a safe walking path, prioritizing the pedestrian over motorized traffic.
2. A green loop that consists of a green bicycle path connecting north and south of the city with the central area.
3. The central square is located where the green and pedestrian loops intersect: a new public center for cultural and leisure activities.

## 01

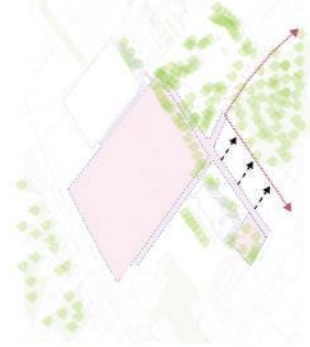
### SITE CONDITIONS

Removal of the existing football stadium, interior roads and outdoor seating areas of Park Plaza Hotel.

A new road will be created behind existing parking lot.

Existing trees are all kept and relocated if necessary.

The whole area is leveled.



## 02

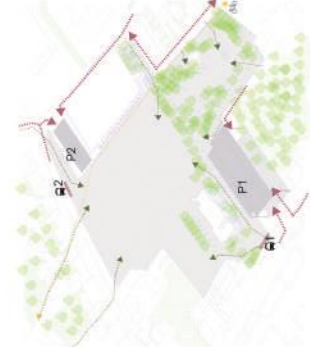
### ACCESSIBILITY

The complete site will become pedestrian area.

2 parking lots are provided at corners of the site as proposed in the 2 scenarios. Parking 1 has also an underground level.

Motorized traffic is only allowed to enter the site for designated purposes at certain hours of the day.

2 bus stops are provided at the periphery of the site.



## 03

### NEW & OLD BUILDINGS

The community center is located where the existing market is.

This generates 2 squares: a big open square & a smaller enclosed square (Hardhia square), that can be extended into area 4 in the future.

The square can be extended into area 4 in the future. The façade of the hotel and the sports hall are dressed with a metal skin.



## 04

### CANOPY

An accessible ring-shaped canopy defines the central square.

The canopy connects the new and existing buildings on the site by giving access to the community center, sports hall and Park Plaza Hotel on the first floor and the new parking garage underground. The canopy has 5 accesses.



## 05

### GREEN PERIPHERY

The area inside the canopy is mainly left open so it can be used for activities & events. In the paved areas surrounding the canopy new trees are planted in grids.

The park is redesigned around the existing trees and the greenery is intensified with similar species.

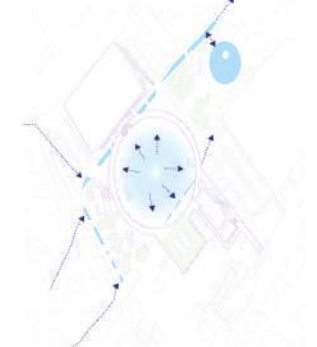
This green periphery helps to reduce the noise of the surrounding streets.



## 06

### WATER MANAGEMENT

The canals on both sides of the central square are opened. An additional canal is positioned along the Mulla Cufa road, connecting the 2 existing canals. The centre of the square is elevated to guide the rainwater towards the canals. All the added green areas and green roof of the community center serve as an additional buffer.



## PROGRAM

- A. Community center & indoor market
- B. Outdoor market
- C. Gathering space
- D. Hardhia garden

## PUBLIC SPACES

1. Central square
2. Recreational square
3. Hardhia square
4. Main access area
5. Parku i Qytetit

## LOGISTICS

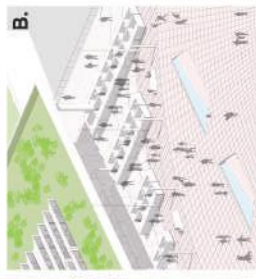
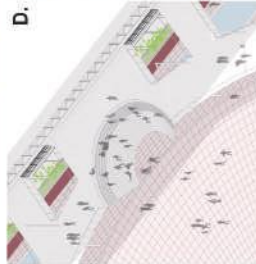
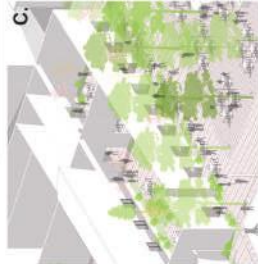
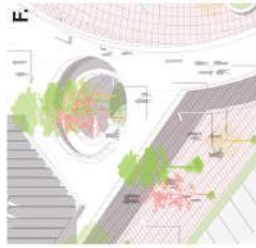
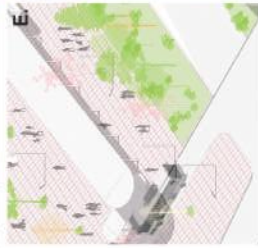
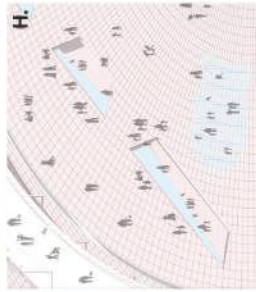
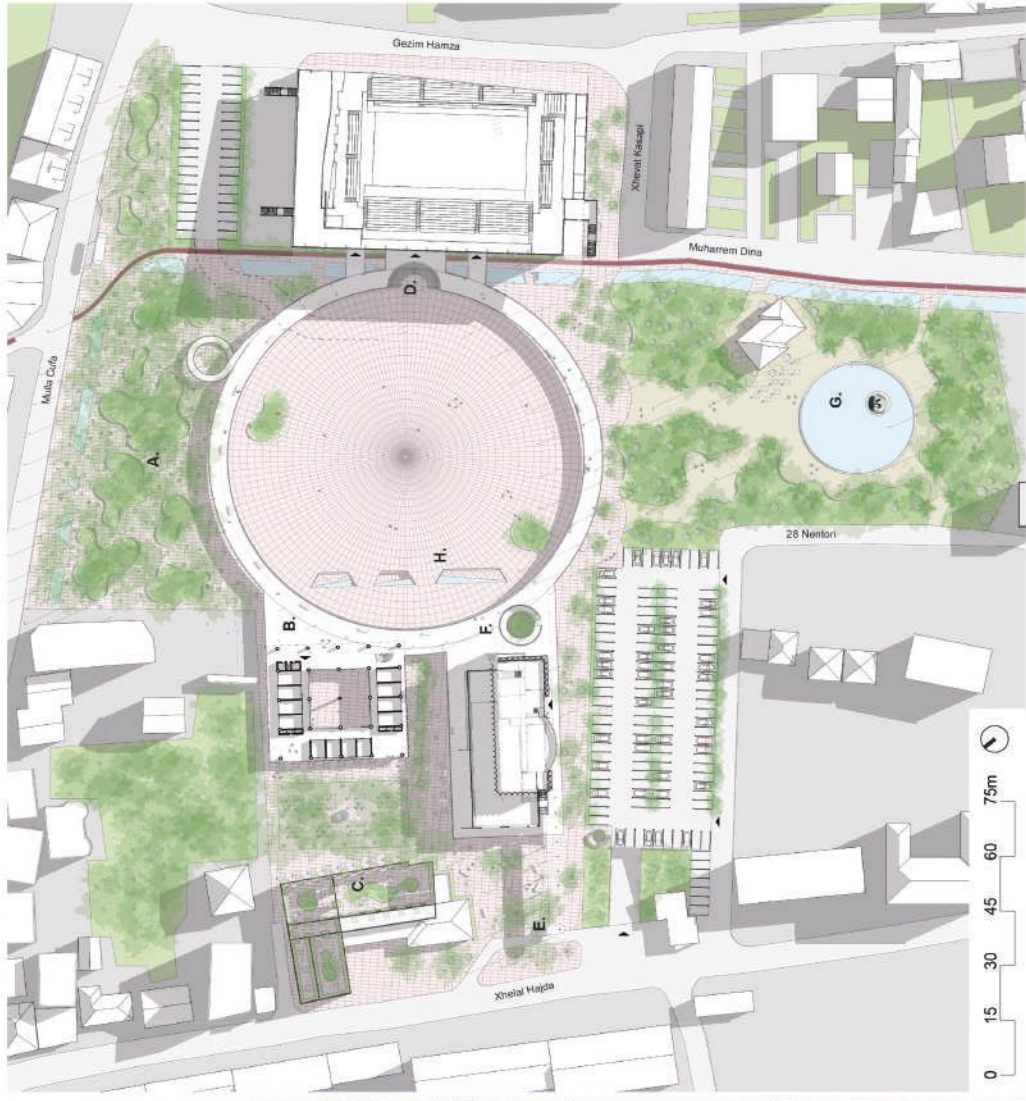
To give access to the central square for emergency and events one part of the canopy can be lifted.

Supply and temporary parking for the community center, indoor & outdoor market is possible via the existing alley next to Hardhia bar.

Access for cleaning & maintenance of the square is possible through the same alley.



MASTERPLAN (1:1500)



HARDHWA SQUARE



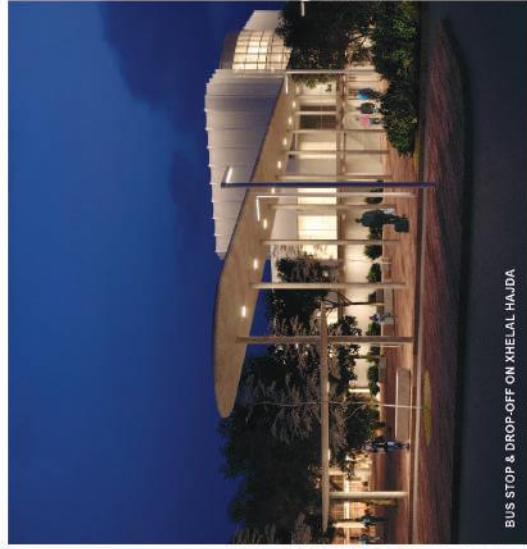
CENTRAL SQUARE



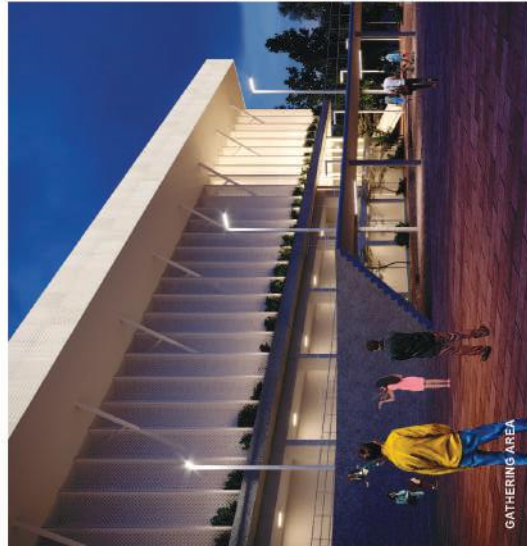
BICYCLE PATH ALONG SPORTS HALL FACADE



RECREATION SQUARE ALONG SPORTS HALL FACADE



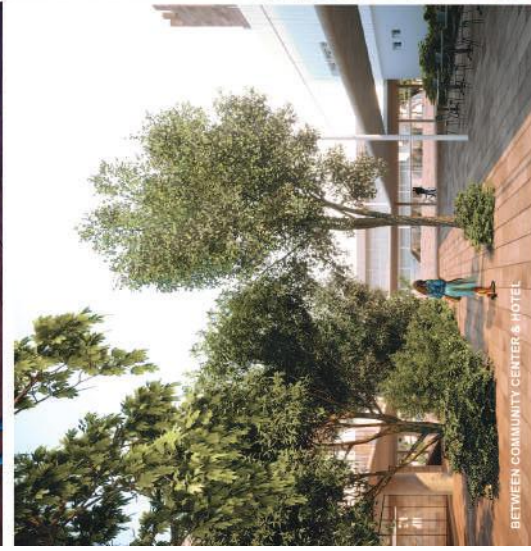
BUS STOP & DROP-OFF ON XHELAL HAJDA



GATHERING AREA



BY THE CENTRAL SQUARE

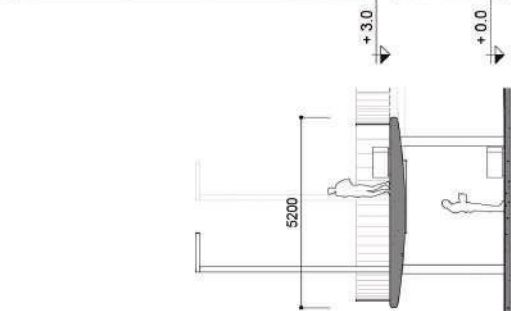


BETWEEN COMMUNITY CENTER & HOTEL

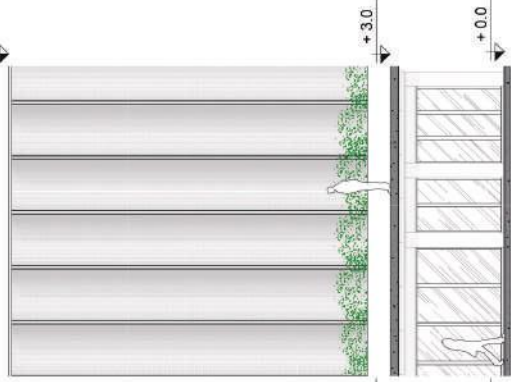


PARAUJ GYTTETIT

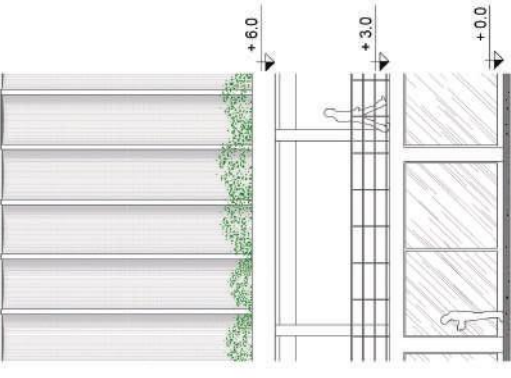
CANOPY SECTION DETAIL (1:150)



HOTEL FACADE DETAIL (1:150)



SPORTS HALL FACADE DETAIL (1:150)



## Second Prize – Urban Nature

Participants: Klaudjo Ruci, Adelina Ibrahim, Zamira Abazi, Zofia Krzykawska

Extract from the jury report:

The scheme's approach to urban nature both celebrated the need for the urban form of the central square to be both structured and ever-changing. The seasonal change, the celebration of climate, and the human in a daily relation with the city's fauna and flora was elegantly proposed. The need for large species and biodiversity to be given place in the Central City Square as well as recreational landscapes seemed empathetic to the citizens multi-generational community. The human becomes a key actor in the theater of urban nature and the ecosystem habitat of the city stewardship. The need for softscape and hardscape is considered and how water is crafted as rain gardens is a real need of the annual cycles of the watershed the square is situated within.

Our discussions find this scheme needs a bolder approach to the market and event culture the city requires. Yet greatly appreciated the human scale approach to meandering, recreation, and giving place to the beauty of the local fauna's seasonal theater.

**Figure 24.** Second Prize.

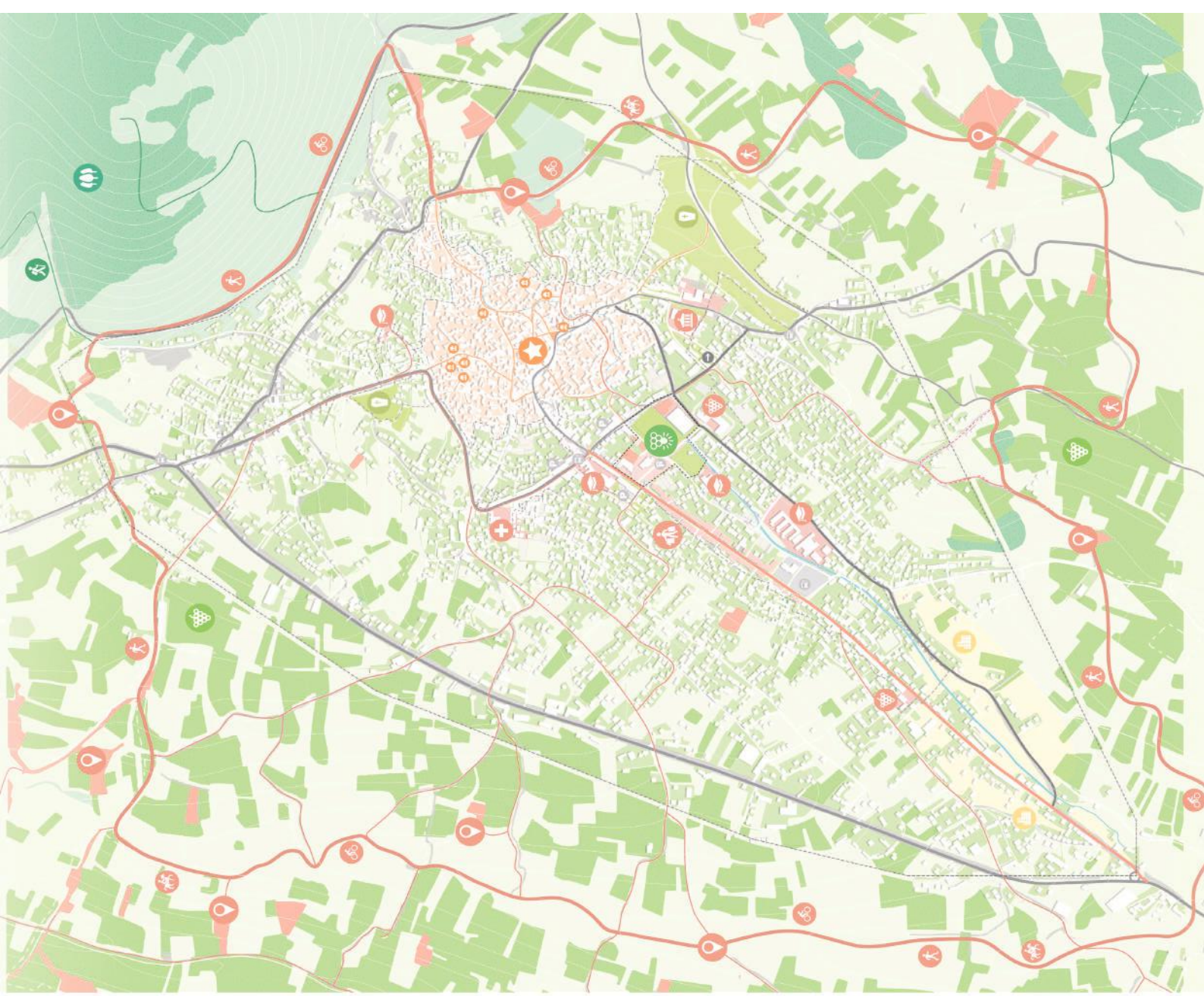


# LET IT RAIN, A SPACE FOR EVERYONE

Rural surrounding landscape, which mostly consist wine yards should be preserved and new dwellings should not present a threat to this city landmark. The edge will continue all around the city as a lopp, which will connect all green rural areas of the city, will initiate to bring more greenery through ecological paths inside the city and will become most prominent on the city center. In this way, the development of the city in the future will become a compact sustainable city closer to the urban core. Wine yards beside a landscape landmark they represent a true potential in the local economy through sustainable tourism.



- LEGEND:
- Landmark
  - Forest
  - Vineyard
  - Center
  - Hiking
  - Pedestrian path
  - Bicycle path
  - Loop
  - Central city square
  - Vine institute/stop
  - New development
  - Horse trail
  - School
  - Hospital
  - Municipal building
  - Cemetery
  - Main shopping street
  - Main shopping street
  - Cultural heritage





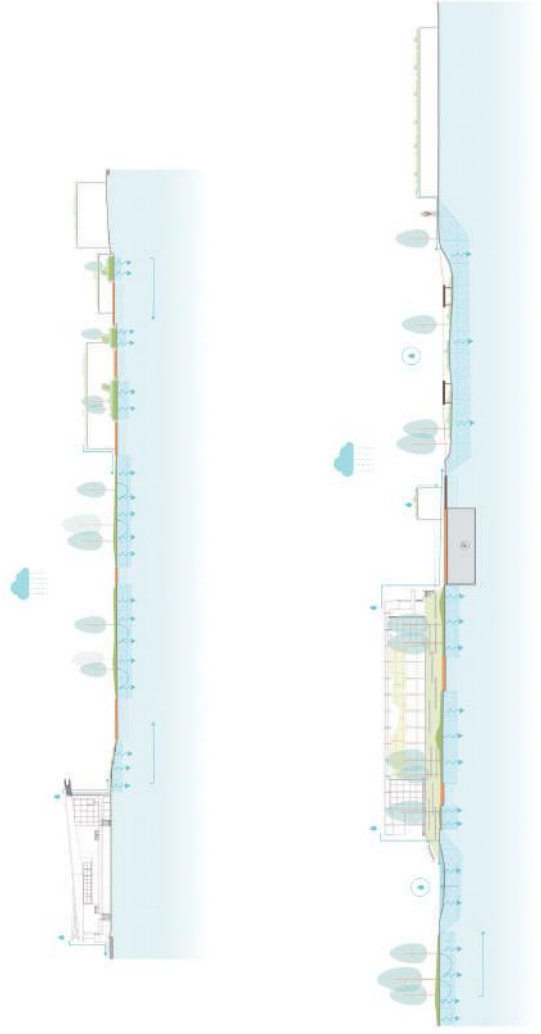
The city center it consists three main areas which are the city square, positioned along the street "Avdullah Bugari", the city park which encloses the sport hall and also the rain garden area in the existing park.

The city square offers many spaces for different seasonal and daily activities. The main consistent activity is leisure and well connected to Hardhia Bar atmosphere. The planters and the trees are arranged perfectly to give shape to mini plazas where these activities will happen. The temporary activities is the weekly market where the new market building it serves as a cover during the market days and other remaining time it can be used as a space for workshops and exhibition.

The city park encloses the sport hall while creating more private spaces for recreational use as the running track and playground use. The city park has different water streams which most of the time intertwine with the gravel path system, the water streams unite all together on the water pond that becomes a very important part of the biodiversity and ecosystem of the area. Along the water pond, reeds and other water plant grow and there are decorative rocks, which connects visually the path and the water pond.

Rain gardens we see as a smooth transition between the neighborhoods private gardens to the city center. Neighborhood alleys all unified in terms of design and all the private gardens fences will have grape plants as a fence. Rain gardens will collect all the rainwater in order to avoid flooding of the area in this way the water slowly will infiltrate to the ground.

The rain gardens, the green areas and all the water permeable pavings are explained on the sections below how the water is managed.

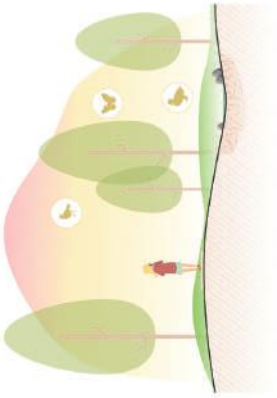
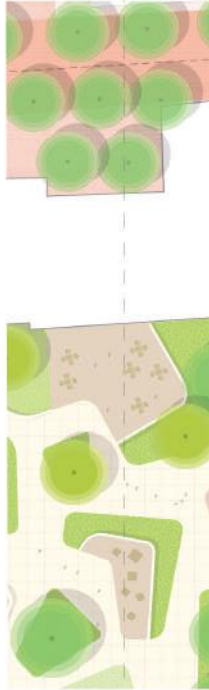




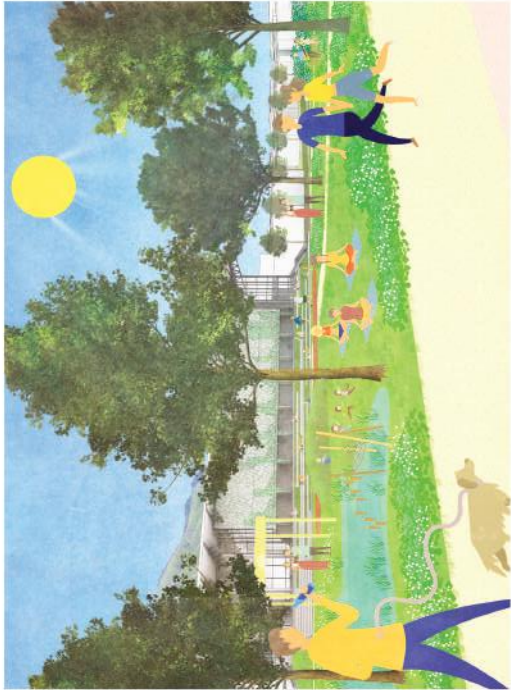
Shrubs, apple trees and cherry trees



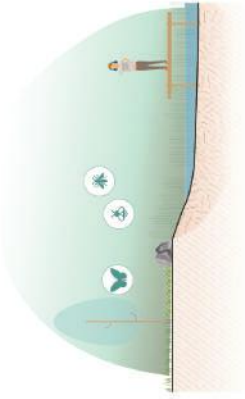
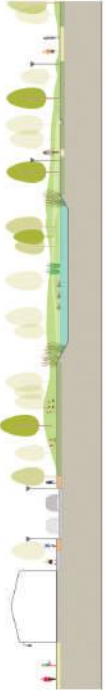
CITY SQUARE



Maple trees, low grass high grass



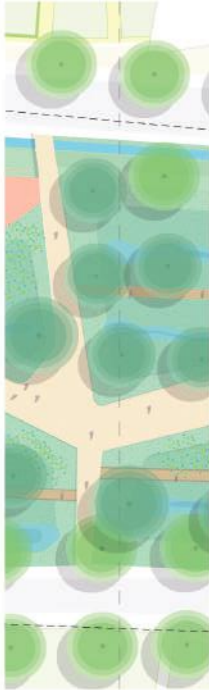
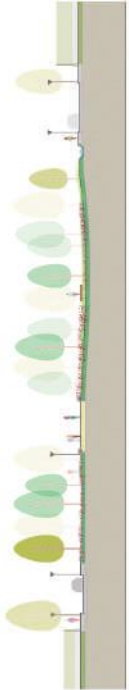
CITY PARK



White oak trees, high grass and perennials



RAIN GARDENS



## Third Prize – Urban Play

Participants: Van Tan Quyen Le, Thi Anh Nguyet Tran

Extract from the jury report:

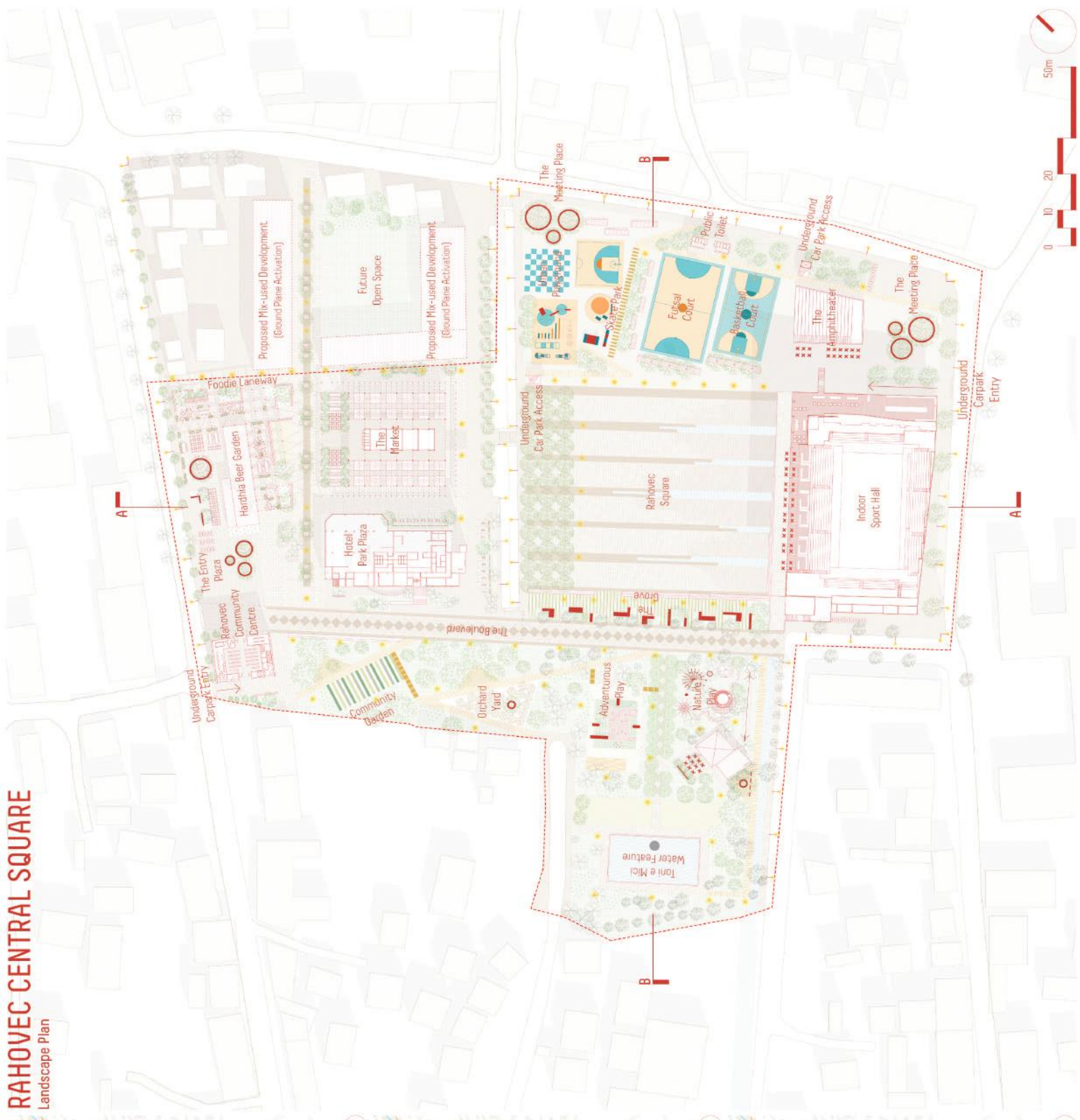
The scheme's approach to public play was unique and sets a tone for our 21st century paradigm of public life. Play and the joy of play and learning, sharing, and community making was expressed in this scheme's attitude to public life. After experiencing the daily life of the communities this need for life long-play, multi-generational play, and new materiality of public play in urban life seemed to transcend the need for formality into a purposeful destination for the regional residents of Kosovo. An alternative to entertainment as a commercial venture, but as public life expression, memory making, and ever-changing needs as one goes through different cycles of age, identity, and collective imagination.

The scheme provoked micro-programs, ideas for the city to develop public programs with their citizens, as well as animate a vibrant city center for residents and visitors. The clarity of event cultural venues was present, yet this schemes strategies for the market, provisions for event activities and integration of re-naturalizing the river could be further explored.

**Figure 25.** Third Prize.

# RAHOVEC CENTRAL SQUARE

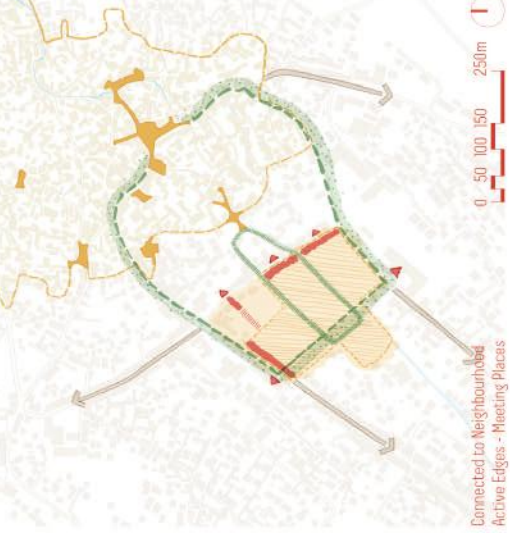
Landscape Plan



Appreciating The Existing Urban Setting  
Old Town Center - New Urban Center



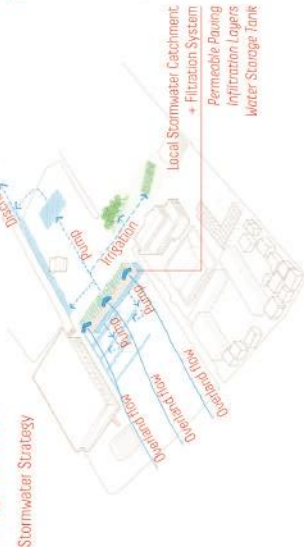
Establishing Foot Connectives  
Green Strategic Loop - Vibrant Local Loop



Connected to Neighbourhood  
Active Edges - Meeting Places

**Design Process**

**Time Square - Design Process**



1. Reducing the scale of the square

2. Framing edges with different conditions

3. Rolling the urban carpet

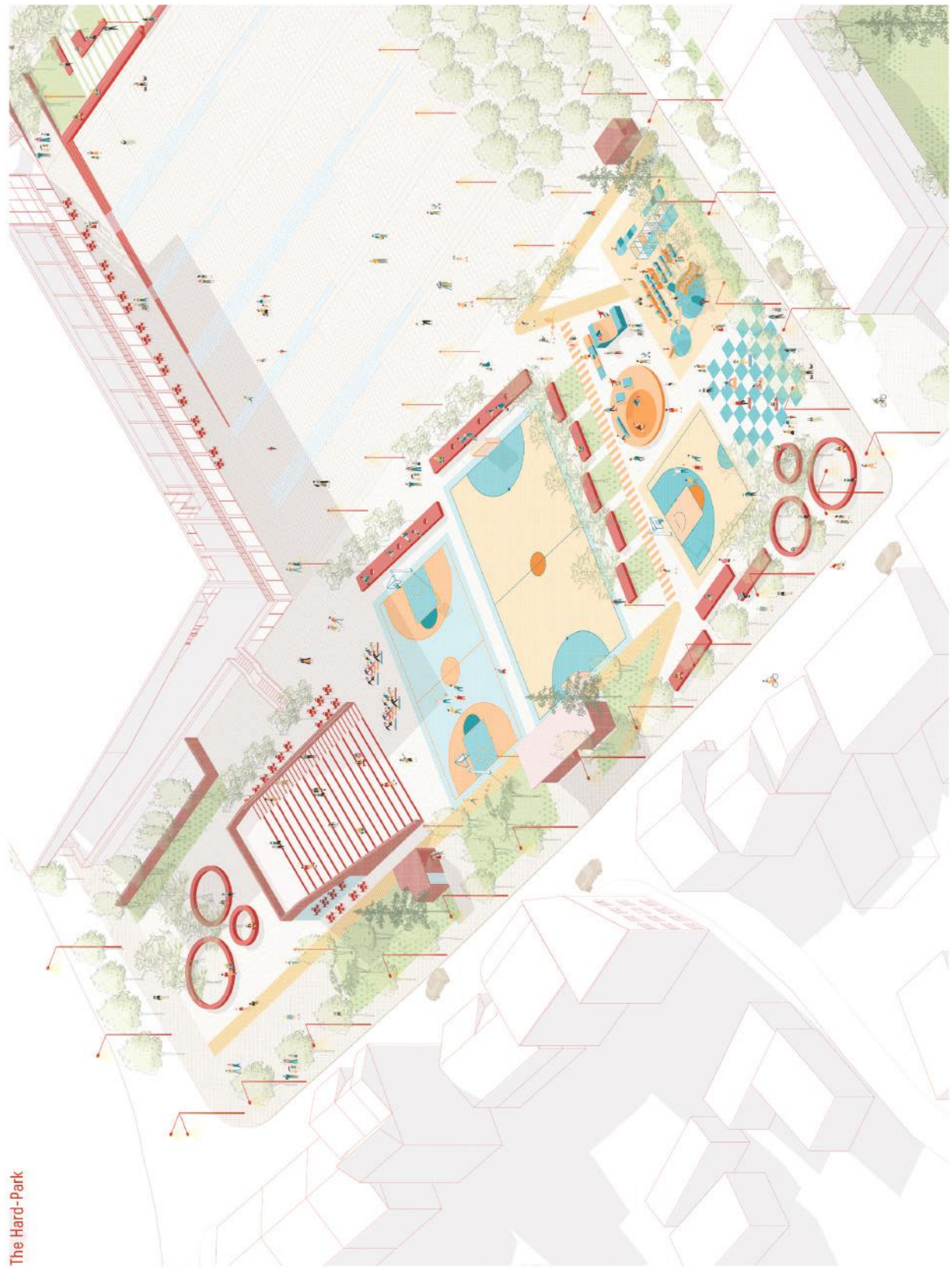
4. Revealing the water elements

5. Activating the ground plane

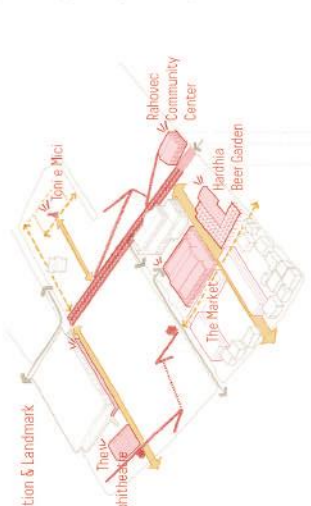
**Urban Amenities**



**The Hard-Park**



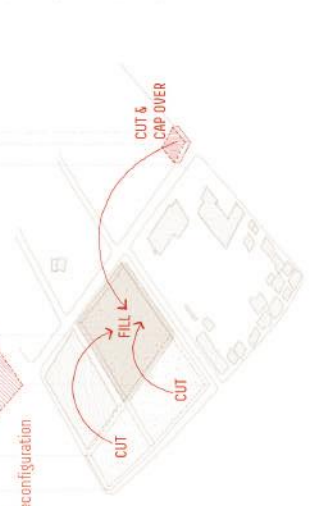
**Circulation & Landmark**



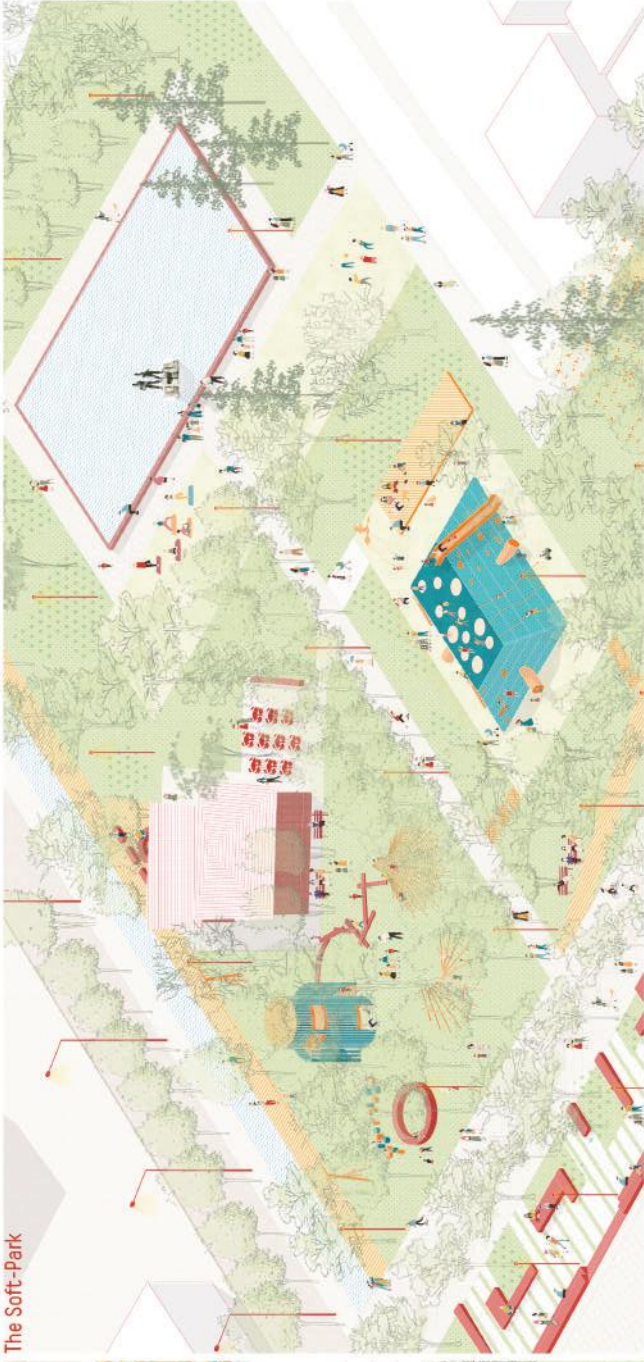
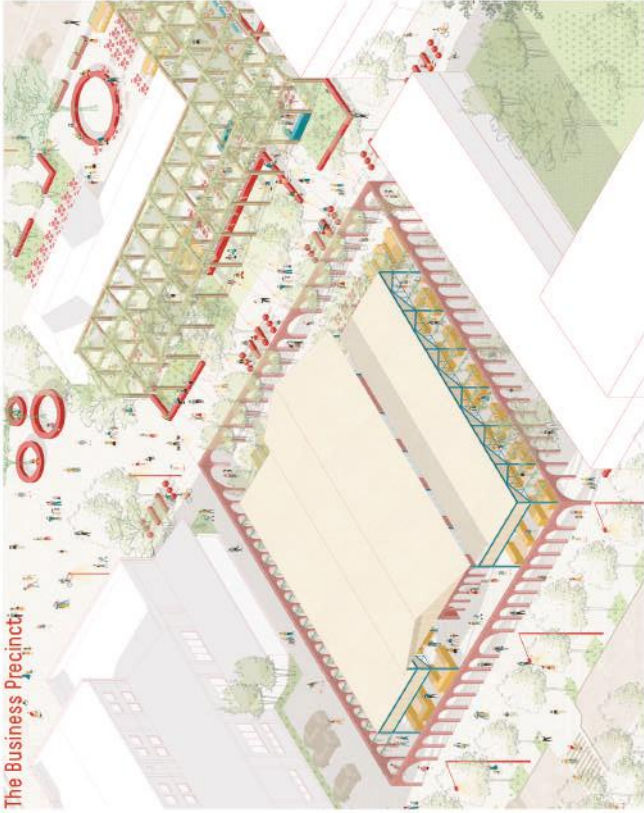
**Urban Structure**



**Site Reconfiguration**



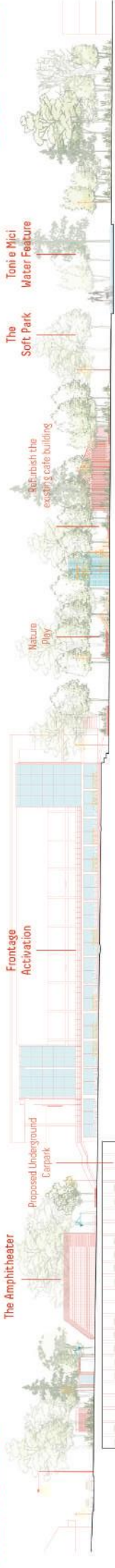
The Business Precinct



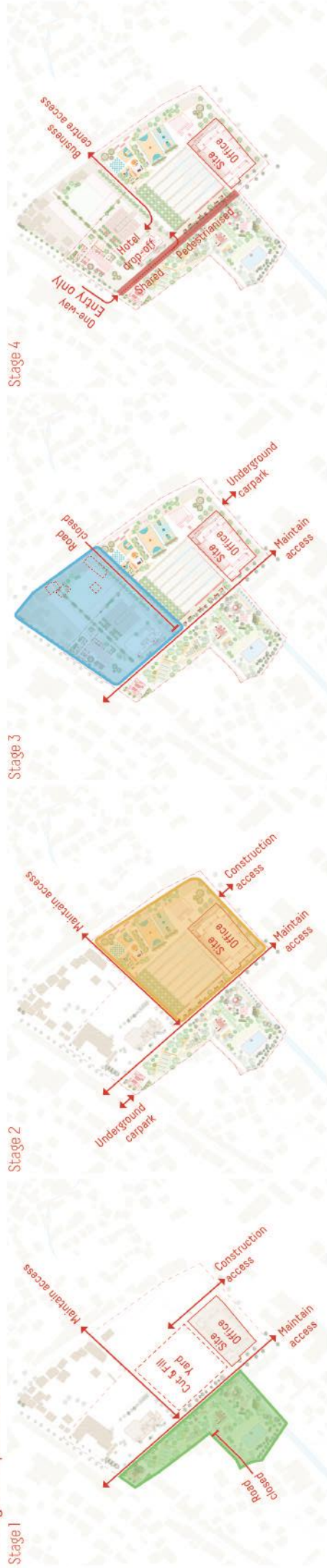
Sectional Elevation AA



Sectional Elevation BB



The Stages of Implementation



## Honorable Mention

Participants: Klejni Feimi, Paola Dalipi, Medjana Elezi

Extract from the jury report:

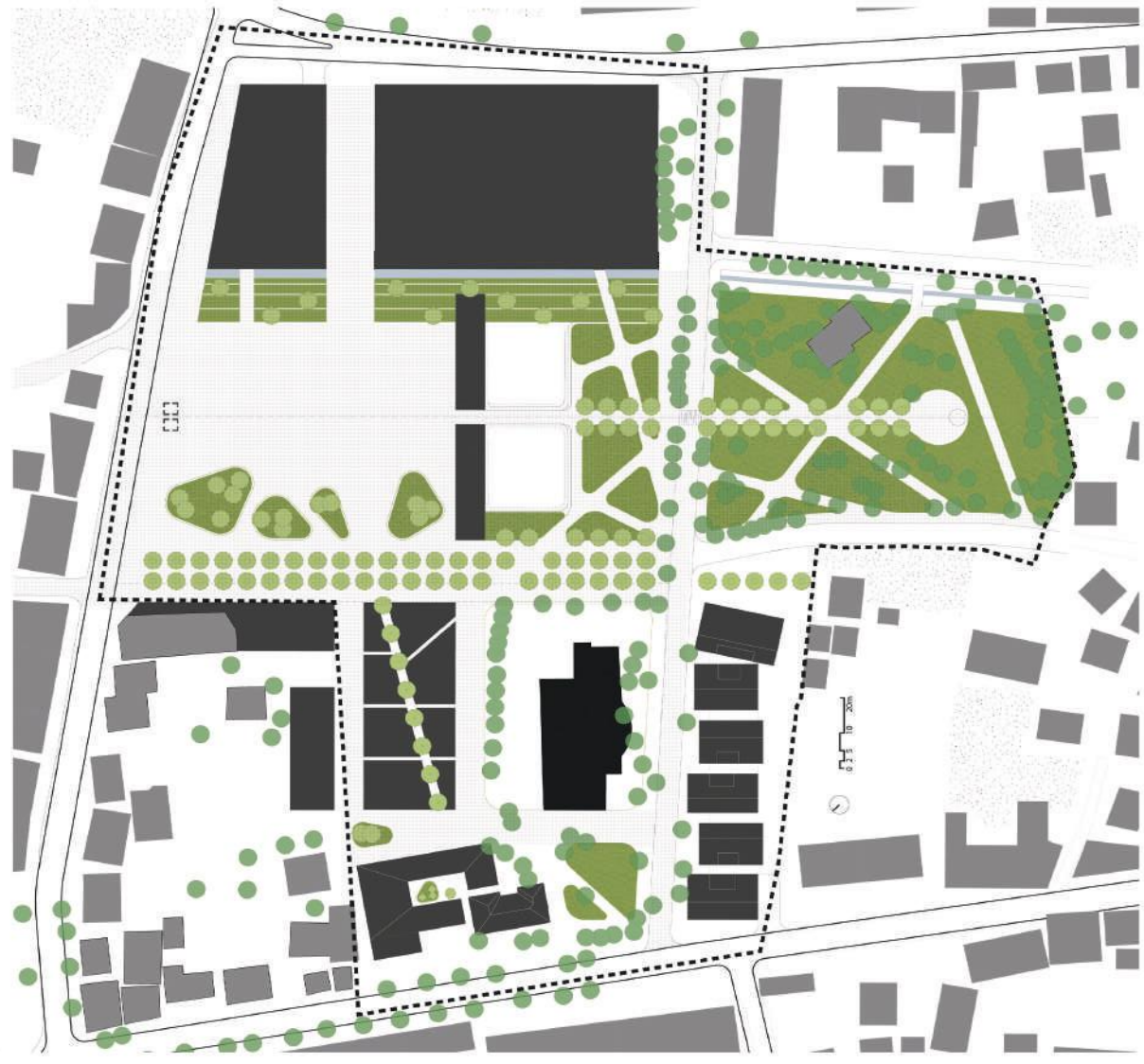
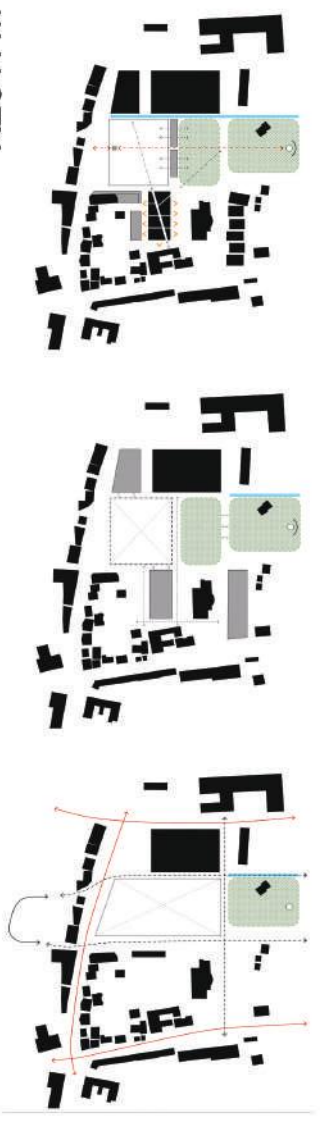
The scheme's understanding of the current constraints and ways to take actionable steps towards organizing the Central City Square employed urban forms to give definition and legibility to the whole. The proposal mobilizes a rather classical urban vocabulary that does not seek to affirm itself as an architectural gesture but uses modest and economically viable interventions to craft a series of well-defined and elegantly articulated urban spaces.

The actional projects like the market, the expansion of the park, and the corner definition with active social-cultural commissions reveal the potential for urban densification and make short-term aspirations of realizing a vibrant Central City Square tangible.

**Figure 26.** Honorable Mention.

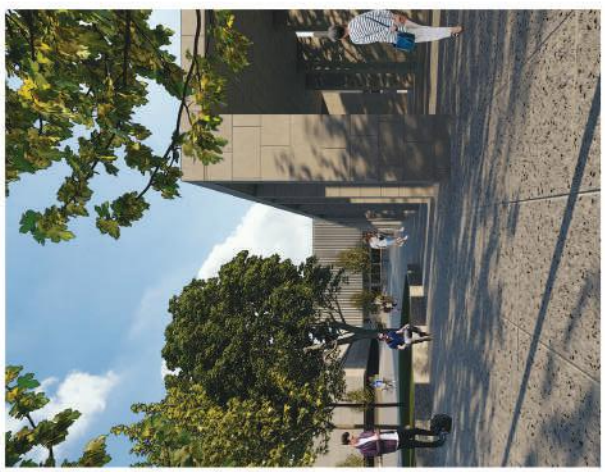
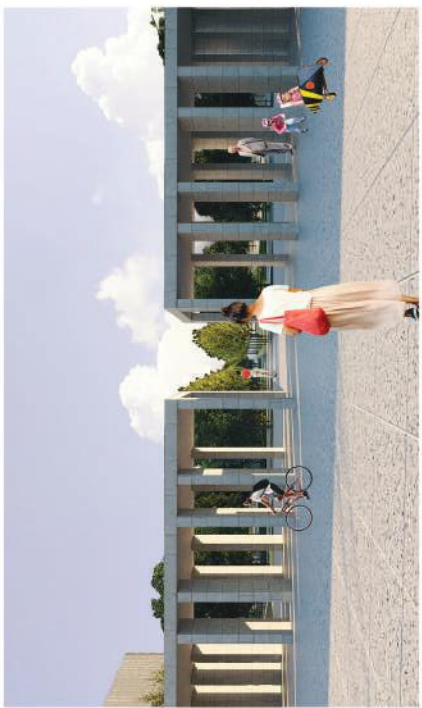


K2017m



K2017m





## Honorable Mention

Name: MNG arquitectura

Participants: Diego Garcia da Rosa, Martin Balmori, Miguel Riobo, Maria Victoria Steglich

Extract from the jury report:

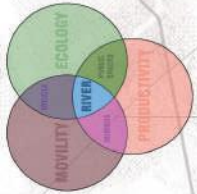
The scheme's re-naturalizing site strategy and integrated approach to the greater city center was mindful of the very diverse edge conditions as well as long-term potentials for strategic thinking. The bold move to rethink the river as a natural urban feature and to organize small and large public programming around this natural spine has long-term impacts for urban excellence and sustainable futures.

This celebration of the natural features and detailing of the whole as a land infrastructure resonated with our experience of the city's unique geographic location and geological formation. It would create a bold identity for the city, is excellent for story telling of the region's agricultural wealth and could be a role model for how atmospheric water can be central to city design futures.

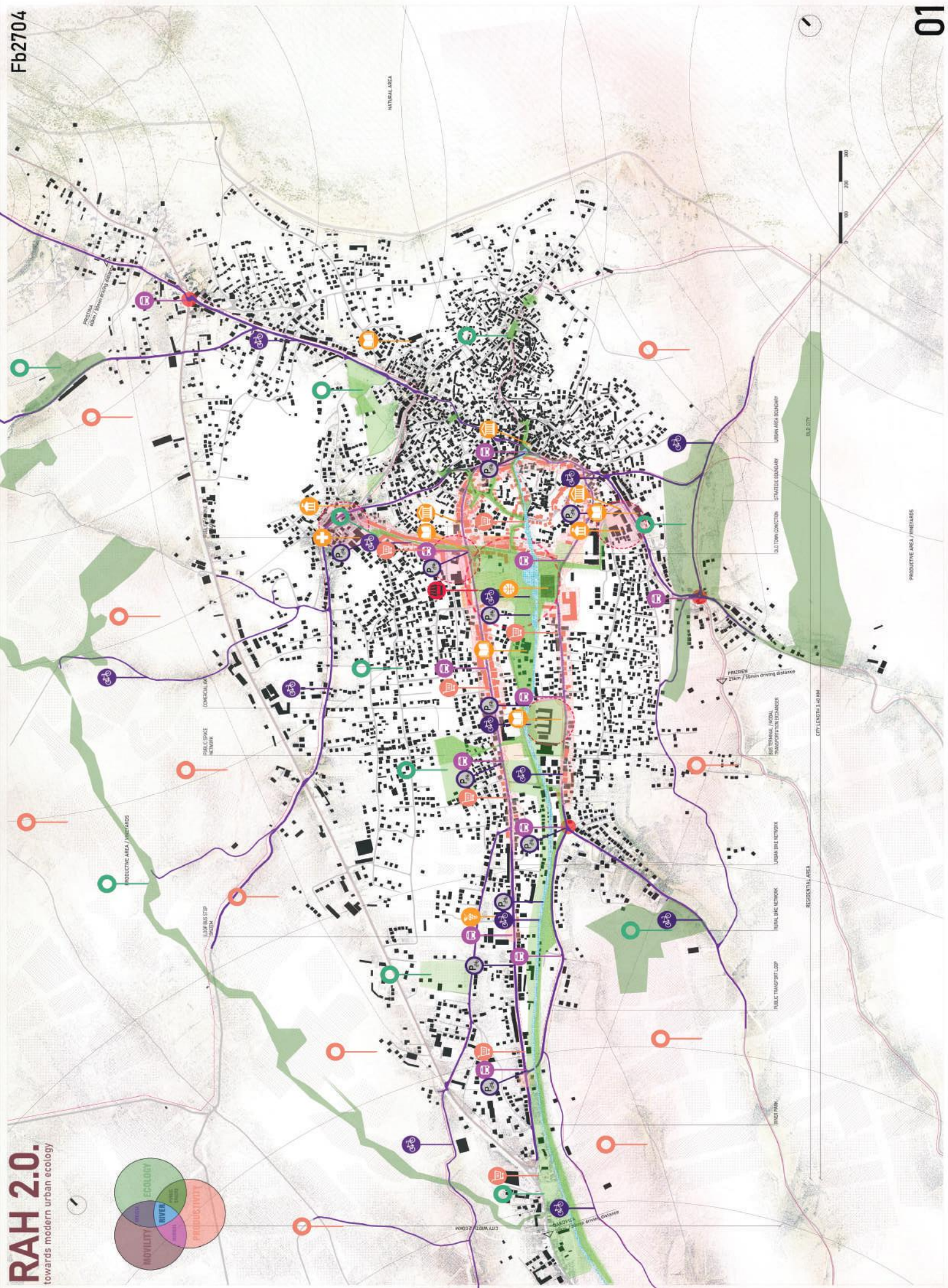
**Figure 27.** Honorable Mention.

# RAH 2.0.

towards modern urban ecology



Fb2704



NATURAL AREA



PRODUCTIVE AREA / VINEYARDS

RESIDENTIAL AREA

INDUSTRIAL AREA

CITY LENGTH 3.6 KM

DISTRICTS / LOCAL IDENTIFICATION ELEMENTS

GOVERNING BOUNDARY / WATER

URBAN AREA BOUNDARY

STATE BOUNDARY

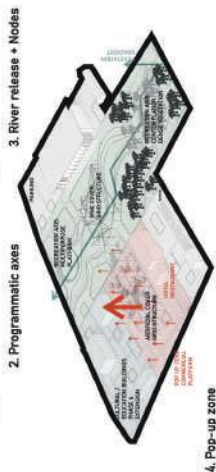
LOCALITY BOUNDARY

URBAN AREA BOUNDARY

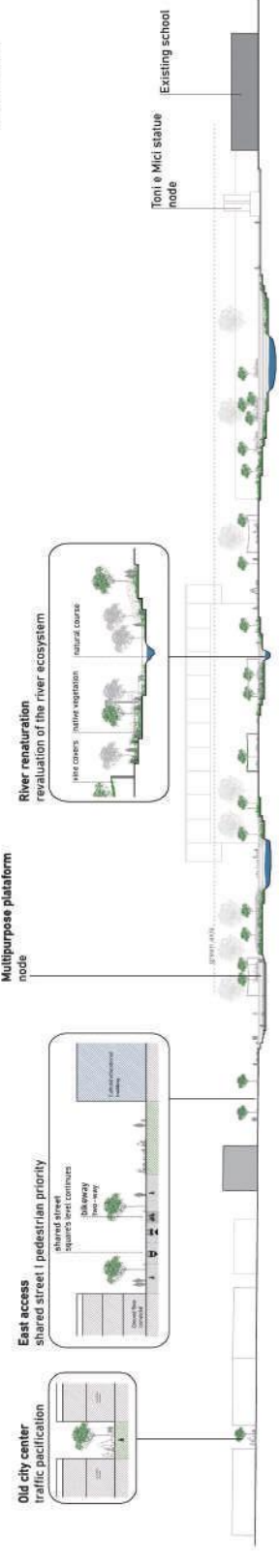
INDUSTRIAL AREA

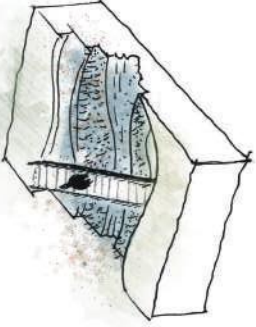
PRODUCTIVE AREA / VINEYARDS

NATURAL AREA

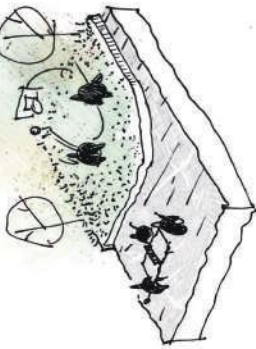


4. Pop-up zone  
 The new commercial area will count with adequate infrastructure to allocate the market and recreative activities, which will be able to adapt to different events or situations. It will also prioritize the pedestrian mobility.

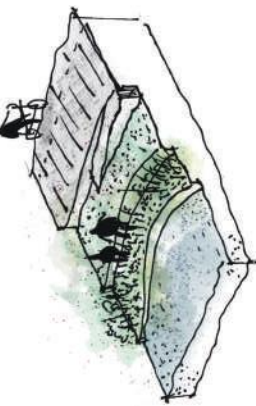




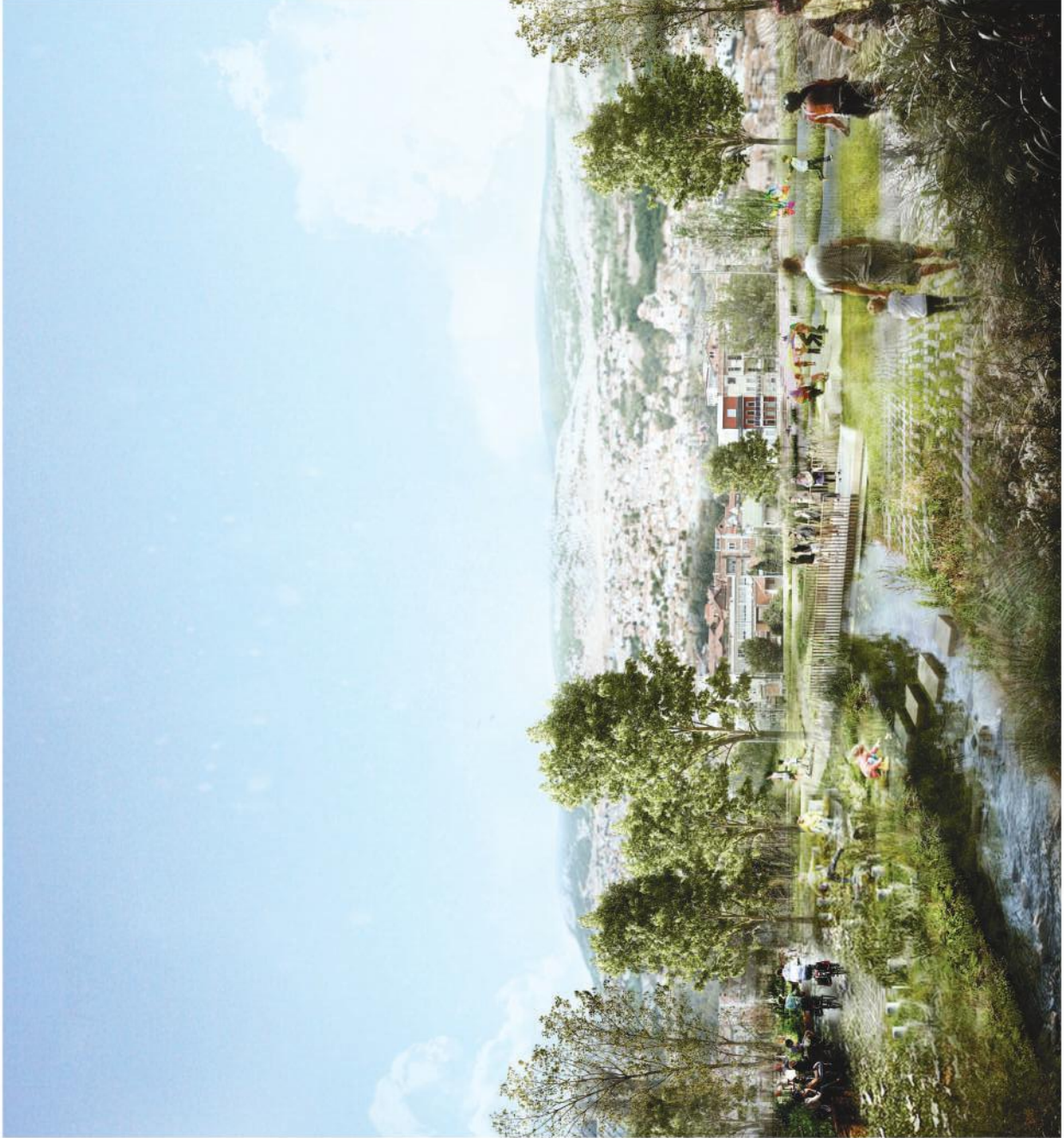
**River crossing**  
The river will be crossed by multiple bridges, connecting the different activities of the proposal. The bridges will be located at different altimetric levels, to maintain the link between the riversides even in the event of a flood.



**Recreation equipment**  
The recreation equipment will include the different user's needs, having the accessibility and social inclusion as its main objectives. It will include different sports courts and urban furniture, as benches, ping pong tables or playground areas.



**Riverside**  
The riverside will change during the year, depending of the floods. It is composed by the regeneration of the fluvial ecosystem, and will include living areas, for the enjoyment and meeting of the citizens, and recreational activities.



## Community Prize

Participants: Votim Emini, Festim Krasniqi, Rinor Imeri, Burim Canaj

Extract from the jury report:

The strategic area plan and the place making scenarios for public programs are empathetic to the citizens daily life and celebrate the geographic wealth of the city. The park approach gives a human scale to the large land area. The scheme's specificity of place also allows clarity of program, yet the theater of the weekly market, coupling of programs with the city's surrounding enterprises and seasonal festivals impact could be celebrated in the geometry with more open-ended places.

**Figure 28.** Community Prize.



## SITE LOCATION WITHIN THE CITY CONTEXT

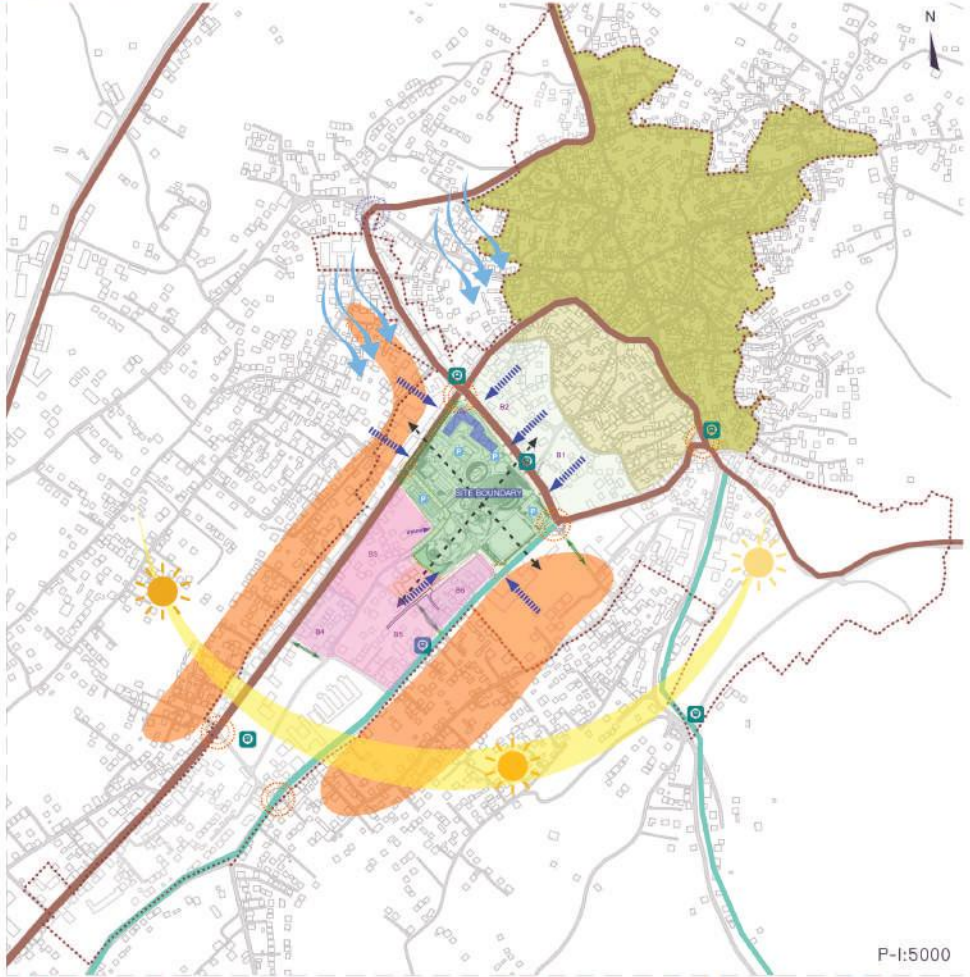


CENTRAL CITY SQUARE OF RAHOVEC

RAHOVEC IS A CITY THAT IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE CULTIVATION OF VINEYARDS AND VARIOUS PRODUCTS OF GRAPE. THE MUNICIPALITY OF RAHOVEC HAS 50% OF VINEYARDS THROUGHOUT KOSOVO, THEREFORE OUR PROJECT GIVES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE INTEGRATION OF THIS BUSINESS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE BY PROMOTING IT WITH ALL ITS PRODUCTS. A GOOD PART OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE WILL SERVE THE PROMOTION AND MARKET OF GRAPE PRODUCTS, WHILE THE REST OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE WILL BE TREATED WITH COMPREHENSIVE SPACES FOR EVERY AGE GROUP. AS WILL BE EXPLAINED IN THE PROJECT DRAWINGS, THE CONCEPT OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT IS BASED MAINLY ON THIS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE CITY OF RAHOVEC. THE URBAN DESIGN PROJECT OF RAHOVEC SQUARE WAS CARRIED OUT WITH THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR, AND WITH THE WILLINGNESS TO PRESERVE THE SURROUNDINGS. THE MATERIALS, THE COLORS, THE VEGETATION, THE TEXTURES, AS WELL AS THE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES USED, ARE INHERENT TO THE PLACE AND TO ITS HISTORIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE. THE MATERIALS USED FOR CONSTRUCTION WILL BE MOSTLY LOCAL, SUCH AS WOOD, MARBLE, STONE BRICK ETC.

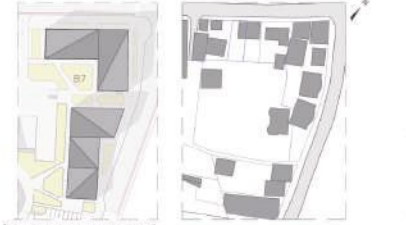
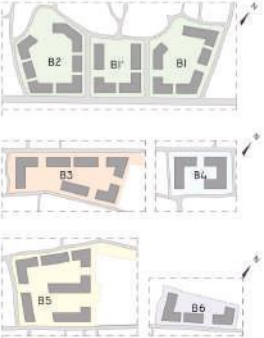
"EVERYONE'S SQUARE"  
THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE DELIMITATION OF THIS SQUARE IS VERY CLEAR TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY FROM THE SOCIAL SIDE BY OFFERING MANY DIFFERENT RECREATIONAL SERVICES, GREEN SPACES FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MAINLY IN THE PRODUCTION OF GRAPE PRODUCTS.

## STRATEGIC SITE PLAN

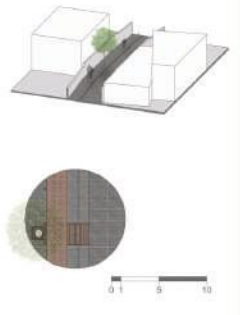
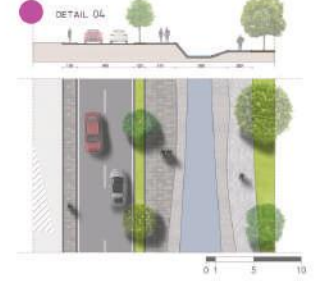
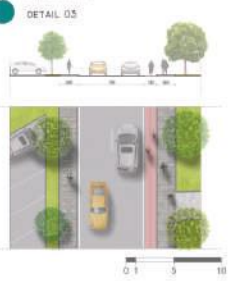


- STRATEGIC BOUNDARY
- REGIONAL ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD
- NEW ROAD PROPOSAL
- SITE BOUNDARY
- OLD CITY CENTER
- REVITALIZATION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (B1-B2)
- REVITALIZATION OF RESIDENTIAL/OLD CITY BUILDINGS
- REVITALIZATION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (B3-B5)
- REVITALIZATION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (B7)
- SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS
- WINDS
- COMPENSATION OF THE SURROUNDING AREA WITH THE PUBLIC SQUARE
- INTERSECTION ROAD WITH PROPOSED SOLUTION
- ACCESSIBILITY
- BUS STOPS

P-1:5000



"INTEGRATION OF SURROUNDING SPACES"  
IN THE PROJECT, IN ADDITION TO THE SOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL SQUARE, VARIOUS PROPOSALS ARE GIVEN TO OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY, INTEGRATING THE NEIGHBORING MIXED RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL AREA AND THE OLD TOWN AREA.  
-REDESIGN OF SOME STREETS SURROUNDING THE PUBLIC SQUARE.  
-SOLUTION OF NEW ROAD SEGMENTS FOR THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF TRAFFIC AND TO INCREASE THE ENTRANCES TO THE PUBLIC SQUARE.  
-CREATION OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATHS.  
-ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT STATIONS.  
-ORGANIZATION AND ADDITION OF PUBLIC PARKING SPACES.  
-TREATMENT OF FACADES OF EXISTING BUILDINGS SUCH AS SPIRITS HALLS, RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.





THE CONCEPT OF THE PROJECT ORIGINATES FROM THE BEST URBAN PROJECT. THE FORMING OF A LINE INTO THE SQUARE DICTATES THE MOVEMENT OF THE LINES. THE POROSITY OF THE LINES IS OUTLINED WITH GREEN SPACES WHICH SYMBOLIZES THE GREENWAYS. "EVERYONE FINDS THEMSELVES IN THIS PUBLIC SQUARE"

IN SOLVING THIS PROJECT WE HAVE PROVIDED A COMPREHENSIVE SQUARE FOR EVERY AGE GROUP IN THE CITY OF RAHOVEC. PROVIDING ACCESS TO SAFE, HEALTHY AND GREEN SPACE

RECREATIONAL SPACES SUCH AS:  
PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN  
FIELDS FOR THE APPLICATION OF VARIOUS SPORTS SUCH AS BASKETBALL, HOCKEY, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ETC.

PROXIMATE GREEN SPACES:  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
OBSERVATION POINT (INFORMATION)  
STREAM AND WATER BASIN  
TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS

SPACES FOR BUSINESSES SUCH AS:  
DAILY MARKET  
COMMERCIAL STORES  
BARS AND RESTAURANTS  
GREEN SPACES SUCH AS:  
PROXIMATE EXISTING GREENERY  
ADDITION OF BUSHES TO THE GREEN SPACES  
PLANTING OF HIGH ORNAMENTAL TREES

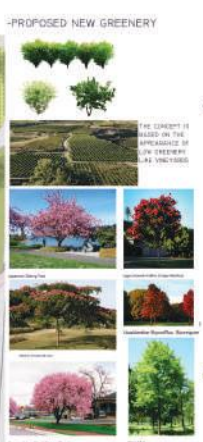
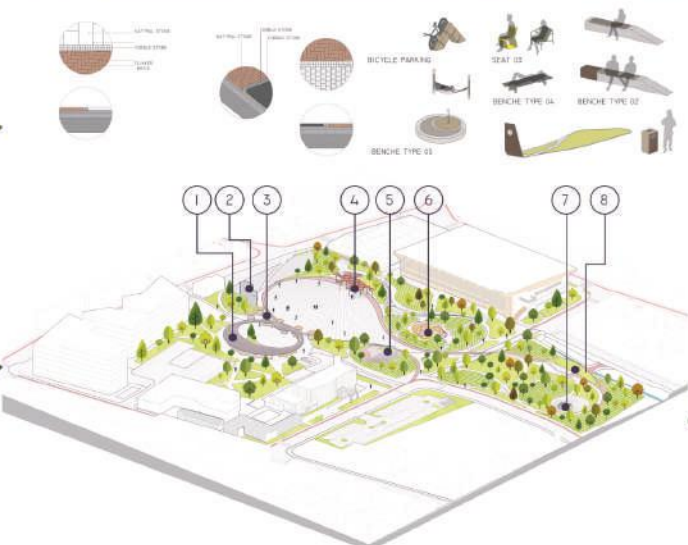
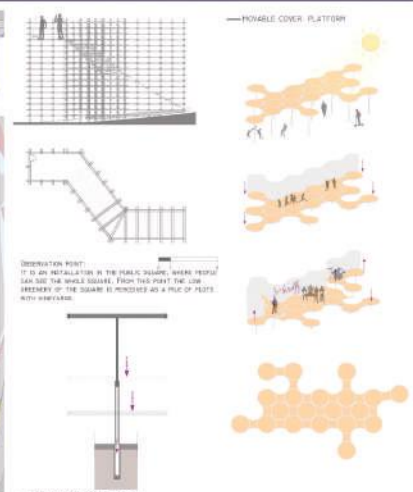


THE DAILY AND WEEKLY MARKET WILL SERVE FOR THE TRADE OF LOCAL PRODUCTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF RAHOVEC. DESIGNED WITH WOOD AND METAL MATERIAL.



PARKING HAS BEEN ORGANIZED AND ADDED TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO COORDINATE PUBLIC MOVEMENT WITH REVITALIZED





## Challenges

### Organizing the conference and site visit during the pandemic COVID-19.

**Solution** Conference and site visit were cancelled. Entrants were provided with extended site information, including photos and videos of the site, as well as a virtual tour.

### Organizing the jury evaluation during the pandemic COVID-19.

**Solution** Preparing two scenarios of organizing the jury evaluation: virtual/in person meeting and online evaluation.

### Organizing the jury site visit during the pandemic COVID-19.

**Solution** Limited number of people joining the site visit. Respecting pandemic preventive measures such as using masks, keeping the distance and maintaining personal hygiene.

### Organizing the virtual/in person jury evaluation.

**Solution** Respecting pandemic preventive measures such as using masks, keeping the distance and maintaining personal hygiene. Technical support from the local team during the jury evaluation sessions.

### Organizing the exhibition for selecting the community prize.

**Solution** Selecting a public building at the city center where citizens can easily access. Respecting pandemic preventive measures such as using masks, keeping the distance and maintaining personal hygiene.

**Table 10.** Challenges and solution on organizing the competition.

## **6.1 Winner announcement and publication of proposals**

The binding decision of the jury was published on scheduled date of the competition calendar. The jury report in English and translated in Albanian and Serbian was published together with a picture of each winning proposal. The results were published on the official website of the competition and the official Facebook page.

During the upcoming days all winning proposals were shared together with a short description of the jury report. Winning proposals were also shared on the competition newsletter together with the catalogue of entries, which was shared on social media and official website as well. Prestigious architectural and design magazines were contacted and the competition results were shared on their platforms.

## **6.2 Contacting the winners and award ceremony**

All winners of the competition have been contacted via email and congratulated on their work on the day of winners announcement. After result announcement and before receiving the prize, the winning teams had the obligation to submit their proposal on editable format.

Considering the situation with COVID-19 and traveling restrictions most countries were facing at the given time, the award ceremony could not take place. Certificates were sent to the winning teams via mail.

## **6.3 Next steps**

The international Design Competition aimed to achieve a planning and design solution for the Central City Square of Rahovec. During the process the citizens of Rahovec had the opportunity to discuss in detail their needs for public space and their vision for further development of the city and the particular site. Furthermore, during the last stage of the competition the citizens participated on the voting of the Community Prize, selecting their favorite proposal on the exhibition.

After selecting the winners of the competition, the Municipality of Rahovec has the right to use one of the winning projects (the first, second or the third) and develop the next phase of detailing and completion of the project. As mention on the Jury report, it is highly recommended that the Municipality of Rahovec incorporates aspects of the second and the third prize on the winning scheme. The selected themes and approaches can also serve as a base for future discussions and debates, where the citizens, public administration and political leaders could define how to roll-out the short and long-term realization and investments into the public life of the city.

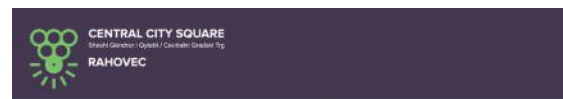
The Municipal Assembly of Rahovec is obliged that through a transparent public procurement process, to select the most appropriate entity which will draft all the necessary technical documentation required by Law on Construction before the start of project implementation.

The Municipality of Rahovec takes the responsibility to find funds and proceed with the implementation of the project.

| Challenges   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Organizing the award ceremony during the pandemic COVID-19.</b> |   |
| <b>Solution</b>  | The award ceremony was cancelled. Certificates were sent to the winning teams via mail. |

**Table 11.** Challenges and solution on publishing the results.

## Further readings:



### RAHOVEC CENTRAL CITY SQUARE

#### International Design Competition

##### Jury Report

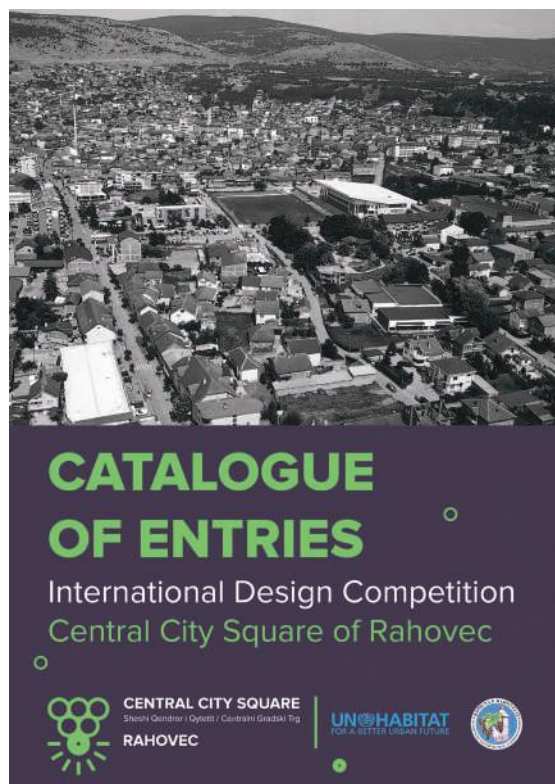
Rahovec's The Central City Square aspires to generously host annual international festivals, invite regional residents to the city center as a social destination, and animate the quality of public daily life for the immediate multi-generational community of citizens and enterprises.

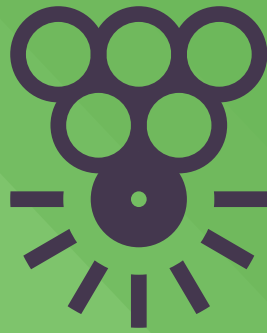
To service these explicit priorities the jury has selected three winning schemes. The first prize celebrates Urban Place, the second Urban Nature, and the third Urban Play while the two honorable mentions may contribute to guide the city's decision makers in the short and long-term phasing and implementation strategies.

Our aim with this approach is to encourage and empower the citizens of Rahovec, their public administration and their political leaders to continue debate on the merits of the different themes and approaches. While none of the three winning nor the two honorable mentions proposals shall be considered a ready-made solution, each of them contains concepts, principles or design proposals that merit more detailed analysis and a public debate. This will allow for a more informed decision and a greater ownership of the design solution that will be implemented over time.

It is our recommendation that the next step is to publicly share the winning three schemes, the two honorable mentions as well as five other selected proposals for exhibition in the city center. The competition can continue as a public discussion for how to roll-out the short and long-term realization and investments into the public life of the city.

As well as start to mature the winning scheme by incorporating aspects of the second and the third prize, the many subtle aspects of a finer grained programming, micro-ecology, adjacent parcels integration, as well as rehearsing the many untapped potentials for public life in the new Central City Square. To that purpose, the jury would warmly welcome a process that would allow the finalists to collaborate towards an integration of these elements. This could be done through collaborative workshop or other forms that would engage these three design teams.









# CENTRAL CITY SQUARE

Sheshi Qendror i Qytetit / Centralni Gradski Trg

## RAHOVEC

