

1. Prologue:  
Dreaming of Slowness

Makarska is a concrete and stone jungle, almost entirely lacking free space or urban voids. Moreover, the city and its surroundings have become synonymous with unregulated construction and the negative consequences of mass tourism. This can be attributed to the legacy of the 20th century's tourist modernity that applied to compact every square meter of territory on the globe. This aim is always kept getting bigger, better, more productive — to build and expand endlessly — took a visible toll on our urban environment.

Just as the promise of rapid expansion and growth is becoming gradually problematic, primarily in everyday life, we yearn to slow down, as well. In the ecophony of the contemporary, hyper-connected world, we frequently find ourselves longing for events, moments and experiences during which the passing of time does not seem so mindlessly fast. We are continuously accelerating, and yet dreaming of slowness.

3. Sites:  
A Roof Without a House

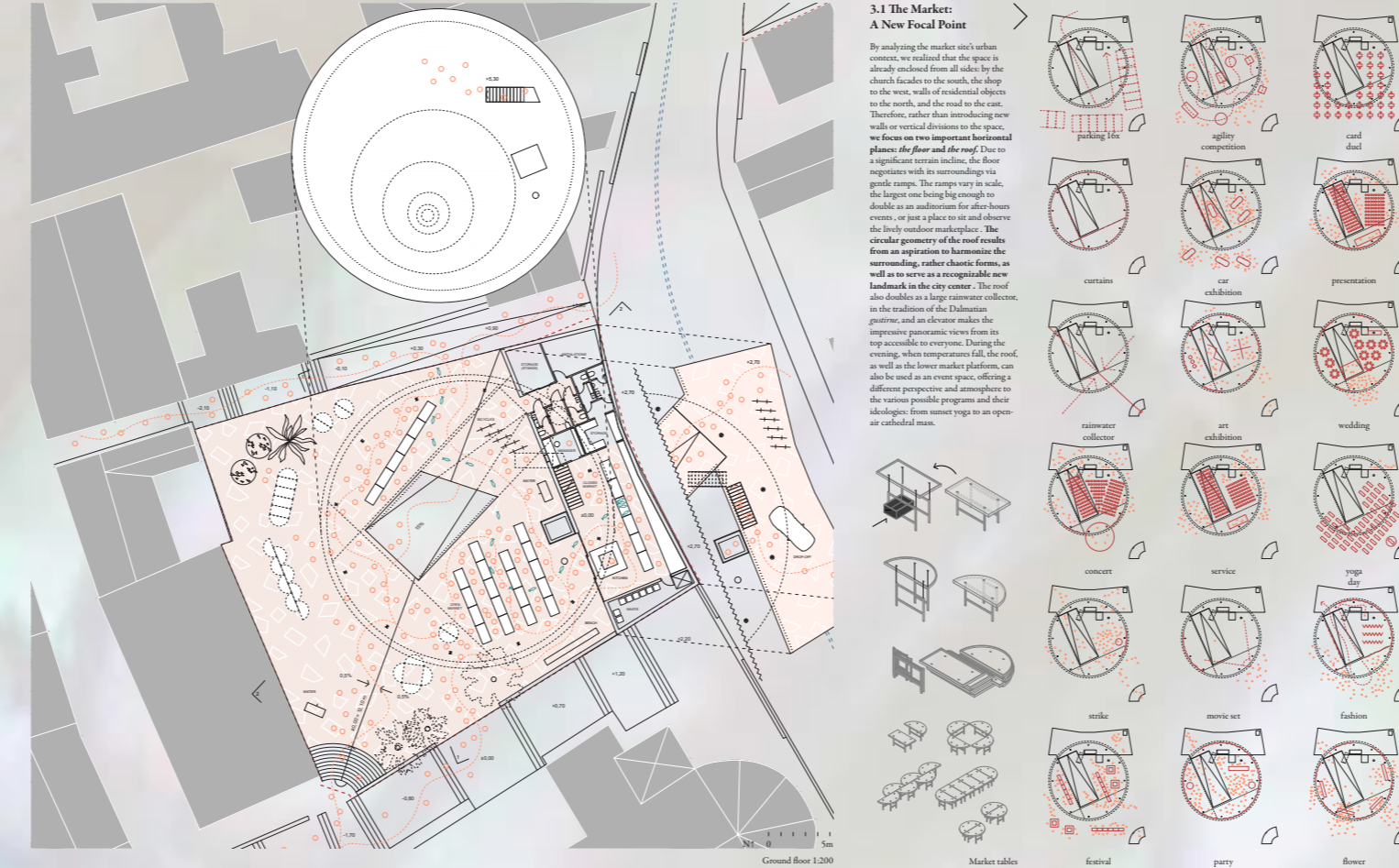
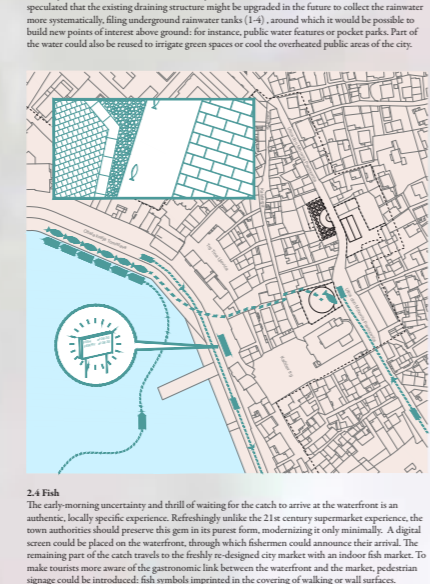
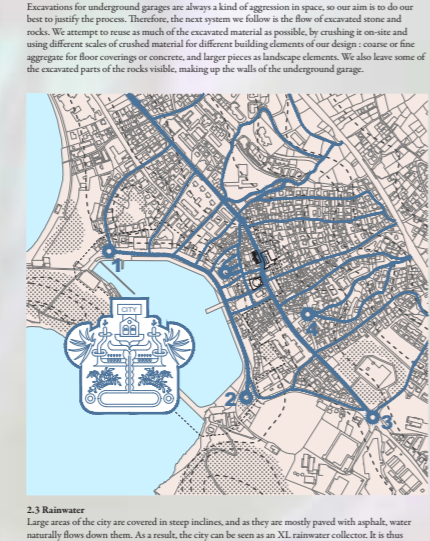
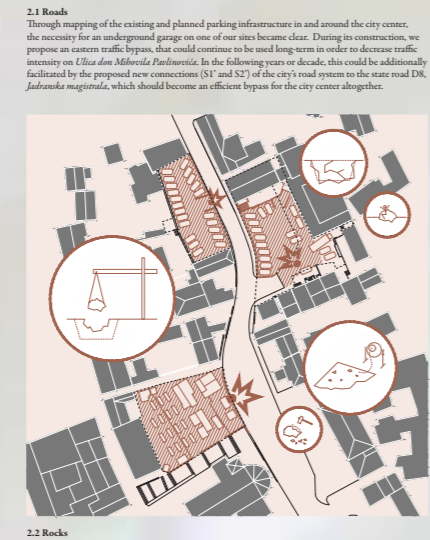
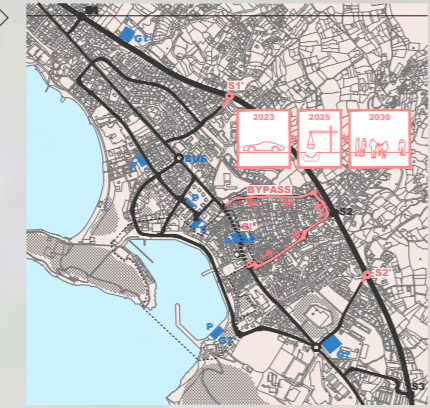
Rather than taking up square meters at the city's ground level by designing dense buildings, new architectural additions to a hyperconnected space, our priority is to develop a continuity of open public spaces that serve as lively new focal points of the city center.

We preserve all the sites as a connected system, taking into account their programmatic compatibility and close location in the city center. On urban planning scale, this connection is manifested by proposing a strategic pedestrian connection of all 3 sites. This could be realized through long-term plans of reducing the intensity of traffic on *Ulica don Mihovila Pavlinovića* and forming a new city promenade from the Cathedral to *Ulica Slobode Gajdika*. Traffic access to the promenade would only be provided to delivery vehicles for the Market and Gastronomy Center and vehicles intending to park in the planned public garage.

On an architectural scale, the link between the project sites is the main architectural element used in all of them: the roof. It is crucial to point out that in this project, it is never a roof of a house, but rather a roof without a house. On each site, a roof only partially covers the common ground of the designed public space. As an architectural promenade, the roof performs its elementary duty of sheltering people from the weather (be it sun or rain), as it has done for thousands of years. This way, in a simple manner, it responds to the idea of slowness. By conditioning the atmosphere beneath it, making it more pleasant and livable, the roof enables and encourages us to slow down, read and linger for a while, instead of just hurriedly pass by. On each of the 3 locations, the roof appears in a different form: a flat, walkable platform of the market roof, an archetypal, inhabited, pitched roof of the Gastronomy Center, and a natural substitute for a main-made roof on Site 3, a Mediterranean canopy type roof.

- \* A Trig fra Andreje Katičić Matkovića: Start of a Sequence of Public Spaces
- \* B Ulica don Mihovila Pavlinovića: A Planned Public Promenade (2030)
- \* C The Planned Winery: An Urban Gateway
- \* D The Secret Passage: An Entrance to the Garden

A continuity of open public spaces that serve as lively new focal points of the city center. A wide variety of daytime and evening scenarios is envisioned for the Market, the Center for Mediterranean Gastronomy and the Garden.



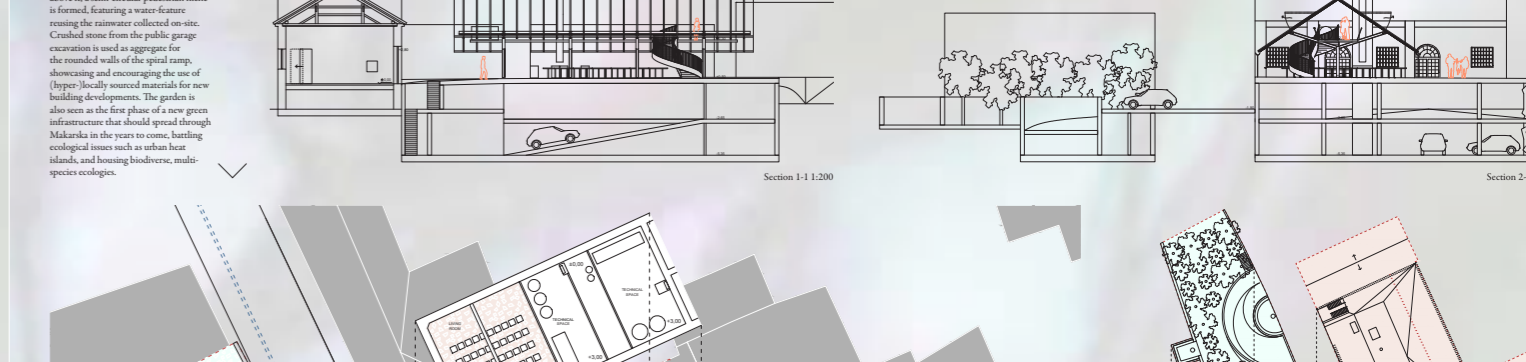
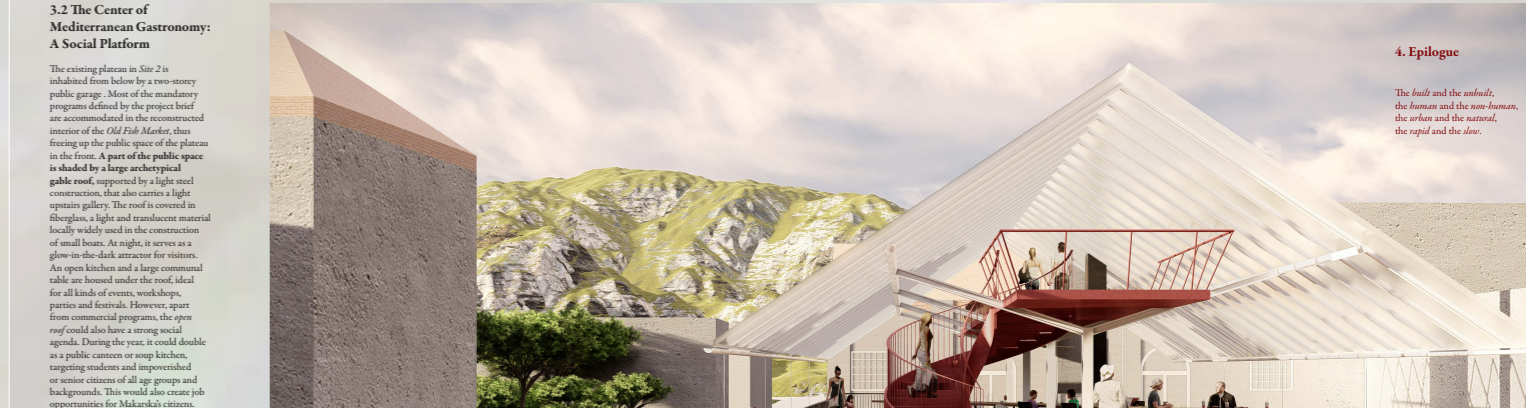
In attempting to formulate spatial strategies suited for today, as well as for tomorrow, it is critical to recognize all crucial and interdependent actors, systems and networks that help shape our urban environment. Our outlook that shifts from being purely anthropocentric, to observing a much wider perspective. Apart from our human realm, this also includes the non-human planes, animals, natural and artificial elements, substances, and objects. The aim is to observe, question and develop a better understanding of ways in which these old and new actors can connect, and consequently shape new urban-natural orders, ecologies and systems.

In Makarska, we close the system to be studied and mapped based on the creation of them having a significant connection with our three project sites. We searched for and observed links between the wider context of the city and the programs and spaces to be designed on our sites. Our design approach is thus ambulatory — equally considering the XI, the XS, and everything in-between.

Through mapping of the existing and planned parking infrastructure in and around the city center, the necessity for an underground garage on one of our sites became clear. During construction, we propose an access route, a space that could continue to be used long-term in order to decrease traffic intensity on *Ulica don Mihovila Pavlinovića*. In the following years or decades, this could be additionally facilitated by the proposed new connections D1 and D2 of the city's road system to the near road D6, *Jadranska magistrala*, which should become an efficient bypass for the city center altogether.

Excavation for underground garages are always a kind of question in space, so our aim is to do so here to justify this process. Therefore, the new system we follow is that of excavated stone and rocks. We attempt to reuse as much of the excavated material as possible, by crushing it on-site and using different sizes of crushed material for different building elements of our design: concrete or aggregate for floor coverings or concrete, and larger pieces as landscape elements. We also leave some of the excavated parts of the rocks visible, making up the walls of the underground garage.

Large areas of the city are covered in steep inclines, and as they are mostly paved with asphalt, water naturally flows down them. In a study, the city can be seen as an XL rainwater collector. It is also speculated that the existing drainage structure might be upgraded in the future to collect the rainwater more systematically, filling underground rainwater tanks (1-4), around which it would be possible to build new points of interest above ground: for instance public water fountains or pocket parks. Part of the water could be used to irrigate green spaces or cool the overheated public areas of the city.



By analyzing the market site's urban context, we realized that the space is already enclosed from all sides by the church facade to the south, the shop to the west, walls of residential objects to the north, and the road to the east. Therefore, rather than introducing new walls or vertical divisions to the space, we focus on two important horizontal planes: the floor and the roof. Due to a significant terrain incline, the floor requires a significant ramp, the roof requires a significant ramp. The ramps vary in width, the largest one being big enough to double as an audience for after-hour events, or just a place to sit and observe the lively outdoor marketplace. The circular geometry of the roof results from an aspiration to harmonize the surrounding, rather chaotic forms, as well as to serve as a recognizable new landmark in the city center. The roof also doubles as a large rainwater collector, in the tradition of the Dalmatian gutter, and an elevator makes the impressive panoramic views from its top accessible to everyone. During the evening, when temperatures fall, the roof, as well as the lower market platforms, can also be used as an event space, offering a different perspective and atmosphere to the various possible programs and their activities: from sunset yoga to an open-air cathedral mass.

The natural recession from the road level makes the space of Site 3 inherently unenclosed, natural recession from the noise and traffic of its dynamic surroundings. Given that Makarska's city center lacks almost any kind of park or green infrastructure, the whole of this site, including the spiral parking ramp leading to the underground garage, is planned as a new public garden — a terrace garden. On the other hand, it was an ambition, rather than build. Maintenance programs and other types of local vegetation are planned in order to provide a shaded, cool and quiet environment. A small decline at the south-eastern edge of the gently leads paved by from the existing garage in the old wall. The garden is equipped only with minimal infrastructure that allows it to house occasional events with programs complementary to the ones planned on Site 1 and Site 2, just within a different atmosphere. The rectangular niche in the garden is used as an open bar with minimum necessary storage. The spaces enclosed by the circular ramp are also connected to the garden: a passage under the ramp leads to an above with public tables on the sidewalk. Below it, a semi-circular pedestrian niche is formed, featuring a water feature following the rainwater collection on-site. Crushed stone from the public garage excavation is used as aggregate for the rounded walls of the spiral ramp, showcasing and encouraging the use of locally sourced materials for new building developments. The garden is also seen as the first phase of a new green infrastructure that should spread through Makarska in the years to come, battling ecological issues such as urban heat islands, and housing biodiversity, multiple species ecologies.

The entire plan for Site 2 is calculated from below by a new primary public garage. Most of the mandatory programs defined by the project brief are accommodated in the underground interior of the Old Fish Market, thus freeing up the public space of the platform in the front. A part of the public space facing up the public space of the platform is a large terrace, supported by light steel construction, that also carries a light and airy gallery. The roof covers a fiber-optic, light and translucent material locally widely used in the construction of small boats. At night, it serves as a glow-in-the-dark artifice for visitors, the new facade and a large communal table are housed under the roof, ideal for all kinds of events, workshops, parties and festivals. However, apart from occasional programs, the open roof would also have a regular agenda. During the year, it would double as a public common or camp kitchen, suggesting students and improvisation to the various possible programs and their activities. This would create a job opportunity for Makarska citizens. Thus, Mediterranean gastronomy is used not only for tourism, but also as a platform for social activities and connection. What better thing to bond over than food!

The early-morning uncertainty and thrill of waiting for the catch to arrive at the waterfront is an authentic, locally specific experience. Refreshing unlike the 21st century supermarket experience, the town authorities should preserve this gem in its present form, modernizing it only minimally. A digital screen could be placed on the waterfront, through which fishermen could announce their catch. The remaining part of the catch travels to the freshly designed city market with an indoor fish market. To make tourists more aware of the gastronomic link between the waterfront and the market, pocket parks could be introduced, fish symbols integrated in the covering of walkway wall surfaces.