

Mjesto Šušura Bustling Locale

Introduction

Makarska - historically rich, a complex and layered artifact grown from the rock, stretching on the slope beneath Biokovo, sliding into the sea - in its essence unmistakably Mediterranean, bustling, and familiar. The place is shaped not only by scents, tastes, sounds, and vistas but, more importantly, by its people and their habits. This project aims to capture and enhance that unique atmosphere across three distinct levels at three intertwined locations.

General approach

The whole project enables the complexity and gradation of human interaction in society and in Makarska. From individual, personal, and human interactions at *the Market*, to communal, social, and local interactions at *the Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy*, and finally, to collective, cultural, and universally human interactions at *the Cultural Platform*. These interactions transpire in specific locales, defined by deeply human and architectural elements - the roof over the open public space.

By adding another specific element, tied to the location program; the market stand, the table, and the stage, ample space for human encounters and “Šušur” (eng. bustling) is achieved. Lively, murmuring sounds of people, living and existing in the Mediterranean, such as clinking of the plates, sellers yelling at the market, people talking, water running from the tap, children playing, crickets hidden in the greenery, clothes rustling in the wind, all of these overlap and create a local, domestic symphony, inseparable from the Mediterranean

Reaction to Makarska

The Mediterranean is fully embraced and flows through the city, achieving its full potential within the triangle formed by the locations. The idea is to expand the liveliness of these sites throughout the entire Makarska, creating an active network of cultural institutions, culinary establishments, sports infrastructure, recreation and nature parks, etc., that can easily be integrated into the everyday life of Makarska throughout the year.

We propose to slow down traffic along the entire length of the connecting street between the locations by using stone paving and removing parking from the street, while adding a large underground garage beneath *the Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy* and *Cultural Platform*. This solution opens up the city to the concept of living closer to a human scale and encourages a slower, more mindful way of life. The interactions with nature, local products, local people, gatherings at the table, and the beauty of the seaside and the mountain are given more breathing space and time to exist in their own essence. This vision aligns with the idea behind Antun Gojak’s paintings, which inspired some elements of the project, particularly in the social and anthropological interpretation of the Makarska locale and the broader Mediterranean atmosphere.

Bustling Market

The first stop on the stroll through the city is the market, accessible from all four corners. Visitors can use the ramp or wide staircase from the North, the gently sloping staircase from the East and the South, or the quick staircase from the West. The entire site and the surrounding public space are covered with local traditional stone pavement, which unifies all three locations. At *the Market*, we meet a local man from Makarska. The contact is immediate, one-on-one, at the stand.

To provide a safe and comfortable environment, *the Market* is covered by a large concrete square roof designed in the form of a girder grid. T-profile columns support the roof and flare upwards from their base. This design offers ample shade for sellers and customers while keeping the pedestrian pathway between the North and South corners unobstructed. The roof also elevates a fragment of a Mediterranean garden with native plants, providing an introspective promenade and a peaceful escape from the bustling market. The promenade is suitable for hosting small events and gatherings.

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The roof is designed to be self-watered by rainwater, which is also filtered and purified through layers of soil and then collected for various uses at the market. The plants on the edges of the roof serve as additional protection from sunlight.

The closed part of *the Market* is integrated into the sloped terrain and connected with the access road and the ground floor of *the Market*. Towards the market, closed stands directly open up along with a small serving kitchen. Above, connected by a gallery, additional craftsmen's workshops and the market office can be found. Utility spaces are efficiently organized in the back of the closed market area, optimizing the usage of space. These utility spaces include storage areas for *the Market* stands, storage for each selling point, user and seller toilets, and a waste collection scissor elevator system accessible from both floors. The utility spaces are connected to the road by a service scissor elevator and stairs.

The stands are foldable and can be stored in the closed part of *the Market*, allowing for a vast clear surface that can easily transform to host various events and activities. As a result, the market serves the community during working hours as well as outside of regular hours for social gatherings, fairs, flea markets, performances, competitions, and other events.

Slow Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy

The stone pavement leads the way down the street, climbs up the slope from the SW to reach *the Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy*. Here we meet the Makarska community, experiencing everyday life at its heart - a large table, hypertrophied and carefully placed within a green Mediterranean pocket in front of the old fish market, creating a homely and inviting atmosphere. The garden is always open and accessible to everyone for informal gatherings. The common stone pavement extends into pathways between green islands of local vegetation, surrounded by curved stone benches. Three small outdoor kitchens are strategically positioned to facilitate various culinary events. When not in use, the outdoor kitchens can be closed to form three monolithic stone blocks. Above, a green "roof" is formed by stretching steel cables between the stone columns in the garden, allowing grapevines to grow and cover them. This green, natural roof contrasts the old, man-made roof of the fish market, creating a harmonious ensemble. The environment feels domestic, local, and familiar, inserting much-needed vegetation into the dense urban fabric of Makarska.

Inside the old fish market, there is a large kitchen with three separate working units. Two smaller units are positioned in the center for demonstrations and classes, and one larger unit at the back functions as an independent unit or a supporting unit for the central two. Visitors or students can sit at a kitchen island to watch the food being prepared. The main sitting area caters to various arrangements - restaurant-style, classroom setup, workshops, and more, with foldable tables and chairs that can be removed and stored inside storage closets.

Additional seating is arranged by the window on the southern wall and at the kitchen island. An adjacent little shop offers local products. Utility spaces, such as restaurant storage and staff dressing rooms with toilets, are organized in the eastern part of the building. The technical area is located on the first floor above.

The height difference of the garden from the road is utilized to create an entrance to the underground garage. Instead of several small separate garages, it is proposed to have one central and larger garage with the same number of parking spaces. The garage extends under the road to the location of *the Cultural Platform* over two floors, providing space for around 140 vehicles, with additional bicycle parking beneath the garden on the first semi-floor.

Ludic Cultural platform

The stone pavement continues to the final location, *the new Cultural Platform*. At the stage, we *reach* the entire world through a portal enabled by Makarska. The steel alien structure is inserted into the urban fabric, locked between two existing houses and choosing to stand out as a statement of Makarska creating a leap towards a global cultural scene.

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The structure creates three specific planes for performances. The first plane is an open and covered stage. The trussed structure is raised from the street and drawn back from the old stone wall letting the place to breathe and provoking the tension between the building and its surrounding. It preserves the original void where the stage and the auditorium are placed. The height difference between the road and the parterre leaves room for the passers-by to peek and become interested in the action on the stage or on the bocce court next to it.

Second plane of *the Platform* is the multifunctional closed space on the first floor reached by staircases and elevators in two strong cores at the ends of the building. The space can host a vast palette of programs - theater, exhibitions, concerts, workshops, promotions, etc. It is equipped with all the technical and utility spaces for such programs.

Third and the most poetic plane is on the high roof of the structure an open deck defined only by its border and small removable canopy. The deck affirms the two most predominant forces of Makarska - mighty Biokovo mountain and the alluring Adriatic sea. The essence of Makarska above a creative platform of Man.

Implementation

Feeling the strong commitment towards the locals, the people of Makarska, the project solution aims to activate the area, and thus the entire city of Makarska, throughout the entire year. We propose the implementation of the project in several phases, after the competition is completed.

1. Discussion with the City of Makarska

After the winning project is chosen, a discussion with the City of Makarska should be conducted. We present our solution, the overall idea and our vision for the future development of Makarska, while the City reviews the solution and gives their commentary. One of the additional key topics is a new traffic strategy and a traffic study necessary to conduct it. If necessary, the solution is adjusted after the revision.

2. Traffic strategy

A new traffic strategy is proposed in two phases. In the first phase the vehicle traffic on the project location is thinned out by slowing down the traffic using the paving solutions and adding a large underground garage beneath the gastronomy center and platform.

In the second phase, a much wider city - scale solution is implemented after the conduction of the traffic study which serves as a test of our proposal. Makarska as a city has grown through time and spread over the D8 state road. Passing through Makarska, the traffic on it (which is supposed to be fast) heavily slows down, especially in the summer months under the weight of tourism and thus affects both Makarska and its surrounding area. The idea is to redirect the existing D8 traffic to the planned bypass road after it's built and use the D8 section going through Makarska as a new main road through the city. In this case additional transversal roads through the city should be cleared to allow faster connection with the original D8 section. This would allow a removal of vehicular traffic from the project area (and wider), with the exception of the emergency vehicles, delivery and area residents, and creation of a much tamer, pedestrian and cycling pleasant city.

3. Round table with the community

The round table with the people of Makarska is conducted where the solution is presented to the community. The locals give their own suggestions, ideas and opinions since they are the ones who are the most affected by the changes of the city. If necessary, the solution is adjusted after the community discussion.

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4. Construction of the project

After all the necessary adjustments, the project is constructed starting from the underground garage. The three project buildings are built in order according to the needs of the community - the market, *the Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy* and *the Cultural Platform*. The construction involves local stonemasons, carpenters and other local masters and as local materials as possible.

Knowing the local socioeconomic conditions, the tendency of numerous temporary buildings in Croatia is to become permanent, through social and systematic inertia. This proposition acknowledges that possibility and offers a *Cultural Platform* which, if necessary, provides a quality permanent solution.

5. Usage

One of the core ideas of the project is to activate the area, and thus the entire Makarska, throughout the year. The Mediterranean cities become dormant during the colder months and the new social spaces should contribute to the enrichment of everyday life. Our proposal offers suitable Platforms for local activities, some already existing and some by suggestion such as:

Spring

Market: Makarska spring brudet cooking competition, Spring Greetings chamber music festival

Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy: Makarana cake baking competition, public final exams of the Hospitality and Gastronomy study programs

Cultural Platform: DokuMa film screenings, Šumoteka literary evenings under the stars and Biokovo mountain

Summer

Market: Makarska summer games (wooden boxes carrying, tug of war, etc.), International briškula and trešeta tournament

Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy: Open Fish and Seafood evenings, Winefest by local manufacturers

Cultural Platform: Makarska Jazz festival, Makarska Klapa Singing Competition

Autumn:

Market: Metno International Etno Festival, Summer local product festival (cheese, cured meat, fruit and vegetable products)

Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy: opening of the Hospitality and Gastronomy study programs school year, wild edible plants workshops

Cultural Platform: Antun Gojak Days (art colony, workshops for school kids), DraMa Student Festival of Dance and Theater

Winter:

Market: Christmas market (Advent), ZiMa (Winter Makarska Marathon)

Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy: winter cooking course, Christmas baking workshops by local amateur bakers

Cultural Platform: Zlatousti Festival of Puppet Theater, Winter Photo Camp