



COMPETITIONS
KONKURSE

park entrance | 2015 06

hyrja e parkut | **ATELIER ALBANIA | AKPT**

INTERNATIONAL URBAN & ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION

The Master Plan of the Entrance to Tirana Park and Architectural Project Ideas for two public buildings: the Public Service Center & the General Directorate of the State Police
Tirana, Albania
No. 6

ORGANIZERS

Ministry of Urban Development
National Territorial Planning Agency (AKPT)
Atelier Albania

PARTNERS

Ministry of Innovation & Public Administration
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Education and Sports
Albanian Development Fund

PARTICIPANTS

Building Building + UHO Architects + Ega
JDS Architects + DEA Studio
XDGA + Symbiotica
Atena Studio + Helidon Kokona + Norrøn
AZPML Limited + StudioArch4
Archea Associati + Ergys Krisko
MikeViktorViktor Architects + PRG°B R architektur
MBA/S
Vittorio Grassi + Studio B&L + F&M Ingegneria Spa + Studio Giogetta Architetti + Edoardo Romagnoli

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Ministry of Urban Development

Albanian Development Fund

Ministry of Innovation & Public Administration

Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Education and Sports

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Atelier Albania, asked by the Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration, Minister of Interior, Minister of Education and Sports, and mandated by the Office of the Prime Minister, announced through the Albanian Development Fund, a competition for architectural ideas, through which it required the best ideas for the master plan of the Entrance to the Park of Tirana, as well as innovative architectural concepts for the Park entrance and the public facilities proposed to be placed on the interconnection between the city and the Park.

MASTER PLAN OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK
AND ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC
BUILDINGS: THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER AND THE GENERAL
DIRECTORATE OF THE STATE POLICE, TIRANA, ALBANIA

International Urban & Architectural Design Competition
April - June 2015



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01 COMPETITION BRIEF

Manifesto

The entry to Lake Park for years has been the subject of several project initiatives. It has constantly been in search of for the best way to connect with the city through an intermediate space, but it also requires an image, or emblem as an entry into the Park. Questions about directly treating the Lake Park entrance generate from its positioning by one of the edges of the Boulevard "Martyrs of the Nation" and the direct link to the "Mother Teresa" Square. Regardless of the fact that Tirana Park is located so close to these two main areas of the capital, the connection between them remains quite weak. On the other hand, "Mother Teresa" Square has the need for a reorganization, because it is a public space with great potential, but with limited use during time periods of the day, as well as in terms of programmatic variety. Also, in formal terms, "Mother Teresa" Square needs a spatial outline. The master plan of Tirana Center, has proposed connectivity of "Mother Teresa" Square with Boulevard "Martyrs of the Nation" through a program of university facilities, which outline the area of the square and connect with Tirana Park through university buildings. In 2005, the Municipality of Tirana drafted a project for the Rehabilitation of Tirana Park (Lake). In this proposal, the entrance of the Park was marked by the Polytechnic University building. Today this option is no longer possible, as the university has decided to close the space with an addition to their building. But this proposal establishes a vision of how the Tirana Park can (and should) be accessed, through the facilities or space programs, and not just through a gate where it marks "The Entry". The Ministry of Education, has presented the need for expansion of university facilities, as well as the Polytechnic University of Tirana has confirmed the request for the creation of a university campus, under the provisions of the Master Plan of Tirana Center.

Beneficiaries

The competition for the Entrance to the Lake Park will solve some of the public space issues endemic to the city of Tirana, like the park itself as well as the "Mother Teresa" and "Frederic Chopin" squares. This competition will also potentially resolve the requests by some public institutions for programmatic spaces in the function of public interest.

Area of the competition

The area of the competition for which the competitors will present their project idea is determined by the map for the functional zoning of the Entrance to the Park of Tirana. The area that will be researched and studied by the teams to come up with their project idea will be decided by each team through their professional evaluation.

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Scope of Competition

The competition will build on these three questions:

1. The masterplan for the territory of the entrance to the Lake Park and any landscape development pertaining to the park - city interconnection.
2. An architectural Project-idea for the public building of the General Directorate of the State Police.
3. An architectural Project-idea for the public building "Public Services Center"

The detailed design brief, on the basis of which there will be provided the answers to the above questions during the second stage of the competition, will be given only to short-listed competitors from the first phase . A workshop will be organized on Tirana with all involved stakeholders, to discuss the design brief and its requirements. The workshop date is given in the competition calendar.

Objective

The product of the competition will be design solutions for the landscape development of the Entrance to the Lake of Tirana as well as some public and administrative buildings in the interconnection between the city and nature. Short-listed competitors will explore the best design solutions through research exercises including the concept of "urban by nature". Short-listed candidates are required to work to achieve, as follows:

- Study the area of the competition and its surroundings, its spatial program and sociocultural context
- Study the Park of Tirana, the system of green spaces along the "Martyrs of the Nation" boulevard and the respective flora.
- Study the programs of the public buildings proposed to be built in the interconnection as well as the way the existing buildings currently function.
- Study the sociocultural life of the capital and evidence the needs for new public sociocultural spaces for the city in the interconnection between park and city.
- Research "green" and "low cost" technologies and evaluate the potential

implementation of these technologies in the public buildings.

- Proposal of a masterplan for the Entrance to the Park within the borders of the functional zoning of the territory of the competition.
- Proposal for the landscape development of the Park of Tirana Entrance.
- Proposal for architectural ideas for the Park Entrance and the public and administrative buildings.
- Proposal for an architectural project-idea for the building of the General Directorate of the State Police.
- Proposal for an architectural project-idea for the building of the Center of Public Services.
- Rough estimation of the costs of the proposals.
- Proposal of an action plan.

Any solution should seek high creativity while being adjusted to the local context and set high design standards.

Methodology

Atelier Albania is a unit of the National Agency for Territorial Planning, mandated to identify alternative solutions and enrich architecture and planning by thinking beyond the typical planning framework. In this context, we stimulate and support the participation and collaboration of different stakeholder groups and international professionals who will work in tandem with local professionals. We believe that this team based collaboration will improve the way projects and research is informed with all the appropriate local knowledge as well as an international level of design standards. Moreover, we want to treat competitions as co-creative processes, where designers and local actors are involved in an interactive selection process.

Expected Results

PHASE 1: at this stage of shortlisting, the candidates present themselves to illustrate their capabilities, methodology and visions to the subject of the competition. Each submission will be reviewed carefully by members of the jury and the teams will be selected based on qualification criteria and evaluation referred to Phase 1. The jury will short - list the teams that comply with the qualification criteria. These teams will be called to work for a second phase, for a concept in fulfilment of the competition objective and questions. Second phase or stage will be based on elaborate information and brief that the short-listed competitors will receive from the organizers.

PHASE 2: at the stage of "Project-Idea", each group of applicants will be carefully reviewed by members of the jury and, based on the criteria of evaluation of Phase 2, a winning team will be selected.

Teams of local and foreign professionals

Every international team is encouraged by the organizers to partner with a local team and each local team is encouraged to partner with an international counterpart. The client believes that such cooperation can increase the impact of the proposal and improve implementation. In applying for the first phase it is not a pre-selection criterion to have a local or international partner.

Evaluation Criteria

The jury will evaluate the applications based on the following criteria:

- Creativity
- High Implement ability
- Links and impact of the proposal to the context
- The cost-impact ratio (low cost, high impact)

Final Product

The competition will end with the selection of a well-equipped team, who will be able to engage in the post-competition process. The winning team will be engaged in the next phase, which consists in the preparation of implementation projects for the Entrance to the Park of Tirana as well as the two public buildings. The post-competition process will be determined through a negotiation process between the winning team and the client.

Post - Competition Process

To coordinate better the work between the winning team and the client of the project, organizers anticipate the first meeting between the team, the client and local stakeholders during the process of elaborating the project idea. The underlying reason is to bring together the design team and all the stakeholders and to share among them ideas, proposals and suggestions at the curatorial stewardship of the members of the Jury and other specialized institutions. This meeting will be conducted in Tirana.

01 TERMAT E REFERENCËS

Manifesto

Hyrja e Parkut të Liqenit për vite me radhë ka qënë temë e disa nismave projektuese. Është kërkuar vazhdimisht mënyra më e mirë për të lidhur qytetin me parkun, nëpërmjet një hapësire të ndërmjetme, por është kërkuar gjithashtu edhe imazhi, apo embema e hyrjes në park. Pikëpyetjet në lidhje me trajtimin e hyrjes së Parkut të Liqenit gjenerojnë direkt nga pozicionimi i tij në njërin prej skajeve të Bulevardit “Dëshmorët e Kombit” dhe lidhja direkte me Sheshin “Nënë Tereza”. Pavarësisht se Parku i Tiranës ndodhet kaq pranë me këto 2 hapësira kryesore të kryeqytetit lidhja mes tyre mbetet mjaft e dobët. Nga ana tjetër, vetë Sheshi “Nënë Tereza” ka nevojë për një riprogramim, për arsye se është një hapësirë publike me mjaft potencial, por me përdorim të kufizuar si përgjatë harkut kohor të ditës, ashtu edhe nga pikëpamja e shumëllojshmerisë programatike. Gjithashtu, edhe nga pikëpamja formale, Sheshi “Nënë Tereza” ka nevojë për konturim hapësinor. Master Plani i Qendrës së Tiranës, ka prezantuar lidhjen e Sheshit “Nënë Tereza” dhe Bulevardit “Dëshmorët e Kombit” nëpërmjet një programi objektivsh universitare, të cilat konturojnë hapësirën e sheshit dhe lidhin Parkun me Qytetin nëpërmjet objekteve universitare. Në vitin 2005, Bashkia e Tiranës hartoi një projekt për Rehabilitimin e Parkut të Tiranës (Liqenit). Në këtë propozim, hyrja e Parkut prezantohej nëpërmjet godinës së Universitetit Politeknik. Sot ky opsion nuk është më i mundur, pasi UPT ka vendosur ta mbyllë hapësirën e objektit me një volum shtesë. Por ky propozim vendos një vizion se si mund (duhet) të aksesohet Parku i Tiranës, nëpërmjet objekteve apo programeve hapësinore, dhe jo thjesht nëpërmjet një porte ku shënohet “Hyrja”. Ministria e Arsimit, ka prezantuar nevojën për zgjerimin e mjediseve universitare, po ashtu edhe Universiteti Politeknik i Tiranës ka konfirmuar kërkesën për krijimin e një kampusi universitar, sipas parashikimeve të Master Planit të Qendrës së Tiranës.

Përfituesit

Konkursi për Hyrjen e Parkut të Liqenit do t'i japë përgjigje disa problematikave të hapësirës publike të qytetit të Tiranës, si vetë Parkut ashtu edhe Sheshit ‘Nënë Tereza’ apo Sheshit “Frederik Shopen”. Ky konkurs mendohet se do t'i japë gjithashtu përgjigje edhe kërkesave të disa institucioneve publike për hapësira programatike në funksion të interesit publik.

Zona e Konkursit

Zona e konkursit, për të cilën konkurentët do të prezantojnë ide arkitektonike përcaktohet nga harta e zonimit funksional të Hyrjes së Parkut të Tiranës. Zona e studimit, të cilën konkurentët duhet ta njohin dhe informohen mbetet në vlerësimin e tyre profesional.

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Qëllimi i Konkursit

Konkursi do të ngrihet mbi tre pyetje:

1. Masterplani i territorit të Hyrjes së Parkut të Liqenit dhe zhvillimi i pejsazhit të ndërfaqes park-qytet,
2. Projekt-ide arkitektonike për objektin publik të Drejtorisë së Përgjithshme të Policisë së Shtetit,
3. Projekt-ide arkitektonike për objektin e Qendrës së Shërbimeve Publike

Detyra e detajuar e projektimit, mbi bazën e të cilës do të jepen përgjigjet për pyetjet e mësipërme në fazën e dytë të konkursit, do t'u jepet vetëm konkurentëve të përzgjedhur nga faza e parë. Për të diskutuar mbi detyrën e projektimit dhe kërkesat e saj, do të organizohet në Tiranë një workshop me të gjitha grupet e interesit që përfshin programi i këtij konkursi. Dita e workshopit jepet në kalendarin e konkursit.

Objektivi

Produkti i konkursit do të jenë zgjidhjet e projektimit për zhvillimin e pejsazhit të Hyrjes së Parkut të Liqenit dhe disa objekteve me funksion publik në ndërfaqen qytet-natyrë. Konkurentët e përzgjedhur do të zbulojnë zgjidhjet më të mira të projektimit, duke hulumtuar njëkohësisht edhe bashkëjetesën urbane pranë natyrës. Konkurentëve të përzgjedhur u kërkohet të punojnë për të arritur, si më poshtë:

- Të studiojnë zonën e konkursit dhe rrethinat e tij, programin e tij hapësinor dhe kontekstin social-kulturor;
- Të studiojnë Parkut të Tiranës, sistemin e hapësirave të gjelbra të Bulevardit "Dëshmorët e Kombit" dhe bimësinë e tyre;
- Të studiojnë programet e objekteve publike që propozohen në ndërfaqe, si edhe funksionimin e tyre sot (ekzistueset);
- Të studiojnë jetën social-kulturore të kryeqytetit dhe të evidentojnë nevojat për krijimin e hapësirave të reja social-kulturore në ndërfaqen park-qytet;
- Të hulumtojnë teknologjitë 'green' dhe 'low cost' dhe të vlerësojnë

aplikimin e tyre për ndërtimet publike të programit të konkursit;

- Propozim për master planin e Hyrjes së Parkut brenda kufijve të zonimit funksional të territorit të konkursit;
- Propozim për zhvillimin e pejsazhit të Hyrjes së Parkut të Tiranës;
- Propozim për ide arkitektonike për Hyrjen e Parkut dhe të objekteve publike;
- Propozim për projekt-ide arkitektonike për objektin e Drejtorisë së Përgjithshme të Policisë së Shtetit;
- Propozim për projekt-ide arkitektonike për objektin e Qendrës së Shërbimeve Publike;
- Parashikime të përafërta të kostove të secilit propozim,
- Propozim për një plan veprimi.

Çdo zgjidhje duhet të tentojë kufijtë e krijimtarisë duke u përshtatur ndërkohë me kontekstin lokal dhe duke vendosur standarde të larta të projektimit.

Metodologjia

Atelier Albania është një njësi e Agjencisë Kombëtare të Planifikimit të Territorit, e mandatuar për identifikimin e zgjidhjeve alternative dhe pasurimin e arkitekturës e planifikimit nëpërmjet të menduarit përtej kornizave. Në këtë kontekst ne stimulojmë dhe mbështesim pjesëmarrjen e grupeve me profesionistë ndërkombëtarë që do të punojnë së bashku me profesionistë vendas. Ne besojmë se ky bashkëpunim me bazë ekipi do të pasurojë mënyrën sesi informohet projekti me të gjitha njohuritë e nevojshme lokale dhe ekspertizën e nivelit të lartë të projektimit. Për më tepër, ne duam të eksperimentojnë një proces konkursi bashkë – krijues, ku projektuesit dhe disa aktorë lokalë janë të përfshirë në një proces interaktiv përzgjedhës.

Rezultatet e pritshme

FAZA 1: në këtë fazë të short-listimit, kandidatët paraqesin veten e tyre duke ilustruar kapacitetet e tyre, në këtë fazë të short-listimit, kandidatët paraqesin veten e tyre duke ilustruar kapacitetet e tyre, metodologjinë dhe vizionet ndaj subjektit të konkursit. Çdo dorëzim do të shqyrtohet me kujdes nga anëtarët e jurisë dhe ekipet do të përzgjidhen bazuar në kriteret e kualifikimit dhe të vlerësimit të përmendura në Fazën 1. Mes ekipeve të kualifikuara Juria do të short-listojë ekipet që plotësojnë kriteret e përzgjedhjes së Fazës I. Këto ekipe do të thirren për të punuar gjatë një faze të dytë, për një koncept që do të synojë plotësimin e objektivit të konkursit dhe pyetjeve të konkursit, mbi bazën e një informacioni dhe të një detyre projektimi të detajuar.

FAZA 2: në këtë fazë të Projekt-idesë, secili grup i projekt-aplikimeve do të shqyrtohet me kujdes nga anëtarët e jurisë dhe, bazuar në kriteret të vlerësimit të Fazës 2, do të zgjidhet një ekip fitues.

Bashkimi i skuadrave vendase me të huajat

Çdo ekip ndërkombëtar stimulohet nga organizatorët për t'u lidhur në partneritet me një ekip vendas dhe çdo ekip lokal për t'u lidhur gjithashtu me një partner ndërkombëtar. Atelier Albania beson se një bashkëpunim i tillë mund të rrisë ndikimin e propozimit dhe të përmirësojë zbatimin e projektit. Megjithatë, në thirrjen për fazën e parë, nuk është kusht përzgjedhje që ekipet të kenë një partner lokal apo ndërkombëtar.

Kriteret e Vlerësimit

Juria do të vlerësojë aplikimet e Fazës 2 bazuar në kriteret e mëposhtme:

- Krijimtaria
- Faktori i lartë i zbatueshmërisë
- Lidhje dhe impakti i propozimit me kontekstin
- Raporti kosto-impakt (kosto e ulët, impakt i madh)

Produkti Final

Konkursi do të përfundojë me zgjedhjen e një ekipi. Ekipi fitues duhet të jetë një ekip i mirëpajisur, i cili do të jetë në gjendje të angazhohet në procesin pas-konkurs. Skuadra fituese do të angazhohet në fazën tjetër, e cila konsiston në përgatitjen e projekteve të zbatimit për Hyrjen e Parkut të Tiranës dhe 2 objekteve publike. Procesi pas-konkurs do t'i nënshtrohet negociatave me klientin.

Procesi Post-Konkurs

Për të koordinuar më mirë punën mes skuadrës fituese dhe porositesit të projektit, organizatorët parashikojnë 1 takim mes skuadrës, klientit dhe grupeve të interesit, gjatë procesit të detajimit të projekt-idesë. Koncepti këtu është që aktorët të vijnë së bashku për të ndarë idetë, propozimet dhe sugjerimet e tyre, nën kujdesin e anëtarëve të Jurisë dhe institucioneve të specializuara. Ky takim do të realizohet në Tiranë.

JURY MEMBERS

ANDREAS RUBY
Freek PERSYN
ERIC FRIJTERS
GUNTHER VOGT
NIKO PELESHI
SADIE MORGAN
JAN MAAS
VALBONA KOÇI



ANDREAS RUBY

Andreas Ruby is an architecture critic, curator, moderator, teacher and publisher. He has taught architectural theory and design at international universities such as Cornell University, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris Malaquais, the Metropolis Program Barcelona and Umea School of Architecture among others. Aside from regularly contributing to selected international architecture magazines, he has published nearly 20 books on contemporary architecture. In 2008 he co-founded the award-winning architecture publishing house RUBY PRESS which has a catalog of 20 titles to date. He has organized several international symposiums and exhibitions on architecture and design, such as the "Min to Max" symposium on affordable housing hosted in 2009 in Berlin, the traveling exhibition "Druot, Lacaton & Vassal - Tour Bois le Prêtre" launched in 2012, and most recently the Montenegro Pavilion at the 14th Venice Architecture Biennial in 2014. Last but not least he is one of the most prolific moderators in the contemporary architecture discourse, with a record of more than 150 moderated panel discussions featuring 200 architects from 30 countries.



Freek PERSYN

Freek Persyn is an architect and partner at the Brussels-based international design practice 51N4E. Through the production of space, 51N4E he envisions and directs the transformation of society. 51N4E designs development processes on a multitude of scales, from strategy to implementation. 51N4E uses design as an instrument for collaboration, making it possible to create collective knowledge and better results. 51N4E operates today in Belgium, France, Switzerland, Turkey and Albania.

As partner at 51N4E, Freek Persyn equally focuses on teaching, lecturing and debating, to strengthen 51N4E's knowledge base and to create new learning opportunities.

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ERIC FRIJTERS

Eric Frijters, founder/principal at FABRIC and Professor (Lector) Future Urban Regions (FUR) at the Dutch Academies of Architecture. Eric has over 10 years of experience in designing and executing projects in architecture, urbanism and consulting in regional strategies in the Netherlands and abroad. He has a background in architecture at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam and graduated Cum Laude at the Eindhoven University of Technology. His research is being published in several books and various journals and Eric received recognition for his work with several prizes (Prix de Rome, Iakov Chernikhov International Architecture Prize), that stands in the field of practice and experimentation with innovative architecture, education and research in architecture and urbanism. As of June 2013 Eric leads the research group Future Urban Regions focusing on healthy urbanization, design thinking methodology and testing results for productive strategies on urban metabolism in studios at the Dutch Academies of Architecture.



GÜNTHER VOGT

Günther Vogt, born 1957, landscape architect. Studied at the Interkantonaletes Technikum Rapperswil, Switzerland. From 1995 joint owner of Kienast Vogt Partner. Since 2000 owner of Vogt Landscape Architects, Zurich, Munich (2002-2010), London (2008), and Berlin (2010). Since 2005 Professor for Landscape Architecture at the ETH, Zurich. 2007-2011 head of the Netzwerk Stadt und Landschaft (NSL) at ETH Zurich. Since 2010 owner of case studio VOGT. Over the past ten years, Günther Vogt of Vogt Landscape Architects, Zürich, has designed a wide variety of public and private outdoor spaces in Switzerland and Europe. These include the grounds of the Allianz Arena in Munich, the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and Tate Modern in London; and the FIFA headquarters and Masoala Rain Forest Hall in Zürich.

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NIKO PELESHI

Niko Peleshi has graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Electronic Engineering Department of the Polytechnic University of Tirana with excellent results, receiving the title: Electronic Engineer. In 1989 he graduated from "Raqi Qirinxhi" high school in Korca with a Golden Medal.

Mr. Peleshi has had a significant career in the private sector in the city of Korca and from 2001-2004 he ran with great success the Industrial and Trade Chamber of Commerce of Korca. The political career of Mr. Peleshi starts in October of 2004 when he was elected to be Prefect of the District of Korca, he was also elected as the Mayor of the City of Korca later on. Mr. Peleshi is a member with full rights to the Committee of Monitoring of the Local and Regional Congress of Authorities at the European Council.



SADIE MORGAN

Ms. Sadie Morgan is a Founding Director of dRMM Architects and currently President of the Architectural Association. As a practitioner she is passionate about the creative use of materials and colour. Over a career spanning more than 18 years she has been involved in the design and delivery of many of their key projects. She is regularly asked to speak both in the UK and internationally on the work of dRMM and the research of the practice into sustainable timber buildings. Sadie has sat on design competition juries including the Building Awards, The British Construction Industry Awards, and The World Architecture Festival Awards. Her advisory roles have included Southwark Hub for the London Festival of Architecture, the Central London Partnership 2012 legacy strategic taskforce and most recently the RIBA Awards Group. She is an external examiner at Westminster and Kent Universities and a trustee of the Creative Education Trust. Sadie was honorary treasurer of the Architectural Association (AA) between 2009 and 2013. As of June 1st 2013 she became President of the AA. Sadie is also a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. In January 2014, Sadie was shortlisted for the AJ Woman Architect of the Year Award.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



JAN MAAS

Jan Maas (1978) obtained in 2003 a Bachelor Degree with special Honours in Landscape Architecture and Environment Management at the International Agricultural College, Netherlands. Working for Strootman Landschapsarchitecten he worked on a variety projects in landscape design and public space. In 2009 he obtained a Master degree in landscape architecture at the Academy of Architecture in Amsterdam. His graduating project, 'Urban Wrinkle', was awarded with the StedenbouwNU award, a national price for the best graduating project of all Dutch Master tracks in Landscape architecture and Urban Design. Before founding BOOM landscape in 2013, Maas was landscape architect and member of the board of directors of Bureau B+B. Jan Maas has worked on a variety of projects and prize winning competitions. Maas teaches at the Academy of Architecture in Amsterdam and the University of Technology in Delft. He has been a guest lecturer at the University of Resistencia Argentina and was member of the board of examiners at the Academy of Architecture in Tilburg and Rotterdam. In 2009 Jan Maas was consulted by the Advisory Council of the ministry of spatial planning. In 2010 he was a member of an advisory council of the Dutch government to review the Act of Competent Authority (of Architects)



VALBONA KOÇI

Valbona Koçi is an architect - urban designer; graduated from the Faculty of Architecture in METU, Turkey, with Master of City Planning in Urban Design and Bachelor of Architecture degrees. Currently, she is part of the PhD programme in Architecture and Urbanism, in G. d'Annunzio University, Pe-Chieti, Italy. The research topic is "Water Sensitive Urbanism: An investigation into interplays between Water, Landscape, Infrastructure and Urbanism; The case of Albania in the Mediterranean Basin". Valbona is working for GIZ on the 'Integrated Sustainable Development of the Southern Coastal Region-Creating prospects, protecting heritage and nature, a project which is supporting the rural development in the area. She has been teaching in the Architecture Department of EPOKA University, since 6 years now. Some academic research is presented in conferences and published in articles /proceedings. Her professional experience includes also working in the Municipality of Tirana from 2003-2007, and then as a collaborator of 51N4E architecture /urbanism, a Brussels based office, focusing mainly on 'Skenderbej Square Revitalization Project, "Korca City Center Master-plan" etc. The primary research interests of Valbona are: Landscape Urbanism, Water Sensitive Urban Design, Spatial Transformations and Sustainable Planning. Albania constitutes the laboratory of her research.

EVALUATION AND JURY DECISION

The brief for the competition was for, "The Park Entrance" a simple title for a complex problem. Specifically however it looked to address the transition between the urban part of the city, and the natural part of the city. The issues this simple problem raised were multi-dimensional, resulting in each competitor responding in very different ways. This made the discussion hard, and at times difficult to mediate – the Jury was sensitive to making the discussion as comparative and fair as possible to give every project a fair chance and equal weight in the debate. A point raised by both landscape designers however was that the majority of the proposals focused from the urban sites, without exploring the potential of unlocking this problem from the park side. The importance of the historical site, the monumental presence of this '30s axis, and resultant developments was well understood by all competitors. However the fact that Tirana continued to develop not only in the North, but also in the South, was also not picked up in many of the proposals that only compounded the sense of in-balance between the park and city. For the majority of the competitors the public buildings were the main focus of the submissions. Each building being very different in nature, from the very open, to one with limited public access. The diversity and range of responses to the building requirements gave the Jury and client much to consider. It offered an opportunity for reflection and as such resulted in a very interesting and intense debate.

These discussions centered round the fact that - though perfectly legal -in terms of public perception most submissions were regarded as unsympathetic and over developed. This was relevant to the Jury in terms of how the proposals dealt with the political sensitivity of the brief. Some projects exceed the program, others offered iconic structures, and others hid their buildings to become part of the park. All but one however, took the choice to fully 'build out' the brief. The idea is to turn the park into a more public park. To use its qualities as a wild space and to relate it better to the city while still allowing the possibility to escape from the city to another environment. The focus should be to raise the quality, experience and accessibility of the population of Tirana and Albania to this natural environment. The final issue discussed at length by the jury, was the ability to implement and phase the proposals. This should focus on the 'whole life' of the project, i.e how it may be used in the future, and how it could be phased to make a 'complete' first step. Such that if only the

beginning, it would be a scheme that felt complete, not half finished, one which managed to bring all the qualities and potential of this competition to the fore.

So, the proposal that we were looking for was a proposal that could address all of the issues described.

- One that addressed the park in equal measure to the city
- One that responded with proposals that were both sympathetic to the needs of park yet offered a suitable response to the scale of the city.
- One which understood and responded to the political sensitivities of this unique site
- One that allowed for future proofing and clear phasing.

Unfortunately, as a Jury we felt that none of the proposals would sit comfortably with all these questions. Although all proposals addressed the multiplicity of the brief there is no proposal that clearly stuck out or that had comfortably answered the points above. This is not a matter of lack of quality, creativity, or professionalism. Quite the contrary, many proposals showed a high level of complexity and a high level of engagement.

In that sense we had to acknowledge that the task of evaluating all the proposals that were made, in the time given was also problematic. We proposed therefore to give all of the teams the possibility of clarifying what their vision could mean as a first step, and present it again in a second phase. This will require a limited amount of extra work, with the addition of one extra panel. Not to change the design, but to re-articulate all of the qualities of the design highlighting our notes above and consolidating this into a first phase focusing on the public service center. This is also important, because the public service center is both something for which the finances have been completely secured already, and has a very high chance of implementation. This should be a symbol of the relationship between park and the city, but also between the government and the public. It should communicate to the public in a more focused way how a building can be placed in the park and still produce an interesting inside-outside relation. It should not just be only a matter of not consuming more public land, but actually a matter of producing increased value to that public land.

VLERËSIMI I JURISË NDËRKOMBËTARE

Prezantimi për konkursin ishte për “Hyrja e Parkut”, një titull i thjeshtë për një problem kompleks. Megjithatë, në mënyrë specifike ai kërkoi të trajtonte kalimin ndërmjet pjesës urbane të qytetit dhe asaj natyrore. Çështjet që ngre ky problem i thjeshtë ishin multi-dimensionale, duke rezultuar në faktin që secili konkurrent përgjigjej në mënyra të ndryshme. Kjo gjë e vështirësoi diskutimin dhe disa herë u bë e vështirë për t'u ndërmjetësuar – Juria ishte e ndjeshme për marrjen e vendimit sa më krahasues dhe të drejtë që të ishte e mundur për t'i dhënë çdo projekt një shans të drejtë peshën e barabartë në debat. Një çështje e ngritur nga të dy projektuesit e peizazhit ishte se pjesa më e madhe e propozimeve u përqendruan në qendrat urbane, pa eksploruar potencialin e zgjidhjes së problemit nga ana e parkut. Rëndësia e qendrës historike, prania monumentale e këtij boshti të viteve 30 dhe zhvillimet pasuese u kuptuan si duhej nga të gjithë konkurrentët. Megjithatë, fakti se Tirana vazhdoi të zhvillohet jo vetëm në Veri, por edhe në Jug nuk u diskutua në shumë prej propozimeve që vetëm përbënin ndjesinë e baraspeshës ndërmjet parkut dhe qytetit. Për shumicën e konkurrentëve, ndërtesat publike ishin fokusi kryesor i prezantimeve. Secila ndërtesë do të ishte e ndryshme në karakter, nga ajo që ishte e hapur për të gjithë të ajo me akses të kufizuar të publikut. Diversiteti dhe larmia e përgjigjeve për kërkesat e ndërtesave i dha Jurisë dhe klientit shumë ide për t'i marrë parasysh. Ajo ofroi një mundësi për reflektim dhe si e tillë rezultoi në një debat shumë interesant dhe intensiv.

Këto diskutime u përqendruan rreth faktit se – edhe pse krejtësisht ligjore – përsa i përket perceptimit, shumë prej prezantimeve u konsideruan si jo tërheqëse dhe shumë të detajuara. Kjo kishte lidhje me Jurinë përse in përket mënyrës se si e konsideronin propozimet ndjeshmërinë politike të prezantimit. Disa projekte tejkaluan programin, të tjera ofruan struktura ikonë, dhe disa të tjera fshehën ndërtesat e tyre për të qenë pjesë e parkut. Megjithatë, asnjë prej tyre nuk bëri zgjedhjen për të “vazhduar” plotësisht prezantimin. Ideja ishte që parku të kthehej në një park më shumë publik. Të përdoren cilësitë e tij si hapësirë e papopulluar dhe të lidhur më mirë me qytetin, ndërkohë që ofron mundësi për t'u largua nga qyteti në një mjedis tjetër. Fokusi duhej të ishte rritja e cilësisë, përvojës dhe aksesit të popullatës së Tiranës dhe Shqipërisë në këtë mjedis natyror. Çështje përfundimtare që u diskutua gjatë nga Juria ishte aftësia për të zbatuar dhe për të ndarë në faza propozimet. Kjo duhej të përqendrohej në ‘jetëgjatësinë’ e projektit, p.sh. si mund të përdoret ai në të ardhmen dhe se si mund të ndahej në faza për të bërë një hap të parë ‘të plotë’. Si e tillë, edhe pse vetëm në fillim, ajo do të ishte një skemë që ishte e

plotë, jo e lënë përgjysmë, një skemë që i çon përpara të gjitha cilësitë dhe potencialin e këtij konkursi.

Kështu që propozimi që ne ishim duke pritur ishte një propozim që mund të trajtonte të gjitha çështjet e përshkruara.

- Një propozim që e trajtonte parkun në masë të barabartë me qytetin
- Një propozim që përgjigjej me propozime që ishin si sistematike ndaj nevojave të parkut, por që edhe ofronin një përgjigje të përshtatshme ndaj rëndësisë së qytetit.
- Një propozim që kuptonte dhe i përgjigjej ndjeshmërive politike të kësaj qendre unike
- Një propozim që lejonte korrigjime në të ardhmen dhe ndarje të qartë në faza.

Fatkeqësisht, ne si Juri vumë re se asnjë prej propozimeve nuk do të ishte i pranueshëm me të gjitha këto pyetje. Edhe pse të gjitha propozimet trajtonin shumëllojshmërinë e prezantimit, nuk ka asnjë propozim që binte në sy ose që u përgjigjej siç duhej pikave të mësipërme. Kjo nuk është një çështje e mungesës së cilësisë, krijimtariisë apo profesionalizmit. Por krejt e kundërta, shumë propozime treguan një nivel të lartë kompleksiteti dhe një nivel të lartë angazhimi.

Në këtë kuptim, ne duhej të prananim se detyra e vlerësimit të të gjitha propozimeve që u bënë ishte problematike në kohën e dhënë. Prandaj ne propozuam t'u japim të gjithë ekipeve mundësinë e qartësisht të asaj se cili do të jetë vizioni i tyre si hap i parë, dhe ta prezantojnë atë sërish në një fazë të dytë. Kjo do të kërkojë një sasi të kufizuar të punës shtesë, me shtimin e një paneli tjetër shtesë. Kjo nuk bëhet për të ndryshuar modelin, por për të ri-artikulluar të gjitha cilësitë e modelit duke nxjerrë në pah shënimet tona më sipër dhe duke e konsoliduar atë në një fazë të parë që përqendrohet në qendrën e shërbimit publik. Kjo është gjithashtu e rëndësishme, sepse qendra e shërbimit publik është diçka për të cilën janë financat janë siguruar plotësisht tashmë, dhe ka një mundësi të madhe për zbatim. Kjo do të jetë një simbol i marrëdhënies ndërmjet parkut dhe qytetit, por edhe ndërmjet qeverisë dhe publikut. Ajo do t'i komunikojë publikut në një mënyrë më të përqendruar mënyrën se si një ndërtesë mund të vendoset në park dhe ende të krijojë një lidhje interesante brenda-jashtë. Ajo nuk do të jetë vetëm një çështje e moskonsumimit të më shumë toke publike, por aktualisht një çështje e prodhimit të vlerës së rritur për tokën publike.

02 BUILDING BUILDING + UHO ARCHITECTS + EGA - WINNING TEAM

TEAM COMPOSITION:

Architects

Thomas Raynaud
Max Turnheim
Adrien Dermeyer
Martin le Bourgeois
Elias Guenoun
Redman Toska

Urbanist & landscape designer

David Levain

Artist

Simon Boudvin

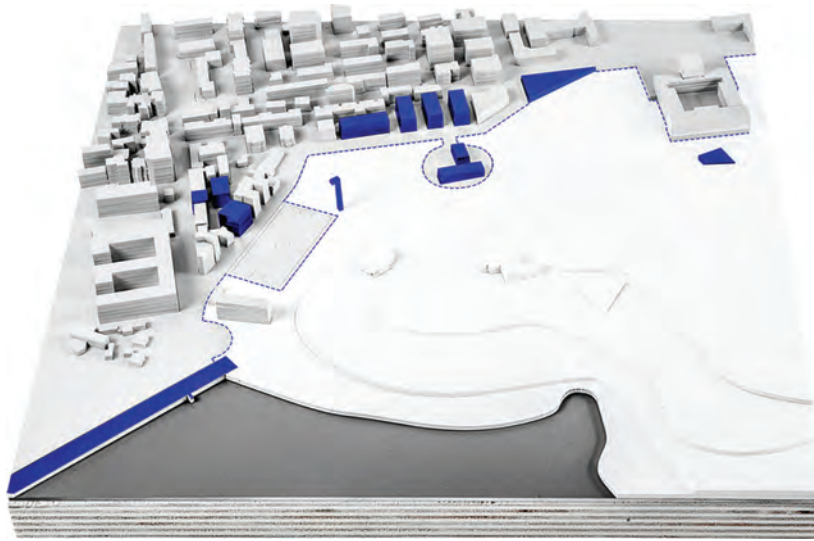
Structural Engineer

Bollinger + Grohmann

Estimator management expert

VPEAS

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



As is often the case, this competition is given a title and a research theme. Here, respectively Tirana lake park entrance, urban by nature. The title is quite clear: it addresses the subject and the locality directly. Nevertheless, the research theme leaves more room for interpretation. In a sense, this wordplay firstly implies that the park entrance (had by extension Tirana itself) draws its urbanity from its relation to the preexisting fauna and flora. Secondly that it is fundamentally urban, or so to say human, thus radically severed from nature. The project we propose is intensely relying on this contradiction.

URBAN BY NATURE

TIRANA, A DEFINED CITY, TIED TO NATURE

Our project proposes to reaffirm a clearer border for the park. It is designed as a master plan with a “modern” attitude, from the “political” attitude. Nor is it an “informal” project, mimicking the “vernacular” fabric. By refusing the idea of an authoritarian masterplan, and by ruling out the naïve hypothesis of a spontaneous growth, by avoiding the systemic answer, we propose a project adaptable to the structural versatility of the city. A project that can negotiate without being frustrated.

Tirana, 2015



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

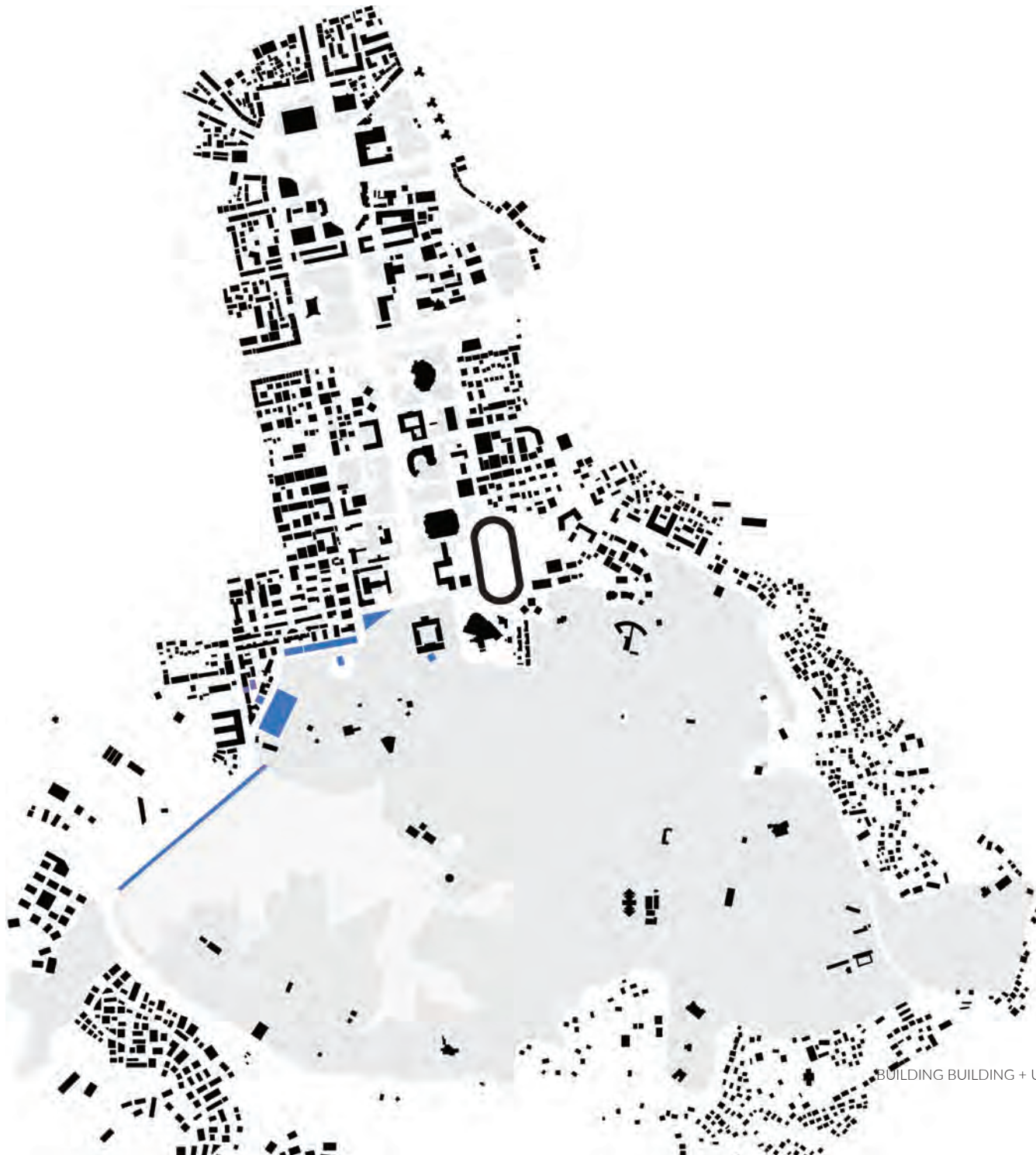


Each singularity participates in defining a clear border between the park and the city.

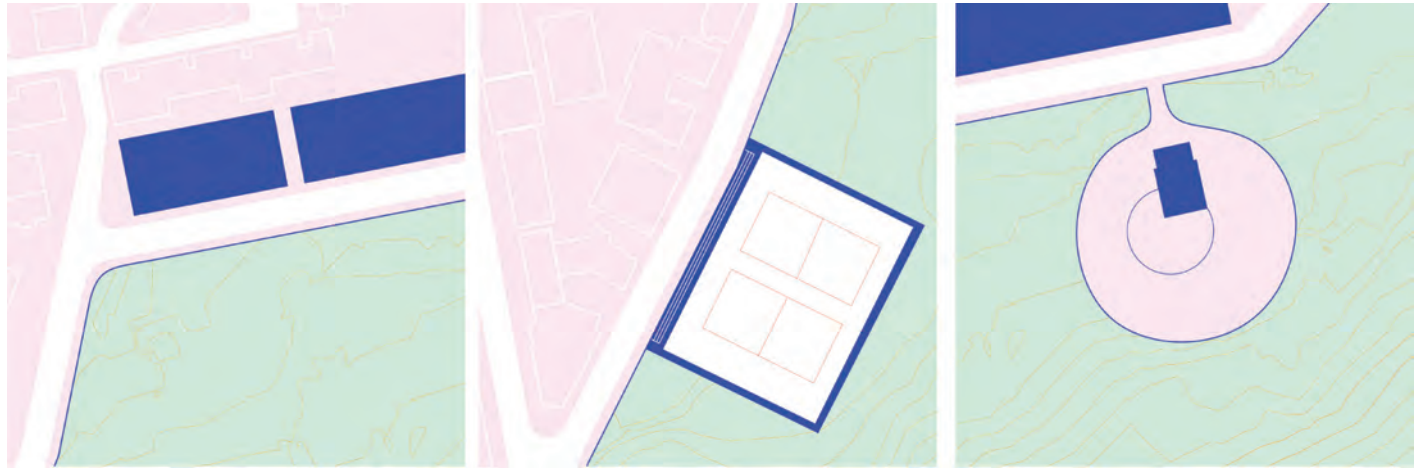
THE SINGULARITIES

We propose the production of an intrinsic approach to the border, generated from within its own thickness, as a sum of singular local co-bordering devices. On each side of the border, in the city and in the park, we intend to place a number of so-called devices. In the project we submit, there are six of them, but it is important to note that we conceive them as individually expendable. This list is also extendable to a certain degree. The aim of these interventions is to create a true local difference in quality (as opposed to a mere difference in quantity: more or less a city, more or less a park) on both sides of the limit. It is by explicitly bragging their identity, that they generate a tension with the opposite side. It is this punctual tension, which will mark a difference, thus allowing to truly enter (or exit) the park.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



OUTSIDE (CITY)

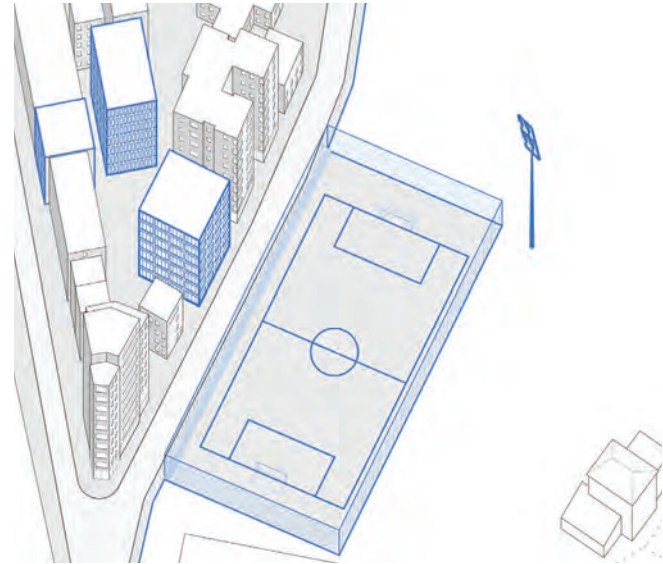
A group of singularities belongs to the city. To achieve this, we will use an effortless method: no buildings can be implemented in the park. The Sheraton is the living testimony of a failure in this field. Indeed, it is incapable of generating the smallest amount of public space on the park side and it needs a ridiculous amount of road system to merely sustain its economic activity. Thus, the public buildings (police directorate, public service mall) by their mere program belong to the city. We suggest that they could be placed anywhere if they stay on the city side. In our project illustration, we place them vis-à-vis a wooded area of the park. They participate in the simplest condition of a street bordered with banal buildings on one side, with dense greenery on the other.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

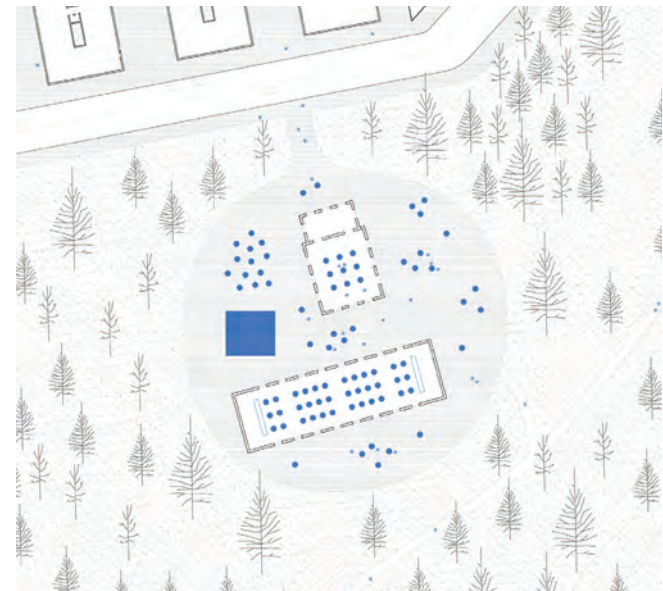


Model of the public buildings

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



3D view of the football field



Plan of the Guard of the Republic building

OUTSIDE (CITY)

The football field is fenced; its playing area is transformed into a mineral (concrete) surface. A lighting system allows for nightly practice. The condition created is closer to a urban playground; its limits are clear; it can be appropriated temporarily. The Guard of the Republic building is extracted from the park by a geometrical trick. A sort of pocket of concrete surrounds it. It now belongs to a flourished courtyard, but a courtyard nonetheless. One can easily imagine it hosting a food-related program.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Model of the football field



Model of the Guard of the Republic building

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the park

INSIDE (PARK)

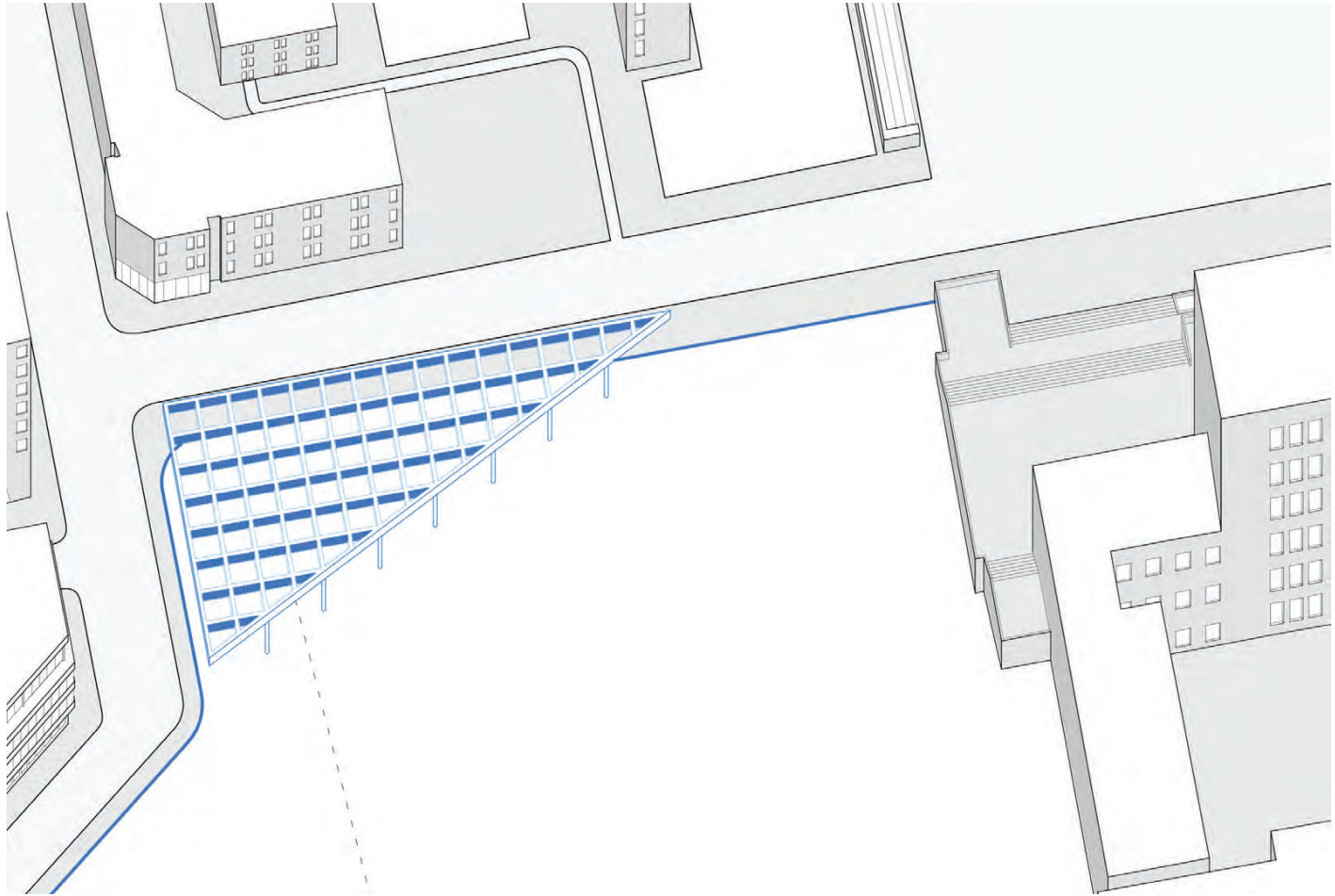
Our approach aims at clearly defining the limit of the park in order to establish the conditions for a sustainable discussion with the city. In this regard, our first intention is to extend its surface as much as possible toward the city, as a response to attacks suffered for many years. Then, a series of devices, or “singularities”, is conceived as internal fragments of this extended surface. On the west side, the dike is refactored in a simple fashion: we get rid of the sidewalk/road separation. We suggest a continuous floor. This element does more than connect two sides of the city: it is a true public space. This open structure allows very simple and informal uses like an open market, sports events, promenade and so on. It also allows a further construction development. On the east side, we extend the Polytechnic University with a terrace. The university becomes a two-sided chimera: on the north it embraces the city, on the south it reaches to the park. But it does not constitute a transition. This role is single-handedly held by the next element.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Model of the park

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



3D view of the entrance structure

IN BETWEEN

In place of the Frederic Chopin square, we build a triangular pergola. It is anchored in the city on two of its faces, while it is oriented towards the park. While its form comes from a strict understanding of the forms of the city, in a very “political” way, its uses remain totally open to the spontaneous occupation by the citizen. It is thus as a real public square, not as a place for the representation of the power, but as a space for the people.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

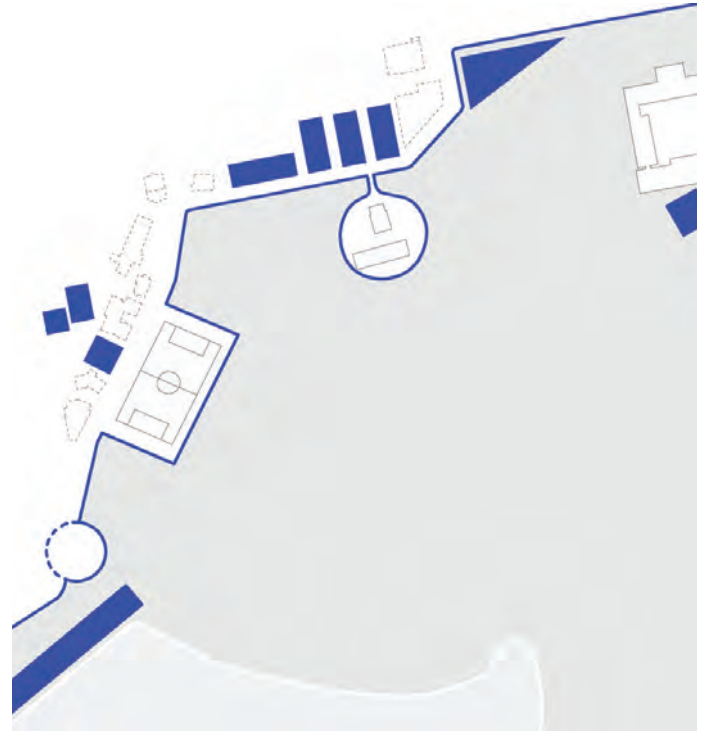


Model of the entrance structure

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Existing border

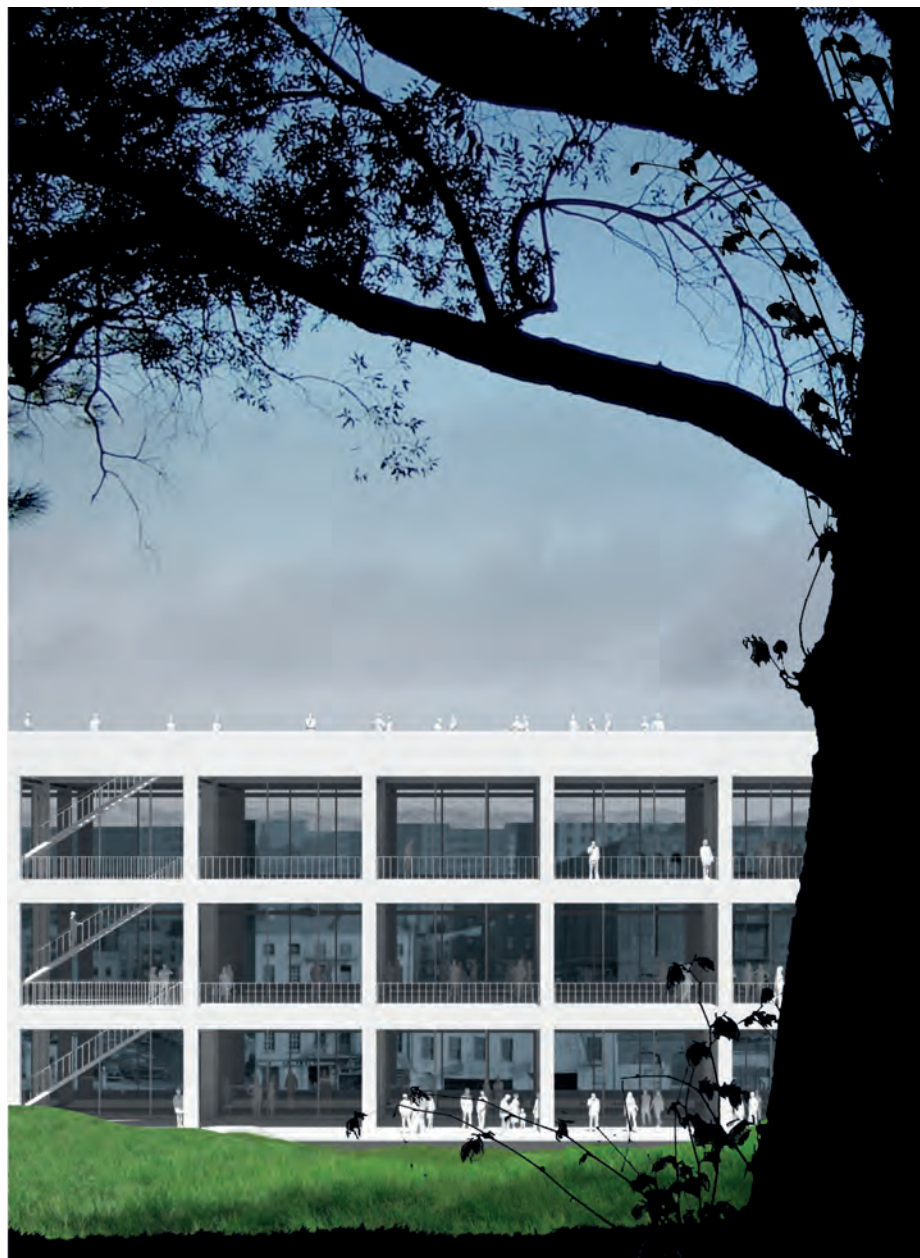


Proposed border

THE BORDER

These local quirks, which, when taken alone appear insignificant, as a whole, produce a legible border. This border reinforces the dichotomy between two distinct qualities: urban and natural. Though one must not be lured into believing the park is a true natural element, the contrast produced by the border indicates a clear limit: it is by crossing it that one knows he has left the city or is back in Tirana. The team practice is not in the park but rather by the park. Indeed through small operations like the one mentioned before, the limit (which was before hand relatively simple albeit porous) gains in complexity. The city pushes in, eating away small parts of the park. The park also gains land. It absorbs the dike as a public space and acquires yet another part of the lake, reinforcing its structural role. In between the urban elements, “park peninsulas” reach out to the city while maintaining their rigorous identity.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



03 JDS ARCHITECTS + DEA STUDIO

TEAM COMPOSITION:

Architects

Julien De Smedt
Bartłomiej Zaboj
Gora
Micòl Pucciarelli
Edgar Rodríguez
Heidi Bosteels
Valentine Gruwez
Ervin Taçi
Alket Meslani
Kludio Onuzi
Klodiana Emiri
Seldiana Kotorri
Aldo Hamzallari
Anisa Spahiu
Evis Laze

Structural engineer

Sonila Siço

Intern

Sara Sánchez Muñiz
Alessia Tricario
Max Théréne

Researcher

Phillip Denny

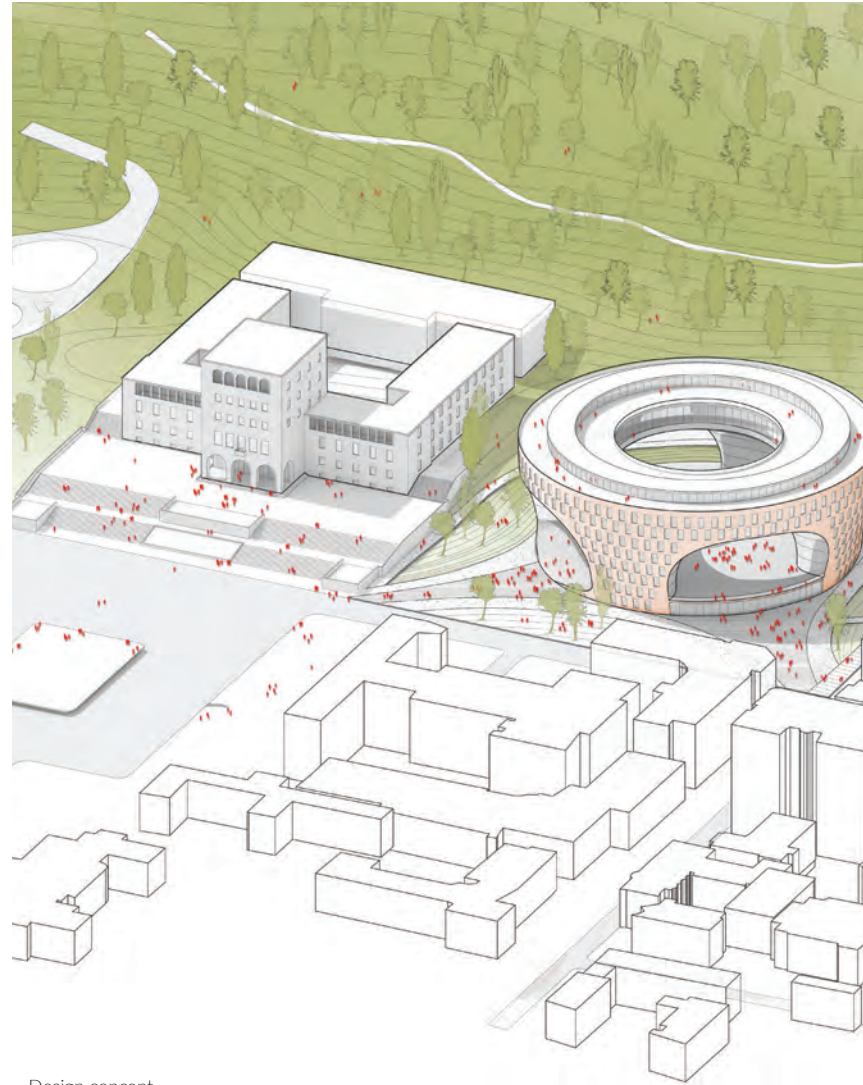
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Our project articulates the idea of a series of urban follies in a park. Places to meet and gather in the surroundings of trees, on the edge of the city fabric. Those buildings if they are of substantial size, each manages to weave themselves with public spaces to deconstruct their monumentality: the entrance University functions are literally excavated to let mother Teresa square continue towards the park, the Police Headquarters waves up and down to minimize its impact and frames a protected Oasis in its center and the Public Service building evolves as a roof plaza to offer views to the lake and the park.

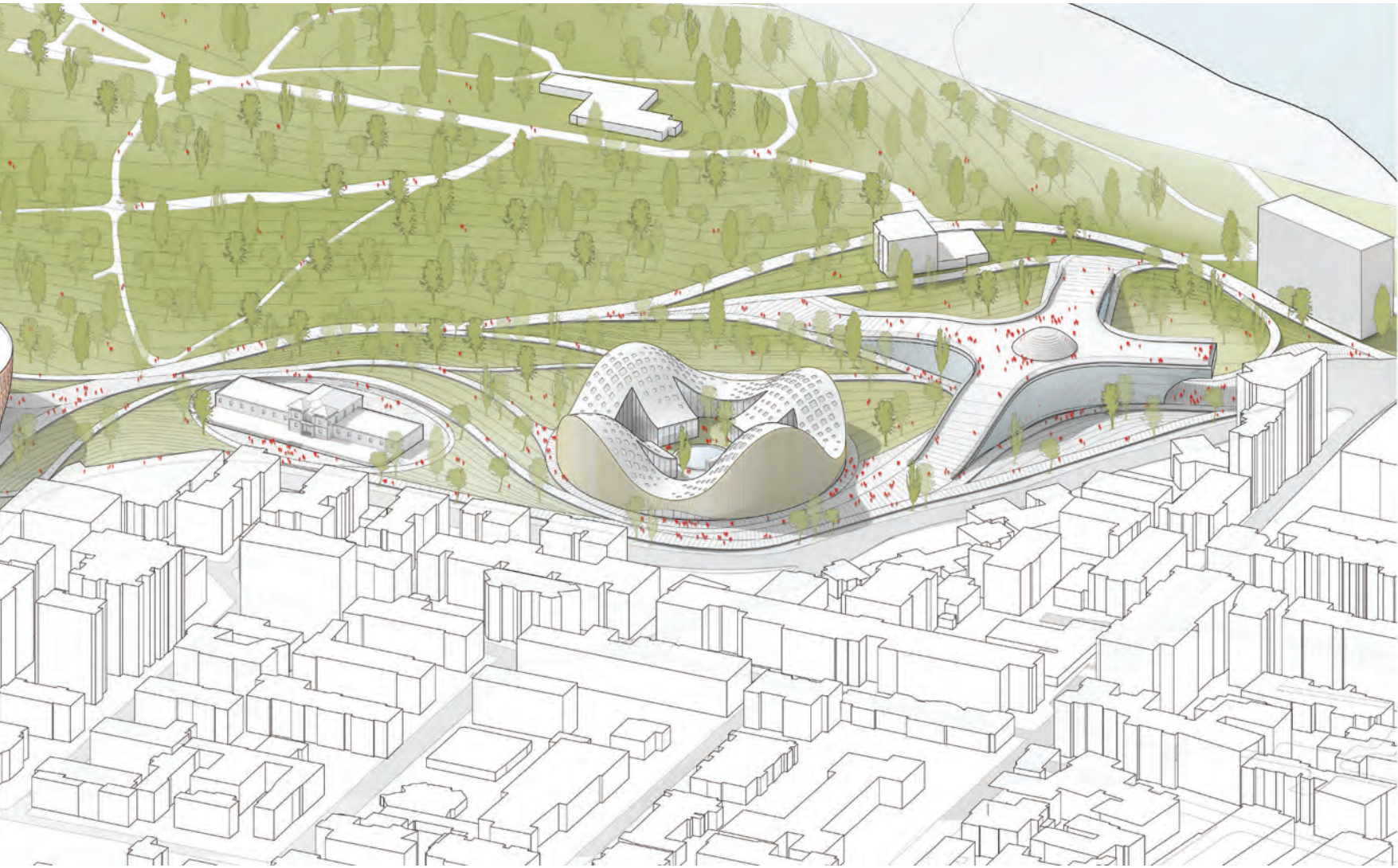
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The buildings punctuate the city road and create the transition from the city fabric to the park. They alternate with the park in order to allow breathing spaces to permeate into the city. Each building is an interpretation of a cylinder geometry: once excavated, once enforced in plan but softened in section, once inverted into a star shape. Each of those manipulations come from a reasoning between each building's immediate context and its program: the University building wants to be a gate and therefore frame its environment while it needs to be permeable, the police facilities is a more protected entity and the public services should feel transparent, open and inviting to and from its multiple adjacencies.



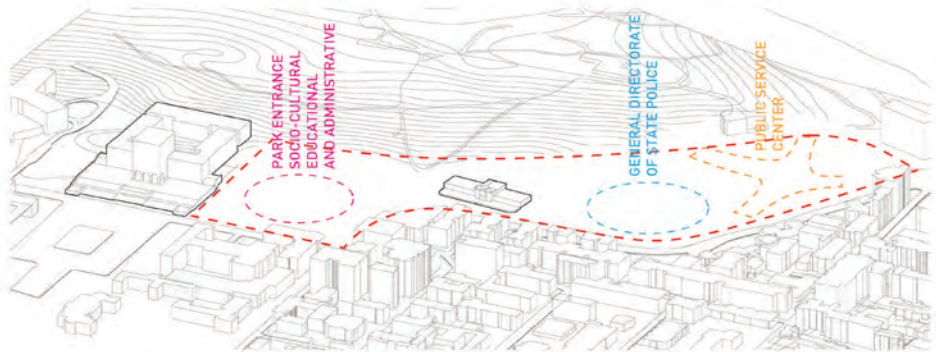
Design concept

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

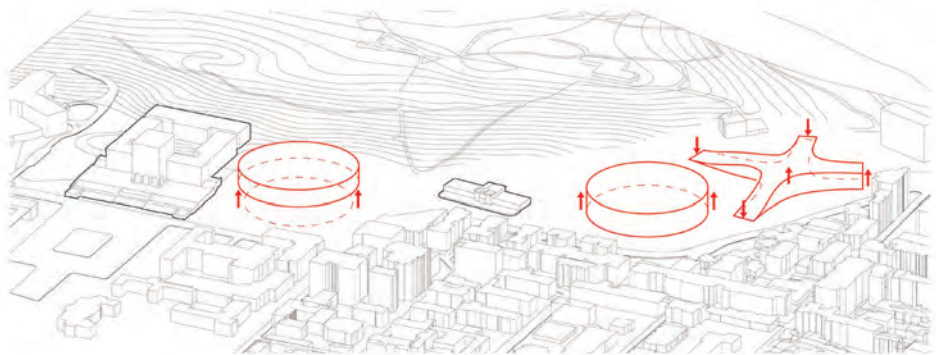


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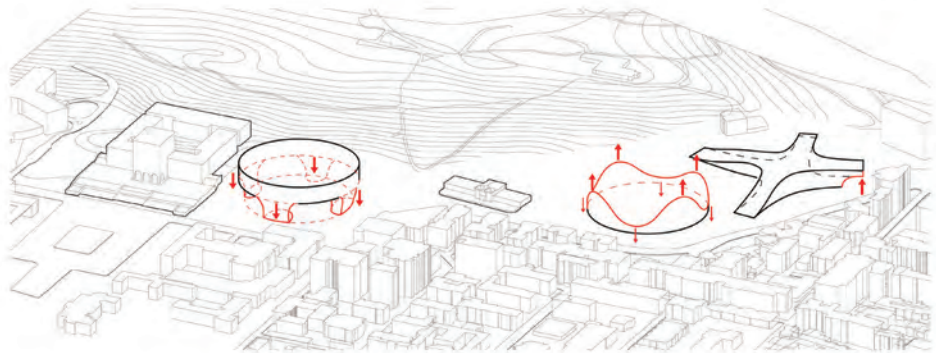
Masterplan schemes



Zoning

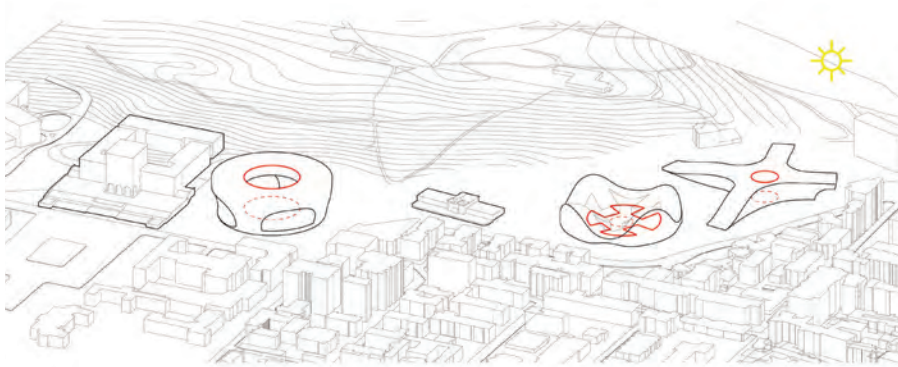


Pulling

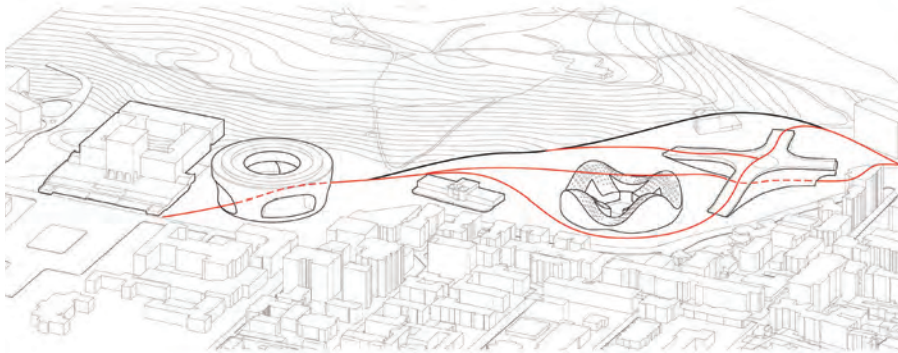


Extending

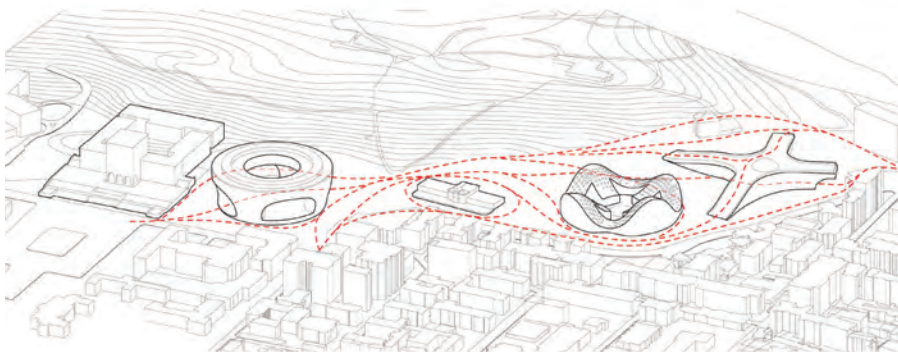
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Drilling



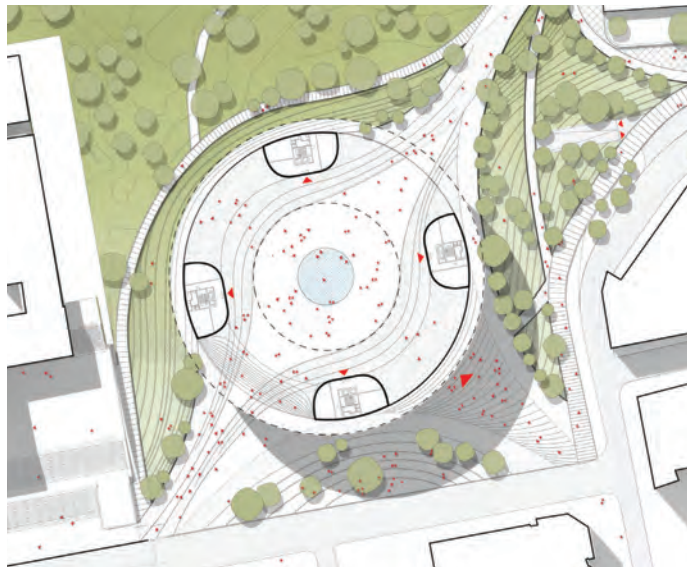
Connecting



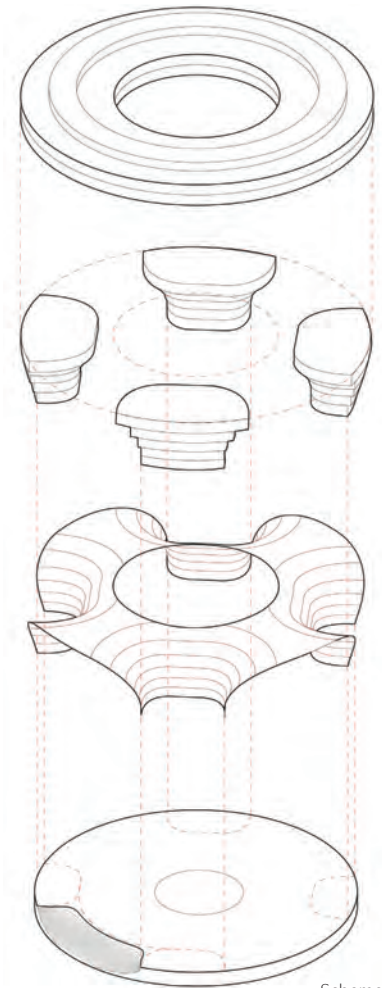
Circulation

TIR ENTRANCE BUILDING

The external surface of the proposed building will be covered with blocks of stone. By that we envision creating a solid structure from the outside. This will continue in the context of Polytechnic building which is finished with (travertine) marble stones. Opposite of that the internal surface on the courtyard facade opens to the platform and it gives the reflections of actions and movements that are happening in the new entrance to the park. This facade will be covered by reflective glass which will decrease the amount of light that enters in the interior during the day and, in reverse, it will uncover the interior of functions placed in this building during the night. The building will be treated with a solid concrete structure with an extratrated ring of two floors on the top, that will stand on four "legs" which are working both as constructional and circulation cores. Each "leg" will include elevators and evacuation staircases. The top of the building allows to be used as a view point, university canteen or sky lounge.



Plan of the TIR Entrance Building



Schemes

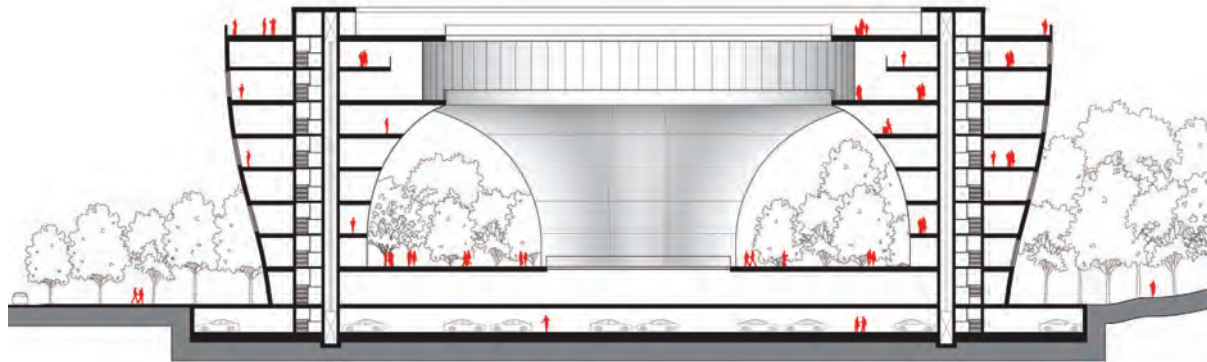
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the entrance building

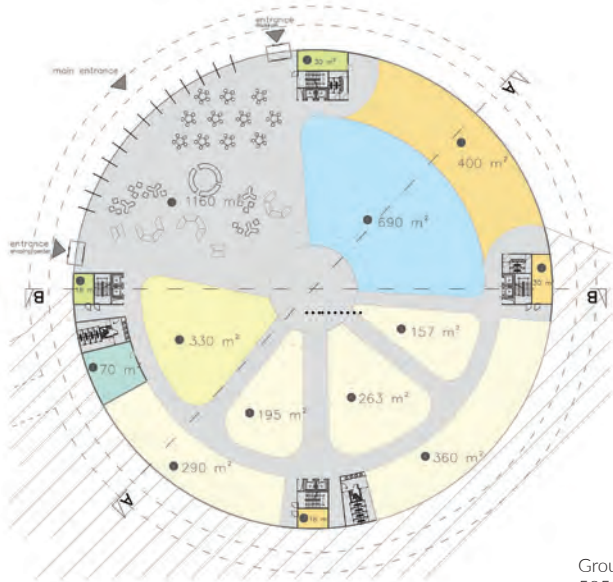
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

National Martyrs Boulevard is a major civic thoroughfare that terminates at Mother Teresa Square. Both the boulevard and the square retain their original historical charm. The square was created to serve as a central civic landmark and functioned as such under the Communist and Socialist regimes of the second-half of the twentieth century. Today, the square remains a central destination and meeting point. Unfortunately, all of the institutions located on the square close for the day at 18:00. Without other attractions, like restaurants or shops, the square is mostly empty during the evening hours. Additionally, an excess of vehicular traffic, in combination with a lack of well-defined pedestrian paths, adversely affects use of the square. The local government is currently testing the implementation of a pedestrian zone in the square during evenings. The pedestrian zone has shown some success in attracting locals and young people, who congregate on the university stairs or ride bicycles. However, the square would benefit greatly from the introduction of activities and attractions that will bring new visitors in the evenings.

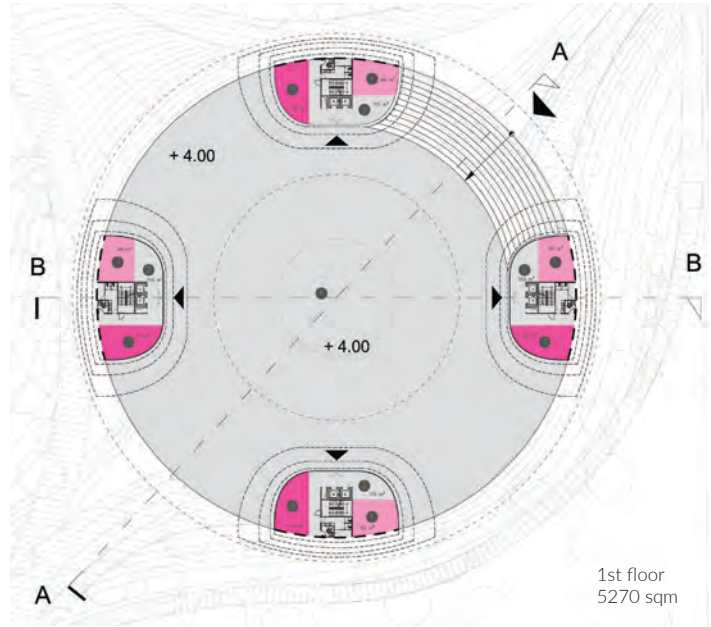


Section B-B

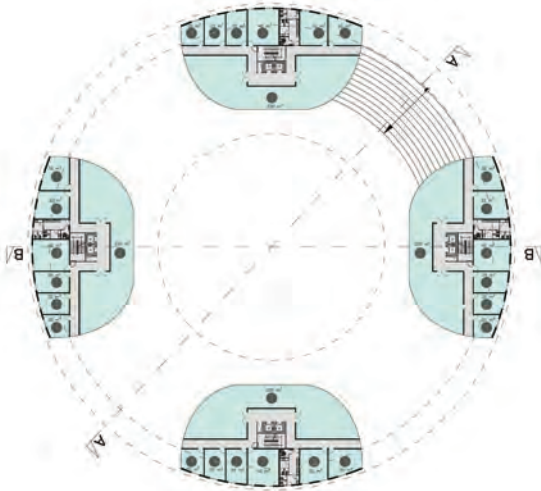
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



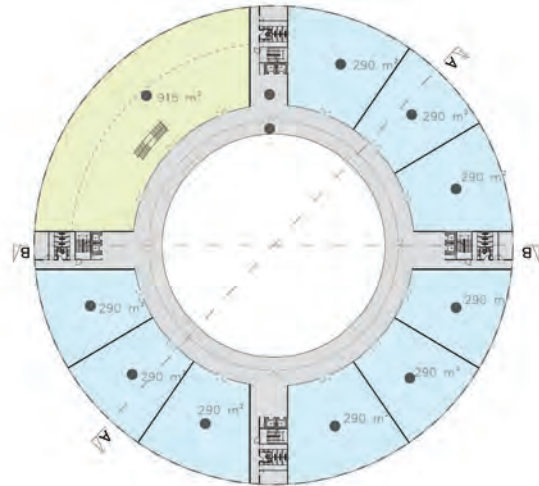
Ground floor
5250 sqm



1st floor
5270 sqm



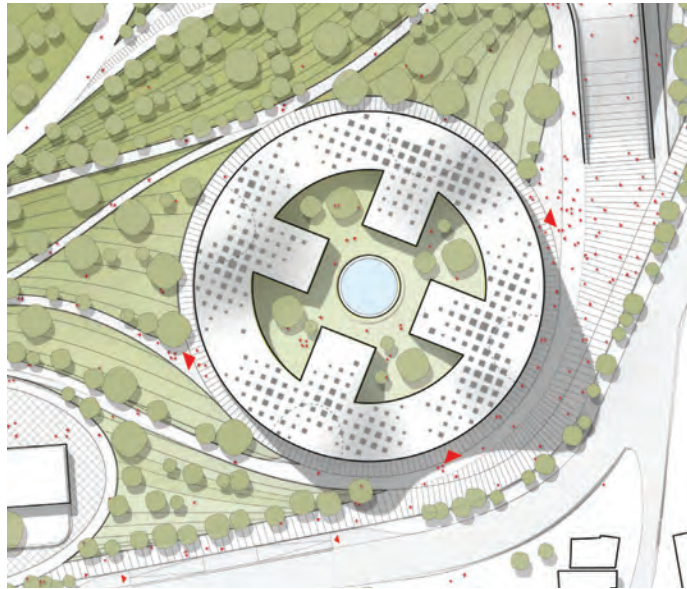
2nd floor
900 sqm



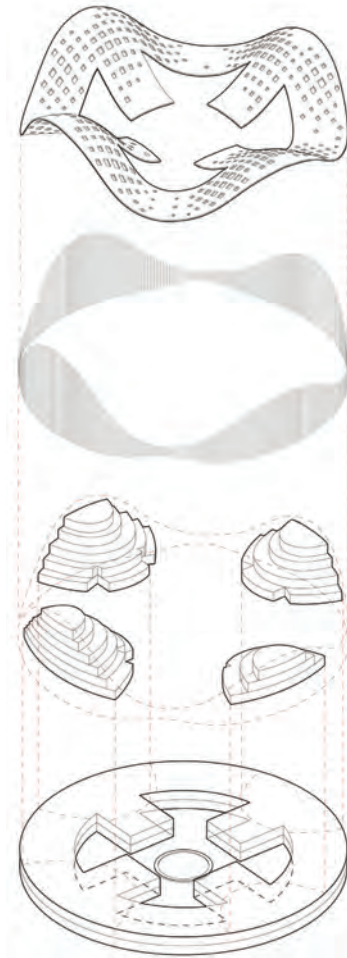
6th floor
5000 sqm

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF STATE POLICE

The external facade will be fully glazed and shaded by a system of vertical sunshading louvers, which could also fully cover parts of office spaces inside. Due to the Tirana climate characteristic, the panels will be adjustable to provide the best illumination and conditions for the spaces inside. Both roof and middle facade will work as a solid surface, perforated with a net of windows. Internal courtyard facade will be completely transparent and open. Shadowed by the high building peaks and their greenery inside, it will provide the needed comfort and give integration of internal space. This building will be realized by means of a regular concrete structure technologies for office buildings.



Plan of the Police of State Directorate



Schemes

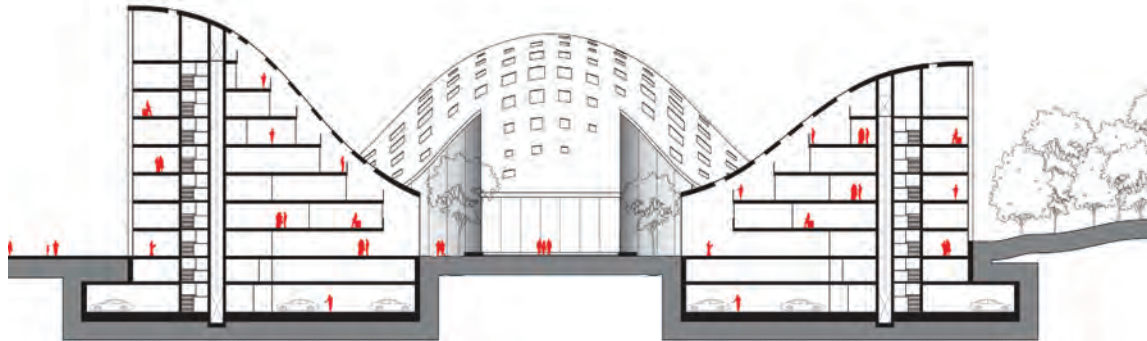
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the Police of State Directorate

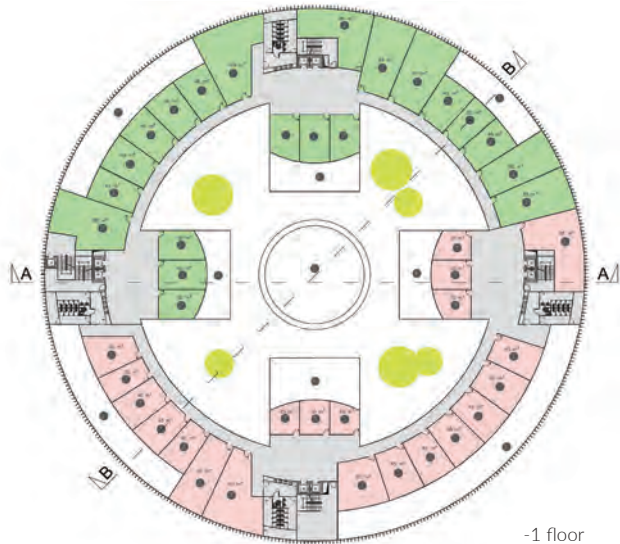
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Several projects have tried to address the Lake Park entryway. Attempts have been made to connect the city to the park with an intermediate space, but each has lacked a strong image to mark the entry point. The new entrance will serve as the primary means of entering the park due to its proximity to the boulevard and Mother Teresa Square. As close as Tirana Park is to these main public spaces, the current connection between them remains weak. The Park could serve well as a host for new facilities of the Ministry of Education and the Polytechnic University of Tirana, under the provisions of the Master Plan of Tirana Center. The presence of these institutions would vitalize the park and ensure a constant stream of visitors, not only those coming from Mother Teresa Square.

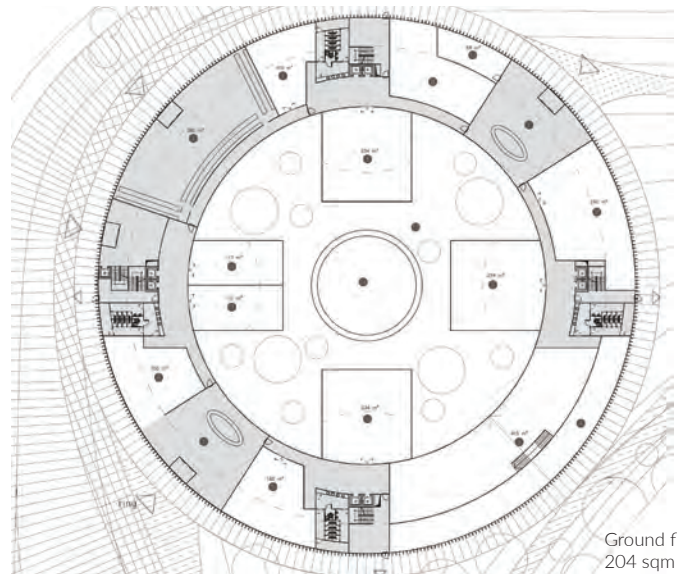


Section A-A

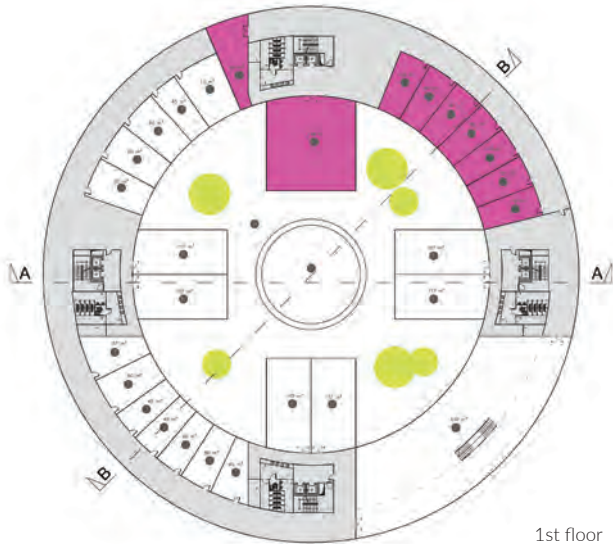
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



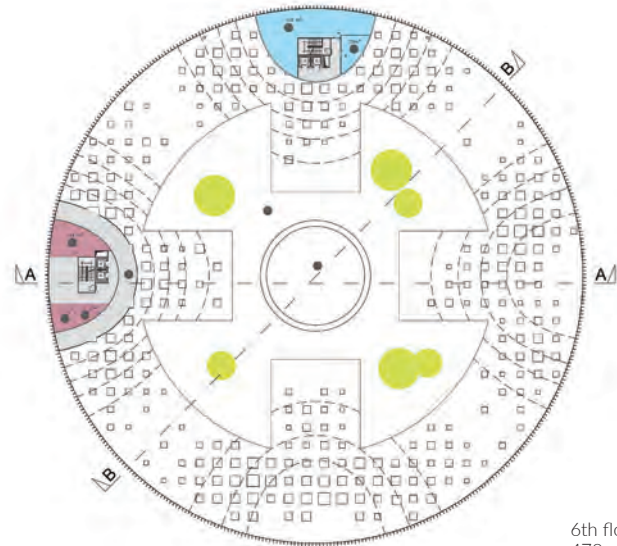
-1 floor
4473 sqm



Ground floor
204 sqm

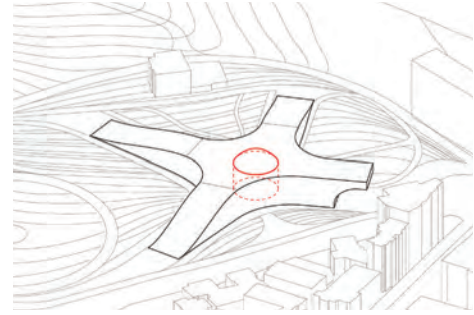
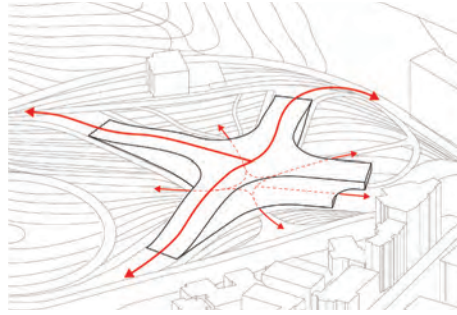
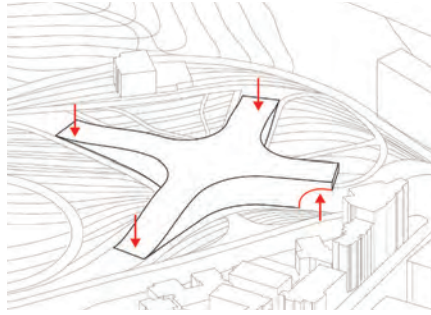


1st floor
3800 sqm



6th floor
470 sqm

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



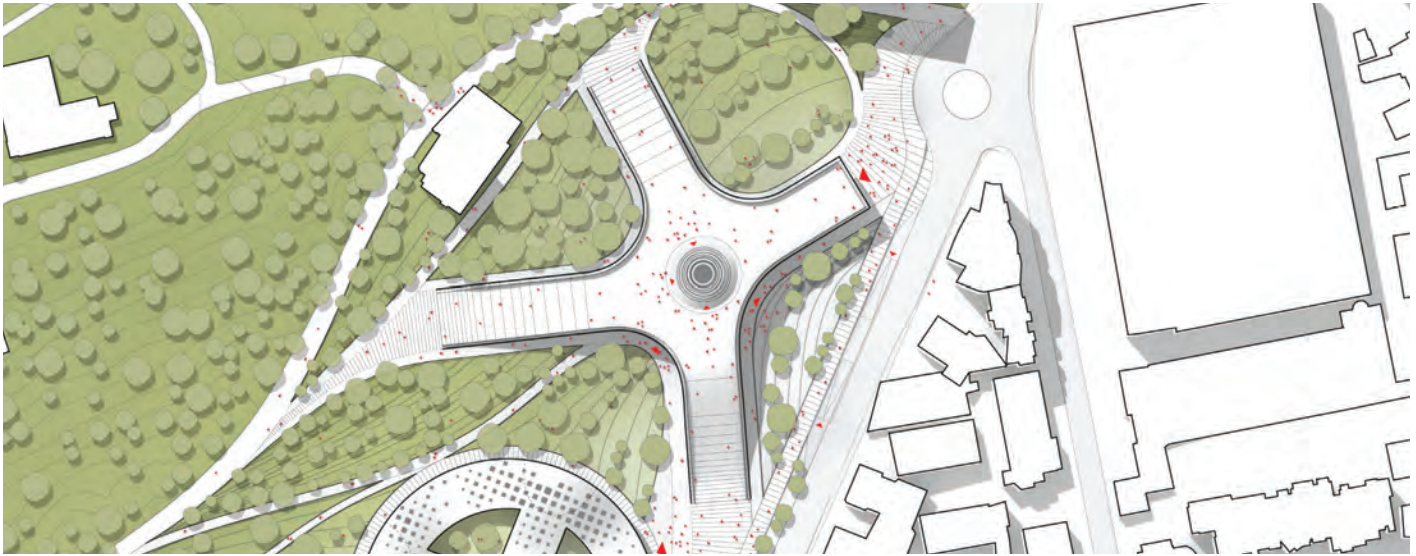
Public Service Building schemes:

1. Extrusion
2. Access
3. Void

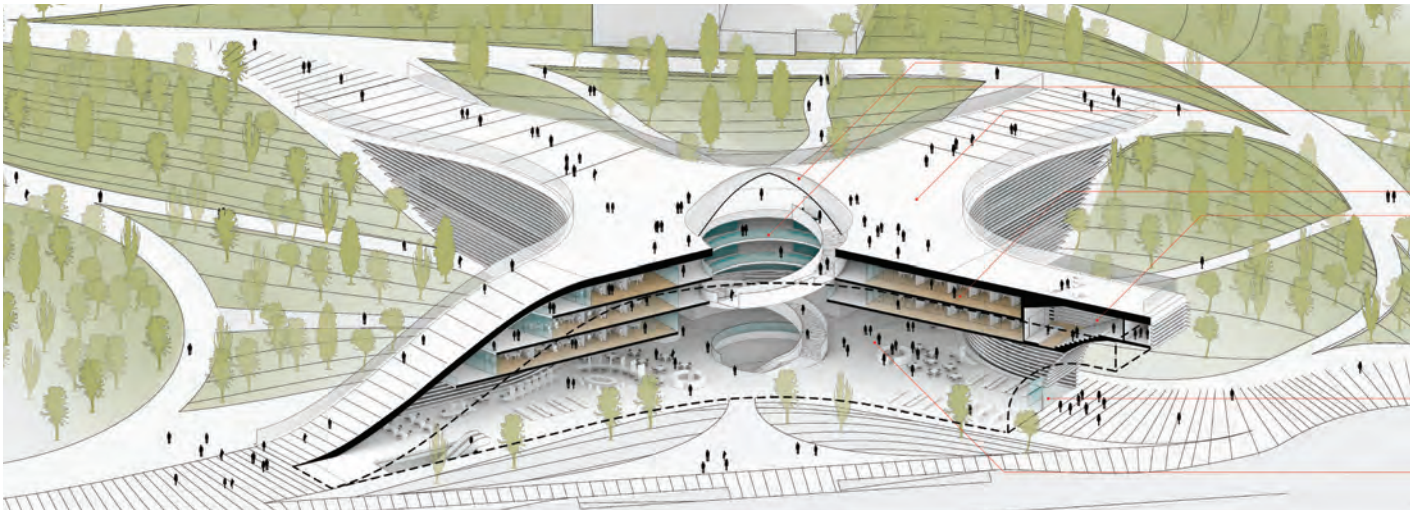
PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE

The idea for this building's materiality is linked to the desire to provide a fully transparent and clear image of the building and its service to the public. We are resolving this by continuing the pedestrians circulation flow not only to the interior but also around, through and over the building. That's why, we propose that roof of the building will be constructed as an accessible platform which covers under it the whole service's program. The high spaces of the ground floor are fully open to the users and are working as a service area, where the departments are placed on higher levels as office boxes. All programmed functions are connected together by one open central circulation core topped with a skylight. The facade is fully glazed providing a full transparency and covered by external horizontal louvers that are protecting the interior from overheat. Each wing will be build by means of a concrete monolith structure, that holds office boxes on the each level and the covering roof platform on the top.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Plan of the Public Service Building



Public Service Building - 3D section

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The buildings punctuate the city road and create the transition from the city fabric to the park. They alternate with the park in order to allow breathing spaces to permeate into the city. Each building is an interpretation of a cylinder geometry: once excavated, once enforced in plan but softened in section, once inverted into a star shape. Each of those manipulations come from a reasoning between each building's immediate context and its program: the University building wants to be a gate and therefore frame its environment while it needs to be permeable, the police facilities is a more protected entity and the public services should feel transparent, open and inviting to and from its multiple adjacencies.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



04 XDGA + SYMBIOTICA

TEAM COMPOSITION:

Architecture / Urbanism

Xaveer De Geyter Architects - XDGA
Symbiotica Architects Tirana

Landscape architecture

Yuichiro Suzuki - XDGA

Heritage and Monuments

Pieter Coelis - XDGA

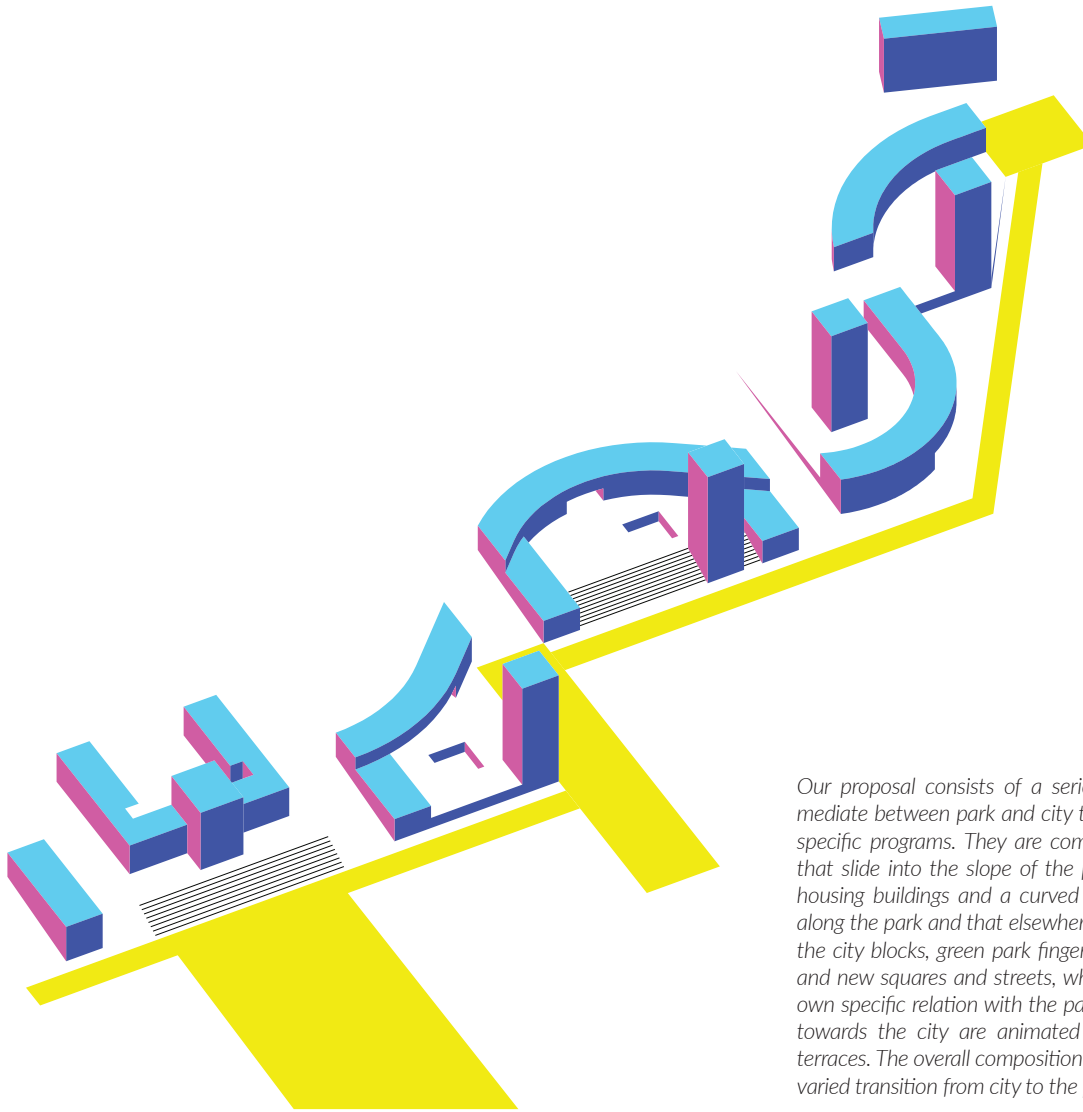
Artist

Antonio Scarponi

Engineering

LEAL-CSE

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Our proposal consists of a series of hybrid, open city blocks that mediate between park and city through their form and through their specific programs. They are composed of horizontal socle elements that slide into the slope of the park, low-rise office wings, high-rise housing buildings and a curved front building that sometimes runs along the park and that elsewhere confronts the city side. In between the city blocks, green park fingers slope down towards both existing and new squares and streets, while most of the blocks develop their own specific relation with the park side. The green fingers that reach towards the city are animated by bars, restaurants, galleries and terraces. The overall composition sharply defines a strong, porous and varied transition from city to the park.

CONTEXT

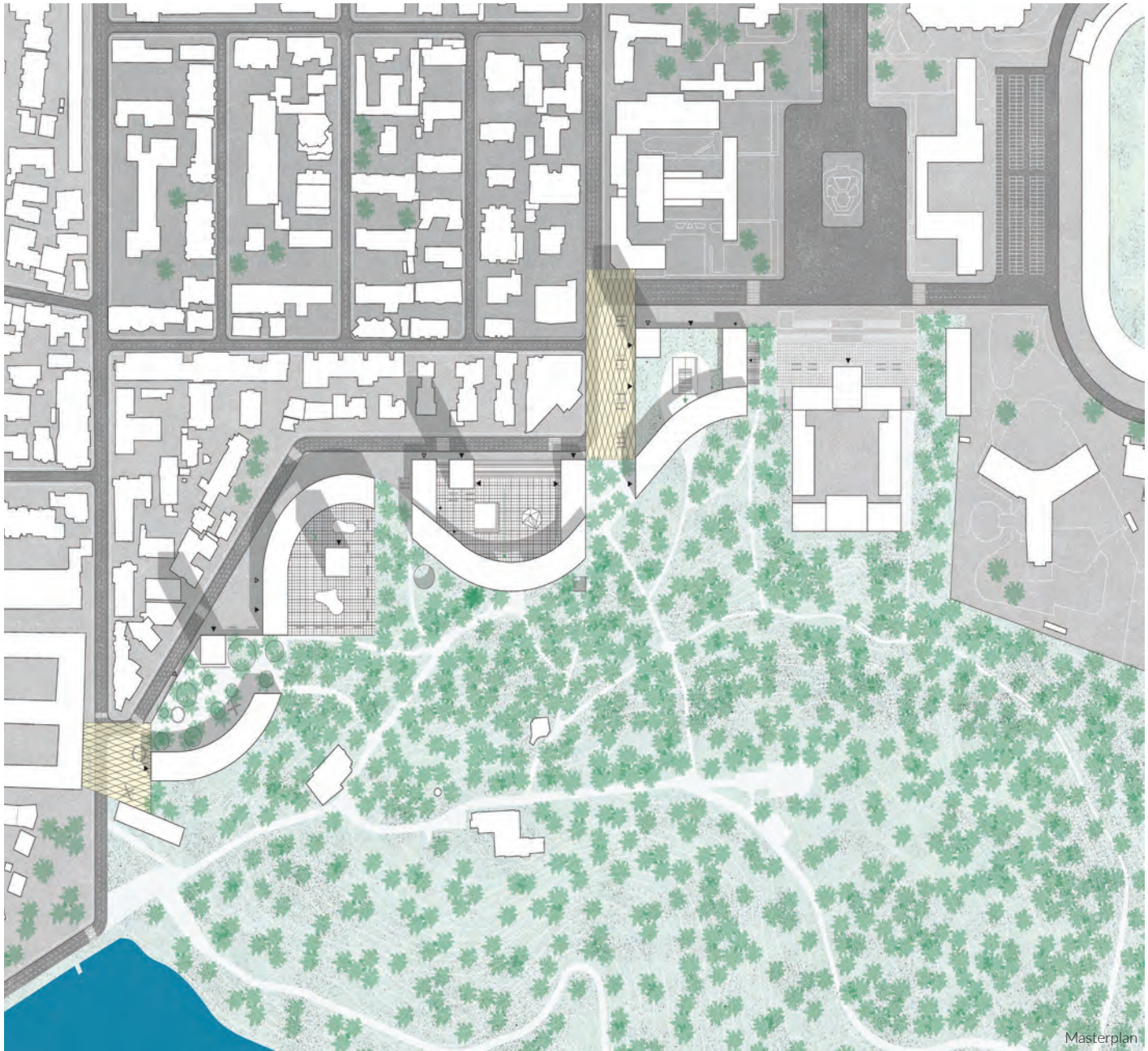
The site, stretching from the monumental Square 'Mother Teresa' up until Lake Tirana, encounters two totally opposed urban situations: the formal, representational area around the 'Martyrs of the Nation' Boulevard on the one hand, and the informal, chaotic city on the west side of this central boulevard. The former lacks variety and intensity of urban activities, the latter is full of life and lacks structure and public space. In both cases the relation with the park is underdeveloped and altogether non-existing.

PROGRAM

One can argue whether this intermediate space is best served with Institutional programs only, of which only a few have a real public character. Therefore we propose to enrich the demanded Institutional programs with other urban functions such as housing, a sports hall, some shops, bars and restaurants. We also doubt the idea of creating a dedicated University Campus around Mother Teresa Square. We think that bringing more different functions around the square will make it more alive. Simultaneously, making students move between more dispersed buildings integrates the University inside the city. Therefore we propose to exchange the location for the Public Service Mall with the University extension, thus animating the square with a flow of 7000 PSM visitors a day.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

1. PATH

The Park has a natural "grid", a refined organization of paths along the existing topography. Our proposal reconnects the two systems in a direct way.

2. HEIGHT

Housing towers reinforce urban landscape and presence of the park in the city.

3. LIMIT

While our masterplan defines the limit between the Park and City more like a thick boundary, the main curve separates a naturalist landscape from the rest of the green area in the city.

4. ENTRANCES

Our proposal envisages the entrance as a multiplicity and a range of urban and landscape situations.

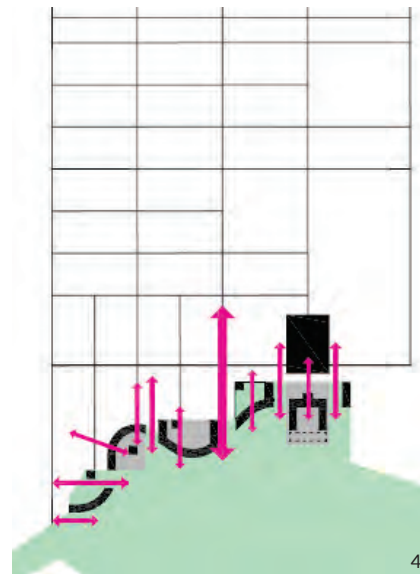
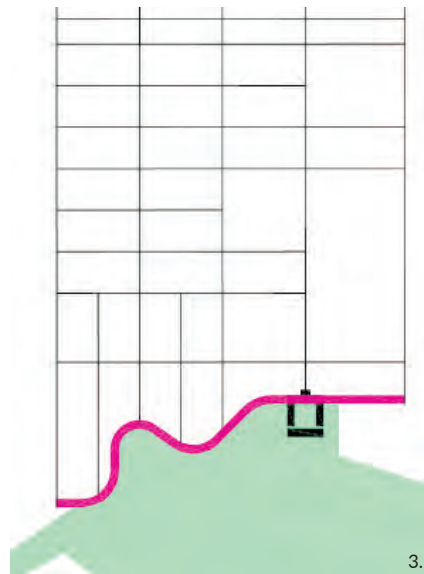
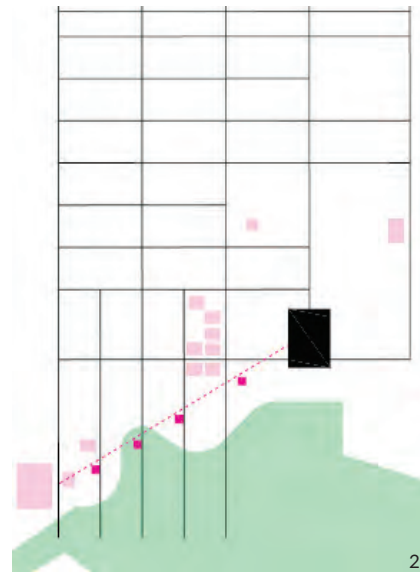
PREFIGURATION

By removing a part of the program we proposed in the previous entry, and by establishing a proposal on what should be the first phase for the project, we open up reflections on the process itself. We tried to enlighten in our early entry the necessity of reconsidering the presence of the park within the capital. It is today an under-used equipment that could benefit much more to Tirana, providing a leisure and recreational space. Consequently we suggest to inscribed our project in a process of prefiguration. Today, Tirana is facing resistances in adding new buildings to its city center. This resistance is legitimate in a lot of aspects. But there is also necessity to continue the revitalization of neighborhoods, the maintenance and creation of public spaces, to create economical value and maintain economical cycle. This construction need then to be done step by step, and involve on each of these steps a public concentrations. That's why our entry is now focused on the first phase : the construction of the civic center and the prefiguration of the future extension of the park via the used of landscaped elements.

PARK/CITY

Altogether we propose to define the city-park edge with basically two elements. One is built, non-systematic and very much situation-specific or program related. The other consists of simple green mass and space on a city-scale, systematic and creating a rigorous rhythm. The existing University building is seamlessly integrated in this new situation. The existing topography is generally maintained while small adaptations make transitions between buildings and nature smooth. The entire surface of the proposed outside spaces, on street level as well as on park level, are entirely public in terms of use, while their property status may be private.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



PUBLIC SERVICE MALL / SOCIOCULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The most public program, the Public Service Center, is installed on the site close to Mother Teresa square because it will bring a flow of 7000 citizens to the area on a daily basis. The very much extraverted complex consists of a large public hall on street level and on top of an underground parking garage. It has two facades onto the city side and it helps to define the Chopin Square. Inside the hall the entire public service area is organized around a monumental patio with a large stair that leads to the green roof and to the park.

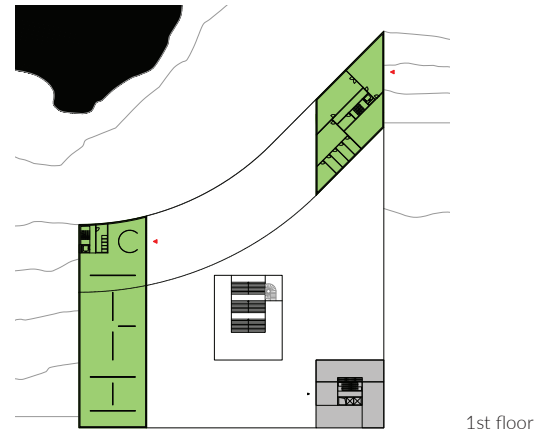
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



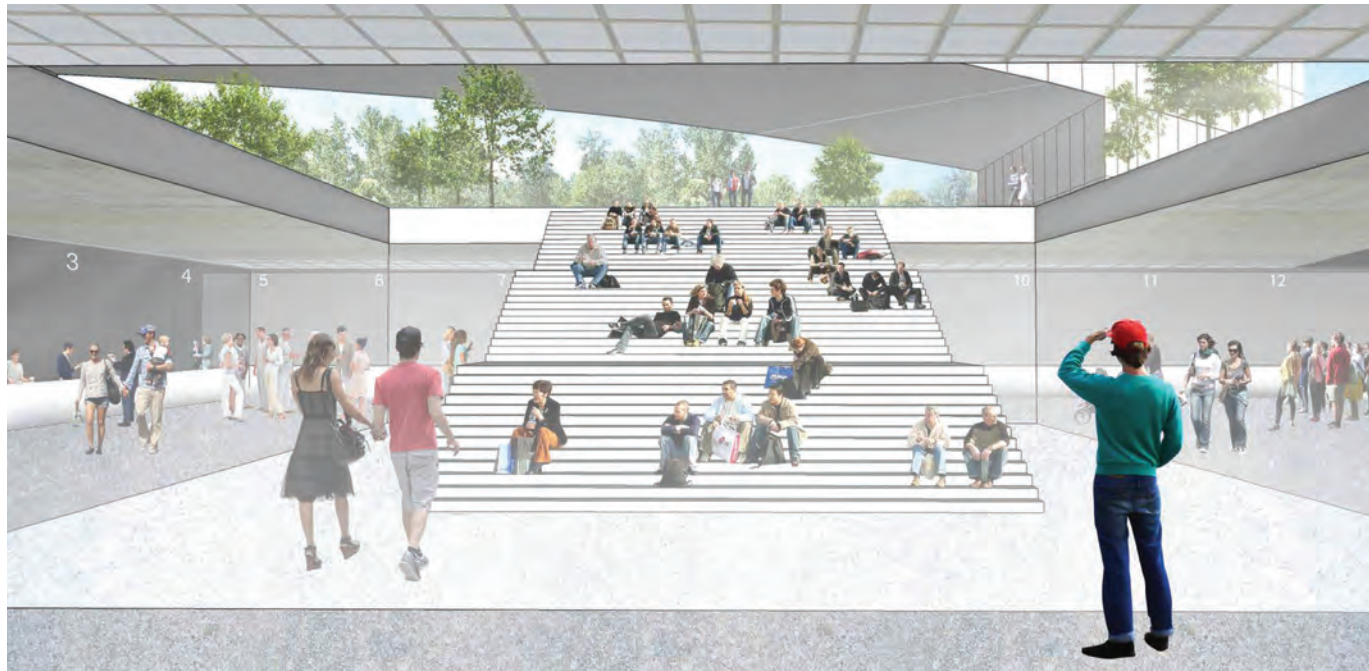
View of the Public Service Center

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The work area and the rest of the program are organized in two office wings, one of them offering a wide porch to make the connection between roof and park. On the side towards the University building, a restaurant is integrated in the building volume, with its terrace in the park. Equally, the required socio-cultural facilities with its small museum and a ticket shop are integrated on this side. On the northwest corner and along the Chopin Square, a housing tower is integrated in the complex.

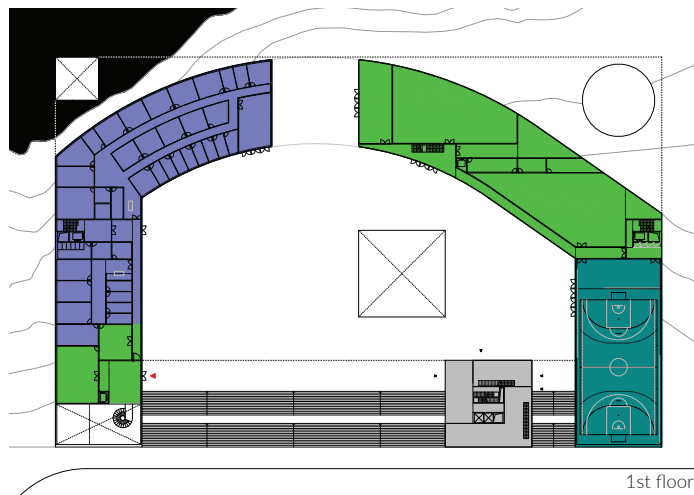


THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF POLICE

The liberty of the composition system also allows for buildings that express dignity and even power. The police building is almost symmetrical. It is organized around an elevated court, open towards the city side and accessible through massive stairs. A small porch gives access to the park. The socle houses the police garage, a parking garage and shelters. It is accessed through a gate at the head of the right wing. Another gate at the head of the left wing gives access to a double height lobby of the police premises. The different departments and directorates are organized on four different levels. The court itself is animated by the police library, the canteen and buffet, and by a sports hall for public use in the right wing. Another apartment tower stands with its base in the monumental stairs.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

View of administrative spaces



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



UNIVERSITY FACILITIES

The University library is planned at the east side of the main University building, and in a symmetrical proportion to what happens at its west side. This premise is installed on the edge of the Sheraton site, and could have a blind facade towards it if necessary. This program animates the eastern park access. The University administration, the University faculty program and the University cafeteria are gathered in another building at the west side of the State Police Directorate. The composition here is reduced to a generous piece of front building that curves towards the street side, a parking socle and a third housing tower that are situated on the park side. On street level, city side, the huge University cafeteria is a main attraction point. Again, a public stair perforates the building on ground level to arrive at park level on the other side.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES

The last premise in the Park series is supposed to help clarify a difficult urban situation, where the actual Dora D'Istria street slopes up to meet the Sami Frashëri street. It is one of these places where a square would be welcome to mark the spot, but an opening to the park is necessary as well. Here the system of hybrid city blocks dissolves into almost singular building elements. A curved building with its head onto the new square accompanies the park access. It stands on a - green - socle that is completely sunken at the square side, and that slowly appears along the Dora D'Istria street. It houses a supermarket. On its most visible edge stands the fourth apartment tower.

PARK ENTRANCE - ENTRANCE PARK

Our proposal still focuses on defining the edge, the limit between the city and the park. As expressed in our earlier proposal, our project is uses two elements to build up this limit : on one side the organization of a discontinuous line of buildings, contextually adapted, on the other hand the use of green mass. The green mass will be in a first phase use to construct a 'prefiguration park' on the site of the present state police compound. This green mass, is actually the extension of the park itself toward the city. The park will be accessible via the multiple access we previously defined. In between these accesses, we propose to install trees nursery, open air sport facilities, picnic areas and a wide range of public and accessible external program. The boundary between the city and the park is then reinforced but also maintained porous, adding the capacity to Tirana's citizen to access easily this major equipment via multiple entrances of different scales.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



05 ATENA STUDIO + HELIDON KOKONA + NORRØN

TEAM COMPOSITION:

Architect and Urban Planner

Anna Maria Indrio

Architects, Landscape and Urban Planners

Poul Høilund D. Cruise

Marco Berentz

Marco Sardella

Rossana Atena

Architect

Arber Kokoshi

Joli Kika

Structural Engineer

Helidon Kokona

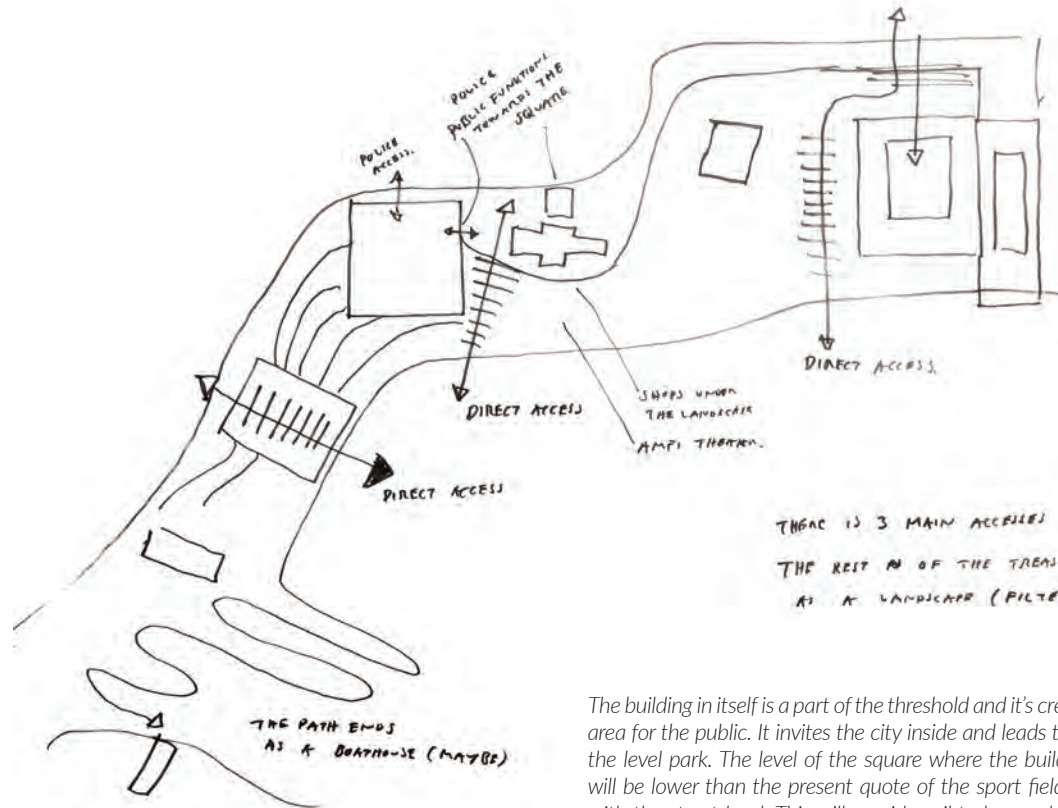
Historical Monument Specialist

Marco Zerbinatti

Environmental Management

Andrea Atena

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



The building in itself is a part of the threshold and it's creating a shaded area for the public. It invites the city inside and leads the public up to the level park. The level of the square where the building is situated will be lower than the present quote of the sport fields in continuity with the street level. This will provide soil to be used creating slopes along the building and increasing the feeling of the perception of the park. It makes the new site with the new building a beloved view for the citizens of Tirana being a beautiful building in harmony with the landscape. It is in fact important that this building is taking the fear away of converting the park to city - in this way it becomes neither a park nor a city but a landscape in itself - the public threshold.

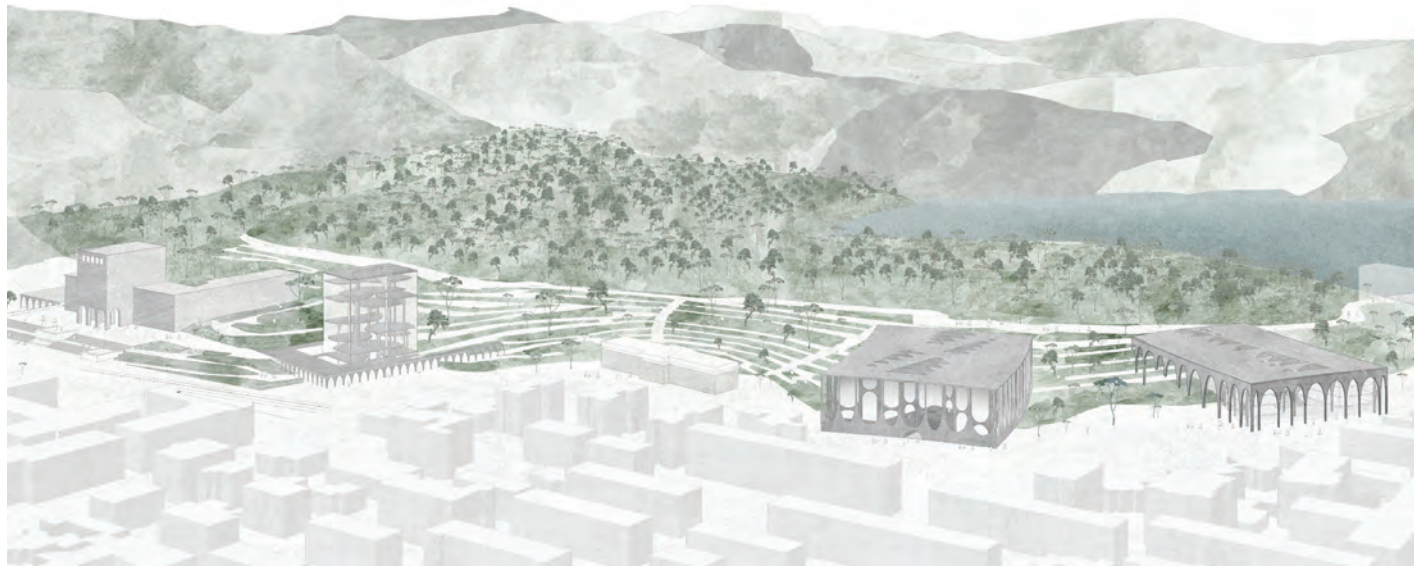
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE TRANSITION - FROM CITY TO THE PARK

The development of the area between the city of Tirana and the “Madh” Park holds a great potential of creating a new physical urban landscape where the inhabitants of the city can meet in a human scale environment. From being a border between the everyday city life and the green recreational park life – the area will be transformed into what we call a “threshold”, a spatial transition not only urban but also recreational. At the same time the new threshold creates a connection from the Mother Teresa Square to the Lake. This way the threshold becomes a mental transition from the past towards the future as a democratic gesture for the people of Tirana.

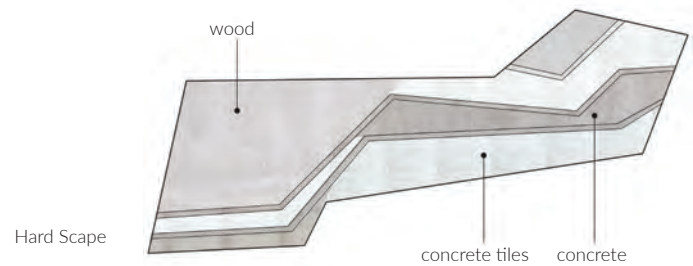
Schemes



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

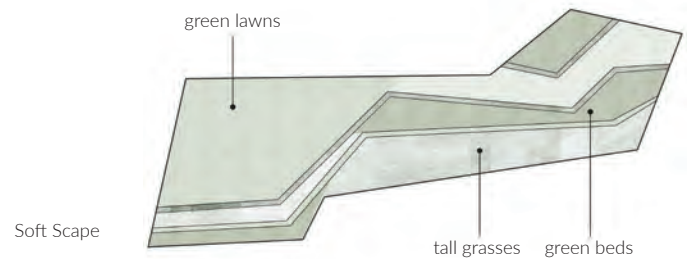


THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE PUBLIC THRESHOLD - HARD SCAPE + SOFT SCAPE

Placed on a mountain slope the public threshold is created by combining two different languages: The soft scape of the park and the hard scape of the city. In this way merging the best qualities from the two different worlds into one. Soft scape - the language of the park with greenery, tall trees and wood. Hard scape - the language of the city with hard surfaces, stones and photocatalytic concrete: materials and technologies available, durable and easy to maintain. Combined of the new languages of the public threshold offers various possibilities for new activities to take place. Through inventive and innovative interpretations of the two more classic typologies, the new public threshold contains a great potential to develop its own unique language physically expressing the future public life of Tirana.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the General Directorate of State Police

AN OPENING AND A CLOSURE

The buildings that are placed in this threshold contribute with their volumes to create squares and a volumetric rhythm along the edge of the threshold. The sequence of those buildings is carefully related to the needed functions in a way that the building contributes to the public life being themselves an active part of the threshold. On both sides of the existing university, enhancing and emphasizing the axiality of the beautiful existing building, the new university administration office will be placed and the new university facilities will be formed as a totally integrated building in the landscape. The threshold is initiated by a new transparent mediatheque emerging out of the university building. The mediatheque offers a new program and a new functionality both for the university and the public life. The new volume of the mediatheque is mirroring the front volume of the existing university and thereby introducing the entrance to the public threshold. Between the mediatheque and the new building of the police department a new city square will be created around the renewed police museum, the rest of the buildings will be pulled down in order to create a clear special relationship between the mediatheque the museum and the police department. Along the public threshold then we will place the public service. The sequence of all the buildings will make sure that public life will span from Mother Teresa's square along the Big Park, including in a natural way the new Olgiatis office building, towards the lake.



VELOCITIES - FAST VS. SLOW

The Public threshold contains two different kinds of movement. A fast direct movement from the city to the park and a slow movement for enjoying a more recreational stroll. Across the threshold 7 big stairs brings the people directly from the level of the city to the level of the park. Some of the stairs are outdoor stairs open 24 hours a day as gates to the park. Other stairs are inside the new buildings creating a possible movement through the volume from the city to the park. Stairs are not the only access to the park. Along the public threshold the new landscape is shaped as ramps creating a slow movement from the city level to the park level. The ramps make it possible to climb the small mountain slope with bikes and prams and at the same time increase the accessibility for the disabled. Once on the upper edge of the threshold, also the long recreational stroll creates multiple possibilities for pauses along the route and other diverse recreational activities.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

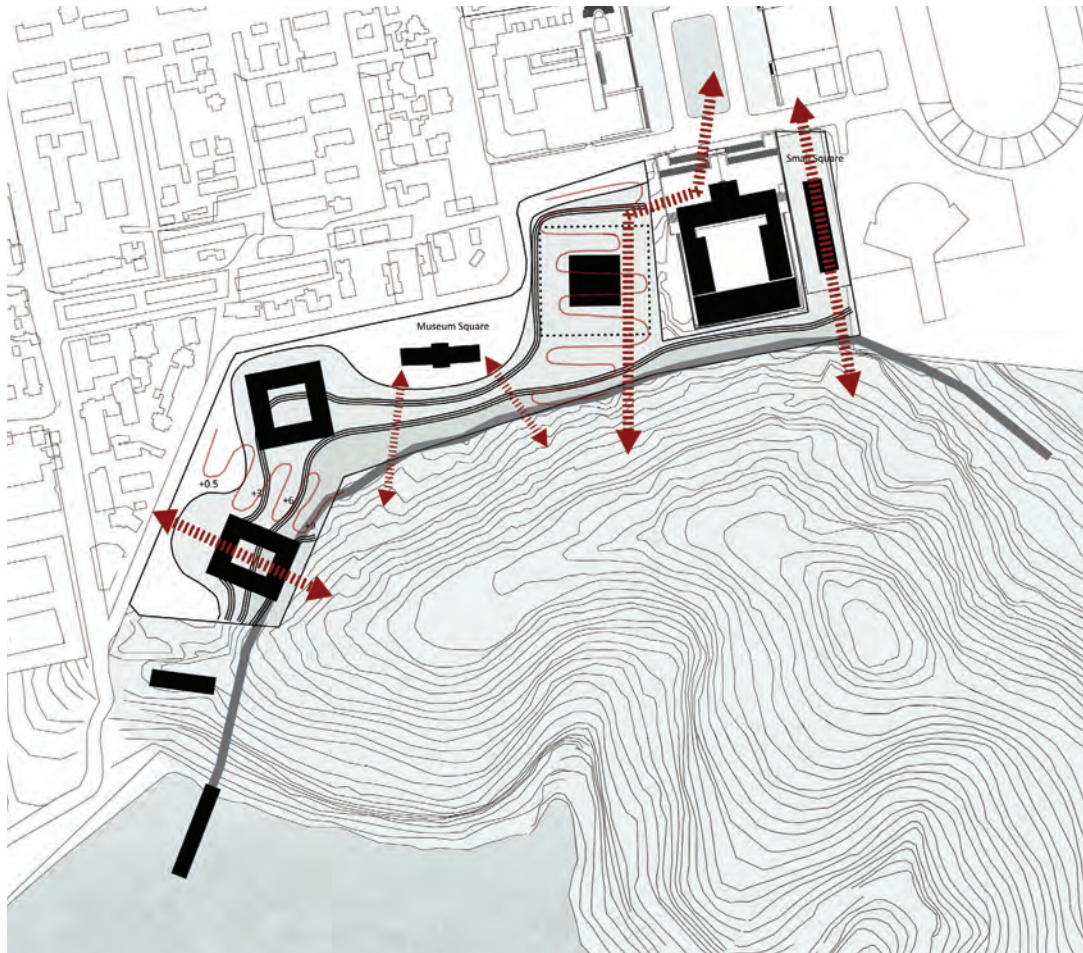


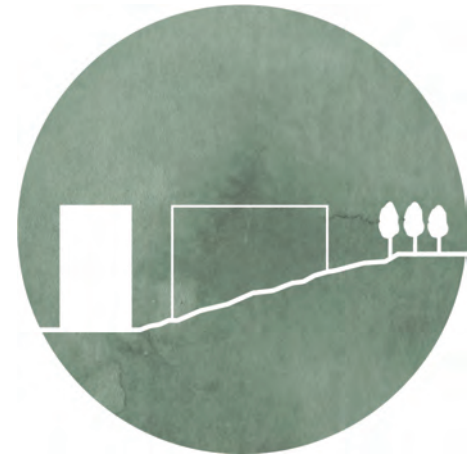
Diagram of fast and slow movements

A HUMAN SCALE

Because of the way the buildings are placed in the new public threshold they act as mediators between the big scale of the city and the small scale of the park - linking the two together. In this way the new volumes become recognizable in both areas, ensuring tranquility in the transition between them. The mediator introduces a human scale between government and civic life - creating generous public spaces connecting the city and the park. The design is deeply rooted in a Scandinavian tradition where the public spaces are treated with a high degree of dignity, quality in the selecting materials and an understanding of creating physical form serving the democratic public life.

TRANSFORMING THE ARCH ACCORDING TO THEIR FUNCTION

The buildings are not only mediators. They are also attractions because of their appearance and their architectural performance. As a design parameter for creating an expression of different buildings we have tried to find a "motive" that's recognizable for the area and its context. We have chosen to work with the classical arch as a creative obstruction. Not copying the arch but using it in new ways. In this way each building obtains a different recognizable look due to its function but within the same spatial pallet. Arches are used as a structure, which carries both the floor plans of the buildings as well as the large roof, naturally ventilated below. This roof creates a shade for the transparent interior ensuring comfort and nice working environment in the offices, views to the threshold and a beautiful spatial expression. In this way the new language of the arc achieves a three-layered purpose: Structure, Shade and artistic contextual reference.

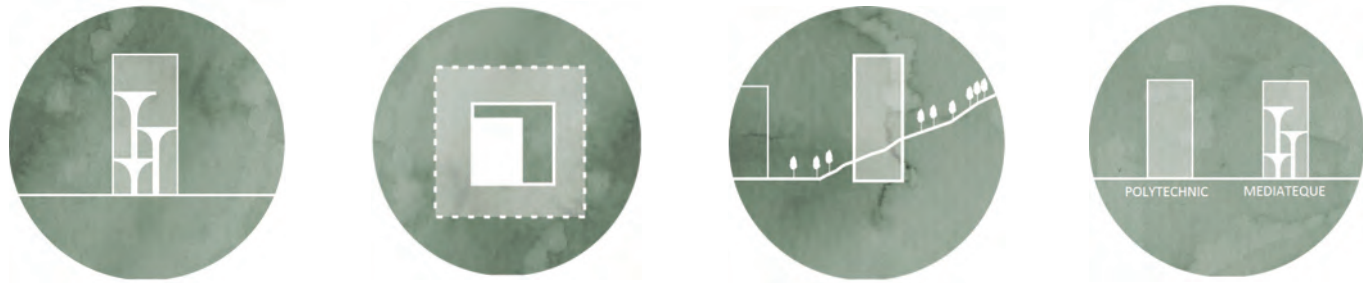


THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the mediatheque and the library

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE MEDIATEQUE & LIBRARY

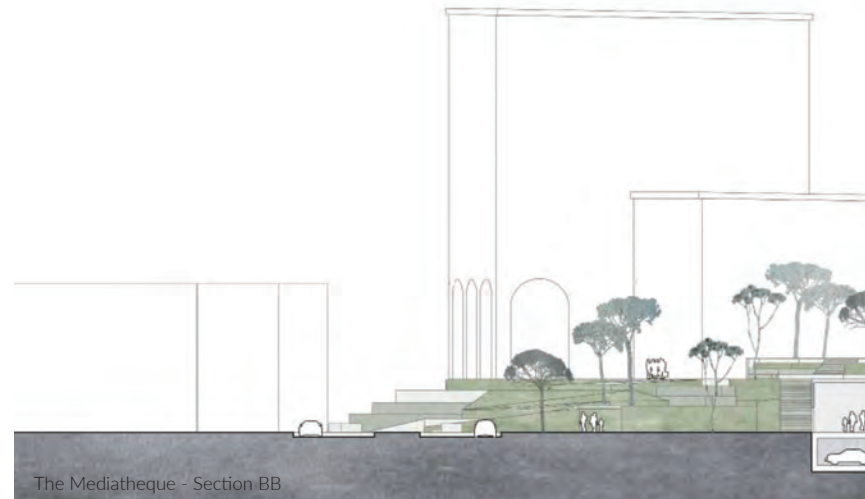
The threshold is initiated by a new transparent building, dedicated to a mediatheque & library, emerging out of the landscape and of the university building. The building is composed of three main elements: arches, plates and skin. Arches are used as a structure, which carries both the floor plans of the buildings as well as the roof. Each floor is a round plate visually and physically connected with all the others, creating an inner dynamic.

The mediatheque & library building offers a new program and a new functionality both for the university, public life and citizen:

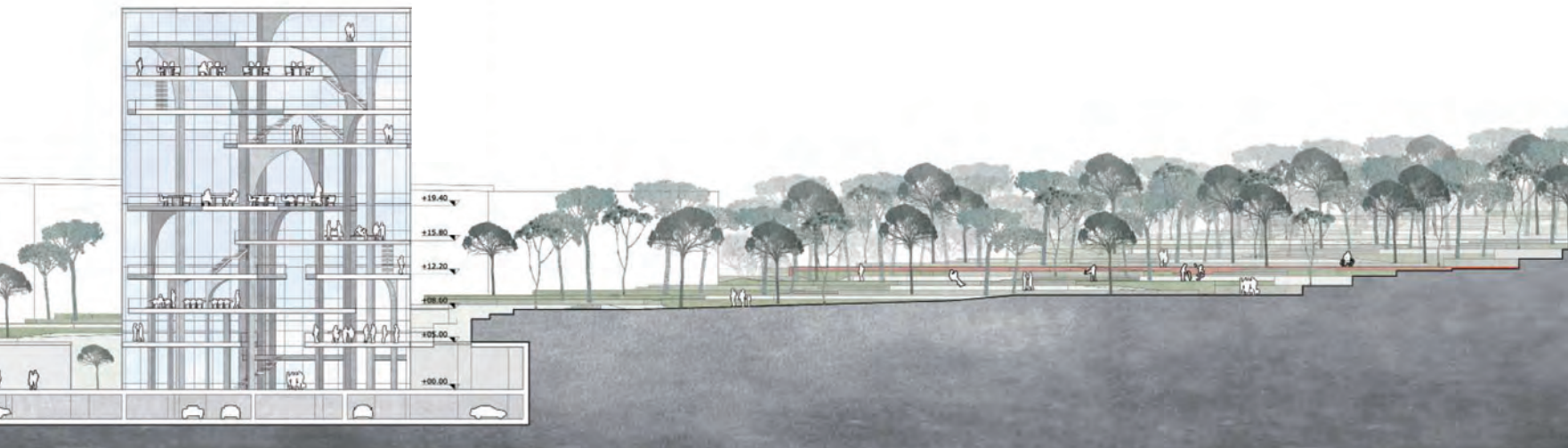
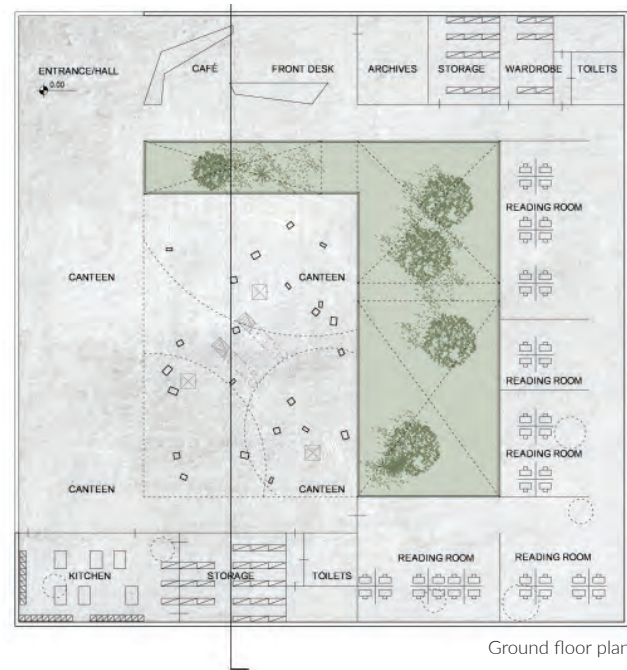
- basement: parking area easily accessible from Parku i Madh street;
- ground floor: information desk, café, canteen, outside spaces for visitors and reading rooms.
- first - third floor: library and reading rooms, - fifth -seventh floor: mediatheque and study spaces.

Passing through the building, people can directly walk from the level of the street (where there is the city entrance) to the level of the park. Meantime, along the public threshold the new landscape is shaped as ramps creating a slow movement from the city level to the park level. Ramps and stairs make it possible to climb the small mountain slope with bikes and prams and at the same time increase the accessibility for the disabled.

The new volume of the mediatheque & library is mirroring the front volume of the existing Polytechnic University Building as an open and transparent twin. The building share with the Polytechnic the same level of the access (+5.00 m). In this way, both buildings are connected thanks to the new threshold of the Park through paths, green areas and activity spaces.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



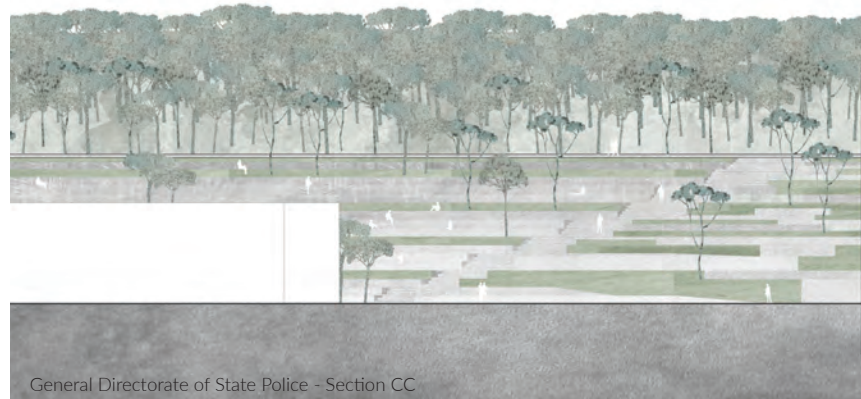
THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF STATE POLICE

The new general directorate of the state of police is a very important building for the city of Tirana and for the entire nation. As such it demands to communicate different stories. It is democratic, but at the same time secure - it is iconic, but at the same time a modern functional and flexible office building - it is prestigious, but efficient and sustainable. It needs to give the message of a welfare future for the nation and the city taking care of its citizens and at the same time of the economy of means.

We have therefore created an extrovert building formed as a four armed star where we have given maximum care to the employees, all viewing the city and the park. This simple and rational office building develops along a cross plan with atriums on each side of a middle section containing common vertical and horizontal communications lines and services. It is a democratic building where all users can meet each other in the central space both horizontally and vertically.

Departments can be assembled together by internal corridors with a variety of common and single offices. The "star" is inscribed under a big roof standing on a plinth, which follows the contour of the roof. The roof is carried by a structure of arches, stabilized by a system of perpendicular secondary structure.

The big roof provides not only an efficient shadow protecting offices and amenities area for the employees, but also defines personality for the building and security protection to the facade. The plinth is an efficient physical distance keeper but the layers of arches mitigate this otherwise hard expression and transform the building in a poetic environment where light and shadows play an important role. In this way the building act as an "attraction" defining the site, connected to the new public threshold.

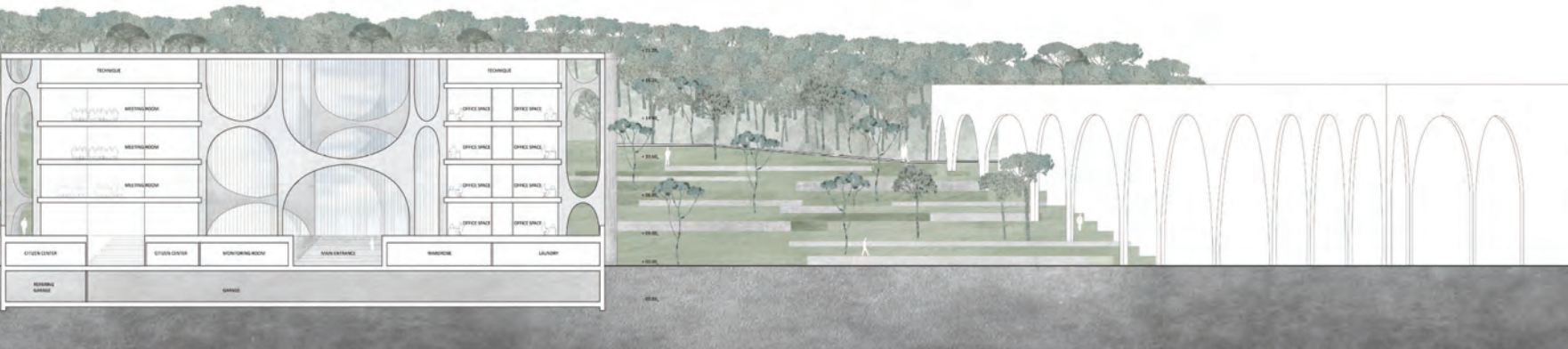


General Directorate of State Police - Section CC

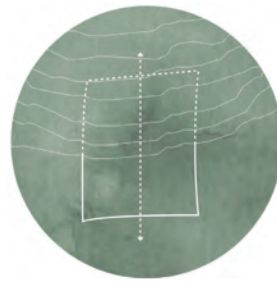
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Police Station - 2 floor, 2200 m²



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

The public service mall will be seen together with the police building. Twisting the two buildings, a new city square appears and establishes the new threshold to the park. The motif of the arch is now reversed and the public services mall opens towards the square and the city on all sides. The building invites the citizens in and reveals what is going inside it.

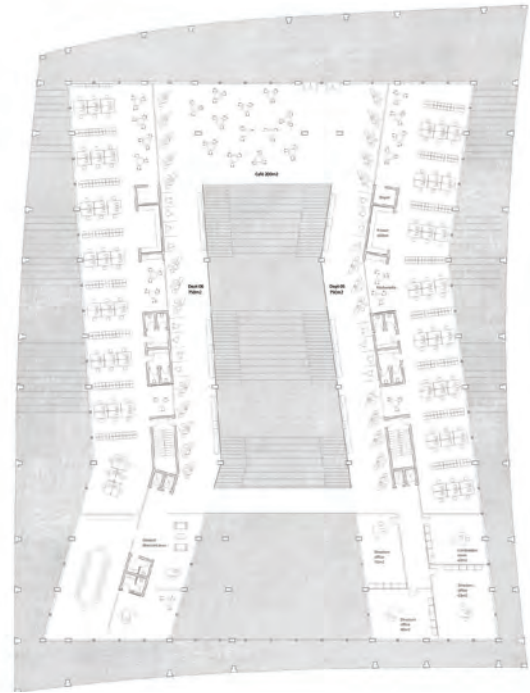
On each stop the public will meet the front offices of each department and the waiting areas facing the life that unfolds in the atrium. On especially occasion the atrium can be transformed in a cinema, dance hall, meetings hall and other public performance activities. Because the atrium is a protected environment in all seasons it can function as a street environment.

The atrium spatial feeling is astonishing. The prospective, as in a Piranesi renascence drawing, will change all the time, creating a spectacular sequence of crescendo of rooms. The atrium culminates on the level of the park, where inside and outside space melt together. The big roof is also protecting the very transparent glass building from solar impact.

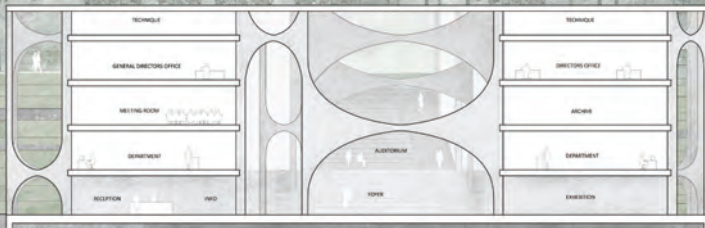
The stairs follow the slop inside and outside climbing to the level of the park. The walk under the arches along the building will be an astonishing architectural experience, as a cathedral of democratic modernism.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Public Service Building - 3 floor, 2170 m²



+1.00
+0.00
-0.50
-1.00
-1.50

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



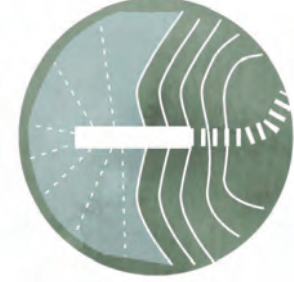
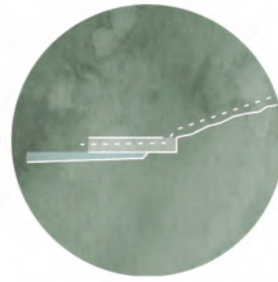
1. Interior view from the big common stairway in the public service center.
2. View from the colonnades around the general directorate of state police.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the Public Service Center

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE BOAT HOUSE BUILDING

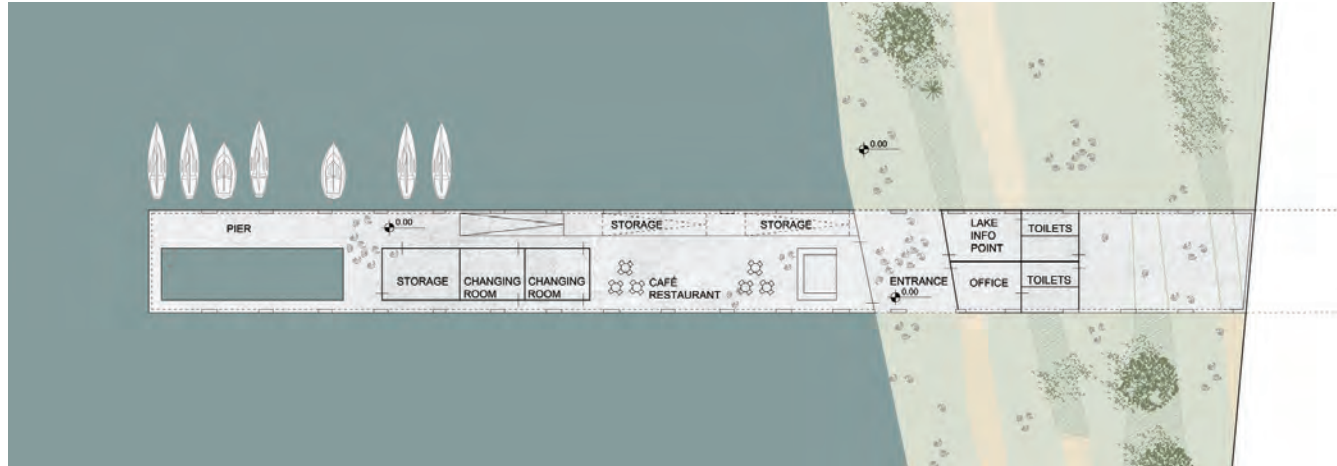
The boat house building, with the recognizable arcs, becomes the attraction element on the lake. The arcs are used as a structural element that define the shaded activities space and the roof viewpoint. The boat house is a building and a public space, that consists in the end and the beginning of the main path between the city, the park and the lake. The building hosts a mixed program public facility:

- ground floor: sailing centre and related facilities, café, lake swimming pool, shaded resting areas
- roof: lake view point, resting and relax areas. The roof of the boat house is the continuation of the main path and work as a viewpoint of the rest of the lake and park.



Boat House Building - Elevation FF

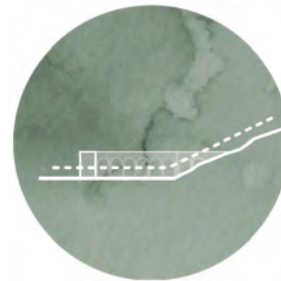
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Boat House Building - Ground floor, 1000 m²



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The design of the new building for Administration Offices is placed in continuity with the Polytechnic University Building and is based on a clear flexibility in spaces and on a complete integration into the landscape. The two levels building has a clear functionality, with a double height main entrance from the square level and a flexible organization of office spaces with different office sizes and meeting rooms. This building, integrated into the landscape, allows people to walk directly from the level of the street (where there is the city entrance and the double height hall) to the level of the park. The building itself generates two different urban squares: the courtyard, directly connected with the administrative spaces and at the same level of Madre Teresa square, and the square on the roof, accessible during all day time.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View from the new park path



View from Dora D'istria street

06 AZPML LIMITED + STUDIOARCH4

TEAM COMPOSITION:

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Donghua Chen
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Gjergji Dushniku
Klaudjo Cari
Olesja Lami
Rezart Struga
Lorin Cekrezi
Felisia Veliu

Landscape Architect

Teresa Galí-Izard
Jordi Nebot

Specialist of culture monuments

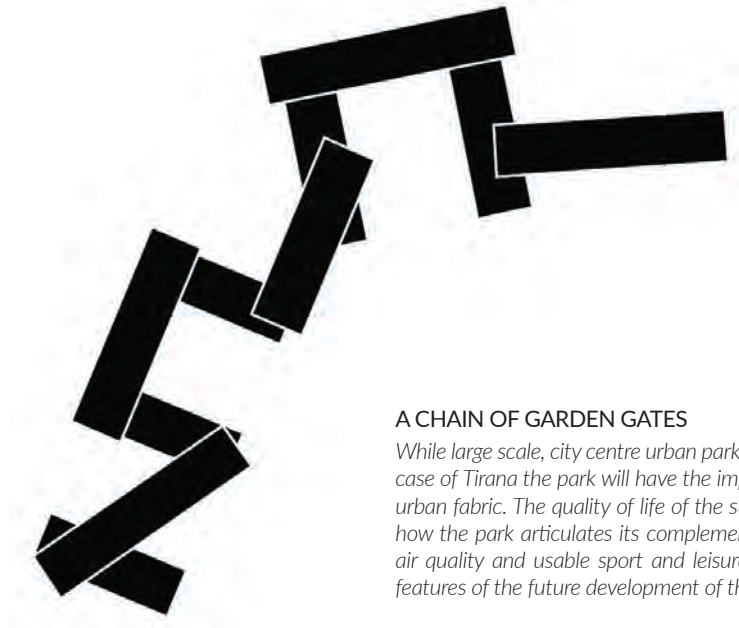
Elizabeth (Libby) Ellis
Daniel Payne

Visual Artist & Designer

Alex Chinneck

Hydrotechnic engineer

Vasil Dushniku



A CHAIN OF GARDEN GATES

While large scale, city centre urban parks are a trait of world capitals, in the case of Tirana the park will have the important role of bringing nature into urban fabric. The quality of life of the surrounding districts will depend on how the park articulates its complementary functions. New views, better air quality and usable sport and leisure facilities are expected to be key features of the future development of the Tirana Park.

OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy would be to redefine the concept of public institutions and insure a better relation with the context, realizing a more successful public area. For the first point Access and Linkage we propose a building with many entrances. By giving the possibility of choice we increase the flexibility inside out the whole structure. People can wait in the green public areas of the surroundings and get oriented by the treatment of the façade and the visual connection within the outside and inside. The circulation and accessibility touches as well the central cores of the institutions. The applications of a main hub of access into the entrance halls, where people get information, offer a vertical connection as well as a better orientation. The second application is the redefinition of waiting area and public plaza. With the integration of both ideas from the Access & Linkage theories and the Comfort theories, a successful waiting area is a place where people feel relaxed, have possibilities of choices in relation

to the places offered. Waiting areas in this case we be more inclusive and people have the right to chose to wait outside the building, in different parks; in the inside in comfortable designed gathering areas; or in the urban parks facing the city. The third application would be the definition of porosity as an image characteristic. We define a successful building by the introduction of porosity and transparency in relation to the human perception. A well-designed space with a lot of interaction with the outside gives the feeling of inclusion in the everyday life of the city. In these terms it will automatically change into a landmark for Tirana. The forth application is the creation of more social climate in the inside of the institution. Throughout the application of transparency concept as a key element in the design, the visual access within offices and common areas in the inside will create a more public friendly climate, and more stuff creative climate.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Aerial view of the Park entrance



TIRANA LAKE PARK GATE

Our proposal for the Civic Complex in the edge of the Tirana Lake Park aims to bring together the two public institutions, the Public Service Centre and the General Directorate of the State Police into a single topographic structure that will form the edge of the Park. We reject the monumentalization of the two structures in favor of a flexible and resilient single structure that will be able to host many different functions in the future. Our building strategy is structured around a continuous building pattern forming a chain of Garden/Gates, intertwined with the public buildings, which will form the park edge. Every one of the gardens will have a different quality. The Garden/Gates are approximately 40m x 40m, a dimension that is extracted from campuses and cloisters, allowing to optimize ventilation, daylight and microclimate, while providing maximum flexibility of use. Like a Mediterranean village the Civic Complex is to be built through a system of efficiently built Units, providing floorspace quanta around 2,600m², an ideal size for public buildings. The Units are to be built with low-carbon, pre-cast concrete, which is ideal to use in Mediterranean climates and compatible with the extensive planting which we propose to do in the buildings themselves, reminiscent of the vegetation of the buildings that is common in the Eastern Mediterranean villages.

Our proposal for the municipal building complex that will define the Northern edge of the Tirana Park aims to move away from the need to monumentalize the two public institutions to be included in the complex, The Public Service Centre and the General Directorate of the State Police. On the contrary, our proposal is driven towards the construction of a new Northern Edge for Tirana's Lake Park. We see this operation more as a topographic structure that will define the edge of Lake Park and which should be more like a city wall or a river bank: a consistent structure that defines a condition of the edge between the Park and the City.



Site plan

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

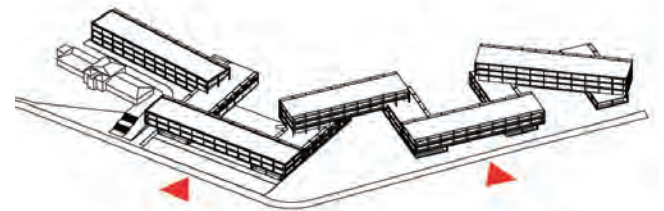


A CHAIN OF GARDEN - GATES

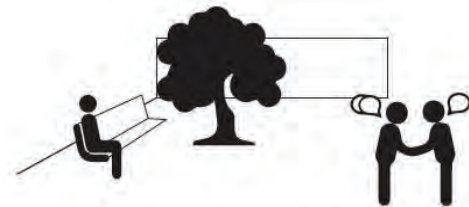
Our building strategy is therefore structured around a continuous building pattern, which produces a certain quality along the edge. Our idea is to produce a series of open courtyards/ gardens, which will provide a variety of green open spaces, intertwined with the fabric of the public buildings, which will mediate between the Park landscape and the city edge. Every one of the gardens will have a different quality: one would be a topiary labyrinth, another will be a sloped open-air auditorium, another will be a shaded garden with a sloping ground, and another would be a rose garden... The easternmost one will enclose the Army Museum, which we propose to preserve as a historical remnant of the buildings existing on this site.

Every one of the gardens, which will be enclosed on three sides by the civic complex buildings is approximately 40m x 40m, a dimension that is extracted from the cortile of campuses and cloisters. The Diocletian Palace in Split, The Uffici in Florence, the Ospedale Maggiore in Milano, the Hospital de los Reyes Catolicos in Santiago or the Alhambra in Granada serve as precedents for a large-scale public institution which is served by a cluster of courtyards which allow to optimize ventilation, daylight and microclimate, while providing maximum flexibility of uses. In the case of Tirana Lake Park, every cortile will be limited by two buildings on the ground which are located perpendicular to the park edge, and one building, sometimes located to the south or to the north of the garden, which bridging between the sides, two levels above ground, will form multiple gates, enabling people to cross through the courtyards, experiencing different gates associated to every garden. For the complex to have maximum flexibility, we have connected the two institutions of the complex into a single structure, which is composed by a "universal" depth of 16m, which enables effective cross ventilation and daylight of all dependencies in the complex. In this way, the future use of the complex will not be determined by the current needs of Tirana, but will be allowed a much higher capacity to accommodate different administrative buildings.

NEW PROPOSAL

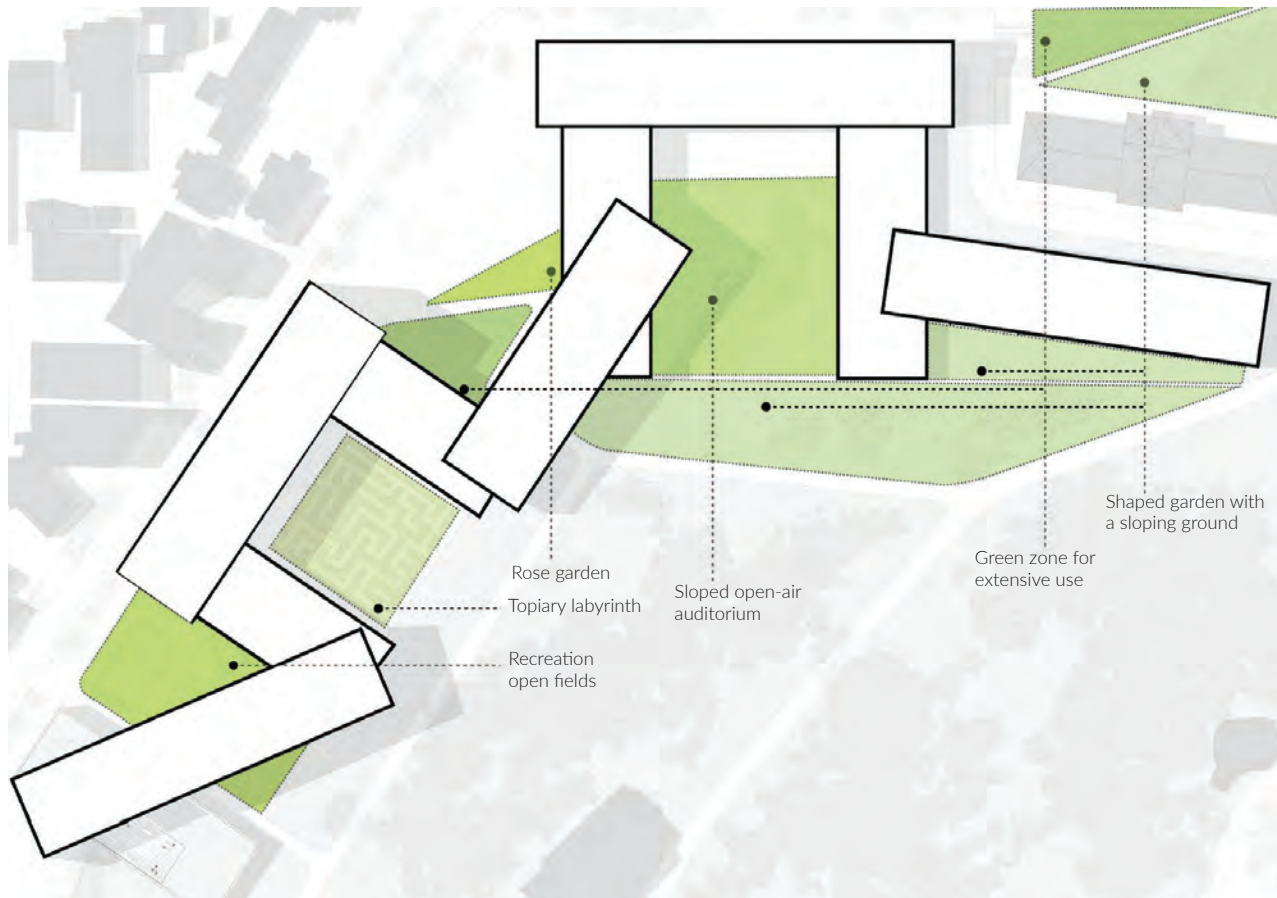


Many entrances, flow circulation into the buildings.
Different vertical cores



Waiting spaces as a public plaza
- courtyards/backyards,
-friendly green spaces /roofs

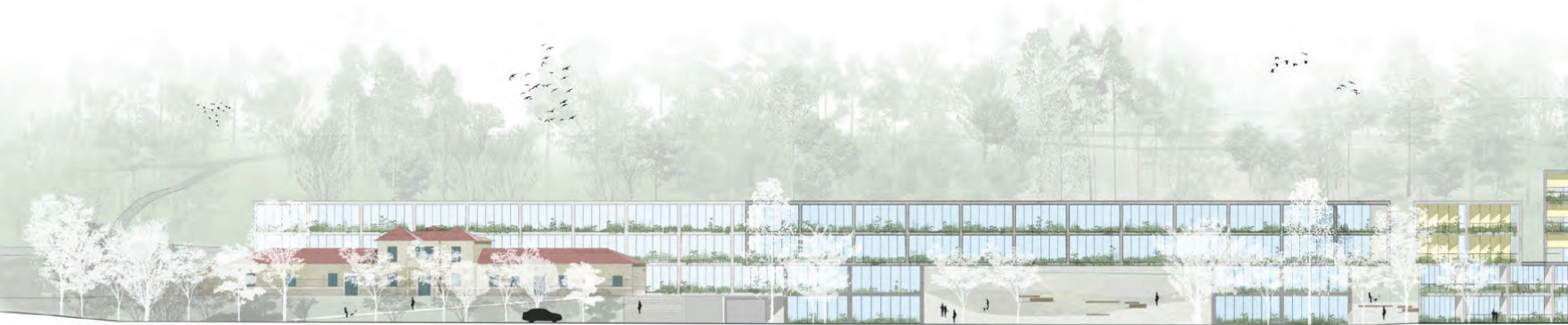
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



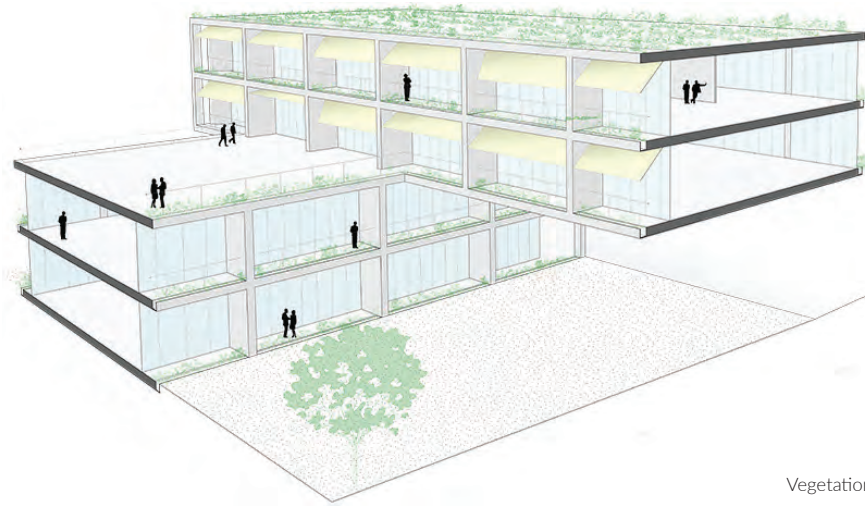
The chain of garden gates

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

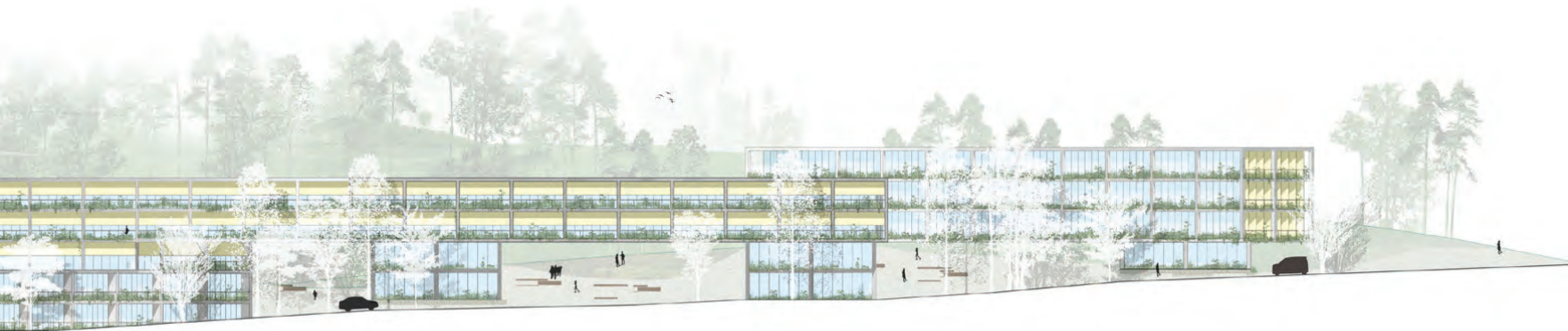
According to a pattern of vegetation we have divided the intervention in three different applications. The first one is Horizontal vegetation. This sort of vegetation is to be applied in plans and mainly in the double facade that we apply as a ventilation area. The vegetation will be located in the plane of the floor and will occupy the horizontal planes. The second group is vertical vegetation and will be a double facade on the side facing the Lake Park. The occupation of vegetation on that site, besides the creation of a microclimate in the interior, is also a metaphor for camouflage. In these terms the building will dissolve with nature. The third application will be the new vegetation in plain. This intervention will consist on bushes vegetation, including in here several types of different families of green. The same application is to be made on the site where we propose a labyrinth park. For the zones adjacent to the hill and the zones for extensive use will have a different type of greenery. The creation of such different impressions of the green and experiences of vegetations will give to the public a more relaxed atmosphere and will create different perceptions while entering the park.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Vegetation



View City - Park

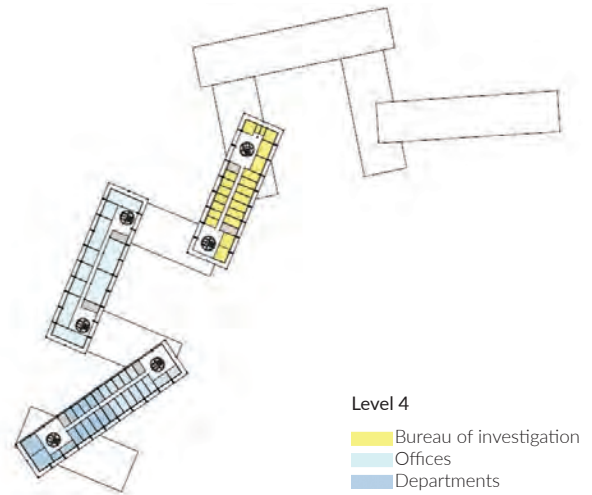
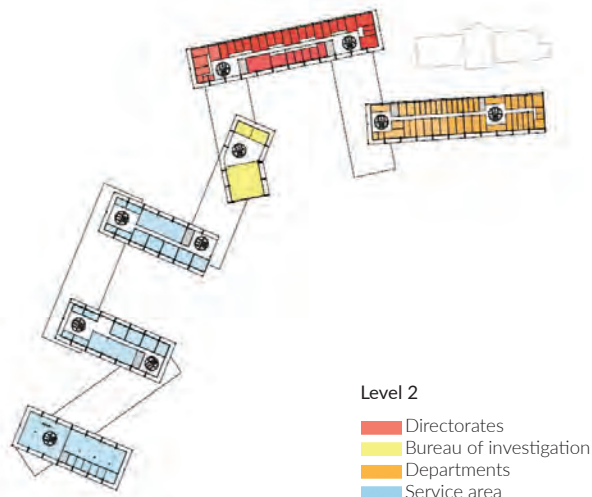
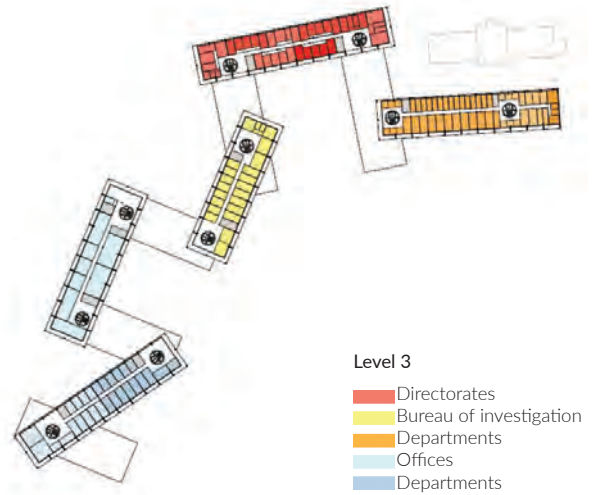
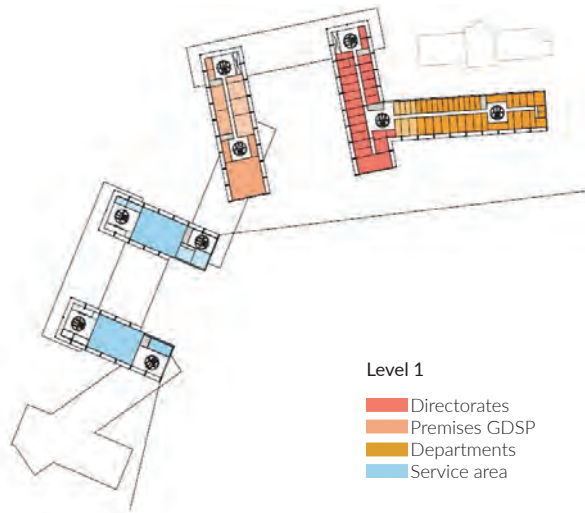
THE PROGRAM

The programs for the General Directory of the State Police (G.D.S.P) and the Public Service Mall (P.S.M) have been distributed in the continuous Mediterranean fabric. The G.D.S.P premises embrace the first two public courtyards to the East, and the last two courtyards to the West are surrounded by the P.S.M spaces. The center courtyard acts as a hinge and mediates between both premises while opening the park towards the Rruga Vaso Pasha Avenue. In order to respond to the brief requirements, in the first 5 units to the East, the G.D.S.P offices have been located. 3 of these units sit in direct contact with the park while the other two, span over these three units connecting the different programmatic areas together. The first unit to the East contains 3 floors of 1500 m² to host the G.D.S.P Departments. At the pedestrian level, the department of the support services and the shared facilities has been located. At level 2, the public safety and security department border and migration department have been planned. Finally on the third floor, the crime and investigation department has been located. The second unit to the East inscribes the first courtyard surrounding the army museum. This unit has an area of 2000m² and comprises 2 floors that host the premises of the G.D.S.P. At the pedestrian level, in close proximity to the army museum and the main access plaza of the park, the citizen service room, the library and the canteen have been located. On the second floor, the operational rooms,

the monitoring camera's room and the meeting rooms have been located. The access to the car park also takes place adjacent to this unit. The G.D.S.P parking unfolds in two levels of 1200m² and contains 100 parking lots. In the third unit, in two stories of 1200m², the G.D.S.P directorate offices have been located.

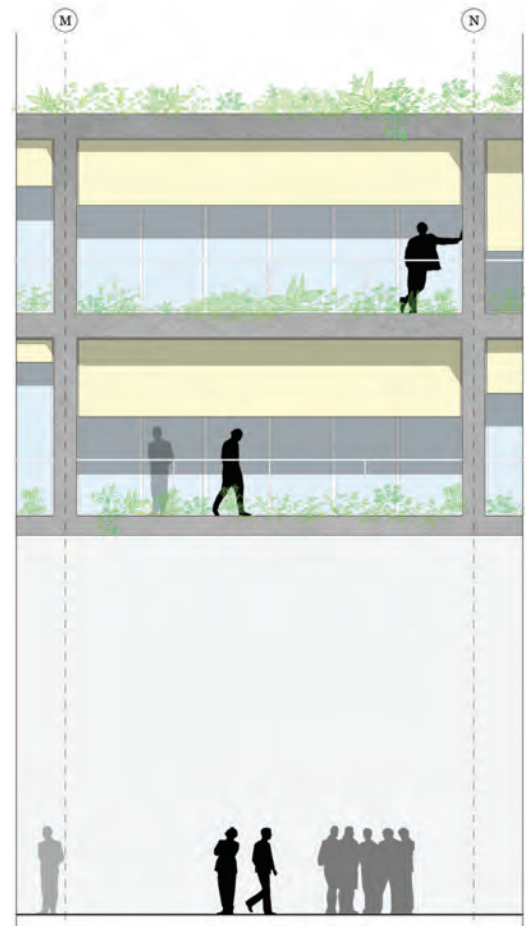
The directorate of technology and information, and the server and training halls has been located at the pedestrian level, while the sector of directorates sector and the help desk have been located in level 1. The two units that rest over the described 3 units contain the remaining directorate offices and the bureau of investigation. The unit that contains the directorates has an area of 3000m² and unfolds in two stories. In the first level, the directorate of forensic police, the examination premises and the special sectors has been located. In the second level, the general director office, the legal directorate, the directorate of international coordination, the directorate of strategic study, the directorate of anti-terror, the directorate of professional standards and the directorate of collection and elaboration have been located. The unit that contains the bureau of investigation acts as a hinge between the G.D.S.P and the P.S.M. The spaces of the bureau of investigation have been distributed in 3 levels of 1000m². In the first level, the shared facilities have been placed. In level 2, the investigation rooms have been located.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Mediterranean villages are built as an accretion of very simple and effective building technologies: the consistency of the masonry and chalk walls would limit the height of construction; the length of available timber logs would determine the span of the bays. The scale of the windows would rely on the optimal scale of stone lintels... In our Tirana Civic Centre / Lake Park Gate, we have determined an efficient, cost effective, and sustainable unit, which has utmost versatility of use. A typical rectangular office plan, 16m wide and around 80m long, totaling around 1300m² gross floor area of office spaces. Units of 2-3 such floors, around 2,500m² and 3,800m² appear as ideal quanta to host the required program, and future reorganizations of programs the Civic Complex may undergo in the future. These “Units” of administrative program are laid out on the ground, or bridge between them to form the Garden-Gates along the Park edge. They are served by two separate underground parking structures to take into account the security required in the Police Administration, but could be linked in the future if the uses were to change.



Environmental scheme

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Entrance of the Administrative Complex

A MEDITERRANEAN FABRIC

The Units are to be built with low-carbon, pre-cast concrete, following an 8,1m x 8,1m grid, which will be both compatible with the parking structure and generic office layouts. The Units are to be built with low-carbon, recycled, locally sourced, precast concrete elements, although the bridge Units will incorporate large steel members. We have decided to use concrete because of the local availability of this material, and its thermal mass capacity, which makes it ideal to use in Mediterranean climates. The precast concrete structure will be easy to build and be compatible with the extensive planting which we propose to do in the buildings themselves, reminiscent of the vegetation of the buildings that is common in the Eastern Mediterranean villages: junipers, buxus, jasmin, clematis, parthenocissus, and many of the vegetation that can be found in traditional gardens in the Eastern Mediterranean will be literally covering the surfaces of the Units, whose roof will be entirely vegetated except for the introduction of a solar panels. All the South, East and West facades will be setback, leaving 2.1m terraces for systematic planting of the surfaces exposed to the sun with deciduous vegetation, which will be acting as sun-shading screens during the hot seasons while allowing sun penetration in the winter. A system of wooden openings will be provided too in order to add a variable element of solar control to the buildings. The offices will otherwise have full double glazing units with wooden frames for efficient debriding. We expect the buildings to be almost entirely covered in vegetation overtime, almost like old stone buildings overgrown with plants: an adequate texture for Tirana's Lake Park Gate.

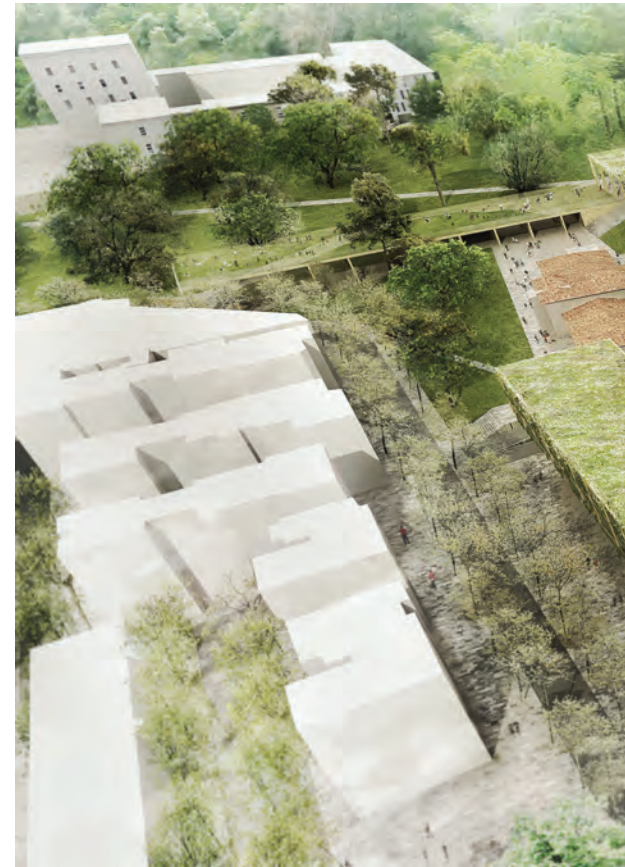
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Phase 2 view

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The Public Service Center complex, has been designed concatenating two garden gates, that is a topiary and a rose garden. The East-West oriented bars are lifted from the ground to allow for entrances into the park through the different gardens, while the North-South bars are sitting on the ground enclosing the gardens. The General Directorate of the State Police will be built in the second phase. With a similar logic to that of the Public Service Center, the General Directorate is also organized around two garden gates, the courtyard to the West, hosts the armory museum while the one to the East is a shadow garden. The police and administrative buildings are eventually united with a bar that frames the fifth garden gate that acts as an auditorium. The buildings are clad with Mediterranean stone and the roofs are overgrown with vegetation.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



07 ARCHEA ASSOCIATI + ERGYS KRISKO

TEAM COMPOSITION:

Team Leader

Archea Associati

Architect

Giovanni Polazzi

Marco Casamonti

Engineer

Niccolo de Robertis - AEI Progetti

Florian Denek

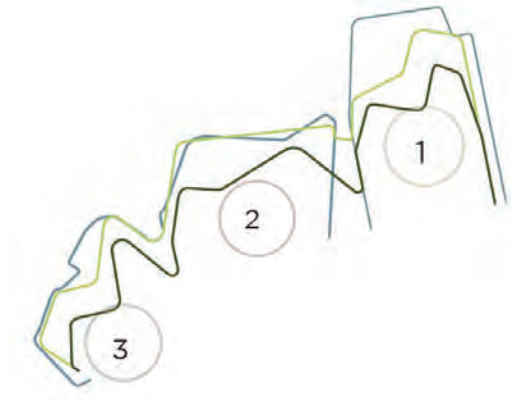
Artist

Ergys Krisiko

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The architecture does more than just occupy the landscape; it becomes the landscape itself. The master plan for the new area planned for the expansion of the Polytechnic University of Tirana and the Police Academy presents a new artificial landscape built of a series of panoramic terraces affording views of the city. The project is intended to see rather than be seen. It is conceived as an open, accessible public park placed on the edge of a distinctive, historical setting of early twentieth-century monumental buildings. The proposal for the master plan seeks to blend into the context, stating its physical presence with quiet modesty rather than ostentation. The Tirana Park has long been a place for recreation and leisure for the city's population. The project aims to give it a new contemporary expression and enhance this resource, expanding it and multiplying its many possibilities to be a park as well as a service point and built space.





Surrandings of the park

1. University - Social culture facilities entrance to Tirana Park.
2. General Directorate of the State Police.
3. Public service mall.

CONTEXT AND SURROUNDING

Tirana's last period of major urban planning change was in the early 1920s when famous architects of Mussolini's fascist era, such as Florestano de Fausto and Armando Brasinisi, were in charge of organizing its urban plan's axial system, building new avenues, squares, boulevards, government buildings, the city hall and the Presidential Palace. The highly axial urban layout with a Roman-era "cardum and decuman" system defined the placement of the monumental buildings on these lines, creating a system of grandiose focal point views. For example, University Square is placed at the south end of the city's median axis. It features an austere, symmetrical facade in absolute classical Italian style and serves as an urban icon. Mother Teresa Square is currently getting a make-over in the project planned by the municipal government through a new use of pools and fountains, new landscaping design, and rows of trees to help return it to some of its former luster. The University building displays the grandeur of the Fascist way of doing architecture. It is furnished with a monumental podium for speeches and typical Florentine elements from the Renaissance period used as details of the outer facade. The University building is formed of compact rectangular blocks attached to one another. They recall the image of a fortress; this is a modernist interpretation of the traditional Albanian tower of the north region. The architect Bosio's design style vacillates between references to a glorious ancient past with Roman arches and columns and a new rationalist style, whose implementation was favored by the advantages of reinforced concrete. The other defining

element in the context that we need to study is the area to the right of the University, called "Garda," which comes up against the Tirana Lake Park to the south. The artificial lake is one of the most attractive places in the city for the people of Tirana.

Lake Park is a city park designed in the 1960s by two architects, one Bulgarian and one a young Albanian, Nedelcko Radoslavov and Zheko Zhekov. They conceived it as a site for recreation and rest. As it is a major point of attraction in the city, the municipal government decided to make a new master plan to organize around the lake functions different and building types to serve the park. The latest plan is a study prepared by the architects of the Berlage Institute commissioned by the Municipality of Tirana in 2005. This park has extraordinary natural resources, which the project highlights while configuring it as a contemporary, flexible and dynamic place with great natural quality. The area of the competition for the new 2005 master plan for the Park's entrance is to the University's right on the edge of the city park. There is currently a high level of urban decay and disarray and few businesses persist and are in temporary, unauthorized structures. Yet, it is worth noting that because of this area's placement, it can be considered susceptible to major development in the near future. As requested by the competition, it could hold new public services for the University as well as other public functions and new park facilities. This is a not-to-be-missed chance to shape a new image for Tirana in the world in coming years.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Masterplan

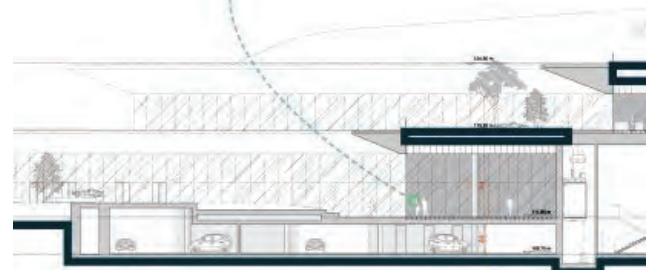
COMPETITION SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The competition will be built on these three phases: a) The master plan for the area of the entrance to the Lake Park and any landscape, development pertaining to the park/city interconnection. b) An architectural project idea for the public building of the General Directorate of the State Police. c) An architectural project idea for the public building "Public Services Center". Inside the over 13 hectares land for the functions that the competition envisioned, over 65,000 sq.m. are planned for: social-cultural events, educational and administrative functions, ministry of internal affairs administration, police, public services center, etc... The competition will produce design solutions for the landscape development of the entrance to the Lake of Tirana, as well as some public and administrative buildings in the interconnection between the city and nature. In order to set the new buildings in the competition area, some basic objectives must be respected:

- The preservation of the existing landscape;
- The integration of the new features in the park;
- The new structures must maintain communication between the pedestrians and the park landscape rather than being a barrier;
- New specifications and diversified functions should be integrated in a unified, organic project system;
- New, diversified accessibility to the park in order to separate and divide it into the three requested functional areas;
- New facilities available to the city that are easy to access and use (such as parking lots, connections between levels, and clear accessibility);
- Optimal integration with surrounding building heights and the development of a strongly horizontal development layout;
- Division of traffic flows between pedestrians and public and service vehicles.



Cut in the hill and Diorama landscape



Example of urban park

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



PROJECT CONCEPT

The entrance to the Lake Park has been subject to many planning projects over the years. The current competition aims to integrate the Park's entrance system with new buildings serving the community. The new urban plan pertains to Mother Teresa Square, the Park's reorganization, the redevelopment of the Boulevard of National Martyrs, and the connection between all these new redevelopments. This is the current situation and starting point. The project sets up a new relationship between the built context and the park's natural system, seeking to create a mediation that also introduces new structures and services without obscuring the perception of it being on the park's edges and in a natural setting. To do this, we need to build by inserting new volumes in the contour of the hill and creating a new landscape topography. This is a design exercise that introduces a few key construction elements with an ecological and sustainable approach. Each area's functional program is completely integrated in the hill. The volume develops following a principle of geomorphological experimentation turning the architectural work into landscape. It aspires to achieve perfect harmony and symbiosis between human culture, the fruit of human labor and our natural environment. The physical and conceptual construction of the functions requested are developed in an organic continuum that establishes a deep connection between the built space and the landscape, between artifice and nature. The different functions therefore cannot be

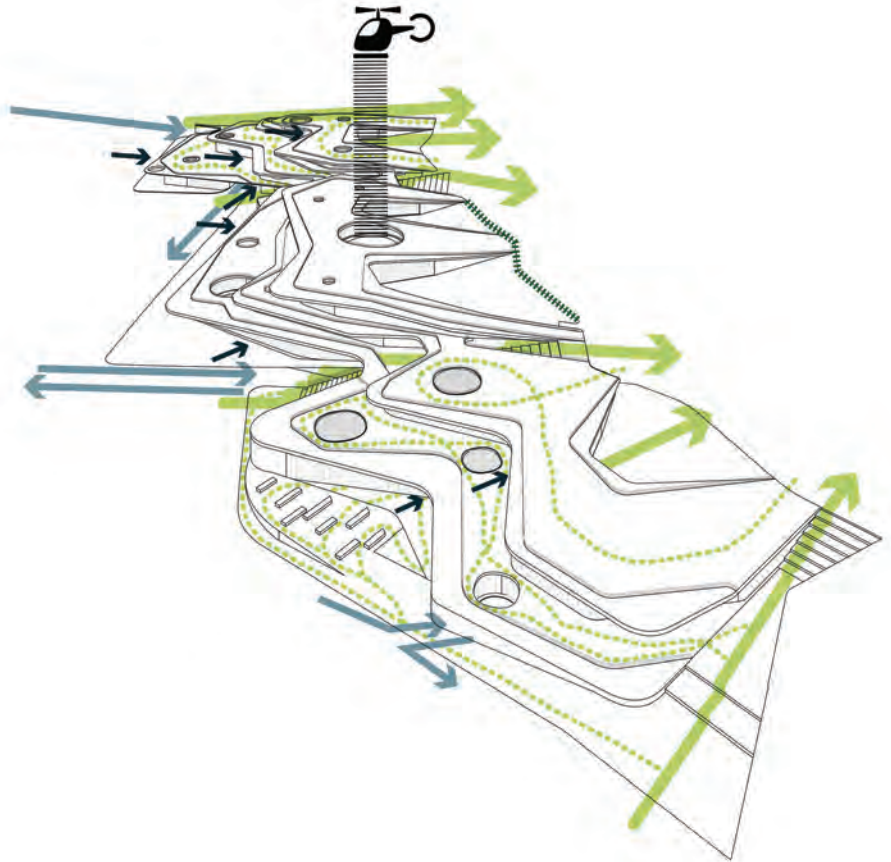
distinguished in separate, diversified type "containers." Rather the concept develops a unifying design, nullifying architectural differences in favor of an organic image that relates to the scale of the landscape rather than that of the city. Different surfaces are placed on 3 to 4 contour lines with a sinuous, curving topography, following the natural difference in level between the road and the hill, which varies between 15 and 20 meters. The terraces are designed as roof gardens that are practicable because they are completely horizontal. Each level is in visual communication with the outside, extending the internal environment to the external one, made available to activities and new outdoor areas used by the different functions. It should be noted that this type of spatial organization would be impossible in a traditional building with floors. The design considers and manages the area's landscape dimension. It takes nature as a key element of individual and social well-being, and its protection, management and design are simultaneously an important resource as well as a clear responsibility. The people of Tirana see the park as an important cultural asset with a distinctive, identifying character. As a place that inspires a sense of belonging, it is a social product that is to be seen as dynamic and not static. Because of these qualities, we plan to avoid interrupting the daily use made of this park, and encourage its expansion and coordinate its use by inserting a system of social relationships in this complex system.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Bird's eye view

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



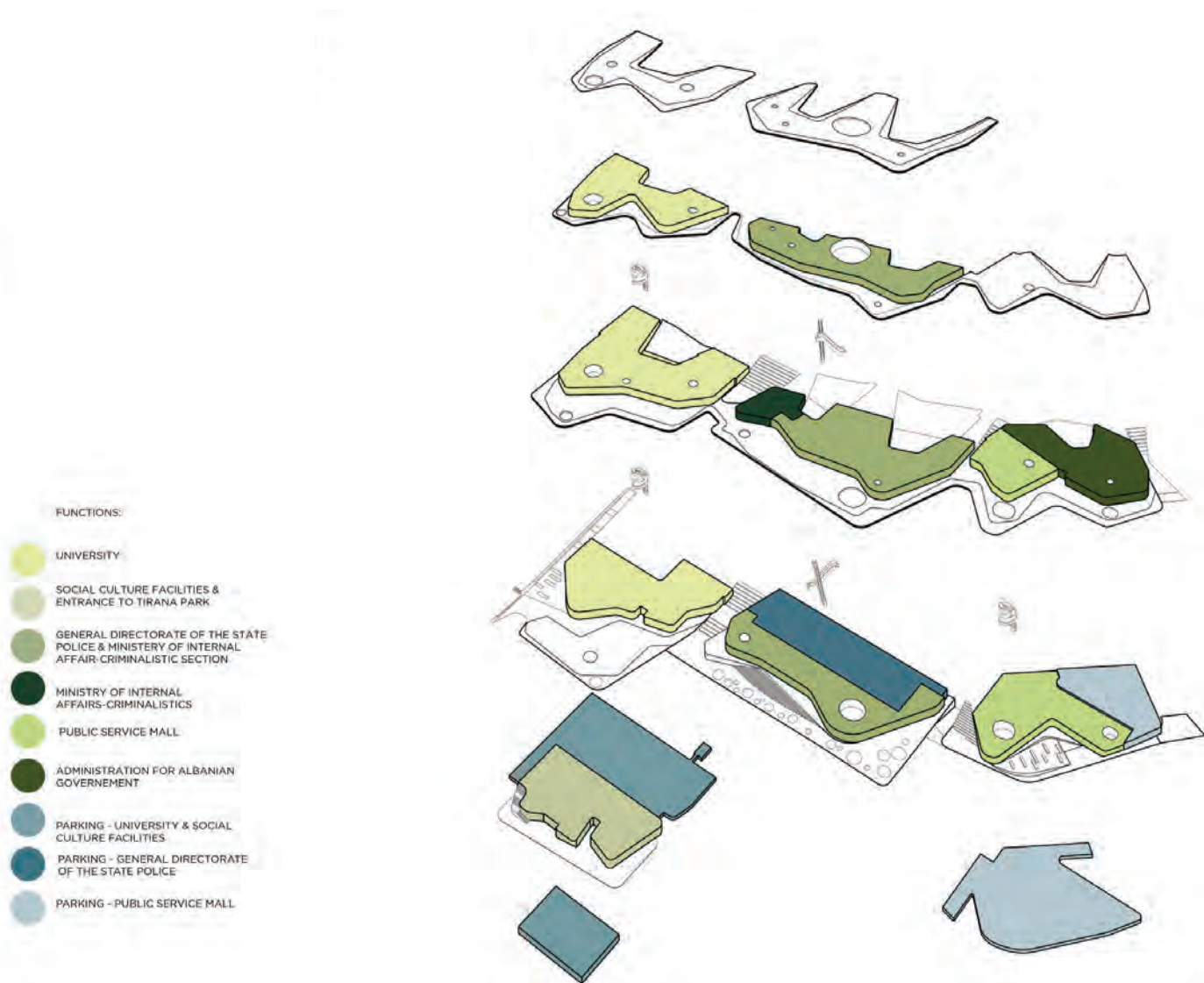
NEW ROAD SYSTEM

The new proposed road system links to the current entrance at Garda, next to the University Square opening, running along the perimeter of the existing areas and connecting to the current Dora d'Istria Street which leads directly to the lakes. The underground parking lots placed in different functional areas can be accessed from the new road system. In order to build the new roadways, several added-on, unauthorized structures on the route will need to be demolished.

Access scheme



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Axonometer schemes

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



PROJECT'S ECO-SUSTAINABILITY

One of the project's main objectives is to reduce energy consumption by improving the energy performance of the building envelopes and heating systems. This will be possible through the use of passive strategies, including:

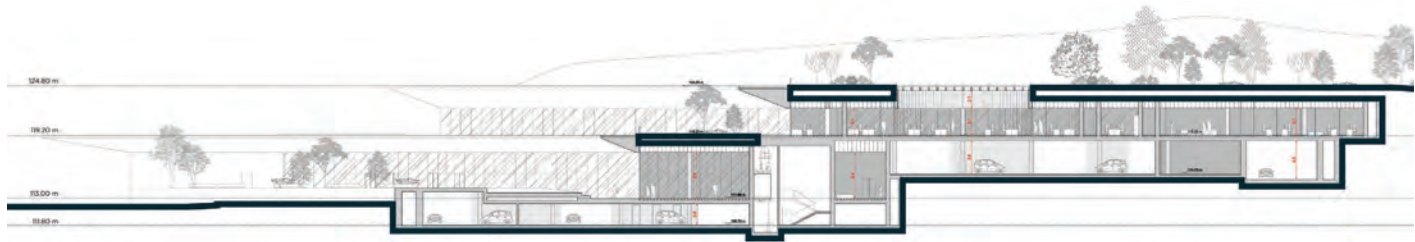
- Choosing high performing technological facades.
- Improving safety conditions, living comfort and environmental compatibility in the use of energy by carefully managing water resources, choosing eco.
- Friendly materials and using renewable energy; -optimizing the economic level of the investment, as well as operation and maintenance of the building systems to achieve savings during its operation.
- Measures to screen and protect the glazed components in order to achieve a total solar factor of no more than 0.3 by coupling glass and screening.
- Maximizing the use of natural light for lighting the occupied indoor spaces; good access to natural light in work and living areas can reduce the electrical loads for lighting in the day as well give occupants greater visual comfort.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

View of the park



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Section of the public service mall and administration for government

Green building. In order to be defined as a green building, a variety of strategies must be followed: “Green” buildings, or buildings designed for environmental sustainability, can reduce energy and water consumption up to 70% using the following strategies:

- a) Reduction of heating energy consumption through: Rationalizing primary energy used for heating. Energy efficient building envelope.
- b) Reduction of cooling energy consumption as concerns: Primary energy for cooling. Control and optimization of solar radiation through shadings Energy efficient building envelope .
- c) Reduction of hot water energy consumption.
- d) Use of renewable energy.
- e) Construction materials.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the social and cultural facilities



View of the public service mall and administration for government

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

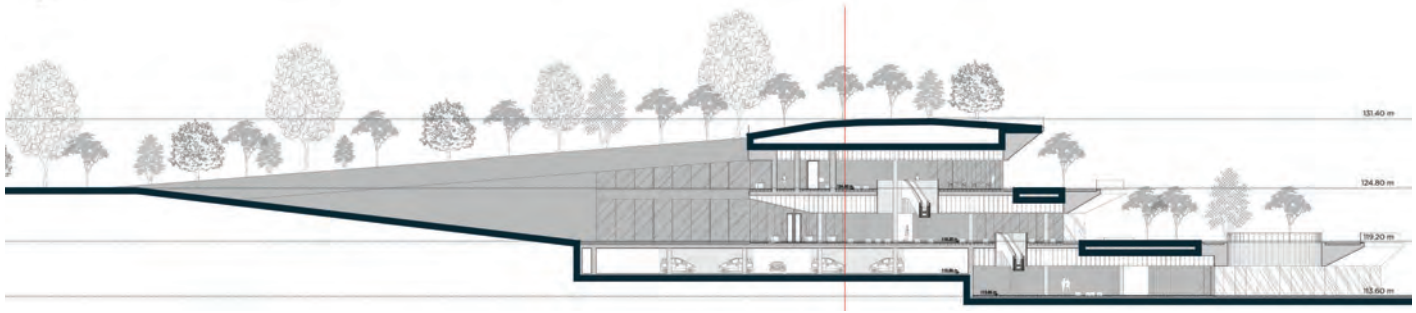


Plan of the General Directorate of the State Police

ROOF GARDEN

In order to reduce environmental impact, the architecture was adapted to the specific topography of the new land surface, recreating the impression of a hill like the one already there. The perfectly rationally organized volume inside the closed spaces was conceived on the outside as an organic volume in which each space is projected outwards. The landscape comes in through this volume's glass envelope. The organic systems of the "buildings" covers an 65.000 sqm area and is conceived entirely as a series of roof gardens holding enough earth to grow small shrubs and low plants in addition to a lawn. This type of cover is a passive strategy for environmental sustainability. It has advantages in terms of maintenance, building operation and temperature control in the summer and winter. The high thermal inertia created by the deep layer of earth prevents the building from dispersing energy and passively preserves the internal microclimate. The only sections of continuous glass overlook the southern landscape and the city. To the north, the glazing are always protected by large projecting slabs. The buildings' greatest sustainability is related to their ability to avoid dispersing energy. They maintain their temperature (though a passive system) and produce "clean" energy at the same time.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Section of the General Directorate of the State Police



View of the General Directorate of the State Police

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Plan of the university facilities and administration for university

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Section of the university facilities and administration for university



View of the university facilities and administration for university

MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS

The project as a whole does not follow usual tenets of building structures. The buildings cannot be represented by walls, facades, windows and the number of above-ground floors. Instead, it can be described as a system of shaping the ground, in which each part is conceived as the part of an artificial landscape that has been made fully natural and consists of paths, arcades, trails and scenic viewpoints. Looking toward the city from the top of the hill, from south to north, we can see only green roofs that are gently shaped following a sinuous progression, small winding paths of white pebbles, and some lightweight Corten-steel colored railings, large circular courtyards, and small squares that open towards the hill. From here, we can see windows that give us a glimpse of the life inside and use of the building. From below, the building features the design of large sections of squares made from local stone, the same material cladding the stairs up to the hill. The roofs that project along the long curved glazings are clad in lightweight concrete. The idea underpinning the choice of materials is to conceive them as openings in the hill from which we can see the landscape and city at once. Only a few materials are visible: stone, cement pigmented in different earth colors, the Corten steel of the railings and Albanian river pebbles, marking the park's new paths.



Visualization of the used materials

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the park

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

08 MikeViktorViktor ARCHITECTS + PRG°B R ARCHITEKTUR

TEAM COMPOSITION:

Architecture and urbanism

MikeViktorViktor Studio

Architecture

PRG°B R Architektur

Klodiada AI

Landscape architecture

Public Work Studio

Structural engineering

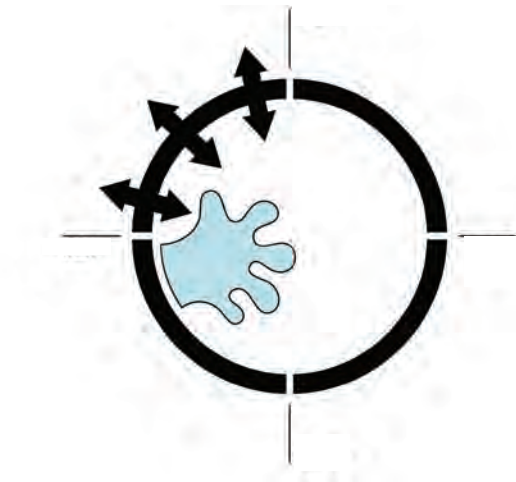
UTIL offices

Preservation expertise, Visual & installation Art

Jorge Otero - Pailos



A city is an organic system that is in a continuous mode of (trans) forming. Some momenta are more crucial than others. Some initiatives have a stronger and lasting impact. And this endeavour is one of these momenta that sets an ambition for decades to come. Being involved in this endeavour is a great opportunity for us... but also for the people of Tirana.



MASTERPLAN

If we look at the recent history of the park edge environment we can see that the city and the park are in an ongoing negotiation about where to land a clear boundary for both. If we consider, for example, the masterplan of 1989 there is a ring road planned that runs behind the university and the military compound that would make a clear dividing line between the park and the city. In earlier plans the park gets a formal ending up to the Mother Teresa square. Fortunately this movement back and forward does not end up in a literal coexistence of park and city. Hence we see great richness and opportunity in the sphere where they both overlap.

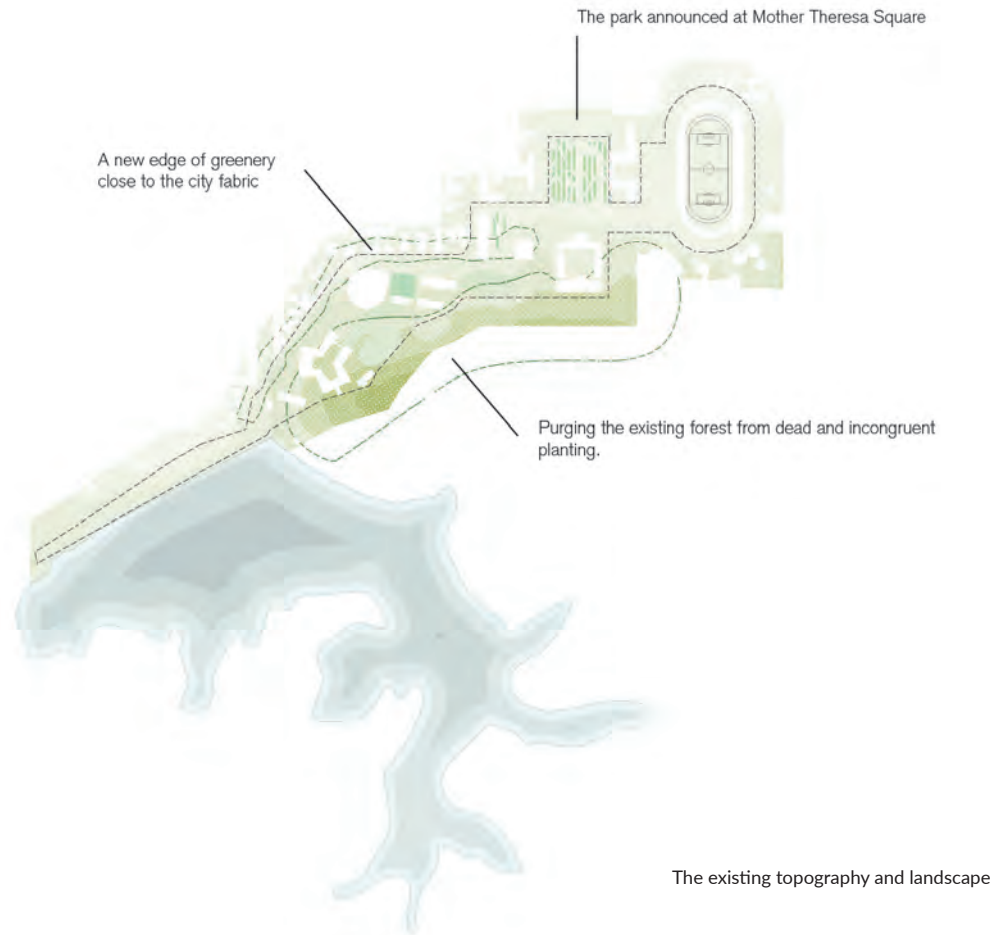
The park and the city are tied together like two parts of a zipper. Iconic structures are allowed to be part of the park edge as catalysts that help create the condense hybrid park edge. And visa versa the park is allowed to spill over into the city to generate inviting gathering places. As a result we go from boundary to bandwidth - from boundary to mediating border - from boundary to urban condensator where the city life merges with the park culture. On modernizing the city, preservation & choosing culture. No doubt that in this momentum great relics and opportunities are being created. Modernizing the contemporary urban environment goes hand in hand with making explicit what it is that we want to preserve. Modernizing the contemporary urban environment also means choosing where to invest and what to develop. And thus, it requires to single out which sociological, economical, cultural, and physical conditions one wants to preserve, invest in or innovate. In this moment of reflection we have to look ten steps ahead and imagine the alternative urban life we aim for in the future.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Masterplan of Tirana entrance park

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

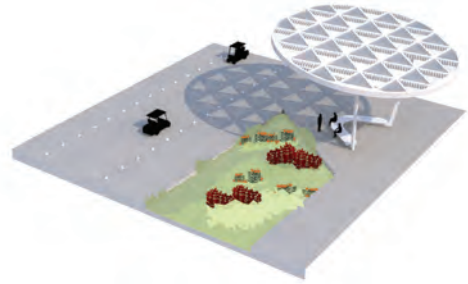


It can be argued that the park edge consists of four quarters each with its specific conditions. A similar approach can be developed parallel to the quarter this competition is focussing on. Due to the confinements of the project we restrict our thoughts to the north-west quarter. It is important to define the ambition for what we call iconic buildings. Today iconic buildings must be more than mere representation. Iconic buildings must primarily facilitate the public and socio-cultural life.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



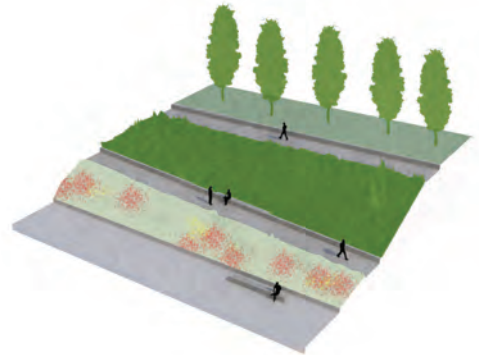
Umbrella canopies and flower bed on a low traffic square

MEETING IN THE HYBRID PARK ENTRANCE

We designed a couple of physical conditions that will become the backdrop for the envisioned park edge life. Most visible are the iconic buildings: the existing university; a new incubator housing the library, the museum, administration, education room, ticket shop, artists in residence spaces, etc., that can become the new beacon of the grand lake park edge entrance; the startup hive, that brings young entrepreneurial ideas close to the creative, intellectual and research environment; the freestanding monument; the two existing buildings; the new headquarters of the general department of police; the new public service mall that during daytime can be used to easily mount the steep topography of the park edge; and the Olgjati building that announces the dike along the lake. The next very charismatic landscaping elements are the uniquely designed umbrella shaped canopies. We deliberately worked with clusters of canopies instead of putting them on a regular grid. This way they mark or create gathering places. You typically will find these clusters positioned at entrances, at crossings of different flows, or intentionally creating a cosy shaded spot away from busy traffic. We strongly recommend to integrate photovoltaic panels on top of these canopies so they can become smart object. In the end they will invite people to use them in various ways. One can imagine the turning into a temporary juice bar or barbecue place. With the integrated solar power they can become a beloved place to charge your phone while drinking a healthy shake. If we can integrate small antennas into the framework it should be possible to provide free WIFI. It would become your most favoured outside working place. Both the iconic buildings and the umbrella shaped canopies land on a carpet made out of patches of rough, wild and colourful flower beds versus well maintained green meadows or terraces.



Playgrounds and fountains



Terraced landscape and cypress-lined pathways

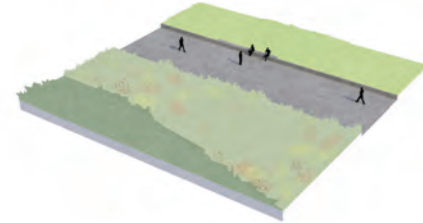
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the park

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The edges in which these patches meet can turn into benches, enclosing walls, a few steps breaching the topography, or marking a playground. For the park edge environment we choose to work with greenery of average height - mostly below eye level. Similar to the canopies some groups of small trees will be scattered in the landscape providing a similar gathering place. Throughout the green carpet free flowing paths made out of different materials will facilitate the free movement typical for a park environment. This way various places are randomly connected allowing for several shortcuts or deviations. Finally all physical conditions together create a number of entrances to the park rather than one single gate. In the future, the whole zone with its hybrid character and various connections that tie into the city fabric will be perceived as one big landmark providing up to 7 ways to enter the park: over the Mother Teresa Square, in-between the university and the incubator, via the terraces in front of the startup hive, in line with the street that runs into the monument, coming from between the new urban villa's on the other side of the GDOP, through the public service mall, or coming from the waterfront along the lake. Imagine the ice-cream vendor meets the academic meets the appmaker meets the student meets the entrepreneur meets the artist meets worker etc. With a public service mall located in the hart of the park edge a huge number of people representing all layers of society are poured into this environment. It will become the hotspot where Albanian culture will be made more explicit... like a rich Petri dish fertilizing sociocultural phenomena. An archipelago of small pockets, chambers and uniquely designed clusters of canopies provide a natural setting to organize gatherings, flows and the meeting of these various peoples.



Main park edge structure (sunken)



Photovoltaic umbrellas: free wifi / free charging



Clearings in the park

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the park

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



A SPECIFIC SOCIAL CONDITION - CHOOSING CULTURE

The strong holders of Albanian culture that foregrounded in the design discussions where: a pragmatic approach towards the current socioeconomical potentials; a nose for opportunities, initiatives, and entrepreneurship; a strong meeting of minds; a young and therefore vibrant culture of debate. The materials and landscape infrastructure aims to be the perfect shelter or setting to choose and cultivate these social conditions.

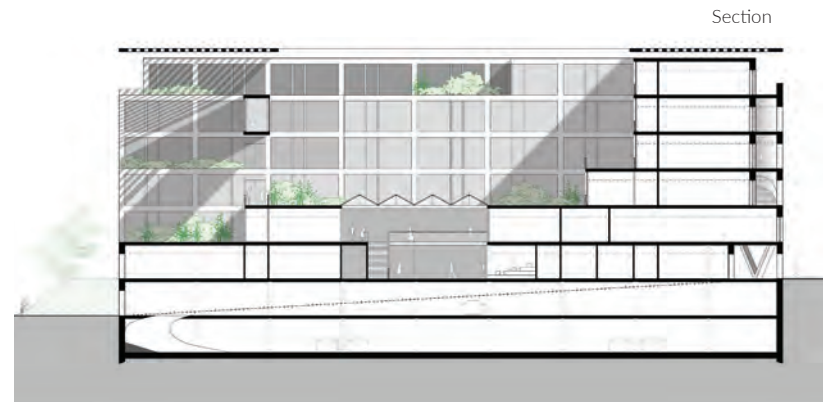
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



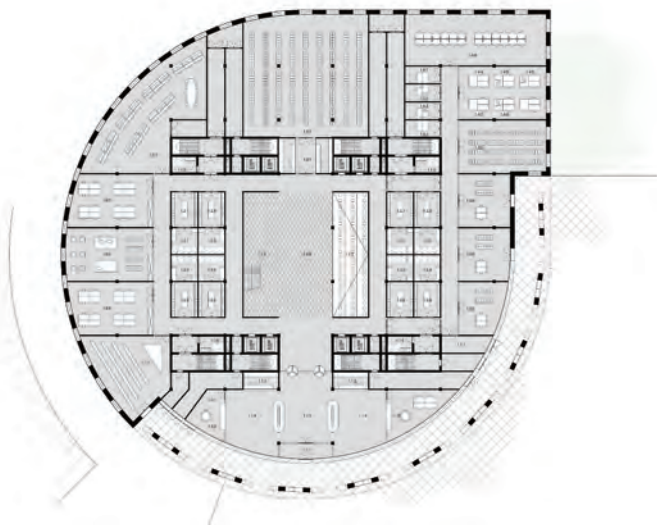
View of the buildings in the park

BUILDINGS IN THE PARK

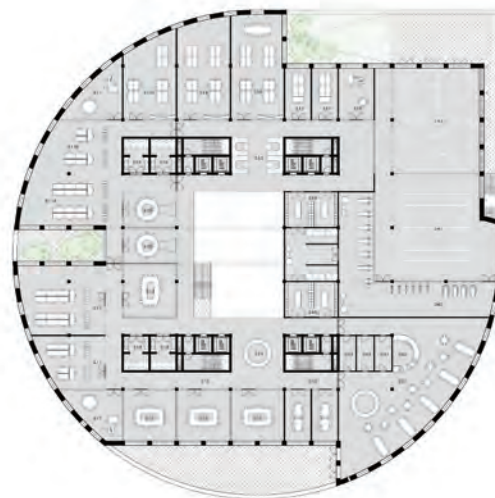
The competition brief requested a preliminary design of both the General Department of Police [GDOP] and the Public Service Mall [SPM]. In concept these buildings are each others opposites. The GDOP is a compact building with a transparent lower floor and a autonomously working upper structure. The PSM is a lower building with a larger perimeter to make all services as accessible as possible. They both have an important position in the masterplan. The GDOP pulls the edge of the hybrid park entrance zone all the way up to the new park boulevard. This is the way a park chamber is created between the GDOP and the existing tree line. This new chamber is located in the middle of the axis that leads from the Mother Teresa Square to the dike at the lake. At this location a number of routings intersect. Here one has an overview of all iconic buildings that create the hybrid entrance zone. It, thus, becomes a natural address for the main entrances of both the GDOP and PSM. The GDOP houses four departments with a large number of directorates. Therefore, the building has to be flexible in plan and organization. The general scheme exists out of four office levels on top of a plint organized around four cores. It is possible to dedicate a single core per department or a single floor per department. It is also possible to perceive the plan as two buildings - with two cores each - separated by a narrow atrium. Precisely positioned cutouts in the geometric floor plan make each floor plan unique. As a result all users will be able to relate to their own characteristic office floor. The central square on the first floor of the PSM is conceived as an outdoor space. From here one can enter into enclosed areas with counters, larger halls or specific meeting areas. The big canopy guarantees shading for people gathering at the central square.



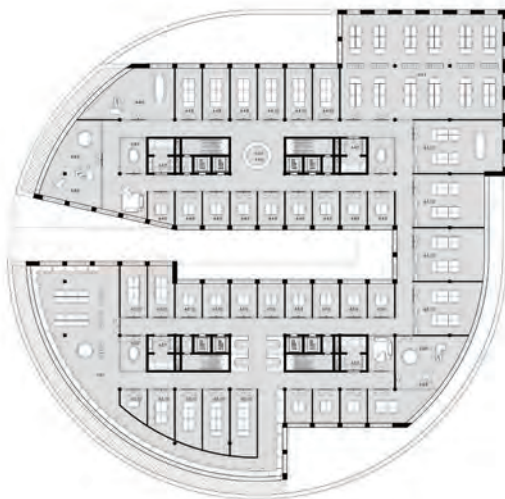
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



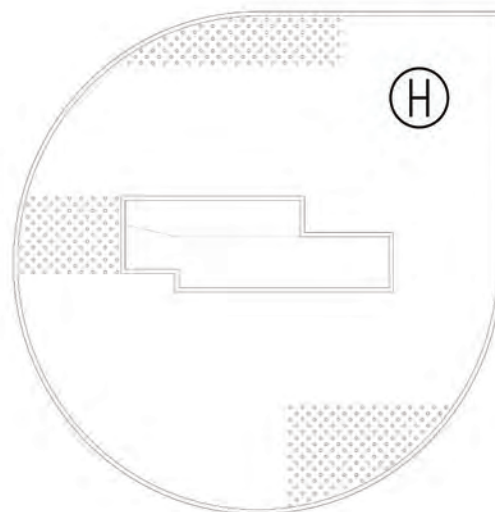
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Level 01



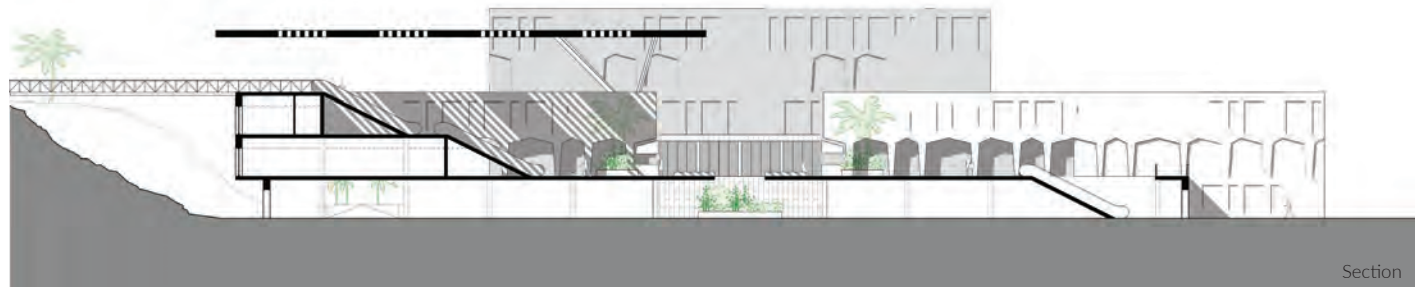
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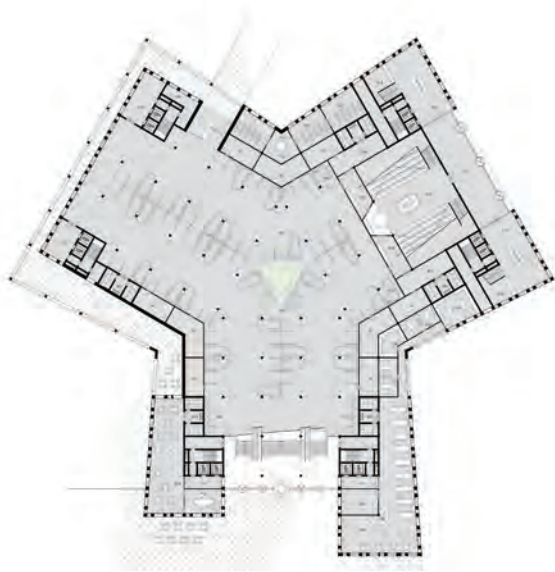
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PUBLIC SERVICE MALL

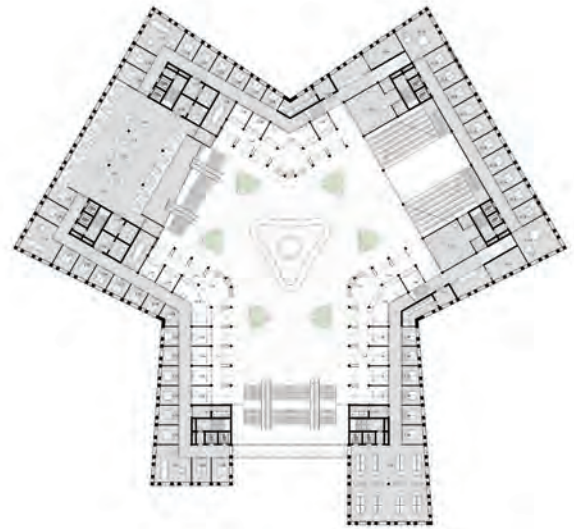
WAY FINDING is the primary concern for buildings that have to manage a large crowd. Whether we talk about an airport, a train station, a convention hall, or an administration center, managing the flows and orientation of people define the efficiency of the building. Over time we developed interesting tools to improve the readability of a large building by inventing color-coded-wayfinding signs. When it is well designed it is a strong asset to the organization. But before we discuss the design of graphic route maps we think the architecture can do a first and most important gesture. The design for the public service mall of Tirana aims to provide a maximal perimeter to organize a large array of contact points in a frontline position. The inverted triangular central floor brings a natural hierarchy into this array. Three info desks stick out on the corner introducing a first point of orientation. Down the flank of the info desks one can find a second level up the hierarchy of the public services. Behind this second level an number of counters are organized in a third line. We can do this over two floor levels. The plan is configured with a panoptic center. Therefore the user will have a clear understanding and overview of where he is located in the large building. At the same time it is a useful organization to manage the safety of such a large crowd. By making a bridge from the third floor, that levels with the park topography in that area, it becomes possible to use the escalators as an easy way into the park. This way the public service mall turns into one of the main entrances to the park during daytime.



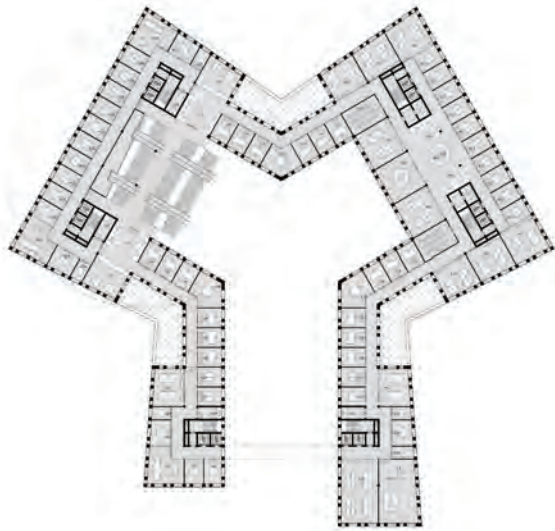
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



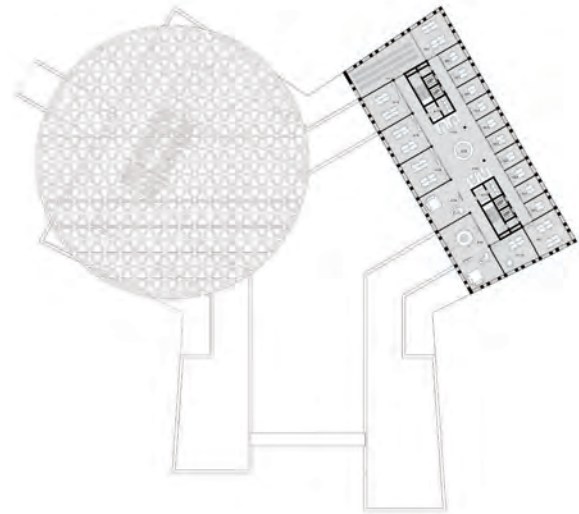
Level 00



Level 01



Level 02



Level 04

SMART DESIGN

It might have been different in the recent past, but today we are convinced that sustainability in the realm of architecture is common knowledge and ultimately part of the job. Techniques such as grey water recovery systems, heat pumps, cooling water from nearby rivers or lakes, photovoltaic panels or solar collectors we consider as basic requirements in the design process. Besides heat load calculations, the aim of low power consumption, we prescribe the highest possible insulation, reusable materials, and the most efficient mechanical systems. The aim for an integrated design approach in which quality of life goes hand in hand with a reduced impact on the environment is paramount. But we want to go further. The design team promises to look far into the future when it comes down to the consumption and production of alternative energy. Today technical possibilities are endless. It comes down to making the appropriate choices. We prefer simple structures above technical feats. A flexible typology can offer a shelter for various programs. The building must be versatile - also over time. During the design process the need for a specific spatial form is very carefully weighed. But a building is more than just technology and construction. A building is - after it is built - part of a built environment. If a project remains a mere sum of standard sustainability measures one cannot in the end claim true sustainability.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



TOMORROW! The fence will be replaced with a couple of steps that enables a park entrance from all sides.

09 MBA/S

TEAM COMPOSITION:

Architecture & cultural heritage

Matthias Bauer - Matthias Bauer Associates
Sabine Schneider - Matthias Bauer Associates

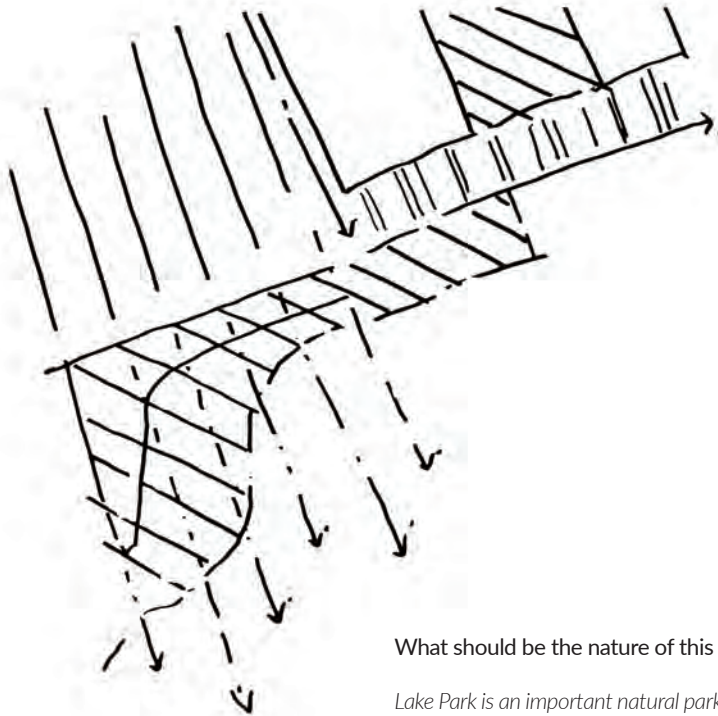
Landscape architect

Suzanne Grijsbach

Engineering & estimator

Transsolar Energietechnik GmbH

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



What should be the nature of this relationship between city and park?

Lake Park is an important natural park and recreation area for the city and has a strong presence in the memory of the city since the creation of Tirana's historic axis during the 1930's by the Italian Architect Armando Brasini, and the continuation with the "Dopo Lavoro" Square that was later named as the Mother Teresa Square. The accessibility to the Park has always been a problem - through the Park's two entrances - one located close to "Fryderyk Chopin" Square in the end of the Boulevard and the other located towards the South very close to the Dam of the Lake in the end of "Sami Frasher" Street. We propose to extend the potential of the existing urban fabric of Tirana and of Lake Park to play both a historic and a catalytic role in creating a new relationship between the city and the park.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The best way to connect Lake Park with the city is through an intermediate space that spans from MT square to Sami Frasheri Street. We conceive to extend the park to the city. The image of the Entrance to the Tirana Park is MTS itself in being perceived now as the starting point of a series of larger and smaller public spaces that connect the city and the park. We propose to develop MT Square from an end station to a vivid connector with the rich adjacent city programs in all 4 cardinal points and, especially, with the Tirana Park Membrane. A powerful starting point of the permeable band of structures that blends the city with the lake park like a membrane opens in both directions. The new MT Square transforms into a culminating public space that connects with a series of new public spaces to the west. Starting with the new Frederic Chopin Square and further with a series of public spaces between and within the public services centre and the general directorate of the state police along the membrane. The Tirana Park Membrane - a system of public spaces partnering with the city and the park like brother and sister. Reinforcing the new role of MTS as the starting point of this urban/landscape hybrid is the future image of the entrance to the Tirana park. The former border between the city and the park is reconceived to become an 800m long active and vivid membrane. Extending the park in a wider sense towards the city and MT square. An urban transformation by means of a new hybrid urban layout that mediates between urban and nature. Direct access and connection with the Lake park is created in various functional and visual ways extending existing the axis and perspectives from the centre of the city to the park and vice versa, creating and manifesting strong links. Starting with the main Boulevard of Tirana "Martyrs of the Nation" through "Mother Teresa" Square and the Polytechnic University of Tirana, moving towards the West Entrance of the Lake Park near the dam of the Artificial Lake.



The park extends to the city



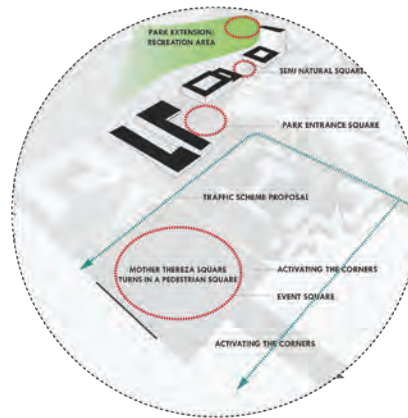
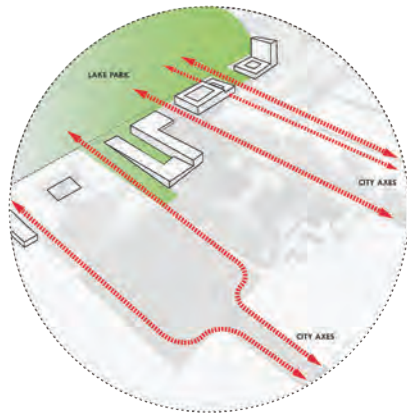
Concept of the Tirana park membrane in the competition area

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



The Tirana park membrane

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

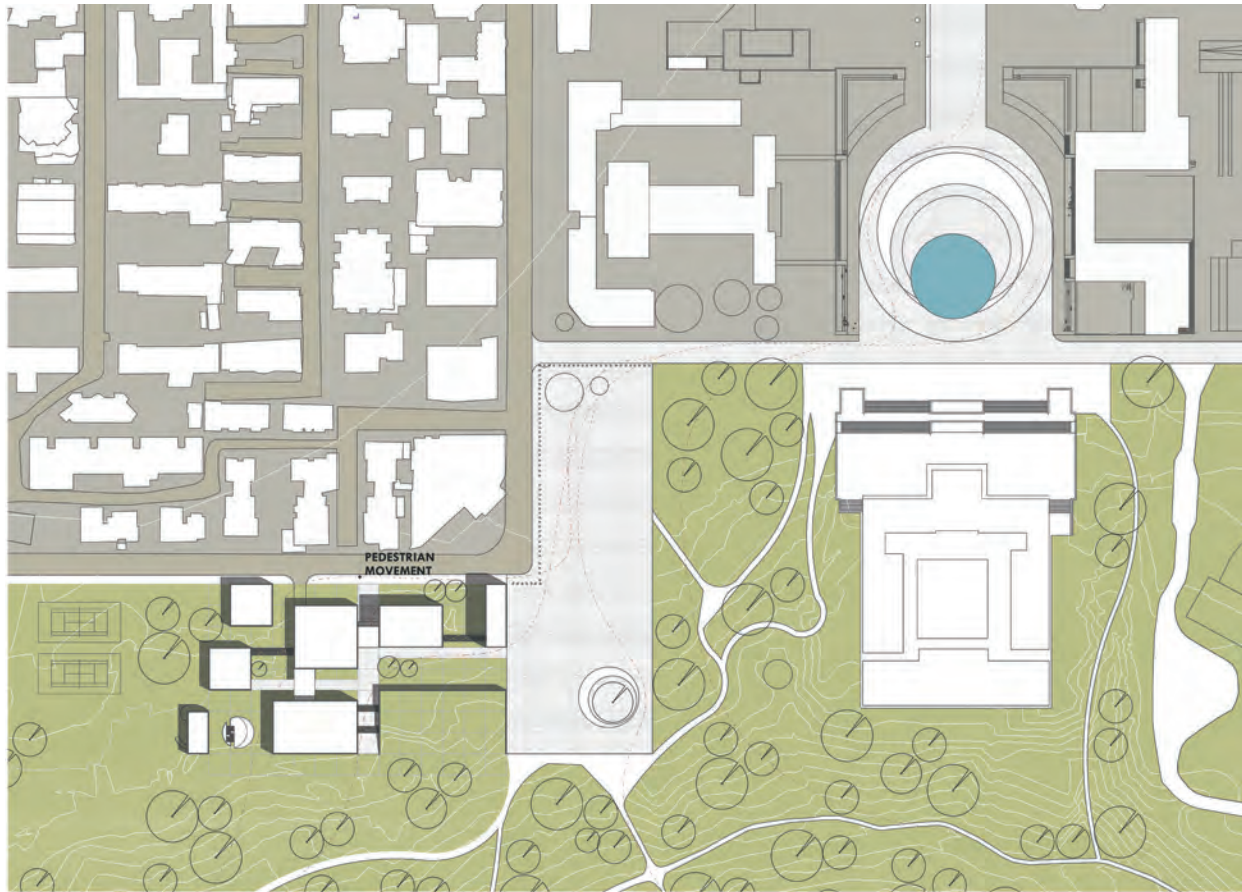


1. Extending and connecting the city and the park.
2. Sequence of public spaces.
3. Program and functions.

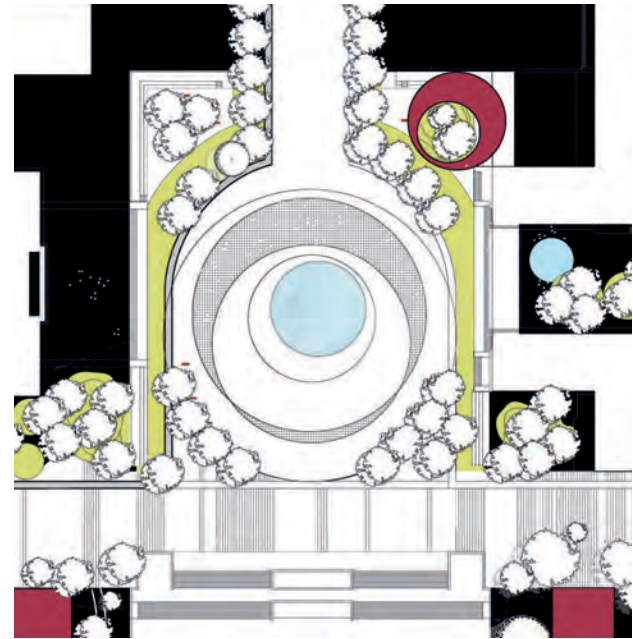
PUBLIC SPACE

Adding a new perspective for the people of Tirana conceiving their city our project proposes to create a new type of urban development in Tirana's south blending urbanism and landscape along the band from MT Square to the west. This way the new Lake Park Entrance is not only an entry but rather a succession of connections that create a strong link between the city and the park. Now the nature of Lake Park does not only limit the urban development to the south but becomes an accessible major green part of the city that will be seen, experienced and enjoyed by the people as a green balance in all seasons year round.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Masterplan of the entrance to the Tirana park and architectural ideas

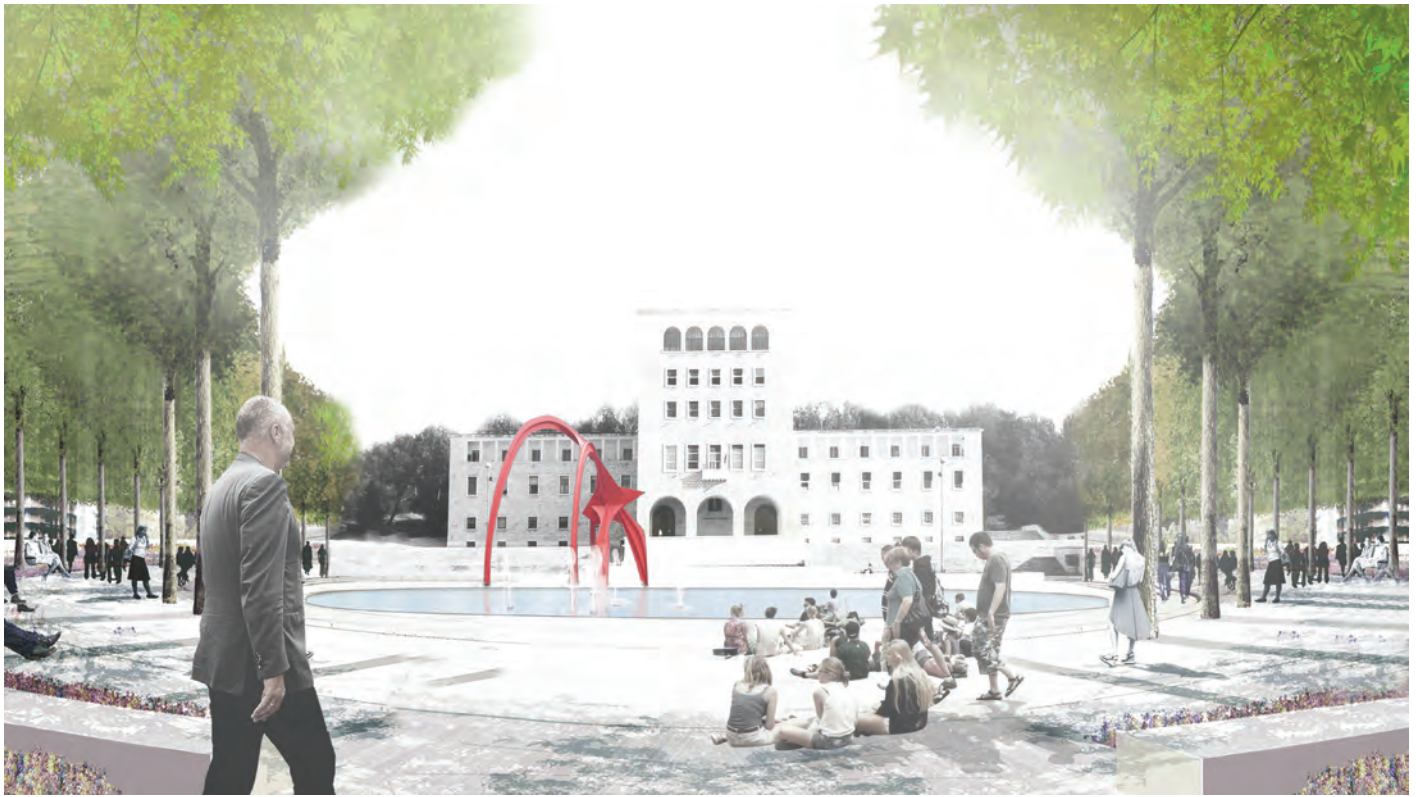


Mother Teresa square with central mirror pool

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRAFFIC

It is necessary to re-think the traffic circulation for cars, bikes, public transportation and pedestrians in the complete system along the Lake Park Border taking into consideration a series of strong actions in the area. Firstly, by making Mother Teresa" Square only accessible by pedestrian's day and night, as a space not only for the students of the Polytechnic University and University of Arts but to re-conceptualize it as an "events square" that will reposition itself in the same monumental front façade but in a more human space by creating a series of micro spaces. This mediator space can work in different levels and facilitate either permanent or temporary structures to be used for leisure and recreation, urban sports, can serve as spaces for open exhibitions and performances for the artists, and art students. The need of such spaces is immediate for Tirana in order to provide a platform for open and public activities. While fully connecting "Abdyl Frasheri" Street with "Asim Zeneli" Street passing through the Palace of Congress of Tirana finally completing the Ring of Tirana's City Centre in order to deviate the traffic movement preventing it to enter through "Mother Teresa" Square but still keeping active the movement of the car traffic through "Lek Dukagjini" Street. On the other hand, connecting the "Fryderyk Chopin" Square with Dora D'Istria Street through the old border of the Governmental Guard will also create a parallel "Ringroad" connection along the Lake Park giving another important corridor of movement for the dense traffic of the city.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of Mother Teresa square with central mirror pool

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View towards "Mother Teresa" from the university facilities

WATER IN THE CITY AND URBAN FURNITURE

To live up to this expectation we created the Tirana Park Lake Membrane urban furniture which will also feature recreational water features, fountains, small flows etc. Creation of an active band - the Tirana park membrane in order to link the urban fabric with the lake park by means of a series of public spaces.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Square created in between Public Services Center and General Directorate of State Police

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF THE STATE POLICE

The General Directorate of the State Police of Albania follows similar principles in the way it is integrated in this series of public spaces and public services buildings. It develops itself by respecting the axes that through the urban fabric end up to the park being placed in the limits of its "border". In this case the building creates in front of it a new public square for the city making it the last public square generated in front of the new developments on the "border" of the Lake Park taking into consideration the angular movement of "Dora Istria" Street while being parallel on the first floor and shifting direction on the last floor. Two units that are connected with an inner courtyard maximizing again the number of public spaces providing indoor and outdoor squares divide the structure. This inner courtyard also makes the difference between the two different typologies of units that formulate the Police Headquarters, the part which is addressed to provide functions more related to the public, such as the Information Unit Centre and the Support Centre to the Citizen which are developed in four (4) floors on a total of 9,000 m². Connected forming a complete unit dedicated to the Police Headquarters stands the iconic tower which facilitates a series of functions dedicated fully to the Albanian State Police with over 6,000 m² spread in 15 floors of administrative spaces with offices and technical areas but also a series of specialized departments such as the Department of Crime Investigations, the Department of Immigration, the Technology and Information Centre, the Department of Forensic Police and a number of highly equipped Laboratories of criminology. As part of the new Complex that re-defines the border of the Park the architecture that comprises the Police Headquarters follows the principles of sustainable design maintaining in the same time both the balance that is required to relate on the character of "Mother Teresa" Square and also to create a new reference point that could mark the Lake Park Entrance visible from other parts of the city.



Plan of ground floor



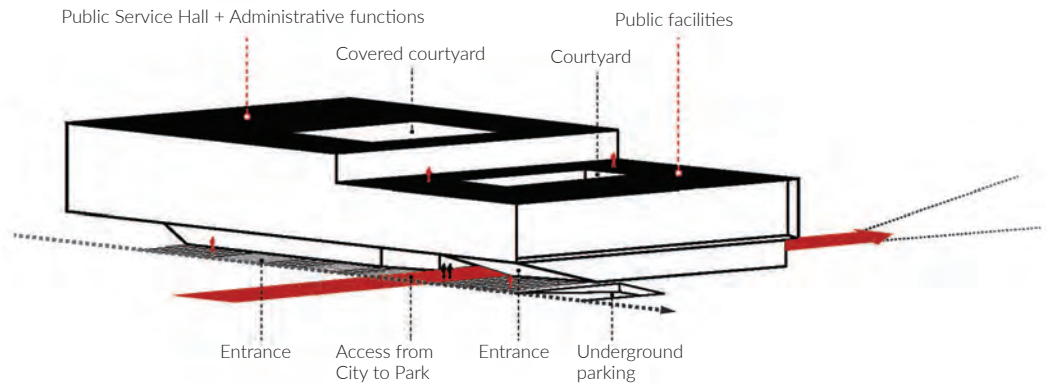
Plan of third floor

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View from the inner courtyard towards northwest

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



PUBLIC SERVICES CENTRE

The need for a Public Services Hall in the city of Tirana is a very important point in the city's agenda of functional and efficient spaces that could maximize productivity and reduce bureaucracy in the public administration. In the era of information technology, architecture is necessary to generate new and modern spaces not only in terms of aesthetics and materiality but spaces that could fulfil functional needs and go further offering innovative approaches to services that are offered and maximizing the productivity not only for the common citizens but for the public administration employees. Its formal articulation in the space positions the Public Services Hall between the Hub for Knowledge and Innovation and the Police Headquarters Facility orienting the building by the axis of the city that penetrate the natural structure of the Lake Park. The axes that cut through the urban pattern are left open either to create an open visual communication with the Park or they are used as entry points for the Public Services Hall. Architecturally the building offers outdoor urban spaces starting from the entry part and its connection points to the part, continuing with indoor urban spaces in the two atriums

that are created providing spaces for the visitors of the Public Services Hall or its employers and finally with the direct areas that belong to the administration. The building itself is divided in three equal parts of a total 14,800 m² with functions that are 14 totally oriented to the public and the visitors from the city, either to penetrate and access the Lake Park from it or to use the functions that are hosted inside it. While in the same logic a more functional and services oriented distribution is done in order to facilitate the spaces necessary strictly for the Public Services Hall and all the adjacent spaces that are dedicated to the administration of the building covering the last part of the whole structure.

Finally, 200 parking spaces that are integrated in the underground part of the Public Services Hall can be used in two different ways during day and night. During day the administration and the visitors of the Hall can use them while during night the citizens that live nearby can use the parking relieving in this way many public spaces but also solving a big issue through the lack of parking spaces in the city.

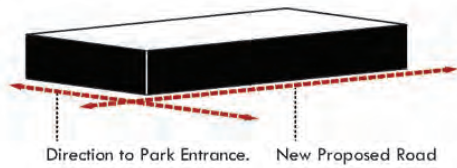
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



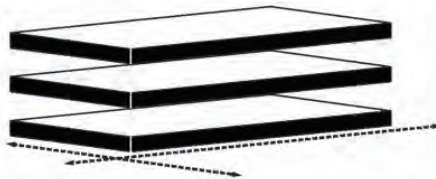
Public Service Centre on Frederic-Chopin square

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

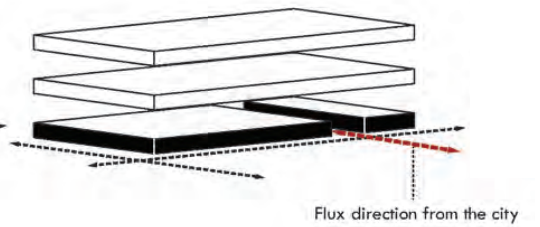
Two main directions, the new proposed road and the entrance to the lake park



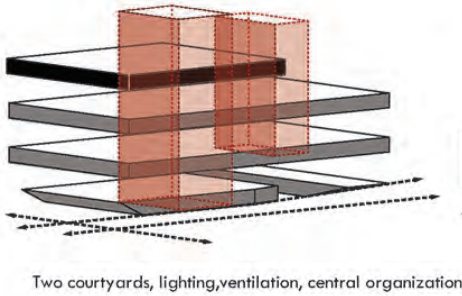
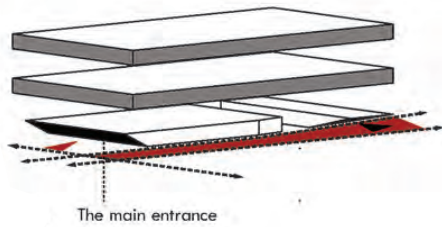
Creating three levels



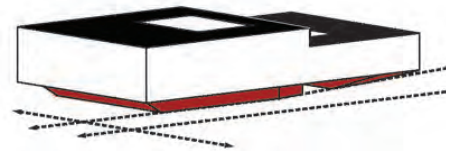
City-Park relation, the city fluxes passing through building to the park



Creating two main entrance and a linear square in front of the building



The final volume as a design process product



Schematic Design Concept

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Ground floor plan



First floor plan

CONNECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

The main principles on which this project is based on, consist of three sustainable and synergetic elements. The Tirana Park Membrane. This could be realized if we re-conceptualize the whole concept of how public spaces are organized by creating a series of public spaces that function either outdoor but also indoor integrated inside the new buildings. Creating this new structure of "public rooms" in order to re-approach the Lake Park will provide a better dimension in the public space taking maximum advantage of it by extending also in their functionality. Finally in order to preserve the skyline and the picturesque situation on which the Lake Park is placed after the implementation of the new buildings and functions we use the minimum required area plot with an architecture that it does not exceed 4-5 floors in the buildings that will facilitate public functions respecting the actual skyline while rising more on height where functions that won't be publicly used will be placed, such as the Police Headquarters locating them more and more near the edge of the border outside the picturesque frame of the Lake Park Entrance.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the courtyard of the new university building towards the Tirana park

10 VITTORIO GRASSI + STUDIO B&L + F&M INGEGNERIA SPA + STUDIO GIOGETTA ARCHITETTI + EDOARDO ROMAGNOLI

TEAM COMPOSITION:

Architecture & cultural heritage

Vittoria Grassi
Marco Aloisini

Architecture

Ermal Blea
Doiana Bozgo Blea
Roland Lika

Landscape architect

Franco Giorgetta
Simona Giorgetta

Engineering & estimator

Sandro Favero
Giampaolo Lenarduzzi

Visual artist

Edoardo Romagnoli

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



The project appears to be the project of interrelationships and connections of 3 main squares with the Park. The unifying Element is the road that runs along the Northern edge of the park and connects the main "Mother Teresa Square" with "Frederic Chopin Square" along to the new "Public Center Square. The project stems from an artistic operation. Thanks to an artistic process of interpretation of the nature it was compiled a vocabulary of elements returning in any new architecture, facade or equipment, arranged along the main unifying axis and inside the Lake Park. Through the work of the artist trees have been transformed into photographic slides, pixelated and reproduced on a giant scale onto steel and glass by screen printing or laser cuts. Through the work of the architect the glass and the steel, in turn, are transformed in double skin facades, in perforated screens, in wall coverings and shelters that go and colonize the entire area of intervention and potentially all the brown fields of Tirana.

PRINCIPLES

Easy accessibility and clearness of the routes. The viability of the project is based on a thorough study of the accessibility to the area, the internal circulation and parking strategy. The project sets out a clear hierarchy of the paths and roads network, from the historical “Martyrs of the Nation” Boulevard to the existing road bordering the Lake Park to the secondary streets perpendicular to the Park on the North-South axis and the parking areas, up to the internal pedestrian and cycle paths. The project also defines a decisive hierarchy of open spaces, from the large “Mother Teresa Square” and the smaller Frederic Chopin Square, to the new square in front of the Center of Public Services, along the new green and tree lined backbone of the project, to the open and leisure spaces of the Park.

Balance and continuity between the Park and the City. The project was developed on the principle of balance and continuity between green areas and the mineral spaces, between exterior and interior spaces, between solids and voids. The research of continuity and balance has been reached through the use axis of penetration going from the urban texture to the Park and trees and vegetation migrating from the Park towards the city. In this way the physical and psychological barrier constituted by the unshaped edge of the Park is been interrupted and finally broken. The outer skin of buildings and structures along this edge is treated with colours and silk prints taken from photos of natural landscapes elaborated with an artistic operation that wants to colonize and revitalize the whole city.

Respect of the quantities criteria and functional program. The project redesigns the whole system of public open spaces and buildings placed along the outskirts of the Lake Park. The project is providing a reshape of the “Mother Teresa Square”, as a place for public events and outdoor performances so as for the day by day use, a masterplan for the University future expansion buildings (11.000 sqm) and a new Public Administration building (5.000 sqm), a new Gate to the Lake Park with small service facilities, a new Public Service Mall (10.000 sqm) and a new General Directorate of Police (15.200 sqm).

Quality and representativeness of architecture. The quality of the architecture and its recognizability, combined with maximum functionality

and right balance costs and benefits is the main issue of the masterplan. With a photographic artistic process pictures of trees and nature have been post produced and transformed in a common vocabulary for all the architectural elements composing the masterplan. This process unifies the perception of the whole intervention and produces a beacon that occupies a place in the collective imagination.

Environmental sustainability. The masterplan privileges an eco-friendly approach with choices to reduce energy consumption, to maximize the use of renewable sources and, therefore, to neutralize the emission of pollutants such as CO₂. The adopted strategies contribute to the determination of high performance buildings in accordance with European energy saving regulations and, in addition, improve the comfort conditions of the occupants in terms of thermal, acoustic and visual standards and For a more complete and flexible use of space.

Health, Safety and Security. The masterplan pays a lot of attention to health, safety and security, complying with all the requirements related to the safety of the spaces, structures, fire, safety, use of space, use of the installations, exceptional events. In urban spaces, safety and security are influenced by the interaction of a range of factors including the design of streets and spaces, traffic management, city maintenance and effective security systems. A successful safe plan integrates active and passive security features into the built environment to reduce the opportunity for crime, such as street lighting and natural surveillance by fellow citizens, as well as things like CCTV.

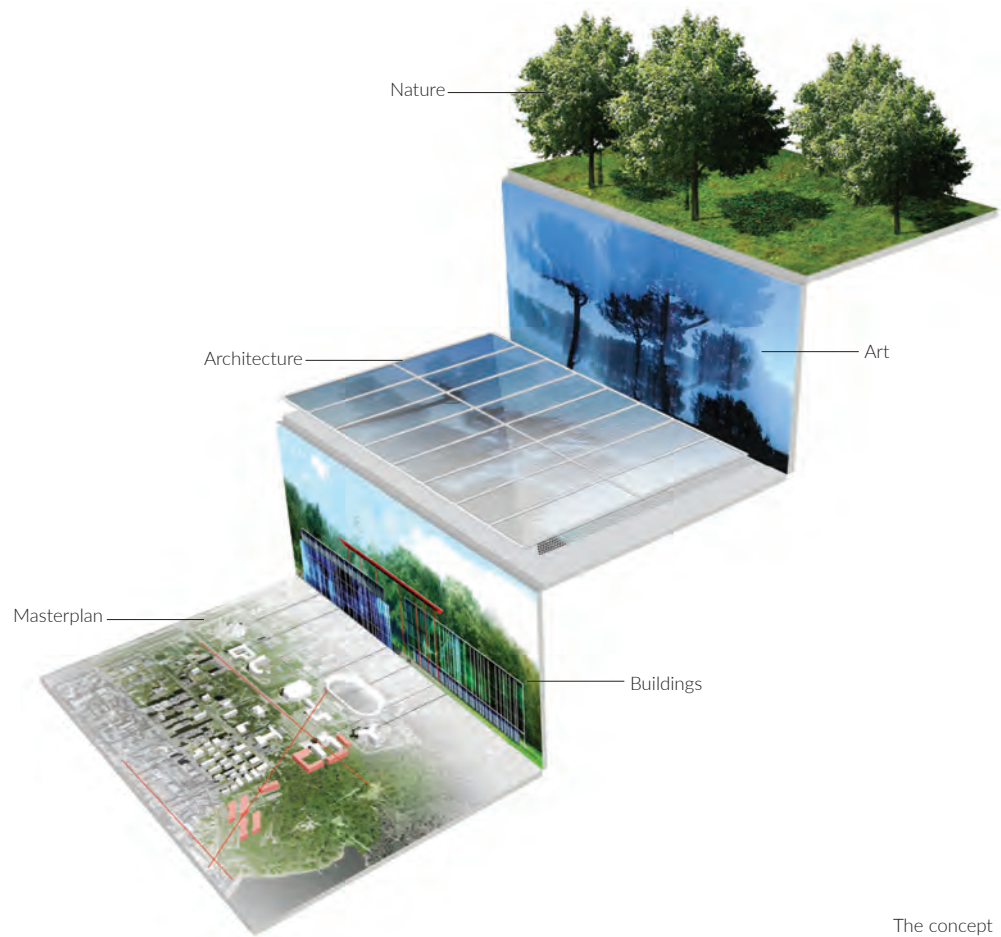
Economic Sustainability. A big attention has been paid to the economical and environmental sustainability of any of them so as to the synergic relationship that makes the whole intervention a unique innovative piece of architectural, urban and artistic vision. The implementation of the masterplan will follow different phases. It is advisable to start with the road network renovation and the new facilities and natural green interventions in the Park. Trees can be bought and planted very small at a low price so that by the time buildings are completed they will be mature and of great effect.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Masterplan



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



The concept

A SYSTEM OF 3 INTERCONNECTED SQUARES

The project appears to be the project of interrelationships and connections of 3 main squares with the Park. The unifying element is the road that runs along the Northern edge of the park and connects the main "Mother Teresa Square" with "Frederic Chopin Square" along to the new "Public Center Square". The project stems from an artistic operation. Thanks to an artistic process of interpretation of the nature it was compiled a vocabulary of elements returning in any new architecture, facade or equipment, arranged

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THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

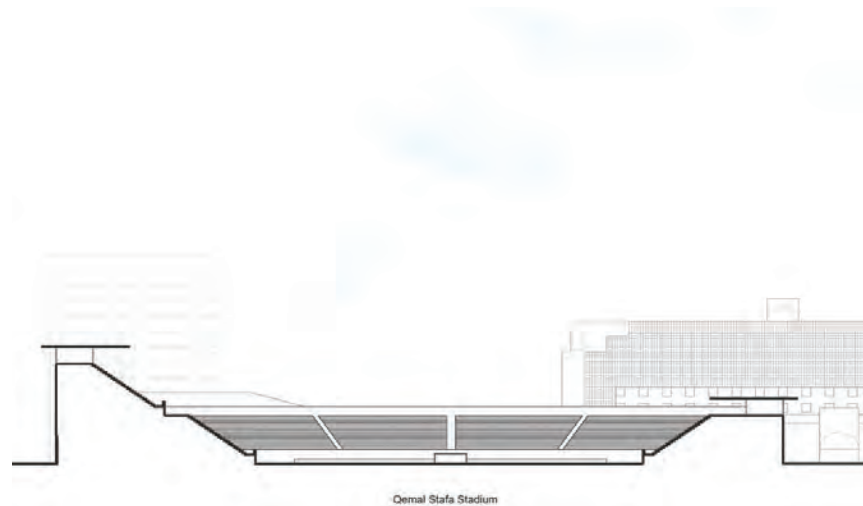


View of the Public Center Square



MOTHER TERESA SQUARE

The project of the new “Mother Teresa Square” square, introduces an element that retains the monumentality and austere view of the prospects of the three historic buildings that look out on it (the Polytechnic University Building, the Academy of Fine Arts and the National Archaeological Museum) and at the same time revitalizes its day by day use. The project provides to cut-out in the center of the square a lower square of 60x40 m, at - 3.00 m from the street level, where to place a lawn of 30x30 m. A flight of steps on the Southern side accompanies the descent of the public (mainly students during everyday use) towards the center of the square protected from vehicular traffic. On the Northern side, however, a fountain with an inclined drop designs the end of the Boulevard, enhances the view from the Polytechnic to the City center and produces a cooler microclimate during the summer months. As this regards the central lawn, a sowing of macrotherm, differs from the “classic lawn” for the fact that goes in vegetative rest during winter but in summer is able to grow despite the high temperatures and does not turn yellow and dry. It is a robust vegetative system which is able to withstand the multi-purpose new space for events that will take place throughout the year. A system of printed colored glasses covers both the Eastern and Western sides of the lower piazza. It is consistent with the rest of the master plan and the complete the redesign of this important urban space.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

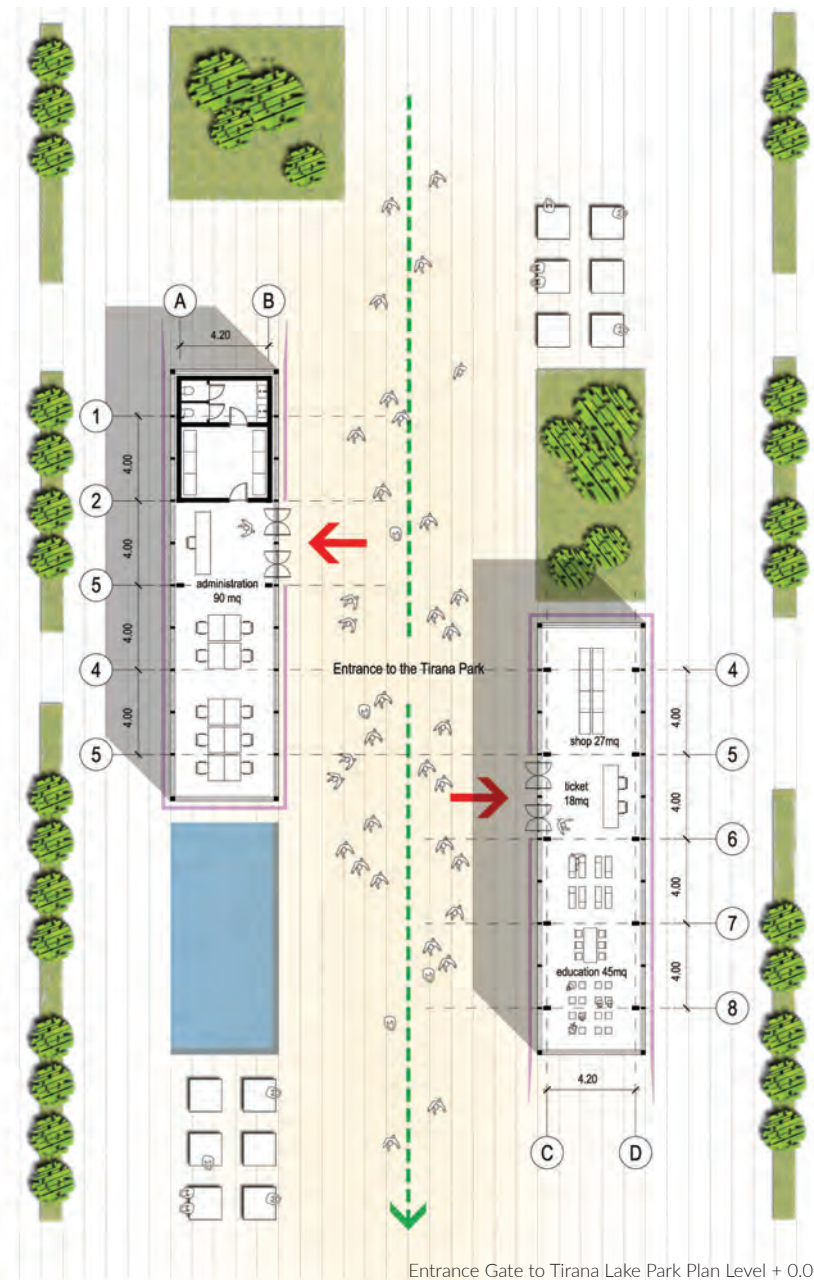


The artistic and architectural approach

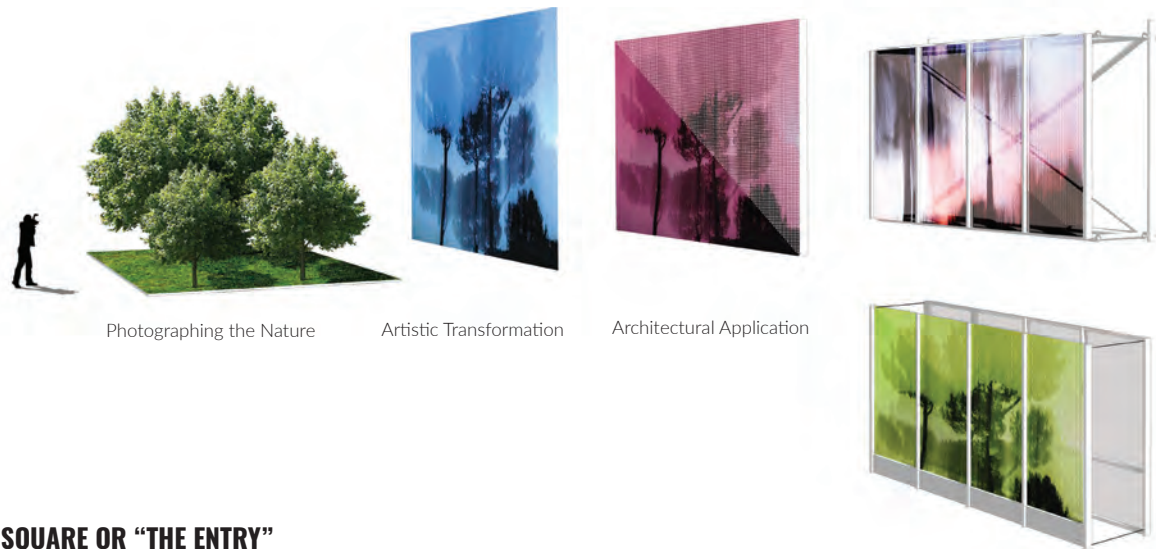
THE NEW PUBLIC CENTER SQUARE

The third square interconnected with the master plan system of outdoor spaces is the new Public Center Square. Two new buildings overlook this new square: the General Directorate of Police building and the Public Service Mall. The two buildings are interconnected in a corner along their diagonal following a scheme called “bow tie” and, thanks to a set back from the road, form an open square that gather visitors and address them to the main entrance of the Public Service Mall or to the entrance of the General Directorate of the State Police. The buildings have both 4 floors from street level and 2 floors of underground parking.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Photographing the Nature

Artistic Transformation

Architectural Application

TIRANA PARK GATE SQUARE OR “THE ENTRY”

The entry to Lake Park has been the subject for years of several project initiatives. It has constantly been in search of for the best way to connect with the city through an intermediate space, but it also requires an image, or emblem as an entry into the Park. The gate of the Lake Park is positioned in an another small square which is part of the system of the squares of the master plan: the “Frederic Chopin Square”. In this case the project is structured in a portal consisting of two blocks of 5x20 m base, housing some small facilities to serve the Lake Park: Security, Ticket shop, souvenir shop, Small administration office, Small museum / education plan. Parking spaces have been placed on the other side of the road. The portal is visible from “Mother Teresa Square” and he forms a backdrop to the new square in front of the Cafe of the new university buildings and invites visitors enter the park in a path getting to a new panoramic tower. In this case the architectural feature consists of colored metal sheet panels and perforated with images consistent with the rest of the artistic intervention.

The artistic and architectural approach

1. Mother Teresa Square. Walls cladding with silk printed glasses.
2. Park Entrance Gate Square. Light Structure with perforated metal.
3. New Public Center Square Buildings. Facades with double skin silk printed glasses.

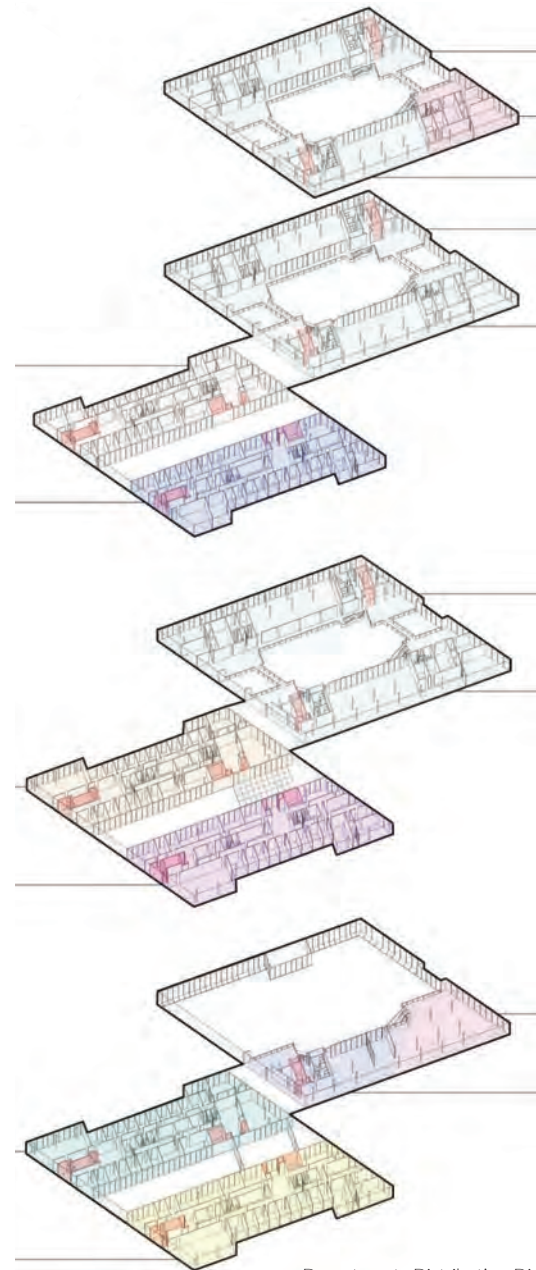
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the Park Entrance Gate Square

THE PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER MALL

The Public Service Mall building spreads over 10,000 sqm above ground with an underground parking with 200 car spaces. It is a permeable and welcoming building to the public. This building consists of two blocks that host six different departments floating above a glass hall completely dedicated to the contact with the public. An information desk at the entrance lobby directs visitors to the different service desks located in the free plan. Waiting areas are allocated along the sides of the ground floor while a flight of steps connects visually and physically to the Lake Park behind the building. The terraced steps have the function of the waiting area and gathering place for cultural activities and venues that can take place inside the building. Both buildings have glass silk printed facades with motifs related to the artistic iconographic program. A canopy supported by slender steel columns, a metaphor of an artificial forest that welcomes visitors and protects the facades from solar radiation on the South and West sides. The project propose a last element of interconnection, a canopy that shades at a giant scale over the space between the two buildings and signals a new axis of penetration in Lake Park, acting as a new Gate for it.



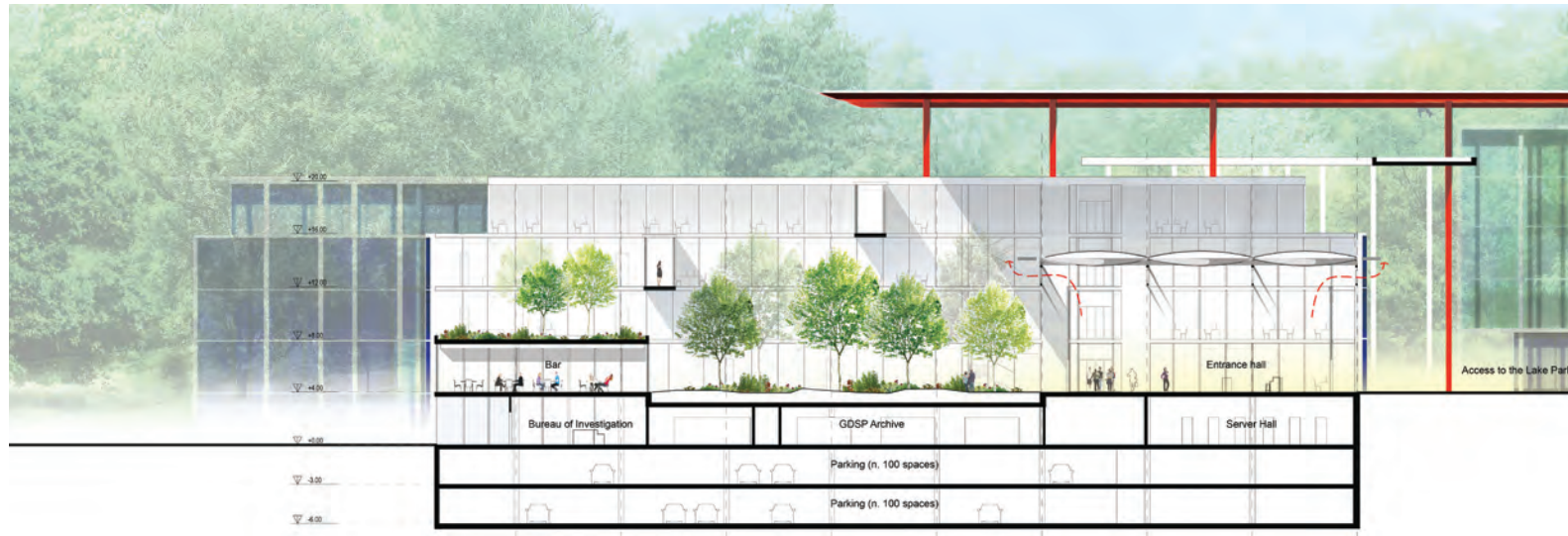
Departments Distribution Diagram

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



View of the Public Center Service Mall

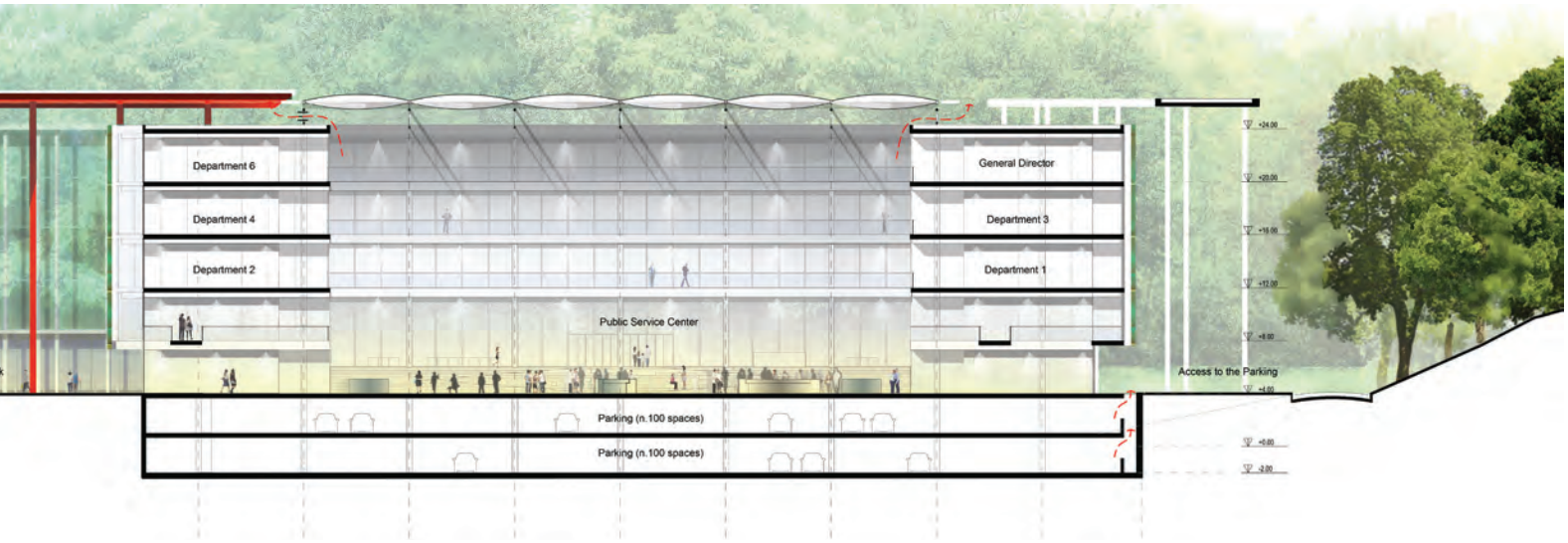
THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF THE STATE POLICE

The General Directorate of the State Police building is spread over 15,200 sqm above ground and an underground parking with 200 car spaces. For obvious reasons of security and privacy, this building is introverted but offers to the employees a garden in the courtyard. The building is surrounded on two sides by a perimeter wall of security that is built around the whole area devoted to the Police Headquarters. Within this area the historic main building has been maintained, moving to the new building all major departments. A protected open area for parking of service vehicles, heliport and outdoor activities has been created demolishing existing low quality volumes. At level 0.00 of the new building, on the Northern side, we find the reserved entrance for the Bureau of Investigation and on the Eastern side the entrance for the staff. The entrance to the few activities open to the public has been located at level +4.00 on the Southern side. All the Directorates interdicted to the public have been placed at the upper floors.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Long Section of the General Directorate of Police and Public Center buildings



Plan Level + 0.00

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Landscape for education

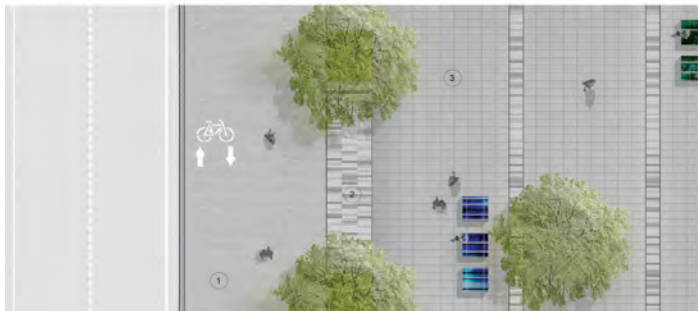
Natural area where to learn different species of Tirana plants and flowers there are in the surrounding landscape.

THE LANDSCAPE PROJECT

The landscape project aims to meet social needs through elegant and efficient economic processes whilst improving the physical environment and adapting to environmental change. The design concept for the Lake Park is informed by the local climate, the site, and the desire to create unique outdoor environment with optimum use and exploitation, with the least possible environmental impact. The landscape design approach sets out to manage the community needs, according to the planning and legislation both at the urban and building scale. Green and natural spaces are essential in urban planning, both to protect and enhance natural habitats, and for the health and wellbeing of the citizens. Local vegetation will contribute to increase shadows and reduce humidity and as an urban environment, the project wants to avoid air and noise pollution. Vehicular traffic is a major source of these; hence the project aims to reduce car circulation within the site area and to use passive strategies to mitigate the effect of pollution such as green barriers and natural dykes. In general the park development starts from a cost-effective use of existing topography and resources. The existing topography of the land has not been changed or only minimally to accommodate the new soil movements for the new buildings or pavilions. Trees and plants have been selected among autochthons or naturalized species that are recommended for growing in Tirana and its climate. The Lake Park has been thought to be used all

year round upon the climate conditions as a culture and leisure space. The principle is that the use of the landscape follows the same functions of the nearby building accommodation and extends their use especially in the summer season. Recreation areas for adults and children, elements of accomplishment, sports grounds, small architectural forms will be designed for an all year-round use of the park. The landscape will be provided with decorative illumination of the territory, including usage of modern lighting equipment and LED color lighting layout of the complex facades and art projections on facades. The park will be provided with its own parking but, in case of special venues gathering lots of visitors in national holidays, will share other's public buildings car parking. The project's aim is to improve the existing footpath network with the creation of small areas along the way. These zones can be used in different ways, for example to relax, rest or learn about the natural environment, and without reducing the greenery they will improve the enjoyment of the park. Community open spaces typologies of intervention are treated with different planting and landscaping: - Landscapes for recreation and social life, called Rest and Relax areas. - Landscapes for education are natural areas where to learn the different species of Tirana plants and flowers living in the surrounding landscape. - Water recreation areas with jetty with canoes to discover the natural ecosystem of the lake.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Landscape Design Strategy

THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Public Service Center is adjacent to the park but sets back from the street. This creates a new public outdoor space in front of the entrance that gathers people and addresses them to the foyer. The ground floor has full height glazed walls and allows cross views from the street to the park behind the building. The transparency and lightness of this solution is the symbol of the new relationship between the park and the city but also between the population and the government. Inside, an information desk in the lobby directs visitors to different service desks located in the free plan. Waiting areas are allocated along the sides of the ground floor while the terraced steps have the function of gathering the audience for cultural activities and venues that take place inside the building. The building has a green roof and a glass silk printed facades with pictures taken from the trees of the park. A canopy supported by slender steel columns is a metaphor of a forest that welcomes visitors and protects the facades from solar radiation on the South and West sides. In this phase the project proposes to reshape, pave and equip with new trees and street furniture, the Fredric Chopin Square. The square must be physically connected with the park since there we found the North to South penetration axis to the lake.



THE ENTRANCE TO THE TIRANA PARK AND IDEAS FOR TWO PUBLIC BUILDINGS



INTERNATIONAL URBAN & ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN COMPETITION

The Master Plan of the Entrance to Tirana Park and Architectural Project Ideas for two public buildings: the Public Service Center & the General Directorate of the State Police
Tirana, Albania
No. 6



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