

EN

# Strassen-Platz

Explanatory Note





# Contents

1. Introduction .....	5
2. History of Vokiečių street, Surfaces .....	6
3. Traffic organization and compliance with sustainable development .....	10
4. Landscape Solutions .....	14
5. Scenarios of activities .....	18
6. Lighting, Architecture and lanscape objects .....	22



# 1. Introduction

The main challenge of the reconstruction of Vokiečių Street is to respectfully expose the multi-layered history of this place, while creating a flexible modern space. To achieve this goal, the project can be divided into four themes:

## 1.1. Heritage

Given the complicated development of this area, it was decided to pay more attention to the indication of the historic parts of the city destroyed during the war. The following principles were followed:

- Distinguish the contours of historic streets with a single clear surface (using the existing street pavement).
- Highlight the boundaries of former buildings and subtly mark the outlines of the foundations (the location of the foundations could be adjusted by archaeological excavations).
- Protect the existing historical layers by planting new greenery only where there are no foundations of historical buildings - concentrating them on the areas of the former courtyards.

## 1.2. Priority for pedestrians

Pedestrians are the main focus of this project. The aim is to minimize the space used for cars and to promote pedestrian and bicycle transport in the central part of the city.

A continuous pavement with small height differences between different bicycle, car and pedestrian flows is being designed on the street. The aim is to give the impression that car drivers feel like they are driving in a pedestrian zone, not the other way around. The objective is to avoid conflict situations by separating different transport flows.

## 1.3. Dense greenery

The current system of green spaces on Vokiečių Street is inefficient: greenery blocks the natural movement of pedestrians, the roots damage the heritage, the plants are arranged chaotically.

This project proposes to concentrate greenery into small but very dense plantations that would perform several functions:

- Separate car movement and parking from the central pedestrian alley;
- divide the long Vokiečių Street into a series of smaller spaces that would be used for different activities;
- Indicate the historic courtyards of the quarters with decorative greenery.

## 1.4. Universal space

Vokiečių Street is a spatially distinctive place in the Old Town, with the potential to become the most versatile public space in the city center.

The current structure of the street does not allow it to reach its full potential due to the chaotic structure of transport and green spaces. The project strives to take advantage of this unique space in a way that makes it as versatile as possible and easily adaptable to different activities.

Reducing car infrastructure and reorganizing green spaces provides a lot of open and flexible space.



## 2. Historical of Vokiečių street, Surfaces

### 2.1. Historical Context

Historical network of street and urban blocks was damaged in World War II. The old urban structure was ignored and never rebuilt again. The current street was built during Stalin period.

Main spatial features of the old town that changed during Soviet time:

- the links between Šv. Mikalojaus-Žydų and Mėsinių-M. Antokolskio streets were cut. Links between Vokiečių and Žydų and M. Antokolskio street were blocked by a new building.

- A large new modernist type courtyard with a kindergarden was created (urban blocks that previously formed Žydų and Antokolskio streets were not rebuilt).

- The Great Synagogue of Vilnius - a special cultural building of the time - was destroyed.

- Vokiečių street was widened and turned into a Boulevard.



*Model of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius*

(<https://madeinvilnius.lt/vilniaus-istorija/pristatomi-pasiulymai-kaip-iamzinti-vilniaus-didziaja-sinagoga/>)



*Construction in Vokieciu Street, XX vid.*

## 2.2. Guidelines for the urban development of the surrounding territory

There is a lot of discussion on how to develop the Vokiečių street and the damaged urban fabric around it.

Given the complex development of the surrounding area, the project does not limit itself to the proposals within the limits of the tender. It also provides guidelines for the urban development in the vicinity of the project.

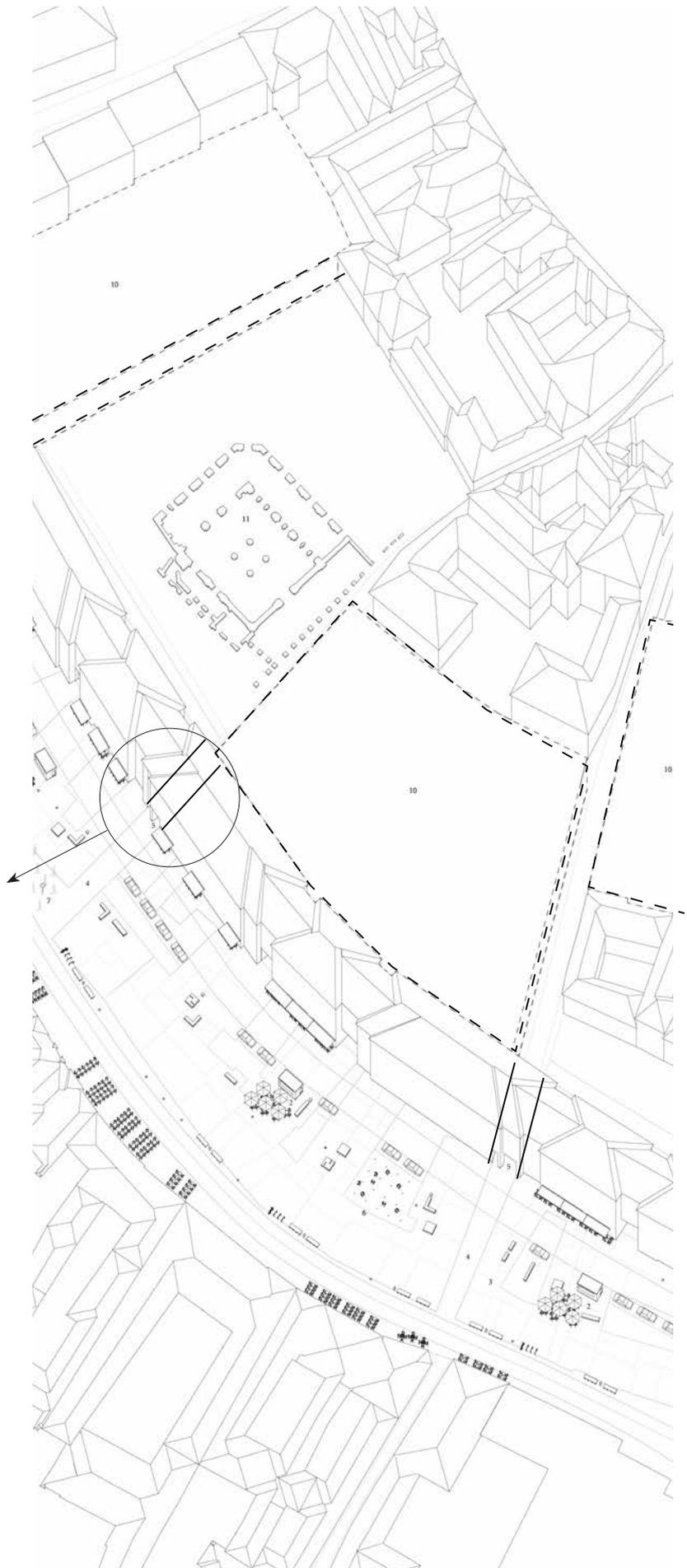
-It is recommended to follow the guidelines of UNESCO and not to reconstruct historical buildings. Instead it is proposed to redesign the space into a contemporary Public Space with various historical elements.

-It is proposed to recreate the links between Žydų and M.Antokolskio streets by opening the ground floor part of the building where the streets originally were. This way the overall integration of the surrounding streets would be improved.



-Clearer boundaries of Žydų and M.Antokolskio streets should be formed, as recommended in the Plan of Cultural Heritage of Vilnius.

- The project suggests not to develop the site of the great Synagogue for other functions but to construct a Memorial Park instead. This way the old town would be enriched by a quality green space. Furthermore it is a good way to embody the local history and create a strong attraction point.



### 2.3. Existing historical pavement will be kept

The project aims to expose the historical spatial structure of Vokiečių street in a simple and clear manner.

The existing granite tiles of the street will be kept. The remaining parts of pavement where the historical street and the courtyards were will also be paved by a closely looking granite tile pavement.

### 2.4. The contours of historical buildings of Vokiečių street

The zones where historical buildings were would be marked by a different pavement material - light colour granite tiles. This way, material wise this public space would become visually coherent with other main public spaces of the oldtown.

The structure of historical buildings would be marked in the pavement. Dark lines where the suspected foundations were would be marked in a unique pavement pattern.

All of the pavement is designed in one level with only small height differences.



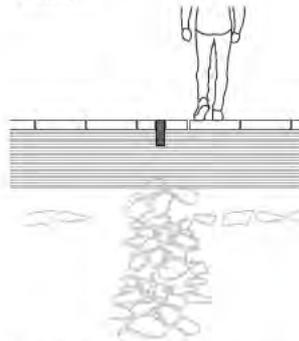
### 2.5. Solutions for historical heritage

Apart from contrasting pavement types other solutions are used to demonstrate historical heritage. Various solutions of landscape design and contemporary technology are offered to provide information about the physical space of the historical street, local history, famous people and etc.

-in the pavement near every former building there could be a tile mentioning the number of the building and, possibly, former facade engraved in the tile.

-there could be special bronze tiles (similar to those existing in Vokiečių street already) with the names of famous people that lived in the Vokiečių street.

-Virtual reality technology could be used - by using a mobile phone (or real VR goggles in some cases) you could observe how the street evolved through different times from particular perspectives. Similar technologies are already being used in other tourist attractions of Vilnius.



*Detail of dark coloured pavement lines that mark the foundations of historical buildings,*



*An example of a special bronze tile with the names of people engraved.*

### 2.6. Main requirements for cultural heritage

Vokiečių street is inside the protected territory of Cultural Heritage - old town of Vilnius. The Special Plan of Cultural Heritage of Vilnius was taken into account during the process of design.

There are old building foundations under most of Vokiečių street. These foundations should be protected against any type of construction or maintenance damage.

Also, the existing granite tiles of Vokiečių street is maintained because it is registered in the register of protected cultural heritage.

Important visual axis were also taken into account, including perspectives towards Šv.Kotrynos church and the City Hall. Large objects were avoided in the project.

When designing the pavillion near the City Hall it was intended to make it very light and slim, mirroring the proportion of the City Hall building and not blocking it from the side. The material is also very reflective so it would reflect the pavement pattern and the activities happening inside.



# 3. Traffic organization and compliance with sustainable development

## 3.1. New Public Space - Pedestrians first

The project follows the vision to transform the oldtown into pedestrian and bicycle zone in the future. This is why the space is designed to be easily organized for different kind of traffic, or even completely take out car traffic.

The new Vokiečių Street is being designed as a pedestrian zone, where priority would be given to pedestrians and cyclists.

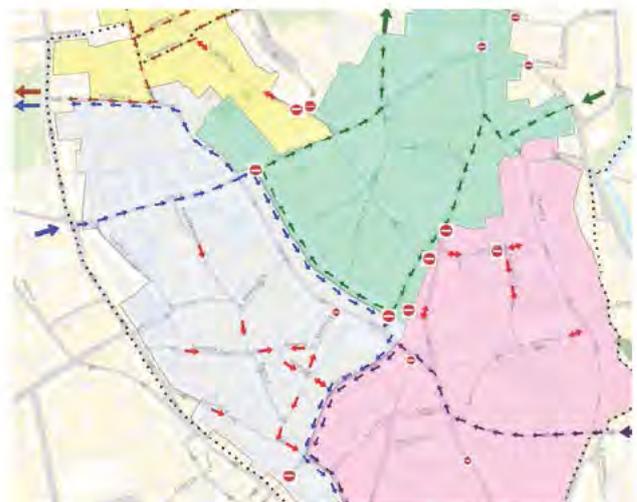
By aligning the surfaces and unifying the materials, Vokiečių Street would become a universal plaza-type public space.

Drivers should feel like driving in a pedestrian zone.

## 3.2. Car, Pedestrian And Bicycle Traffic Scheme In A Broader Context

Car traffic is designed on the basis of the new loop traffic scheme in the Old Town, which is planned to be implemented as early as this summer.

General car and public transport traffic is organized on the north-east side of the street, and the south-west (old street) is dedicated to pedestrians, bicycles and service transport (which enters Vokiečių Street through Šv. Mikalojaus Street).



Loop traffic scheme in the core of Vilnius Old Town core



Proposed application of the Loop Traffic scheme in Vokiečių street (dotted lines – for service vehicles only)

## Strassen-Platz

Cycling is organized according to bicycle routing scheme specified in the General Plan (Bendrasis Planas). The bike path is designed separately from car traffic. It is separated by a minimal difference in height and clearly visible horizontal markings. Bicycle parking spaces, benches and information stands are organized along the new bike path,

Service transport in the south-western side of Vokiečių Street is organized from St. Mikalojus streets separating into two one way streets heading different directions. It uses the same space as the pedestrians. In this way, potential traffic is minimized on the old Vokiečių Street.



Bicycle sign on pavement

### 3.3. Avoiding conflicts between different modes of traffic

Complex intersections of different modes of transport are formed at both ends of the street. The solutions of which are presented in the diagrams (Traffic Management Schemes A and B).

### 3.4. Historic Vokiečių Street – for pedestrians, bicycles and cafes

With the abolition of general car traffic and parking in the historic part of the street, more space is created for outdoor cafes, a bicycle path and other functions. The southwest side of Vokiečių Street is becoming the main area of cafes and bars, more adapted to the city nightlife.

### 3.5. Compliance With Sustainable Development

In order to promote sustainable urban development, priority is given to environmentally friendly and cost-effective transport.



Traffic Management Scheme A (south end of the street)



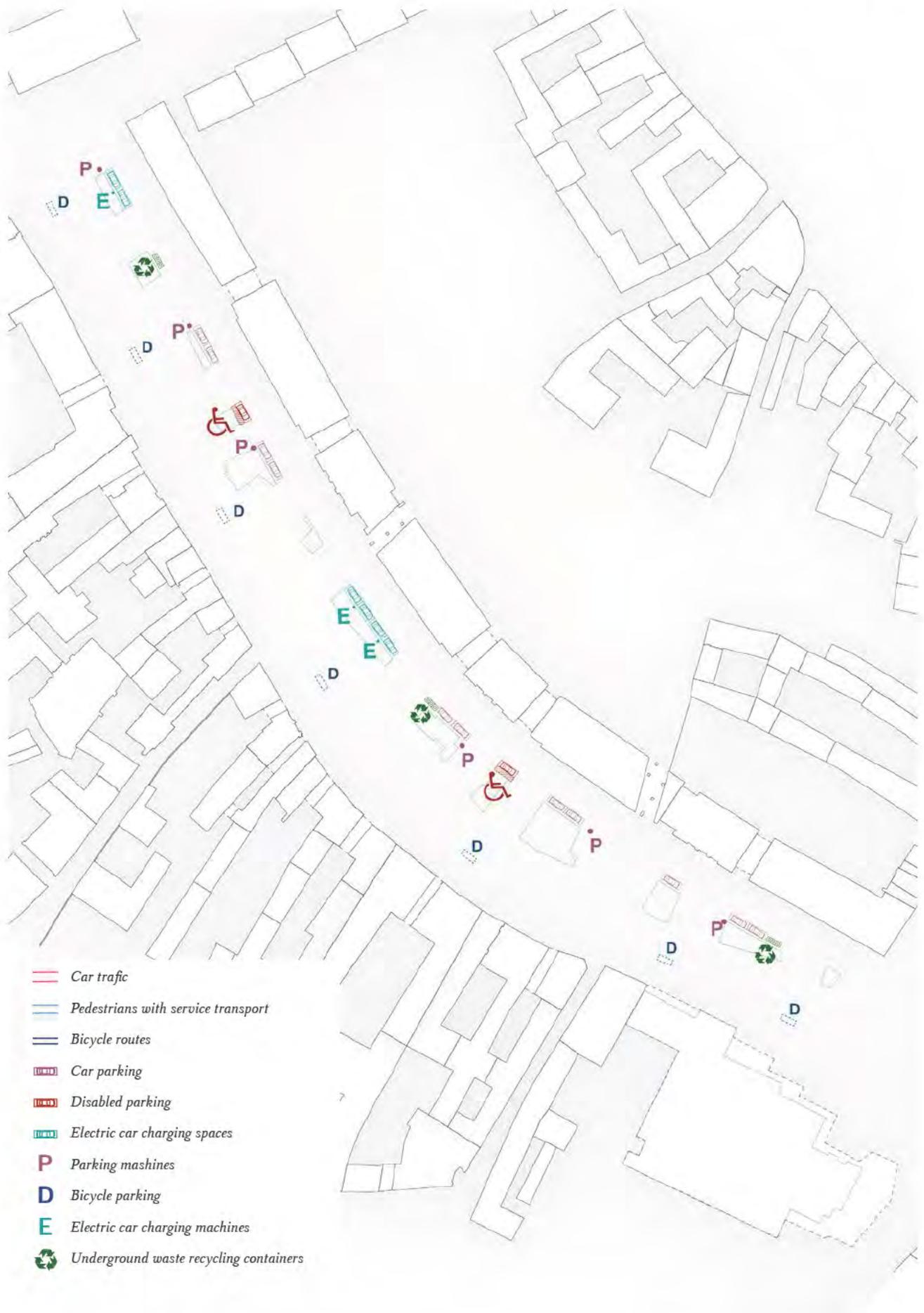
Traffic Management Scheme B (north end of the street)

Parking spaces are highly reduced to reduce the traffic of internal combustion engine cars. Instead, more green and pedestrian areas are introduced in the street.

It is proposed to establish 6 new electric vehicle charging stations with the possibility to increase their number if necessary. Priority parking spaces for the disabled are also being introduced.

Underground waste sorting containers are proposed to be installed according to the information provided by competition guidelines. Locations are selected where there are no remains of historic buildings.

Efforts are being made to recycle and re-use existing materials: the old granite pavement on the historic street is maintained, and disused material would be recycled for other construction purposes.



Parkings and other traffic services





## 4. Landscape solutions

### 3.1. New plants are planted on the sites of former yards to protect the historic foundations

Protection of the remains of historic buildings is an important part of the project. Green areas are designed only inside the courtyards of former buildings in order to protect the remaining foundations from the roots of the plants.

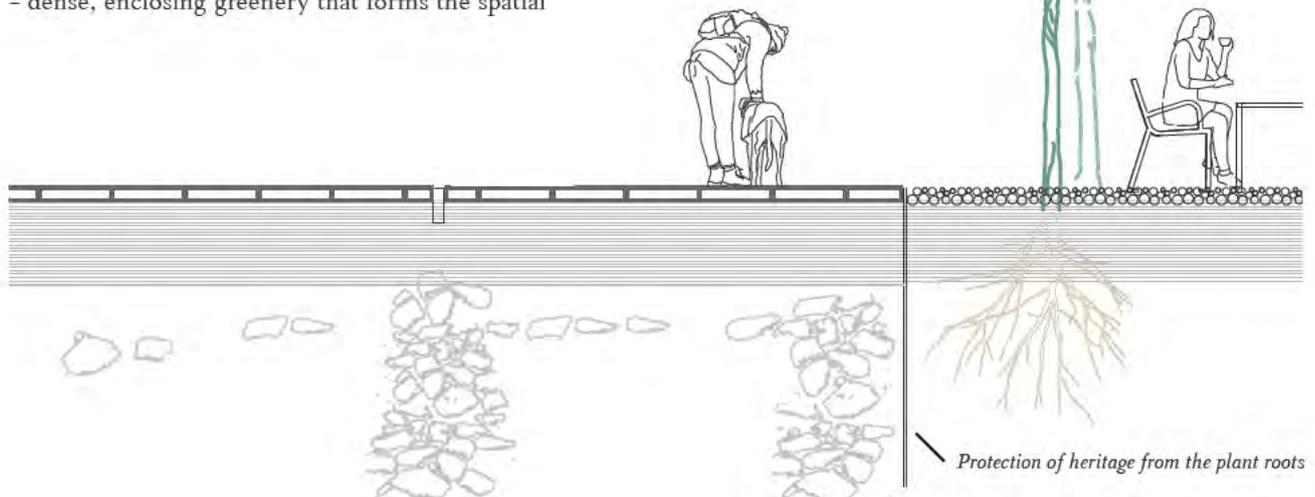
Protection of the remains also dictates the nature of green spaces: small area for greenery is compensated with more lush, visually attractive plantations. They would be used to clearly define street spaces and functions.

The vegetation separates pedestrian and car traffic, divides the long street space into more cozy, small-scale spaces for different activities.

### 3.2. Types of spaces

There are two types of green spaces:

- dense, enclosing greenery that forms the spatial





*Dense plantation, forming partially separate spaces*



*An open array of young trees for activities inside*



*Linden trees are preserved along the historic street*

structure and creates a more cozy, green public space image. Some may have small spaces with furniture for lunch or relaxation.

- open with densely planted young trees and stone chippings. They are designed in places where dense, impassable green areas could block natural pedestrian movement. There are 3 spaces of this type in the project. The trees would provide shade in the summer, so it is suggested to install stationary chess or dining tables under them.

### 3.3. Sustainable ecological solutions

#### Existing Plants:

Efforts are made to preserve as many existing plants as possible. They are managed according to the plant assessment given in the competition material. Only those trees that are marked in the assessment are felled.

The aim is to preserve not only trees, but also the existing smaller viable and healthy plants - flexible, lilac, walnut, nesting spruces. They are transplanted to the intended green areas, along with new plants.

It is proposed to minimally restore the former linear plantation of small-leaved lindens. Planting new trees only where they would not jeopardize the historic foundations and would not interfere with the underground infrastructure.

#### New Plants:

When planting new plants, it is suggested to use native species, avoiding invasive ones. Plants are chosen which would require minimal care at all times of the year, in perfect harmony with each other.

In the newly formed dense massifs, it is recommended to use 50% of the plant species in the evergreen pine section species in order to maintain a green and aesthetic environment all year round. Adult plant sizes from 0.5 m to 10 m in height.

In those parts where the linden line is partially restored, it is suggested to plant the same type of linden.

#### Innovative solutions:

It is proposed to use the most innovative technologies for plant care:

- Introduce soil quality meters to monitor plant health and use underground irrigation system to save water.
- collect and use rainwater for irrigation of plants.



Plantation management scheme



40 proc. lizdinių eglių – nudžiūvusios ar sunykusios



Paprastosios alyvos



5 rūšių ir veislių lanksvos, 70 proc. lanksvų – išplikusios



Existing plant species which could be relocated



# 5. Scenarios of activities

## 5.1. Functional typologies

Vokiečių Street can be divided into 4 functional zones:

1. Zone of car traffic;
2. Zone of greenery and pocket spaces;
3. Zone of Central Alley;
4. Zone of Historical Vokiečių Street.

## 5.2. Zone of car traffic

This area has the entire car infrastructure: one-way lanes in different directions, parking lots, electric car charging stations, disabled parking spaces, terraces of outdoor cafes.

Underground rubbish bins are also located in this area. All logistic activities take place in courtyards or on the carriageway.

## 5.3. Zone of greenery and pocket spaces

This area serves as a buffer between pedestrians and car traffic.

It is subdivided into smaller pocket spaces for more private, seasonal activities such as summer cafes, dining areas, games (chess, ping pong tables) and lounges.

### 5.4. Zone of Central alley

This area is the main public space for pedestrians .

It is the widest and most open space suitable for organizing city events, concerts, fairs, weekend markets or other activities of the city.

### 5.5. Zone of Historical Vokiečių Street

The boundaries of this area correspond to the building boundaries of the historic street. It is being transformed from a car to a pedestrian and bicycle street, greatly expanding the spaces of outdoor cafes along the south-western street facades.

This part of the street concentrates nightlife, cafes and bars, as well as traffic for locals and maintenance vehicles.

### 5.6. Scenarios for the use of public space at different times of the year

The proposed public space is very versatile. It is easily adapted for both summer and winter activities.

#### Summer season activity scenarios:

- The spaces are perfect for various outdoor cafes. Outdoor cafes are given much more space along the street facades. Independent summer cafes are provided with four zones with all the necessary communications to equip a temporary bar / kitchen during the summer between the green zones.
- The central pedestrian alley is suitable for fairs and weekend markets.
- Green areas provide space for more private relaxation and meetings.

#### Winter season activity scenarios:

- The central alley is suitable for the Christmas market.
- In the spaces between the green areas there is a possibility to build winter pavilions for various activities.
- In the winter season, public spaces can be used for ice sculptures, art installations.



**Zone of Historical Vokiečių Street**



**Zone of Central Alley**



**Zone of greenery and pocket spaces**



**Zone of car traffic**



# 6. Lighting, Architecture And Lanscape Objects, Infrastructure

## 6.1. Main architectural objects

### Pavillion

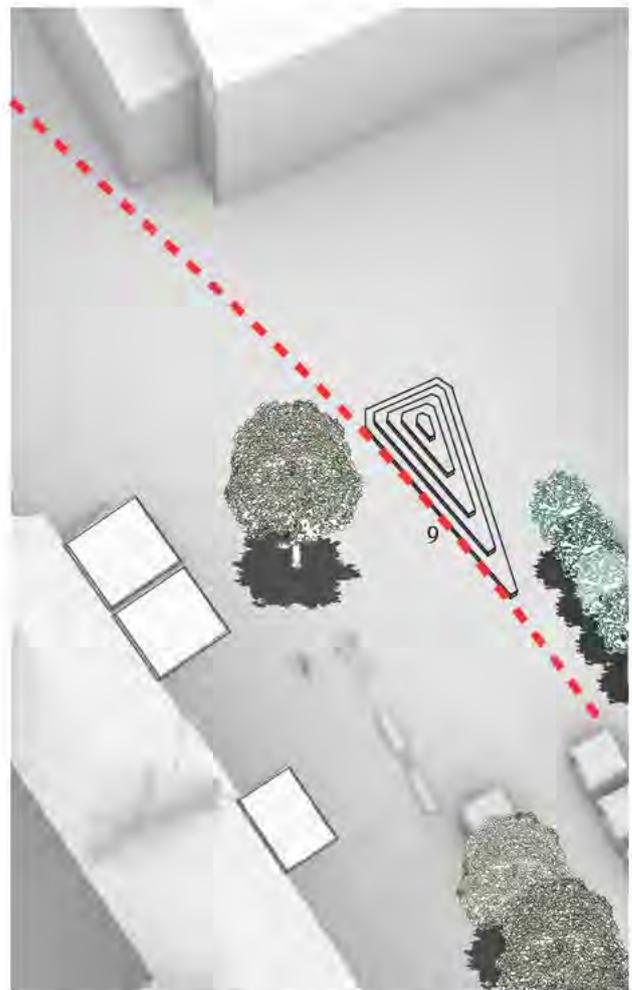
This small architectural pavillion marks the beginning of Vokiečių Street from the Town Hall. The pavillion is a universal object that can change the function depending on the needs:

- replaces the bus stop not only for public transport, but also as a meeting and waiting place for tourists waiting for guided tours.
- a place where people can wait for meetings in bad weather.
- a suitable place to exhibit art installations
- can act as a mini-stage for street performances.

### Stairs

The Northern end of Vokiečių Street was chosen for another important object of architecture - stairs with seats. The stairs would direct pedestrian and bicycle flows to the surrounding streets (rather than to the school facade).

The stairs themselves are a great meeting place for youth or larger groups, for guided tours or street performances.



*Stairs of the northern-end directing the pedestrian traffic.*

## Strassen-Platz

### Fountain

The original location of the fountain is changed by moving the fountain to the side, thus not blocking Šv. Mykalojaus Street.

The original Soviet fountain is preserved, but instead of a swimming pool, it is composed freely in space, together with a modern fountain.



### Sculpture of Barbora

The sculpture of Barbora is preserved without changing its location. Its exposition is changed – the small hill is removed.



### Chess and lunch spaces

The green spaces offer more cozy, private spaces with stationary multifunctional furniture. We want to personalize and make these spaces feel more intimate.

## 6.2. Other objects:

### Underground waste containers

Underground waste containers are arranged according to the recommendations of the tender – one at each end and one in the center of the square. It would be unloaded by garbage truck when stopped on the street. The locations have been chosen so that the new containers would not ruin the underground building foundations.

### Advertisement stands

The same number of advertisement stands is maintained, but their locations are changed. trees felled

Interactive advertisements with screens are placed along the bike path, in the same line with the lindens and benches.

Larger, triangular plan billboards are placed along the car traffic street.

### Underground infrastructure

The project is compatible with engineering networks and does not require significant investment in their reconstruction.

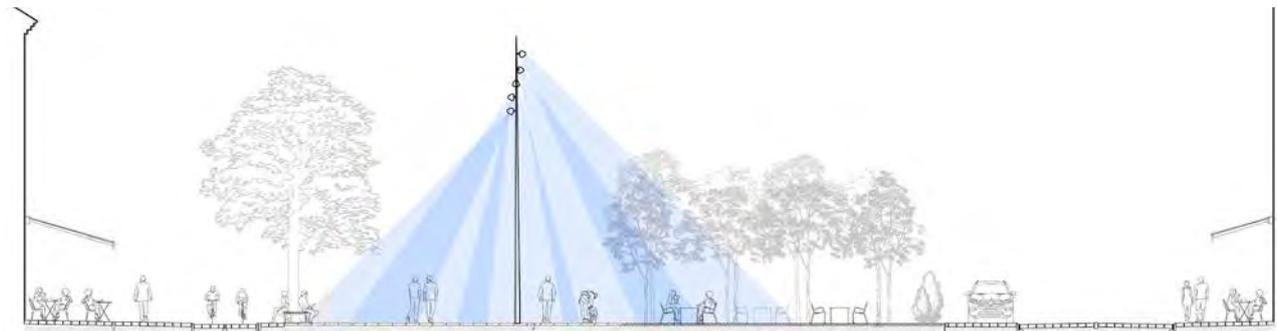
## 6.3. Lighting

New street lights are offered together with existing monotonous street lighting. There are three main types of lighting:

- 1. General existing street lights using existing lighting poles** – its purpose is to illuminate the entire street in general by providing sufficient visibility during the dark hours of the day.
- 2. Spotlights, concentrated lighting** – new lighting poles strongly illuminating and emphasizing the 4 main points of the street: both ends of the street near the Town Hall and the school and two intersections of the streets (Mésinių and Šv. Mikalojaus st.) Illuminating the spaces of the sculpture and the fountain.
- 3. Diffuse plant lighting** would illuminate plants from below and create diffuse lighting in a public space. They would create a more cozy atmosphere and highlight green areas at night.



General street illumination - existing lights



Spotlights, Concentrated lights at the main areas of the street



Difuse plant lighting



Light diagram

# Strassen-Platz

## 6.4. Outside Cafes

There are two types of outdoor cafes: 1) dependent on the surrounding buildings along the street facades; 2) completely independent summer cafes in the middle of the street.

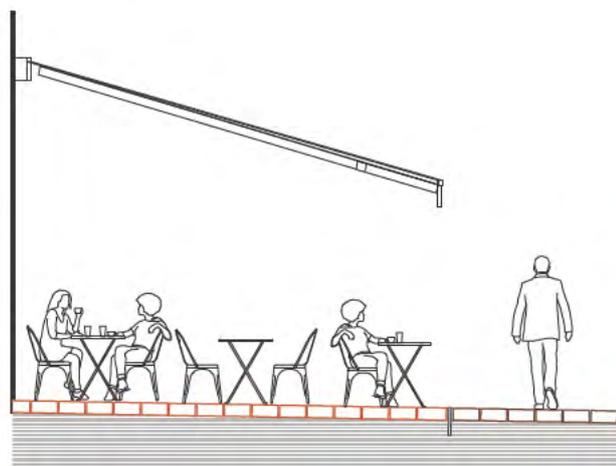
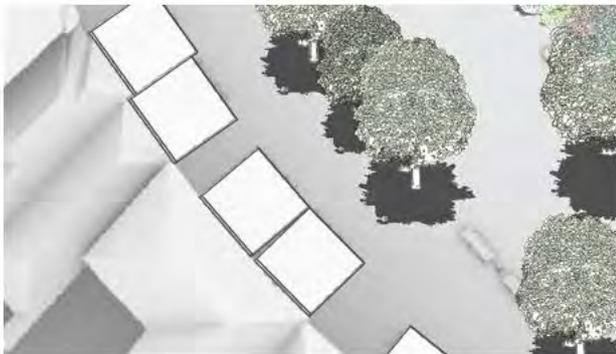
Small architecture of the outdoor cafes is not precisely designed, but is governed by rules to maintain a cohesive, organized environment, leaving room for self-expression and exclusivity.

### Dependent on the surrounding buildings

The area on the southwest side of the street is greatly expanded for outdoor cafes.

The main rules:

- It is forbidden to put any partitions or additional platforms - cafes open, uniform pavement.
- shadings of cafes are attached to the facade, individual tables are covered with umbrellas of typical design (see examples).
- Use of any kind of advertising in outdoor cafes is prohibited.



Outside cafe



Example [camillestyles.com](http://camillestyles.com)



Example [petitesuitcase.com](http://petitesuitcase.com)



Example [Le Tambour 41 Rue Montmartre, Paris](http://LeTambour41RueMontmartreParis.com) ([pinterest.com](http://pinterest.com))

## Completely independent summer cafes

Summer cafes of temporary construction only. They are built at the beginning of the season, but there is a possibility to use them all year round. All necessary communications are conveniently equipped.

The main rules:

- It is forbidden to put any partitions or additional platforms - cafes open, uniform pavement.
- Shading made of standard umbrellas or light tensile structures.
- Use of any kind of advertising in outdoor cafes is prohibited.
- Kitchen / bar should be in harmony with the environment, non-protruding, mobile.



Summer cafe



Example Piovenefabi (maniera.be)



Example J. Paul Getty Center — OLIN (theolinstudio.com)



mas.org



Example pinterest.com

**Strassen-Platz**