

RECONSTRUCTION OF VOKIEČIŲ STREET IN VILNIUS

Report



GOALKEEPER



CONTENTS

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 6 | HISTORICAL BACKGROUND |
| 9 | CONCEPT OF THE TERRITORY |
| 11 | FUNCTIONAL SCHEME |
| 13 | “EUROPA” BUILDING FRAGMENT |
| 15 | STREET NODES |
| 17 | WATER RECOGNITION |
| 19 | SCULPTURE PARK |
| 21 | USE IN DIFFERENT SEASONS |
| 23 | TRANSPORT CONCEPT |
| 27 | PAVEMENT |
| 29 | GREENERIES |
| 31 | LIGHTING |



Plan of Vilnius Old Town with marked existing (black), demolished (red) and new (white) buildings.



View to Vokiečių street from Vilnius street before WWII and in present.



Revival of Vokiečių street. 1987 competition proposal by A. Ambrasas, A. Trimonis and G. Adlys.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before Second World War, Vokiečių street was one of the most important streets in Vilnius where trade and culture was flourishing for hundreds of years. It was a part of a residential district and is remembered as one of the most vital centers of Vilnius Old Town, filled with people, chatter and extraordinary ideas.

Unfortunately, after Second World War the image and influence of this significant cultural place has changed drastically as the whole neighbourhood was seriously destroyed which later led to demolition.

During the Soviet Era the neighbourhood of Vokiečių street has drastically changed. In place of demolished neighbourhood new Stalinistic style buildings appeared, which stated completely new architectural and urban scale along with new rules for Vilnius Old Town future planning. Narrow, dense image of Vokiečių street has been replaced with one of the widest city's avenues with no trace of the past history.

Even with the newly designed avenue, the idea to rebuild demolished square has been relevant for years, but after several architectural competitions with different solutions for new building area, it was decided to leave Vokiečių street as a huge public space.



View to Vokiečių street from then yet unbuilt Contemporary Art Center.



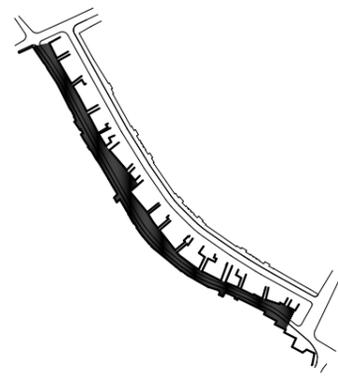
CONCEPT OF THE TERRITORY

Nowadays, Vokiečių street is a one of a kind place in Vilnius City with many hidden historical narratives and cultural layers. Our aim is to expose those layers in a unique modern manner, giving a hint to the previous scale of the street, highlighting historical intersections with Dominikonų, Šv. Mikalojaus, Mėsinių and Rotušės streets by recreating building fragments.

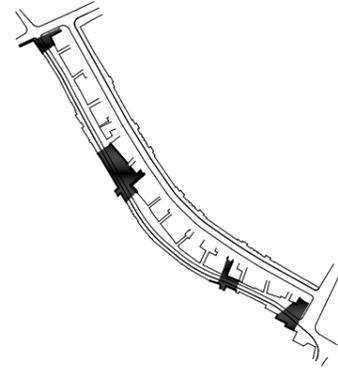
Foundation boundaries of demolished houses also have their role in the proposal and are used to define the space of newly designed public spaces. Demolished passages are revived and new functions are accommodated inside the previous buildings, but in different form.

Reconstruction includes design of several public platforms for nature, commercial, cultural and entertainment activities which could be used by city residents and guests all year around.

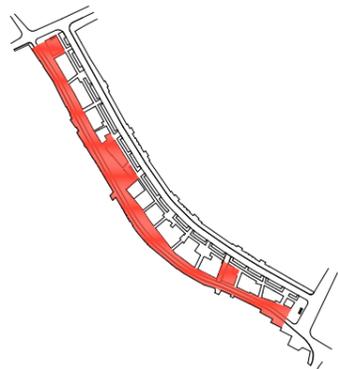
The new transport scheme is concentrated on minimizing transport traffic and giving the priority to sustainable mobility.



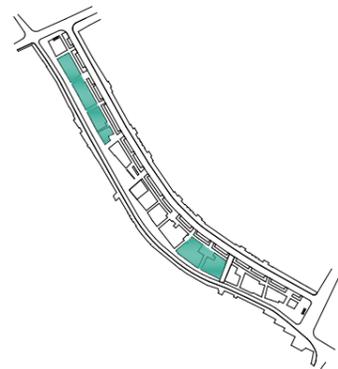
FOUNDATION BOUNDARIES OF EAST FACADE



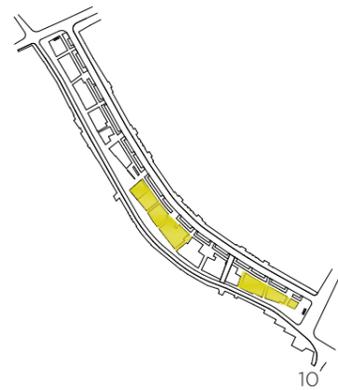
RECREATION OF HISTORICAL STREET NODES



COMMERCIAL ACCESS



GREENERIES



SQUARES



FUNCTIONAL SCHEME

The main aim is to recreate the vitality of Vokiečių street by developing functional diversity in a representative city square. In this way, we propose several public platforms for nature, commercial, cultural and entertainment activities which could be used by city residents and guests all year around.

Through all territory these public functions are enriched with unique design solutions which are supplemented by innovative architectural principles of the XXI century, yet correspond to daily needs of people habits and city needs in these days.

All public spaces provide comfortable and safe atmosphere, support local businesses and interact with existing functions in adjacent buildings.



East facade of Vokiečių street with underlined "Europa" hotel - the highest building of Vilnius at that time.



View to "Europa" hotel from Vilnius street.



Photomontage of abandoned "Europa" hotel and present street view.

"EUROPA" BUILDING FRAGMENT

The building which stood in the intersection between Vokiečių and Dominikonų streets could be remembered as "Europa" hotel. Built in 1800, this commercial building was famous for its spatial organisation, great restaurants and was visited by the richest and most influential people of that time. The most important feature of "Europa" is that it was the highest building in Vilnius in XIX century.

In our proposal we recreate a fragment of "Europa" to mark the significant street corner, define the boundaries of Vokiečių street. The corner facade becomes an observation point, opening panoramas Vilnius Old Town.



Fragment of Vilnius Old Town from XIX century plan. Bold line marks the width of Vokiečių street before demolition.



View to the intersection of Šv. Mikalojaus and Vokiečių streets. (XIX century).

STREET NODES

The intersection of Vokiečių and Sinagogos streets had a unique street junction visible not only from the plan but also from the old photographs.

This detail is marked in our design proposal as one of the most important urban node, defining the old image of Vokiečių street.

The height and rhythm of the previous buildings are used to create the scale of the demolished street.



Šv. Mikalojaus street

Vilnius City plan from XVI century, with public water well (underlined).

WATER RECOGNITION

Current fountain position initiated a deeper research into Vokiečių street. Apparently, the meaning of water placement in the middle of Vokiečių street leads back to the XVI century to one of the Vilnius Old Town fragments. In the map of F. Hogenberg we can notice that in front of Šv. Mikalojaus street public water well was placed.

In this way, we encourage the intersection between Šv. Mikalojaus and Vokiečių streets to highlight the water. To make water more integrated into daily activities in Vokiečių street, the appearance of water fountain is changed from static monofunctional sculpture into a diverse, unexpected and dynamic platform, where water plays the main role.

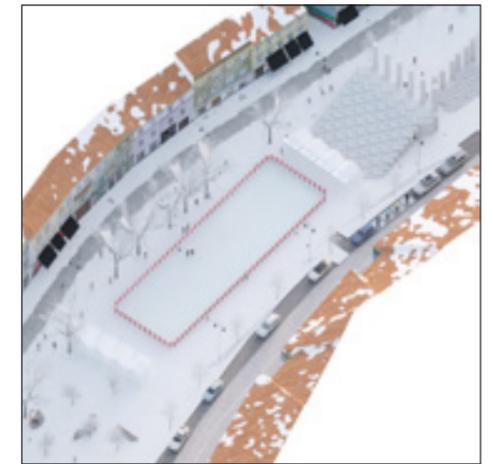
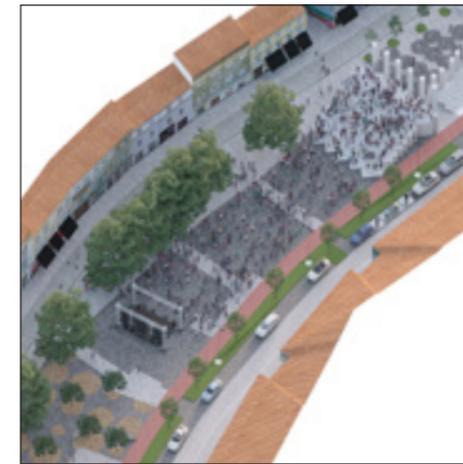
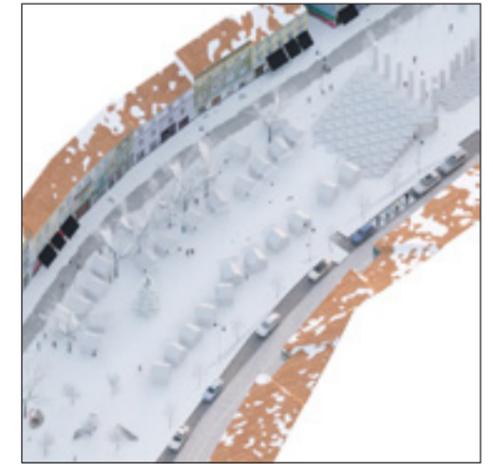
Herewith, the water fountain expands its boundaries and becomes a part of the pavement, only visible when active. When not in use, the fountain disappears and acts as a public square suitable for various public activities.



SCULPTURE PARK

The art piece made by Lithuanian sculptor Vladas Vildžiūnas "Barbora" stands in front of Mėsinių street. In Vokiečių street it is placed in the middle of the walking path and interrupts the main movement trajectory.

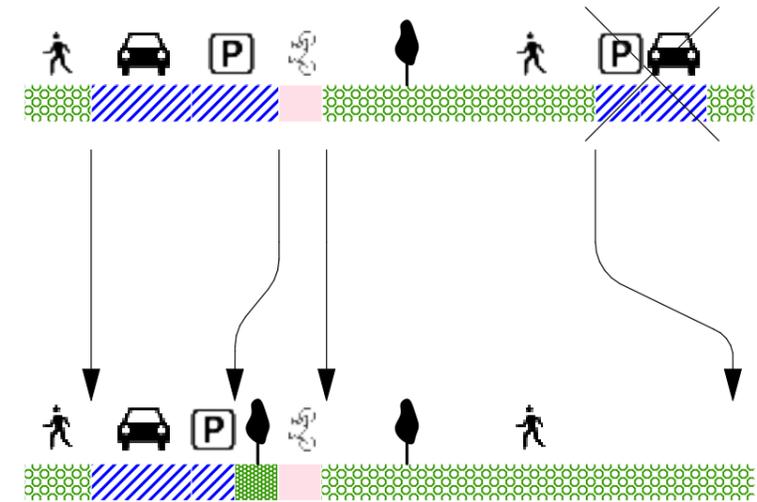
Even the location for the sculpture was chosen randomly, the art piece is integrated into the new design of public space. Barbora is pushed closer to Contemporary Art Center and is accompanied by other sculptures of CAC in the common area designated for art and culture.



USE IN DIFFERENT SEASONS

Even the whole territory could be used all year round, one of the most significant multifunctional elements in new development scheme is the main square with amphitheatre. It serves as one of the biggest people gathering spaces and is principally meant for city festivals.

This public space could function as a trade platform during Kaziuko and Christmas fair; stage for various concerts; ice-skating plaza in winter time and many others.



TRANSPORT CONCEPT

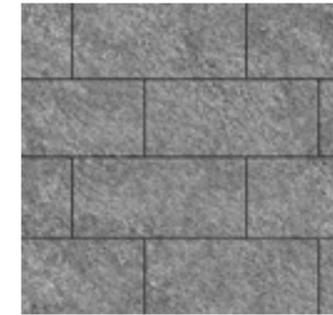
The new transport scheme is concentrated on minimizing transport traffic and giving the priority to sustainable mobility.

Main transport traffic is organized along the newer part of Vokiečių street, where the street is narrowed to minimal 6 meters width suitable for two-lanes mobility. Parking spaces are situated in parallel to the street and are reduced to minimal quantity, giving the priority for disabled and electric cars.

The older part of Vokiečių street is narrowed to 4 meters, removing current car parking and traffic, giving full access for pedestrians. However, car access along this part of the street is permitted for residents and service staff only.

Talking more about sustainable mobility, separated two-lanes bicycle path is planned along the main transport traffic between parking and main public spaces. To ensure safe and pleasant ride, bicycle path is isolated with greenery lane spreading all way along.

Bus stops remain in previous positions and are placed in front of Salomeja Neris Gymnazium sports hall and City Hall.

MARGASPALVIS GRANITAS
MULTICOLORED GRANITETAMSAI PILKAS GRANITAS
DARK GREY GRANITERAUSVAS ASFALTAS
RED ASPHALTTAMSAI PILKAS GRANITAS
DARK GREY GRANITEŠVIESIAI PILKAS GRANITAS
LIGHT GREY GRANITESKALDA
GRAVEL

PAVEMENT

The palette for all hard surfaces is taken from other newly renovated streets of Vilnius Old Town, such as Didžioji Street and Vilnius Street, to maintain the continuity in style and materiality, ensure durability and longevity. Valuable historical pavement, such as multicolored granite stones, is preserved.

Therefore, all sidewalks are refurbished with light grey granite stone paving. Asphalt cover along the newer part of Vokiečių Street is replaced with dark grey granite stone pavement. Historical surface along older part of Vokiečių Street is reformed with the same multicolored granite stone, new water gutters from darker grey granite stone envelope the road from both sides. Cycling lanes are covered with smooth red asphalt cover suitable for bikes or scooters.

Talking more about surfaces used in public spaces, same light and dark granite stone pavements are used for convenient movement of pedestrians and wheelchair users.

In some of the green spaces, reddish gravel is used instead of grass to encourage free movement around the trees.





GREENERIES

Whole territory is enriched with various types of street plants, shrubs and trees to make street atmosphere cozier and diverse through all year. They are used to divide people traffic and functional zones, as well as to provide more spaces for exploration and relaxation in the city.

Most of the existing trees are preserved in the same locations, their soil beds are enlarged to 1 meter in diameter. In addition, more trees - limes and birches - are planted along the streets and inside public spaces to define and divide functional organisation of various activities held in the whole area.



LIGHTING

The territory is enlightened with the old lighting posts which envelope the whole public space from both sides. These 9 meters height gas street lamps provide lighting for both older and newer street parts and illuminate a path for pedestrians, cyclists, cars and other street users.

Due to modification of street profiles and current situation of existing trees, their position has been altered. Along the newer part of Vokiečių Street lighting posts has been pushed in the green buffer zone between parking and cycling lanes. In the older part of Vokiečių street light posts are pushed away from existing trees to cast less shadow and ensure security and wellbeing of trees.

To illuminate the environment inside public spaces, smaller portable light sources are placed in the plants and trees.

