



INTERNATIONAL OPEN ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT COMPETITION OF THE BUILDING COMPLEX OF JONUŠAS RADVILA PALACE AND IT'S APPROACHES AT VILNIUS G. 24

EXPLANATORY NOTE

2021



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PRESENT SITUATION

Although located at the heart of the capital's old town, Grand gate that was once welcoming into this royal construction the Radvila Palace hardly resembles the powerful, proud structure it once was. The stylistics of the building are easily lost among the quickly renewing and growing surroundings where cafes and antique bars buzz with city life. This is in part due to the impractical use of the occupying space where, rather than inviting bypassing visitors, the area hosts a busy parking lot drawing attention away from the historical building. The Radvila Palace had experienced many wounds and has undergone many various re-constructions and mutations since its initial construction and it led to various mixtures of styles over its history. After several restoration periods during the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, the Palace lost some of its focus features as well as parts of the building itself, though some parts of it were rebuilt during a later reconstruction period in 1968, so as to create stylistic continuity, consequently creating an almost historical mutant that shares uninhabitable landscape areas for the public.

As the Radvila Palace is currently under the protection and ownership of the Lithuanian Arts Museum, it tends to host various expositions and exhibitions where art pieces are required to be transported to and from the area. However, the current construction of the Palace is hardly supportive of these transportations and could potentially even be harmful. Given certain art pieces require specific temperatures and/or spaces they are supposed to be transported through so as to not harm the art, there is very limited availability currently for vehicles to access the Radvila Palace and its hosted exhibition spaces due to various blockages of the space such as the parking lot and its traffic. Furthermore, the space is unsuited for art pieces of varying dimensions and measurements, as the spaces are very fixed in size internally, as well as unsupportive of such transportations externally.

However, not all of the Radvila Palace's allure and draw is visible or explored on ground where it is accessible to the city population- a large and extraordinary part also lies below the surface, where, once prominent underground construction and cellars, are now covered in dust and completely inaccessible to visitors.

Sharp contrast can be sensed between the ancient construction and its looming historical intricacy, as opposed to the loose and lively city life just next door. As Vilnius has grown and evolved as a city along with its inhabitants, it is crucial to consider the population's diversity and the importance of inclusivity. As the Radvila Palace currently stands, there is very limited access for people with disabilities, as well as limited areas for interactive spaces for the younger population. It is crucial museums and places of cultural significance host and engage all members of the population, especially with the rapid urbanisation of Lithuania as a country, so as to educate all visitors- young and old- about the rich history of the construction as well as its cultural and architectural significance. Creating an interactive and accessible space to all is a priority in reconstructing the forgotten Radvila Palace and, once again, inviting visitors to turn this area into a culturally buzzing and lively heart of Vilnius it once was.



Main objectives

Main objectives of the design are :

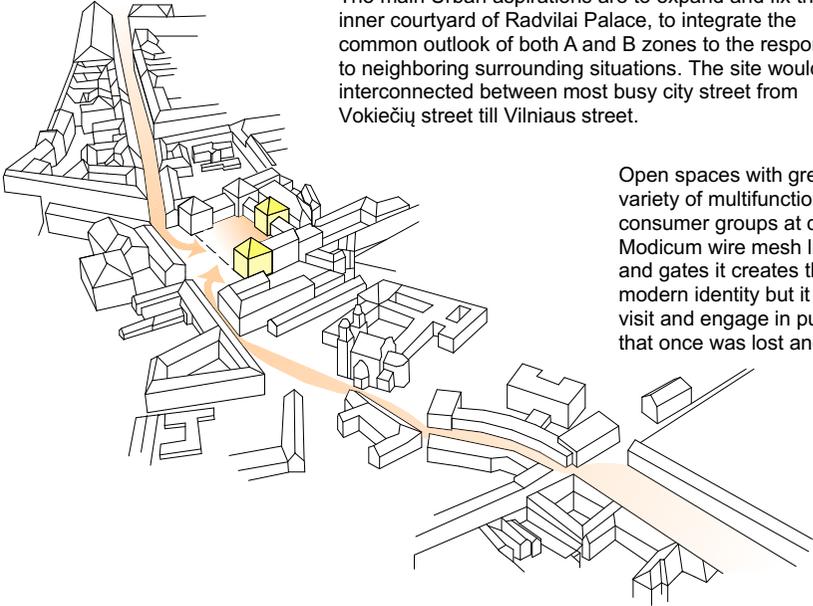
1. Manage B zone, with the intention to open it up to the public use, provide more multifunctional qualities to the space, and connect it to the main courtyard of the Radvila Palace Complex. By that, we intend to develop the comfortable and sufficient infrastructure, for the public and museum management use, create the public realm, according to the character of the old town and provide a connection to the existing city canvas.
2. Renovate the Radvila Palace complex and inner courtyard, by creating a new landmark, while preserving the authentic look of the palace, and designing a courtyard with the various zones for different activities during all seasons of the year.
3. Renovating and redesigning all the palace complex to enhance connection between all the existing volumes and intermediate courtyards.
4. Expand function of the museum more to the community use - with the intention to attract people to the museum territory not only for the excursions, but for the educational and various cultural occasion.

To fulfill the main objectives, were created various opened spaces, through out the museum territory, that vary in the character and function. On the site there are the multipurpose amphitheatre, that can host a concert, exhibitions or workshops, zone covered with a shed, that can be used as an outside meeting place during the rainy and snowy season, and small courtyard for the cafes and small local business attraction points.

The terraces are also created on the roofs of the intermediate volumes, to provide variety of the opened spaces for the museum users - as the rest spot during the excursion tours or presentations.

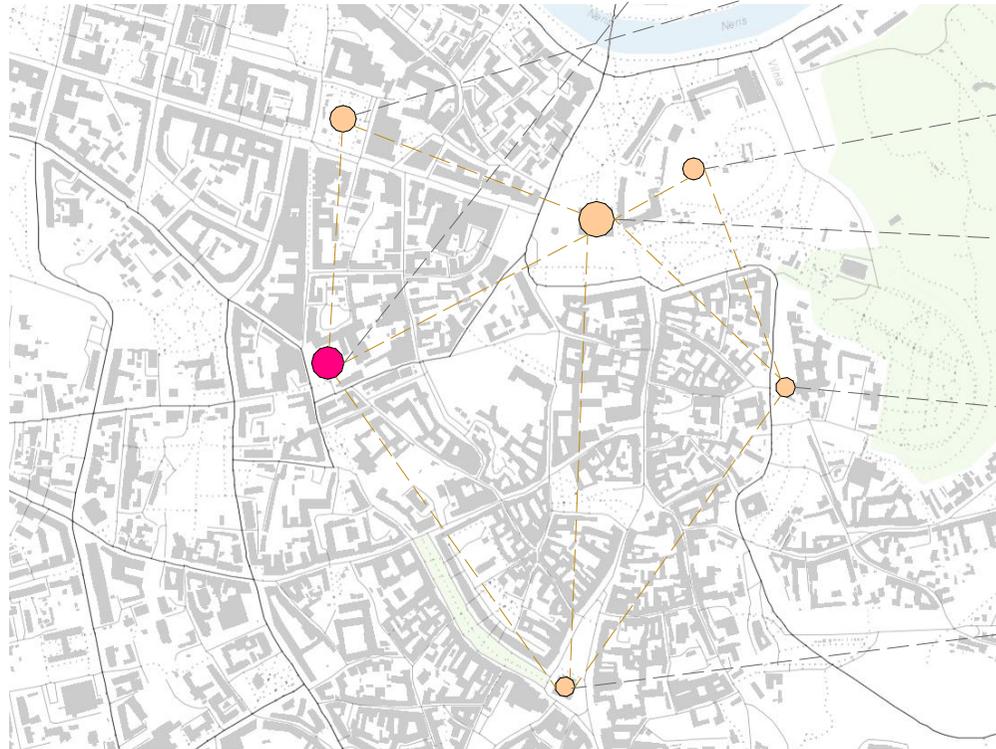
URBAN IDEA

The main Urban aspirations are to expand and fix the inner courtyard of Radvilai Palace, to integrate the common outlook of both A and B zones to the response to neighboring surrounding situations. The site would be interconnected between most busy city street from Vokiečių street till Vilniaus street.



Open spaces with green gardens for various events that are adapted to a wide variety of multifunctional activities will create a cultural Fireplace attracting wider consumer groups at different times of the day. By creating significant element Modicum wire mesh lighting effect that symbolize once stranded Radvilai towers and gates it creates the original shape of Radvilai palace and not only it creates modern identity but it also becomes as a lantern of the city center that invites to visit and engage in public active functions. Radvilai Palace Regains exposure that once was lost and becoming one of the landmarks of Vilnius city center.

LANDMARK



Architectural idea

To combine authenticity, modernity and Radivilu relationship with egzotics, not fully recreate the building that once was lost but by giving it modern identity review the structures as a symbolical aspect. Creating contrast between the historical character of the palace and the spirit of today, enhancing authentional details that survived. Creating museum spaces for traditional and nontraditional art pieces from all over the world. The art pieces like Aboregen art from Australia and Okianija or Old European art will have spaces that are fully adapted to many dimensional art pieces. For Radvilu family was Important children education that why our high aspiration is to highlight museum orientation toward different age groups with many multifunctional spaces adapted to many different educational programs and activities.

Interest aspect of modern art galery interior is to Display of the old palace walls. found during the archeological research.

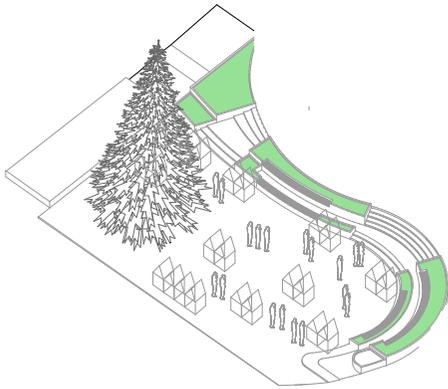
Exterior solution will be taken to recreate an impression of previous look of the palace but with more modern and innovative way. Using wiremesh technique Not only do these architectural objects will showcase the intricate and elaborate design of the towers and gateways through recreating their original details, they also retain a substantial lightness through their airy design, reminding viewers of the reality of the current space and the effects of time on the Radvila Palace. Despite the openness of the structures, they will fully allow visitors to walk around internally as if they were there in the bounds of history, as well as hosting warm cultural cafes and bars to conform to the lively city-scape downstairs.



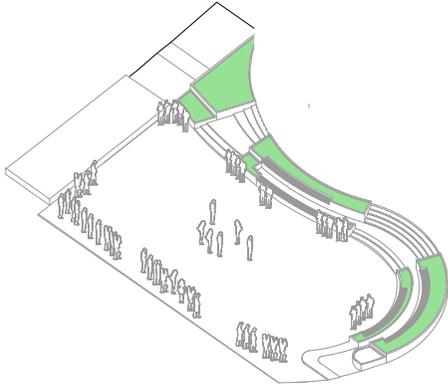
Functional layout of the spaces to be occupied by the designed complex

Multifunctional amfiteatre plaza can be used for various multifunctional activities, from concert to outside gallery courses for children and people who want to educate. Outside theatre for young artists and talesnts and i Winter it can appear as place where Christmas tree will be placed.

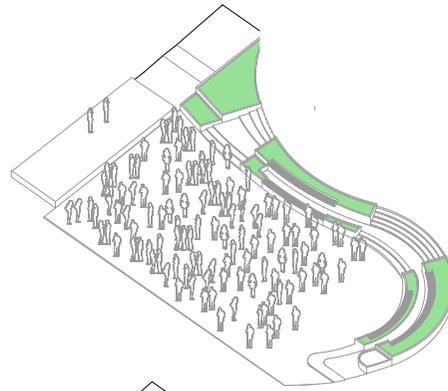
Usage of the plaza



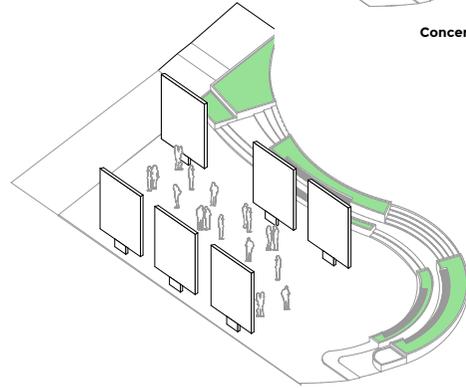
Winter celebration



Outside theatre



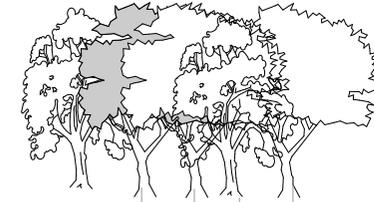
Concert



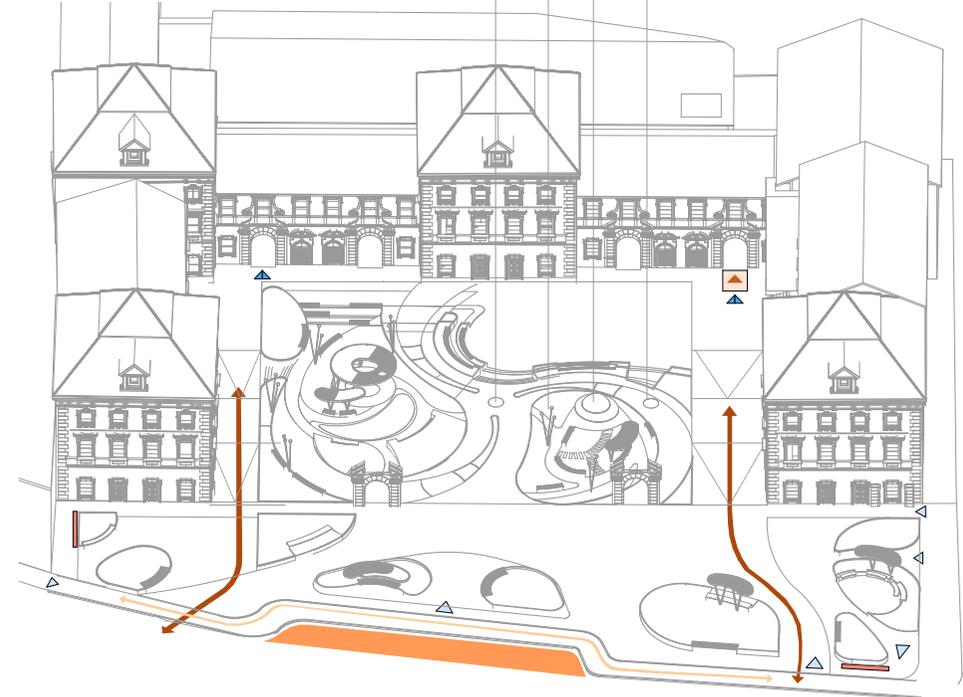
Outside gallery

Solutions for pedestrians, non-motorised transport, traffic circulation and parking

All areas are managed by the Universal design principles. Movement of the non-motorised vehicles is ensured by creating the pathway for the bicycle transport and the bicycle parking, a bus stop is planned.



Transportation scheme



- Bus stop
- Bike stop
- Bike road
- Truck road
- Truck parking
- Place of mounting transportation sleeve
- Pedestriann access to the site
- Workers access

The concept of the pavement /coatings proposed for the Competition territory, the site and its approaches. Description of the material solutions for the coatings, preferably, providing visual analogues

Pavement design concept follows the main characteristic of the Vilnius Old Town - pavement of the small scale. There are 3 types of the pavement in the site that are managed according to the design : The darkest pavement (1) is selected to emphasize the main concept of the square - the sign of Radvila Family. Lighter pavement (2) is used in the surfaces of the square, as it should underline the squared shape of the square, making it more readable .

The plantations and greenery grouping solutions proposed for the Competition territory, the site and its approaches. A conceptual landscaping scheme can be provided

In the designed site there is a lot of greenery used, so it was chosen with the account to the weather conditions of Lithuania, and it's changing seasons. As the idea of the courtyard design was to recreate the initially planned garden, the plants were selected to emphasize characteristic garden outlook.

The aim of the design was to preserve all the trees on the both A and B zones, as they are important for the city center microclimate. The trees in zone A play a special role in the design, separating the square on the 2 functional zones - the one with amphitheatre and square for the various concerts and events, and the other with the more informal and welcoming garden.

Botany and the Radvila Family

Although often preoccupied with more royal current affairs, the Radvila family cultivated a deep affinity for multiculturalism and an exotic botanical taste. As to connect to the designs of the Palace, we have chosen plants that visually and aesthetically convey royalty- this will not only draw the attention of onlookers and invite them to once again repopulate the Radvila main square where the colourful blooms grow. Additionally, historically Vilnius is a multi-cultural city- just like the composition of the Radvila family, which we echoed in our concept for the exterior gardens. This collection of plants and flowers are gathered from around Europe, from Lithuania, as well as making sure they are adapted to the specific weather conditions given this bioclimate. We explored the multiseasonality of our greenery, a way to continue the beauty of the garden depending on the season and watch the colours merge into new combinations with changing conditions. Through this we create a sense of eternity, infinity, of continuing cycles and immortality, just like the history and architecture of the Radvila Palace.

Lilac Plant



The warm scent of Lilac blooms during spring and summer seasons will draw onlookers to explore the impressive architecture of the Radvila Palace as well as providing a soft, colourful completion in terms of the greenery.

Mardi Gras' Glossy Abelia



Changing color over the passing seasons, 'Mardi Gras' is a compact, low growing, spreading, semi-evergreen shrub. On pink to red stems, its glossy oval leaves emerge bright pink in spring, mature to sparkling creamy white and green as the season progresses before taking on coppery shades in the fall. In late spring, an abundance of shell pink, slightly fragrant flowers covers the entire bush until early fall. This way the plant is supportive of all seasons and has special coloration and allure during all times of year, drawing in a warm garden atmosphere.

Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*)



The deeply red and orange coloration of these flowers gives and incredibly royal aesthetic to the garden as well as highlighting the architecture and history of the Palace. It is an easily maintained plant that can withstand extreme temperature fluctuations and is a perennial flower, meaning it will not need re-planting and will easily be kept from year to year.

Hydrangea (Hortensia)



As well as the beautiful coloration of ever-changing blooms, the Hydrangea provides a bush-like structure to the garden and square areas which is crucial in our architecture.

Landscaping solutions

Lighting solutions proposed for the competition area – the site and its approaches;

Wiremesh Towers will create a mysterious and historical atmosphere at the same time providing a light source. By providing modicum wire lighting it will appear as an attraction point for people at night.

Lightning

An important feature of the design proposal is its suitability for the different seasons in Lithuania, so we paid special attention to the lighting system of the complex. As in the winter time it gets dark early, to create a friendly and safe environment, the space should be light enough.

Lightning system is composed out of such elements :

1. Lightning under the benches, so in the darker time of the year people would feel more safe when sitting in the light up space.
2. Lightning montated into the pathway , that would light up the contour of the main shape of the square - sign of the Radvila Family.
3. Vertical lightning
4. LED lightning montataed under the pathways.



Use of essential green/sustainable solutions offered in the Competition territory, the site and its approaches, conceptual engineering solutions (if any);

ENERGY / WASTE / WATER / AIR / SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY / CLIMATE ADAPTION

As a cultural and educational building, radvilai should lead as an example of enhancing innovation and green solutions.

Rain garden

The aim of the technology is to use the plants and soil to clear water after snow and rain that can be contaminated with various salts and particles by filtration through the soil. Later the filtered water can be collected and used for watering the plants or other museum needs.

Water irrigation

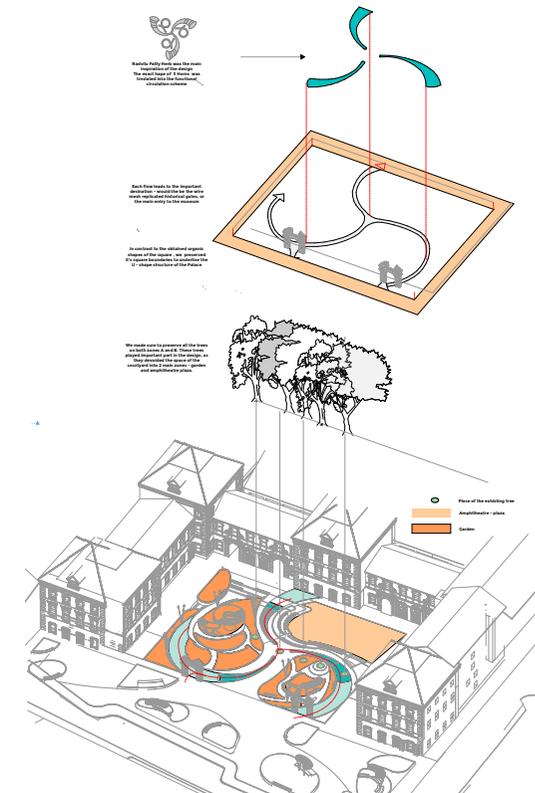
As there is a lot of greenery in the designed site, we propose to use the irrigation system of watering, as it avoids usage of the excessive water.

Sun batteries on the roof

Roof of the sports arena that is located beside the Palace has a sufficient area and ____ Orientation. We designed Solar batteries on the roof, as they would be not visible for the visitors but may cover part of the electricity demand of the complex.

The proposed small-scale architectural solutions in the Competition territory, the site and its approaches

Pavilions will provide possibility to spectate nature during all seasons and will increase spectrum of outside activities



The conformity of the Competition territory and the site and its approaches with the principles of universal design;

All site are in compliance with the principle of universal design adapted to easy circulation of people with special needs.

Description of the solutions of the designed complex:

Functional layout of the building complex; Reunite all radvilai volumes creating integral circulation between all museum spaces.

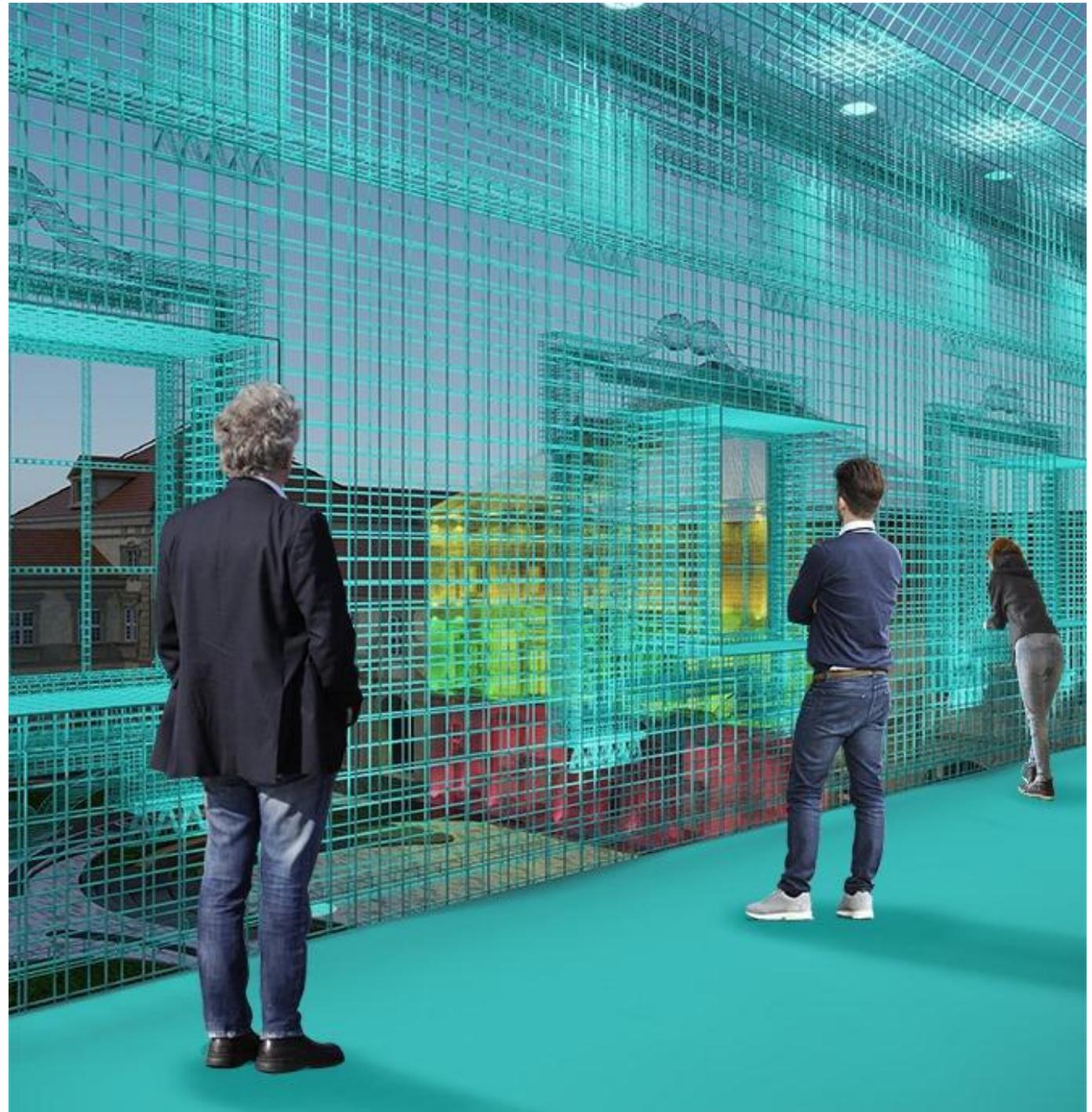
Description of solutions for the movement and distribution of visitors and staff of the building complex. Conceptual schemes can be provided;

Well connected spaces will create circulations of people towards many different museum activities, from non traditional/tradisional art pieces to modern and visual art gallery and at the same time having possibility to participate in various activities in multifunctional spaces.

Materials of the building complex;

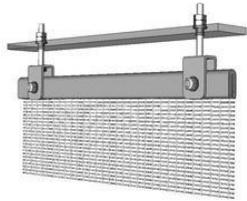
The missing towers are completed with the wire mesh material, that is a special technique of montaging the wires to create the transparent "ghost" outlook of the facade.

Central tower will be composed out of glass, on top of which later will be applied wire mesh, mimicking the originally designed tower.

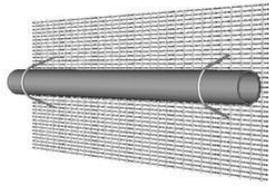


Structural characteristics

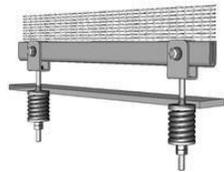
Technology used for the facade design solution is called "WireMesh" - montage of the lightweight metal plates on the existing structure, that creates a light and transparent look. In our case, the Wire Mesh facade of the central pavilion will be montaging into the construction of the projected volume, while the construction of the South Volume would be mounted on the structure of the viewing tower, that will be inside the wire mesh.



Top Mounting Wire Mesh



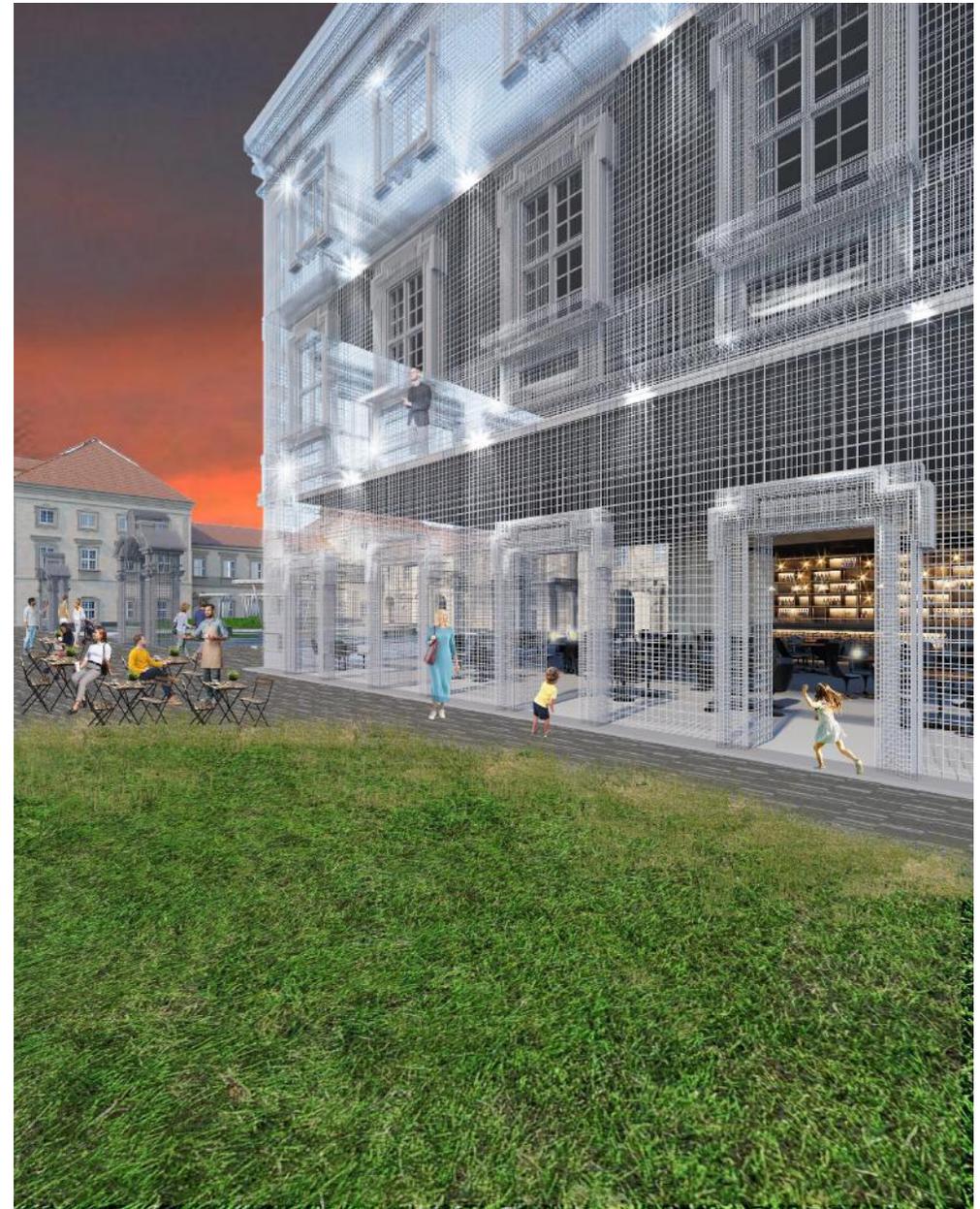
Intermediate Mounting Wire Mesh



Bottom Mounting Wire Mesh

Montaging of the Wire Mesh to the structure of the facade.

Volume inside the wire mesh in the central pavilion will be build with the carcasse construction with the curtain wall glass facade. We chose glass facade for that volume, beacuse as it will be covered with the "wire mesh", glass will not be visible, but it will enhance the feeling of "lightness" of the facade, as well as would give visitors an opportunity to see Wire mesh from inside too.



Pavement design

Pavement design

To connect with the old city, we chose the pavement of the smaller scale, while combining them by the principle of the contrast of the textures - we combined flat tiles with the rougher texture. Placement of the particular plates are influenced by the zone, in which they are used too. Flat plates are used in the active transit zones, as they are the most comfortable for walking, and in the zones that are used for the rest and sitting, there is rougher pavement.

Contrast in the textures plays important role in the accentuating main idea of the square too; as the major paved area of the square is released from the white plates, the Horns of the Radvilu Sign family are realised also from the darker and rougher pavement to make them more legible and visible.

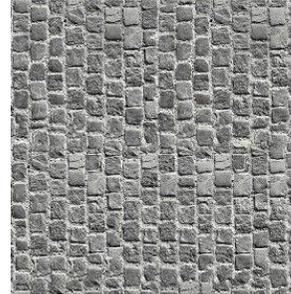


To accentuate the shape of the square we used the contrast between the dark and white plates. Darker plates are used in the B zone and around the urban square, while inside the urban square are used white plates.

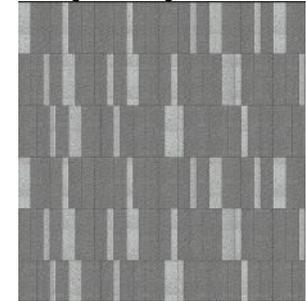
Pavement used in the B zone:

Flat plates

Zoning - pavement used in sitting zones

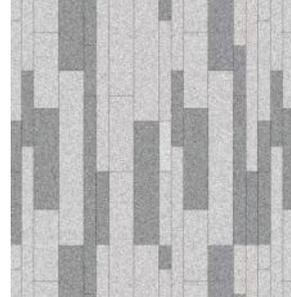


Zoning - walking zones

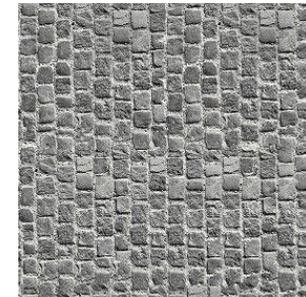


Pavements used in the A zone :

Accent - background of the sign



Accent on the site



A BLOKAS
Bendras plotas ~3400m²

Sklypo plotas 8028m²
Užstatymo plotas 4720m²
Užstatymo intensyvumas 1,7
Užstatymo tankis 0,76
Bendras plotas 10543m²

B BLOKAS
Bendras plotas ~3158m²

C BLOKAS
Bendras plotas ~1800m²

E BLOKAS
Bendras plotas 1435m²

D BLOKAS
Bendras plotas ~750m²

