

# Experimental Puppetry Arts Center

## A Fusion of Architecture and Theatricality

### Introduction:

The proposed Puppet Art Center in Bulgaria aims to create a unique and visually captivating space that celebrates the art of puppetry. This project embodies the essence of puppetry through its design, materials, and functionality. By incorporating elements such as hanging wires, a curtain-shaped roof, elevated structure, and a focus on illusion and transparency, the center seeks to provide an immersive experience for both artists and visitors. In this article, we will delve into the key ideas and features of this groundbreaking project.

### 1. Floating Architectural Elements and Hanging Wires:

The design concept of the Puppet Art Center revolves around the imagery of ropes, which are an integral part of puppetry. The building's exterior gives the impression of a floating of several separate architecture elements seemingly suspended from wires. This design choice not only pays homage to the art form but also creates a visually dynamic facade that captures the attention of passersby.

### 2. Curtain-Shaped Roof:

The roof of the center takes on the shape of a curtain, symbolizing the theatrical aspect of puppetry. This design element serves as a visual representation of the connection between the art center and traditional theater. It also hints at the anticipation and excitement that arises when a curtain is about to rise, signaling the beginning of a performance.

### 3. Elevated Structure and Ground Floor Plaza:

By elevating the main structure, the Puppet Art Center achieves a sense of weightiness while simultaneously creating space for an open-air theater plaza on the ground floor. This plaza serves as a gathering space for outdoor performances and events, allowing the center to engage with the surrounding community and foster a sense of inclusivity.

### 4. Materiality: Color and Texture:

In order to integrate seamlessly with the existing buildings in the area, the Puppet Art Center adopts a similar color palette and texture. By doing so, it maintains a harmonious relationship with its surroundings while still standing out as a distinct

architectural landmark. The careful selection of materials ensures that the center becomes an integral part of the urban fabric.

### 5. Illusion and Transparency:

The theme of illusion and transparency is at the heart of the Puppet Art Center. By incorporating elements such as glass walls and open spaces, the building creates an immersive experience for visitors. The use of transparency allows glimpses into the inner workings of the center, giving visitors a behind-the-scenes look at the art of puppetry and enhancing their overall experience.

### 6. Multifunctional Main Hall and Four-Directional Operation

The main hall of the center is designed to be multifunctional, accommodating a variety of performances and events. To ensure flexibility and control over lighting conditions, double-glazed glass and curtains are used to cover the main hall. This allows for the manipulation of light and darkness, creating different atmospheres as required by each performance.

The main hall operates in four different directions, allowing for performances to take place from multiple angles. Each side of the hall can be transformed into a stage, providing versatility for various types of puppetry performances. Additionally, a northern side of the main hall features a balcony, providing an elevated space for specific events and offering a unique perspective for both artists and visitors.

### 7. Stairs as Buffer Zone:

The design incorporates stairs as a buffer zone between the street and the internal part of the building. This decision provides a strong dialogue with the surrounding cityscape. The stairs serve as a transition space, connecting the exterior and interior while maintaining a sense of privacy and tranquility within the art center.

### Conclusion:

The proposed Puppet Art Center in Stara Zagora is a fusion of architecture and theatricality. Through its design elements, materials, and functionality, it aims to create an immersive and visually captivating space that celebrates the art of puppetry. By incorporating the imagery of ropes, a curtain-shaped roof, elevated structure, illusion and transparency, and a multifunctional main hall, the center promises to be a landmark that not only attracts visitors but also engages with the surrounding community.

<b>A.2. Welcome Desk and Box-Office</b>	35.89 m2
<b>A.3. Storage space for the Welcome Desk and Box Office</b>	3.64 m2
<b>A.4. Cloakroom</b>	3.64 m2
<b>A.5. Restrooms</b>	37.97 m2
<b>A.6. Cafeteria &amp; Bar</b>	7.11 m2
<b>A.7. Storage for Cafeteria &amp; Bar</b>	6.83 m2

<b>B.1. Main performance hall</b>	286.90 m2
<b>B.2. Wings</b>	5.44 m2
<b>B.3. Storage</b>	3.64 m2
<b>B.4. Sound and light boxes</b>	22.65 m2
<b>B.5. Technical booth</b>	22.65 m2

<b>C.1. Dressing rooms</b>	58.96 m2
<b>C.2. Offstage restrooms for the actors</b>	24 m2
<b>C.3. Rehearsal space</b>	150.27 m2
<b>C.4. Administration</b>	55.80 m2
<b>C.5. Residential block</b>	63.25 m2
<b>C.6. Heater room</b>	31.97 m2
<b>C.7. Toilets</b>	11.45 m2

D. Yard	572.971 m2
E. Warehouse	504.802 m2
F. Parking lot	74.410 m2

Building density (elevation+0.00)	$1348.072/854.199= 1.57$ $1.57*100 = 157\%$
total built-up area	2067.217 M2
total landscaping area within the boundaries of the plot and building	572.971 m2
estimated cost of implementation of the project	Average \$2000 per square meter

## Cost

**Construction costs:** The cost of constructing a building can vary significantly depending on the local construction market. On average, construction costs can range from \$1000 to \$3000 per square meter. So, for a 1348 sqm building, the construction costs could range from 1,348,000 to 4,044,000 euro.

**Architectural and engineering fees:** These fees typically range from 5% to 15% of the total construction costs. So, for a building with construction costs of 1,348,000 euro to 4,044,000 euro, architectural and engineering fees could range from 67,200 to 604,800 euro.

**Permits and approvals:** It is recommended to consult with local authorities to determine the applicable fees.

**Interior furnishings and equipment:** The cost of furnishing and equipping the art center will depend on the desired level of quality and functionality.

**Landscaping:** It is recommended to consult with landscaping professionals to obtain accurate cost estimates.

**Ongoing operational expenses:** These expenses include utilities, maintenance, staffing, and other operational costs. It is essential to consider these expenses when planning the budget for the art center.

- Please note that these estimates are rough and should be used as a starting point.