

International Architectural Competition
Experimental Puppetry Arts Centre
Stara Zagora

SPOTLIGHTS

Response To Urban Context, Noise Prevention Strategy

The site of Experimental Puppetry Arts Centre (EPAC) is located in the center of Stara Zagora, next to the city's ideal center. Considering the main traffic and public transportation are along the Gurko Street, the main entrance is located on this side for visitors' easy access. The service entrance is placed on Tzar Ivan Assen II Street for the convenience of loading. In addition, the entrance of outdoor performance venue and the café courtyard is also located on Tzar Ivan Assen II Street. This allows café shop to be operated independently. Regarding the noise prevention, in addition to the double wall soundproofing of the performance hall, the outdoor performance venue is layout in the courtyard between Arts Centre and the school on the south side. This shields the sound from the residential area during the performance to prevent noise impact the residential area on the north and west side.

The Integration Of The Existing Theatre Façade And The Uniqueness Of The Façade Inspired By The Stage Curtains And Spotlights.

The new façade of EPAC design is based on the analysis of the existing theater's façade, including, proportions, opening guidelines and colors...etc. so that it can be seamlessly integrated into the existing theater and the surrounding urban environment. Inspired by the spotlights and curtains of the performance theater stage, the façade uses external aluminum strips to simulate an abstract effect. In addition, by using the principle of Moire Effect, people walking on the street can feel the change of circular patterns on façade, just like the moving and flashing of the stage spotlights during the performance.

Flexible And Multi-Functional Spaces With Integration Of Bulgarian Culture

The floors of entry zone, main hall and outdoor yard are designed to the same heights, so that the interior and exterior can be integrated into one large coherent space. The retractable acoustic partitions can also be adjusted according to varies program to create suitable sizes of spaces. In addition, the entrance hall is equipped with a lift platform, which can be used as a performing stage, audience seating, and be able to transport large props from the basement, making the use of space in the theater more flexible and versatile. On the interior walls of the main hall, Bulgarian motifs are designed as the acoustic board pattern, allowing the traditional culture to be integrated within the modern building as well.

Preservation Of Existing Trees And Connections To The Original Theatre

To preserve as much of the existing trees as possible, the new EPAC is placed on the northwest side of the site, which allows for the efficient use of the largest open space. This results only one tree to be relocated. The other preserved trees become a beautiful landscape setting of the courtyard and can be perfectly integrated with the performance seating and coffee lounge area. In order to keep the interior convenient access between the old and new buildings, the first floors are kept at the same height, and set stairs and passages at the intersection of the old and new buildings to integrate theatre's multiple entrances and egress systems.

| ECONOMIC & TECHNICAL DATA / CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATION | | | | |
|--|---------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| | PROGRAM | | PROPOSED | |
| LAND AREA | 2100 | m ² | 2100 | m ² |
| EXISTING BUILDING BUILT-UP AREA | 571 | m ² | 571 | m ² |
| | | | | |
| BUILT-UP AREA OF SITE | 886 | m ² | 590 | m ² |
| BUILT-UP AREA SUGGESTED | 600 | m ² | 590 | m ² |
| TOTAL BUILDING QUATERATURE AREA | | m ² | 1963 | m ² |
| ABOVE GROUND CONSTRUCTION AREA | 1344.9 | m ² | 1343 | m ² |
| UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION AREA | N/A | m ² | 620 | m ² |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL BUILDING COVERAGE RATIO | 69.4 | % | 55.3 | % |
| BUILDING HEIGHT | <18 | m | 16 | m |
| GREEN AREA RATIO | 30.6 | % | 44.7 | % |
| GREEN AREA | 643 | m ² | 939 | m ² |
| | | | | |
| PROGRAM AREAS | | | | |
| A. ENTRANCE ZONE | 200 | m ² | 230 | m ² |
| B. MAIN HALL | 355-365 | m ² | 360 | m ² |
| C. OFFSTAGE STAGE | 331 | m ² | 340 | m ² |
| D. YARD | N/A | m ² | 300 | m ² |
| E. WAREHOUSE | 600 | m ² | 600 | m ² |
| F. PARKING LOT | ≤200 | m ² | 120 | m ² |
| | | | | |
| CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATION | | | 2216140 | |
| BUILDING STRUCTURE AND FAÇADE | 1000 | €/m ² | 1344900 | |
| INTERIOR AND EQUIPMENT (Stage Equipment Excluded) | 600 | €/m ² | 806940 | |
| LANDSCAPE | 100 | €/m ² | 64300 | |