

The design of the Experimental Puppetry Arts Centre (EPAC) in Stara Zagora aims to create a dynamic hub that enhances both the cultural vibrancy of the neighborhood and the city as a whole, while envisioning an iconic and welcoming space for performances.

The concept proposes a building that evoke a stage that blurs the boundaries between indoor and outdoor through a flexible central hall and open sky terraces. The main functions will be allocated in two volumes, with a central wayfinding system facilitating connections and ensuring safety. Moreover the envelope is permeable, reminiscent of a stage curtain, thus inviting visitors to enter.

The volume of the building takes inspiration from the archetypal puppet architecture in terms of shape and colors, providing flexible spaces for performances, rehearsal studios, and workshops that can accommodate a wide range of theatrical productions. These spaces will be adaptable, supporting various stage configurations, lighting setups, and audiovisual requirements, ensuring optimal conditions for creativity and experimentation.

The spaces within the EPAC will include black box theaters, a main stage auditorium, exhibition areas, and collaborative workspaces.

The layout will prioritize ease of navigation and accessibility, ensuring smooth circulation and clear wayfinding throughout the facility. The interior spaces will feature comfortable seating, acoustically optimized environments, and ample natural light to enhance the overall experience for artists and audiences alike: a memorable space. In terms of sustainability, the design will incorporate innovative building technologies, such as energy-efficient systems and photovoltaic systems, to ensure low environmental impact. The structure will primarily be made of concrete and steel, with some indoor and outdoor frames using wood, incorporating local materials to preserve the material culture of the region and promote a circular economy. These choices will provide a balance between strength, durability, and warm, organic qualities giving a touching feeling of materiality. The smooth envelope will be composed of perforated metal sheets, adding warmth and depth to the facade. The adoption of these technologies will result in an efficient and cost-effective construction process. Overall, the geometry, organization of spaces, and the material language of the theater will encourage a sense of belonging, foster the development of educational initiatives, and promote social engagement with the community.

building density - 600 mq (elevation+0.00)

total floor area - 1344 mq

total landscaping area (elevation+0.00) inside the site boundaries - 350 mq

total loggias and terraces area - 470 mq

The summary cost of the construction is evaluated at 2000 euro/sqm for a total approximate cost of 2.600.000 euro.