

Cover Note

FOLD / UNFOLD: Stara Zagora Experimental Puppetry Art Centre

With its rich history since 1970s, the original Stara Zagora Puppet Theatre has reached the fringe for renewal and expansion- to bridge the puppetry as an artform with the contemporary era. We envisage the extension of the new theatre as a vessel to explore growing possibilities of puppetry and other art forms in Stara Zagora. Hence, the project revolves around the key design question: what could be the future of a puppet theatre considering its artistic potential in the accelerating modernity?

To imagine the new State Puppet Theatre as a cultural destination and an experimental emblem for various performance arts, we thought about a phenomenal experience unfolded but masked in a folded envelope. The architecture is dressed in almost pure geometry and warm texture, yet the transitions to interior realm are becoming more theatrical with the juxtaposition of folding planes to create spatial division in mysterious yet seamless foil. Analogous to the suspension of puppetry performance, such design of multi-layered transition accentuates the dramatic sense of contrast which is of the essence of theatre typology and performance-based programmes.

From a larger scale of the context, the puppet theatre of its pure appearance is an unorthodox and provocative existence to its amiable surrounding, drawing curiosity from the immediate passerby. Whereas from an intimate scale, the spatial threshold dramatically changes to lead the visitors from one space to another- following its diagonal walls, slanted ceilings, opening cutout and eventually to the pivotal main hall. The puppet theatre is designed in a gesture of folding to remain an introverted composure, while the culture of puppetry performance is revitalized as the spaces unfold. It is therefore a full artistic experience span across not only the dimension of puppetry arts and other types of art forms, but also the architecture and its built environment in Stara Zagora.

(1,942 characters with space)

Urban Planning Parameters	
Building Density (Elevation +0.00)	568.65 m2
Built-Up Area:	
- Ground Floor	568.65 m2
- 1 st Floor	509.10 m2
- 2 nd Floor	265.80 m2
- Basement (Excluded)	616.75 m2
- TOTAL	1343.55 m2
Landscaping Area:	
- Ground Floor	99.95 m2
- Roof Level (Roof Garden)	68.29 m2
- TOTAL	168.24 m2

Estimated Construction Cost			
Items	Unit/ Area/ Volume	Rate per Unit (BGN)	Costing (BGN)
Structural:			
- Earthwork	690 m2	250 BGN/m2	172,500 BGN
- Off-Form Reinforced Concrete	1990 m3	300 BGN/m3	597,000 BGN
Finishings:			
- Mild Steel-Framed Corten Steel Façade	1750 m2	140 BGN/m2	245,000 BGN
- Aluminium Cladding	955 m2	100 BGN/m2	95,500 BGN
- Aluminium-Framed Glass	205 m2	180 BGN/m2	36,900 BGN
- Mirror Finishing	110 m2	150 BGN/m2	16,500 BGN
- Restroom Tiling	260 m2	60 BGN/m2	15,600 BGN
- Landscaping (including Roof Garden)	170 m2	200 BGN/m2	34,000 BGN
- Hardscape Pavement	660 m2	50 BGN/m2	33,000 BGN
Openings:			
- Aluminium Door	35 units	500 BGN/unit	17,500 BGN
- Glass Door	21 m2	600 BGN/m2	12,600 BGN
- Timber Door	9 units	500 BGN/unit	4,500 BGN
- Corten Steel Door	6 units	950 BGN/unit	5,700 BGN
- Aluminium-Framed Windows	20 m2	500 BGN/m2	10,000 BGN
MEP:			
- Suspending Retractable Seating	10 modules	15,000 BGN/module	150,000 BGN
- Lift	2 units	100,000 BGN/unit	200,000 BGN
- Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing	-	15% of Const Cost	195,000 BGN
- Solar Panel System	100 units	450 BGN/unit	45,000 BGN
Misc:			
- Labour & Logistics etc	-	30% of Const Cost	566,000 BGN
TOTAL			2,452,300 BGN
*all materials and specifications are subjected to be adjusted accordingly to the budget if necessary.			