

The project for Experimental Puppetry Arts Centre in Stara Zagora is designed as a multifunctional public space that will attract and gather visitors and at the same time have the pulling power to create a community hub for cultural activity related to both theatre and other types of outdoor and indoor arts.

In the design process, we set out to find sustainable functional solutions in several key areas:

- synergy with the existing building in terms of functional and aesthetic connectivity;
- preserving as much open courtyard space as possible - building up instead of out;
- a rich and multifunctional reception area, allowing flexibility in the organization of different events;
- spatial and aesthetic characteristics of the building envelope that open the building to the surrounding while creating a distinct public space.

We are deliberately looking for a connection between the existing puppet theatre and the new center, as the possibility of sharing common spaces, halls and service areas increases the functionality of the whole complex many fold. The functional sharing of common rooms is a fundamental principle in sustainable planning, through which the amount of new development is reduced, thereby reducing the overall impact on the environment.

The idea of the curtain being raised before the start of the theatrical performance has been adopted by us as the main form-forming concept in this project. The white envelope of the new center and the vertical elements of the glazed main storefront, deliberately seek the visual effect of a curtain that is raised in places and invites visitors to the arts center, while simultaneously demarcating the enclosed and open interior spaces. The effect sought is one of a smooth transition of the envelope between solid and transparent volumes, with the distinction between the two blurred and not clearly defined.

The floor area of the basement - 757 sq.m.

The area of ground floor at level +0.00 - 639 sq.m.

The total built-up area of the new building - 1341 sq.m.

Total landscaping area within the boundaries of the plot and building – 480 sq.m.

Estimated cost of implementation of the project is in the range between EUR 1 630 000 and EUR 1 970 000, depending on the price of the selected materials for the finishes of the interior of the center, the building envelope and the landscaping area. The price is calculated on the basis of average construction prices for the core and shell, the building envelope, the internal finishes and the landscaping. This cost is approximate and is calculated on the base of the floors areas and the landscaping areas given above and quantities for completing the building envelope:

Roof areas – 600 sq.m

Building facade – 1525 sq.m.