Pazardzhik Market Proposal – where east meets west

Our proposal for the new Pazardzhik Market draws inspiration from the vernacular architecture of the region, particularly the traditional "River House" typology unique to Pazardzhik. This reference informs both form and function: elevating the main mass above the ground to liberate space at the lower level, creating an expansive, open area for market activity and public life.

By lifting the market structure, we introduce a strong architectural gesture—a large, protective roof that floats above the public realm. This interplay between **mass and lightness**, **solidity and openness**, echoes the expressive contrasts of the River Houses and helps create a civic space that is both evocative and uniquely characteristic.

The site's adjacency to the **park and the historic Mineral Bath building** was a key driver in shaping the design. On the eastern edge, a soft transition zone of vegetation and water blurs the boundary between the market and the park, maintaining a strong visual and physical connection. Restored pedestrian pathways lead into generous open areas within the market, envisioned as flexible zones for **cultural, social, and community events**.

A new southern entrance frames a direct view toward the Mineral Bath, strengthening the relationship between the two public landmarks. On the northern edge, the project activates the street frontage with food and beverage spaces, fostering dialogue with the surrounding urban fabric and encouraging continuous engagement with the market perimeter.

To support accessibility and convenience for visitors and vendors alike, the project integrates **new parking facilities**, efficiently located to serve the market without compromising the pedestrian experience. These parking zones improve the site's connectivity while ensuring the market remains open, functional, and welcoming to a broader public.

The structural system is organized on a rational, modular grid, ensuring both economic efficiency and flexibility. **Prefabricated concrete cores**, wrapped in perforated metal mesh, serve multiple purposes: as vertical circulation shafts, storage zones, and architectural anchors within the open plan. These cores support the **lightweight steel canopy**, constructed from a **space frame structure** optimized for long spans and structural performance.

The geometry of the canopy is tapered: deeper at the center, where structural demands are highest, and shallower at the perimeter. This approach not only optimizes material use and reduces costs but also lends the roof a dynamic, sculptural quality. **Steel cast-in stubs** embedded in the RC piers allow precise and efficient on-site assembly of the space frame trusses.

Ultimately, our project reinterprets traditional architectural language through a contemporary lens—offering Pazardzhik not just a new market, but a vibrant new civic heart.