City Market Competition - Pazardzhik

“Market in the Park”

The Design Team proposes an iconic new market that will:

- Function as a new and improved urban market place
- Create a stunning visual image for the city center
- Allow for more seamless connections to the city and the park
- Produce a grand public space along with smaller rest spaces
- Expand the borders of the Park of Mineral Baths to the city edge
- Allow universal access for people with and without disabilities
- Allow access for pedestrians, cyclists and adequate car parking

The current market is a hodgepodge of old stalls and canopies that acts as a kind of dilapidated zone between the city and the park. It feels like it doesn’t belong to the city, nor a part of the park, but is rather a disorganized and uninviting in-between space. To the residents, the current market appears “chaotic” and “neglected.” It is clear that most residents surveyed want not just a functional place, but a beautiful social space. Residents want, and we have designed, a market that not only allows you to easily move through it and find your products, but also to meet your neighbors, enjoy the beautiful adjacent park, stay for some food or tea, or just sit for awhile and people-watch.

We didn’t think a BUILDING was the right answer. We don’t want a market that continued to separate city from park.

Rather…

We want people to flow to and through the market. And to see through it.

We want a place filled with natural light and green nature.

We want a place that brings joy and pride to the residents, that beckons them not just to shop, but to stay and enjoy this ‘third place’ (neither home nor work)

We therefore propose first to EXTEND THE PARK TO THE CITY

We then propose a large TIMBER CANOPY, with a translucent roof so natural light infuses the market below, eliminating the need for artificial light (except winter evenings).

Existing and new trees are not just in the park, around the canopy, but under the canopy too. The tree trunks and canopy columns together create a kind of continuous poetic dance. The new market is a Market in the Park. (There is an increase of 34 net new trees in the design, and green roofs on the pavilions.)

The concrete pavers of the park and sidewalk continues under the canopy, as an affordable flooring material, but also one that suggests the continuous public flow between city and park through the market.

Pavilions are intentionally located along the edge to create portals of entry: aligning with existing paths from the park and streets from the city.

Stalls are made from off-the-shelf corrugated feed bins, with a wood top, so they are affordable and have a kind of agricultural aesthetic, easily fabricated offsite. They are laid out in in clear rows to maximize efficiency, as well as to allow for modules to be combined into larger stalls.

All along the perimeter are rest areas with benches and tables, both on the city side and the park side- giving options for visitors.

All major urban connections (from Saedinenie Square to the north, the shopping center to the south, and Professor Asen Zlatarov Street inbetween are celebrated. The paths in the park, whether informal, or the more formal axis from the Mineral Baths, are directly connect to the market. This way residents can effortlessly flow to the market, or through the market as a public space.

Bike parking is provided in small batches around the market, and larger area across the street next to the mall. Emergency vehicles can access the market perimeter on Gradski Pazar St, Professor Asen Zlatarov St. and the emergency vacated aisle next to the park required by the competition brief.

The stalls are organized under the canopy by trade, with the exception of the flower stalls which are pulled out into the entry plazas to the market, so people walk past flowers into the market. We also like the idea of publics plazas surrounded by flowers.

Rest areas are dispersed in around the canopy footprint, both on the city side and the park side. Visitors can easily take away food from one of the pavilions and dine in these areas.

Sunlight flows through the translucent PVC roof, and is the only light needed for 90% of the time the market is open. When necessary, in winter with the earlier sunset, lighting on top of the posts shines down on the roof, infusing the canopy with a glow that mimics that from daytime sunlight.

This new market will be a beautiful beacon to attract residents and visitors, and to improve the function and aesthetics of this important place of commerce and social activities. It will be a welcoming new city gathering space filled with light and nature.

