

Agora Nova: A Modern Interpretation of the Agora

Project Aim

The project aims to reinterpret the spatial integrity of the traditional grid-based market form by designing modular and flexible units under a modern, unifying roof structure. The proposal seeks not only to provide a functional marketplace but also to create an urban framework where commercial and communal life are interwoven.

Design Process and Analysis

During the design process, existing transportation circulation, pedestrian density, and current greenery distribution were carefully analyzed. Based on these findings, a comprehensive roof canopy was developed—sometimes defining spaces below with varying heights, sometimes opening with transparent skylights, always creating a dynamic spatial experience. This canopy serves both as a shelter and a spatial organizer, bringing cohesion to the diverse activities beneath it.

Public Spaces and Landscape Integration

Surrounding areas were deliberately kept open and inviting, transforming into public attractions rather than purely commercial grounds. Existing trees and potential new public plazas were carefully integrated into the roof design. Where Grandski Pazar Street already hosts small squares, these nodes were reinterpreted and reintroduced into the new market environment. This approach prevents the entire site from being reduced to a purely commercial function and creates synergy between market modules and public spaces.

Functional Organization and User Experience

Existing market typologies were studied in depth and reinterpreted into four main functional categories. These functions were strategically arranged to enhance user interaction, optimize accessibility, and ensure a balanced layout between commerce and public engagement. The design envisions a market that is not merely a place of transaction but a space for encounters, exchange, and community life.

Urban Integration

A key urban consideration was the relationship between the site and its surrounding public spaces. The existing market layout along Grandski Pazar Street interrupts the

pedestrian axis. To address this, a new urban axis was created, connecting Grandski Pazar Street directly to Mineral Baths Park, thereby extending the street's public character into the park and reinforcing continuity within the urban fabric.

Conclusion and Vision

Agora Nova is envisioned as a modern interpretation of the ancient agora: a civic marketplace where trade, culture, and community life coexist under a unifying architectural form. The harmonious integration of market modules and public spaces ensures a richer, more inclusive urban experience.