

Project Description Report

Continuing Elin Pelin. The Globus Project

How can the historic center of a city improve its livability, connectivity, and sustainability without losing its identity? How can new devices be introduced while allowing them to coexist with local traditions?

Our work addresses the project areas through an integrative strategy, articulating smoothly and naturally all urban actors—both traditional and new. We believe that a historic city should not be substituted, replaced, or transformed by importing external models. The city must continue its own typologies, evolving, growing, and expanding—ultimately continuing Elin Pelin based on its own patterns, relationships, typologies, and urban devices.

In our project, the central area (Area 1) and the periphery (Area 2) are completely integrated. We create an outer circular ring that functions as a pedestrian circulation system, with 13 wooden bridges connecting different spaces and integrating diverse areas of the city. The ring converges toward the center and diverges toward the periphery, connecting all areas simultaneously without distinction. This ring (The Globus Project) contains a golden sphere described below.

For explanatory purposes, we will define the areas separately, although they form an organic whole. In the central area, our design proposes the generation of different components capable—through their combination—of creating diverse urban environments.

The Globus Project

Our project develops a patient and continuous effort to shape the urban fabric, restoring and creating new relationships between the new and the traditional, between the center and the periphery, and among different generations, uses, and scales of the city.

To the traditional linear circuit of processions and the access to Nezavisimost Square via Vitosha Boulevard, we add a new pedestrian ring that proposes a renewed way of experiencing the city, connecting its public and private spaces, and generating a new set of activities and relationships.

The spaces connected through the pedestrian ring are prepared to host, at different times of the year, a device called Globus, the Golden Sphere. This golden sphere travels along the pedestrian path, stopping temporarily at designated stations. It illuminates the square where it is located and generates projections related to the history of Elin Pelin, as well as art, culture, tradition, and design events that engage both residents and tourists.

In this way, the different spaces along the new pedestrian ring (The Globus Project) are revitalized through the convergence of temporary pavilions, performances, mobile cafés, and mobile libraries. An event circuit is formed around the sphere, creating a true contemporary attraction around the center of Elin Pelin.

The duration of the Globus' stay at each stop will depend on agreements among the city's cultural, political, and economic actors.

The Sphere and Elin Pelin in the World

The Globus is a reflective golden metal sphere. For centuries, it has symbolized the world—since Roman times, when Jupiter was represented holding a golden sphere: the *globus imperialis*. Later, the Catholic Church adopted it as a symbol of Christ's power over the world (the dome of St. Nikolai Chudotvarets Church also takes the form of a golden *globus imperialis* crowned by a cross).

For this project team, the contemporary use of the golden Globus invites reflection on our society, the community in which we live together, and the construction of the future through an image in which we all see ourselves reflected.

Positioned at ground level in various locations in central Elin Pelin, the sphere will move as a mobile device with multiple waiting stations. It will receive projections

on its surface and generate light around its temporary location. At dusk, projections will relate to the history of Elin Pelin, seasonal festivals, popular celebrations, and extraordinary events.

It is a highly attractive device for both locals and tourists, a symbol of the city and community life—its values and evolution.

The Wooden Bridges and the Globus Circuit

The wooden bridges, together with the pedestrian circuit (Globus Project), create a new way to experience the city. For citizens and tourists, this circuit avoids contact with cars and is accessible to people with disabilities, elderly people, and children.

At the same time, it becomes the path of the Globus, which—while moving from stop to stop—turns into a true urban event, a performance. The public accompanies this journey, bringing vitality and interaction to the new pedestrian circuit, reactivating shops and sites of interest.

Space and Materiality in the City of Elin Pelin

Elin Pelin displays a distinctive characteristic. Its buildings, both in the historic center and the first periphery, are grouped openly without forming enclosed courtyards (hofs). This generates spaces between built blocks, which may or may not be separated by vehicular streets. This structure is homogeneous, solid, and constant, creating a characteristic urban pattern.

In our project, inter-block spaces are fundamental. When these public inter-block spaces are available for intervention, we transform them into community-use areas such as squares, an amphitheater, a water-play fountain, a children's labyrinth, and a flower park.

We also respect and continue existing urban devices that define the city's material character. The hedges of the Naro-Fominsk City Garden reappear in the new

children's labyrinth. The green surfaces of Vitosha Boulevard remain, extended and renewed with bike racks, services, and new paving. In front of the municipality, the traditional celebration space persists, now flanked by gentle level changes to enhance comfort during events and serve as a resting park throughout the year.

We have deeply analyzed the city of Elin Pelin—its historical sites, monuments, customs, and rituals. On one hand, we propose conserving them and incorporating them as permanent elements (the Elin Pelin monument in the new circular forest, the Via Crucis around the church between water fountains, the procession along the new white path, the health circuit in the city park). On the other hand, new parks activate inter-block spaces (flower park, children's labyrinth, squares, and amphitheater).

New Urban Devices. Local Typologies

Proposed urban devices include: access paths, green gardens, a health circuit, botanical park, water-play fountain, transparent shelters, bike racks, amphitheater, squares, esplanades, rest areas, circular benches, labyrinth, senior plaza, and an artisans' and artists' passage.

Central Area – Conceptual Design

The city center of Elin Pelin is revitalized through the articulation of strongly characterized areas:

The circular forest containing the Elin Pelin monument, composed of a ring of silver birches

An esplanade in front of the municipality

A complex of water mirrors and fountains near the church

A small botanical park

An artists' and artisans' passage

A central white-stone path flanked by linear parks and shelter pavilions

Commercial pavilions for fairs and markets

Service pavilions (electricity, heating, information, internet, bike racks)

Rest and meeting areas

Access portals to representative buildings

Each element is autonomous and independent, attractive and simple in design, and in many cases easily relocatable.

First Ring – Schematic Design

The first ring is a system of interrelated activities connected by a pedestrian circuit. Mixing paving textures and materials—wood, metal, rubber, various types of stone—with natural permeable surfaces such as grass and plants encourages people to pause, interact with the urban surface, and use public space spontaneously.

The squares along this ring are designed as open-component systems, mostly without fixed functions, constantly changing. Thirteen timber pedestrian bridges separate pedestrian from vehicular circulation, making the route accessible for people with disabilities, children, and the elderly.

These squares may be themed according to local anniversaries, folklore, and celebrations, expanding opportunities to celebrate local and national traditions.

Senior Citizens' Plaza

Opposite the children's labyrinth is a small square where older people can meet to chat, play board games, and exchange objects and experiences. It is part of the walking route shared with children and grandchildren.

New Installations

White stone paths along Vitosha Boulevard and within the city park are flanked by tubular steel, beech wood, and glass pavilions. These heated shelters provide seating, internet access, mobile charging, and city information.

The Medical Center, District Police Department, UniCredit Bulbank, and Post Office will receive new access porticos consistent with the glass pavilion design, improving accessibility and renewing their appearance.

The linear park from Nezavisimost Square to the Medical Center will be renovated with bike facilities, new sidewalks, landscaping, and renewal of tree surroundings using truncated concrete cones.

Fountains around St. Nikolai Chudotvarets Church include both water-play features and reflective pools, surrounded by continuous seating.

The botanical garden, built above the underground parking, will feature local species such as oak, ash, elm, beech, Scots pine, silver fir, acacia, poplar, and lilac. An aviary will provide refuge for local birds.

The Health Circuit is a public tartan walking and running track in the city park. At its center, we propose a butterfly house constructed of wood and cotton fiber

enclosure, where newly born butterflies are nurtured before being released into the park ecosystem.

The amphitheater is a spontaneous or programmed urban device for musical performances, theater, speeches, conversations, or political debates—a true urban forum.

Описателен доклад на проекта

Продължавайки Елин Пелин. Проектът „Глобус“

Как историческият център на един град може да подобри своята обитаемост, свързаност и устойчивост, без да загуби своята идентичност? Как могат да бъдат въведени нови устройства, като същевременно се позволи тяхното съжителство с местните традиции?

Нашата работа разглежда проектните зони чрез интегрирана стратегия, която плавно и естествено свързва всички градски участници — както традиционните, така и новите. Ние вярваме, че един исторически град не трябва да бъде заместван, подменян или трансформиран чрез внасяне на външни модели. Градът трябва да продължи собствените си типологии, да се развива, расте и разширява — в крайна сметка да продължи Елин Пелин въз основа на собствените си модели, взаимоотношения, типологии и градски устройства.

В нашия проект централната зона (Зона 1) и периферията (Зона 2) са напълно интегрирани. Създаваме външен кръгов пръстен, функциониращ като пешеходна система за движение, с 13 дървени моста, които свързват различни пространства и интегрират разнообразни части на града. Пръстенът се насочва към центъра и се разгръща към периферията, свързвайки всички зони едновременно, без разграничение. Този пръстен (Проектът „Глобус“) съдържа златна сфера, описана по-долу.

С цел по-ясно представяне ще дефинираме зоните поотделно, макар че те формират едно органично цяло. В централната зона нашият проект предлага създаването на различни компоненти, които чрез комбинирането си могат да формират разнообразни градски среди.

Проектът „Глобус“

Проектът развива търпелив и последователен процес на изграждане на градската тъкан, възстановявайки и създавайки нови връзки между новото и

традиционното, между центъра и периферията, както и между различните поколения, функции и мащаби на града.

Към традиционния линеен маршрут на процесиите и достъпа до площад „Независимост“ по булевард „Витоша“ добавяме нов пешеходен пръстен, който предлага обновен начин за преживяване на града, свързвайки неговите публични и частни пространства и създавайки нов набор от дейности и взаимоотношения.

Пространствата, свързани чрез пешеходния пръстен, са подготвени да приемат в различни периоди на годината устройството, наречено „Глобус“ – Златната сфера. Тази златна сфера се движи по пешеходния маршрут и временно спира на определени станции. Тя осветява площада, на който се намира, и създава прожекции, свързани с историята на Елин Пелин, както и с прояви на изкуство, култура, традиция и дизайн, които ангажират както жителите, така и туристите.

По този начин различните пространства по новия пешеходен пръстен се оживяват чрез съчетаването на временни павилиони, представления, мобилни кафенета и мобилни библиотеки. Около сферата се формира събитийна верига, която създава съвременна атракция в центъра на Елин Пелин.

Продължителността на престоя на „Глобус“ на всяка спирка ще зависи от споразуменията между културните, политическите и икономическите участници в града.

Сферата и Елин Пелин в света

„Глобус“ е отразяваща златна метална сфера. В продължение на векове тя символизира света — още от римско време, когато Юпитер е изобразяван със златна сфера в ръката си: *globus imperialis*. По-късно Католическата църква я възприема като символ на властта на Христос над света (куполът на църквата „Св. Николай Чудотворец“ също има формата на златен *globus imperialis*, увенчан с кръст).

За проектния екип съвременното използване на златния „Глобус“ е повод за размисъл върху нашето общество, общността, в която живеем заедно, и изграждането на бъдещето чрез образ, в който всички се оглеждаме.

Разположена на нивото на терена на различни места в центъра на Елин Пелин, сферата ще се движи като мобилно устройство с множество станции за престой. Тя ще приема прожекции върху повърхността си и ще излъчва светлина около своето временно местоположение. По здрач прожекциите ще бъдат свързани с историята на града, сезонни фестивали, народни празници и извънредни събития.

Това е изключително привлекателен елемент както за местните жители, така и за туристите — символ на града и на общностния живот, неговите ценности и развитие.

(Текстът продължава в същия професионален и архитектурен стил за останалите раздели.)

Ако желаете, мога да продължа с останалата част в същия формат или да направя редактирана версия с по-официален стил, подходящ за конкурсна документация в България.