

Submission Template

Identification Code: 3129A

Project Location: Street “Ilindenska”, (from Government building to city park fountain)

Narrative Description:

(Limited to 3000 characters. Describe the essence of your project, your vision, the challenges you aim to address, and the impact you intend to make.)

The project is centered on the redesign of Ilindenska Street's public space, with a primary objective to revitalize the street by addressing its core issues while introducing new activities for the residents. The endeavor aims to transform the street into more than just a thoroughfare for vehicles, emphasizing its potential as a social focal point that enhances the urban experience.

The primary challenges encountered within this space pertain to safety concerns, a lack of public amenities, and insufficient bicycle infrastructure. Each of these issues is tackled through distinct approaches.

Ilindenska Street serves as a vital arterial route connecting the eastern and western parts of the city. Given its crucial role, complete elimination of vehicular traffic in favor of pedestrian-only zones is not a feasible solution. Instead, the proposal seeks to mitigate traffic-related risks by reducing the number of traffic lanes and narrowing their dimensions deliberately. This strategy encourages slower vehicular speeds and contributes to enhanced safety. Furthermore, the plan includes the implementation of crosswalks at sidewalk level, fostering inclusivity of disabled citizens, the elderly and so on, as well as enhancing the safety even more.

The second challenge revolves around the lack of public amenities, which is addressed through the creation of five distinct program modules. These include urban rain gardens, bicycle parking facilities, seating areas, open communal spaces, and a kiosk module. These modules serve as social hubs that encourage interaction among citizens. All of them are positioned according to the built environment – creating a co-space with it.

The final issue at hand pertains to the facilitation of bicycle traffic. Despite a notable presence of cyclists, the existing infrastructure falls short. To rectify this, an additional bicycle lane is integrated into the design.

The unifying element that binds these diverse components together is the introduction of a porch structure, which serves as a canopy over all the aforementioned modules. It stands as a binding element as well as an urban addition that enriches the city life of the street.

As Skopje continues to expand, the shortage of public spaces becomes an increasingly pressing issue, underscoring the necessity of transitioning from a car-centric urban model to one that

prioritizes pedestrian-friendly environments is a vital step in the city's journey towards becoming a modern metropolis.