Jan Gehl, Cities for people

Life

The project proposal aims to add new activities and places in the projected area to stimulate social interaction between people. We turn transitional and desolate spaces into places capable to attract people. Our proposal focuses on the conditions that allow the "happening" of various activities to encourage different age groups to spend quality time outside and mingle. The project proposes new elements and structures for formal and informal play for all ages – children, youth, and adults. Some of these are purposefully located in certain places, while others are scattered around the pedestrian center to be detected by chance and provoke engagement. In addition, there is a complex of seating areas that offer the opportunity for people to gather and do social activities, or retreat in designated areas for solitude and contemplation. The presence of active ground floors (shops, restaurants, etc.) framing a significant part of the vicinity keeps pedestrian areas lively.

Space

Planning from the Modernist period in the 20th century has created vast spaces in the city center of Dobrich, resulting in a loss of human sense scale. From a pedestrian perspective, the two formally separated squares – Svoboda and Vazrazhdane are perceived as a single square space. The most crowded place, the southern part of "September 25th" Blvd., is an exception due to the relatively narrow profile of the street and the saturation of commercial functions.

The main objective of the project proposal is to clearly differentiate two separate plazas – Svoboda and Vazrazhdane and turn them into places saturated with functions and activities to attract and engage visitors. Demokratsia Sq retains its role of a representative space allowing for various outdoor events to take place. The buildings enclosing the square and the adjacent public spaces are saturated with functions to enliven this part of the city centre.

The northern part of 25 Septemvri Blvd. is freed from the visually disturbing "temporary" buildings as it is to be transformed into a place for meetings, play, sports, trade, and recreation. "Pockets" for socialization, different in function and scale, are formed along the streets included in the scope of the work.

Pavement in pedestrian areas is made of granite (along the main pedestrian directions, providing strength and durability, which allows the passage of specialized cars) and special flooring, terrazzo mosaic type, produced by recycling the existing clinker slabs and concrete. In addition, urban furniture elements are made of the same recycled material.

Buildings

The pavilions and pergolas proposed in the project create a spatial framework – the "decor" of public life in pedestrian spaces. Their design allows for perceptiveness, creating a sense of lightness and unobtrusiveness and supporting orientation in space. These structures will give a human scale to large spaces and will provide space for additional outdoor or indoor activities that promote public life. Their placement near public buildings (the gallery, the library, etc.) is an opportunity for such activities to "go outside" the buildings and reach out to a larger audience. The flexible design of the structures allows for their multiplication in different places in the city, including their use as movable objects for temporary events with a unified vision. The materials used for the structures include metal, wood, and glass.

Phasing

The proposed phasing allows for a gradual renewal of this vast space in the center of Dobrich. The project is phased out in five stages, designed to give priority to certain areas, as a means of optimizing the reconstruction process and limiting disturbance to residents during the technological conduct of the repair processes. The spatial extent of each stage is shown on board 03.

Public realm improvements and Zone B implementation costs

Nº	Description	Amount
1	Site Preparation	475,000.00 lv.
	Disposal of old structures and pavement, earthwork	
2	Commercial structures	854,000.00 lv.
	Construction of architectural structures for commercial use	
3	Stormwater management	624,000.00 lv.
	Construction and integration of a rainwater management system	
4	Lighting	388,000.00 lv.
	Construction and installation of lighting fixtures	
5	Squares and alleys	5,640,000.00 lv.
	Construction of squares, alleys, stairs, ramps, and retaining walls. Pavement laying	
6	Water features	447,000.00 lv.
	Construction of attractive urban fountains	
_ 7	Landscaping	374,500.00 lv.
	Transplanting, pruning, soil preparation, planting new vegetation, and lawn construction	
8	Urban furniture and equipment	547,000.00 lv.

Installation of urban furniture and equipment

Total amount

9,349,500.00 lv.

VAT not included