

# a moment apart

*Abstract:*

Nin occupies a privileged location, of great beauty, with a wide range of exploited resources, and others to discover, to achieve a seasonal balance. The objective of this proposal is to make the most of the resources of the city of Nin, reinventing its possible uses, and open new frontiers for the future.

Two buildings are designed to delimit the intervention area, the Zdrijac neighborhood. A clinical center related to salt products and treatments based on Nin craft salt will form the southern limit through a “high-rise” building, breaking the horizontality as a landmark on the landscape. On the other hand, the tourism of fauna and flora watching of the existing ecosystem in the wetlands will be exploited by recovering the ruins of the old brick factory. By incorporating a light opened structure and restoring the old thick walls, it will allow the passage of the birds themselves for their Incorporation into building activities.

These two interventions will attract new uses and activity to the area, creating a new center in Zdrijac, where future growth is expected. That is why an intervention project on public space is carried out, which will connect the fabric of the neighborhood and provide support for a wide range of uses through a series of flexible structures.

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Life in the town of Nin could be seen as a theatre piece whose curtain opens every June, and closes in September. All the scenery of the summer months, the beach, water sports, festivals, markets; all this is disassembled and stored in the backstage for the next season to come. This phenomenon creates a tremendous imbalance in the rhythm of its inhabitant’s lifestyles. The design, both of territory urban planning and public spaces, and the programming of communal activities, are focused on this period, and generate inequality between seasonal and local residents.

The aim of this proposal is to make the most of the resources of the City of Nin, reinventing its possible uses, and open new frontiers for the future. A final, and at the same time, unfinished image of a future Nin is proposed. Its activities, despite being seasonal, will be transformed throughout the year to cover the different months with equal intensity. Activities

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based on the same resources, exploited in different ways as part of the same objective, so that a series of synergies are created between the different agents of this new economy.

The artisanal salt of Nin is the result of the combination of three elements that define the place; the sun, the sea and the wind. Many have called Nin as a City of Salt. This resource is intrinsically linked to its origins, and is a generator of life.

The salt flats and the surroundings of the canal, pose a rich ecosystem where many protected species occur, and among them, many types of birds. Some of them inhabit these wetlands for a short period of time, as part of a large migration that is repeated every year. These birds arrive in Nin flying over the Adriatic coast, approaching the city from a great height, where you can see the beauty of its privileged enclave, an image that is constantly sold for tourism, and that curiously can only be seen through the photographs, an unreal vision. In such a highly horizontal context, any vertical element would stand out as a milestone in the landscape.

#### *Saltworks Spa and Sanitary Centre:*

This is the case of the Saltworks Spa and Sanitary Centre. It is a “high-rise” building, which rises from South Zdriljac, as a border between the salt flats and the population. It consists of two thin elements. One as a horizontal line, a basement that rises slightly to create a terrace where a series of pools overlook the salt flats. From this base grows a slender tower, apparently solid facing the outside, like a salt plate that is placed perpendicular to the wetlands, reflecting the landscape. Its diaphanous and glazed levels allow full views of the surroundings.

A sanitary salt treatment program is developed. Dermatological treatments, and others related to respiratory diseases, such as halotherapy, create a new line of application for this resource that goes beyond the mere sale of medicinal products. In this way, the two uses coexist in the same building, in which they share public uses and communications. The incorporation in the higher floors of a boutique hotel for the users of both centers could also be contemplated.

The facade of the tower takes care of the bird-friendly design, since despite being glazed in most of its public spaces, it does not pose a risk for the path of these. The glass facades have a double outer skin, either as thin, almost imperceptible slats, or by printing patterns on the glazed surfaces, so that from the outside it is perceived as a solid body, while in the interior would not imply any impediment to appreciate the privileged views.

### Bird Watching Centre:

The recovery of the old brick factory aims to transform this space into a center of interpretation of the fauna and flora of wetlands, focusing on the study of birds. That is why it incorporates a light structure for interaction with birds, which leaves open space, between the old brick walls. The activities will be incorporated in different phases by building small boxes with various uses around the study of birds and nature of the wetlands.

Este centro pretende partir de un programa más enfocado al turismo de avistamiento de pájaros, que poco a poco se irá sustituyendo por un programa más ambicioso, más enfocado a lo académico. Ya se ha probado el éxito de este tipo de escuelas, como el *Vrlika Ecological Station* en Zagreb. Además, el centro fomentará la implicación local en el cuidado y estudio del medio ambiente para su revalorización.

Desde el centro se organizarían distintas actividades a lo largo y ancho de la zona de humedales para el avistamiento y estudio de las aves in situ.

Este programa académico, de la mano con el correspondiente servicio de alojamiento, necesitaría apoyo de infraestructura el barrio de Zdrijac, en una época del año que supondría un relevo perfecto de la ocupación de verano.

### *Urban intervention in Zdrijac:*

The urban area of action is formed by a natural marine environment between the saltworks and the marshes, with a practically flat topography, with scarce vegetation. The existing buildings are entirely isolated and paired single-family homes, with a closed plot, where there is a perimeter road from which you can access the different streets without access to the houses.

This existing structure has a poor and poor urban fabric which prevents the consolidation of different uses throughout the year, such as: housing, leisure, equipment, endowment ... The shortage of public spaces added to a deficient network of transport connections (bus, bike, train, private vehicles...) and minimal services and equipment make current uses seasonal and residual.

The proposal seeks / seeks to provide a gradual solution to these current problems and to support the needs that may arise in the future. Therefore, a series of specific actions have been designed, easily adaptable in the future to new uses, and adapting to the existing plot fabric, analyzing the existing spaces that present an opportunity for the creation of these new spaces.

Another of the important characteristics of the project is the reversibility of the proposal, so that in the future the project may disappear or integrate once the urban environment around it is consolidated. For this reason, we have opted for solutions of standardized and prefabricated reticular structures that allow easy construction and disassembly for reuse.

Thanks to these areas of action, a richer urban fabric is generated in which new roads and nodes are included. In this way, public spaces are created where the new equipment linked to current uses and complementary to the Salinas Clinical Center are located. Similarly, it responds to current and future needs, creating a more complete infrastructure that will maintain a constant population and flow of visitors throughout the year, consolidating the residential and leisure urban fabric.

The performance spaces are concentrated in 5 points, which serve as a connection to the historic center of Nin through public transport stops and the incorporation of the new bike lane. The spaces located in the perimeter support maritime and nautical leisure uses. To the north is a small piece that is linked to the use of the beach and the marsh with a small pier and building of toilets and cafeteria, in the area of the river there is a nautical equipment that allows consolidating the current use of the river as a dock boats, on the other hand in the west zone, a public space is proposed that connects the current parking area and the seafront of the marsh with the interior of the new urban fabric.

Inside the urban fabric there is a square taking advantage of a current void that configures a large central multi-purpose public space and another smaller space linked to a temporary use as a market.

These interior spaces allow to generate a fabric that connects the existing road and turn it into a complex urban network of streets, nodes and public spaces relating to the perimeter. This allows connecting the different uses and equipment, both current and future in a rich natural environment, where different inhabitants and visitors can develop their life and work. In this way, equipment is projected that allows temporary or continuous use throughout the year, increasing both its operational capacity and productivity in the field of action.

This project is not intended to remain in the creation of new spaces or the reconstruction of buildings and resources, but in the reinvention of the existing through new points of view, as the photographer frames a moment.

These new spaces are created also for contemplation, for relax, in which time seems to stop, generating intimate moments between the user and architecture, as a mediator of the exterior environment. A moment apart.